



## **Fiscal Note for Proposed Inland Fisheries Division Rule Amendments for the Wildlife Resources Commission**

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10C.0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters  
15A NCAC 10C.0211 Possession of Certain Fishes  
15A NCAC 10C.0305 Black Bass  
15A NCAC 10C.0306 Crappie  
15A NCAC 10C.0313 Shad (American and Hickory)  
15A NCAC 10C.0314 Striped Bass  
15A NCAC 10C.0316 Trout  
15A NCAC 10C.0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale  
15A NCAC 10C.0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption  
15A NCAC 10C.0407 Permitted Special Devices and Open Seasons

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**Impact:** State Government: Yes  
Local Government: No  
Private Impact: Yes  
Substantial Economic Impact: No

**Authority:** G.S. 113 - 134

For reasons outlined below, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) believes that these rule changes have a minimal fiscal impact pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.4. An analysis of the proposed changes for the rules follows.

### **BACKGROUND**

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State as a whole, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). WRC is tasked with the conservation of wildlife resources of the State (G.S. 143-239). This responsibility includes managing as equitably as possible the various competing interests regarding these resources, including the use and take of such resources (G.S. 113-131.1(a)). The statutes governing wildlife resources are found in Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes, and WRC has been granted rulemaking authority to implement the provisions of these statutes (G.S. 113-134).

As part of its mission, WRC conducts an annual review of its fish, wildlife, boating safety, and other regulations to determine whether such rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of: managing wildlife resources through a biologically sustainable harvest of such resources by hunters, trappers and anglers consistent with sound conservation objectives; ensuring the safety of the boating public; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full text included in Appendix A.

Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest certain species, and how they may harvest. Several of the proposed amendments seek to increase angling opportunity while others may prove to be more restrictive. All the proposed changes are intended to expand future angling opportunity. In the end, despite the changes, no impact to overall angling participation is expected.

Although the WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the fiscal impact of the specific rule changes proposed below, economic research on anglers' value of recreational fishing can provide general context for the impact of rules that affect opportunities for fishing or the quality of those opportunities. Taking the median of the findings across multiple studies, the estimated value of freshwater fishing per person per day is approximately \$53.<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the angler's total willingness to pay to engage in the activity, less the cost to do so. It does not represent any economic activity generated by fishing, such as retail sales, and is not species or location-specific. However, to the extent that the proposed rules induce anglers to increase or decrease fishing trips, this estimate provides a rough approximation of the costs or benefits to the angler.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters program (PMTW), and in 2014, an estimated 148,991 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$383 million to the State's economy.<sup>2</sup> As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensure the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important

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<sup>1</sup> Rosenberger, Randall S.; White, Eric M.; Kline, Jeffrey D.; Cvitanovich, Claire. 2017. Recreation economic values for estimating outdoor recreation economic benefits from the National Forest System. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNWGTR-957. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 33 p.

<sup>2</sup> Mountain Trout Fishing: Economic Impacts on and Contributions to North Carolina's Economy, 2015.

ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Delayed Harvest, or Special Regulation Trout Waters. Approximately 7.1 miles of Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest Trout Waters will be removed from PMTW to reflect changes in landmarks and partnerships with private landowners. With the designation of Lake Apalachia as PMTW, 1,070 acres will be added to Special Regulation Trout Waters.

The proposed changes to this Rule are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with private landowners and overall trout management. The addition of Lake Apalachia will improve trout fishing by reducing harvest and allowing more Brown Trout to survive and grow to larger sizes.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation technicians will change signage as part of their regularly scheduled duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated cost to the agency of approximately \$248 (\$31 x 8 hrs = \$248). Designating Lake Apalachia as PMTW will require anglers fishing the lake to possess a fishing license that includes a trout fishing privilege. As part of their regular management, commission staff will conduct education/outreach effort to educated anglers about the new requirement. The Commission does not expect to increase enforcement efforts above those that are current practice and therefore does not expect additional staff time or additional fine revenue. The fiscal impact will be minimal given the fishing effort is relatively low at Lake Apalachia due to its remote location.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

Approximately 7.1 miles of PMTW are being removed from public access. This loss of PMTW represents a relative minimal loss of angling opportunity to the public. Requiring anglers fishing Lake Apalachia to possess a fishing license that includes a trout fishing privilege will impact individual anglers. However, the impact is expected to be minimal given the fishing effort is relatively low at Lake Apalachia due to its remote location. In addition, many resident anglers already purchase a Comprehensive Inland Fishing License or a Sportsman License which include the trout fishing privilege. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals, which may include changes to angler behavior (i.e., fishing less or fishing more).

## **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will relocate rule text from 15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking

Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption which prohibits the transport, possession, or release of river herring (Blueback Herring and Alewife) in the Little Tennessee River Basin. The proposed change limits the possession restriction for river herring to the portion of the Little Tennessee River Basin in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake.

To limit their spread, the possession of river herring was initially prohibited in the Little Tennessee River Basin. However, Blueback Herring have been introduced in the basin and were most recently discovered in Lake Nantahala and Lake Fontana. Anglers wish to collect Blueback Herring and use them for bait in the waterbodies where they are established and using them for bait poses no additional ecological risk.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

##### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

##### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest and possess, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. There are no significant additional environmental impacts related to the use of the Blueback Herring as bait in the same lake as which they were caught. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the closed season for black bass at Lake Sutton. Removing the closed harvest season will expand angler opportunities for black bass harvest. Negative biological impacts are unlikely since most anglers practice catch-and-release.

An additional proposed change clarifies that the 14-inch minimum size limit with no exception for black bass in the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries applies to all associated tributaries and canals of all tributary river systems.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries management.

##### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter when and what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will reduce the minimum size limit for crappie in B. Everett Jordan Reservoir from 10 to 8 inches and establish a 9-inch minimum size limit and 25-fish daily creel limit for crappie in the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir.

