



## NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE UPDATE

### Regulations Adopted for 2019-2020 Seasons

The Wildlife Commission voted on Feb. 21 to adopt rules related to the agency's regulations related to enforcement, wildlife management, inland fisheries and game lands for the 2019-2020 seasons. The one proposal that was not adopted would have removed the exception to the general statewide regulation for crappie in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir by reducing the minimum size limit from 10 inches to 8 inches (F10). This proposed change was designed align the size limit for crappie at Jordon Reservoir with other fishing waters across the state. The effective date for these changes is Aug. 1, 2019. [MORE](#)



### Striped Bass Season Opens on the Roanoke River March 1

The Wildlife Commission will open the entire Roanoke River Management Area to striped bass harvest from March 1 through April 30. The daily creel limit within the Management Area is two striped bass per angler. The minimum length limit is 18 inches, and no striped bass between 22

and 27 inches can be possessed at any time. Only one striped bass larger than 27 inches can be included in the daily creel limit. [MORE](#)



## **Hatchery Supported Trout Waters Closed to Fishing March 1-April 6**

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will close approximately 1,000 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters to fishing one-half hour after sunset on Feb. 28 and reopen them at 7 a.m. on April 6. While fishing is closed, Commission personnel will stock all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters in preparation for opening day. [MORE](#)



## **River Herring Regulations Reminder**

The Wildlife Commission is reminding anglers that they cannot harvest or possess blueback herring and alewife, collectively known as "river herring," greater than 6 inches in length while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. The regulation applies to all river herring, regardless of origin, in inland fishing waters of the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, Cape Fear, Waccamaw and Pee Dee rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course of the river, the Lumber River, including Drowning Creek, and all other inland fishing waters east of I-95. [View an interactive map to see designations for specific coastal waters.](#)



## **Public Comment Sought on Draft Catfish Management Plan through March 31**

The Wildlife Commission is seeking public input on its Catfish Management Plan until March 31, 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 comment.](#)



## **Statewide Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments Coming in March**

The Wildlife Commission has set the schedule for the 42nd annual Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournaments. More than 4,000 students will compete in events including shotgun, archery, rifle, orienteering and a written hunting skills exam. Competition is conducted on senior (high school) and junior (middle and elementary schools) divisional levels, with overall team and overall individual awards based on aggregate scores in all events. [MORE](#)

## **Submit Nominations for Small Game Award through May 1**

The Wildlife Commission is seeking nominations until May 1 for its [Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award](#), which recognizes an individual or organization whose actions that have significantly and positively impacted North Carolina's small game populations through habitat management, education, research, the Hunting Heritage Program or other efforts. These actions also benefit other species, including nongame animals such as songbirds, reptiles and amphibians. [MORE](#)

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## Three Members Sought for Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee

The Wildlife Commission is seeking nominations through April 30 for three seats on its [Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee](#) — a board of North Carolina citizens that provides advice to the Commission on nongame wildlife conservation issues across the state. Nominations are being accepted for expert and at-large seats on the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee. [MORE](#)

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## Newly Designed Wildlife Conservation License Plate Now Available

An artistic drawing of a Pine Barrens treefrog is featured on the Wildlife Commission's newly designed Wildlife Conservation Plate. The plate, which is available through the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, costs \$30, with \$20 from each plate going to the Wildlife Commission's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund. This fund supports projects and programs that conserve, protect and management North Carolina's rare native fauna and more than 700 species of nongame animals. [MORE](#)



## **Beyond BOW Fly-Fishing Basics for Women Workshop on March 23**

The Wildlife Commission is offering a Beyond BOW (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) Fly-Fishing Basic workshop for women ages 18 and over on March 23 at the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center in Fayetteville. This all-day event is the perfect opportunity to learn new skills or improve existing techniques and provides a thorough overview of fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing. [Details and registration form.](#)



## **Spring 2019 Issue of Upland Gazette Now Available Online**

Want to learn more about bobwhite quail, rabbits, other small game wildlife, songbirds and other game and nongame species as well as their habitats? If so, check out the spring issue of the Upland Gazette. In this issue are articles on feral hogs, ruffed grouse, the N.C. Pollinator Conservation Alliance, management of bottomland hardwood forests as quality wildlife habitat, the impacts over-mature forests and closed-tree canopies have on quail populations, and the work retired Wildlife Commission biologist Terry Sharpe continues on behalf of small game wildlife and their habitats. [Read the current issue as well as past issues online.](#) You can also subscribe online to receive notices when the Upland Gazette is available.

## **Species Spotlight: Beaver**





As the largest rodent in North America, the beaver is easily recognizable with its four sizeable yellow incisor teeth and large, flat hairless tail. Slow and clumsy on land, the beaver is agile and quick in the water. Beavers feed mostly on the inner bark of trees and eat large amounts of aquatic vegetation. They are aptly named "Nature's Architect" because of their ability to alter the

environment to its liking by building "dams" that often block ditches and culverts, which can cause flooding in fields and residential areas. However, the ponds they create provide valuable habitat for a tremendous diversity of plants, invertebrates and other wildlife species, such as waterfowl, deer, bats, otters, herons, songbirds, raptors, salamanders, frogs, turtles and fish. Learn more about the beaver by visiting the Wildlife Commission's [beaver page](#).



## Spring Fishing Guide is Here. Get Yours Today!

The digital version of the 2019 Spring Fishing and Boating Guide is now available to subscribers of the Wildlife Commission's award-winning *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine. Among the topics covered in this guide are kayak fishing, tips for catching more catfish and techniques and places to go fishing with young anglers. Also included in the guide is the [Upland Gazette newsletter](#), which provides interesting and informative stories about bobwhite quail, rabbits, other small game wildlife, songbirds and many other game and nongame species. Not a subscriber to the magazine? [Subscribe today](#).



## Other News and Events

[Pechmann Center in Fayetteville Offers Free Fishing Workshops and Clinics in March](#)

[Pisgah Center in Brevard Offers Free Workshops in March](#)



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