

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 and G.S. 150B-21.3A(c)(2)g. that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to adopt the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10A .1102; 10B .0227, amend the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10B .0116, .0202, .0203; 10C .0205, .0211, .0305, .0314, .0316, .0321, .0322, .0401; 10D .0102, .0103; 10J .0103, and readopt with substantive changes the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10B .0110; and 10C .0402.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Proposed-Regulations>

Proposed Effective Date: August 1, 2021

Public Hearing:

Date: January 21, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Register in advance for this webinar: https://ncwildlife.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jef8D745QLmI6b-b8Ihy8Q or join by phone toll free (877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099) using Webinar ID: 938 2215 0018

Reason for Proposed Action: Each year, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission reviews and adjusts as needed, seasons, bag limits, and the management of land, in order to achieve conservation management goals, comply with statutory changes, and respond to constituent requests.

Comments may be submitted to: Rule-making Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.org

Comment period ends: February 1, 2021

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 919-431-3000.

Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact (\geq \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10A - WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SECTION .1100 - WAIVER

15 NCAC 10A .1102 EMERGENCY CLOSURES AND WAIVERS

(a) The Commission may prohibit or restrict public access to and use of Wildlife Resources Commission property if the Commission finds that the closure is necessary to protect public health, public safety, or wildlife resources. Closures exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the threat.

(b) The Commission may waive any rule in this Chapter or portion thereof, that is not statutorily required, upon declaration of a national emergency, disaster, or state of emergency, by a federal, state, or local governmental authority impacting North Carolina. Waivers exercised under this Paragraph shall only be exercised for the duration of the declaration.

(c) The Commission may delegate emergency closure and waiver authority to the Executive Director.

(d) The following factors shall be considered in determining whether to restrict or prohibit public access or use, or waive requirements of rule:

- (1) need for the closure or waiver;
- (2) degree of benefit to the public, if applicable;
- (3) degree of benefit to the resource, if applicable;
- (4) degree of disruption to the Commission; and
- (5) cost to the Commission.

(e) All closures and waivers shall be posted on the Commission website at www.ncwildlife.org.

(f) It is unlawful to use, enter, or remain on Wildlife Resources Commission Property that is closed pursuant to this Rule.

SUBCHAPTER 10B - HUNTING AND TRAPPING

SECTION .0100 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10B .0110 ATTENDANCE OF TRAPS

(a) Every trap shall be visited daily and any animal caught therein removed, except for completely submerged conibear type traps which shall be visited once every 72 hours and any animal caught therein removed.

(b) Remote trap checking systems may be used in lieu of visiting the trap, provided the system has the following features:

- (1) a control unit that remains in continuous operation and reports trap status to a centralized application database at least once every 24 hours;
- (2) notification alarms that report trap closures and system health issues within one hour of detection via email and text-based messaging systems; and
- (3) on-demand control unit testing capabilities for determining trap status, signal strength, and battery condition via remote system check-in.

(c) If the remote trap checking system control unit reports a trap closure, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the time the trap was reported closed.

(d) If a remote trap checking system control unit fails to report trap status within a 24-hour period, or reports a system health issue, the trap shall be physically visited within 24 hours of the last time an open trap signal was received.

(e) Remote trap checking system users shall maintain records of trap status and notification alarms for a period of no less than seven days after receipt. Records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a representative of the Commission.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.6;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002; July 1, 1988.*

15A NCAC 10B .0116 PERMITTED ARCHERY EQUIPMENT

(a) "Archery equipment" means any device that has a solid, stationary handle, two limbs, and a string, that uses non-pneumatic means to propel a single arrow or bolt and may be used to take game and nongame species.

(b) When used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine, longbows ~~Longbows~~ and recurved bows ~~having shall have~~ shall have a minimum pull of 40 pounds, compound bows having a minimum pull of 35 pounds, and crossbows ~~having shall have~~ shall have a minimum pull of 100 pounds. ~~pounds shall be used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine.~~

(c) Archery equipment utilizing an elastic string and having a minimum pull of 40 pounds may be used to take deer, wild turkey, small game animals, nongame animals, and nongame fish.

(d) Only arrows and bolts with a fixed minimum broadhead width of seven-eighths of an inch or a mechanically opening broadhead with a width of at least seven-eighths of an inch in the open position shall be used for taking bear, deer, elk, wild turkey, alligator, and feral swine.

(e) Blunt-type arrow heads may be used in taking small animals and birds including rabbits, squirrels, quail, grouse, and pheasants.

(f) Poisonous, drugged, or explosive arrowheads shall not be used for taking any wildlife.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1(a);
Eff. September 1, 1980;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; July 10, 2010; May 1, 2007; August 1, 2002; July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; August 1, 1990;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

SECTION .0200 - HUNTING

15A NCAC 10B .0202 BEAR

(a) Open Seasons for hunting bear shall be from the:

- (1) Monday on or nearest October 15 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving and the third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1 in and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke, and Cleveland counties;

- (2) Second Monday in November through January 1 in Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, and Sampson counties;
- (3) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington counties;
- (4) Second Saturday in November through the third Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell counties;
- (5) Second Saturday in November through the second Sunday thereafter and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Currituck, Gates, and Perquimans counties;
- (6) Second Sunday in November through the following ~~Sunday~~ Sunday, when November 1 falls on a Sunday the season shall be from the third Sunday in November through the following Sunday, and the third Saturday after Thanksgiving through the fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving in Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank counties;
- (7) Third Saturday in November through the fifth Sunday thereafter in Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson counties; and
- (8) Concurrent with the open season for all lawful weapons for hunting deer as specified in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(a)(1) in Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Durham, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, and Yadkin counties.

