15A NCAC 10C .0214 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

15A NCAC 10C .0214  FISH COLLECTORS

(a) Collection Licenses. The Executive Director is authorized to issue a collection license to qualified individuals to take or collect any species of fish from the inland fishing waters of the State, or inland game fish from the joint or coastal waters, other than an endangered or threatened species. Such license shall be issued upon payment of a fee of five dollars ($5.00), except that licenses may be issued to representatives of educational or scientific institutions or of governmental agencies without charge. Such license may be used in lieu of any other fishing license required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of the fish incidental to the authorized taking.

(b) Individuals interested in obtaining a collection license shall apply by sending an application to 1701 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by completing and submitting an application online at www.ncwildlife.org. Information required by the applicant shall include

(1) name, address, date of birth, email, and driver’s license number;
(2) species information;
(3) organizational affiliation, if any; and
(4) full documentation of research or educational proposal(s), if applicable.

(c) The Commission shall consider the following qualifications when issuing a license:

(1) prior research or educational experience in the same or similar field;
(2) work with or for an educational institution;
(3) type of study requested of license (harvest or catch and release);
(4) current status and quantity of species requested;
(5) collection methodology proposed; and
(6) disposition of collection.

(d) A collection license may be used in lieu of any other fishing license required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of the fish incidental to the authorized taking.

(e) A collection license may be issued:

(1) upon payment of the license fee,
(2) to any individual, so long as the take is not deemed harmful to the efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to other fish or wildlife resources that may be dependent thereon.

(f) Endangered and threatened species shall not be taken or collected under a collection license except with a valid endangered species permit.

(g) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the license, collection licenses shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(b) Qualifications of Licensees. In addition to representatives of educational or scientific institutions and governmental agencies, the collection license may be issued to any individual for any worthwhile purpose that is not
deemed inimical to the conservation of the species to be collected or to some other fish or wildlife resources that may be dependent thereon.

(c) Methods of Taking. The manner of taking fish under a collection license may be specified by the Executive Director on the license and need not be restricted to the usual methods of lawful fishing.

(d) Term of License. The Executive Director may, in his discretion, impose time limits, but unless so restricted the license shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(e) Report of Collecting Activity. Each individual licensed under this Rule Licensed individuals shall submit a written report the following information to the Commission Executive Director within 15 days of license expiration, following the date of expiration of the license. The report shall be on a form supplied by the Wildlife Resources completed online at www.ncwildlife.org and include: and shall show the numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof. The Executive Director may require additional information for statistical purposes such as the dates and places of the taking and the sex, size, weight, condition, and approximate age of each specimen taken. Such additional information may be required on the form of report or by a separate writing accompanying the form.

(1) the numbers of each species taken under the license;
(2) the use or disposition thereof; and
(3) the date and waterbody of taking.

Depending on the species taken, additional information including the sex, size, weight, age, and condition of species taken may be required.

(f) Other Requirements and Restrictions. The Executive Director or his or her designee may, in his discretion, pursuant to G.S. 113-272.4(d), impose such other requirements and further restrictions or conditions on persons individuals licensed under this Rule as he may deem deemed to be necessary to the efficient administration of the wildlife conservation laws and regulations. Rules.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.4;