



# Public Hearings

2022–2023

Inland Fishing, Hunting, Trapping  
and Game Land Regulations



## January 2022

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission  
[ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

# State of North Carolina

Roy Cooper, Governor

## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1701

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission appreciates the investment of your time and thanks you for attending this public hearing to show your concern for fish and wildlife programs in North Carolina. We welcome your opinions and suggestions about these conservation programs.

All state regulatory agencies must follow certain procedures that govern how rules are adopted under the *Administrative Procedure Act*. Public notice is required and proposed regulations are published in the *North Carolina Register*. A 60-day comment period follows, which includes public hearings. These procedures are designed to give the proposed regulations wide public exposure and to offer the public opportunities to respond with support, opposition, or suggestions.

For fish, wildlife, and game land regulations, this process begins at the previous year's hearings and continues throughout the year. We consider all suggestions presented during the past year as starting points for these proposed regulations. The proposals in this document reflect public, staff, and Commissioner input. The Commissioners approved these proposals for publication in the *North Carolina Register* and for presentation at these public hearings.

In February 2022, after considering comments from the public and consulting with staff, the Commission will make final decisions on these proposed regulations. The rules that are adopted will then be available in the *N.C. Inland Fishing, Hunting and Trapping Regulations Digest* for 2022–2023. The digest will be available on August 1, 2022 from your licensing agent and on [eregulations.com/northcarolina](http://eregulations.com/northcarolina).

We appreciate your participation and look forward to hearing your comments. With your help, we will provide the best possible fish and wildlife programs for your enjoyment today and in the future.

Sincerely,

Monty R. Crump, Chairman  
N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

# THE RULE-MAKING PROCESS

## **Step 1: PROPOSALS**

The public, Commission staff, Commissioners, conservation partners, and other stakeholders propose new or amended fishing, hunting, trapping, land management, and other regulations.

## **Step 2: PROPOSALS VETTED**

Staff analyze and present proposals to the Executive Director for consideration.

## **Step 3: COMMISSION VOTES ON PROPOSALS**

Proposals are presented to and reviewed by the Commission who then votes on the proposals to be noticed for public comment and presented at public hearings.

## **Step 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS**

The public submits comments on proposals online ([ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)), by e-mail ([regulations@ncwildlife.org](mailto:regulations@ncwildlife.org)), letter, or in-person at public hearings.

## **Step 5: COMMISSIONERS REVIEW THE COMMENTS AND VOTE ON THE PROPOSALS.**


All comments submitted during the comment period are reviewed and the Commissioners vote to adopt proposals as presented, adopt in a modified form, or reject the proposal.