(b) Restrictions

- (1) For purposes of this Paragraph, "bait" means any natural, unprocessed food product that is a grain, fruit, nut, vegetable, or other material harvested from a plant crop that is not modified from its raw components.
- (2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:
 - (A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), any animal, animal part or product, salt, salt lick, honey, sugar, sugar-based material, syrups, candy, pastry, gum, candy block, oils, spices, peanut butter, or grease;
 - (B) any extracts of substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph;
 - (C) any substances modified by substances identified in Part (A) of this Subparagraph, including any extracts of those substances; or
 - (D) any bear bait attractant, including sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.
- (3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving in the counties in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.
- (4) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties identified in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (a)(6) of this Rule.
- (5) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.
- (6) Hunters shall not take bears using dogs in the following counties: Alamance south of Interstate 85, Anson west of N.C. Hwy 742, Cabarrus, Chatham, Davie, Davidson, Franklin, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange south of Interstate 85, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Union, and Wake south of N.C. Hwy 98. In all other counties and parts of counties, hunters may take bears using dogs and may release dogs in the vicinity of bait.

(c) No Open Season. It shall be unlawful to take bear on posted bear sanctuaries except when authorized by permit issued by the Commission. See 15A NCAC 10D .0106 for posted bear sanctuaries.

(d) The daily bag limit for bear is one, the possession limit is one, and the season limit is one.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; April 14, 1992; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999; Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; Amendment Eff. August 1, 2002; Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2003; Temporary Amendment Expired Eff. December 27, 2003; Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; Temporary Amendment Eff. May 31, 2016; Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018; Amended Eff. August 1, 2019.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

(a) Open Seasons (All Lawful Weapons) for hunting deer:

- (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken on all game lands except Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Deer With Visible Antlers seasons on these Game Lands), during the following seasons:

- (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus*, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties.
*Unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline.
 - (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.
 - (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.
 - (D) Monday of Thanksgiving week through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day in all of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.
 - (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.
 - (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- (2) Deer of Either Sex. Except on Game Lands, deer of either sex may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this Subparagraph (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either-sex deer seasons on Game Lands). Deer of either sex may be taken during the open season identified in Part (H) of this Subparagraph.
- (A) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the period from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in those parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.
 - (B) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the appropriate military commands at each of the military installations listed in this Paragraph, during the period from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in that part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in that part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in that part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.
 - (C) Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County designated by agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the second Saturday in November for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on apportion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes County designated by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person under 18 years of age.
 - (D) The first open Saturday of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties.
*Except for that part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280
 - (E) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.
 - (F) The first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.
 - (G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC 280; and Henderson; That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.
 - (H) The fourth Saturday in September in all counties, subject to the following restriction: only persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.
- (b) Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment during the following seasons:

- (A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and archery season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these Game Lands).
- (B) Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(2) Restrictions

- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the archery season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the archery deer hunting season.
- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken during archery seasons specified by Part (b)(1)(A) of this Rule.
- (D) Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the archery season specified by Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.

(c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during the following seasons:

- (A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and Archery seasons on these Game Lands):
- (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(2) Restrictions

- (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex days for all lawful weapons and in the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, and Cleveland. Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this season only in all other counties.
- (B) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

- (3) As used in this Rule, blackpowder firearms means "Any firearm - including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the ~~muzzle or cylinder~~ muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition."

(d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game land or part thereof that occurs within a city boundary.
- (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.
- (3) Restrictions:
 - (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the urban season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
 - (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the urban season.

(e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two of which may be deer with visible antlers and four of which may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. In addition to the bag limits described above, a hunter may obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit. The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management

Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999; Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001; Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02); Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003; Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003); Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.

15A NCAC 10B .0227 WILD QUAIL MANGEMENT AREAS

- (a) A Wild Quail Management Area shall be land maintained to enhance enjoyment of sportsmen and support wild bobwhite quail conservation under signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (b) The following minimum qualifications shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:
- (1) At least 1,500 acres of contiguous land; and
 - (2) A minimum of 15 percent of the land shall be maintained in year-round bobwhite quail habitat.
- (c) Wild bobwhite quail habitat shall be any habitat described as early successional habitat within the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan, available online, free of charge, at www.ncwildlife.org.
- (d) Landowners interested in establishing a Wild Quail Management Area shall contact the Commission as described on the Commission's website at www.ncwildlife.org.
- (e) The signed agreement between the landowner(s) and the Commission shall include at a minimum:
- (1) A list of all owners of land included in the Wild Quail Management Area;
 - (2) County parcel identification information for each parcel to be included in the Wild Quail Management Area;
 - (3) A scaled map of the Wild Quail Management Area with the areas to be maintained in year-round bobwhite quail habitat clearly identified;
 - (4) Management practices to be used to maintain bobwhite quail habitat and populations; and
 - (5) Any reporting requirements in addition to the minimum requirements in Subparagraph (g)(6) of this Rule that are specific to the individual Wild Quail Management Area.
- (f) Property inspection:
- (1) All potential properties shall be inspected by a representative of the Commission prior to acceptance into the program; and
 - (2) Wild Quail Management Areas shall be inspected by a representative of the Commission at least once every five years.
- (g) The following shall apply to all Wild Quail Management Areas:
- (1) No domestically raised upland game birds shall be released on Wild Quail Management Areas;
 - (2) The hunting of wild bobwhite quail shall only be permitted during the established seasons in 15A NCAC 10B .0208.
 - (3) Supplemental feeding, if conducted, shall be for the primary purpose of ensuring that wild bobwhite quail populations remain stable during droughts or other periods of stressful environmental conditions. Supplemental feed shall:
 - (A) be broadcast into quail habitat along a minimum linear distance of at least one mile per 100 acres of habitat at a rate of three bushels per mile;
 - (B) be broadcast on a bi-weekly schedule during at least five months each year
 - (C) be broadcast using a non-stationary spreader;
 - (D) be only natural grains or seed; and
 - (E) not be placed to attract birds for the purpose of hunting.
 - (4) Except for wild bobwhite quail on Wild Quail Management Areas, no wild birds may be taken near or with the aid of supplemental feed.
 - (5) Trapping for raccoon, striped skunk, and opossum on Wild Quail Management Areas for the purpose of nest predator control shall be allowed from the end of the established trapping season in 15A NCAC 10B .0303 through May 31. Enclosed foot-hold traps with a one-way trigger or cage traps may be used, and trapped raccoons, striped skunks, and opossums may be euthanized or released at the trap site.
 - (6) An annual report for the period of June 1 through May 31 shall be submitted to the Commission within 30 days of the end of the reporting period, and shall include at least the following:
 - (A) number of days and hours wild bobwhite quail were hunted;
 - (B) total annual harvest of wild bobwhite quail;
 - (C) total number of coveys flushed;

