Draft Fiscal Note for Proposed Rules for the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC)

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For the following 17 rules the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to notice for permanent amendment, the Commission determined the following fiscal impact:

Local funds: none
State funds: minimal
Substantial economic: does not meet $1,000,000 threshold

An analysis of the proposed changes for each rule follows. Proposed NCAC text is included in APPENDIX 1.

15A NCAC 10B .0105

Description and Justification
There are two proposed changes to this rule. The first is to eliminate a closed goose season on an area known as the Gaddy Goose refuge. Reports from local sportsmen that the historically high population of geese on Gaddy Goose Pond was declining prompted the original season closure. Current biological data, however, indicates that the goose population is at a size appropriate for inclusion in the season established for the Southern James Bay Hunt Zone. The Commission has no data to support continuation of this closed season and the closed season reduces sportsmen opportunity. It is the policy of the Commission to increase opportunity when possible.

The second proposed change to this rule allows the shooting of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as a special sea duck area in the rule. This proposed change is intended to minimize wanton waste by hunters attempting to take waterfowl in the special sea duck area. The change to this rule is also needed to align North Carolina with the Federal Code which allows this practice. Right now North Carolina law is more restrictive than the Federal Code.

Fiscal Impact
Increasing the number of days sportsmen have to hunt Canada geese in the areas known as the Gaddy Goose refuge could increase hunter activity. However, the Commission has no mechanism to measure how much the hunting activity will increase and how much local revenue that potential increased activity will generate. However, the area is quite small and it can be reasonably assumed that any economic impact will be minimal.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to allowing hunters to use motorboats under power to retrieve crippled waterfowl. It is likely that this practice already occurs as it is unethical to not attempt to dispatch a wounded animal.
15A NCAC 10B .0114

Description and Justification
The proposed change to this rule clarifies which persons need to obtain hunting licenses before training dogs, running dogs, and participating in field trials. The clarification was at the request of the regulated community. More clarity will increase the consistency of the application of the law.

Fiscal Impact
Due to the changed definition, some people who currently buy a hunting license exclusively for this purpose may discontinue buying the hunting license. The cost for a resident state hunting license is $20. The Commission has no mechanism to determine how many hunting licenses are sold to people who purchased the license specifically to be able to train dogs, run dogs or participate in a field trial. It is likely the number of people, however, is minimal as the goal of dog training and dog running is to prepare dogs for hunting. Active participants in field trials will continue to be required to purchase a license, but judges of Commission-sanctioned field trials will be exempt.

15A NCAC 10B .0202

Description and Justification
The proposed change to this rule clarifies what foods qualify as bait for the purpose of hunting bears: unprocessed plant foods. As currently written, the rule allows for some interpretation and unintended consequences. The proposed text is intended to resolve any uncertainties.

Fiscal Impact
The Commission does not expect any fiscal impact from amending this rule.

15A NCAC 10B .0203

Description and Justification
There are two proposed changes to this rule. The first is to expand the all weapons season for deer in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties to January 1 from its current close in late December. This change is at the request of the counties and will give more opportunity to deer hunters. It is the policy of the Commission to increase opportunity when possible.

The second proposed change will establish a deer hunting day for youth, giving them an early opportunity to use firearms to take deer. The intention of this change is to increase interest and participation among youth in hunting.

Fiscal Impact
The extra days in Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties are expected to generate additional hunting activity late in the year, but the Commission has no mechanism to measure how much
the hunting activity will increase and how much local revenue that potential increased activity will generate, but anticipates it will be minimal.

The day selected for youth deer hunting is already during an open season (archery), so it does not add an additional day of opportunity. Because of the ability to use firearms, the Commission expects more youth to hunt on this day, but the fiscal impact of their activity will be minimal. Youth are not required to possess a hunting license.

15A NCAC 10B .0223

Description and Justification
The proposed change to this rule will allow people hunting feral swine to use electronic calls to attract them. Some hunters feel the ability to use electronic calls will increase their success and have asked to be allowed to use them. Feral swine are an invasive, exotic species destructive to the landscape, therefore it is Commission policy to increase opportunity whenever possible to harvest them.

Fiscal impact
Although the intention is to increase hunter success, the Commission has no mechanism to measure their success or the impact increased harvest has on the landscape.

15A NCAC 10B .0404

Description and Justification
The proposed change to this rule will allow trappers and hunters who intend to sell their furs more time to tag them. The current timeframe of 10 days to affix a tag to bobcat, otter and fox after the close of season is not sufficient to meet the needs of the constituents and likely leads to inflated harvest reports due to the purchase “extra” tags so as not to run out. Changes in how furs are sold require fur to be skinned, fleshed, stretched and dried before shipment to auction houses. These changes require hunters and trappers to spend more time after season preparing their pelts thus the expansion in time allowed to request tags will allow them ample opportunity.

Fiscal impact
There might be a small fiscal impact to the State as hunters and trappers will now have enough time to purchase the correct amount of tags they need and not overestimate. Fur tags are only $2.20 each and the fur business is not a high-volume one, so the loss of revenue to the State from fewer tag sales should be minimal. Harvest estimates indicate in an average year fewer than 10% of tags go unused. Tag sales in 2013-2014 were 5,366 tags for a revenue of $11,805.20. Assuming that the number of tags would stayed constant in the absence of the proposed rule, a 10% decrease in tags requested would lead to a revenue loss to the agency of about $1,180.
15A NCAC 10C .0205

Description and Justification
The proposed changes to this rule add to and modify the list of waters designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters (PMTW) and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Delayed Harvest, or Wild Trout Waters. Waters are also removed from the PMTW to reflect changes in management, landmarks and partnerships with private landowners. The changes would result in four new reaches and the removal of 2 reaches; the remaining changes are only boundary modifications. While overall the changes would result in a loss of approximately 34 stream miles, many of those miles are not being actively stocked and/or are not currently accessible to the public. The Commission also proposes to re-write to the structure of the rule to increase its clarity.

Fiscal Impact
The Commission does not have a mechanism to determine what, if any, fiscal impact the proposed changes will have. It can reasonably be assumed that trout anglers will change their location for angling based upon availability, but there is no indication that their overall activity will increase or decrease. The proposed changes are expected to positively contribute to the fishing experience as they would refocus management to areas that have public access and in most cases are being stocked.

15A NCAC 10C .0206

Description and Justification
The proposed changes to this rule clarify the definitions of set-hooks, trotlines, and jug-hooks and allow the use of multiple hooks for set-hooks and jug-hooks. The changes are in response to angler inquiries for the definitions of set-hooks, trotlines, and jug-hooks and how they can be fished. Some anglers have asked about rigging set-hooks and jug-hooks with multiple hooks, as these are currently available commercially. The proposed changes will enable anglers to take advantage of increased angling opportunity. It is the policy of the Commission to increase opportunity when possible.

Fiscal Impact
The Commission has no mechanism to determine how the proposed rule changes might affect angler behavior. The Commission cannot determine how many anglers might potentially take advantage of greater opportunity since there is no information available regarding the number of individuals that use set-hooks, trotlines, or jug-hooks. A majority anglers use these gears to catch catfish. A 2012 survey of catfish anglers indicated that 94% of respondents use rod and reel, 7% use jug-hooks, 6% use trotlines, 3% use set-hooks, and less than 2% use other types of gear/methods. Based on this survey, it is evident that those anglers who use the types of fishing gear affected by the rule change are a small minority and it can be reasonably assumed that any change in their behavior will have minimal fiscal impact. Most jug-hooks, trotlines, and set-hooks are made by the angler, and based on best professional judgment; the average cost is less than $5-$10. A commercially rigged trotline may run $10-$20.
15A NCAC 10C .0306

Description and Justification
The proposed changes to this rule would remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and the 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie on the South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam, Yadkin River downstream from Idols Dam, High Rock Lake, and Tuckertown Lake. The removal of the minimum size and daily creel limits will allow anglers to harvest these smaller fish and ultimately improve average size of crappie in both reservoirs.

Fiscal Impact
The proposed changes are expected to improve the biological balance of the fishery and consequently increase angler satisfaction. The Commission has no mechanism to determine if these changes will have any fiscal impact.

15A NCAC 10C .0314

Description and Justification
There are two proposed changes to this rule. The first modifies the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids by increasing the minimum size limit from 16 inches to 20 inches and reducing the daily creel limit from eight fish in aggregate allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches to four fish with no exception. Reservoirs affected include High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Reservoir. Anglers have requested a minimum size limit of 20 inches and a daily creel limit of four fish be implemented for Striped Bass on High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, Badin Lake, Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Reservoir. Growth and condition data for Striped Bass from these reservoirs support an increase in the minimum size limit and a decrease in the daily creel limit.

The second proposed change establishes an exception to the general statewide regulation for Striped Bass and its hybrids in Arrowhead Lake, High Rock Pond, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake by decreasing the daily creel limit from eight fish in aggregate — allowing two fish to be retained less than 16 inches — to four fish with no exception. The minimum size limit will remain 16 inches. Arrowhead Lake, High Rock Pond, Moss Lake, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-a-lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake are stocked with hybrid Striped Bass. Mountain Island Reservoir is stocked with Striped Bass, but hybrid Striped Bass are stocked upstream in Lake Norman. Maintaining the existing 16-inch minimum size limit is necessary due to overall lower growth potential of hybrid Striped Bass. Decreasing the daily creel limit from will allow more fish to remain in the reservoirs for anglers to catch. Regulations for Striped Bass and its Hybrids will also be simplified as all reservoirs will have a four fish daily creel limit except for John H. Kerr Reservoir.

Fiscal Impact
The Commission does not expect any significant fiscal impact. The proposed changes should increase angler satisfaction and resource conservation on affected water bodies, but not
significantly affect angler behavior. These reservoir Striped Bass fisheries are only recreational in nature. The Commission manages the fisheries as put-grow-and-take fisheries – the Commission stocks the fish, which would not be there otherwise, the fish grow in the reservoir, and then anglers harvest them. The goal of the reduced creel limit is to allow fish to stay in the reservoir longer and grow larger. Estimating the value of the increased satisfaction is difficult since Striped Bass in Inland Fishing Waters are classified as a game fish and cannot be legally sold. There are no commercial fisheries for the species in the affected reservoirs.

15A NCAC 10C .0316

Description and Justification
One proposed change to this rule reformats the structure relative to Special Regulation Trout Waters. Currently, the format of this rule does not reflect the intent of Special Regulation Trout Waters which is to provide watercourse-specific season, size, and creel limits. This proposal will establish a format that allows watercourse-specific information to be presented.

A second proposed change removes the restriction on the harvest of trout in undesignated waters from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April. Anglers can currently fish in undesignated waters during this time period, but are not allowed to possess trout. Undesignated waters are not stocked by the Commission, so limiting the harvest of trout is unnecessary. Anglers fishing in undesignated waters are not required to have a fishing license that includes the trout fishing privilege. The current regulatory structure is often a source of confusion for anglers and restricts angling opportunities. The proposed change will increase angling opportunities, while reducing regulatory complexity.