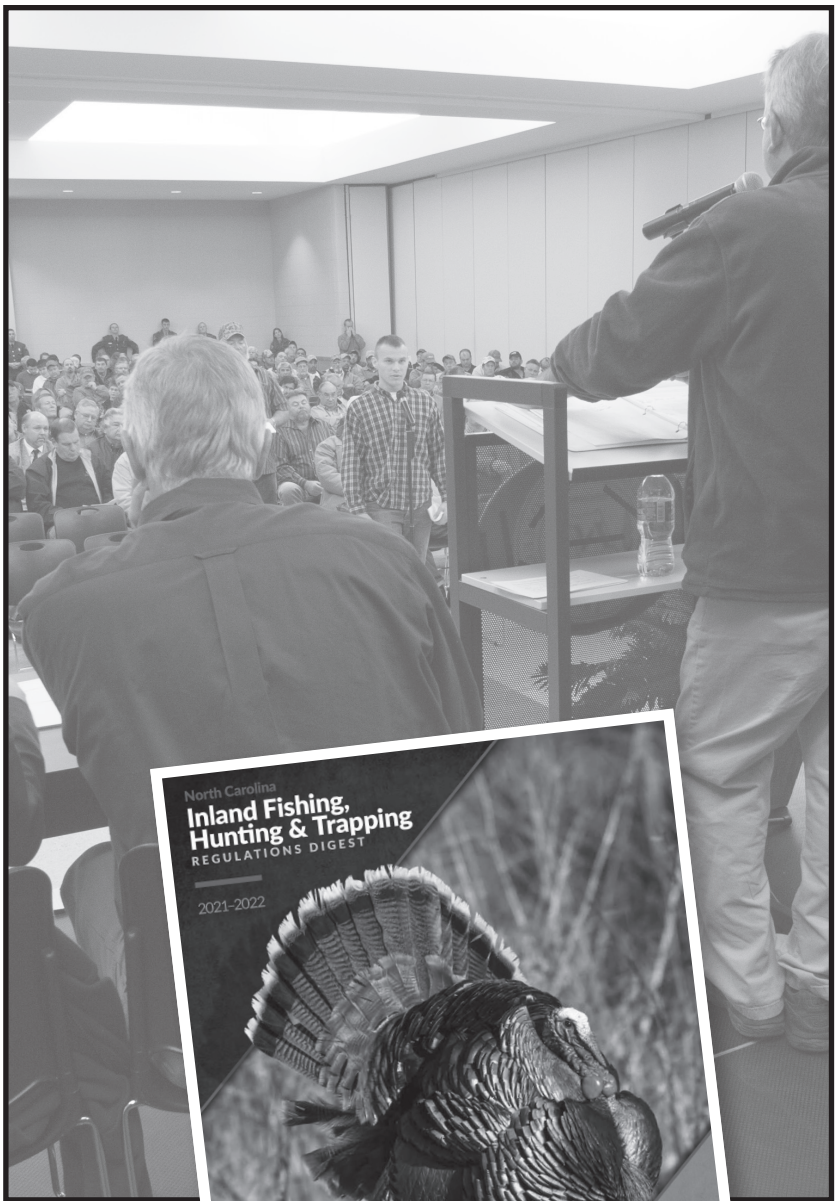
## **Step 6: RULES ARE FILED**

Adopted rules are filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings for approval. The Rules Review Commission approves or disapproves the rules as written.

## **Step 7: APPROVED RULES PUBLISHED**

Approved rules are entered in the *N.C. Administrative Code* and added to the regulations digest.





North Carolina  
**Inland Fishing,  
Hunting & Trapping**  
REGULATIONS DIGEST

2021-2022



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
*Wildlife*  
RESOURCES  
COMMISSION

Effective Aug. 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022  
Online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)

## Public Hearings

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The Commission has been charged with managing North Carolina's wildlife resources since 1947. The General Assembly, through statute, declares which matters of fish, wildlife, and land management the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission can regulate through rule. Rules are one means of managing resources to serve the recreational and economic interests of the state's citizens. We rely on the public's cooperation and assistance in this endeavor. Thus, we urge you to participate by commenting at a public hearing or submitting your comments in writing.

### Hearing Procedures

Please review the proposals in this booklet when you arrive and complete the record form on the back if you wish to comment. During the hearing, a Commission official will ask for your comments, opinions, or suggestions. Your comments are welcome, and each will be considered. In the interest of time and fairness to others who want to speak, please be concise when commenting.

After the proposed changes in this booklet are presented, time will be allotted to comment on other matters of interest that you may want to present to the Commission for consideration. We earnestly solicit your input and ideas to improve regulations. We also ask you to remember that changing regulations in the *N.C. Administrative Code* can be a lengthy process that often takes more than one year to accomplish. These public hearings are, however, the proper starting point for your suggestions.

### What Happens Next?

You are encouraged to speak at the public hearings or to write to the Commission, if you have recommendations. We will accept public input about proposed changes to the regulations until the close of the public comment period on Jan. 31, 2022.

A written record of all public comments will be compiled and reviewed by staff and the Commissioners. Your recommendations; biological information from field surveys; harvest records; changes in habitat, fish, and wildlife populations; breeding stocks; game lands use; and other conditions that affect wildlife, will all be considered.



# Schedule for the 2022 Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Public Hearings

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*Before you make final plans to attend, check the Commission’s website ([ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org)) for updates, including weather-related rescheduling.*

## Hearing Time: 7 p.m.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Location</b>
Tues., Jan. 11	Coastal	New Bern	Craven Co. Courthouse District Courtroom #4
Thu., Jan. 13	Piedmont	Asheboro	Southwest Randolph High School, Auditorium
Tues., Jan. 18	Mountains	Marion	McDowell Technical Community College, Cedar Building
Thu., Jan. 20	All		Virtual — Register online at <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations">ncwildlife.org/proposed-regulations</a>