The proposed change to this Rule for B. Everett Jordan Reservoir will provide additional angling opportunity. Anglers have expressed interest in aligning the size limit at Jordan Reservoir with other fishing waters around the state. Crappie abundance, size structure, and age structure indicate the population can support the additional harvest. The proposed change to this Rule for John H. Kerr Reservoir was requested by Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fish (VDGIF) to reduce angler harvest and improve the quality of the reservoir's crappie fishery. By agreement, VDGIF is the primary lead for fisheries management activities at John H. Kerr Reservoir. VDGIF staff have observed high harvest rates and reduced density of crappie.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0313 SHAD (AMERICAN AND HICKORY)**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will modify the general statewide regulation for American Shad and Hickory Shad to establish a daily creel limit of 10 fish in combination, including no more than one American Shad. This proposal will not affect river systems where harvest of more than one American Shad is specifically allowed (Tar River, Cape Fear River, Pee Dee River, and their tributaries), or in select Piedmont reservoirs where no American Shad may be possessed.

The new general statewide regulation as proposed is a conservation measure limiting harvest in smaller systems where little American Shad data are available. The proposed change would clarify ambiguity in the current rules for shad harvest in inland fishing waters and afford

consistency with shad regulations as established by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries in joint and coastal fishing waters and established within the framework of the NC American Shad Sustainable Fishery Management Plan.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will reduce the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and their hybrids in the portion of the Dan River downstream of the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA and in the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir from 24 to 20 inches from October 1 to May 31. The daily creel limit would remain two in combination from October 1 to May 31. From June 1 to September 30, there is no minimum size limit and a 4-fish daily creel limit.

By agreement, VDGIF is the primary lead for fisheries management activities at John H. Kerr Reservoir. VDGIF staff report few Striped Bass reach the current 24-inch minimum size limit, and biological data indicate few larger Striped Bass in the reservoir. VDGIF is implementing this rule change for the Virginia portion of the reservoir to increase harvest opportunity and requested the WRC implement the same regulation for the North Carolina portion.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. Since the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is the primary lead by agreement for fisheries

management at John H. Kerr Reservoir, the Commission has limited Striped Bass data for the reservoir. The average size range is 18-22 inches. Anglers often report catching 20-24-inch Striped Bass and express the desire to harvest them. The reservoir's population is currently sustained through a combination of natural reproduction and supplemental stocking. The new size limit is not expected to jeopardize the stock, and additional harvest will likely result in improved growth of the remaining Striped Bass. The current size limit was determined based on population modeling and angler input. No impact on the food chain is anticipated. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will establish a daily creel limit of three trout including only one trout greater than 14 inches at Apalachia Reservoir in Cherokee County. Beginning in 2012, Apalachia Reservoir was the subject of a four-year trout stocking experiment to evaluate its potential for put-grow-and-take trout management. Research has shown that Brown Trout stocked in the reservoir can reach large sizes (> 20 inches), but an angler creel revealed that 72% of the annual Brown Trout harvest occurs in the three months following stocking. The proposed change will improve trout fishing by allowing more stocked Brown Trout to survive and grow to larger sizes.

#### Fiscal Impact

##### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

##### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

##### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule change will alter what anglers may harvest, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: PURCHASE AND SALE**

A proposed amendment to the Rule will extend the upper boundary for the river herring harvest moratorium on the Neuse River upstream from Milburnie Dam to Falls Lake Dam. A second proposed change will prohibit the possession or take of Grass Carp in the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Norman except for scientific study by permit issued by the WRC. A third proposed amendment will limit the use of archery equipment on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries for the take of catfish only. A fourth proposed amendment will establish a daily creel limit of five catfish in combination on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state

line and all tributaries. A fifth proposed change clarifies the species for which the restriction on altering the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a size and/or creel limit such that the fish cannot be identified, measured, or counted. Additional proposed changes will modify the title of the rule, reorganize the paragraphs, and clarify that the rule applies to hook-and-line fishing, grabbling, and the use of a special device with a special device fishing license.

The moratorium on migratory river herring applies to coastal rivers where they conduct annual spawning runs in the spring. In most mainstem coastal rivers, the first impoundment was used as the upstream extent of the harvest moratorium. In winter of 2017, Milburnie Dam on the Neuse River was removed, and the moratorium is proposed to be extended upstream to Falls Lake Dam, the next barrier to anadromous fish migration.

Triploid Grass Carp are often stocked as part of efforts to control infestations of hydrilla which is classified as a state and federal noxious weed. Hydrilla eradication efforts including the stocking of triploid Grass Carp have been initiated at John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Norman. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Lake Norman Marine Commission have requested the proposed change. Eliminating harvest will help maintain these Grass Carp populations stocked to consume hydrilla.

The proposed restriction on the use of archery equipment in the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries will help protect Robust Redhorse from being mistakenly taken with archery equipment. Robust Redhorse is a rare, large native fish found in this reach of the Pee Dee River. It is classified as state endangered and has been petitioned for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Pee Dee River population of Robust Redhorse is estimated to have less than 50 adults. Bowfishers have been observed harvesting large numbers of Smallmouth Buffalo, Common Carp, and other large-bodied nongame fishes from this reach of the Pee Dee River.

The proposed five-fish daily creel limit for catfish in the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries would prevent excessive harvest. This reach of the Pee Dee River supports a popular catfish fishery, and anglers have expressed concern about the overharvest of catfish, especially given the amount of habitat available varies substantially with flow from dam releases.

The restriction on altering the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a size and/or creel limit was intended to apply to the species identified in this rule with specific size and creel limits. There was confusion among anglers as to when the restriction applied and if it impacted the use of cut bait. The proposed change clarifies the species to which the restriction applies.

The additional proposed changes clarify that this Rule addresses the manner of take for nongame fishes when taken by hook-in-line, grabbling, or special device used under a special device fishing license. The reorganization of the Rule also clarifies the seasons for taking nongame fish and species-specific size and creel limits.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

Most of these rule amendments will have no impact as the changes are part of routine fisheries



management. In the case of restricting harvest of triploid Grass Carp at John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Norman, the proposed change will protect the investment of the NC Aquatic Weed Control Program in hydrilla control. The cost of triploid Grass Carp can range from \$10 to \$15 per fish. While the exact cost savings per year is unknown, we expect the rule to decrease the need for additional stocking beyond annual mortality impacts.

At John H. Kerr Reservoir, the NC Aquatic Weed Control Program has collaborated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the stocking of triploid Grass Carp at a 50/50 cost share. A total of 13,320 triploid Grass Carp were initially stocked in 2013. Additional triploid Grass Carp were stocked in 2014 (4,200), 2015 (4,000), 2016 (3,400), and 2017 (3,200) to account for total annual mortality. Over the 5-year period, 28,120 triploid Grass Carp have been stocked at an estimated cost of \$281,200 based on \$10 per fish.