- (D) supplemental feeding activities;
- (E) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or release, by species, for trapping activity conducted during trapping seasons established by 15A NCAC 10B .0303; and
- (F) number of trap nights, number of animals trapped and their disposition or release, by species, for trapping activity conducted outside of trapping seasons established by 15A NCAC 10B .0303.

SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

SECTION .0200 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

(a) For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

- (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
- (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.~~
- ~~(4)(3)~~ "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(5)(4)~~ "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(6)(5)~~ "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(7)(6)~~ "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(8)(7)~~ "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- ~~(9)(8)~~ "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions. ~~Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April.~~

(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits. Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.

(d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.

- (1) Alleghany
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1464 bridge to confluence with Brush Creek)
 - Bledsoe Creek
 - Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against trespassing)
 - Cranberry Creek
 - (Big) Glade Creek
 - Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)
 - ~~Meadow Fork~~
 - Pine Swamp Creek
 - Piney Fork

- Prathers Creek
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park
- (2) Ashe County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)
Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)
South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)
Trout Lake
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)
Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)
Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)
Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
Nathans Creek
North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
Roan Creek
Three Top Creek
- (3) Avery County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
Wilson Creek (game land portion)
- ~~(B)~~ ~~Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:~~
~~Wilson Creek (game land portion)~~
- ~~(C)~~(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Boyde Coffey Lake
Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
Milltimber Creek
North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
Squirrel Creek
Wildcat Lake
- ~~(D)~~(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Birchfield Creek
Cow Camp Creek
Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
Gragg Prong
Horse Creek
Kentucky Creek
North Harper Creek
Plumtree Creek
Roaring Creek
Rockhouse Creek
Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
South Harper Creek
Webb Prong
- (4) Buncombe County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Carter Creek (game land portion)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
Lake Powhatan

Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
Stony Creek
Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)

- (5) Burke County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
 - (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
 - (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts A and B of this Subparagraph
- (6) Caldwell County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Boone Fork Pond
Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)
Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
Rockhouse Creek
- (7) Cherokee County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
 - (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
Apalachia Reservoir
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
Bald Creek (game land portion)
Dockery Creek (game land portion)
North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- (8) Clay County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Fires Creek (Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- (9) Graham County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
Cheoah Reservoir
Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
(Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
West Buffalo Creek

- Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 Little Buffalo Creek
 South Fork Squally Creek
 Squally Creek
- (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 Deep Creek
~~Franks Creek~~
 Long Creek (game land portion)
- (10) Haywood County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespassing)
 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
~~Hemphill Creek~~
 Hurricane Creek
- (11) Henderson County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- (12) Jackson County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 Flat Creek
 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Balsam Lake
 Bear Creek Lake
 Cedar Cliff Lake
 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against trespassing)
 Tanasee Creek Lake
 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
 Wolf Creek Lake
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 Gage Creek
 North Fork Scott Creek
 Tanasee Creek
 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
~~Buff Creek~~
 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- (13) Macon County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

- Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
 - Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
 - Cliffside Lake
 - Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
 - Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
 - Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
 - Queens Creek Lake
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 - Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
 - Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
 - Kimsey Creek
 - Overflow Creek (game land portion)
 - Park Creek
 - Tellico Creek (game land portion)
 - Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- (14) Madison County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
 - Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
 - Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Ave.)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
 - Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
 - Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
 - Max Patch Pond
 - Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
 - Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
 - Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
 - Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
 - Shut-in Creek
 - Spillcorn Creek
 - Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
 - West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
 - Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- (15) McDowell County
 - (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Newberry Creek (game land portion)
 - (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
 - Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)
 - Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
 - (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
 - Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
 - Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
 - ~~Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)~~
 - North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- (16) Mitchell County
 - (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
 - North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
 - (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
 - Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
 - East Fork Grassy Creek
 - Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
 - Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
 - North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
 - (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 - Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- (17) Polk County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- (18) Rutherford County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
(Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- (19) Stokes County
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- (20) Surry County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- (21) Swain County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
Cheoah Reservoir
Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- (22) Transylvania County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107 bridge)
Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)
French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad River)
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
All waters located on Gorges State Park
Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)
- (23) Watauga County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries)
Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Lake Coffey
~~Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)~~
Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)

- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
 Beech Creek
 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against trespassing)
 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork New River)
 Norris Fork Creek
 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower boundary of Brookshire Park)
 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
 Howard Creek
 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)
 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- (24) Wilkes County
- (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary)
 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin River)
 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
 Bell Branch Pond
Boundary Line Pond
 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where posted against trespassing)
 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)
 Pike Creek
 Pike Creek Pond
 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection)
- (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- (25) Yancey County
- (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
 Upper Creek
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)

South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park, except where posted against trespassing)

(D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)

Lickskillet Creek

Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

History Note:

Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);

Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);

Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013;

August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;

Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

(a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina any live individuals of:

