Public Hearings

Applying to 2020–2021
Inland Fishing, Hunting, Trapping
and Game Land Regulations

January 2020

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
ncwildlife.org
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

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Gordon Myers, Executive Director .................................. Raleigh
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 nine 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 2020, 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 2020–2021. The digest will be available on August 1, 2020 from your licensing agent and on 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,

David W. Hoyle, Jr., 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), by e-mail (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.
Public Hearings

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 Feb. 1, 2020.

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.

Subscribe for N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission email updates on proposed rules and regulations at ncowildlife.org/subscribe.
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.

Schedule for the 2020 Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Public Hearings

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

Hearing Time: 7 p.m.

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<th>Date</th>
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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-optioned 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** 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.
Proposed Changes to Inland Fishing Regulations for 2020–2021

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. Modify the upper boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Fires Creek in Clay County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area.

Justification: Relocating the upper boundary a short distance will allow trout to be stocked in the deep pool on the upstream side of the bridge on USFS Rd. 340A, the current upper boundary, and within the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters section.

F2. Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on West Fork French Broad River in Transylvania County, adding 200 feet to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad River.

Justification: Relocating the upper boundary upstream a short distance to the S.R. 1312 bridge provides a more recognizable landmark for anglers. Anglers can access the river at the bridge.

F3. Modify the lower boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on South Prong Lewis Fork in Wilkes County, adding approximately 0.2 miles to Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155 intersection.

Justification: The landowner has requested to have this section of stream added to Public Mountain Trout Waters.

F4. Modify the upper boundary of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters on Puncheon Fork in Madison County removing 0.6 miles from Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will be Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek.

Justification: The upper 0.6 miles of the Hatchery Supported Trout Waters section of Puncheon Fork Creek has never been stocked because the reach cannot be easily accessed from the road by the angling public or hatchery staff. In addition, this reach of creek is very small and habitat-limited and not expected to retain stocked trout.
F5. Clarify the lower boundary of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters on Mitchell River in Surry County. This proposal will not add or remove any Public Mountain Trout Waters. The designated reach will remain 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.

**Justification:** The proposed change will remove the reference to Kapps Mill Dam, which was destroyed by a flood in 2018, and identify the boundary as the lowermost bridge on S.R. 1330.

F6. Define “artificial fly” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as 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.

**Justification:** Anglers have expressed confusion about what constitutes an artificial fly, specifically related to using articulated streamers (flies that have a second hook attached near the fly’s primary hook) and fishing with flies on traditional tackle (e.g., spinning rod) in waters requiring single-hook, artificial flies or lures.

F7. Define “single hook” when used in Public Mountain Trout Waters as a fish hook with only one point.

**Justification:** Anglers have expressed confusion about what constitutes a single hook.

F8. Specify the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are: Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake.

**Justification:** The proposed change will simplify regulations for anglers by specifically identifying the impounded waters classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters that are open to the public for fishing when other Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing (March 1–first Saturday in April).

**Largemouth Bass**

F9. Remove the restriction that only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir and implement the general statewide regulation for Largemouth Bass. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches.

**Justification:** Anglers have requested the elimination of the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches to increase tournament opportunities at Randleman Reservoir. Minimal biological effect is anticipated as less than 2% of all Largemouth Bass captured were harvested during a recent creel survey.

F10. Modify the current rule applying to all black bass species making the rule specific to Largemouth Bass and relocating rule text for other black bass species to new, separate rules.

**Justification:** This is an administrative change. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.
Smallmouth Bass

F11. Establish a rule specific to Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from the current rule applying to all black bass species.

**Justification:** This is an administrative change. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass

F12. Update the Inland Game Fishes Designation for black bass to include Alabama Bass, *Micropterus henshalli*.

**Justification:** Alabama Bass is a species in the family of black bass and has been introduced by anglers into numerous North Carolina waters over the past 20 years.

F13. Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass.

**Justification:** Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters and are highly invasive where they have been introduced. Anglers have requested more opportunity to harvest Alabama Bass from these waters to possibly slow the effects of their invasion on Large-mouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass. Alabama Bass are visually indistinguishable from Spotted Bass.

Redeye Bass

F14. Establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, *Micropterus coosae*, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit.

**Justification:** Redeye Bass is a species in the family of black bass and has been traditionally managed under the current “black bass” rule. The “black bass” rule will be separated into individual species rules to clarify limits for anglers and to provide additional management flexibility.

Crappie

F15. Remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line.

**Justification:** Data collected over the last 15 years from these reservoirs show that crappie growth is often impaired when large year-classes are produced, due to high levels of competition for baitfish resources of the proper size. An increase in the harvest of 6–8-inch crappie is expected to reduce competition and increase growth and average size.
F16. Clarify that the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County.

