



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE UPDATE

2019 Wild Turkey Hunting Season Approaching

North Carolina's wild turkey season opens April 13 and continues through May 11, preceded by a youth-only week from April 6-12. 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](#)



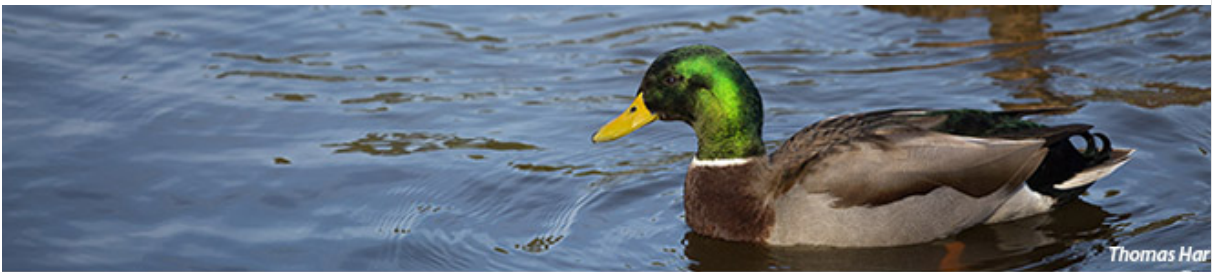
Hatchery Supported Trout Waters Open Soon

Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will open in 25 western counties at 7 a.m. on April 6. The season will run through Feb. 29, 2020. While fishing Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, anglers can harvest a maximum of seven trout per day, with no minimum size limits or bait restrictions. [MORE](#)



Striped Bass Season Closed in All Waters of Central Southern Management Area

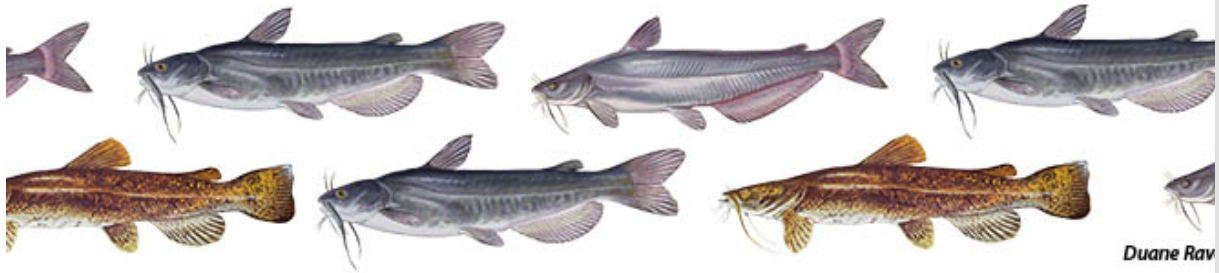
The Wildlife Commission and the Division of Marine Fisheries have closed the recreational striped bass season, effective at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019, in all waters of the Central Southern Management Area where a closure does not already exist. The Cape Fear River and its tributaries are already under a harvest moratorium and are not impacted by this change. [Map and more information](#)



Submit Comments for Migratory Bird Seasons by April 1

The Wildlife Commission is seeking public comment on upcoming migratory game bird hunting seasons, as well as advising hunters of several important changes to the 2019-20 seasons. [Comments can be submitted online through April 1](#). Wildlife Commissioners will select the season dates at their April 25 business meeting in Raleigh.





Comment Period Extended to April 3 for Catfish Management Plan

The comment period for the Wildlife Commission's Catfish Management Plan has been extended until April 3, 2019. The plan, which is an update to the Commission's 2007 Catfish Management Plan, provides a general outline of goals and strategies that incorporates biological data with angler preferences to ultimately protect and enhance catfish resources in the state. [Read the plan and provide comment.](#)



See a Hellbender? We Want to Know.

Biologists with the Wildlife Commission are asking the public, in particular anglers, 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](#)



Only 2 Weeks Remain to Donate on Your N.C. State Income Tax Form

April 15 is the deadline for making a donation on line 30 of your N.C. State income tax form to the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund. The Commission uses these funds to conduct projects and programs that benefit animals not hunted or fished. [MORE](#)

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. [Coastal Rivers Fisheries Reports for the Roanoke, Neuse, Cape Fear and Tar are posted on the Commission's website every Friday through mid-May.](#)



Family Fishing Fiesta Coming to Jordan Lake on April 7

The Wildlife Commission and N.C. State Parks are hosting a free Family Fishing Fiesta on April 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Jordan Lake State Park in Chatham County. Participants can enjoy free fishing from the bank, plus over a dozen hands-on activities and demonstrations. [MORE](#)

Other News and Events

[North Carolina Duck Stamp for 2019 Features a Pair of Ring-necked Ducks](#)

[160 Fish Attractors Set in Two Piedmont Lakes to Improve Angling Opportunities](#)

[Free Fishing Programs Offered in Fayetteville in April](#)

[Free Workshops Offered in Brevard in April](#)

[Free Wildlife Programs Offered in Corolla in April](#)



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