- (1) piranha;
- (2) "walking catfish" (Clarias batrachus);
- (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- (4) black carp (Mylopharyngodon piceus);
- (5) bighead carp (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis);
- (6) silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix);
- (7) rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus);
- (8) round goby (Neogobius melanostomus);
- (9) tubenose goby (Proterorhinus marmoratus);
- (10) ruffe (Gymnocephalus cernuus);
- (11) Japanese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina japonica);
- (12) Chinese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata);
- (13) red-rim melania (Melanoides tuberculatus);
- (14) virile crayfish (Oreonectes (Gremicambarus) virilis);
- (15) rusty crayfish (Oreonectes (Procericambarus) rusticus);
- (16) Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (Cherax quadricarinatus, or other species of "giant" crayfish species in the genus Cherax);
- (17) white amur or "grass carp" (Ctenopharyngodon idella);
- (18) swamp or "rice" eel (Monopterus albus);
- (19) red shiner (Cyprinella lutrensis);
- (20) zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha);
- (21) quagga mussel (Dreissena rostriformis bugensis) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae; or
- (22) redtail catfish (Phractocephalus hemioliopterus).
- (1) African longfin eel (Anguilla mossambica);
- (2) amur sleeper (Percottus glenii);
- (3) applesnail (any species of the genus Pomacea);
- (4) Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (Monopterus albus);
- (5) Australian red claw crayfish or red claw (Cherax quadricarinatus, or other species in the genus Cherax);
- (6) bigclaw crayfish (Faxonius placidus);
- (7) bighead carp (Hypophthalmichthys nobilis);
- (8) black carp (Mylopharyngodon piceus);
- (9) brown hoplo (Hoplosternum littorale);
- (10) Chinese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina chinensis);
- (11) Creole painted crayfish (Faxonius palmeri creolanus);
- (12) Crucian Carp (Carassius carassius);
- (13) European eel (Anguilla anguilla);
- (14) European minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus);
- (15) European perch (Perca fluviatilis);
- (16) Japanese mysterysnail (Cipangopaludina japonica);

- (17) marbled Crayfish or Marmorokrebs (Procambarus virginalis or Procambarus fallax f. virginalis);
- (18) olive mysterysnail (Viviparus subpurpureus);
- (19) Oriental weatherfish (Misgurnus anguillicaudatus);
- (20) piranha (any species of the genera Pristobrycon, Pygocentrus, Pygopristis, or Serrasalmus);
- (21) Prussian Carp (Carassius gibelio);
- (22) quagga mussel (Dreissena rostriformis bugensis) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae;
- (23) red shiner (Cyprinella lutrensis);
- (24) red-rim melania (Melanoides tuberculatus or Melanoides tuberculata);
- (25) redtail catfish (Phractocephalus hemioliopterus);
- (26) round goby (Neogobius melanostomus);
- (27) rudd (Scardinius erythrophthalmus or Scardinius erythrophthalmus);
- (28) ruffe (Gymnocephalus cernuus or Gymnocephalus cernua);
- (29) rusty crayfish (Faxonius rusticus);
- (30) shortfin eel (Anguilla australis);
- (31) silver carp (Hypophthalmichthys molitrix);
- (32) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
- (33) tubenose goby (Proterorhinus marmoratus, Proterorhinus semilunaris, and Proterorhinus semipellucidus);
- (34) virile crayfish (Faxonius virilis);
- (35) walking catfish (any member of the genus Batrachus);
- (36) white amur or grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), except for triploid individuals as permitted in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
- (37) yellow bass (Morone mississippiensis); or
- (38) zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha).

(b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

(c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring, in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. September 1, 1984; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001; Amended Eff. July 18, 2002; Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002; Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004; Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019; Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

SECTION .0300 - GAME FISH

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~and (j), and~~ (l) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (l) of this Rule.

(b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

(c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in aggregate.

(d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

(e) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the following:

- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernon River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

(f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

- (g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches, and no fish between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.
- (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir in Chatham and Wake counties and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.
- (i) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.
- (j) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ there Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.
- (k) In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.
- (l) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern ~~Shores, Shores in Dare County, County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County,~~ no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012;
August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

- (a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.
- (b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.
- (c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September 30.
- (d) In Lake Norman, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.
- (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but only two may be greater than 22 inches.
- (f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches.
- (g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.
- (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn ~~Dam, Dam and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County,~~ the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed year-round.
- (i) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters

boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

(j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

(k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

(a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

(b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

(c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters or Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

(d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

(e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

- (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.
- (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.

(g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.

- (1) Bear Creek Lake;
- (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;
- (3) Calderwood Reservoir;
- (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;
- (5) Cheoah Reservoir;
- (6) Cliffside Lake;
- (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;
- (8) Queens Creek Lake; and
- (9) Wolf Lake.

(h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.

(i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020.*

15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b) and (c)~~, (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

(b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in aggregate.

(c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

(d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS

(a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) and (c) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

(b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

(c) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Spotted Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Eff. August 1, 2020.

SECTION .0400 – JURISDICTION OF AGENCIES: CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

(a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license.

(b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

(c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties and waters with open season designated in Rule .0407 of this Section.

(d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

(e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

(f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

(g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in:

- (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
- (2) University Lake in Orange County.

The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

(h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

(i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

(j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take ~~channel, white, channel~~ or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for channel catfish is seven. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

(k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following ~~reservoirs;~~ waters:

- (1) Lake Norman;
- (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- (3) Lake Wylie;
- (4) Badin Lake;
- (5) Lake Tillery;
- (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- (7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA)

~~(7)~~(8) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and

~~(8)~~(9) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

(l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

(m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. Eels greater than 9 inches in length and with a minimum body depth greater than ½ inch may be cut for use as bait.

(n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.

(o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

(q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure its total original ~~length.~~ length, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this Rule. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in ~~possession.~~ possession, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this Rule.

(r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may be sold, with the following exceptions:

(1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);

(2) blue crab; and

(3) bowfin.