Fiscal Impact
Reformatting the rule structure is an administrative change, and there will be no fiscal impact. Allowing the harvest of trout in undesignated waters during the closed season of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will provide additional opportunities for harvest-oriented anglers. This change will primarily benefit those anglers who are already fishing undesignated waters during this time period. Angling effort is not anticipated to change significantly, and therefore, the fiscal impact will be minimal.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 and 15A NCAC 10C .0402

Description and Justification
The proposed changes to these two rules would clarify that American Eels less than nine inches in length cannot be taken or possessed, regardless of origin, from inland waters. Right now the legality of possessing eels less than nine inches in length that were obtained elsewhere is open to interpretation. Clarification is needed that would aid enforcement of the size and creel limits for American Eel adopted in 2013. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has recommended coastwise changes to recreational size and creel limits within Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. These changes are necessary after recent
stock assessment findings indicated the American Eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. Declines in stock abundance have continued for decades along the Atlantic Coast, and these downward trends necessitate the need for additional management actions.

Fiscal Impact
The proposed changes are a clarification only. There are no anticipated fiscal impacts.

15A NCAC 10C .0407

Description and Justification
The proposed change to this rule is to correct a text error. The Neuse River is not located in Granville County, and therefore the reference will be removed.

Fiscal Impact
There is no fiscal impact of this administrative change.

15A NCAC 10D .0102

Description and Justification
There are several proposed changes to this rule. This first clarifies which persons need to obtain game land use licenses before training dogs, running dogs, and participating in field trials. The clarification was at the request of the regulated community. More clarity will increase the consistency of the application of the law.

The second proposed change to the rule defines target shooting as “the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping or self-defense.” This definition is intended to run in tandem with the prohibition on target shooting on certain game lands so the public is clearly aware of what is a legal.

Posted Zones
A final proposed change to this rule would prohibit the use of dogs for taking deer on those portions of game lands posted as Restricted Deer Hunting Zones, except by permit. During the process of addressing public safety and user conflicts related to the use of dogs for taking deer on a portion of Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land, staff determined that existing game land designations at that time (i.e. Safety Zone, Archery Zone, Restricted Firearms Zones, etc.) were not sufficient to address the concerns at hand without being more restrictive than necessary. As a result, a temporary rule was proposed and adopted which established “Restricted Deer Hunting Zone” as a new category defined as those portions of game land where the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited. The temporary rule will terminate 270 days from the date published in the North Carolina Register (April 14, 2014), unless replaced by a permanent rule. The text in Appendix 1 is the final proposed rule, which establishes the Restricted Deer Hunting Zone, but allows the use of permits to maintain maximum flexibility while ensuring safety.
Fiscal Impact
Due to the changed definition, some people who currently buy a game land use license, which costs $15.00, exclusively for this purpose may discontinue buying that license. The Commission has no mechanism to determine how many game land use licenses are sold to people who purchased the license specifically to be able to train dogs, run dogs or participate in a field trial. It is likely the number of people, however, is minimal. Active participants in field trials will continue to be required to purchase a license, but judges of Commission-sanctioned field trials will be exempt.

The Commission anticipates no fiscal impact from defining target shooting.

Posted Zones
There is non-substantial anticipated fiscal impact from this change. Game lands staff would have to hold additional meetings and post Restricted Deer Hunting Zone signs, resulting in an opportunity costs of these state employees’ time. It is anticipated this would be no more than three hours a month of staff time. It is unclear what impact the change would have on the number of deer taken or WRC permit fee revenue. It is possible individuals would still hunt deer; the change only restricts dog use, except by permit. Special hunt permits are $5.

15A NCAC 10D .0103

Description and Justification
The proposed changes to this rule cover four general topic areas: target shooting, horseback riding; waterfowl hunting; and deer hunting.

Target shooting
Proposed changes to this rule prohibit target shooting, outside of established ranges, on the following game lands: Angola Bay, Buckridge, Buxton Woods, Cape Fear River, Holly Shelter, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell, Sampson County, Sandhills, and Stones Creek. The Commission is erecting new shooting ranges in order to better serve the public and increase safety on the game lands. By restricting target shooting to designated shooting ranges, the Commission intends to reduce litter and stray shots. Although not every game land will have a shooting range, the game lands where target shooting is prohibited will be within 30 miles of a game land with a designated shooting range.

Horseback Riding
Proposed changes to this rule modify the times of year and the locations where people can horseback ride on the following game lands: Jordan, PeeDee River and Pond Mountain. The proposed changes will balance competing interests for game land use and minimize environmental impact. On Jordan Game Land, riders age 16 or older who use an equestrian loop (currently in development) will have to purchase a game land license to ride on the loop. The funds generated by the license sales will contribute to the development and upkeep of the trail. A further change to this rule is to prohibit all horseback riding on Harris Game Land. This change is at the request of the landowner, Duke Energy. It is Commission policy to honor all
requests of landowner partners as long as the request does not have a negative conservation impact.

**Waterfowl Hunting**
A proposed change to this rule would designate Lewis Millpond on Uwharrie Game Land as a managed waterfowl impoundment and limit waterfowl hunting to three days per week and holidays. The Uwharrie Game Land has limited availability of suitable waterfowl habitat, restricted mostly to scattered beaver ponds. The exception is an old millpond that receives heavy hunting pressure until such time as it is "shot out". Reducing the season to three days per week would potentially provide more waterfowl hunting opportunity throughout the entire hunting season. In addition, the site is being considered for conversion to a drawdown-type impoundment for waterfowl. Continued intensive hunting pressure would likely limit its utility.

**Deer Hunting**
A proposed change to this would alter the opening day of the Deer Archery Season from the Monday on or nearest September 10 to the Saturday on or nearest September 10 on Buffalo Cove and South Mountains game lands. Recently 15A NCAC 10B .0203 was amended to open the Western Deer Archery Season on Saturday rather than Monday, but a companion proposal to effect that change on Buffalo Cove and South Mountains game lands (both located in the Western Deer Season) was overlooked at that time. This proposed change will create a uniform opening day on both private land and game lands, will simplify deer seasons, and will allow those that work and go to school during the week the opportunity to participate in the opening day of archery season on these two game lands.

**Fiscal Impact**

**Target Shooting**
The Commission anticipates minimal fiscal impact from this rule change. It is possible that some hunters may divert their course from their intended game land to sight in a rifle at a designated shooting range first, but the close proximity of the shooting ranges are intending to minimize the impact on the hunters. The Commission currently has no mechanism to determine to what extent this rule change will impact behavior.

**Horseback Riding**
An annual game land license is $15.00. The capacity of the planned facilities at Jordan Game Land would accommodate 25 riders per day and horseback riding will be allowed 110 days per year. Therefore the maximum estimate fiscal impact is $41,250 revenue generated for the Commission and a $41,250 cost to the public. However, the fiscal impact is likely to be significantly less based upon the following factors: youths under 16 years of age do not have to purchase a license; some riders will take more than one trip during the effective dates of their annual license; and it is unlikely the game land will be used to capacity every day it is available to riders.

The fiscal impact of the other changes to horseback riding is expected to be minimal. The Commission has no mechanism to determine how the change in available dates and locations to ride will affect rider behavior.
Waterfowl Hunting
The Commission expects minimal fiscal impact from this proposed change. Hunters will likely adjust their location and timing of waterfowl hunting on this game land, but the Commission has no mechanism to determine to what extent.

Deer Hunting
This proposed change coordinate the opening of the archery deer season with the opening on surrounding private lands. While the change would result in more deer being taken, it is not expected to have a substantial fiscal impact.

15A NCAC 10C .0205 and 15A NCAC 10D .0104

Description and Justification
The proposed change to these two rules would allow night fishing in Wild Trout Waters (including Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters, Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters, and Wild Trout/ Natural Bait Waters) and Public Mountain Trout Waters on game lands. This change will increase angling opportunities, while reducing regulatory complexity. There is not a biological justification for prohibiting of night angling in Public Mountain Trout Waters. Night fishing is currently allowed in all Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, and Special Regulation Trout Waters not located on game lands and a select number of Public Mountain Trout Waters located on game lands. This proposal will reduce angler confusion by establishing consistency across all regulatory classifications and locations.

Fiscal Impact
The Commission anticipates minimal to no fiscal impact from this change. Night fishing will allow people to extend their fishing day, but is unlikely to induce anglers to make any significant behavioral changes.
APPENDIX 1

15A NCAC 10B .0105  MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

(a) Cooperative State Rules:

(1) The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and old squaw) during any federally-announced season for only these species shall be limited to the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and to those coastal waters south of US 64 which are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island or marsh.

(2) Tundra swans may be taken during the open season by permit only subject to annual limitations imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Based upon the annual limitations imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Resources Commission shall issue nontransferable swan permits to applicants who will be selected at random by computer, and only one swan may be taken under each permit which must be cancelled at the time of the kill by cutting out the month and day of the kill. Accompanying the permit is a tag which must be affixed to the swan at the time and place of the kill. The tag must be affixed in accordance with instructions provided with the permit. In addition, a preaddressed post-paid card is supplied to each permittee on which to report the number of days hunted and the details of the kill if made. It is unlawful to hunt swans without having the permit and the tag in possession or to possess a swan without the cancelled permit in possession and the tag properly affixed to the swan. It is unlawful to possess a swan permit or tag while hunting that was assigned to another person or to alter the permit or tag in any way other than cutting out the proper month and day of kill.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 113-291.1(a) and (b), the following restrictions apply to the taking of migratory game birds:

(1) No migratory game bird may be taken:

(A) With a rifle;

(B) With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so as to limit its total capacity to not more than three shells.

(2) No migratory game bird may be taken:

(A) From or by the use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;

(B) With the aid of bait, or on, over or within 300 yards of any place where any grain, salt or other feed is exposed so as to constitute an attraction to migratory game birds or has been so exposed during any of the 10 consecutive days preceding the taking, except that this Part shall not apply to standing crops, flooded croplands, grain crops properly shocked on the field where grown, or grains found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting or harvesting;

(C) With the aid of live decoys, or on, over or within 300 yards of any place where tame or captive migratory game birds are present, unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking confined within an enclosure which eliminates the audibility of their calls and totally conceals them from the sight of wild migratory game birds.

(3) Crippled waterfowl may be taken from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas.

(4) Waterfowl hunting and harassment and other unauthorized activities is prohibited on posted waterfowl management areas established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for Canada Geese and ducks restoration.

(5) In that area of Roanoke Sound adjacent to and immediately Northeast of Roanoke Island as marked by buoys designating the waterfowl rest area, it is unlawful to harass or take any waterfowl.

(6) The area east of US 17 is designated as an experimental September teal season zone as referenced by the Federal frameworks calling for state rules designating experimental areas.