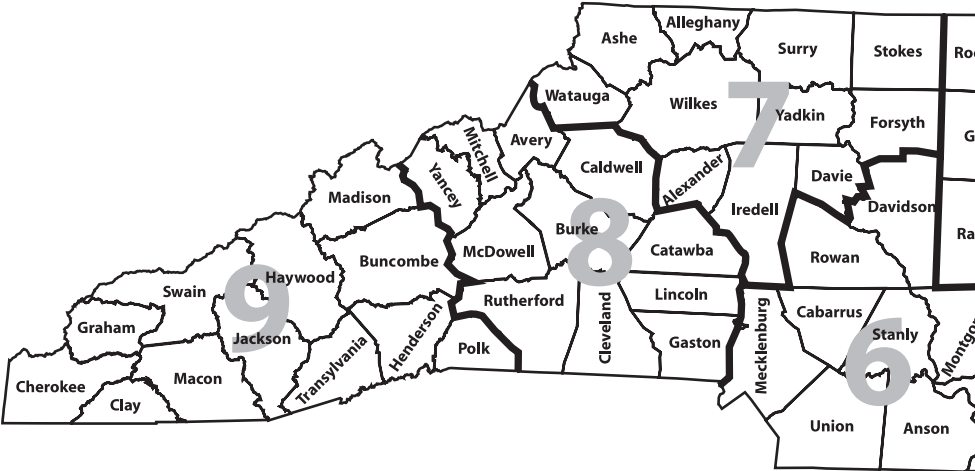
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## Limits to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Rule-making Process

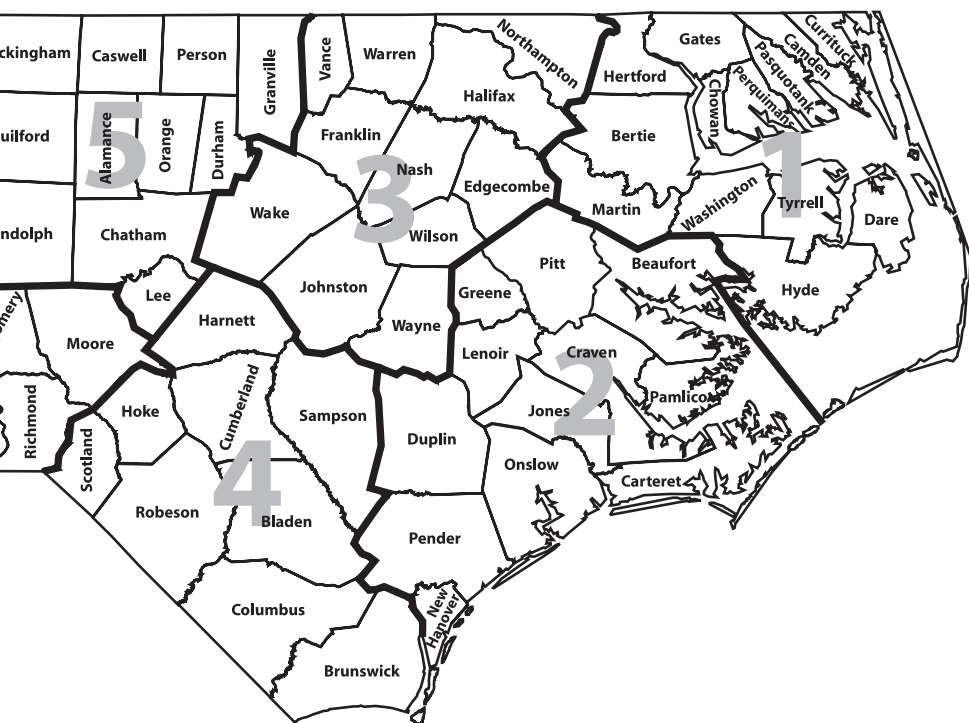
Some aspects of wildlife and fish management, hunting, fishing, trapping, and human/wildlife interaction are legislated directly. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission appreciates the interest of North Carolina’s sportsmen and sportswomen in the state’s wildlife resources and respectfully considers all suggestions.

Subscribe for N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission email updates on proposed rules and regulations at [ncwildlife.org/subscribe](http://ncwildlife.org/subscribe).

# North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Districts









The NCWRC established **NC Turn-In-Poachers (TIP)** program as a silent witness, anti-poaching program that encourages the public to report any suspicious activity or knowledge about poaching violations. The multi-optional reporting system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

You can **report a violation online at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org) or by text**. To submit an anonymous tip through text messaging, type WILDTIP and your message, then send it to 274637 (CRIMES on most cell phones). Message and data rates may apply. Texting WILDTIP removes all identifying information from a text so tips are completely anonymous unless senders want to identify themselves to claim a reward. Tipsters can also call 855-WILDTIP.

