



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 .0209 Transportation of Live Fish
15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0301 Inland Game Fishes Designated
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0306 Crappie
15A NCAC 10C .0308 Kokanee Salmon
15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0316 Trout
15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass
15A NCAC 10C .0324 Catfish
15A NCAC 10C .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes

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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 \$53.¹ 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.² 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

1 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.

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

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 ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will define “artificial fly” and “single hook” when used in PMTW. The proposed definitions are necessary to provide clarity for trout anglers. The long-standing requirement to use artificial lures, artificial flies, and single hooks in certain PMTW reduces catch and release mortality of trout.

In addition, the proposed amendment will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported or Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. To reflect changes in landmarks and partnerships with private landowners, approximately 0.3 miles of Hatchery Supported and Delayed Harvest Trout Waters will be added to PMTW and 0.6 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed. These changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with private landowners and overall trout management.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

This rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management. Conservation biologists and 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 \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

This rule amendment will result in a net loss of approximately 0.3 miles of PMTW from public access. This loss of PMTW represents a minimal loss of angling opportunity to the public. 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 .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add Blue Catfish to the list of species for which no permit shall be issued to stock into inland fishing waters. Blue Catfish is identified as an invasive species in the Commission’s Catfish Management Plan, and the proposed change will help prevent additional introductions into inland fishing waters.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

To date there have not been any requests to stock Blue Catfish, and given their invasive species status, any future request would likely be denied. This rule amendment will eliminate the future need for the extensive review and response to stocking permit applications for Blue Catfish.

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No substantial fiscal impacts are anticipated. For nearly 15 years, a permit has been required to stock any fish into inland fishing waters, and no request for Blue Catfish has been received to date. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed change.

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add Redtail Catfish to the list of species for which it is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina. Redtail Catfish are freshwater fish native to South America that reach large sizes and are popular as sport fish in their native range. Impacts of Redtail Catfish if introduced outside their native range may include predation upon, competition with, and hybridization with native species. Preventing the introduction of this exotic species is the first line of defense against the establishment of a nonnative population.

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. The number of Redtail Catfish held in captivity in North Carolina is unknown but believed to very limited. There are currently no known established wild populations in North Carolina. However, in 2018 a specimen was collected from Albemarle Sound and another from the Roanoke River. Preventing the introduction and establishment of exotic species will protect native and naturalized fish populations and their

habitats and will sustain associated fisheries.

15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify the Inland Game Fishes Designation for the family of black bass to include Alabama Bass. Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters. Alabama Bass are indistinguishable from Spotted Bass which are already listed as an Inland Game Fish.

The proposed amendment also designates Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead as Inland Game Fish when found in Inland Fishing Waters. The proposed change is recommended in the Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan and will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by allowing possession or harvest by hook and line only and prohibiting their sale.

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. Anglers already identify Alabama Bass as a black bass species and consider it a game fish. A survey of catfish anglers was completed in 2012.³ Most anglers indicated that they targeted Blue, Flathead, and Channel Catfish, and most fished hook and line. The survey also asked about selling catfish: three respondents, representing 0.2% of respondents, indicated that they sold any of the catfish that they caught in 2011. Recent data on the sale of catfish are not available; however, interactions between fishermen and Commission staff suggest that the sale of catfish is still limited.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 BLACK BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed at Randleman Reservoir establishing the general statewide regulation. The daily creel limit is five fish, and there is no minimum size limit for

³ North Carolina Catfish Anglers' Participation in Catfishing and Their Opinions on Management of Catfish, 2012.

these fish, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches. Anglers have requested the elimination of the restriction of only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches to increase tournament opportunities at Randleman Reservoir. Minimal biological effect is anticipated as less than 2% of all Largemouth Bass captured were harvested during a recent creel survey. In addition, the proposed change will help the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority (PTRWA) better manage and enforce Largemouth Bass regulations.

The proposed amendment will also make the rule specific to Largemouth Bass (15A NCAC 10C .0305 Largemouth Bass) and relocate rule text for other black bass species to new separate rules (15A NCAC 10C .0321 Smallmouth Bass, 15A NCAC 10C .0322 Alabama and Spotted Bass, and 15A NCAC 10C .0323 Redeye Bass). Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

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. The proposed change for Largemouth Bass in Randleman Reservoir will allow more opportunity for tournament anglers. Relocating rule text into new separate rules is an administrative change.

