



Do Your Part - Comply With COVID-19 Restrictions

Addressing the ongoing and unfolding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic requires unprecedented measures to mitigate the community spread of COVID-19. Each and every one of us must all work together to do our part to limit person-

to-person contact in our workplaces and in our communities.

Last Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper issued [Executive Order 121 \(EO121\) \[click.icptrack.com\]](#), which instituted a stay at home order and strategic directions for a statewide unified response to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in our state. Under EO121, all North Carolinians are directed to stay at home, except as authorized in

the Order. Outdoor activities are allowed under EO121; however, individuals **MUST**, with the full force and effect of law, comply with the following Social Distancing Requirements and Mass Gatherings requirements:

Individuals using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence **MUST**, at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social (physical) distancing of **AT LEAST** six (6) feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members.

Further, EO121 prohibits any events or convenings that bring together more than ten (10) persons into a single space at the same time.

Please note that local Emergency Orders may require more stringent standards. Prior to engaging in outdoor activities, check local government Emergency Orders for specific requirements.

Hunting, Fishing, Boating and many other wildlife-associated activities can be accomplished in compliance with those requirements; however, based on field observation from law enforcement and other agency professionals over the past week, many people are disregarding the requirements. Those actions raise the clear and present danger of increased community spread of COVID-19.

This is a time for each of us to work together to be part of the solution and not the problem. We are asking each of you to do your part when using any of our access areas. In order to keep these doorways to North Carolina's public trust resources open, we are relying on the compliance of every person.

Failure to comply **WILL LEAD to CLOSURES of boating and fishing access areas.**

Gordon Myers
Executive Director
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission



COVID-19 Related Closures, Cancellations and Postponements

For the most up-to-date information regarding agency closures, cancellations and postponements, visit the Wildlife Commission's [COVID-19 webpage](https://www.icptrack.com) [[click.icptrack.com](https://www.icptrack.com)].

NOTE: As of April 1, 2020, there have been no changes to North Carolina hunting or fishing license requirements, seasons or bag/creel limits.

Safety Tips While Boating, Fishing and Hunting

Springtime is in full swing - The fish are biting, the temperature is heating up and the turkeys will soon be gobbling. Getting out into the woods or on the water can be a welcomed escape for adults and children, and can be done safely if you follow social distancing guidelines: staying six feet away from other people, washing hands or using hand sanitizer and coughing into your elbow. To help you stay safe, the Wildlife Commission urges anglers, boaters and hunters to also follow [best management practices](https://www.icptrack.com) [[click.icptrack.com](https://www.icptrack.com)].



SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE BOATING

Only boat with those in your
FAMILY OR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD



- MAINTAIN YOUR DISTANCE AT BOAT RAMPS AND FUEL DOCKS



- AVOID USING BOAT RAMP DOCKS WHILE OTHER PEOPLE ARE ON THEM



- NO BEACHING YOUR BOAT RIGHT NEXT TO SOMEONE ELSE



- NO RAFTING UP – KEEP YOUR DISTANCE ON THE WATER

NO GUESTS ON YOUR BOAT!

Only boat with those
in your family or
immediate household

GO RIGHT FROM YOUR HOUSE TO THE BOAT AND BACK

Avoid any unnecessary contact
with others.

NCWILDLIFE.ORG



Please note that local Emergency Orders may require more stringent standards. Prior to engaging in outdoor activities, check local government Emergency Orders for specific requirements.



Many Agency Services Available Online: Buy a License, Register a Vessel

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the sales counter at the Wildlife Commission's headquarters in Raleigh is closed. You are strongly encouraged to [purchase your fishing, trapping and hunting licenses \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com) and to [register your vessel \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com) online. Please note the Commission's License, Vessel Registration, and Wildlife Helpline Call Centers are open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.



Melissa McGa

[\[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com)

Social Distancing Imperative When Fishing Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, Which Open April 4

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters open at 7 a.m. this Saturday, April 4, 2020 and run through Feb. 28, 2021. While fishing these

waters anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limits or bait restrictions.

During this time, it is mandated that anglers follow Gov. Cooper's Executive Order that includes social distancing, specifically keeping a distance of 6 feet between each person, and avoiding gathering in groups of 10 or more people. Please also note that local Emergency Orders may require more stringent standards. Prior to engaging in outdoor activities, check local government Emergency Orders for specific requirements.

ACCESS ALERT: Due to COVID-19, public access to some Public Mountain Trout Waters has been closed by the local cooperator. For the most up-to-date list of closings, visit the agency's [COVID19 page \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com/COVID19). Please note because access to sites are closed by the local cooperator, and not the NCWRC, we may not be made aware of all closings so the list may not be comprehensive. Also, a significant number of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed public access for fishing, so please respect the landowners and their property.