(6) It is unlawful to harass or take any goose during established goose hunting season that occurs after October 1 in each year in the Gaddy Goose Refuge, which is in that area of Anson County starting at the NC 109 bridge over the Pee Dee River and following NC 109 south to Dennis Road.
(SR1650); west on Dennis Road to Pleasant Grove Church Road (SR 1649); continue west on
Pleasant Grove Church Road to US 52; south on US 52 to Lockhart Road (SR 1652); west on
Lockhart Road to Brown Creek Church Cox Road (SR 1641); west on Brown Creek Church Cox
Road to NC 742; northwest on NC 742 to Lanes Creek; Lanes Creek north (downstream) to Rocky
River; Rocky River downstream to the Pee Dee River; and from Pee Dee River downstream to the
beginning of the NC 109 bridge.

(c) Reporting Requirements: For tundra swan and Canada goose seasons where a permit is required to hunt by
Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, hunter questionnaires supplied on preaddressed,
postage-paid cards must be returned to the Commission and postmarked no later than April 1 following the end of
the applicable season. Failure to return the questionnaire and animal parts, if required, by this date shall make the
individual ineligible to receive a permit for the following applicable season. In lieu of returning a hard copy,
individuals may fill out a questionnaire on-line through the Wildlife Commission web site when this option is
available by April 1 following the end of the applicable season.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 50 C.F.R. 20.21; 50 C.F.R. 20.105;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; April 1, 1992; February 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 10, 1998;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; May 1, 2007; June 1, 2005; May 1, 2004; July 1, 2000.
15A NCAC 10B .0114  DOG TRAINING AND FIELD TRIALS

(a) For purposes of Subchapters B and D, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Commission-sanctioned field trial” means a field trial that, pursuant to a written request from the sponsoring organization, has been authorized in writing and scheduled for occurrence by an authorized representative of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(2) “Active participant” means a person participating in a field trial who handles dogs or uses a firearm.

(b) (a) Except as provided in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (e) of this Rule, each person using wildlife to train or run engaged in training or running a dog or dogs and each active participant in a field trial shall have obtained shall possess a North Carolina hunting license. The term “active participant” as used herein includes each person who owns or handles dogs, carries a firearm, or is a member of an organized group engaged in the conduct of a field trial, but does not include a person who is observing a field trial incidentally or who has stopped to witness a part of it.

(c) A person serving as judge of a commission-sanctioned field trial is exempted from any license requirements, and any nonresident participating therein may do so without having a North Carolina license, provided the nonresident has in his possession a valid hunting license issued by the state of his residence. A “commission-sanctioned” field trial is one that, pursuant to a written request from the sponsoring organization, has been authorized in writing and scheduled for occurrence by an authorized representative of the Wildlife Resources Commission. Judges of non-sanctioned field trials using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

(d) Except as exempted in Paragraph e of this Rule, the following applies to active participants in field trials:

(1) North Carolina residents participating in any field trial that uses wildlife shall have a N.C. hunting license;

(2) Non-residents participating in a commission-sanctioned field trial that uses wildlife shall possess a N.C. hunting license or a hunting license from his or her state of residence; and

(3) Non-residents participating in other types of field trials that use wildlife shall possess a N.C. hunting license.

(e) Persons without a license may participate in commission-sanctioned field trials for beagles conducted without firearms on private field trial areas that are fenced in accordance with G.S. 113-276(k).

(f) Except as allowed by rules pertaining to authorized field trials, it is unlawful to carry axes, saws or climbing irons while training or running dogs during closed season on game animals.

(g) On a commission-sanctioned field trial for retrievers or bird dogs, shotguns containing live ammunition or firearms using only blank ammunition may be used only when the application for and the authorization of the field trial so provide. No wild waterfowl, quail or pheasant shall be used in field trials when shotguns with live ammunition are permitted. All waterfowl, quail and pheasants so used shall be obtained from a licensed game bird propagator. Each specimen of waterfowl so obtained shall be marked by one of the methods provided by 50 C.F.R. 21.13. Each pheasant or quail so obtained shall be banded by the propagator prior to delivery with a leg band that is imprinted with the number of his or her propagation license. The purchaser of the birds shall obtain a copy of the receipt from the propagator showing the date and the number and species of birds purchased. The copy of the receipt shall be available for inspection by any authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission during the time and at the place where the trial is being held.

(h) Applications for authorization of a field trial shall be submitted in writing to a Wildlife Enforcement Officer at least 30 days prior to the scheduled event.

(i) Pursuant to G.S. 113-291.1(d), hunters may train dogs using shotguns with shot of number 4 size or smaller during the closed season using domestically raised waterfowl and domestically raised game birds. Only nontoxic shot shall be used when training dogs using domestically raised waterfowl. All domestically raised waterfowl shall be individually tagged on one leg with a seamless band stamped with the number of the propagation license for the facility from which the domestically raised waterfowl originated. All other domestically raised game birds shall be individually tagged on one leg with a band indicating the propagation license number for the facility from which the birds originated.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276; 113-291.1; 113-291.5; 50 C.F.R. 21.13; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. May 1, 2015, January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; May 1, 2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1991; May 1, 1990.
15A NCAC 10B .0202  BEAR

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

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

(2) Second Monday in November to January 1 in all of Bladen, Carteret, Cumberland, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, and Sampson counties.

(3) First Monday in December to the third Saturday thereafter in Brunswick Columbus and Robeson counties.

(4) Second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving in all of Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Craven, Dare, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(5) Saturday preceding the second Monday in November to the following Saturday and the third Monday after Thanksgiving to the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving in Bertie, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, and Perquimans 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, not a processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(c) and is not a bear bait attractant, including scented sprays, aerosols, scent balls, and scent powders.

(2) Bears shall not be taken with the use or aid of:

(A) any processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(c), 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; or

(B) any extracts of substances identified in Part A of this Subparagraph; or

(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.

(2)(3) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait from the first open Monday through the following Saturday only in the counties in Subparagraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this Rule. In counties with a season split into two or more segments, this Subparagraph applies only to the first segment.

(3)(4) Bears shall not be taken while in the act of consuming bait.

(4)(5) Bears may be taken with the aid of bait during the entire open season in the counties identified in Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.

(5)(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. There is no open season in those parts of counties included in the following posted bear sanctuaries:

Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties--Daniel Boone bear sanctuary except by permit only
Beaufort, Bertie, and Washington counties--Bachelor Bay bear sanctuary
Beaufort and Pamlico counties--Gum Swamp bear sanctuary
Bladen County--Suggs Mill Pond bear sanctuary
Brunswick County--Green Swamp bear sanctuary
Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Transylvania counties--Pisgah bear sanctuary
Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties--Croatan bear sanctuary
Clay County--Fires Creek bear sanctuary
Columbus County--Columbus County bear sanctuary
Currituck County--North River bear sanctuary
Dare County--Bombing Range bear sanctuary except by permit only
Haywood County--Harmon Den bear sanctuary
Haywood County--Sherwood bear sanctuary
Hyde County--Gull Rock bear sanctuary
Hyde County--Pungo River bear sanctuary
Jackson County--Panthertown-Bonas Defeat bear sanctuary
Macon County--Standing Indian bear sanctuary
Macon County--Wayah bear sanctuary
Madison County--Rich Mountain bear sanctuary
McDowell and Yancey counties--Mt. Mitchell bear sanctuary except by permit only
Mitchell and Yancey counties--Flat Top bear sanctuary
Wilkes County--Thurmond Chatham bear sanctuary

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

(e) Kill Reports. The carcass of each bear shall be tagged and the kill reported as provided by 15A NCAC 10B .0113.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 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.
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 during the following seasons:


*Unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline.

**Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.

(B) Saturday before Thanksgiving through January 1 in all of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes*, and Yadkin counties.

*Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Buffalo Cove game lands.

(C) 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, Polk, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(D) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving 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.

(E) 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 that part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(F) Monday of Thanksgiving week through January 1 the fifth Saturday after Thanksgiving Day in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties, except for South Mountain Game Land.

(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 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.
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 16 years of age.

The last open day 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

**Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either-sex deer seasons on game lands that differ from the days identified in this Subparagraph

The last six open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

The first six open days and the last seven open days of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

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.

The fourth Saturday in September, subject to the following restrictions:

(i) Only persons under the age of 16 years may hunt.

(b) Open Seasons (Bow and Arrow) 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 of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow during the following seasons:

(A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.

(B) Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the third Friday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer with Visible Antlers specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule except for that portion of Buffalo Cove Game Land in Wilkes County.

(C) Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the Sunday prior to the opening of the blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season identified in Part (c)(1)(C) 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 (C) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule and in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.

(D) Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule, and on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.

(2) Restrictions

(A) Dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the bow and arrow season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a 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 bow and arrow deer hunting season.

(c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Bow and Arrow) 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 bow and arrow during the following seasons:

(A) The Saturday on or nearest October 1 to the Friday of the second week thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (A) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, except on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.

(B) The third Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week thereafter in the counties* and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (B) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.  *Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103(h) for seasons on Buffalo Cove game land.

(C) Monday on or nearest October 1 to the Saturday of the second week thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties and in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part C of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.

(D) The fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving until the Friday of the second week thereafter in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (D) of Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule, and on Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, and Sandhills Game Lands.

(2) Restrictions

(A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow season in and east of the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga, and Ashe. Deer of either sex may be taken on the last day of this season only in all other counties.

(B) Dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder firearms and bow and arrow seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(3) As used in this Paragraph, 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; 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 handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle 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 to the fifth Saturday 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 must 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. 27699-1722. Cities must also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.

(3) Restrictions:

(A) 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 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. In and east of Vance, Franklin, Wake, Harnett, Moore, and Richmond counties, the possession limit is six deer, up to four of which may be deer with visible antlers. In all other counties of the state the possession limit is six deer, up to two of which may be deer with visible antlers. The season limit in all counties of the State, is six deer. 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 on lands others than lands enrolled in the Commission's game land program during any open
deer season in all counties and parts of counties of the State identified in Part (G) of Subparagraph (a)(2) of this
Rule. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the
possession and season limit. Hunters may also use the bonus antlerless harvest report cards 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 include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as
distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. 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;
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, 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 .0223   FERAL SWINE
(a) This Rule applies to hunting feral swine. There is no closed season for taking feral swine. Feral swine may be taken on private lands anytime during the day or night. Feral swine may be taken on public lands without a permit from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset, and from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise by permit only.
(b) There are no bag limit restrictions on feral swine.
(c) Manner of take. Hunters may use artificial lights and electronic calls.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2011; Eff. February 1, 2012; Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2012; Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; March 21, 2013.
15A NCAC 10B .0404    TRAPPERS AND HUNTERS

(a) Every fox taken in an area of open season as provided by G.S. 113-291.4 shall be tagged at the scene of taking.
(b) Every person taking any bobcat or otter in this State, or any foxes under a depredation permit, general statute, rule, or local law that permits taking, shall obtain and affix the proper tag to each carcass or pelt before selling or transferring the same to any person or transporting the same for any purpose, except that:

(1) A person may transport the same from the place of taking to his North Carolina residence and from his North Carolina residence to a fur tag agent or taxidermist's place of business.
(2) A person may transport the same from the place of taking to the nearest place in this State where the appropriate tag may be obtained.
(3) The carcass, pelt or mounted specimen is exempt from tagging requirements while in the taxidermist's place of business or after the mount is completed.
(4) A licensed trapper may take live foxes during any legal trapping season, except foxes taken under G.S. 113-291.4, without tagging them and sell them to a licensed controlled hunting preserve for fox in accordance with G.S. 113-273(g).