15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the 8-inch minimum size limit and 20-fish daily creel limit for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line. Data collected over the last 15 years from these waters show that crappie growth is often impaired when large year-classes are produced, due to high levels of competition for limited baitfish resources of the proper size. An increase in the harvest of 6–8-inch crappie is expected to reduce competition and increase growth and average size.

The proposed amendment also clarifies the 20-fish daily creel and 8-inch minimum length limit for crappie applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County. This change will prevent angler confusion with Cane Creek Reservoir in Orange County

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. The proposed change for crappie in Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery, Blewett Falls Lake, and the Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line will provide additional harvest opportunity to anglers. Clarifying rule text applies to Cane Creek Lake in Union County is an administrative change.

15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON

The proposed amendment to the Rule will decrease the general statewide daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon from seven fish to four fish. Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists have indicated significant declines in the Lake Nantahala fishery, the only Kokanee Salmon fishery in the southeastern United States. While the cause of the recent decline is unknown, this low-density fishery may have been overexploited due to increased angler attention and efficiency.

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. Angler observation and evaluations by Commission biologists suggest very few Kokanee Salmon have been caught and harvested during the last two years.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Bodie Bass on Arrowhead Lake (Anson County) and High Rock Pond (Caswell County). Survival of Bodie Bass in Arrowhead Lake and High Rock Pond is poor, so Bodie Bass will no longer be stocked. The minimum size limit is no longer needed.

The proposed amendment also will establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir by implementing a 16-inch minimum size limit. The daily creel limit will be four fish. In 2019, the WRC initiated annual stockings of Bodie Bass in Hyco Reservoir to establish a new fishery. The proposed change will provide protection to newly stocked Bodie Bass and allow harvest as the fish grow.

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. A Bodie Bass fishery never developed at either Arrowhead Lake or High Rock Pond. User group and fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive at Lake Hyco as a new fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

The proposed amendment to the Rule will specify the impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs that are open to the public for fishing when Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing. The reservoirs are Bear Creek Lake, Buckeye Creek Reservoir, Calderwood Reservoir, Cedar Cliff Lake, Cheoah Reservoir, Cliffside Lake, Tanassee Creek Lake, Queens Creek Lake, and Wolf Lake. These reservoirs are currently open for fishing when other Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are closed to fishing; however, because they are not listed in rule, anglers must determine if impounded waters classified as Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs before fishing during the closed season. The proposed change will clarify and simplify regulations for anglers.

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 fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Smallmouth Bass and relocate rule text specific to Smallmouth Bass from (15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass). Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA AND SPOTTED BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Alabama and Spotted Bass and relocate rule text specific to Spotted Bass from 15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

In addition, the proposed amendment will establish a general statewide regulation of no minimum size limit and no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass and Spotted Bass. Over the past 20 years, Alabama Bass have been introduced by anglers into North Carolina waters and are highly invasive where they have been introduced. Alabama Bass are indistinguishable from Spotted

Bass, and recent genetics results show substantial genetic introgression between Alabama Bass and both Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass populations. Alabama Bass have also been found to displace populations of Largemouth Bass in many systems. Anglers have requested more opportunity to harvest Alabama Bass from these waters to possibly slow the effects of their invasion and to utilize these fish.

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. A majority of anglers practice catch and release for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, and Alabama Bass. However, for those wanting to harvest, the proposed change provides additional opportunity.

15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS

The proposed amendment will create a rule for Redeye Bass and clarify that the general statewide regulation for Redeye Bass remains no minimum size limit, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches and a five-fish daily creel limit. Separating the current black bass rule into individual species rules will clarify rules for anglers and provide additional management flexibility.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated as this rule amendment will not change current on-the-ground

management.

15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH

The proposed amendment will establish a general statewide regulation for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead by implementing a 10-fish daily creel limit in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season. The proposed change is recommended in the Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan and will provide additional protection for these native catfishes by limiting the number that can be harvested.

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 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. A survey of catfish anglers was completed in 2012⁴, and most anglers indicated that they targeted Blue, Flathead, and Channel Catfish.