***NOTE: This phone number is only for specific violations. For all other wildlife violations, questions, and concerns please call 800-662-7137.***

# NCWILDTIP

# Proposed Changes to Inland Fishing Regulations for 2022–2023

*The following changes to the statewide inland fishing regulations are proposed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions, or suggestions.*

## **Trout**

**F1.** Clarify the boundaries of Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters on the Tuckasegee River in Jackson County. This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:** The current description for this reach is unclear because the lower boundary uses the family name of a private landowner, and the Tuckasegee River is more commonly referred to as the East Fork Tuckasegee River.

**F2.** Reclassify following waters from Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait to Wild Trout Waters:

- Game lands portions of North Shoal Creek in Cherokee County
- Deep Creek in Graham County
- Game lands portion of Lower Fowler Creek in Jackson County
- Game lands portion of Jarrett Creek in Macon County
- Game lands portion of Overflow Creek in Macon County

This proposal will not remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:** The listed waters are currently classified as Wild Trout/Natural Bait. The Wild Trout/Natural Bait classification is similar to the game lands default Wild Trout rules, except anglers are allowed to use natural bait. The natural bait exception is intended to diversify angler opportunity and experience; however, these waters are rarely fished by anglers using natural bait. Therefore, the Wild Trout/Natural Bait classification on the above listed waters adds complexity to Public Mountain Trout Waters regulations without improving the management of the resource.

**F3.** Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Spring Creek in Madison County. The proposed reach will be from junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow Fork. This proposal will remove 0.9 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:** The landowner at the current lower Hatchery Supported boundary on Spring Creek has posted their property against trespass and requested that the property be removed from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**F4.** Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Helton Creek in Ashe County. The proposed reach will be from 900 yards upstream of SR 1372 bridge to the North Fork New River. This proposal will add approximately 0.5 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:** The upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Helton Creek was moved downstream in the 2019-2020 regulation cycle in response to private property on the upper end of the creek being posted against trespassing.

The SR 1372 bridge was chosen as the new upper boundary given that it is a recognizable landmark, but after this change was made, the landowner immediately upstream of the SR 1372 bridge requested that the water along their property be added back to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**F5.** Modify the upper boundary of the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on the Linville River in Avery County. The proposed reach will be from SR 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing. This change will remove approximately 0.5 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters.

**Justification:** The portion of Linville River from Linville Land Harbor dam to SR 1504 flows through private property posted against trespassing. The landowner contacted fisheries staff to complain about anglers trespassing through their property to access the Linville River. This proposal will help eliminate trespassing conflicts.

### ***Striped Bass***

**F6.** Increase the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids from 16 inches to 20 inches in Lake Norman. The daily creel limit will remain four fish in combination.

**Justification:** Biological data for Lake Norman Hybrid Striped Bass indicate that the population grows at a fast rate within the first 3 years and maintains an above average condition for a Lake Norman fishery. Tagging model data indicate that anglers are harvesting fish at an extremely high rate. Early data analysis indicates that harvest rates are between 60-80% annually. Due to early fast growth and high harvest rates of Hybrid Striped Bass, anglers have requested that the minimum size limit be increased to allow fish to stay in the lake for at least one more year. Biological data indicate that the fishery can sustain this increase in the minimum size limit. It may also allow fish to gain a larger individual size and the overall population size to increase.

# Proposed Changes to Land and Water Access Regulations for 2022–2023

*The following changes to land and water access regulations are proposed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions, or suggestions.*

## **Game Lands**

**G1.** Make the temporary changes to 10D .0103 permanent and move specific game lands to their own rules.

**Justification:** Proposed rule changes must be noticed on the correct version of a rule. Because there are currently two versions of 10D .0103, one temporary and one at the General Assembly, and the agency is unsure if/how the rule at the General Assembly will be handled, two versions of proposed changes are being noticed to ensure the correct version can be adopted. Additionally, specific game lands that had changes during the last annual cycle and those that will be amended during this annual cycle are being split out so that each game land has its own separate rule. This will make amendments to individual game lands easier in the future.

**G2.** Update NCAC language to include Sundays between season transitions as an allowable day to hunt, and make it consistent with the adopted rule change allowing Sunday hunting on Buffalo Cove and South Mountain game lands.