STOCKING ALERT: NCWRC staff will continue to stock Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, but are adapting their stockings as conditions change. Stockings will be suspended in areas that are closed to public access due to COVID-19. The NCWRC is adapting stockings as conditions change. Before you head out, visit the [Daily Trout Stockings Update \[click.icptrack.com\]](https://www.icptrack.com/DailyTroutStockingsUpdate) page for more information.



Fishing Pier Closures Due to COVID-19

Currently, the Bells Church pier in Apex and Max Patch Pond pier in Hot Springs have been closed until further notice. As the situation is evolving, visit ncwildlife.org/covid19 [click.icptrack.com] for the most up-to-date information on closures.



Barbless Hooks Required April 1– June 30 in Upper Roanoke River

From April 1 through June 30, anglers fishing in the upper Roanoke River are required to use a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook. The upper Roanoke River is defined as the main river channel and all tributaries, upstream from the U.S. Highway 258 Bridge near Scotland Neck to Roanoke Rapids Lake Dam.





Thomas Harv

[\[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) Practice Social Distancing - Wild Turkey Hunting Season Opens Soon

North Carolina's wild turkey season opens April 11 and continues through May 9, preceded by a youth-only week from April 4-10. The daily limit is one turkey and the possession and season limit is two turkeys per hunter, only one of which may be taken during youth season. Hunting is only allowed for those younger than 18 years of age during the youth season, but hunters age 16 and 17 must be properly licensed. [More regulations and safety tips](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com)



Wildlife Commission-Sanctioned Field Trial Permits Valid Through April 30 Rescinded Due to COVID-19

The Wildlife Commission has rescinded Commission-sanctioned field trial permits valid through April 30, 2020. These sanctioned events have been cancelled.



Hunter Education Field Day Requirement Waived Due to COVID-19

Currently, there are three online hunter education courses (with varying fees) that provide a convenient alternative to the classroom course. The Wildlife Commission has temporarily waived the field day requirement for its online courses. To view available courses, visit www.ncwildlife.org/huntered [click.icptrack.com] and click on the "Online Courses" tab.



Need a Boater Education Course?

Many online options are available, visit www.ncwildlife.org/boatered [click.icptrack.com] and click on the "Online Courses" tab.

DO YOUR PART

WHILE ENJOYING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

PRACTICE **SOCIAL DISTANCING** TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COLDS, FLU AND CORONAVIRUS:



- ALLOW 6 FEET BETWEEN YOURSELF AND OTHERS



- WIPE DOWN SURFACES YOU MAY TOUCH



- DON'T TOUCH YOUR EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH



- WASH YOUR HANDS

NCWILDLIFE.ORG



Please note that local Emergency Orders may require more stringent standards. Prior to engaging in outdoor activities, check local government Emergency Orders for specific requirements.

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Fishing Tournament Weigh-In Permits and Special Use Permits Valid Through April 30 Rescinded Due to COVID-19

The Wildlife Commission has rescinded and cancelled all Fishing Tournament Weigh-In Permits and Special Use Permits for events through April 30, 2020, in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, blanket weigh-in permits for less than 15 boats, L15 permits, are suspended through April 30, 2020. Permit holders and event organizers were notified by the Wildlife Commission.

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Lori William

[\[click.icptrack.com\]](http://click.icptrack.com) **See a Hellbender? We Want to Know.**

Biologists with the Wildlife Commission are seeking your assistance, in particular if you're an angler, to report any sightings of hellbenders ("water dogs"). Hellbenders are giant, aquatic salamanders found in fast-moving, clean mountain

streams in western North Carolina. They are listed as a species of special concern because of declining populations. Anyone who finds a hellbender is asked to leave it alone but to note the location (physical location or GPS coordinates) and take a photo, if possible and email that information to agency biologist [Lori Williams](#). [MORE \[click.icptrack.com\]](#)



The advertisement features two magazine covers on the left. The top cover shows a turkey with the text 'WILDLIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA' and 'MAY 2020'. The bottom cover shows a bumblebee with the same title. To the right, the text reads: 'Subscribe or renew your subscription to *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine at full price and automatically be entered for a chance to win a **YETI COOLER**.' Below this is the phrase 'Enter Today!' in a script font. At the bottom right, it says 'Order anytime at [ncwildlife.org/winc](#) or call 800-786-2721. Offer expires July 1, 2020.'

[\[click.icptrack.com\]](#)

Have a Wildlife Question?

The Wildlife Commission offers a trove of information about wildlife in North Carolina on its website. Many answers to commonly asked questions regarding human wildlife interaction can be found along with detailed information about native North Carolina species. Visit [ncwildlife.org/Have-A-Problem](#) [\[click.icptrack.com\]](#) to learn more.



Great Activities During the Stay-At-Home Order

[Practice Casting in Your Backyard \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) - so that you're catching fish in no time!

[Become a Citizen Scientist from Home \[click.icptrack.com\]](#) - join the millions of other people on iNaturalist, a FREE online social network of people sharing pictures and identifying wildlife and plant species around the world.



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