



Wildlife Commission Will Conduct Public Meetings to Gather Input on Migratory Bird Hunting on Sunday

The Wildlife Commission will conduct four public meetings the week of Dec. 11, 2017 to gather input on migratory bird hunting on Sunday. Currently, Sunday hunting for migratory birds is prohibited. The meetings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m., in Graham, Jacksonville, Hickory and Columbia. [More information, including dates and locations.](#)



Public Hearings on Proposed Regulations Will Start Jan. 9, 2018

The Wildlife Commission will conduct nine public hearings in January across the state. Public comment is sought on proposed changes related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2018-19 seasons. The comment period is now open until Feb. 1, 2018. Public hearing dates and locations, as well as details on all proposed regulations and comment form, can be found [online.](#)



Wildlife Commission Proposing Changes to Deer Hunting Regulations

The Wildlife Commission is proposing changes to the statewide deer hunting regulations for 2018-2019. Changes are:

- Establish five deer season zones by separating the Eastern Zone into two zones — the Northeastern Zone and the Southeastern Zone. This regulation would also move Polk and Rutherford counties to the Western Zone and Cleveland County to the Northwest Zone
- Change season length and time frames; establish a statewide antlered deer bag limit of two and a statewide antlerless deer bag limit of four; and, restrict the use of bonus antlerless deer tags to the Urban Archery Season. There would be no changes in the season opening dates for archery; however, where other seasons begin later, archery seasons would be longer than currently established seasons.
- Shift the season to hunt male or female deer to the beginning of the Introductory, Conservative and Moderate Antlerless Deer seasons

[More information](#)



Wildlife Commission Proposing Changes to Bear Hunting Regulations

The Wildlife Commission is proposing changes to bear hunting regulations for 2018-2019. Changes are:

- Modify the bear hunting season in the Coastal Bear Management Unit (CBMU) to align hunting seasons in five bear hunting zones ([see chart](#)).
- Modify the bear hunting season in the Mountain Bear Unit to add two weeks to the beginning of the current season.

[More information](#)





Wildlife Commission Reminds Waterfowl Hunters to Practice Boating Safety

Through its [Home From The Hunt™](#) campaign, the Wildlife Resources Commission is reminding waterfowl hunters to take basic safety precautions while hunting from a vessel. A few precautions include wearing clothing made of wool or other synthetic materials instead of cotton, and wearing a personal floatation device at all times. [More tips](#)



Nominations for Annual Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award Being Accepted until Jan. 31, 2018

Know someone who is a leader in the nongame wildlife conservations? If so, the Wildlife Commission is accepting nominations through Jan. 31, 2018 for the 2018 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award. The agency presents this award annually to people who provide leadership in the conservation of wildlife diversity in North Carolina. Nominators must submit a completed [nomination form](#) and a detailed essay of the nominee's contributions to nongame wildlife conservation in the state. [More information](#)



Extra Trout Stockings in December Provide Additional Opportunities for Anglers in Western North Carolina

Christmas is coming early for trout anglers in 13 western North Carolina counties. Starting Dec. 4 through Dec. 21 hatchery staff with the Wildlife

Commission is stocking extra trout from the hatcheries to provide additional angling opportunities. [Stocking dates and locations](#)



Trout Fly-Fishing Clinics Begin Jan. 6, 2018 at Pechmann Center in Fayetteville

The Wildlife Commission is conducting annual [winter fly-fishing clinics](#) at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville starting Jan. 6. Three basic clinics are suitable for novice anglers while one intermediate clinic is ideal for participants who have completed a basic clinic or Discovery Course. Space is limited [so register now](#).

Wildlife Commission Seeking Skulls and Carcasses

The Wildlife Commission's Furbearer Team is seeking bobcat and otter skulls to look at the age structure of the trapper harvest, and spotted skunk carcasses to collect location and tissue samples. Information gleaned from these samples will help team members monitor populations and improve their knowledge of furbearer species in North Carolina. Visit the [Furbearer Cooperator Program](#) page for more information.

Other News and Events

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Fishing Program in Fayetteville](#)

[Wildlife Commission offers Free Wildlife Programs in Corolla](#)

[BLOG: Hunt for Disabled Hunters in Western North Carolina Leads to Three Successful Harvests](#)



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