(s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;

Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);

Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);

Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;

Readopted Eff. August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

(a) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in the inland waters of North Carolina using equipment other than:

(1) a net of dip net design not greater than six feet across;

(2) a seine of not greater than 12 feet in length (except in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County where there is no length limitation) and with a bar mesh measure of not more than one-fourth inch;

(3) a cast net;

(4) a bow net for the seasons and waters in which the use of bow nets is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;

(5) a dip net when used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher;

(6) a gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);

(7) up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;

(8) up to two eel pots;

(9) a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;

(10) minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter, from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and that are labeled with the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and address;

(11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;

(12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or

(13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom, with a limit of one trap per person.

- (b) The use of equipment under this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.
- (c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.
- (d) Game fishes taken shall be returned unharmed to the water, except white perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).
- (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal consumption subject to the size and creel limits identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401.
- (f) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.
- (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait from the following waters:
 - (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs);
 - (2) Bear Creek in Chatham County;
 - (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph County;
 - (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and
 - (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.
- (i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish having a size limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to render it impractical to measure its total original ~~length.~~ length, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m). No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in ~~possession.~~ possession, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m).

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1989; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001; Amended Eff. July 18, 2002; Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003; Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003); Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006.

SUBCHAPTER 10D - GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

SECTION .0100 - GAME LANDS REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

- (a) For purposes of this Subchapter, the following definitions apply:
 - (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each day's hunt.
 - (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.
 - (3) "Youth" means individuals under 18 years of age.
- (b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:
 - (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to bow and arrow hunting and falconry only. On these areas, deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of any applicable deer season.
 - (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on any game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
 - (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
 - (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Entry shall be authorized only when such entry will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Restricted Zone and the person or persons requesting entry are able to demonstrate a valid need or such person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.
 - (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to all use by the general public, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land ~~shall may~~ be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public. ~~public due to topographical features or activities occurring on the area.~~
 - (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.

- (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S. 113-264(d).
- (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the general public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.
- (9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to all use by the general public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry upon such an area for any purpose is prohibited without first obtaining written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted ~~restricted~~ deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit any litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse at any place on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of such refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on any game land by any person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

- (1) any weapon within 150 yards of any game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise;
- (2) any weapon within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and
- (3) any firearm within 150 yards of any residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.

No person shall hunt with or have in possession any shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on any posted waterfowl impoundment on any game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Every individual carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, free of charge, at:

[http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=75b0c14fb2c26906cf64a267eb69b052&mc=true&node=se36.3.327_113&rgn=div8)

113&rgn=div8. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

- (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, running dogs, or training dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- (3) For any other field trial using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.
- (4) Exceptions:
 - (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
 - (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103(e)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required only for hunting doves; all other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. Any individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~, shall file with the Commission an application to use the area and facility accompanied by the facility use fee computed at the rate of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which for any reason trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or any other entity shall enter or use in any manner any of the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~ without first having obtained written approval of such entry or use from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no such entry or use of any such facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 16 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during any calendar month, and no more than four days may be scheduled during any calendar week; provided, that a field trial requiring more than four days may be scheduled during one week upon reduction of the

maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 16 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between October 22 and November 18 and between December 3 and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of such use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for its consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities at any time by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on any game land located west of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on any game land located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when such field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the Game Land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization can demonstrate their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302, and .0303, trapping of furbearing ~~animals~~ animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the applicable open ~~trapping seasons~~, seasons established by rule. Foxes can be trapped on game lands from November 1 through the end of February in any county with an open fox trapping season that falls between November 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during any fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of November 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. except that trapping Trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the ~~field trial course~~ J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of the Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on any game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the John's River Waterfowl Refuge in ~~Burke County; and~~ County;
- (5) on the DuPont State Forest Game ~~Lands; Lands; and~~
- (6) from April 1 through October 31.

~~On those areas of State owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands, controlled trapping is allowed under a permit system. At each trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is less than 3 cubic inches and is completely covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera are not considered other foods and are excluded from this requirement.~~

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on any game land except on those roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel, unless such person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (m).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for camping.
- (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping, all personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

(j) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

(k) Disabled Sportsman Program. In order to qualify for permit hunts for disabled sportsmen offered by the Commission and use of designated blinds during those hunts, an individual shall possess a Disabled Veteran Sportsman license, a Totally Disabled Sportsman license, or a disabled sportsman hunt certification issued by the Commission. In order to qualify for the certification, the applicant shall provide medical certification of one or more of the following disabilities:

- (1) missing 50 percent or more of one or more limbs, whether by amputation or natural causes;
- (2) paralysis of one or more limbs;
- (3) dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to perform the task of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;
- (4) disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker, or crutches; or
- (5) deafness.

On game lands where the privileges described in Paragraph (m) of this Rule apply, participants in the program may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, or other passenger vehicles:

- (1) on ungated or open-gated roads normally closed to vehicular traffic; and
- (2) on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel.

Each program participant may be accompanied by one companion provided such companion has in his possession the companion card issued by the Commission. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land.

(l) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without prior written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of such animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and such releases are in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(m) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on Game Lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

(n) Disabled Access Program. Permits issued under this program shall be based upon medical evidence submitted by the person verifying that a handicap exists that limits physical mobility to the extent that normal utilization of the game lands is not possible without vehicular assistance. Persons meeting this requirement may operate electric wheel chairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to such use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated in the game land rules section of the regulations digest and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is at all times in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in all lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. Any vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall display the vehicular access permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission in the passenger area of the vehicle where it can easily be seen by Commission staff outside the vehicle. It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (k) of this Rule and those holding a Disabled Access Permit to hunt, during waterfowl season, within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

(o) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on any Game Land, including land or water. For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while in a public place.

