15A NCAC 10C .0305  BLACK LARGEMOUTH BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass collectively known as Black Bass Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (m)(l) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, 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), (l), and (m) and (l) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (m)(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 Black Bass Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Black Bass 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 Black Bass Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass is 10 fish, the fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches, and there is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass inches.

(e) The minimum size limit for Black Bass 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, Scuppernong 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 Black Bass Largemouth Bass, but only two Black Bass Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Black Bass Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

(i) In Randleman Reservoir, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

(j) In Lake Thom-A-Lex in Davidson County, the minimum size limit for Black Bass Largemouth Bass is 18 inches.

(k) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is no minimum size limit for Black Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass, but no fish between
14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one Black Bass, 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, Dare County, no Black Bass, Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless otherwise specified.

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;
(a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b) and (c) 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) there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and 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.
(a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) 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) there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and 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.

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 15A NCAC 10C.0407.

(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, or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for channel catfish is six catfish in aggregate. 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:

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) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
(8) 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 or origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.

(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. 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.

(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, 2005-2005;