15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will increase the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish in waters stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, from six to seven fish. The daily creel will no longer apply to White or Blue Catfish. Channel Catfish are routinely stocked at Community Fishing Program sites, and at some sites Mountain trout are stocked during the winter to provide additional angling opportunity. These waters are undesignated trout waters and the daily creel limit is seven trout. The proposed change will make the daily creel limits for catfish and trout the same in these waters eliminating angler confusion. The proposed change also clarifies that the creel limit only applies to Channel Catfish. Channel Catfish populations in these waters are managed through routine stocking and are not expected to be affected by the additional harvest.

The proposed amendment will also prohibit the harvest and possession of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom in inland fishing waters. The Commission's recently adopted Catfish Management Plan identifies the need for the conservation and protection of these native

⁴ North Carolina Catfish Anglers' Participation in Catfishing and Their Opinions on Management of Catfish, 2012.

catfishes.

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. Increasing the daily creel limit for Channel Catfish will allow anglers to harvest additional catfish. Harvest of Margined Madtom and Tadpole Madtom is very limited.

1 **APPENDIX A: PROPOSED RULES**

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

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

5 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared
6 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.

7 ~~(2)~~ "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.

8 ~~(2)(3)~~ "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
9 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.

10 ~~(4)~~ "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any
11 similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.

12 ~~(5)~~ (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

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

14 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are all waters included in this Rule and so designated in 15A NCAC
15 10D .0104.

16 (2) "Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
17 only artificial flies having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
18 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

19 (3) "Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where
20 only artificial lures having one single hook may be used. No trout may be possessed or harvested
21 while fishing these streams. Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

22 (4) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and
23 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful
24 to possess natural bait, use more than one single hook on an artificial lure, or harvest or possess trout
25 while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until noon that same day, only youth
26 anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday
27 in June until October 1, anglers of all ages may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
28 Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

29 (5) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure
30 restrictions. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

31 (6) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific
32 regulations apply. Waters designated as such do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

33 (7) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters which are identified as such in this Rule or
34 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person
35 shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters designated as such do not include
36 tributaries unless otherwise noted.

37 (8) "Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where all artificial lures and
38 natural baits, except live fish, may be used provided they are fished using only one single hook.
39 Waters designated as such include tributaries unless otherwise noted.

40 (9) "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure
41 restrictions. Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on
42 the first Saturday in April.

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

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

48 (1) Alleghany

49 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

50 Little River (S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R. 1128
51 and S.R. 1129 [marked by a sign on each bank])

52 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

53 Big Pine Creek

54 Bledsoe Creek

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

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

- 1 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
2 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
3 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
4 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
5 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
6 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Apalachia Reservoir
8 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
9 Bald Creek (game land portion)
10 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
11 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
12 (8) Clay County
13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
14 Fires Creek (USFS Rd. 340A Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek
15 Picnic Area)
16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
18 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
19 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
20 (9) Graham County
21 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
22 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
23 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
24 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
25 Cheoah Reservoir
26 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
27 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
28 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
29 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)
30 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
31 West Buffalo Creek
32 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
33 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Little Buffalo Creek
35 South Fork Squally Creek
36 Squally Creek
37 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
38 Deep Creek
39 Franks Creek
40 Long Creek (game land portion)
41 (10) Haywood County
42 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
43 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
44 Logan)
45 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
46 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
47 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
48 trespassing)
49 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
50 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
51 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
52 except Middle Prong)
53 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
54 Hemphill Creek
55 Hurricane Creek
56 (11) Henderson County

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 3 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
4 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
5 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
6 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
7 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
8 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 9 (12) Jackson County
- 10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Flat Creek
12 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)
- 13 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
14 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
15 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Balsam Lake
18 Bear Creek Lake
19 Cedar Cliff Lake
20 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
21 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
22 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
23 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
24 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
25 trespassing)
26 Tanasee Creek Lake
27 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
28 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
29 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
30 Wolf Creek Lake
- 31 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Gage Creek
33 North Fork Scott Creek
34 Tanasee Creek
35 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
36 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 37 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
38 Buff Creek
39 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
40 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
41 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- 42 (13) Macon County
- 43 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
44 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- 45 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
46 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
47 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
48 Cliffside Lake
49 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
50 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
51 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)
52 Queens Creek Lake
- 53 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
54 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
55 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
56 Kimsey Creek