No carcass or pelt of any bobcat, otter or fox taken within this State may be removed from the state without a proper fur tag having been affixed thereto, except a licensed taxidermist may ship the same to a tannery for processing. Any carcass or pelt remaining in a person's possession after the end of the season, except those in a licensed taxidermist's place of business or his or her taxidermy preservation facility, shall be properly tagged by him or her within 30 days following the close of such season, provided that no tags shall be shipped from the Commission to a person 23 consecutive days from the close of the season. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service repeals its tagging requirements for otter and bobcat this Paragraph shall apply only to tagging foxes.

(c) In any case where the taking of foxes with weapons or traps and the sale thereof is authorized by local legislation, except live foxes taken by licensed trappers who live-trap foxes for sale during any open season the hunter or trapper taking any such fox shall, in the absence of a specific provision to the contrary, obtain and affix the carcass or pelt with a proper tag before selling or transferring the same to any other person, or transporting the same for any purpose than as authorized by Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-276.1; 113-291.4; S.L. 1985, chs. 108, 179, 180, 664 and 722; Eff. November 14, 1978; Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2010; July 10, 2010; May 1, 2008; July 1, 1994; January 1, 1992; December 1, 1985; October 1, 1980.
15A NCAC 10C .0205  PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS

(a) Designation of Public Mountain Trout Waters. For the purposes of this Rule, "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. "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. The waters listed herein or in 15A NCAC 10D .0104 are designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters and further classified as Wild Trout Waters or Hatchery Supported Waters. For specific classifications, see Subparagraphs (1) through (6) of this Paragraph. These waters are posted and lists thereof are filed with the clerks of superior court of the counties in which they are located:

(1) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters. The listed waters in the counties in Subparagraphs (a)(1)(A) through (Y) are classified as Hatchery Supported Public Mountain Trout Waters. Where specific watercourses or impoundments are listed, indentation indicates that the watercourse or impoundment listed is tributary to the next preceding watercourse or impoundment listed and not so indented. This classification applies to the entire watercourse or impoundment listed except as otherwise indicated in parentheses following the listing. Other clarifying information may also be included parenthetically. The tributaries of listed watercourses or impoundments are not included in the classification unless specifically set out therein.

(A) Alleghany County:

____ New River (not trout water)
Little River (Whitehead to McCann Dam) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to portion between Whitehead and a point 275 yards downstream of the intersection of SR 1128 and SR 1129 as marked by a sign on each bank. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
Brush Creek (NC 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against trespass)
Big Pine Creek
Big Glade Creek
Bledsoe Creek
Pine Swamp Creek
South Fork New River (not trout water)
Prather Creek
Cranberry Creek
Piney Fork
Meadow Fork

(B) Ashe County:

____ New River (not trout waters)
North Fork New River (Watauga County line to Sharp Dam)
Helton Creek (Virginia State line to New River) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at SR 1363 to confluence with North Fork New River) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to portion between SR 1324 bridge and North Fork New River. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
Buffalo Creek (SR 1133 bridge to NC 191-88 bridge)
Big Laurel Creek
Three Top Creek (portion not on game lands)
South Fork New River (Todd Island park) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
Cranberry Creek (Alleghany County line to South Fork New River)
Nathans Creek
Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
Trout Lake [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
Roan Creek
Beaver Creek
Old Fields Creek

(C) Avery County:
Nolichucky River (not trout waters)

North Toe River — upper (Watauga Street to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespass)

North Toe River — lower (SR 116 to Mitchell County line, except where posted against trespass)

Squirrel Creek

Elk River (SR 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee State line)

Wildeat Lake

Catawba River (not trout water)

Johns River (not trout water)

Wilson Creek [not Hatchery Supported trout water, see Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.]

Lost Cove Creek [not Hatchery Supported trout water, see Subparagraph (a)(4) of this Rule.]

Buck Timber Creek [Not Hatchery Supported trout water. See Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.]

Cary Flat Branch [Not Hatchery Supported trout water. See Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.]

Boyde Coffey Lake

Linville River [Land Harbor line (below dam) to Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespass]

Milltimber Creek

Buncombe County:

French Broad River (not trout water)

Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to US 19-23 bridge)

Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)

Stony Creek

Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)

Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to US 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespass)

Swannanoa River (SR 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue Bridge, intersection of NC 81W and US 74A in Asheville, except where posted against trespass)

Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)

Lake Powhatan

Rich Branch (downstream from confluence with Rocky Branch)

Cane Creek (headwaters to SR 3138 bridge)

Burke County:

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam) [Special Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(7) of this Rule.]

South Fork Catawba River (not trout water)

Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to SR 1019 at Ivy Creek)

Jacob Fork (Shiny Creek to lower South Mountain State Park boundary) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

Johns River (not trout water)

Parks Creek (portion not on game lands not trout water)

Carroll Creek (game lands portion above SR 1405)

Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on SR 1223 to Muddy Creek)

Caldwell County:

Catawba River (not trout water)

Johns River (not trout water)
Wilson Creek (game lands portion downstream of Lost Cove Creek to Brown Mountain Beach dam, except where posted against trespass) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to game lands portion between Lost Cove Creek and Phillips Branch. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.)
- Estes Mill Creek (not trout water)
- Mulberry Creek (portion not on game lands not trout water)
- Boone Fork (Not Hatchery Supported trout water. See Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.)
- Boone Fork Pond
- Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to SR 1515)
  - Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
  - Joes Creek (first falls upstream of SR 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

(G) Cherokee County:
- Hiwassee River (not trout water)
  - Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Highway (SR 1325) bridge to Tennessee line)
  - Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
  - Valley River (headwaters to US 19 business bridge in Murphy)
    - Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
    - Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

(H) Clay County:
- Hiwassee River (not trout water)
  - Fires Creek (USFS Road 340A to the foot bridge in the US Forest Service Fires Creek Picnic Area) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
  - Fires Creek (foot bridge in the US Forest Service Fires Creek Picnic Area to SR 1400)
  - Tusquitee Creek (headwaters to lower SR 1300 bridge)
  - Nantahala River (not trout water)
    - Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of US 64 bridge)

(I) Graham County:
- Little Tennessee River (not trout water)
  - Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee State line)
  - Cheoah River (not trout water)
    - Yellow Creek (Lake Santeelah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
    - Santeetlah Reservoir (not trout water)
    - West Buffalo Creek
      - Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeelah)
      - Big Snowbird Creek (USFS foot bridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Road 2579) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
      - (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to SR 1127 bridge)
    - Tulula Creek (headwaters to lower bridge on SR 1275)
  - Cheoah Reservoir
  - Fontana Reservoir (not trout water)
  - Stecoah Creek
  - Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)

(J) Haywood County:
- Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream US 19-23 bridge)
  - Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
  - Jonathan Creek (upstream SR 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)
  - Richland Creek (Russ Avenue (US 276) bridge to US 19 bridge)
  - West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to the portion from Queen
Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(K) Henderson County:
   (Rocky) Broad River (Rocky River Lane to Rutherford County line)
   Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
   (Big) Hungry River (SR 1885 to Green River)
   French Broad River (not trout water)
   Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of SR 1551 to US 25 bridge)
   Mud Creek (not trout water)
   Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to SR 1582)
   Mill Creek (not trout water)
   North Fork Mills River (Hendersonville watershed to the lower game land boundary). [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(L) Jackson County:
   Tuckasegee River (confluence with West Fork Tuckasegee River to SR 1531 bridge at Wilmot) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to that portion between the downstream NC 107 bridge and the falls located 275 yards upstream of US 23-441 bridge as marked by a sign on each bank. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
   Scott Creek (entire stream, except where posted against trespass)
   Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scotts Creek)
   Savannah Creek (Headwaters to Bradley’s Packing House on NC 116)
   Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on SR 1730 to Savannah Creek)
   Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
   Cedar Cliff Lake
   Bear Creek Lake
   Wolf Creek [Not Hatchery Supported trout water. See Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.]
   Wolf Creek Lake
   Balsam Lake
   Tanasee Creek [Not Hatchery Supported trout water. See Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.]
   Tanasee Creek Lake

(M) Macon County:
   Little Tennessee River (not trout water)
   Nantahala River (Nantahala Dam to Swain County line) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to the portion from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
   Queens Creek Lake
   Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
   Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to US 64 bridge near junction of SR 1672)
   Cliffside Lake
   Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream US 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)

(N) Madison County:
   French Broad River (not trout water)
   Shut-in Creek
   West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-in Creek)
   Spring Creek—upper (junction of NC 209 and NC 63 to US Forest Service road 225)
   Spring Creek—lower (NC 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
   Meadow Fork Creek
   Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
   Max Patch Pond
Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill Watershed boundary to the SR 1318 bridge, also known as Big Laurel Road bridge, downstream of Bearpen Branch)

Big Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge to US 25-70 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

___ Spillcorn Creek

___ Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to NC 208 bridge at Belva)

Shelton Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

___ Punccheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)

Big Pine Creek (SR 1151 bridge to French Broad River)

Ivy Creek (not trout waters)

Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)

(O) McDowell County:

___ Catawba River—upper (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)

___ Catawba River—lower (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

Buck Creek (portion not on game lands, not trout water)

___ Little Buck Creek (game land portion)

___ Curtis Creek game lands portion downstream of US Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to SR 1569 bridge)

___ Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)

Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to I 40 bridge, except where posted against trespass) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to that portion between US 70 bridge and I 40 bridge. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(P) Mitchell County:

___ Nolichucky River (not trout water)

Big Rock Creek (headwaters to NC 226 bridge at SR 1307 intersection)

Little Rock Creek (Green Creek Bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespass)

___ Cane Creek (SR 1219 to SR 1189 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to that portion from NC 226 bridge to SR 1189 bridge. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)

___ East Fork Grassy Creek

North Toe River (Avery County line to SR 1121 bridge)

North Toe River (US 19E bridge to NC 226 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(Q) Polk County:

___ Broad River (not trout water)

North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to NC 108 bridge)

___ Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the natural gas pipeline crossing) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply to the portion from Fishtop Falls Access Area to Cove Creek. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(R) Rutherford County:

(rocky) Broad River (Henderson County line to US 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespass)

(S) Stokes County:

___ Dan River (Virginia State line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of SR 1421)

(T) Surry County:

___ Yadkin River (not trout water)
Big Elkin Creek (dam 140 yards upstream of NC 268 bridge to a point 265 yards downstream of NC 268 bridge as marked by a sign on each bank)
Ararat River (SR 1727 bridge downstream to the NC 103 bridge)
Ararat River (NC 103 bridge to US 52 bridge) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
— Stewart Creek (not trout water)
    Pauls Creek (Virginia State line to 0.3 mile below SR 1625 bridge — lower Caudle property line)
——— Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia State line to Interstate 77)
——— Little Fisher River (Virginia State line to NC 89 bridge)
Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of SR 1333 to the SR 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
(U) Swain County:
    —— Little Tennessee River (not trout water)
        Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee State line)
        Cheoah Reservoir
        Fontana Reservoir (not trout water)
        Alarka Creek (game lands boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
        Nantahala River (Macon County line to existing Fontana Reservoir water level)
        Tuckasegee River (not trout water)
        Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
        Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
(V) Transylvania County:
    —— French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork French Broad River to the Island Ford Road (SR 1110) Access Area)
    Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower US Forest Service boundary line)
    East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
    Little River (confluence of Lake Dense outflow to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
    Middle Fork French Broad River
    West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French Broad River)
(W) Watauga County:
    —— New River (not trout waters)
        —— South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of US 421 bridge to lower boundary of Brookshire Park)
        —— Meat Camp Creek
        ——— Norris Fork Creek
        Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola Dam to South Fork New River)
    —— Yadkin River (not trout water)
        Stony Fork (headwaters to Wilkes County line)
        Elk Creek (SR 1510 bridge at Tripplet to Wilkes County line, except where posted against trespass)
    —— Watauga River upper (SR 1114 bridge to NC 191 bridge at Valle Crucis) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
    —— Watauga River lower (SR 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule]
    —— Beech Creek
        Buckeye Creek Reservoir
        Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
Coffee Lake [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of SR 1201 and SR 1203)

--- Laurel Creek
--- Cove Creek (SR 1233 bridge at Zionville to SR 1233 bridge at Amantha)
--- Dutch Creek (second bridge on SR 1134 to mouth)

(X) Wilkes County:
--- Yadkin River (not trout water)
  Roaring River (not trout water)
    East Prong Roaring River (from Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
    East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to Brewer's Mill on SR 1943)
    Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on SR 1736)
    Bell Branch Pond
    Boundary Line Pond
    West Prong Roaring River (not trout waters)
    Pike Creek
    Pike Creek Pond
  Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of SR 2460 bridge to SR 1001 bridge)
  Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
  Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on SR 1580)
  South Fork Reddies River (SR 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)
  North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on SR 1559)
  Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on SR 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)
  Lewis Fork Creek (not trout water)
    South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to SR 1155 bridge)
    Fall Creek (SR 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork except portions posted against trespass)
    Elk Creek — upper (Watauga County line to lower boundary of Blue Ridge Mountain Club) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]
    Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development) [Delayed Harvest Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(5) of this Rule.]

(Y) Yancey County:
--- Nolichucky River (not trout water)
  Cane River [Bee Branch (SR 1110) to Bowens Creek]
  Bald Mountain Creek (except portions posted against trespass)
  Indian Creek (not trout water)
  Price Creek (junction of SR 1120 and SR 1121 to Indian Creek)
  North Toe River (not trout water)
  South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey County recreation park except where posted against trespass)

(2) Wild Trout Waters. All waters designated as Public Mountain Trout Waters on the game lands listed in Subparagraph (b)(2) of 15A NCAC 10D_0104, are classified as Wild Trout Waters unless
classified otherwise in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule. The trout waters listed in this Subparagraph are also classified as Wild Trout Waters.

(A) Alleghany County:
- Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Stone Mountain Creek (that portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

(B) Ashe County:
- Big Horse Creek (Virginia State Line to Mud Creek at SR 1363) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]
- Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (portion located on Three Top Mountain Game Land) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]

(C) Avery County:
- Birchfield Creek (entire stream)
- Cow Camp Creek (entire stream)
- Cranberry Creek (headwaters to US 19E/NC 194 bridge)
- Elk River (portion on Lees McRae College property, excluding the millpond) [Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(4) of this Rule.]
- Gragg Prong (entire stream)
- Horse Creek (entire stream)
- Jones Creek (entire stream)
- Kentucky Creek (entire stream)
- North Harper Creek (entire stream)
- Plumtree Creek (entire stream)
- Roaring Creek (entire stream)
- Rockhouse Creek (entire stream)
- Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
- South Harper Creek (entire stream)
- Webb Prong (entire stream)
- Wilson Creek [Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]

(D) Buncombe County:
- Carter Creek (game land portion) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lures only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]

(E) Burke County:
- All waters located on South Mountain State Park, except Clear Creek Reservoir, the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinny Creek and the lower park boundary where Delayed Harvest Regulations apply, and Henry Fork and tributaries where Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraphs (a)(3) and (a)(5) of this Rule.
- Nettle Branch (game land portion)

(F) Caldwell County:
- Buffalo Creek (Watauga County line to Long Ridge Branch including tributaries on game lands)
- Joes Creek (Watauga County line to first falls upstream of the end of SR 1574)
- Rockhouse Creek (entire stream)

(G) Cherokee County:
- Bald Creek (game land portions, including tributaries) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]
- Dockery Creek (game land portions, including tributaries) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]
- North Shoal Creek (game land portions, including tributaries) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]

(H) Graham County:
- Franks Creek (entire stream) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]
Little Buffalo Creek (entire stream)  
South Fork Squally Creek (entire stream)  
Squally Creek (entire stream)  

Haywood County  
Hemphill Creek [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]  
Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]  

Jackson County:  
Buff Creek (entire stream) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]  
Gage Creek (entire stream)  
North Fork Scott Creek (entire stream)  
Tanasee Creek  
Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina State line)  
Wolf Creek (entire stream, except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)  

Jackson County:  
Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries) [Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.]  

Mitchell County:  
Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek Bridge, except where posted against trespass)  
Little Rock Creek (headwaters to Green Creek Bridge, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespass)  
Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)  

Transylvania County:  
All waters located on Gorges State Park  
Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina State line)  

Watauga County:  
Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club, including tributaries) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lure Only Trout Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]  
Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on SR 1134)  
Howard Creek (entire stream)  
Laurel Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club and Powder Horn Mountain developments, including tributaries) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lure Only Trout Waters Regulations apply. See subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]  
Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)  
North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe County line)  
Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Road bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lure Only Trout Waters Regulations Apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]  
Watauga River (Avery County line to SR 1580 bridge)  
Winkler Creek (lower bridge on SR 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)  

Wilkes County:  
Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)  
Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club, including tributaries) [Catch and Release/Artificial Lure Only Trout Waters Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(3) of this Rule.]  
Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)  
Harris Creek and tributaries (portions on Stone Mountain State Park) [Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only Regulations apply. See Subparagraph (a)(4) of this Rule.]  
Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)  

Yancey County:  
Cattail Creek (Bridge at Mountain Farm Community Road (Private) to NC 197 bridge)  
Lickskillet Creek (entire stream)
Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

(3) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters. Those portions of designated wild trout waters as listed in this Subparagraph, including tributaries except as noted, are further classified as Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only waters. Only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be harvested or be in possession while fishing these streams:

(A) Ashe County:
   - Big Horse Creek (Virginia State line to Mud Creek at SR 1363 excluding tributaries)
   - Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (portion located on Three Top Mountain Game Lands)

(B) Avery County:
   - Wilson Creek (game land portion)

(C) Buncombe County:
   - Carter Creek (game land portion)

(D) Burke County:
   - Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

(E) Jackson County:
   - Flat Creek
   - Tuckasegee River (upstream of Clarke property)

(F) McDowell County:
   - Newberry Creek (game land portion)

(G) Watauga County:
   - Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club, including tributaries)
   - Laurel Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club and Powder Horn Mountain developments, including tributaries)
   - Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)

(H) Wilkes County:
   - Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club, excluding tributaries)

(4) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Those portions of designated wild trout waters as listed in this Subparagraph, including tributaries except as noted, are further classified as Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only waters. Only artificial flies having one single hook may be used. Harvest or possession of trout while fishing these streams is prohibited:

(A) Avery County:
   - Elk River (portion on Lees McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
   - Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

(B) Transylvania County:
   - Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

(C) Yancey County:
   - South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek, including tributaries)
   - Upper Creek (entire stream)

(5) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. Those portions of designated Hatchery Supported Trout Waters as listed in this Subparagraph, excluding tributaries except as noted, are further classified as Delayed Harvest Waters. Between 1 October and one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, inclusive, it is unlawful to possess natural bait, use more than a single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing these waters. These waters are closed to fishing between one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June and 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June. At 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June these waters are open for fishing under Hatchery Supported Waters rules for youth anglers only. Youth is defined as a person under 16 years of age. At 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June these streams open for fishing under Hatchery Supported Waters rules for all anglers:

(A) Alleghany County:
   - Little River (Whitehead to a point 275 yards downstream of the intersection of SR 1128 and SR 1129 as marked by a sign on each bank)

(B) Ashe County:
— Trout Lake
— Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)
— South Fork New River (Todd Island Park)
— Big Horse Creek (SR 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)

(C) Burke County:
— Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

(D) Caldwell County:
— Wilson Creek (game lands portion downstream of Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

(E) Clay County:
— Fires Creek (USFS Road 340A to the foot bridge in the US Forest Service Fires Creek Picnic Area)

(F) Graham County:
— (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS foot bridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Road 2579)

(G) Haywood County:
— West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

(H) Henderson County:
— North Fork Mills River (Hendersonville watershed to the lower game land boundary)

(I) Jackson County:
— Tuckasegee River (downstream NC 107 bridge falls located 275 yards upstream of the US 23-141 bridge as marked by a sign on each bank)

(J) Macon County:
— Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

(K) Madison County:
— Big Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge to the US 25-70 bridge)
— Shelton Laurel Creek (NC 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
— Spring Creek (NC 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews Avenue)

(L) McDowell County:
— Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
— Curtis Creek (game lands portion downstream of U.S. Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch
— Mill Creek (US 70 bridge to I 40 bridge)

(M) Mitchell County:
— Cane Creek (NC 226 bridge to SR 1189 bridge)
— North Toe River (US 19E bridge to NC 226 bridge)

(N) Polk County:
— Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to confluence with Cove Creek)

(O) Surry County:
— Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of SR 1333 to the SR 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)
— Ararat River (NC 103 bridge to US 52 bridge)

(P) Transylvania County:
— East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)
— Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

(Q) Watauga County:
— Watauga River upper (SR 1114 bridge to NC 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)
— Watauga River lower (SR 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)
— Coffee Lake

(R) Wilkes County:
— East Prong Roaring River (from Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary)
— Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Allegheny County line to confluence with East Prong
— Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone Mountain State Park)
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)
Elk Creek—upper (Watauga County line to lower boundary of Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
Elk Creek—lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)

(6) Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters. Those portions of designated Wild Trout Waters as listed in this Subparagraph, including tributaries except as noted, are further classified as Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters. All artificial lures and natural baits, except live fish, are allowed provided they are fished using only one single hook. The creel limit, size limit, and open season are the same as other Wild Trout Waters [see 15A NCAC 10C .0316(b)].