(p) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting ranges for any purpose other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. All other uses, including camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, except for activities that have been approved by the Commission and for which a permit has been issued may be conducted, provided that the permit authorizing such activity is available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers at the time the activity is taking place. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit any debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes any items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot any items made of glass on the grounds of the range. No person may leave any vehicle or other obstruction in such a location or position that it will prevent, impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave parked any vehicle or other object at any place on the shooting range other than such a place or zone as is designated as an authorized parking zone and posted or marked as such. No person shall handle any firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause any rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to any person(s). Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle any firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one such sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act that is prohibited or neglect to do any act that is required by signs or markings placed on such area under authority of this Rule for the purpose of regulating the use of the area.

(q) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. only. These roads shall be posted with the opening and closing times.

(r) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

(s) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take any wild birds or wild animals attracted to such foods.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,
2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

(a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any designated game land shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug, or fail to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands listed in this Rule.

(b) Traffic Requirements. No person shall park a vehicle on game lands in such a manner as to block traffic or gates, or otherwise prevent vehicles from using any roadway.

(c) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or wire to a tree on any game land designated herein. This prohibition does not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.

(d) Time and Manner of Taking. Hunting is allowed on game lands only during the open season for game animals and game birds, unless hunting is allowed by permit. Individual game lands or parts thereof may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Chapter. Persons shall hunt only with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons. On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
- (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates;
- (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
- (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. each day; and
- (5) not operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

On designated youth waterfowl days, youths may hunt on managed waterfowl impoundments from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. On designated veterans and military waterfowl days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. Restrictions (1), (3), and (5) in this Paragraph shall apply. On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the only activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone." ~~No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal that has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent. A decision to grant or deny authorization shall be made based on the best management practices for the wildlife species in question. No person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods.~~

(e) Definitions:

- (1) For purposes of this Section, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- (2) For purposes of this Section, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to either-sex deer hunting seasons listed under each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.
- (3) For purposes of this Section, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which any game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons.
- (4) For purposes of this Section, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:
 - (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;
 - (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
 - (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof.
- (5) For purposes of this Section, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:
 - (A) hunting between 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM;
 - (B) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
 - (C) hunting within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or any accessory structure thereof.

(f) Hunting with Dogs on Game Lands. Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(g) The listed seasons and restrictions apply in the following game lands:

- (1) Alcoa Game Land in Davidson, Davie, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly counties
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter in that portion in Montgomery county, and deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in those portions in Davidson, Davie, Rowan, and Stanly counties.
 - (C) On the Lick Creek Tract, deer and bear hunting is archery only.
- (2) Alligator River Game Land in Tyrrell County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Day per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days during~~ the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season.
- (3) Angola Bay Game Land in Duplin and Pender counties
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
 - (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- (4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, ~~Martin~~, and Washington counties
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (5) Bertie County Game Land in Bertie County
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (6) Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land in Bladen County
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
 - (D) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
 - (E) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
 - (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (G) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through August 1.
- (7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- (8) ~~Brunswick County Game Land in Brunswick County~~
 - ~~(A) Hunting is by permit only.~~
 - ~~(B) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.~~
- (9)(8) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
 - (A) Hunting is by permit only.
 - (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (10)(9) Buckridge Game Land in Tyrrell County.
 - (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~three hunting days during~~ of the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~of the December Bear Season. If any of these days falls on a Tuesday, Friday or Saturday, bear hunting is allowed on those days.~~
 - (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (11)(10) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.

- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (12)(11) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Land s in Robeson County
- (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- (13)(12) Butner - Falls of Neuse Game Land in Durham, Granville, and Wake counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- (iii) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.
- (D) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- (G) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.
- (H) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May 15 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 14.
- (I) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (J) Camping is allowed at any time in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.
- (14)(13) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare County:
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (15)(14) Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land in Pender County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on that portion known as the Roan Island Tract.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion of the game land that is west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- (16)(15) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (D) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
- (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- (17)(16) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) ~~Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only, September 1 – May 15, during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.~~ Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
- (D) The area encompassed by the following roads is permit-only for all quail and woodcock hunting, and all bird dog training: From Yanceyville south on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1746, west on SR 1746 to the intersection of SR 1156, south on SR 1156 to the intersection of SR 1783, east on SR 1783 to the intersection of NC 62, north on NC 62 to the intersection of SR 1736, east on SR 1736 to the intersection of SR 1730, east on SR 1730 to NC 86, north on NC 86 to NC 62.
- (E) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.

- (F) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (G) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.
- ~~(18)~~(17) Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (D) ~~Horseback riding riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only September 1 – May 15. during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.~~
 - (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(19)~~(18) Chowan Game Land in Chowan County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(20)~~(19) Chowan Swamp Game Land in Bertie, Gates, and Hertford counties.
 - (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear hunting is restricted to the first ~~Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday~~ three hunting days during of the November bear season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December bear season except that portion of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
 - (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (E) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
 - (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(21)~~(20) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
 - (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- ~~(22)~~(21) Columbus County Game Land in Columbus County.
 - (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Deer hunting on the Campbell Tract shall be by permit only.
- ~~(23)~~(22) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.
 - (E) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
 - (F) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(24)~~(23) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
 - (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
 - (C) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do not use a firearm.
 - (D) The boundary of the game land shall extend 5 yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
 - (E) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their hunt.
 - (F) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
 - (G) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
 - (H) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(25)~~(24) Dan River Game Land in Rockingham County