Justification: This is an administrative change specifying that Cane Creek Lake is in Union County. The proposed change will prevent angler confusion with Cane Creek Reservoir in Orange County.

Striped Bass and Bodie Bass (Hybrid Striped Bass)

F17. Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). The general statewide regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit and a four fish daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids will apply.

Justification: Survival of stocked Bodie Bass in Arrowhead Lake and High Rock Pond is poor. Bodie Bass will no longer be stocked, so the minimum size limit is no longer needed.

F18. Establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish.

Justification: Bodie Bass will be stocked annually in Hyco Reservoir to establish and maintain a fishery. The proposed change will provide protection to newly stocked Bodie Bass and allow harvest as the fish grow.

Kokanee Salmon

F19. Decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish.

Justification: Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists have indicated significant declines in the Lake Nantahala fishery, the only Kokanee Salmon fishery in the southeastern United States. While the cause of the recent decline is unknown, this low-density fishery may be overexploited due to increased angler attention and efficiency.

Catfish

F20. Designate Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters.

Justification: The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan. Inland Game Fish designation will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by allowing possession or harvest by only hook and line and prohibiting their sale.
F21. Establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10-fish daily creel limit in combination. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.

**Justification:** The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan. A daily creel limit will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by limiting the number that can be harvested.

F22. Increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish from six to seven fish in waters 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. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish.

**Justification:** Channel Catfish are routinely stocked at Community Fishing Program sites, and at some sites Mountain trout are stocked during the winter to provide additional angling opportunity. These waters are undesignated trout waters and the daily creel limit is seven trout. The proposed change will make the daily creel limits for catfish and trout the same in these waters eliminating angler confusion. The proposed change also clarifies that the creel limit only applies to Channel Catfish.

F23. Add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters.

**Justification:** The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan. Blue Catfish is identified as an invasive species, and the proposed change will help prevent new introductions of Blue Catfish.

F24. Prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters.

**Justification:** The proposed change is a recommendation of the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan. The conservation and protection of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom is an identified need.

**Prohibited Species**

F25. Add the Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina.

**Justification:** Redtail Catfish are freshwater fish native to South America that reach large sizes and are popular as sport fish in their native range. Impacts of Redtail Catfish outside their native range may include predation upon, competition with, and hybridization with native species.
Don’t be a statistic.
ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET.

For more information on life jacket safety, visit ncwildlife.org/PreserveYourLife

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

Game Lands – Regulations Applying to Specific Game Lands

G1. Create the designation of a “Sensitive Habitat Zone” that can restrict access or usage in specific areas on game lands. Proposals for this designation will be presented at a public input meeting and at an official Commission meeting for final approval.

**Justification:** Increased use and visitation to sensitive areas on game lands has the potential to degrade habitat and threaten the population status of sensitive plants and animals. This designation would protect these habitats by prohibiting entry within specified dates posted at specific sites.

G2. Allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas.

**Justification:** The rule will allow veterans, active duty members of the armed forces, active duty national guardsmen, and active duty reservists with valid credentials to hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas during Veterans/military Waterfowl Days.

G3. Clarify N.C. Administrative Code (NCAC) rule text that posted impoundments and Wildlife Resources Commission managed hunting blinds at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands are permit-only areas during designated veterans/military waterfowl days.

**Justification:** This proposal will clarify the definition of permit-only areas at Croatan, Currituck Banks, Goose Creek, and White Oak River game lands.

G4. Expand the timeframe in which pursuing or taking foxes with dogs is prohibited on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land.

**Justification:** The current prohibition on using dogs for hunting foxes is from March 15 through July 15. This rule would extend that timeframe to be from February 15 through August 1. This rule was proposed by a fox hunting group as it would provide greater protection for foxes during the time that is critical for breeding and rearing success.
G5. Expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land by allowing it to occur on designated trails from January 2–March 31 and on Sundays April 1–May 15 and September 1–January 1.

**Justification:** Horseback riding is currently only allowed on designated trails from May 16–August 31. This proposal would expand horseback riding opportunities at South Mountains Game Land and provide more access to the South Mountain State Park equestrian trail system.


**Justification:** Sandy Mush Game Land is within 45 miles of the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range. Currently, popular shooting areas on this game land contain no back-stop berms and are often located near boundaries with private property, occupied dwellings, and roads. By prohibiting target shooting on this game land and allowing it only at the Wayne E. Smith Cold Mountain Shooting Range, users will have a safe environment for target shooting and user group conflicts can be avoided.