(A) Cherokee County:
— Bald Creek (game land portions)
— Dockery Creek (game land portions)
— North Shoal Creek (game land portions)

(B) Graham County:
— Deep Creek
— Long Creek (game land portion)
— Franks Creek

(C) Haywood County:
— Hemphill Creek (including tributaries)
— Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands)

(D) Jackson County:
— Buff Creek
— Chattooga River (SR 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
— (lower) Fowler Creek (game land portion)
— Scotsman Creek (game land portion)

(E) Macon County:
— Chattooga River (SR 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)

(F) Madison County:
— Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)

(G) Transylvania County:
— North Fork French Broad River (game land portions downstream of SR 1326)
— Thompson River (SR 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespass, including portions of tributaries within this section located on game lands)

(7) Special Regulation Trout Waters. Those portions of Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters as listed in this Subparagraph, excluding tributaries as noted, are further classified as Special Regulation Trout Waters. Regulations specific to each water are defined below:

Burke County
Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam).
Regulation: The daily creel limit is 7 trout and only one of which may be greater than 14 inches in length. There are no bait restrictions and no closed season.

(b) Fishing in Trout Waters

(1) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters. It is unlawful to take fish of any kind by any manner from designated public mountain trout waters during the closed seasons for trout fishing. The seasons, size limits, creel limits, and possession limits apply in all waters, whether designated or not, as public mountain trout waters. Except in power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs so designated, it is unlawful to fish in designated public mountain trout waters with more than one line. Night fishing is not allowed in most hatchery supported trout waters on game lands [see 15A NCAC 10D .0104(b)(1)].
Wild Trout Waters. Except as otherwise provided in Subparagraphs (a)(3), (a)(4), and (a)(6) of this Rule, the following rules apply to fishing in wild trout waters.

(A) Open Season. There is a year-round open season for the licensed taking of trout.

(B) Creel Limit. The daily creel limit is four trout.

(C) Size Limit. The minimum size limit is seven inches.

(D) Manner of Taking. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing wild trout waters except those waters listed in Subparagraph (a)(6) of this Rule.

(E) Night Fishing. Fishing on wild trout waters is not allowed between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

(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) “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.

(3) “Youth anglers” are individuals under 16 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 Only Trout Waters” are Public Mountain Trout Waters where only artificial flies 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) “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 a single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout while fishing. From 6 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) “Hatchery Supported Trout Waters” are Public Mountain Trout Waters which have no bait or lure restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

(6) “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) “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 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) “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) “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 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 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

(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
   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:
   Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
   Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

(2) Ashe County
   (A) Catch and Release/Artificial 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 (Virginia state line to New River)
   South Fork New River (Todd Island Park)
   Trout Lake

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
   Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
   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 (except game land portion)

(3) Avery County
   (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies 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)

(B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
   Wilson Creek (game land portion)

(C) 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) 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 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 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) 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 (USFS Rd. 340A 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)
   - Santeelah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeelah)
   - (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 Santeelah 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 Co. 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

Jackson County

(12) Catch and Release/Artificial 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. 1730 to Savannah Creek)
   Savannah Creek (downstream of S.R. 1300 bridge 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)

Macon County

(13) 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 (Mars Hill watershed boundary 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 (S.R. 1165 to Spring Creek)
   - Punchon Fork (Hampton Creek 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 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 (N.C. 103 bridge to U.S. 52 bridge)
- Mitchell River (.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Karps Mill Dam)

(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) 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)

(B) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
- Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)

(22) Transylvania County

(A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

(B) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
- East Fork French Broad River (Glady Fork to French Broad River)
- 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 (Camp Cove Branch 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 Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
- Laurel Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club and Powder Horn Mountain Development)
- Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake)

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- Coffee Lake
- Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)

(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. 1233 bridge at Amantha)
- 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 (Lake Chetola dam 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) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Dugger Creek (portions on Blue Ridge Mountain Club)
- Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

(B) 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 Allegheny Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
   Bell Branch 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)
   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 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 S.R. 1155 bridge)

(D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
   Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
   Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
   Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

(25) Yancey County
(A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies 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. 187 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, 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.
15A NCAC 10C .0206   TROTLINES, JUG HOOKS AND SET HOOKS

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

(1) "set-hook" means any a fishing device consisting of a single hook and line having no more than three hooks that is attached at one end only to a stationary object or floating object and not under immediate control and attendance of the person using the device.

(2) "jug-hook" means a fishing device consisting of a single hook and line having no more than three hooks that is attached to a float.

(3) "trotline" means a fishing device consisting of a horizontal common line having multiple hooks attached.

(4) "untended" means no bait is present on the device.

(b) Except as otherwise prohibited in this Rule, trotlines, jug hooks trotlines and set-hooks may be set in the inland waters of North Carolina, provided no live bait is used. Trotlines, jug hooks Trotlines and set-hooks may not be set in any of the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land. Trotlines, jug hooks Trotlines and set-hooks may not be set in any designated public mountain trout waters except impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing. In Lake Waccamaw, trotlines, jug hooks trotlines or set-hooks may be set only from October 1 through April 30.

(c) Each trotline, set hook, and jug hook shall bear legible and indelible identification of the user's name and address or the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number. Each trotline shall be conspicuously marked at each end and each set-hook conspicuously marked at one end with a flag, float, or other prominent object so that its location is readily discernible by boat operators and swimmers. Trotlines shall be set parallel to the nearest shore in all inland fishing waters unless otherwise prohibited. The number of jug-hooks that may be fished is limited to 70 per boat. All trotlines, throwlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks shall be fished at least once daily and all fish removed at that time. Trotlines, Untended trotlines, set-hooks, and jug-hooks without bait or not labeled as described in this paragraph may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement officers when located in areas of multiple water use. It is unlawful to use metal cans or glass jugs as floats.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1989; January 1, 1982;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; May 1, 2008; June 1, 2005; August 1, 2002.
15A NCAC 10C .0306  CRAPPIE
(a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (c) and (d). There is no closed season.

(b) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

(c) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:
   (1) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir,
   (2) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam,
   (3) Cashie River and its tributaries,
   (4) Middle River and its tributaries, and
   (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries.

(d) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:
   (1) South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam;
   (2) Yadkin River downstream from Idols Dam;
   (3) Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line;
   (4) High Rock Lake;
   (5) Tuckertown Lake;
   (6) Badin Lake;
   (7) Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties);
   (8) Lake Tillery;
   (9) Blewett Falls Lake;
   (10) Lake Norman;
   (11) Lake Hyco;
   (12) Lake Ramseur;
   (13) Cane Creek Lake;
   (14) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam;
   (15) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
   (16) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam;
   (17) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam;
   (18) Cape Fear River;
   (19) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam;
   (20) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
   (21) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (c) of this Rule; and
   (22) all public waters west of Interstate 77.

For waters in Subparagraphs (10) through (18), (22), the restrictions apply to all tributaries.

History Note:  Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2015
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 Paragraphs (d) and (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 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 16 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 limit, size limits, and seasons, for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

   (1) In the Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, but only one may be greater than 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. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April, except waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

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

(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.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) 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 24 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 the Cape Fear River upstream of Buckhorn Dam, the Deep River to the first impoundment, the Haw River to the first impoundment, B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Rhodhiss, Lake Hickory, and Lookout Shoals Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches.

(d) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate.

(e) In the in the Cape Fear River upstream of Buckhorn Dam, the Deep River to the first impoundment, the Haw River to the first impoundment, B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Rhodhiss, Lake Hickory, and Lookout Shoals Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate and the minimum size limit is 20 inches.

(f) 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 (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 18 inches but no Striped Bass or hybrids between the lengths of 22 inches and 27 inches shall be possessed. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

(g) In the in the Cape Fear River upstream of Buckhorn Dam, the Deep River to the first impoundment, the Haw River to the first impoundment, B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Rhodhiss, Lake Hickory, and Lookout Shoals Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 20 inches but no Striped Bass or hybrids between the lengths of 22 inches and 27 inches shall be possessed. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

(h) In the in the Cape Fear River upstream of Buckhorn Dam, the Deep River to the first impoundment, the Haw River to the first impoundment, B. Everett Jordan Reservoir, Lake Rhodhiss, Lake Hickory, and Lookout Shoals Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 20 inches but no Striped Bass or hybrids between the lengths of 22 inches and 27 inches shall be possessed. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

(i) 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), 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.

(j) 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. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.
MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE

(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 or grabbling. Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line or grabbling at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, with the following exceptions:

1. 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.

2. While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback) that are greater than six inches in total length or possess such herring regardless of origin in:
   (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
   (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
   (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;
   (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
   (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
   (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;
   (G) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
   (H) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

3. Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, Lake Wylie, and John H. Kerr Reservoir, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.

4. No trotlines or set-hooks shall be used in the impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land or in designated public mountain trout waters.

5. In Lake Waccamaw, trotlines or set-hooks may be used only from October 1 through April 30.

6. 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.

(b) The season for taking nongame fishes by other hook and line methods in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as the trout fishing season.

(c) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by licensed special devices 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.

(d) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw and in 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).

(e) 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 (forked tail catfish) by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for forked tail catfish is six fish in aggregate. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

(f) In Lake Norman and Badin Lake, the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish.

(g) 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.

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, 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.
(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 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 gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);
6. up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;
7. up to two eel pots;
8. a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;
9. minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter, and that are under the immediate control and attendance of the individual operating them;
10. a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
11. 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
12. 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) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.

c) Game fishes taken while netting for bait 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).

d) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal consumption subject to the following restrictions:

1. No more than 25 eels, none of which may be less than 9 inches in length, shall be taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in or possessed from inland fishing waters;
2. While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no river herring (alewife and blueback) that are greater than six inches in total length shall be taken and no such river herring shall be possessed regardless of origin:
   (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam,
   (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam,
   (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam,
   (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam,
   (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam,
   (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek,
   (G) the tributaries to the rivers listed above, and
   (H) all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
3. No more than 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) shall be taken.