**Justification:** A rule change was adopted allowing Sunday hunting on Buffalo Cove and South Mountains game lands. Current language does not include Sundays between season transitions as an allowable day to hunt.

**G3.** Prohibit alcohol and fires on the Lutz Tract and Wilson Creek portions of Pisgah Game Lands.

**Justification:** The Wilson Creek corridor is one of the most heavily used portions of Pisgah game lands. NCWRC owns a small portion of the game land and river corridor (approx. 2 miles of river and 700ac of land) in the area with the remainder of the greater Pisgah Game Land being owned by the USFS. Currently fires and alcohol are prohibited on the USFS portion of the game land within the Wilson Creek corridor. This rule change would bring the entire game land in that area under the same regulation structure and be less confusing for the public.

**G4.** Remove language regarding entry into posted waterfowl impoundments and clarify the use and construction of permanent hunting blinds.

**Justification:** Due to permeability issues the construction of waterfowl impoundments was abandoned, so Johns River game land does not currently have any. To avoid further confusion, language regarding posted waterfowl impoundments needs to be removed, and needs to clarify the use of permanent hunting blinds. Johns River currently has several permanent disabled accessible hunting blinds, and questions regarding legal use has been asked by users.

**G5.** Prohibit target shooting on Buffalo Cove, Dupont State Forest, Green River, South Mountains, Johns River, and Pisgah WRC game lands.

**Justification:** McDowell County is currently in the process of constructing a shooting range with plans for completion within a year. With the McDowell County shooting range, in addition to the Foothills Shooting Complex located in Cleveland County, users will be provided with safer target shooting alternatives that are located within proximity to these game lands. Buffalo Cove, Dupont State Forest, Green River, South Mountains, Johns River, and Pisgah WRC game lands are all located within 45 miles of the proposed McDowell County shooting range. This proposal will provide a safer game land experience for all user groups. Target shooting also has a negative impact on the game lands including but not limited to trash and spent shells being left behind, damage to trees used as a target backstop, and indiscriminate introduction of lead into the environment.

**G6.** Add a 2,340-acre property in Wilkes and Caldwell Counties, owned by the NC Dept of Agriculture, to the game land program, name this property Kings Creek Game Land, establish this game land as a six-day-per-week area, establish the Western Deer Zone season, and establish an Introductory Either-sex season.

**Justification:** The addition of Kings Creek Game Land will provide great opportunity and will fill the need for a game land in this area of the state, especially for user groups in the surrounding municipalities such as Lenoir.

**G7.** Restrict camping at designated camping areas on South Mountains Game Land to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 and limit the maximum number of consecutive days stayed at a designated campsite to 14 days.

**Justification:** Restricting camping to only dates within the hunting seasons will eliminate a large portion of illegal activity occurring on the game land, decrease the amount of maintenance at these areas, and make South Mountains Game Land consistent with other game lands. Establishing a 14-day limit to camping will work to cut down on homesteading issues that are currently happening at South Mountains Game Land.

**G8.** Allow hunting and trapping on Johns River Waterfowl Refuge.

**Justification:** The adjacent Johns River Game Land has a variety of wetland and aquatic/riparian habitat suitable for waterfowl and is a "Permit Only" game land thus providing substantially more resting, brood and feeding habitat for waterfowl than the original 57 acres of the refuge. Areas outside of the Johns River Waterfowl Refuge on Lake Rhodhiss are subject to waterfowl hunting and is a popular hunting destination for local waterfowl hunters. The addition of Johns River Game Land adjacent to the refuge have made the burden to identify boundaries on hunters and trappers unnecessary when compared to the minimal protection the refuge provides for waterfowl.

**G9.** Add a “Scouting-only Zone” at the Spring Creek Impoundment on Goose Creek Game Land and limit all activities at this impoundment except waterfowl hunting and trapping to within this area during the period of November 1 through March 15.

**Justification:** This addition will decrease waterfowl disturbance on Spring Creek Impoundment and would make existing signage enforceable.

**G10.** Clarify that any organized activities or events at Commission-owned or managed Boating Access Areas will require a permit.

**Justification:** Individuals or organizations planning activities and events that include Commission-owned boating access areas are to apply for a boating access area permit.

**G11.** Clarify that fishing is the only allowable use of a Public Fishing Areas, unless posted otherwise.

**Justification:** Allows Public Fishing Areas to be better enforced.

**G12.** Create a Designated Camping Area on the Jordan Game Land to allow hunter camping during open hunting seasons. Camping will be restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31–May 14.