- (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer hunting is by permit only.
 - (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on those areas posted for equestrian use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.
 - (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(26)~~(25) Dare Game Land in Dare and Hyde counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) No hunting is allowed on posted parts of bombing range.
 - (D) The use and training of dogs is prohibited from March 1 through June 30.
- ~~(27)~~(26) Dover Bay Game Land in Craven County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- ~~(28)~~(27) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
 - (B) The training and use of dogs for hunting is prohibited except by special hunt permit holders during scheduled permit hunts.
- ~~(29)~~(28) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- ~~(30)~~(29) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(31)~~(30) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
 - (E) On Pamlico Point and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.
 - (F) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
 - (H) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of NC-33.
 - (I) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(32)~~(31) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- ~~(33)~~(32) Green Swamp Game Land in Brunswick County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) On that portion north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road, hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (D) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on that portion of the game land that is north of Big Macedonia Road, east of Makatoka Road, south of Little Macedonia Road, and west of Green Swamp Road.
- ~~(34)~~(33) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

- (C) Waterfowl on posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons; and
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
 - (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (E) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday ~~first three hunting days during the second week~~ of the December Bear Season, except for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.
- ~~(35)~~(34) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
 - (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds shall be prohibited.
 - (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
 - (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
 - (G) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- ~~(36)~~(35) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season
- ~~(37)~~(36) Hill Farm Game Land in Stokes County- hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- ~~(38)~~(37) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (E) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are permit only.
 - (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
 - (i) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
 - (ii) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
 - (G) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
 - (H) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
 - (I) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
 - (J) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- ~~(39)~~(38) Hyco Game land in Person County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(40)~~(39) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- ~~(41)~~(40) Johns River Game Land in Burke County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
 - (B) During permitted deer hunts, deer of either sex may be taken by permit holders.
 - (C) Entry on posted waterfowl impoundments is prohibited October 1 through March 31, except by lawful waterfowl hunting permit holders and only on those days written on the permits.
 - (D) The use or construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
 - (E) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas is limited to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.

~~(42)~~(41) Jordan Game Land in Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Wake counties

- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
 - (i) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
 - (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Horseback ~~riding~~ riding, including all equine species, is prohibited except allowed only on those areas posted as American Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On all other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 – August 31, only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays only from September 1 – May 15, the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older must obtain who ride horseback on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries shall possess a Game Lands license. license prior to engaging in horseback riding on any area other than the American Tobacco Trail.
- (E) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- (G) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds and game animals.

~~(43)~~(42) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
- (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

~~(44)~~(43) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County

- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
- (C) Use of blackpowder firearms, shotguns, or rifles for hunting deer during the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season is prohibited.
- (D) Tree stands shall not be left overnight; and no screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.
- (E) Deer of either sex may be taken on all open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- (F) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.
- (G) The use of firearms for hunting wild turkey is prohibited.

~~(45)~~(44) Lantern Acres Game Land in Tyrrell and Washington counties

- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer on the Godley Tract is prohibited.
- (E) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

~~(46)~~(45) Lee Game Land in Lee County

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

~~(47)~~(46) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico County

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

~~(48)~~(47) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken on all of the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

~~(49)~~(48) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.

~~(50)~~(49) Mayo Game Land in Person County

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

- (i) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
 - (iii) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(51)~~(50) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
- (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second ~~Wednesday~~ Tuesday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- ~~(52)~~(51) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.
- ~~(53)~~(52) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
 - (C) On posted dove fields, dove hunting on the opening day of dove season is by permit only.
- ~~(54)~~(53) Neuse River Game Land in Craven County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Camping is allowed any time within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land that lies west of NC-43.
- ~~(55)~~(54) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(56)~~(55) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
 - (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter.
 - (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
 - (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (H) On Lake Upchurch, the following activities are prohibited:
 - (i) Operating any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine; and
 - (ii) Swimming.
 - (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(57)~~(56) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
 - (D) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only.
 - (E) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(58)~~(57) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
 - (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(59)~~(58) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North of US-74.
 - (D) Target shooting is prohibited.
 - (E) Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use, only during the following times:
 - (i) during June, July, and August; and
 - (ii) on Sundays during the other months or parts of months when deer and turkey seasons are closed.

- (F) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be prohibited on that portion south of US-74.
- ~~(60)~~(59) Perkins Game Land in Davie County
- (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers ~~Season.~~ Season through the second Tuesday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(61)~~(60) Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- (D) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- ~~(62)~~(61) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.
- ~~(63)~~(62) Pungo River Game Land in Hyde County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- ~~(64)~~(63) Rendezvous Mountain State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Wednesday thereafter.
- (C) Bear hunting is prohibited.
- ~~(65)~~(64) Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
- (A) Hunting is by permit only.
- (B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.
- ~~(66)~~(65) Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by Permit only.
- (B) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by permit holders.
- (C) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas, provided, however, that camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the game land.
- (D) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(67)~~(66) Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.
- ~~(68)~~(67) Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
- (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(69)~~(68) Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.
- (C) Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter.
- (D) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day.
- (E) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (F) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (G) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (H) Taking fox squirrels is prohibited.
- (I) Target shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(70)~~(69) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County - Hunting is by permit only.
- ~~(71)~~(70) Sampson Game Land in Sampson County
- (A) ~~Three~~ Four Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
- (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
- (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

~~(72)~~(71) Sandhills Game Land in Hoke, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland counties

- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from October 22 through March 31 except as follows:
 - (i) deer of either-sex may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be taken with all legal weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
 - (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third Saturday thereafter;
 - (iii) squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
 - (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;
 - (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season;
 - (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit Hunt; and
 - (vii) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the last day of February.
- (C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
- (D) The archery season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (E) Blackpowder firearms season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on all open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season and by permit during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.
- (F) Either-sex deer hunting during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season is by permit only.
- (G) In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- (H) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- (I) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- (J) Camping and the presence of campers and tents in designated Hunter Camping Areas are limited to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.
- (K) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

~~(73)~~(72) Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin ~~Counties~~ counties

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
- (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.

~~(74)~~(73) Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.

- (A) Three Days per Week Area
- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers season.
- (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- (D) Dogs shall only be trained on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays and only as allowed in 15A NCAC 10D .0102(f).
- (E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove season.
- (F) Target shooting is prohibited.