G7. Prohibit the pursuing or chasing of deer and bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting on the Pee Dee River Game Land.

**Justification:** Landowners adjacent to the Diggs Tract at Pee Dee River Game Land have complained about trespass and unleashed dogs on their property. Also, recently acquired tracts to this game land are not conducive to pursuing big game with dogs because of their linear shape, lack of road frontage, accessibility, and lack of interior road infrastructure.

G8. Designate deer hunting on the Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land as permit-only.

**Justification:** The 1,000-acre Campbell Tract of Columbus County Game Land offers exceptional deer hunting opportunities. Hunter participation will be managed through the permit hunts program where a quota will be set to prevent excessive hunting pressure and overcrowding.

G9. Designate bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract of Carteret County Game Land as permit-only.

**Justification:** Public land bear hunting opportunities in the vicinity are absent, making the tract a potentially high-demand bear hunting destination. The proposal would allow for management of hunter participation through the Permit Hunting Opportunities program to prevent overcrowding and maintain hunt quality.
G10. Align the squirrel season with the rabbit season and deer with visible antlers season at the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area at Sandhills Game Land.

Justification: The 2020 squirrel season on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Area opens on November 16th, while the rabbit season and the deer with visible antlers season opens on November 14th. Aligning the start dates for these seasons will provide an extra day of opportunity for squirrel hunters and reduce confusion among users.

G11. Restrict the use of bicycles to designated trails only on the State-owned Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. This restriction will not apply to hunters using bicycles during open days of applicable hunting seasons.

Justification: The Mountains to Sea Connector Trail (MTSCT) goes through the southernmost portion of the Linville River Tract of Pisgah Game Land. The most recently constructed segment of the MTSCT has a high level of mountain bike use, and staff have observed bicyclists pedaling off the MTSCT, creating new trails, and negatively affecting soil stability and habitats. These new trails have been found in wildlife openings, on firebreaks, and on trails/roads not designed for a high level of mountain biking use. Restricting bicyclists to designated trails only on the Linville River Tract will limit erosion and habitat degradation.

G12. Clarify N.C. Administrative Code (NCAC) rule text that deer of either sex may be taken during the blackpowder firearms season at Buffalo Cove Game Land and South Mountains Game Land.

Justification: This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

G13. Clarify NCAC rule text that hunting and trapping at J. Morgan Futch, Roanoke River Wetlands, and Texas Plantation game lands is by permit only.

Justification: This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.

G14. Clarify NCAC rule text that at Sandhills Game Land deer of either sex may be taken with archery equipment during the archery season, with blackpowder firearms during the blackpowder season, and by permit during the deer with visible antlers season. Also clarify that only deer with visible antlers may be taken during the extended primitive weapons season.

Justification: This is an administrative change to clarify language in the NCAC.
Proposed Changes to Wildlife Management Regulations for 2020–2021

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.

Deer

H1. Update rule text regarding big game harvest reporting to require month and date validation on the harvest report card authorization line, eliminate the 24-hour time period for registration, and require that all big game, not otherwise required to be reported, must be registered by 12:00 noon the day following harvest. Additionally, rule is updated to require any big game harvested and transferred to another person or otherwise left unattended by the successful hunter to be registered, with the harvest authorization number physically attached to the animal.

Justification: Reporting big game harvest allows agency biological staff to monitor trends in both harvest and sex ratios. These changes also address key issues identified to improve registration compliance.

H2. Prohibit the use of cervid excrement (urine, feces, saliva, and other bodily fluids) for taking or attracting wildlife.

Justification: One way to minimize the chance of spreading Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is by eliminating the introduction of infectious material into the environment. Infectious CWD prions can be transmitted through cervid urine, feces, saliva, blood and other bodily fluids. This rule will prohibit the use of natural deer urine and other cervid excrement but will continue to allow the use of synthetic urine type products.

H3. Adjust the current blackpowder firearms season in those parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties enrolled in the maximum deer either-sex firearms season to allow for take of either sex deer during the entire blackpowder firearms season.

Justification: A small portion of Buncombe and Henderson County has a special either-sex firearm season. The special season was designed to maximize deer harvest in this area in order to address an overabundance of deer. Those counties also have a restricted blackpowder either-sex season, which is the last day of the season. While the firearms season in these portions of the county are full season either-sex, the blackpowder season was not. This change would make these special parts of Buncombe and Henderson counties full season either-sex during the blackpowder firearms season.
**Alligator**

H4. Amend the alligator rule to clearly articulate that the agency may specify size restrictions and allowable manner of restraint on alligator take permits.