**Justification:** There are no designated hunter camping areas elsewhere on game lands in the local vicinity. The nearest hunter camping area is about 20 miles (40 minutes) away on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land in Granville County.

### ***Bear***

**G13.** Allow permit hunt opportunities on Panthertown – Bonas Defeat, Pisgah, and Standing Indian Bear Sanctuaries in the Mountain Bear Management Unit.

**Justification:** The US Forest Service has requested that Panthertown – Bonas Defeat Bear Sanctuary be opened to permit hunt opportunities due to increased human-bear interactions occurring on both forest service property and adjacent private property. The population management objective in the Mountain Bear Management Unit is to stabilize the population. Additional harvest using the permit hunt system in these areas will help with reaching that objective.





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**YOUR  
LIFE**



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visit [ncwildlife.org/PreserveYourLife](https://ncwildlife.org/PreserveYourLife)



**NCWILDLIFE.ORG**

# Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Regulations for 2022–2023

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The following changes to the statewide wildlife management regulations are proposed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions, or suggestions.

## **Migratory Game Birds**

**H1.** Allows crippled waterfowl to be taken from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as Special Sea Duck Areas. Eliminated the habitat enhancement program that established posted waterfowl management areas by the WRC for Canada Goose and duck restoration. Removes the word “experimental” from the September teal season zones as the season is no longer experimental, it is established.

**Justification:** Brings state rules in concurrence with the current Federal frameworks. The habitat enhancement program that established posted waterfowl management areas by the Wildlife Resources Commission for Canada Goose and duck restoration no longer exists.

## **Exotic Species**

**H2.** Adds Tegus Lizard (*Salvator spp.*) and Greenhouse Frog (*Eleutherodactylus Planirostris*) as exotic species that are unlawful to possess, import, sell, release, etc. into North Carolina.

**Justification:** Once established in the wild, Tegus are destructive and aggressively invasive, often feeding on eggs of ground nesting birds such as turkey and quail and could pose a dire threat to ground nesting shorebirds. In addition, Tegus have been noted as a threat to alligator nests where they have become established in Florida. Since these species are popular in the pet trade and have been observed for sale at many pet shops and reptile shows across North Carolina it is important to take the necessary precautions to prevent its introduction and spread into the state.

## **Collection, Possession and Commercial Take**

**H3.** Modifies the 4/24 rule for possession of reptiles and amphibians without a license or permit, changing it to no more than 4 reptile species and 24 amphibian species per physical address. It also adds in the requirements for a snapping turtle collection license with collection season from June 1 through September 30, no more than 10 turtles per physical address per day, no more than 100 snapping turtles per physical address per season, a 13-inch size limit, specifications around trapping devices and limits the snapping turtle collection license to North Carolina residents only. It defines scientific, educational, and snapping turtle collection and clarifies that licenses may not be transferable. Aligns possession permits with 4/24 rules. Aligns 13-inch size limit throughout rules.

**Justification:** The current 4/24 rule provides opportunity for illegal collection, possession, and trade of native reptiles and amphibians. Modification provides clarity between bonified collection activities and an individual wanting a native

herp as a pet. There has been a growing demand for snapping turtle collection from North Carolina. Neighboring states have reduced or eliminated their commercial take of snapping turtles pushing more people into our state. Reducing harvest from per person to per address preserves population numbers.

### ***Importation of Native Reptiles and Amphibians***

**H4.** Adds reptiles and amphibians to the list of animals prohibited to import, thus requiring a permit be obtained before any native reptiles or amphibians can be imported into the state. Removes language regarding cervid importation.

**Justification:** Reptiles and amphibians are not included in the definition of wild animals. Prohibiting their importation stops any unregulated or illegal importation of native reptiles and amphibians. The importation of cervids was moved under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and is no longer applicable to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

### ***Deer***

**H5.** Remove western blackpowder either sex restriction line from rule and links blackpowder either sex restrictions to the corresponding either sex gun seasons:

- No either sex gun = First Saturday only of blackpowder
- Introductory either sex gun = Opening day through following Saturday of blackpowder
- Conservative either sex gun = All open days of the applicable blackpowder season
- Moderate either sex gun = All open days of the applicable blackpowder season
- Maximum either sex gun = All open days of the applicable blackpowder season

**Justification:** Removing the current either sex blackpowder season restriction structure and linking blackpowder restrictions to corresponding either sex gun seasons will reduce complexity and increase rule consistency across open seasons for hunting deer of either sex. Currently, the biological objective for density is being met and/or harvest trends indicate continued growth of deer herds in the affected counties. Additional antlerless harvest is sustainable and would provide hunters with additional harvest opportunity. Increased antlerless harvest would also address biological objectives not currently met that aim to improve balance in the adult sex ratio.