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

- 1 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
2 posted against trespassing)
3 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 4 (17) Polk County
5 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
9 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 10 (18) Rutherford County
11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
12 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
13 against trespassing)
- 14 (19) Stokes County
15 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
16 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 17 (20) Surry County
18 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
20 Mitchell River (~~6 mile~~ 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge
21 on S.R. 1330 ~~bridge below Kapps Mill Dam~~)
22 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
23 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
24 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
25 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
26 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
27 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
28 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
29 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 30 (21) Swain County
31 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
35 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
36 Cheoah Reservoir
37 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
38 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
39 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 40 (22) Transylvania County
41 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
42 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
43 and Grogan Creek)
44 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
45 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
46 bridge)
47 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
48 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
49 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
50 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork) French
51 Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
52 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
53 West Fork French Broad River (~~Camp Cove Branch~~ S.R. 1312 to confluence with North
54 Fork French Broad River)
55 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
56 All waters located on Gorges State Park

- 1 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- 2 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 3 North Fork French Broad River (game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326)
- 4 Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against
- 5 trespassing)
- 6 (23) Watauga County
- 7 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Laurel Creek (confluence of North and South Fork Laurel creeks to Elk Creek, excluding
- 9 tributaries)
- 10 Pond Creek (headwaters to Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee
- 11 Lake)
- 12 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 13 Lake Coffey
- 14 Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and
- 15 S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)
- 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
- 18 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
- 19 Beech Creek
- 20 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
- 21 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 22 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
- 23 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- 24 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
- 25 trespassing)
- 26 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
- 27 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
- 28 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork
- 29 New River)
- 30 Norris Fork Creek
- 31 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
- 32 boundary of Brookshire Park)
- 33 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- 34 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- 36 Howard Creek
- 37 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- 38 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. 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 Yadkin
- 49 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 U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 bridge
- 15 intersection)
- 16 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 18 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
- 19 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
- 20 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 21 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 22 (25) Yancey County
- 23 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
- 25 Upper Creek
- 26 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- 28 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- 30 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
- 31 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
- 32 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
- 33 except where posted against trespassing)
- 34 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
- 36 Lickskillet Creek
- 37 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 38

39 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
 40 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
 41 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
 42 *October 1, 1992;*
 43 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
 44 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
 45 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
 46 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
 47 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
 48 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
 49 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
 50 *2003);*
 51 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
 52 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
 53 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
 54 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0209 TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE FISH**

2 (a) Fish Transport: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to transport live freshwater nongame
3 fishes, or live game fishes in excess of the possession limit, or fish eggs without having in possession a permit obtained
4 from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

5 (b) Fish Stocking: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to stock any life stage of any species of
6 fish in the inland fishing waters of this State without having first procured a stocking permit from the North Carolina
7 Wildlife Resources Commission.

8 (c) Permits for stocking fish shall be issued as follows:

9 (1) Application for a stocking permit shall be made on a form provided by the Commission. The
10 applicant shall specify the purpose for the stocking, species to be stocked, the source of the stock,
11 the number of individual specimens to be released, and the location where release is desired.

12 (2) Before issuing a stocking permit, the Executive Director shall review the application and determine,
13 based on principles of wildlife management and biological science, that the proposed stocking will
14 not:

15 (A) threaten the introduction of epizootic disease or

16 (B) create a danger to or an imbalance in the environment inimical to the conservation of
17 wildlife resources.

18 (3) Based on the determination made in Subparagraph (2):

19 (A) If the Executive Director determines that either or both conditions cannot be met under any
20 circumstances, the application shall be denied.

21 (B) If the Executive Director determines that both conditions may be met only by the
22 introduction of fewer than the number requested, a permit only for the number that may be
23 safely released shall be issued.

24 (C) If the Executive Director determines that the number requested may be safely released, he
25 shall issue the permit.

26 (4) Any stocking permit issued by the Commission may impose the following conditions or restrictions:

27 (A) Location where the permitted number of fish may be stocked.

28 (B) Certification that fish are free of certifiable diseases by the vendor or a laboratory qualified
29 to make such determination.