(e) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.
(f) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or any other fish bait from designated public mountain trout waters and from the bodies of water specified for the following counties:

1. Chatham County:
   Deep River
   Rocky River
   Bear Creek
2. Lee County:
Deep River

Moore County:
Deep River

Randolph County:
Deep River below the Coleridge Dam
Fork Creek

(g) In the waters of the Little Tennessee River, including all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps and bridge crossings, it is unlawful to transport, possess, or release live alewife or live blueback herring.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 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, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006.
15A NCAC 10C .0407  PERMITTED SPECIAL DEVICES AND OPEN SEASONS

Except in designated public mountain trout waters, and in impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land, there is a year-round open season for the licensed taking of nongame fishes by bow and arrow. The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots in impoundments located entirely on game lands is prohibited. Seasons and waters in which the use of other special devices is authorized are indicated by counties below:

(1) Alamance:
   (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below NC 49 bridge and Haw River;
   (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;

(2) Alexander: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir;

(3) Alleghany: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in New River, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(4) Anson:
   (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
   (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam;
   (c) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls downstream to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad trestle;

(5) Ashe: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except designated public mountain trout waters;

(6) Beaufort:
   (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Pungo River, and in the Tar and Pamlico Rivers above Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters;
   (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters;

(7) Bertie:
   (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke);
   (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(8) Bladen:
   (a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Black River;
   (b) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Cape Fear River between Lock and Dam 1 and 3 and in Black River, except that hand-crank electrofishing is prohibited within 400 yards of Lock and Dam 1, 2, and 3 on Cape Fear River;

(9) Brunswick: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek, Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek;

(10) Buncombe: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(11) Burke:
   (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and designated public mountain trout waters;
   (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters and Lake James;

(12) Cabarrus:
   (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,
   (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;

(13) Caldwell: July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(14) Camden:
   (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland public waters;
   (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(15) Carteret: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters except South River and the tributaries of the White Oak River;

(16) Caswell:
   (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;
   (b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek;
   (c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Hyco Reservoir;
Catawba:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below Lookout Dam;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, spear guns, and gigs in all public waters;

Chatham:
(a) December 1 to April 15 with dip and gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Deep River, Haw River and Rocky River (local law);
(b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River, and Haw River;
(c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters;

Cherokee: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Chowan:
(a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

Clay: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Cleveland:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters;

Columbus:
(a) December 1 to March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and its tributaries;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek;
(c) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Waccamaw and Lumber rivers;

Craven:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse Rivers;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle, Slocum (downstream of the US 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock Creeks and their tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River;

Currituck:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Tulls Creek and Northwest River;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

Dare:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Mashoes Creek, Milltail Creek, East Lake and South Lake;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

Davidson:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in all public waters except Leonard's Creek, Abbott's Creek below Lake Thom-A-Lex dam, and the Abbott's Creek arm of High Rock Lake upstream from the NC 8 bridge;

Davie:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
(b) July 1 to August 31 for taking only carp and suckers with seines in Dutchmans Creek from US 601 to Yadkin River and in Hunting Creek from SR 1338 to South Yadkin River;

Duplin:
(a) December 1 to June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge;

Durham:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Neuse River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;

(31) Edgecombe: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all public waters;

(32) Forsyth: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir;

(33) Franklin:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Tar River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Parrish, Laurel Mill, Jackson, Clifton, Moore's and Perry's Ponds, and in the Franklinton City ponds;

(34) Gaston:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters;

(35) Gates: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(36) Graham: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(37) Granville:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Kerr Reservoir;
(b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Neuse River and the Tar River below US 158 bridge;
(c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;

(38) Greene: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets and reels in Contentnea Creek;

(39) Guilford:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Haw River, Deep River below Jamestown Dam, and Reedy Fork Creek below US 29 bridge;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;

(40) Halifax: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Beech Swamp, Clarks Canal, Conoconnara Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey Creek, and White's Mill Pond Run;

(41) Harnett:
(a) January 1 to May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River;

(42) Haywood: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and designated public mountain trout waters;

(43) Henderson: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(44) Hertford:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(45) Hyde:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(46) Iredell: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman;

(47) Jackson: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(48) Johnston: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek, Neuse River and Swift Creek;

(49) Jones:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Trent River below US 17 bridge and White Oak River below US 17 bridge;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to the White Oak River;

(50) Lee:
(a) December 1 to April 15 with dip and gill nets (local law) in Cape Fear River and Deep River;
(b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Cape Fear River;
(c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Deep River, and with gigs in all public waters;

(51) Lenoir:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Neuse River below US 70 bridge at Kinston;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from NC 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River;

(52) Lincoln:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters;

(53) McDowell:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters and Lake James;

(54) Macon: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(55) Madison: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

(56) Martin: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

(57) Mecklenburg:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters except Freedom Park Pond and Hornet's Nest Ponds;

(58) Montgomery:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except that part of the Pee Dee River between the Lake Tillery dam at Hydro and the mouth of Rocky River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;

(59) Moore:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters except in Deep River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land; and with traps in Deep River and its tributaries;

(60) Nash:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Tar River;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Tar River below Harris' Landing and Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam;

(61) New Hanover: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Sutton (Catfish) Lake;

(62) Northampton:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoirs and the Roanoke River above the US 301 bridge;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Oconeechee Creek, Old River Landing Gut and Vaughans Creek below Watsons Mill;

(63) Onslow:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in White Oak River below US 17 bridge;
(b) August 1 to March 31 with eel pots in the main run of New River between US 17 bridge and the mouth of Hawkins Creek;
(c) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the main run of New River and in the main run of the White Oak River;
(d) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Grant's Creek;

(64) Orange:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Haw River,
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;

(65) Pamlico: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Dawson Creek;
Pasquotank:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

Pender:
(a) December 1 to June 5 with seines in the main run of Northeast Cape Fear River;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Northeast Cape Fear River, Long Creek, Moore's Creek approximately one mile upstream to New Moon Fishing Camp, and Black River;
(c) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Black River;

Perquimans:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and other impounded waters;

Person:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Hyco Creek and Mayo Creek;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters.

Pitt:
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Neuse River and in Tar River below the mouth of Hardee Creek east of Greenville;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Grindle Creek, and Contentnea Creek between NC 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River;
(c) December 1 to June 5 with seines in Tar River;

Polk: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Randolph:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Deep River above the Coleridge Dam and Uwharrie River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;

Richmond:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls downstream to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad trestle;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land;
(c) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam;

Robeson: December 1 to March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters.

Rockingham:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Dan River and Haw River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Dan River; and with gigs in all public waters;

Rowan:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;

Rutherford:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Sampson:
(a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Big Coharie Creek, Black River and Six Runs Creek;
(b) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Black River downstream of NC 1105 bridge;

Stanly:
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except that part of the Pee Dee River between the Lake Tillery dam at Hydro and the mouth of Rocky River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
Stokes: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters, and traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir;

Surry: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters; and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River;

Swain: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Transylvania: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Tyrrell: 
(a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Scuppernong River and Alligator Creek;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters;

Union: 
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,
(b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;

Vance: 
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Tar River;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Rolands, Faulkners, Southerlands, and Weldon Ponds, City Lake, and Kerr Reservoir;
(c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;

Wake: 
(a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Sunset, Benson, Wheeler, Raleigh, and Johnson Lakes;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Neuse River below Milburnie Dam, and Swift Creek below Lake Benson Dam;

Warren: 
(a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek, and Walker Creek; excluding Duck and Hammes Mill Ponds;
(b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Duck and Hammes Mill Ponds, Kerr Reservoir, and Gaston Reservoir;
(c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;

Washington: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impoundments.

Wayne: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Little River, Mill Creek and Neuse River.

Wilkes: July 1 to June 30 with traps in Yadkin River below W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; and with gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;

Wilson: 
(a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in Contentnea Creek (except Buckhorn Reservoir), including unnamed tributaries between Flowers Mill and SR 1163 (Deans) bridge;
(b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Contentnea Creek below US 301 bridge and in Toisnot Swamp downstream from the Lake Toisnot Dam;

Yadkin: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-276; 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 29, 1988;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; December 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; June 1, 1994;
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, 2007; June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004.
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" are individuals under 16 years of age.

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 can 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 be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the 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.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing an archery, a restricted firearms, a restricted zone, or a restricted deer hunting zone. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

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.

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 must 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 Buckhorn, Butner-Falls of Neuse, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Jordan, Kerr Scott, Lee, Mayo, Sutton Lake, and Vance game lands and 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.

(c)(4) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

1. Requirement. Except as provided in Subparagraph (4)(2) of this Paragraph, any person entering upon any game land for the purpose of hunting, trapping, or running dogs or training dogs using wildlife participating in dog training or field trial activities shall have in his or her possession a game lands license in addition to the appropriate hunting or trapping licenses, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege licenses. A field trial participant is defined as a judge, handler, scout or owner.

2. For commission-sanctioned field trials, the following persons shall possess a game lands license in addition to the appropriate North Carolina hunting or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege: active participants (as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114) in a field trial using wildlife, 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 or trapping license, or a license that conveys the game land use privilege.

4)(2) Exceptions:
   A. a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
   B. the resident and nonresident sportsman’s licenses include game lands use privileges;
   C. judges and nonresidents participating in field trials under the circumstances set forth in Paragraph (e) of this Rule may do so without the game lands license; or
   D. 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.

(d)(e) Field Trials and Training Dogs. A person serving as judge of a field trial that, pursuant to a written request from the sponsoring organization, has been authorized in writing and scheduled for occurrence on a game land by an authorized representative of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and any nonresident handler, scout, or owner participating therein may participate without procuring a game lands license, provided such nonresident has in his possession a valid hunting license issued by the state of his residence. 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 primary goals of the agency.

(g)(4) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0110, .0302 and .0303, trapping of
furbearing animals is permitted on game lands during the applicable open seasons, except that trapping is prohibited:

1. on the field trial course 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
5. on the Dupont State Forest Game Lands.

On those areas of state-owned land known collectively as the Roanoke River Wetlands controlled trapping is
allowed under a permit system.

(h)(g) 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 (j) 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)(4) Camping. No person shall camp on any game land except on an area designated by the landowner for
camping.

(j)(4) Swimming. Swimming is prohibited in the lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land.

(k)(4) 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 or 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.
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.

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 (j) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from the previous sentence but must comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, may use wheelchairs or other mobility devices designed for indoor pedestrian use on any area where foot travel is allowed.

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 wheelchairs, all terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and un gated 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 and map book. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted to 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 (j) 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.

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.

Definitions: For the purpose of this Subchapter "Permanent Hunting Blind" is defined as any structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from man made or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of each day's hunt.

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 that 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 must obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard must leave the shooting range if directed to by law.
enforcement officers or 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 of such signs will be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using any shooting range, shall do any act which is prohibited or neglect to do any act which 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.

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, 2015; August 1, 2014.
15A NCAC 10D .0103 Hunting on game lands is proposed for amendment as follows:

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 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 during the open season.

(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) Bear Sanctuaries. On Three Days per Week Areas and Six Days per Week Areas, bears shall not be taken on lands designated and posted as bear sanctuaries except when authorized by permit only elsewhere in this Chapter. Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on bear sanctuaries. Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15 on bear sanctuaries in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(h) 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 Days per Week Area
   (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season 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 Davie, Davidson, 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 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 three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the 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 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.

(4) Bachelor Bay Game Land in Bertie, Martin, 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.

(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.

(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 muzzle-loaders, 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.

