



DOVE SEASON INFORMATION

The 2020-21 season for [mourning and white-winged dove](#) opens on Sept. 5 and is separated into three segments: Sept. 5 through Oct. 10, Nov. 14 through Nov. 28 and Dec. 12 through Jan. 30. The daily bag limit is 15 doves and [shooting hours](#) are from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset for the entire season, including opening day. Hunting of migratory game birds by any method is not allowed on Sundays.

Hunters Should Follow State and Federal Migratory Game Bird Laws

The Wildlife Commission reminds hunters that it is a violation of state and federal law to take migratory game birds with the use or aid of salt, grain, fruit or any other bait. To avoid a baiting controversy, hunters should inspect areas to be hunted for signs of baiting. Hunters also need to be aware that an area is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all bait. The Wildlife Commission encourages hunters to ask landowners about agricultural processes for fields or if areas to be hunted have been baited. [Learn more](#)

Save Time! Buy Your Hunting License Online for Immediate Use

When you [buy your hunting or fishing license online](#), you can use your emailed receipt to hunt any legal game that doesn't require a tag – like dove.

Wildlife Commission Reminds Dove Hunters to Practice Safety and Ethics

The Wildlife Commission's [Home from the Hunt](#) campaign reminds hunters to practice these safe hunting techniques when dove season opens on Sept. 5:

- Always adhere to established safe zones of fire.
- Always be sure to have the correct ammunition for your firearm.
- Never shoot at low-flying birds.
- Never place decoys on utility lines.



Dove Season is Almost Here: Get Ready to Hunt on Nearly 1,400 Acres of Dove Fields

The Wildlife Commission has prepared nearly 1,400 acres on 26 public game lands for the opening week of dove season. These dove fields have been seeded with millet, milo, sunflowers, sorghum corn or a seed mixture to attract mourning doves. Staff will harvest, mow or burn these fields in time for the opening of dove season. A few highlights:

- Establishment of a new 18-acre dove field on the Riegel Ridge tract of Juniper Creek Game Land, located in Brunswick and Columbus counties

- Reestablishment of the 242 dove field (16 acres) on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land (Bladen County), which had not been managed since 2013.
- Installation of the [dove blind for disabled hunters at Suggs Mill Pond Game Land](#), located in Bladen County.

Visit the Commission's [interactive game land map](#) to find the dove field nearest to you.



Validating Your Big Game Harvest Report Card in North Carolina

In this [video](#), Wildlife Commission Law Enforcement Officer Ashley O'Hare explains the most up-to-date North Carolina's hunting laws as they relate to validating big game report cards and reporting a harvest. O'Hare also answers some commonly asked questions regarding big game harvest reporting. Information about big game harvest reporting can be found in the [2020-21 Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest](#) as well.



"On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" Safety Campaign Culminates Labor Day Weekend

Wildlife Commission and its partners will make a final push for this year's "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive" campaign over Labor Day weekend. The annual multi-agency initiative works to ensure that North Carolinians can travel safely on the road and on the water during summer holidays. Law enforcement officers aim to help discourage impaired operation of vehicles and vessels throughout the holiday weekend. In North Carolina, a driver or boat operator with a blood-alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 is subject to arrest. [Learn more and stay safe](#)



See an Armadillo? Let the Wildlife Commission Know!

The Wildlife Commission wants to know if you have seen an armadillo in the wild. Biologists want to determine the expansion range of armadillos in North Carolina. While armadillos are native to Central and South America, they have been expanding their range into the southeastern US and have been confirmed in 27 counties in North Carolina. [Learn more about the nine-banded armadillo and how you can help the Wildlife Commission determine their range in the Tar Heel state.](#)



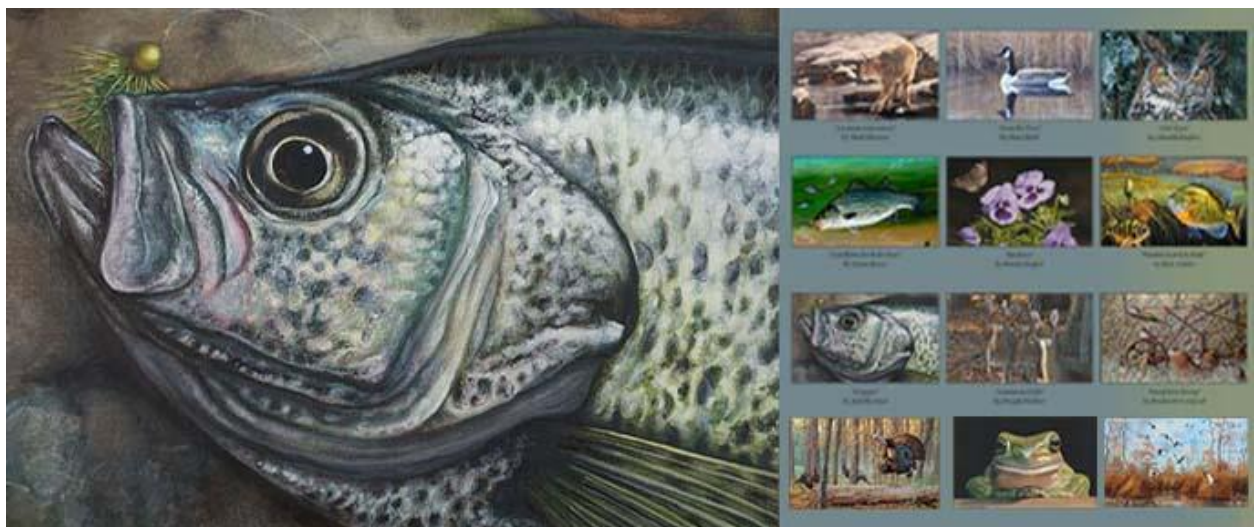
Free, Online Deer Hunting and Processing Seminars Start Sept. 14