### ***Squirrel***

**H6.** Allow for a spring gray squirrel season, 14 days in duration, to open the second Monday in May on private land only with a daily limit of 8.

**Justification:** This proposed season follows the spring breeding pulse at the same interval that the fall season follows the summer breeding pulse. This will allow for increased hunter opportunity during a biologically appropriate time frame. Eight other states have a spring squirrel season.

### ***Raccoon***

**H7.** Consolidate raccoon and opossum hunting regulations into one rule and remove restriction on hunting raccoons during the daylight hours west of US 1.

**Justification:** Consolidation of rules pertaining to the same species for clarity. Raccoon populations have increased in the piedmont and mountains and there is no biological or management justification to restrict daylight hunting of raccoons.

### **Tagging**

**H8.** Removes the fee charged for otter and bobcat CITES upon request of a tag from the Commission. Sets limits on how many tags may requested per request. Changes the placement of rule text that states how foxes should be tagged and their carcasses or pelts lawfully tagged and sold to another rule.

**Justification:** Fur prices have declined since their peak in the 1980's and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission does not pay for the CITES tags; they are issued on an annual basis by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service free of charge. The tagging requirements for fox carcass and pelt was moved to a more appropriate location in the tagging furs rule.

## **Proposed Changes to Regulated Activities Regulations for 2022–2023**

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*The following changes to regulated activities regulations are proposed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and are offered for your comments, opinions, or suggestions.*

### **RAPS**

**R1.** Clarifies that nine-banded armadillos cannot be rehabilitated and upland game bird egg rehabilitation is prohibited.

**Justification:** Nine-banded armadillos are a non-native species to North Carolina and prohibiting their rehabilitation puts them in line with other non-native species that are prohibited to be rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of eggs is not considered appropriate as chicks hatched in captivity will likely become imprinted to humans making them challenging to release back into the wild.

**R2.** Makes collection licenses, captivity licenses, dealer licenses, possession permits, exportation or importation permits, trophy wildlife sale permits, endangered species permits, and field trial permits non-refundable. Makes both the Unified Sportsman and Lifetime Sportsman licenses half off for individuals ages 50-69. Adds Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License for \$25.

**Justification:** License and permits fees help defer the cost of processing application and conducting license and permit inspections. It is important the Commission retain these fees regardless of circumstances which may include denial of an application, or failure of the applicant to complete the application process. Legislation was passed at the General Assembly in September of 2021 making Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman and Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License half off for individuals age 50–69, and added the Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License for rabbits for \$25.

## 2022–2023 Proposed Season Dates

The Commission provides this table of upcoming season dates for planning purposes ONLY.

Final season dates will be published in the 2022–2023 regulations digest, available Aug. 1, 2022.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Open Dates</b>	
<b>Bear</b>	<b>Mountain Bear Management Unit</b> In and west of Surry, Wilkes, Caldwell, Burke and Cleveland: Oct. 17 – Nov. 19, 2022 and Dec 12, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023	
	<b>Piedmont Bear Management Unit</b> Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union: Nov. 12, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023  Franklin, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Wake, and Warren: Oct. 15, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023  Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, and Yadkin: Nov. 19, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023	
	<b>Coastal Bear Management Unit</b> <b>Zone 1:</b> Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell: Nov. 12 – Nov. 27 and Dec. 10 – Dec. 25, 2022  <b>Zone 2:</b> Camden, Chowan, and Pasquotank: Nov. 11 – Nov. 20 and Dec. 10 – Dec. 25, 2022 Gates, Currituck, and Perquimans: Nov. 12 – Nov. 20 and Dec. 10 – Dec. 25, 2022  <b>Zone 3:</b> Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Hertford, Jones, Martin, and Washington: Nov. 12 – Nov. 20 and Dec. 10 – Dec. 25, 2022  <b>Zone 4:</b> Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson: Nov. 19 – Dec. 18, 2022  <b>Zone 5:</b> Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bears prohibited in this county), Pender, Robeson, and Sampson: Nov. 14, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023	
	<b>Wild Turkey Spring Season</b> <i>(bearded or male turkeys only)</i>	Apr. 9 – May 7, 2022 Apr. 8 – May 6, 2023
	<b>Wild Turkey Youth-only Season</b> <i>(bearded or male turkeys only)</i>	Apr. 2 – 8, 2022 Apr. 1 – 7, 2023
<b>Raccoon and Opossum</b>	Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	
<b>Squirrel</b>	<b>Gray and Red Squirrels:</b> Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023 <b>Fox Squirrels:</b> Oct. 17, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023	
<b>Rabbit</b>	Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	
<b>Quail</b>	Nov. 19, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	
<b>Grouse</b>	Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	
<b>Bobcat</b>	Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023	
<b>Fox</b>	See “Fox Season Hunting and Trapping Seasons” publication at <a href="http://ncwildlife.org/foxseasons">ncwildlife.org/foxseasons</a> .	