At Lake Norman, the NC Aquatic Weed Control Program has collaborated with the Lake Norman Marine Commission on stocking triploid Grass Carp at a 50/50 cost share. A total of 10,200 triploid Grass Carp were stocked in 2018 at an estimated cost of \$120,000 based on \$10 per fish. Additional stockings are expected annually for next 10-15 years to address losses due to total annual mortality.

#### *Local Impact*

Most of these rule amendments have no local government impact. In the case of restricting harvest of triploid Grass Carp at John H. Kerr Reservoir and Lake Norman, the proposed change will protect the local cost-share in hydrilla control efforts.

#### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. While the proposed rule changes will alter when and what anglers may harvest and how anglers handle nongame fishes in the field, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

### **15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION**

A proposed amendment to this Rule will reference the species-specific size and creel limits identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes: Purchase and Sale and clarify that these species-specific limits also apply when taking nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption. A second proposed change removes rule text which prohibits the transport, possession, or release of river herring (Blueback Herring and Alewife) in the Little Tennessee River Basin and relocates it to 15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes. A third proposed change clarifies the species for which the restriction on altering the appearance of nongame fishes subject to a size and/or creel limit such that the fish cannot be identified, measured, or counted.

The proposed changes clarify the species-specific size and creel limits which apply to nongame fishes to ensure restrictions are applied consistently to facilitate enforcement efforts for conservation of nongame species.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the changes clarify existing rules and are part of routine fisheries management.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. The proposed changes clarify existing rules on what anglers may harvest and how anglers handle nongame fishes in the field, and they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0407 PERMITTED SPECIAL DEVICES AND OPEN SEASONS**

The proposed amendment to the Rule will extend the upper boundary for the use of bow nets as a permitted special device on the Neuse River upstream from Milburnie Dam to Falls Lake Dam. Bow nets have been traditionally used to take shad, and by current rule, the open season for bow nets in Wake County on the Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam is March 1 to April 30. In winter of 2017, Milburnie Dam was removed, and the use of bow nets is proposed to be extended upstream to Falls Lake Dam, the next barrier to anadromous fish migration.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment will have no impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

The proposed amendments will add approximately 6 miles of the Neuse on which the use of bow nets will be allowed. This change is anticipated to increase angling opportunities. However, while the proposed rule will alter where anglers may use bow nets, they are not expected to impact overall participation in fishing. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes.

1 **APPENDIX A: PROPOSED RULES**

2 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018)**

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

- 4 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared  
5 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 6 (2) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that  
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8 (3) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

9 (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications apply:

- 10 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC  
11 10D .0104.
- 12 (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where  
13 only artificial flies having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested  
14 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 15 (3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where  
16 only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested  
17 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 18 (4) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and  
19 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June it is unlawful  
20 to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout  
21 while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day only youth  
22 anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday  
23 in June until October 1 anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions.  
24 Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 25 (5) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure  
26 restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 27 (6) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific  
28 regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 29 (7) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or  
30 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person  
31 shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include  
32 tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 33 (8) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and  
34 natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook.  
35 Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- 36 (9) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure  
37 restrictions. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on  
38 the first Saturday in April.

39 (c) Seasons, creel and size limits. Seasons, creel and size limits for trout in all waters are listed in Rule .0316 of this  
40 Subchapter.

41 (d) Classifications. This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on  
42 game lands are so designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. All other waters  
43 are classified as Undesignated Waters.

- 44 (1) Alleghany
  - 45 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
46 Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128  
47 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])
  - 48 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
49 Big Pine Creek  
50 Bledsoe Creek  
51 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against  
52 trespassing)  
53 Cranberry Creek  
54 (Big) Glade Creek

- 1 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129  
2 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)  
3 Meadow Fork  
4 Pine Swamp Creek  
5 Piney Fork  
6 Prathers Creek  
7 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park  
9 (2) Ashe County  
10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
11 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)  
12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)  
14 Helton Creek (~~Virginia state line~~ SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)  
15 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)  
16 Trout Lake  
17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)  
19 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)  
20 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)  
21 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)  
22 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)  
23 Nathans Creek  
24 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)  
25 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)  
26 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)  
27 Roan Creek  
28 Three Top Creek  
29 (3) Avery County  
30 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
31 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)  
32 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)  
33 (B) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
34 Wilson Creek (game land portion)  
35 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 Boyde Coffey Lake  
37 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state  
38 line)  
39 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,  
40 except where posted against trespassing)  
41 Milltimber Creek  
42 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family  
43 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)  
44 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
45 trespassing)  
46 Squirrel Creek  
47 Wildcat Lake  
48 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
49 Birchfield Creek  
50 Cow Camp Creek  
51 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)  
52 Gragg Prong  
53 Horse Creek  
54 Kentucky Creek  
55 North Harper Creek  
56 Plumtree Creek

- 1 Roaring Creek  
2 Rockhouse Creek  
3 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)  
4 South Harper Creek  
5 Webb Prong
- 6 (4) Buncombe County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
8 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
10 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)  
11 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)  
12 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)  
13 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)  
14 Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)  
15 Lake Powhatan  
16 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against  
17 trespassing)  
18 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)  
19 Stony Creek  
20 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of  
21 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 22 (5) Burke County
- 23 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 25 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 27 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)  
29 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)  
30 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake  
31 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 32 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 34 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
35 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in parts  
36 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 37 (6) Caldwell County
- 38 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
39 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 40 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 Boone Fork Pond  
42 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)  
43 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)  
44 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted  
45 against trespassing)  
46 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 47 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
48 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)  
49 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)  
50 Rockhouse Creek
- 51 (7) Cherokee County
- 52 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
53 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)  
54 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)  
55 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)  
56 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)

- 1 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 2 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Apalachia Reservoir
- 4 ~~(B)~~(C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 5 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 6 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 7 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 8 (8) Clay County
- 9 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 10 Fires Creek (USFS Rd. 340A to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
- 11 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 13 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 14 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 15 (9) Graham County
- 16 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 18 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 19 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 20 Cheoah Reservoir
- 21 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 22 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 23 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 24 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
- 25 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 26 West Buffalo Creek
- 27 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 28 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Little Buffalo Creek
- 30 South Fork Squally Creek
- 31 Squally Creek
- 32 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 33 Deep Creek
- 34 Franks Creek
- 35 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 36 (10) Haywood County
- 37 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 39 Logan)
- 40 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 41 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 42 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 43 trespassing)
- 44 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 45 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 46 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 47 except Middle Prong)
- 48 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 49 Hemphill Creek
- 50 Hurricane Creek
- 51 (11) Henderson County
- 52 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 53 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 54 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 55 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
- 56 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)