The Wildlife Resources Commission and the [N.C. Wildlife Federation](#) will offer five free online deer hunting and processing seminars from Sept. 14 to Sept. 18. Each seminar will go from 7-8 p.m., followed by a 30-minute Q&A session for any seminar-related questions. The “Introduction to Deer Hunting” and the “Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer” seminars are open to everyone, but were created for those who have never hunted or are new to hunting and don’t have access to a mentor. Deer hunting seminar topics: whitetail habits and habitats, scouting techniques, essential equipment, tree stand safety, effective shot placement, tracking techniques and field dressing. Deer processing seminar topics: field dressing, skinning, safe meat handling and basic home processing. [Pre-registration is REQUIRED online](#). After registering, each participant will receive a confirmation email with login instructions. More info: [Walter “Deet” James](#) or 984-202-1387 (Mobile)



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.



2021 Wildlife Calendar Now Available! Get Yours Before They're Gone!

The 2021 Wildlife Calendar is now on sale. The calendar, which makes an excellent holiday gift, features outstanding wildlife art with profiles of each artist, fishing days with moon phase information, and more. Only \$9 each — get yours before they're gone! Visit the Wildlife Commission's [NC Wildstore](#) to purchase yours today.



Recently Renovated Donnaha Public Fishing Access Area Provides Access to Yadkin River

The Wildlife Commission has partnered with Yadkin County Parks and Recreation to renovate Donnaha Park Public Fishing Area (PFA) in East Bend. The PFA provides access to the Yadkin River primarily for kayakers and canoeists, who can use it as a take-out for Shoals PFA and a put-in for Old U.S. 421 River Park. The PFA provides access to the river for small boat operators as well, however, there is limited navigation for small boats and only under the right flow conditions. Anglers fishing the Yadkin River from the Donnaha PFA can expect to catch smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, spotted bass, flathead catfish and redbreast sunfish. [MORE](#)



Biologists Hope to Restore Rare Freshwater Mussel in Catawba River

The brook floater, a state-endangered freshwater mussel, was recently reintroduced into waters it hasn't inhabited in more than 100 years, thanks to a partnership between the Wildlife Commission and Duke Energy. In July, agency biologists stocked approximately 350 brook floaters downstream of Lake James in the Catawba River bypass reach near Bridgewater Road in Burke County. The last time a brook floater was documented in this stretch of the river was in 1919, shortly before the impoundment of Lake James, which diminished the flow of water to a trickle and made the habitat unsuitable for most mussel species.

[READ MORE](#)



Division of Marine Fisheries, Wildlife Resources Commission Release Striped Bass Stock Reports

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission this week released two recently completed striped bass assessment reports for the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River and the Central Southern Management Area. The Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River benchmark assessment indicates the striped bass resource is overfished and overfishing is occurring, which is a change from the stock status for these waters in a 2014 assessment. There is no stock status determination for the Central Southern Management Area, comprising the Tar-Pamlico, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers. [READ MORE](#)



The Wildlife Commission's Inland Fisheries Division recently won the 2019 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Award in the category of Sport Fishery Development and Management for creating a successful hybrid striped bass fishery in Lake Norman. The project, "Establishing and Monitoring a New Hybrid Striped Bass Fishery in Lake Norman," was initiated in 2013 as an alternative to managing for striped bass. NCWRC biologists explored various options to sustain a viable fishery and met with anglers to discuss scenarios. To address angler demands for a fishery that centered on a fish like striped bass, the NCWRC began stocking hybrid striped bass in June 2013. Since 2014, the hybrid striped bass fishery has become increasingly popular among bank and boat anglers. [READ MORE](#)



Since January, 17 boaters have lost their lives in North Carolina waters.

16 were NOT wearing a life vest.

Preserve Your Life. Wear a Life Vest.

**PRESERVE
YOUR
LIFE**

Thomas Harvey

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

So far this year, 17 people have lost their lives while on waters in North Carolina and 16 were NOT wearing a life jacket. Don't be a statistic. Wear your life jacket. 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. [READ MORE](#)



2020 Wildlife in North Carolina State Fair Button Delayed Until 2021 State Fairs

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent cancellation of the 2020 State Fairs in Raleigh and Fletcher, the Wildlife Commission will give away its perennially popular *Wildlife in North Carolina* button at the State Fairs in 2021. The species highlighted for the 2020 button is the Monarch butterfly (see above image), which was selected not just for its beautiful color patterns, but also due to its contribution to the health of North Carolina's wildlife habitats. It is a key pollinator for various flowers around the state as well as a food source for birds, insects, lizards and other small animals. In addition to the 2020 button, the agency will give away a 2021 button at the State Fairs next year. [READ MORE](#)



Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2015, the Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council continuously works to provide access to the outdoors for kids of all ages and backgrounds. Here's a [link to their new introductory video](#) on YouTube.