**Justification:** These changes allow the agency to prescribe a minimum size restriction and identify specific manner(s) of restraint on alligator take permits, if biologically appropriate. The minimum size would be designed to minimize harvest of breeding age females. If a minimum size limit is placed on the permit, the agency can further restrict the manner of restraint allowed to ensure that alligators not meeting the minimum size can be released unharmed. Placing these restrictions on the permit provides maximum flexibility to allow harvest using lethal methods of restraint such as archery equipment in areas where a minimum size restriction was not deemed necessary, such as potential municipal seasons.

**Bullfrog**

H5. Establish a season and daily bag limit for the take of bullfrogs and to clarify that artificial lights for taking bullfrogs are legal.

**Justification:** This proposal provides clarity to the rules regarding the take of bullfrogs on private lands and Wildlife Resources Commission Property. It provides that there is no closed season on the take of bullfrogs on private lands and sets a 24-hour bag limit (12:00 noon to 12:00 noon) for bullfrogs at 24. The rule further clarifies that artificial lights are legal for frog gigging. Finally, the rule sets a defined season for taking bull frogs on Wildlife Resources Commission Property, bullfrogs may be taken from April 1 to August 31 with a valid license that entitles the licensee to access and use Wildlife Resources Commission Property.
### 2020–2021 Proposed Season Dates

The Commission provides this table of upcoming season dates for planning purposes ONLY. Final season dates will be published in the 2020–2021 regulations digest, available Aug. 1, 2020.

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<td><strong>Piedmont Bear Management Unit</strong> Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham,</td>
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<td>Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange,</td>
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<td>Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, and</td>
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<td><strong>Coastal Bear Management Unit</strong> Zone 1: Dare, Hyde, and Tyrrell: Nov. 14 –</td>
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<td>Zone 4: Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Lenoir, Nash, Northampton, Pitt, Wayne,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Wilson: Nov. 21 – Dec. 20, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zone 5: Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico (use of dogs for hunting bears prohibited in this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>county), Pender, Robeson, and Sampson: Nov. 9, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Open Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wild Turkey Spring Season</td>
<td>Apr. 11 – May 9, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bearded or male turkeys only)</td>
<td>Apr. 10 – May 8, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Turkey Youth-only Season</td>
<td>Apr. 4 – 10, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(bearded or male turkeys only)</td>
<td>Apr. 3 – 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon and Opossum</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squirrel</td>
<td><strong>Gray and Red Squirrel</strong>: Oct. 12, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fox Squirrel</strong>: Oct. 12, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbit</td>
<td>Oct. 12, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quail</td>
<td>Nov. 21, 2020 – Feb. 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Deer Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Type of Season and Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Northeastern** | Archery: Sept. 12 – Oct. 2, 2020  
                | Blackpowder: Oct. 3 – Oct. 16, 2020  
| **Southeastern** | Archery: Sept. 12 – Oct. 2, 2020  
               | Blackpowder: Oct. 3 – Oct. 16, 2020  
| **Central**    | Archery: Sept. 12 – Oct. 30, 2020  
               | Blackpowder: Oct. 31 – Nov. 13, 2020  
| **Northwestern** | Archery: Sept. 12 – Nov. 6, 2020  
               | Blackpowder: Nov. 7 – Nov. 20, 2020  
               | Gun: Nov. 21, 2020 – Jan. 1, 2021 |
| **Western**    | Archery: Sept. 12 – Sept. 27, 2020  
               | Blackpowder: Sept. 28 – Oct. 10, 2020  
               | Archery: Oct. 11 – Nov. 22, 2020  
               | Gun: Nov. 23 – Dec. 12, 2020  
| **Gun: Either-Sex Seasons** | **Introductory Season:** First open Saturday of the applicable gun season.  
                             | **Conservative Season:** First 6 open days of the applicable gun season.  
                             | **Moderate Season:** First 14 open days of the applicable gun season.  
                             | **Maximum Season:** All open days of the applicable gun season.  |
| **Urban Deer Season** | (open in participating cities only; see regulations digest for list and contact information)  
                            | Archery Only:  
                            | Jan. 9 – Feb. 14, 2021 |
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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701

Inland Fisheries Division 919-707-0220
Wildlife Management Division 919-707-0050
Land and Water Access Section 919-707-0150
N.C. Wildlife Helpline 866-318-2401
Report Wildlife Violations 800-662-7137
Turn In Poachers (NCWILDTIP) 855-945-3847

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Additional Comments:
Please check “A” for agree or “D” for disagree for the proposals below. If you have no opinion do not check a box.

Additional comments can be written on the back of this form. Please tear off your form and give it to a Commission staff member at the end of the hearing.