- 1 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)  
2 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)  
3 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 4 (12) Jackson County
- 5 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
6 Flat Creek  
7 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- 8 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream  
10 of the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 11 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 Balsam Lake  
13 Bear Creek Lake  
14 Cedar Cliff Lake  
15 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)  
16 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)  
17 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)  
18 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)  
19 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against  
20 trespassing)  
21 Tanasee Creek Lake  
22 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)  
23 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge  
24 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)  
25 Wolf Creek Lake
- 26 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
27 Gage Creek  
28 North Fork Scott Creek  
29 Tanasee Creek  
30 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)  
31 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 32 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
33 Buff Creek  
34 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)  
35 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)  
36 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- 37 (13) Macon County
- 38 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
39 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- 40 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)  
42 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)  
43 Cliffside Lake  
44 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)  
45 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)  
46 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)  
47 Queens Creek Lake
- 48 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
49 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)  
50 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)  
51 Kimsey Creek  
52 Overflow Creek (game land portion)  
53 Park Creek  
54 Tellico Creek (game land portion)  
55 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- 56 (14) Madison County

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
2 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)  
3 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)  
4 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews  
5 Ave.)
- 6 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
7 Big Laurel Creek (~~Mars Hill watershed boundary~~ Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big  
8 Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)  
9 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)  
10 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence  
11 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)  
12 Max Patch Pond  
13 Meadow Fork Creek (~~S.R. 1165~~ Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)  
14 Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)  
15 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)  
16 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at  
17 Belva)  
18 Shut-in Creek  
19 Spillcorn Creek  
20 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)  
21 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-  
22 in Creek)
- 23 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:  
24 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 25 (15) McDowell County
- 26 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
27 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 28 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
29 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)  
30 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)  
31 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 32 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)  
34 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)  
35 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)  
36 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against  
37 trespassing)  
38 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 39 (16) Mitchell County
- 40 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
41 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)  
42 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 43 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
44 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)  
45 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)  
46 East Fork Grassy Creek  
47 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)  
48 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against  
49 trespassing)  
50 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- 51 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
52 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against  
53 trespassing)  
54 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where  
55 posted against trespassing)  
56 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)



- 1 (17) Polk County  
2 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
3 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)  
4 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
5 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)  
6 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)  
7 (18) Rutherford County  
8 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted  
10 against trespassing)  
11 (19) Stokes County  
12 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R.  
14 1421)  
15 (20) Surry County  
16 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
17 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)  
18 Mitchell River (.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below  
19 Kapps Mill Dam)  
20 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
21 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)  
22 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards  
23 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])  
24 Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)  
25 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)  
26 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)  
27 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)  
28 (21) Swain County  
29 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:  
30 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)  
31 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
32 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)  
33 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)  
34 Cheoah Reservoir  
35 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)  
36 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)  
37 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)  
38 (22) Transylvania County  
39 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
40 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass  
41 Creek and Grogan Creek)  
42 (B) Delayed Harvest ~~Waters~~ Trout Waters are as follows:  
43 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to ~~French Broad River~~the  
44 downstream S.R. 1107 bridge)  
45 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)  
46 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
47 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)  
48 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French  
49 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area  
50 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)  
51 West Fork French Broad River (Camp Cove Branch to confluence with North Fork French  
52 Broad River)  
53 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
54 All waters located on Gorges State Park  
55 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)  
56 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:

- 1 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)  
 2 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against  
 3 trespassing)
- 4 (23) Watauga County
- 5 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
 6 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding  
 7 tributaries)  
 8 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to  
 9 Coffee Lake)
- 10 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
 11 Lake Coffey  
 12 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge  
 13 and S.R. 1114 bridge to ~~N.C. 194 bridge at the~~ Valle Crucis Community Park lower  
 14 boundary)
- 15 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
 16 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an  
 17 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)  
 18 Beech Creek  
 19 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)  
 20 Buckeye Creek Reservoir  
 21 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)  
 22 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)  
 23 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against  
 24 trespassing)  
 25 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)  
 26 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)  
 27 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South  
 28 Fork New River)  
 29 Norris Fork Creek  
 30 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower  
 31 boundary of Brookshire Park)  
 32 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co.line)
- 33 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
 34 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)  
 35 Howard Creek  
 36 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)  
 37 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co.  
 38 line)  
 39 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)  
 40 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 41 (24) Wilkes County
- 42 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
 43 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park  
 44 lower boundary)  
 45 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain  
 46 Club)  
 47 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)  
 48 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the  
 49 Yadkin River)  
 50 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong  
 51 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 52 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
 53 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)  
 54 Bell Branch Pond  
 55 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

- 1 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence  
2 with North Fork Reddies River)  
3 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)  
4 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where  
5 posted against trespassing)  
6 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong) (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)  
7 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1736)  
8 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.  
9 1559)  
10 Pike Creek  
11 Pike Creek Pond  
12 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies  
13 River)  
14 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to S.R. 1155 bridge)  
15 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
16 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from  
17 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where  
18 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at  
19 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek  
20 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply  
21 (25) Yancey County  
22 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
23 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)  
24 Upper Creek  
25 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
26 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)  
27 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
28 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)  
29 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)  
30 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)  
31 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,  
32 except where posted against trespassing)  
33 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
34 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)  
35 Lickskillet Creek  
36 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)  
37

38 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*  
39 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
40 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
41 *October 1, 1992;*  
42 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
43 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
44 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
46 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
47 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
48 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
49 *2003);*  
50 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
51 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
52 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*  
53

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

2 (a) It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina any  
3 live individuals of:

- 4 (1) piranha,
- 5 (2) "walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*),
- 6 (3) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae),
- 7 (4) black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*),
- 8 (5) bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*),
- 9 (6) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*),
- 10 (7) rudd (*Scardinius erythrothalamus*),
- 11 (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*),
- 12 (9) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*),
- 13 (10) ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*),
- 14 (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*),
- 15 (12) Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*),
- 16 (13) red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*),
- 17 (14) virile crayfish (*Orconectes Gremicambarus virilis*),
- 18 (15) rusty crayfish (*Orconectes Procericambarus rusticus*),
- 19 (16) Australian red claw crayfish or "red claw" (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of "giant"  
20 crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*),
- 21 (17) white amur or "grass carp" (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*),
- 22 (18) swamp or "rice" eel (*Monopterus albus*),
- 23 (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*),
- 24 (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) or
- 25 (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae.