~~(75)~~(74) Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.

~~(76)~~(75) Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash, and Warren counties

- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (E) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(77)~~(76) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment on open days beginning the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day. Deer with visible antlers may be taken with archery equipment the Monday immediately following the closing of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season, as described in this Part, through January 1. Deer of either sex may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter.
 - (C) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (D) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
 - (i) January 2 through March 31;
 - (ii) May 16 through August 31;
 - (iii) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
 - (iv) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- ~~(78)~~(77) Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
 - (D) Swimming in all lakes is prohibited.
 - (E) Waterfowl ~~on posted waterfowl impoundments~~ may be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (F) Target shooting is prohibited.
 - (G) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.
- ~~(79)~~(78) Suggs Mill Pond Game Land in Bladen and Cumberland counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.
 - (C) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:
 - (i) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and
 - (ii) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.
 - (D) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
 - (E) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).
- ~~(80)~~(79) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Target shooting is prohibited.
 - (D) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- ~~(81)~~(80) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County
- (A) Hunting is by permit only
 - (B) Target Shooting is prohibited
- ~~(82)~~(81) Texas Plantation Game Land in Tyrrell County - hunting and trapping is by permit only.
- ~~(83)~~(82) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- ~~(84)~~(83) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

- (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license.
 - (D) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any designated campground is 14 days within any 30 day period from May 1 through August 31. After 14 consecutive days of camping all personal belongings must be removed from the game land.
- ~~(85)~~(84) Tillery ~~game~~ Game Land in Halifax County
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
 - (D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (F) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(86)~~(85) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31 and all horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15.
- ~~(87)~~(86) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
 - (C) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the Flintlock Valley Shooting Range.
- ~~(88)~~(87) Vance Game Land in Vance County
- (A) Six Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) The use of dogs, centerfire rifles, and handguns for hunting deer is prohibited on the Nutbush Peninsula tract.
- ~~(89)~~(88) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort and Washington counties
- (A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.
- ~~(90)~~(89) Voice of America Game Land in Beaufort County
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(91)~~(90) White Oak River Game Land in Onslow County
- (A) Three Days per Week Area
 - (B) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
 - (C) Except as provided in Part (D) of this Subparagraph, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - (i) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - (ii) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - (iii) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
 - (D) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.
 - (E) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:
 - (i) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);
 - (ii) hunting is by permit only; and
 - (iii) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
 - (F) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
 - (G) Target Shooting is prohibited.
- ~~(92)~~(91) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen and Pender counties
- (A) Hunting and trapping is by permit only.
 - (B) Camping is restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and posted as camping areas.

(C) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Long Ridge Tract.

~~(93)~~(92) William H. Silver Game Land in Haywood County

(A) ~~Six~~ Seven Days per Week Area

(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(C) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is prohibited.

(h) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperators agent or by phone.

(i) The following game lands and refuges are closed to all hunting except to those individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

- (1) Bertie, Halifax and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;
- (2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;
- (3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;
- (4) Burke County—John's River Waterfowl Refuge;
- (5) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);
- (6) Dare County—Roanoke ~~Sound~~ Marshes Game Lands; and
- (7) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

(j) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted only when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge will not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(k) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal or game bird using any legal manner of take allowed during those seasons. Dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine except on game lands that allow the use of dogs for hunting deer or bear, and during the applicable deer or bear season.

(l) Youth Waterfowl Day. On the day declared by the Commission to be Youth Waterfowl Day, youths may hunt on any game land and on any impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (h) of this Rule.

(m) Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days. On the day declared by the Commission to be Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

(n) Permit Hunt Opportunities for Disabled Sportsmen. The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on each permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on each permit.

(o) As used in this Rule, horseback riding includes all equine species.

(p) When waterfowl hunting is authorized in this Rule on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September 1, 1994; July 1, 1994;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);

Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);

Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019.

SUBCHAPTER 10J - WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREA REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10J .0103 HUNTING ON WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AREAS

(a) Safety Requirements. No person while hunting on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area shall be under the influence of alcohol or any narcotic drug.

(b) Tree Stands. It is unlawful to erect or to occupy, for the purpose of hunting, any tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts or wire to a tree on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. This prohibition shall not apply to lag-screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal left remaining in or attached to the tree.

(c) Time and Manner of Taking. Except where closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by these regulations, hunting on areas designated and posted as wildlife conservation areas is permitted during the open season for the game or furbearing species being hunted. Waterfowl hunters shall not enter the areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates, and hunting is prohibited after 1:00 p.m. on such hunting dates; decoys may not be set out prior to 4:00 a.m. and must be removed by 3:00 p.m. each date. No person shall operate any vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine on the waters of any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area. No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of any bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess any bird or animal which has been so mutilated. No person shall place, or cause to be placed on any area designated and posted as a wildlife conservation area, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without prior written authorization of the Commission or its agent and no person shall take or attempt to take any game birds or game animals attracted to such foods. No person shall use an electronic calling device for the purpose of attracting wild birds or wild animals. No live wild animals or wild birds shall be removed from any designated wildlife conservation area except with the written permission of the landowner.

(d) Hunting Dates:

- (1) Any game may be taken during the open seasons ~~on the following wildlife conservation areas~~ and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. In addition, deer may be taken with bow and arrow on the opening day of the bow and arrow season for deer. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays. ~~Additional restrictions apply as indicated in parentheses following specific designations:~~
- (2) Except as otherwise indicated, the following designated wildlife conservation areas or indicated portions thereof are closed to all hunting:
 - (A) Nona Pitt Hinson Cohen Wildlife Conservation Area - Richmond County.
 - (B) John D. Lewis Wildlife Conservation Area - Wayne County.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-136; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1990;
Amended Eff. October 1, 1994.*