



Public Hearings on Proposed Regulations Will Start on Jan. 7, 2020

The Wildlife Commission will conduct nine public hearings in January across the state to gather public comment on proposed changes to regulations related to wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2020-2021 seasons. The comment period will be open until Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. Public hearing dates and locations, as well as details on all proposed regulations and the comment form, can be found [online](#).





Melissa McGa

The Trout Have Arrived (or Are on the Way)! Find Out Where to Fish.

The Wildlife Commission once again has expanded seasonal angling opportunities by stocking surplus trout in select impoundments across central and western North Carolina this winter. From Nov. 25 until Dec. 18, Inland Fisheries Division staff will stock 34 impoundments in 24 Western and Piedmont counties with brown, rainbow and brook trout. [Stocking dates and locations.](#)





Melissa McGa

Waterfowl Hunting this Season? Be Safe with These Tips

As waterfowl season continues across the state, the Wildlife Commission reminds hunters to follow basic safety precautions while hunting from a vessel:

- Everyone who boards a vessel should wear a PFD.
- Always let someone know your whereabouts and an approximate return time.
- Be aware that small, flat-bottom vessels are prone to capsizing and swamping.
- Store equipment properly and keep it evenly distributed.
- Do not overload the boat, especially with passengers.
- Keep hunting dogs prone in the center of the boat.
- Never move about the boat with a loaded shotgun.
- Stay with the boat and use it as a floatation device in the event of capsizing or swamping.





Steve Maslowski/USFWS

Luke Etchison

Joshua & Melissa Livem

Enjoy Wildlife and Nature? Let Your Congressman Know!

The Wildlife Commission, along with other states, have identified the rapid decline of many species of wildlife and their habitats in the last few decades. This decline affects not only our quality of life, but also our outdoor recreation economy, which contributes \$887 BILLION to our national economy each year. But there's a solution and we need your help! [The Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) (H.R. 3742), if passed, will provide states with \$1.4 billion each year to restore essential wildlife habitat and implement key conservation strategies to recover wildlife populations. North Carolina alone would receive more than \$20 million annually! Please contact your Congressman and urge her or him to support this bill to save America's wildlife before many species disappear from the landscape forever. [The time to act is NOW!](#)





Prepping a Deer (Cape and Skull Plate) for Importation to NC

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that is affecting deer populations across the U.S. To help decrease the spread of CWD, the Wildlife Commission reminds hunters of its prohibition on the importation of whole deer carcasses and has restricted importation of some carcass parts. The Commission has posted a video "[Preparing a Harvested Deer for Importation to NC](#)," on its [YouTube Channel](#), which features a demonstration by Taxidermist D. Price of Outback Taxidermy on how to properly prepare a deer carcass for importation across state lines.

Nominations Sought for Nongame Conservation Award

The Wildlife Commission is now accepting nominations through Jan. 31, 2020 for the 2020 [Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award](#). The agency presents this award annually to people who have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to, and leadership in promoting the conservation of nongame species and sustaining nongame diversity in North Carolina. Nongame species are animals that have no open hunting, fishing or trapping season. Nominators must submit a completed nomination form

and a detailed essay of the nominee's contributions to nongame wildlife conservation in the state. [MORE](#)



NCWR

Fish Lake Norman? We Need Your Input.

The Wildlife Commission is asking anglers who fish Lake Norman to provide input on where to place 100 Mossback fish attractors at 20 sites in the reservoir. Once the locations have been decided, staff also will need assistance placing the attractors in the lake. The Wildlife Commission received a grant from the Catawba-Wateree Habitat Enhancement Program to improve fish habitat on five Catawba watershed reservoirs, including Lake Norman. [MORE](#)



Melissa McG

Yadkinville Resident Tim Eaton Wins Prestigious Small Game Award

The Wildlife Commission presented the prestigious [Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award](#) to Tim Eaton at its business meeting on Dec. 5. Eaton received the award recognizing his efforts to restore and enhance wildlife habitat for small game, in particular bobwhite quail, on his 200-acre farm in Yadkin County. The agency presents the Lawrence Diedrick award to individuals or organizations whose actions significantly and positively impact North Carolina's small game populations through habitat management, education, research, the Hunting Heritage Program or other efforts. These actions also benefit other species, including nongame animals such as songbirds, reptiles and amphibians. [MORE](#)





Ryan Kennen

New Shooting Range Opens on Dec. 18 in Northampton County

The Wildlife Commission will celebrate the opening of its newest shooting range, the Odom Shooting Range in Northampton County, on Dec. 18. The public is invited to the open house and will be allowed to bring firearms and use the range following a ribbon cutting ceremony. The range will then be open to the public from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Wed through Sat and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sun. The range is located at 709 Striper Lane in Jackson and features a 100-yard range and 25-yard range, each with 8 shooting stations and a 6-station target archery range. [MORE](#)





Melissa McGa

National Wild Turkey Federation - NC Chapter Partnership Provides Benefits for Hunters and Wildlife

The NC Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with the Wildlife Commission, and through its "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt" initiative, is helping the agency create more hunter access, improve wildlife habitat and recruit new hunters. Guest blogger Chris Coxen, a NC NWTF biologist, provides recent examples of how the agency and NC NWTF are benefiting wildlife and outdoorsmen and women in North Carolina. [Read the blog](#)



Other News and Events

[Dan River Game Land Comment Period Extended to Jan. 1, 2020](#)

[Pechmann Center in Fayetteville Free Fishing Workshops and Clinics in January](#)

[Calendar of Events at Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education in Corolla for December](#)



[Buy a License](#) • [Go Hunting](#) • [Go Fishing](#) • [Go Boating](#) • [Get Outside](#) • [Learn More](#)
[Subscribe to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine](#)