(7) Brinkleyville Game Land in Halifax County
   (A) Six Days per Week Area
   (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
   (C) Horseback riding 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) Buckhorn Game Land in Orange County
   (A) Hunting is by permit only.
   (B) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(10) 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 three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days of the second week 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) Buffalo Cove Game Land in Caldwell and Wilkes Counties
    (A) Six Days per Week Area
    (B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season for deer consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer may be taken with bow and arrow on open days beginning the Saturday Monday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving and during the Deer With Visible Antlers Season. Deer may be taken with muzzle-loading firearms on open days beginning the Monday on
or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter, and during the
Deer With Visible Antlers season.
(C) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day 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) Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Lands in Robeson County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the
applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(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.
(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.

(13) 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 six open days and the last six open days of the
applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(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.
(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) Buxton Woods Game Land in Dare 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.

(15) Cape Fear River Wetlands 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) 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.

(16) Carteret County Game Land in Carteret County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the
applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(17) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land in Caswell County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With
Visible Antlers Season.
Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic. Participants must obtain a game lands license as set forth in 15A NCAC 10G prior to engaging in such activity. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must possess a Game Lands license.

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.

On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit only after November 1.

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.

Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

Catawba Game Land in Catawba County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Deer may be taken with bow and arrow only from the tract known as Molly's Backbone.

Chatham Game Land in Chatham County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
(D) Horseback riding is allowed only during June, July, and August; and on Sundays during the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons.
(E) Target shooting is prohibited.

Cherokee Game Land in Ashe County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

Chowan Game Land in Chowan 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.

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 three hunting days during the November bear season and the 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.

Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County
(A) Six 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 last open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

Columbus County Game Land in Columbus 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.

(25) Croatan Game Land in Carteret, Craven and Jones 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 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 the waterfowl season, 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.

(26) Currituck Banks Game Land in Currituck County
(A) Six 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 the waterfowl season.
(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.

(27) Dare Game Land in Dare County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(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.

(28) 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.

(29) 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.

(30) Elk Knob Game Land in Watauga County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(31) Embro Game Land in Halifax and Warren counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(32) Goose Creek Game Land in Beaufort and Pamlico 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) 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 and through the end of the waterfowl season, 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.

(33) Green River Game Land in Henderson, and Polk counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(34) 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.

(35) Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six 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 both designated and posted as camping areas.
(E) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season, except for that portion designated as bear sanctuary.

(36) Harris Game Land in Chatham, Harnett, and Wake counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
   (i) Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season;
   (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.
(F) Target shooting is prohibited.
(G) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(37) Holly Shelter Game Land in Pender 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) 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 both 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 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.

(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.

(38) Hyco Game Land in Person County
   (A) Six Days per Week Area
   (B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
   (C) Target shooting is prohibited.

(39) J. Morgan Futch Game Land in Tyrrell County, Permit Only Area.

(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.

(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 is prohibited except 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 only during June, July, and August, and on Sundays the remainder of the year except during open turkey and deer seasons. People age 16 or older who ride on trails occurring entirely within the game land boundaries must possess a Game Lands license.
   (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.

(42) Juniper Creek Game Land in Brunswick and Columbus counties
   (A) Six 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.

(43) Kerr Scott Game Land in Wilkes County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
(C) Use of muzzleloaders, 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.

(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.

(45) Lee Game Land in Lee County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Target shooting is prohibited.

(46) Light Ground Pocosin Game Land in Pamlico 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.

(47) Linwood Game Land in Davidson County
(A) Six 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.

(48) Lower Fishing Creek Game Land in Edgecombe and Halifax counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
(D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(49) Mayo Game Land in Person County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(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.

(50) Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six days 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.
(51) Nantahala Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.

(52) Needmore Game Land in Macon and Swain counties.
(A) Six 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.

(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.

(54) New Lake Game Land in Hyde and Tyrrell 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.

(55) Nicholson Creek Game Land in Hoke County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving.
(C) Deer of either sex may be taken with muzzle-loading firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving 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 through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
(E) Deer of either sex may be taken the last 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.

(56) North River Game Land in Camden and Currituck 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) 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.

(57) Northwest River Marsh Game Land in Currituck 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 boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

(58) Pee Dee River Game Land in Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, and Stanly counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Use of centerfire rifles is prohibited in that portion in Anson and Richmond counties North of US-74.
(D) Target shooting is prohibited.
Horseback riding is allowed only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and 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.

Perkins Game Land in Davie County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through January 1.

Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day 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).

Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer with Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails from May 16 through August 31 and Sundays from September 1 through October 31. All and all horseback riding is prohibited from November 1 through May 15.
(D) Deer and bear hunting is by permit only.

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.

Rhodes Pond Game Land in Cumberland and Harnett counties
(A) Hunting is by permit only.
(B) Swimming is prohibited on the area.

Roanoke River Wetlands in Bertie, Halifax, Martin, and Northampton counties
(A) Hunting 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.

Roanoke Island Marshes Game Land in Dare County-Hunting is by permit only.

Robeson Game Land in Robeson County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

Rockfish Creek Game Land in Hoke County
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow on open hunting days from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving.
(C) Deer of either sex may be taken with muzzle-loading firearms on open hunting days beginning the fourth Saturday before Thanksgiving 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 through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving.
(E) Deer of either sex may be taken the last 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.

(68) Rocky Run Game Land in Onslow County: Hunting is by permit only.
(69) Sampson Game Land in Sampson 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) Target shooting is prohibited.

(70) 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 may be taken with archery equipment on all the open days of the bow-and-arrow season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving; with legal muzzlesloading firearms and archery equipment all the open days of the muzzlesloader season through the second Saturday before Thanksgiving; and with all legal weapons from the second Monday before Thanksgiving through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
   (ii) dove may be taken all open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third Saturday thereafter;
   (iii) opossum, raccoon, and squirrel (gray and fox) may be taken all the open days from second Monday before Thanksgiving through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
   (iv) rabbit may be taken all open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving through the Saturday following Thanksgiving;
   (v) waterfowl may be taken on open days during any waterfowl season; and
   (vi) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit Hunt.
(C) The Deer With Visible Antlers season is the open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.
(D) The bow-and-arrow season is all open days from the Saturday on or nearest to Sept. 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1. Deer may be taken with archery equipment on all open hunting days during the bow and arrow season, the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the muzzlesloader season as stated in this Subparagraph.
(E) Muzzlesloader season is all the open days from the fourth Saturday preceeding Thanksgiving through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving through January 1. Deer may be taken with muzzle-loading firearms on all open hunting days during the muzzlesloader season and the Deer With Visible Antlers season.
(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) The following areas are permit-only for all quail and woodcock hunting and dog training on birds:
   (i) In Richmond County: that part east of US 1;
   (ii) In Scotland County: that part west of SR 1328 and north of Gardner Farm Lane and that part east of SR 1328 and north of Scotland Lake Lane.
(J) Horseback riding on field trial grounds from October 22 through March 31 is prohibited unless riding in authorized field trials.
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.

Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.

Sandy Creek Game Land in Nash and Franklin Counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
(D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

Sandy Mush Game Land in Buncombe and Madison counties.
(A) Three Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day 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(e).
(E) Dove hunting is by permit only from the opening day through the second Saturday of dove season.

Second Creek Game Land in Rowan County- hunting is by permit only.

Shocco Creek Game Land in Franklin, Halifax, Nash and Warren counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell and Rutherford counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) The Deer With Visible Antlers season consists of the open hunting days from the Monday before Thanksgiving through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving. Deer may be taken with bow and arrow on open days beginning the Saturday Monday on or nearest September 10 to the third Saturday thereafter, and Monday on or nearest October 15 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season. Deer may be taken with muzzle-loading firearms on open days beginning the Monday on or nearest October 1 through the Saturday of the second week thereafter, and during the Deer With Visible Antlers season.
(C) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day 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.
(E) That part of South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland, McDowell, and Rutherford counties is closed to all grouse, quail and woodcock hunting and all bird dog training.

Stones Creek Game Land in Onslow County
(A) Six-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) 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.

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.

(78) Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover and Brunswick counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Target shooting is prohibited.

(79) Tar River Game Land in Edgecombe County – hunting is by permit only.

(80) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(81) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Alleghany and Wilkes counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
(D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
(E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

(82) Tillery game Land in Halifax County
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last six open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(C) Horseback riding is prohibited.
(D) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
(E) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

(83) Toxaway Game Land in Jackson and Transylvania counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the last open day 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. Participants must obtain a game lands license prior to horseback riding on this area. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land must 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.

(84) Uwharrie Game Land in Davidson, Montgomery, and Randolph counties
(A) Six Days per Week Area
(B) Deer of either sex may be taken the first six open days and the last open six days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.
(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;
   (iii) Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(85) 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.

(86) Van Swamp Game Land in Beaufort 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) Bear may only be taken the first three hunting days during the November Bear Season and the first three hunting days during the second week of the December Bear Season.

(87) 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 and through the end of the waterfowl season, 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;
(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.

(88) Whitehall Plantation Game Land in Bladen County

(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.

(i) On permitted type hunts, deer of either sex may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications must 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 must validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.

(j) 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.

(k) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission will 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.

(l) Feral swine may be taken by licensed hunters during the open season for any game animal 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.

(m) 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. A youth is defined as a person under 16 years of age.

(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 specifically permitted 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, 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.
15A NCAC 10D .0104  FISHING ON GAME LANDS

(a) Generally. Except as otherwise indicated herein, fishing on game lands which are open to fishing shall be in accordance with the statewide rules. All game lands are open to public fishing except restocked ponds when posted against fishing, Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge, Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, and in the case of private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by the owners thereof. No trotline or set-hook or any net, trap, gig, bow and arrow, or other special fishing device of a type mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(b),(c),(d), and (f) may be used in any impounded waters located entirely on game lands. Bow and arrow may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands with the exception of those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a). Blue crabs taken by hook and line (other than set-hooks) in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands must have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and the daily possession limit is 50 per person and 100 per vessel.

(b) Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters

(1) Fishing Hours. It is unlawful to fish in designated public mountain trout waters on any game land and in all waters on the Dupont State Forest Game Land from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise, except in Hatchery Supported Trout waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0305(a), Delayed Harvest waters as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(a)(5), game lands sections of the Nantahala River located downstream from the Swain County line, and in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Lands from Cove Creek downstream to the natural gas pipeline crossing.

(2) Location. All waters located on the game lands listed in this Subparagraph are designated public mountain trout waters except Cherokee Lake, Grogan Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line, Nolichucky River, Mill Ridge Pond, Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir, Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, Fawn Lake, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Green River downstream of the natural gas pipeline crossing, and Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223. Dupont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties. Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County. Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties. Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, and Yancey counties. Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County. Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County. South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties. Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County. Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties. Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.

(3) All designated public mountain trout waters located on the game lands listed in Subparagraph (b)(2) of this Rule are wild trout waters unless classified otherwise. [See 15A NCAC 10C .0205(a)(1)].

(c) Ponds. In all game lands ponds, it is unlawful to take channel, white or blue catfish (forked tail catfish) by means other than hook and line and the daily creel limit for forked tail catfish is six fish in aggregate.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305; Eff. February 1, 1976; Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1992; 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. August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004.