26 (b) A person may buy, possess or stock triploid grass carp only for the purpose of controlling aquatic vegetation under  
27 a permit issued by the Executive Director when the director determines that conditions of such possession or stocking  
28 provide minimal probability of escape and threat to sensitive aquatic habitat and that the carp is certified to be sterile  
29 by genetic testing at a federal, state, or university laboratory.

30 (c) In the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including  
31 all the tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings,  
32 it is unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring (alewife and blueback herring).

33  
34 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*  
35 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
36 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*  
37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
38 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*  
39 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*  
40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004.*  
41

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass — collectively known as Black Bass - is five  
3 fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and ~~(n)(m)~~ of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for  
4 these fish, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e),  
5 (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), ~~(m)~~, and ~~(n)~~ and (m) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in  
6 Paragraphs ~~(l)~~ and ~~(n)(m)~~ of this Rule.

7 (b) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, and Lake Holt in Granville County the daily creel limit for Largemouth  
8 Bass is 10 fish and no more than two fish greater than 14 inches may be possessed.

9 (c) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Black Bass less than 14 inches. The daily  
10 creel limit for Black Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish.

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Black Bass is 10 fish, the minimum size limit for  
12 Largemouth Bass is 12 inches, and there is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass.

13 (e) The minimum size limit for Black Bass is 14 inches in the following:

14 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

15 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

16 ~~(2)(3)~~ Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;

17 ~~(3)(4)~~ New Lake in Hyde County; and

18 ~~(4)(5)~~ Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River  
19 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank  
20 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,  
21 Scuppernong River, ~~and~~ Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy  
22 264/45 bridge), and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

23 (f) In Cane Creek Lake in Union County, and Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the minimum size  
24 limit for Largemouth Bass is 16 inches.

25 (g) In Lake Phelps in Tyrrell and Washington counties, the minimum size limit is 14 inches, and no fish between 16  
26 and 20 inches may be possessed.

27 (h) In Shearon Harris Reservoir and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Black Bass,  
28 but only two Black Bass less than 14 inches and no Black Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

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

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

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

35 ~~(l) In Sutton Lake, the minimum size limit for Black Bass is 14 inches and no Black Bass may be possessed from  
36 December 1 through March 31.~~

37 ~~(m)(l)~~ In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is  
38 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

39 ~~(n)(m)~~ In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no Black Bass  
40 may be possessed.

41 ~~(o)(n)~~ For purposes of this Rule, creel limits apply to Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass in aggregate unless  
42 otherwise specified.

43  
44 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*  
45 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

47 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*

49 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*

50 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule  
51 becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*

52 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*

53 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*

54 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*

55 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

56 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

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*Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*  
*Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
*Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE**

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), ~~and (e)~~, and (f)  
3 of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(d) and (e)~~,  
4 ~~(d)~~, and (f). There is no closed season.

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

6 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 30 fish.

7 (d) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:

8 ~~(1)~~ B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;

9 ~~(2)~~(1) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;

10 ~~(3)~~(2) Cashie River and its tributaries;

11 ~~(4)~~(3) Middle River and its tributaries;

12 ~~(5)~~(4) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and

13 ~~(6)~~(5) Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County.

14 (e) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:

15 (1) Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line;

16 (2) Badin Lake;

17 (3) Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties);

18 (4) Lake Tillery;

19 (5) Blewett Falls Lake;

20 (6) Lake Norman;

21 (7) Lake Hycó;

22 (8) Lake Ramseur;

23 (9) Cane Creek Lake;

24 (10) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);

25 (11) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;

26 ~~(11)~~(12) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;

27 ~~(12)~~(13) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;

28 ~~(13)~~(14) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;

29 ~~(14)~~(15) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;

30 ~~(15)~~(16) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;

31 ~~(16)~~(17) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;

32 ~~(17)~~(18) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;

33 ~~(18)~~(19) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County,  
34 Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and

35 ~~(19)~~(20) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

36 ~~For waters in Subparagraphs (11) through (19), the restrictions apply to all tributaries.~~

37 (f) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

38 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

39 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015.*

41

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0313 SHAD (AMERICAN AND HICKORY)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad in the aggregate is 10 fish, only one of which may be an  
3 American Shad, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size  
4 limit for these fish. There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

5 (b) In the inland waters of ~~Roanoke River, Neuse River, the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, Pee Dee River,~~ and their  
6 tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in the aggregate, ~~only one of which may be an~~  
7 ~~American Shad~~.

8 (c) In the inland waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad  
9 is 10 in the aggregate, only five of which may be American Shad.

10 (d) In Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, Lake Gaston and John H. Kerr Reservoir, no American Shad may be possessed.

11 (e) The season for taking American and Hickory Shad with bow nets is March 1 through April 30.

12  
13 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;  
14 Eff. November 1, 2013.  
15



1 **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in  
3 Paragraphs (b), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in  
4 waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule. There is no closed season, except  
5 for waters identified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) of this Rule.

6 (b) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA  
7 and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is two in the aggregate and the  
8 minimum size limit is ~~24~~20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily  
9 creel limit on Striped Bass and its hybrids is four in the aggregate with no minimum size limit.

10 (c) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 20  
11 inches from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September  
12 30.

13 (d) In Lake Norman, Arrowhead Lake (Anson Co.), High Rock Pond (Caswell Co.), Moss Lake, Mountain Island  
14 Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped  
15 Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

16 (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 15 in the aggregate. There is no minimum size limit, but  
17 only two may be greater than 22 inches.

18 (f) In Lake Mattamuskeet, and in the Pee Dee River and its tributaries downstream from the Blewett Falls Dam to the  
19 South Carolina state line, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is three fish in the aggregate, and the  
20 minimum size limit is 18 inches.

21 (g) In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to  
22 the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of  
23 Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (f), (h), (i), and (j) of this Rule, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its  
24 hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and  
25 possessing Striped Bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

26 (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam, the season  
27 for taking and possessing Striped Bass is closed year-round.