<b>Crow</b>	Aug. 3, 2022 – Feb. 25, 2023, June 7, 2023 – July 29, 2023 Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of each week Crows may also be hunted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Independence Day; except when these days fall on a Sunday.
<b>Pheasant</b>	Nov. 19, 2022 – Feb. 1, 2023
<b>Trapping</b>	Oct. 17, 2022 – Feb. 28, 2023

## Deer Seasons

<b>Locations</b>	<b>Type of Season and Dates</b>
<b>Northeastern</b>	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 10 – Sept. 30, 2022 <b>Blackpowder:</b> Oct. 1 – Oct. 14, 2022 <b>Gun:</b> Oct. 15, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023
<b>Southeastern</b>	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 10 – Sept. 30, 2022 <b>Blackpowder:</b> Oct. 1 – Oct. 14, 2022 <b>Gun:</b> Oct. 15, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023
<b>Central</b>	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 10 – Oct. 28, 2022 <b>Blackpowder:</b> Oct. 29 – Nov. 11, 2022 <b>Gun:</b> Nov. 12, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023
<b>Northwestern</b>	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 10 – Nov. 4, 2022 <b>Blackpowder:</b> Nov. 5 – Nov. 18, 2022 <b>Gun:</b> Nov. 19, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023
<b>Western</b>	<b>Archery:</b> Sept. 10 – Oct. 2, 2022 <b>Blackpowder:</b> Oct. 3 – Oct. 15, 2022 <b>Archery:</b> Oct. 16 – Nov. 20, 2022 <b>Gun:</b> Nov. 21 – Dec. 10, 2022 <b>Archery (Antlered Only):</b> Dec. 11, 2022 – Jan. 2, 2023
<b>Gun: Either-Sex Seasons</b>	<b>Introductory Season:</b> First open Saturday of the applicable gun season. <b>Conservative Season:</b> First 6 open days of the applicable gun season. <b>Moderate Season:</b> First 14 open days of the applicable gun season. <b>Maximum Season:</b> All open days of the applicable gun season.
<b>Blackpowder: Either-Sex Seasons</b>	<b>No Either-Sex Gun Season:</b> First open Saturday of the applicable blackpowder season. <b>Introductory Season:</b> Opening day through first Saturday thereafter of the applicable blackpowder season. <b>Conservative Season:</b> All open days of the applicable blackpowder season. <b>Moderate Season:</b> All open days of the applicable blackpowder season. <b>Maximum Season:</b> All open days of the applicable blackpowder season.
<b>Urban Deer Season</b> (open in participating cities only; see regulations digest for list and contact information)	<b>Archery Only:</b> Jan. 14 – Feb. 19, 2023

**Additional Comments:**





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#### **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission**

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Wildlife Management Division 919-707-0050

Land and Water Access Division 919-707-0150

N.C. Wildlife Helpline 866-318-2401

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# PUBLIC HEARING RECORD FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
NCWRC CUSTOMER NUMBER / DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
LAST NAME / FIRST NAME / MIDDLE INITIAL / SUFFIX

\_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTH DATE / PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY / ZIP CODE / COUNTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address

Please check "A" for agree or "D" for disagree for the proposals below.  
If you have no opinion do not check a box.

INLAND FISHING		
	A	D
F1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REGULATED ACTIVITIES & LICENSING		
	A	D
R1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
R2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT					
	A	D		A	D
H1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

LAND AND WATER ACCESS					
	A	D		A	D
G1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	G12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Additional comments can be written on the back of this form. Please tear off your form and place it in the comment box at the end of the hearing.**