



Wildlife Commission Announces Cameron "Cam" Ingram as New Executive Director



At a meeting on June 3, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission named Major Cameron "Cam" Ingram as executive director of the agency. Ingram, who resides in Climax, will transition into his new role on or before Aug. 1, 2020. Ingram, who has been with the Commission since 1997, previously served as the Major of Field Operations for the agency's Law Enforcement Division. A graduate of East Carolina University, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation with a concentration in Natural Resource Management. Ingram replaces Gordon Myers, who is retiring after serving as the agency's Executive Director for nearly 12 years. [READ MORE](#)



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

July 4 is "Free Fishing Day" where anyone in North Carolina, regardless of age, can enjoy one of the state's best outdoor activities for free. Free Fishing Day, which runs from 12 a.m. until 11:59 p.m., offers residents and out-of-state visitors the opportunity to fish without having to purchase a license; however, all other [fishing regulations](#) apply, such as length and daily possession limits, as well as bait and tackle restrictions. [READ MORE](#)



Headed to the Beach? Buy Online Before Casting a Line

The Wildlife Commission is reminding beach-bound anglers, particularly those headed to the coast for the busy July 4 weekend, 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](#)



Operation Dry Water Brings Heightened Law Enforcement on N.C. Waters

From July 3-5, boaters on North Carolina's waters will see an increase in outreach, education and enforcement surrounding boating under the influence. As part of the nationwide campaign "[Operation Dry Water](#)," NC Wildlife Law Enforcement officers will focus on boating law compliance on the waterways. The campaign aims to reduce the amount of alcohol and drug-related incidents on the water by increasing awareness of the dangers of boating while under the influence. In North Carolina, a driver or boat operator with an alcohol concentration that meets or exceeds .08 is subject to arrest. Check out this video: [On Patrol: A Day on the Water with NC Law Enforcement](#), filmed on Lake Norman during Operation Dry Water weekend in 2019.



Since January, 13 boaters have lost their lives in North Carolina waters.

None of them were 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, 13 people have lost their lives while on waters in North Carolina and **NONE** of them were 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](#)



Wildlife Commission Urges People to Be BearWise® as Bear Sightings Increase

This is the time of year when bears are on the move as they search for natural food sources and yearling bears are looking for a new home. What to do if you see a bear? Be [BearWise](#)®. Being BearWise® means living responsibly with bears by abiding by six BearWise® Basics, the first and most important of which is to never

feed or approach a bear — either intentionally or unintentionally. Feeding bears trains them to look for food by approaching homes and people. Bears are particularly attracted to bird seed, hummingbird feeders, garbage and other human-associated foods, like pet food. Bears may defend themselves if a person gets too close, so do not risk your safety or theirs. [READ THE OTHER FIVE BEARWISE® BASICS](#)



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/draperies 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.](#)



Fox Sightings Rise as Kit-Rearing Season Peaks

Seeing foxes around your neighborhood, even during the day recently? If so, it is likely because kit-rearing season is upon us. Young foxes, called kits or pups, are maturing and spending more time outside of the den, making sightings of them and adult foxes more likely. For homeowners and others concerned about foxes being too close for comfort, the Wildlife Commission advises to remove all food sources from around the home and start with non-lethal deterrents to encourage foxes to leave on their own. [READ MORE](#)



Wild Turkey Harvest Sets Record for 2020 Season

North Carolina's 5-week wild turkey season had its highest ever recorded harvest of 23,341 birds, according to recent results from the Wildlife Commission's annual turkey harvest summary. The 2020 season far surpassed the previous record of 18,919 harvested birds set three years ago in 2017. Agency biologists said most of the increase in harvest is likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic statewide "stay at home" orders, under which people had more time to hunt, including youth hunters. Additionally, harvest during the week-long youth season increased by 110 percent over previous years. [READ MORE](#)



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 help agency biologists manage the state's wild turkey population. Look for more information and a link on ncwildlife.org, on July 1.





Wildlife Photo Competition Open until Sept. 1

The Wildlife Commission is accepting entries to the 16th annual *Wildlife in North Carolina* Photo Competition until 5 p.m. on Sept. 1. The contest is open to amateur and professional photographers of all ages and features 10 wildlife categories. Entrants ages 18 years and older must be subscribers to the magazine. [READ MORE AND ENTER HERE](#)



Largemouth Bass Stocked into Northeast Cape Fear River to Help Restore Fishery

Fisheries biologists with the Wildlife Commission recently stocked 134,000 largemouth bass fingerlings into the Northeast Cape Fear River to help jumpstart the fishery, which was decimated by Hurricane Florence in 2018. They will monitor the fingerlings over time using genetics to determine their contribution to the population as it recovers. The stocking was part of a collaboration between the agency and members of the Wilmington-based Team Bassmasters Fishing Club, who approached Commission staff with an offer to help fund the restoration effort. [READ MORE](#)