28 (i) In the inland and joint fishing waters [as identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0107(1)(e)] of the Roanoke River Striped  
29 Bass Management Area, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the  
30 open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal  
31 fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the  
32 daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches.  
33 No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than  
34 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

35 (j) In designated inland fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck  
36 Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and  
37 their tributaries), Striped Bass fishing season, size limits and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or  
38 proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.

39 (k) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend, or extend the hook-and-  
40 line season for Striped Bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate  
41 the provisions of any proclamation issued under this authority.

42  
43 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;  
44 Eff. November 1, 2013;  
45 Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014.  
46

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018)**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit  
3 for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated  
4 in Paragraphs (d) and (g) of this Rule.

5 (b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters and Wild Trout/Natural Bait Trout Waters is four fish. The  
6 minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

7 (c) No trout may be harvested from Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters or Catch and  
8 Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters.

9 (d) The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for  
10 these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until 12  
11 p.m. that same day. During this season only individuals under the age of 18 may fish. From 12 p.m. on the first  
12 Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open for all anglers. From October  
13 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout may not be harvested or possessed  
14 while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to all fishing from one-half hour after sunset on  
15 the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.

16 (e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows: ~~in the~~  
17 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size  
18 limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

19 (2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily  
20 creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

21 (f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these  
22 fish.

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

25 (h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing  
26 season.

27 (i) All trout water designations and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

28  
29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
30 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*  
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015.*  
32

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES: ~~PURCHASE AND SALE~~**  
2 **(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018)**

3 (a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, it is unlawful to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing  
4 waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and ~~line or grabblingline, grabbling, or special device~~  
5 ~~with a special device fishing license.~~

6 (b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and ~~line or grabblingline, grabbling, or special device~~ with a special device  
7 fishing license at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, with the following exceptions:limits  
8 except as designated in this Rule.

9 (1) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess  
10 more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

11 (2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife  
12 and blueback) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

13 (A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;

14 (B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;

15 (C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;

16 (D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;

17 (E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;

18 (F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;

19 (G) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and

20 (H) all other inland fishing waters east of I 95.

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

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

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

27 (6) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same  
28 as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent  
29 joint or coastal fishing waters.

30 (b) The season for taking nongame fishes by other hook and line methods in designated public mountain trout waters  
31 is the same as the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

32 (c) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by licensed special devices may be sold, with the following  
33 exceptions:

34 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir  
35 (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);

36 (2) blue crab; and

37 (3) bowfin.

38 (c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties  
39 and waters with open season designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0407.

40 (d) Archery equipment may only be used for the take of catfish on Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam  
41 to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

42 (e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

43 (f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as  
44 the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

45 (g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea), may be taken only from impounded  
46 waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County, and in University Lake in Orange  
47 County. The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession  
48 limit for the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea).

49 (h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more  
50 than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.

51 (i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and  
52 blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

53 (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;

54 (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;

55 (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;

56 (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;

1 (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;

2 (6) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;

3 (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and

4 (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

5 ~~(e)~~(j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property,  
6 or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take  
7 channel, white, or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit is six catfish in aggregate.  
8 Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on-site with signs indicating the creel limit.

9 ~~(f)~~(k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following reservoirs:

10 (1) Lake Norman;

11 (2) Mountain Island Lake;

12 (3) Lake Wylie;

13 (4) Badin Lake;

14 (5) Lake Tillery;

15 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);

16 (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and

17 (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

18 (l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the  
19 South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

20 ~~(g)~~(m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or  
21 fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.

22 (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and  
23 Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.

24 (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr  
25 Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

26 (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as  
27 those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent  
28 joint or coastal fishing waters.

29 ~~(h)~~(q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish  
30 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impracticable to  
31 measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified  
32 in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its  
33 identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

34 (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by licensed special devices device with a special device  
35 fishing license may be sold, with the following exceptions:

36 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr  
37 Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);

38 (2) blue crab; and

39 (3) bowfin.

40  
41 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;*

42 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

43 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;*

44 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;*

45 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*

46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

47 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

49 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*

50 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

51 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
52 *2003);*

53 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013;*

54 *August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1,*

55 *2006; June 1, 2005*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION**  
2 **(EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2018)**

3 (a) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in the inland waters of North Carolina using  
4 equipment other than:

- 5 (1) a net of dip net design not greater than six feet across;
- 6 (2) a seine of not greater than 12 feet in length (except in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County where  
7 there is no length limitation) and with a bar mesh measure of not more than one-fourth inch;
- 8 (3) a cast net;
- 9 (4) a bow net for the seasons and waters in which the use of bow nets is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C  
10 .0407;
- 11 (5) a dip net when used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher;
- 12 (6) a gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);
- 13 (7) up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC  
14 10C .0407;
- 15 (8) up to two eel pots;
- 16 (9) a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC  
17 10C .0407;
- 18 (10) minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not  
19 exceeding one inch in diameter, from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and that are  
20 labeled with the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and address;
- 21 (11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
- 22 (12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end  
23 with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of  
24 the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using  
25 the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or
- 26 (13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design  
27 is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom,  
28 with a limit of one trap per person.

29 (b) The use of equipment under this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.

30 (c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.

31 (d) Game fishes taken ~~while netting for bait~~ shall be returned unharmed to the water, except white perch may be taken  
32 when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded  
33 waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).

34 (e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish in aggregate for bait or personal  
35 consumption subject to the ~~following restrictions: size and creel limits identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401.~~

36 ~~(1) No more than 25 eels, none of which may be less than 9 inches in length, shall be taken from or possessed,~~  
37 ~~regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters;~~

38 ~~(2) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no river herring (alewife and blueback)~~  
39 ~~that are greater than six inches in total length shall be taken, and no such river herring shall be possessed regardless~~  
40 ~~of origin:~~

41 ~~(A) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;~~

42 ~~(B) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;~~

43 ~~(C) Neuse River downstream of Milburnie Dam;~~

44 ~~(D) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;~~

45 ~~(E) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;~~

46 ~~(F) Lumber River including Drowning Creek;~~

47 ~~(G) the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and~~

48 ~~(H) all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.~~

49 ~~(3) No more than 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five~~  
50 ~~inches (point to point) shall be taken.~~

51 (f) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.

