



## No License Needed to Fish in North Carolina on July 4th

July 4 is "Free Fishing Day" in North Carolina where everyone — residents and non-residents alike — can fish in any public body of water from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., without having to purchase a fishing license or additional trout privilege license. All other [fishing regulations](#) apply, such as length and daily possession limits, as well as bait and tackle restrictions. [MORE](#)



## Boating Safety Campaigns, Heightened Law Enforcement Continue on N.C. Waters

From June 29 through July 1, Wildlife Commission officers will focus on boating law compliance on the waterways and spread public awareness for "Operation Dry Water," a national campaign that promotes sobriety while boating. These enhanced enforcement initiatives will continue from July 6–8 during the "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign. The annual multi-agency initiative works to ensure safe travel on the road and enjoyment on the water during summer holidays. In North Carolina, a driver or boat operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 is subject to arrest. [MORE](#)

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## Preserve Your Life: Wear a Life Jacket When on the Water



Since January, 18 boaters have lost their lives on North Carolina waters and 11 of them were not wearing a life jacket. The Wildlife Commission is reminding boaters the seconds it takes to put on a life preserver may be the difference between life and death. And it's the law. Anyone younger than 13 must wear an appropriate life jacket when on a recreational vessel that is

underway. [Learn more](#)

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## Save Time; Purchase or Renew Your Fishing License Online

Before casting your line this summer, be sure to go [online and purchase your fishing license](#). It's quick, easy and will have you out on the water in no time. For a list of available licenses, visit the [Wildlife Commission's Licensing page](#).

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## Fox Sightings Rise as Kit-Rearing Season Peaks



Seeing more foxes lately? If so, it's probably because kit-rearing season is peaking. Young foxes, like this grey fox kit, are maturing and spending much more time outside of the den. If you have a den near your house, you can leave it alone and wait for the kits to leave (usually late-to-mid-summer) or [read about non-lethal ways to keep foxes from making a home near your home.](#)

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## Wildlife Commission Seeking Public's Help with Turkey Observations

The Wildlife Commission is seeking the public's assistance in reporting observations of wild turkeys this summer. The online survey will be available on the Commission's website starting on July 1 until Aug. 31. Information entered during that 2-month period gives an indication of annual wild turkey productivity, gobbler carryover and other population trends, all of which held agency biologists manage the state's wild turkey population. Look for more information and a link on [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org), on July 1.

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## Help Us Spread the Word: Leave Fawns in the Wild

As fawning season peaks, the Wildlife Commission continues to receive reports of well-intentioned people "rescuing" white-tailed deer fawns. Don't be that person. The vast majority of the time the fawn has not been abandoned or orphaned, and the doe is nearby. Not only is it biologically irresponsible, removing a fawn from the wild is also illegal. Only certified wildlife rehabilitators have permits to keep white-tailed deer in captivity. [Read more on why it's important to leave fawns alone.](#)

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## Two Orphaned Otters Saved by Three NC Agencies

Two North American river otter pups orphaned after their mother was hit by a car are recovering as state agencies help rehabilitate them before reintroducing them to the wild. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island and North Carolina Zoo partnered to help ensure the best possible outcome for the young otters. [MORE](#)



## Wildlife Photo Competition Open until Sept. 1

The Wildlife Commission is accepting entries to its 14th annual Wildlife in North Carolina Photo Competition now until 5 p.m. on Sept. 1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages, except employees of the Wildlife Commission, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences, and their immediate families (children, siblings, spouses). [MORE](#)

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## How to Become a Sea Turtle Volunteer 101



Being a sea turtle volunteer is not for the faint of heart – it's hard work throughout much of the year, yet it is also rewarding work, particularly when you consider that the five species of sea turtles that are found along North Carolina's coastline are all federally listed as threatened or endangered species. So, they need all the help they can get, which is where sea turtle volunteers really step up to the plate. [Read more about nest monitoring](#)

[and the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network.](#)

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## Volunteers Needed for Fall Fawn Frenzy 2018

Join the **Fall Fawn Frenzy 2018** to help the Wildlife Commission and NC Candid Critters Team find out more about North Carolina's white-tailed deer population! The goal of FFF is to capture photos of and count white-tailed does and fawns in 10 representative counties to determine if deer populations in NC are growing, declining, or staying the same. By running a camera as part of this survey, you will be contributing critical information to this effort. Find out more on the [NCCC website](#) and [sign up to participate](#).

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## Go Hunt! Go Fish! Go Wild! Subscribe to the Wildlife Commission's YouTube Channel

[Subscribe to our YouTube Channel](#) and get closer to nature! Episode One of "In the Field", our [video blog \(vlog\)](#), allows you to tag along with Wildlife Commission biologists to get first-hand look at the methods they use to gather important information and genetic samples from black bears.



## Other News and Events

[New Public Fishing Areas Open on New and Ararat Rivers](#)

[Inland Waters Reopened to Spotted Seatrout Harvest on June 15](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Four Free Fishing Programs in Fayetteville in July](#)

[Wildlife Commission Offers Free Workshops in Brevard in July](#)

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



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