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2020-2021 Regulations Digest Now Available Online

The 2020-2021 North Carolina Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest [is now available online](#). The regulations will be in effect Aug. 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.



Wildlife Commission Reminds Hunters About Baiting Laws Regarding Migratory Game Birds

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. [Download this pamphlet for more information](#). The Wildlife Commission encourages hunters to ask landowners about agricultural processes for fields or if areas to be hunted have been baited. [Learn more](#)



Thomas Harvey

Update on Deer Excretion Regulation

A rule prohibiting the possession or use of any substance that contains excretion from a cervid for the purposes of taking or attracting wildlife, was approved by the Commission for the 2020/2021 season. However, 10 letters of objection to this rule were received by the NC Rules Review Commission, making it subject to legislative review in the January 2021 session. As such, there are currently no regulations related to the possession or use of cervid excretions, including urine and other bodily fluids. Any updates to this will be posted at ncwildlife.org as they become available.



Cedar Point Public Fishing and Boating Access Area Renamed in Honor of Executive Director

At its business meeting on July 23, Wildlife Commission Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. recognized Executive Director Gordon Myers for his service to the agency and announced that the Public Fishing and Boating Access Area at Cedar Point in Carteret County has been named in his honor. Myers' last day as executive director is Friday, July 31, 2020. [Read more](#)



Find a Baby Squirrel? Tips on What to do Next

August is typically the peak time of year when Wildlife Commission biologists see a spike in reports of “abandoned” baby squirrels. That’s because August is when gray squirrels, North Carolina’s most abundant native squirrel, are giving birth to their second litters of the year. If you see a baby squirrel, the best thing to do is to leave it alone to give the female opportunity to retrieve it. It is unlikely that she has abandoned her young, even if the nest has fallen out of the tree or has been destroyed. [Learn more](#)



Two Catfish State Records Broken in July

Anglers broke two freshwater fish state records in July, catching two monster catfish within days of each other. On July 5, Joey Baird, of Lawrenceville, Va., was fishing with his friend Mark Conroy, of Macon, when he reeled in a 121-pound, 9-ounce blue catfish from Six Pound Creek at Lake Gaston. Fifteen days later, Pikeville angler Tyler Barnes broke the 15-year-old freshwater fish state record for a flathead catfish, after landing a 78-pound, 14-ounce whopper from the Neuse River on July 20. [Read more](#)




Beach-goers: Do Your Part to Protect Sea Turtles & Hatchlings!

The Wildlife Commission reminds beach-goers to keep beaches clean and shield lights at night for nesting sea turtles. From May until September, sea turtles come ashore and lay their eggs on more than 300 miles of beach habitat in North Carolina, much of which is also used by people. Beachfront property owners and those renting beachfront property are encouraged to turn off their outdoor lights and close the blinds/drapes after dark. Or, they can redirect lights so they are not visible on the beach. People on the beach after dark should refrain from using flashlights or cellphones. [READ MORE TIPS TO PROTECT SEA TURTLES.](#)



Headed to the Beach? Buy Online Before Casting a Line


The Wildlife Commission is reminding beach-bound anglers to purchase their saltwater fishing license before they leave home. A Coastal Recreational Fishing License is required for anyone 16 years and older to fish recreationally in the state's coastal fishing waters, which include sounds, coastal rivers and their tributaries out to 3 miles into the ocean. [PURCHASE A LICENSE](#).



Since January, 16 boaters have lost their lives in North Carolina waters.

15 were NOT wearing a life vest.

Preserve Your Life. Wear a Life Vest.

**PRESERVE
YOUR
LIFE** 

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

So far this year, 16 people have lost their lives while on waters in North Carolina and 15 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](#)





Deposit Photos

Wake Responsibly: You Are Responsible for Your Own Wake

While wakeboarding on the water this summer, the Wildlife Commission urges you to follow the guidelines below to "wake responsibly:"

- Stay at least 200 feet away from the shoreline, docks or other structures.
- Keep music at reasonable levels. Sound travels well over water. If it is loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners and other to hear as well.
- Minimize repetitive passes on any one portion of the shoreline. Once you've run the same line for awhile, move on to another area.

[Learn more](#)





Applications Now Available for Permit Hunting Opportunities

The Wildlife Commission now has available applications for permitted hunting opportunities, including waterfowl hunts. Applications can be obtained by visiting the [Commission's website](#), a Wildlife Service Agent or calling 1-888-248-6834, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Application deadlines vary starting in August.



Your Help Needed, Report Turkey Observations

The Wildlife Commission is seeking the public's assistance in reporting observations of wild turkeys this summer. You have until Aug. 31 to take the [online survey](#). Information entered during this 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.



2020 North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print Now Available

A painting of a tundra swan in flight by wildlife artist Adam Grimm, of South Dakota, is featured as the 2020 North Carolina Waterfowl Conservation Stamp and Print. Signed and numbered regular edition prints and mint stamps are now available for purchase on the Wildlife Commission's [online NC Wild Store](#).