52 (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait ~~or any other fish bait~~ from the following waters:

- 53 (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-  
54 owned water supply reservoirs);
- 55 (2) Bear Creek in Chatham County;

- 1 (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph
- 2 County;
- 3 (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and
- 4 (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.

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

8 (i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish  
9 having a size limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original  
10 length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit identified  
11 in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in  
12 possession.

13  
14 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292;  
15 Eff. February 1, 1976;  
16 Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1992; May 1, 1992; July 1, 1989;  
17 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;  
18 Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;  
19 Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;  
20 Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,  
21 2003);  
22 Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;  
23 August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006.  
24

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0407 PERMITTED SPECIAL DEVICES AND OPEN SEASONS**

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

- 6 (1) Alamance:  
7 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below NC 49 bridge and Haw River;  
8 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;  
9 (2) Alexander: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake  
10 Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir;  
11 (3) Alleghany: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in New River, except designated public mountain trout  
12 waters;  
13 (4) Anson:  
14 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;  
15 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam;  
16 (c) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from  
17 Blewett Falls downstream to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad trestle;  
18 (5) Ashe: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except designated public mountain  
19 trout waters;  
20 (6) Beaufort:  
21 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Pungo River, and in the Tar and Pamlico Rivers above  
22 Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters;  
23 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters;  
24 (7) Bertie:  
25 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke);  
26 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
27 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
28 (8) Bladen:  
29 (a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Black River;  
30 (b) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Cape Fear River between  
31 Lock and Dam 1 and 3 and in Black River, except that hand-crank electrofishing is  
32 prohibited within 400 yards of Lock and Dam 1, 2, and 3 on Cape Fear River;  
33 (9) Brunswick: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek,  
34 Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek;  
35 (10) Buncombe: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
36 waters;  
37 (11) Burke:  
38 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and  
39 designated public mountain trout waters;  
40 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated  
41 public mountain trout waters and Lake James;  
42 (12) Cabarrus:  
43 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,  
44 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;  
45 (13) Caldwell: July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated  
46 public mountain trout waters;  
47 (14) Camden:  
48 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland public waters;  
49 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
50 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
51 (15) Carteret: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters except South River and the  
52 tributaries of the White Oak River;  
53 (16) Caswell:  
54 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;  
55 (b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek;  
56 (c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Hyco Reservoir;

- 1 (17) Catawba:  
2 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below  
3 Lookout Dam;  
4 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, spear guns, and gigs in all public waters;  
5 (18) Chatham:  
6 (a) December 1 to April 15 with dip and gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Deep River, Haw  
7 River and Rocky River (local law);  
8 (b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River, and Haw River;  
9 (c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters;  
10 (19) Cherokee: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
11 waters;  
12 (20) Chowan:  
13 (a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
14 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
15 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds, and  
16 other impounded waters;  
17 (21) Clay: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
18 waters;  
19 (22) Cleveland:  
20 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;  
21 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters;  
22 (23) Columbus:  
23 (a) December 1 to March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and  
24 its tributaries;  
25 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek;  
26 (c) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Waccamaw and Lumber  
27 rivers;  
28 (24) Craven:  
29 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse Rivers;  
30 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle,  
31 Slocum (downstream of the US 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock Creeks and their  
32 tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River;  
33 (25) Currituck:  
34 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Tulls Creek and Northwest River;  
35 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
36 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
37 (26) Dare:  
38 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Mashoes Creek, Milltail Creek, East Lake and South Lake;  
39 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
40 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
41 (27) Davidson:  
42 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;  
43 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in all public waters except  
44 Leonard's Creek, Abbott's Creek below Lake Thom-A-Lex dam, and the Abbott's Creek  
45 arm of High Rock Lake upstream from the NC 8 bridge;  
46 (28) Davie:  
47 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;  
48 (b) July 1 to August 31 for taking only carp and suckers with seines in Dutchmans Creek from  
49 US 601 to Yadkin River and in Hunting Creek from SR 1338 to South Yadkin River;  
50 (29) Duplin:  
51 (a) December 1 to June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River  
52 downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge;  
53 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River  
54 downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge;  
55 (30) Durham:  
56 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Neuse River;



- 1 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;  
2 (31) Edgecombe: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all public waters;  
3 (32) Forsyth: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except traps may not be used in  
4 Belews Creek Reservoir;  
5 (33) Franklin:  
6 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Tar River;  
7 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Parrish, Laurel Mill, Jackson,  
8 Clifton, Moore's and Perry's Ponds, and in the Franklinton City ponds;  
9 (34) Gaston:  
10 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;  
11 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters;  
12 (35) Gates: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds,  
13 and other impounded waters;  
14 (36) Graham: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
15 waters;  
16 (37) Granville:  
17 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Kerr Reservoir;  
18 (b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Tar River below US 158 bridge;  
19 (c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;  
20 (38) Greene: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets and reels in Contentnea Creek;  
21 (39) Guilford:  
22 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Haw River, Deep River below Jamestown Dam, and  
23 Reedy Fork Creek below US 29 bridge;  
24 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;  
25 (40) Halifax: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Beech Swamp, Clarks Canal, Conoconnara Swamp,  
26 Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey  
27 Creek, and White's Mill Pond Run;  
28 (41) Harnett:  
29 (a) January 1 to May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries;  
30 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River;  
31 (42) Haywood: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and designated  
32 public mountain trout waters;  
33 (43) Henderson: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
34 waters;  
35 (44) Hertford:  
36 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek;  
37 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
38 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
39 (45) Hyde:  
40 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;  
41 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
42 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
43 (46) Iredell: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout  
44 Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman;  
45 (47) Jackson: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
46 waters;  
47 (48) Johnston: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek,  
48 Neuse River and Swift Creek;  
49 (49) Jones:  
50 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in the Trent River below US 17 bridge and White Oak River  
51 below US 17 bridge;  
52 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to the  
53 White Oak River;  
54 (50) Lee:  
55 (a) December 1 to April 15 with dip and gill nets (local law) in Cape Fear River and Deep  
56 River;

- 1 (b) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Cape Fear River;  
2 (c) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Deep River, and with gigs in all public waters;  
3 (51) Lenoir:  
4 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Neuse River below US 70 bridge at Kinston;  
5 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from  
6 NC 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River;  
7 (52) Lincoln:  
8 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;  
9 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters;  
10 (53) McDowell:  
11 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except designated public  
12 mountain trout waters;  
13 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated  
14 public mountain trout waters and Lake James;  
15 (54) Macon: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
16 waters;  
17 (55) Madison: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
18 waters;  
19 (56) Martin: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
20 ponds, and other impounded waters;  
21 (57) Mecklenburg:  
22 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters;  
23 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters except Freedom Park  
24 Pond and Hornet's Nest Ponds;  
25 (58) Montgomery:  
26 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except that part of the Pee Dee  
27 River between the Lake Tillery dam at Hydro and the mouth of Rocky River;  
28 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;  
29 (59) Moore:  
30 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters except in Deep River;  
31 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game  
32 Land; and with traps in Deep River and its tributaries;  
33 (60) Nash:  
34 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Tar River;  
35 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Tar River below Harris' Landing and Fishing  
36 Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam;  
37 (61) New Hanover: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Sutton (Catfish)  
38 Lake;  
39 (62) Northampton:  
40 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Gaston and Roanoke Rapids  
41 Reservoirs and the Roanoke River above the US 301 bridge;  
42 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Occoneechee Creek, Old River Landing Gut and  
43 Vaughans Creek below Watsons Mill;  
44 (63) Onslow:  
45 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in White Oak River below US 17 bridge;  
46 (b) August 1 to March 31 with eel pots in the main run of New River between US 17 bridge  
47 and the mouth of Hawkins Creek;  
48 (c) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the main run of New River and in the main run of the  
49 White Oak River;  
50 (d) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Grant's Creek;  
51 (64) Orange:  
52 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Haw River,  
53 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;  
54 (65) Pamlico: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Dawson Creek;  
55 (66) Pasquotank:  
56 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;

- 1 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
2 ponds, and other impounded waters;
- 3 (67) Pender:
- 4 (a) December 1 to June 5 with seines in the main run of Northeast Cape Fear River;
- 5 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Northeast Cape Fear River, Long Creek, Moore's  
6 Creek approximately one mile upstream to New Moon Fishing Camp, and Black River;
- 7 (c) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Black River;
- 8 (68) Perquimans:
- 9 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in all inland waters;
- 10 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes,  
11 ponds, and other impounded waters;
- 12 (69) Person:
- 13 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Hyco Creek and Mayo Creek;
- 14 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- 15 (70) Pitt:
- 16 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Neuse River and in Tar River below the mouth of Hardee  
17 Creek east of Greenville;
- 18 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Grindle Creek, and  
19 Contentnea Creek between NC 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River;
- 20 (c) December 1 to June 5 with seines in Tar River;
- 21 (71) Polk: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
22 waters;
- 23 (72) Randolph:
- 24 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Deep River above the Coleridge Dam and Uwharrie  
25 River;
- 26 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters;
- 27 (73) Richmond:
- 28 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from  
29 Blewett Falls downstream to the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad trestle;
- 30 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the  
31 Sandhills Game Land;
- 32 (c) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam;
- 33 (74) Robeson: December 1 to March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters.
- 34 (75) Rockingham:
- 35 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Dan River and Haw River;
- 36 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Dan River; and with gigs in all public waters;
- 37 (76) Rowan:
- 38 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,
- 39 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
- 40 (77) Rutherford:
- 41 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except designated public  
42 mountain trout waters;
- 43 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps, gigs, and spear guns in all public waters, except designated  
44 public mountain trout waters;
- 45 (78) Sampson:
- 46 (a) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Big Coharie Creek, Black River and Six Runs Creek;
- 47 (b) July 1 to March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers (local law) in Black River downstream of  
48 NC 1105 bridge;
- 49 (79) Stanly:
- 50 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except that part of the Pee Dee  
51 River between the Lake Tillery dam at Hydro and the mouth of Rocky River;
- 52 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
- 53 (80) Stokes: July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain  
54 trout waters, and traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir;
- 55 (81) Surry: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
56 waters; and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River;

- 1 (82) Swain: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout  
2 waters;
- 3 (83) Transylvania: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated public mountain  
4 trout waters;
- 5 (84) Tyrrell:
- 6 (a) July 1 to June 30 with traps in Scuppernong River and Alligator Creek;
- 7 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the  
8 drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and  
9 other impounded waters;
- 10 (85) Union:
- 11 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in all running public waters,
- 12 (b) July 1 to June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters;
- 13 (86) Vance:
- 14 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in the Tar River;
- 15 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Rolands, Faulkners, Southerlands,  
16 and Weldon Ponds, City Lake, and Kerr Reservoir;
- 17 (c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;
- 18 (87) Wake:
- 19 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Sunset, Benson, Wheeler, Raleigh,  
20 and Johnson Lakes;
- 21 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in the Neuse River below ~~Milburnie Falls Lake Dam~~,  
22 and Swift Creek below Lake Benson Dam;
- 23 (88) Warren:
- 24 (a) July 1 to August 31 with seines in Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek, and Walker Creek;  
25 excluding Duck and Hammes Mill Ponds;
- 26 (b) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Duck and Hammes Mill Ponds, Kerr  
27 Reservoir, and Gaston Reservoir;
- 28 (c) July 1 to June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir;
- 29 (89) Washington: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps,  
30 the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other  
31 impoundments.
- 32 (90) Wayne: March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Little River, Mill Creek and Neuse River.
- 33 (91) Wilkes: July 1 to June 30 with traps in Yadkin River below W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; and with gigs  
34 and spear guns in all public waters, except designated public mountain trout waters;
- 35 (92) Wilson:
- 36 (a) July 1 to June 30 with gigs in Contentnea Creek (except Buckhorn Reservoir), including  
37 unnamed tributaries between Flowers Mill and SR 1163 (Deans) bridge;
- 38 (b) March 1 to April 30 with bow nets in Contentnea Creek below US 301 bridge and in  
39 Toisnot Swamp downstream from the Lake Toisnot Dam;
- 40 (93) Yadkin: July 1 to June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin  
41 River.

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43 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-276; 113-292;*

44 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 29, 1988;*

46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1993;*

47 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; December 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; July 1,*

48 *1994; June 1, 1994;*

49 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*

50 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*

51 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

52 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; May 1, 2007; June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004.*

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