30 (C) Documentation of the date, time and location of the release.

31 (D) Access by the Commission to the property where fish introductions occur to assess impacts
32 of the introduction.

33 (E) All conditions required shall be included in writing on the permit.

34 (5) Based on the criteria in Subparagraph (2), no permit shall be issued to stock any of the following
35 species in the areas indicated:

| SPECIES | LOCATION |
|--|------------------|
| Salmonids except brown, brook, and rainbow trout | Statewide |
| Flathead catfish | Statewide |
| <u>Blue Catfish</u> | <u>Statewide</u> |

40 (d) For purposes of this Rule, stocking is the introduction or attempted introduction of one or more individuals of a
41 particular species of live fish into public waters for any purpose other than:

42 (1) As bait affixed to a hook and line, or

43 (2) A release incidental to "catch and release" fishing in an area within the same body of water where
44 the fish was caught, or within an adjacent body of water not separated from that body by any natural
45 or manmade obstruction to the passage of that species.

46 (e) The release of more than the daily creel limit, or if there is no established creel limit for the species, more than
47 five individuals of the species, shall constitute prima facie evidence of an intentional release.

48
49 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-274; 113-292;
50 Eff. February 1, 1976;
51 Amended Eff. June 1, 2005.

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

2 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina
3 any 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 Dreissenidae; or
- 27 (22) redbtail catfish (*Phractocephalus hemioliopus*).

28 (b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose
29 of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an
30 evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

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

34
35 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*
36 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
37 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*
38 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
39 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
40 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*
41 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*
42 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED**

2 The following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes:

- 3 (1) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to rainbow, brown and brook trout;
- 4 (2) muskellunge, chain (jack) and redbfin pickerel;
- 5 (3) yellow perch, when found in inland waters, walleye and sauger;
- 6 (4) black bass, including Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and redeye bass;
- 7 (5) black and white crappie;
- 8 (6) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), pumpkinseed,
- 9 warmouth, rock bass, (redeye), flier, Roanoke bass, and all other species of the sunfish family
- 10 (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule;
- 11 (7) spotted sea trout (speckled trout), when found in inland fishing waters;
- 12 (8) flounder, when found in inland fishing waters;
- 13 (9) red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum), when found in inland fishing waters;
- 14 (10) striped bass, white bass, white perch and Morone hybrids (striped bass-white bass), when found in
- 15 inland fishing waters;
- 16 (11) American and hickory shad, when found in inland fishing waters;
- 17 (12) kokanee ~~salmon~~-salmon; and
- 18 (13) black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead,
- 19 when found in inland fishing waters.

20

21 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-129;

22 Eff. February 1, 1976;

23 Amended Eff. June 1, 2005; June 1, 2004; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1990; July 1, 1983; January 1, 1981;

24 January 1, 1980.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 ~~BLACK~~ LARGEMOUTH BASS**

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

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

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

- 16 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- 17 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- 18 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- 19 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- 20 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River
21 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
22 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
23 Scuppernong River, Alligator River (including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy
24 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 ~~(l)(k)~~ In Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County, the minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is
40 16 inches and only one Largemouth Bass greater than 20 inches may be possessed.

41 ~~(m)(l)~~ In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, no ~~Black Bass~~
42 Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

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

45
46 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

47 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

56 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
2 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*
5 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*
6 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
8 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
9 *2003);*
10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*
11 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
12 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
13 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

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), (e), and (f) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), and (f). There
4 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) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;

10 (3) Cashie River and its tributaries;

11 (4) Middle River and its tributaries;

12 (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and

13 (6) 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)~~(1) Lake Norman;

21 ~~(7)~~(2) Lake Hyco;

22 ~~(8)~~(3) Lake Ramseur;

23 ~~(9)~~(4) Cane Creek ~~Lake;~~ Lake (Union County);

24 ~~(10)~~(5) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);

25 ~~(11)~~(6) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;

26 ~~(12)~~(7) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;

27 ~~(13)~~(8) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;

28 ~~(14)~~(9) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;

29 ~~(15)~~(10) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;

30 ~~(16)~~(11) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;

31 ~~(17)~~(12) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;

32 ~~(18)~~(13) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County,

33 Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (d) of this Rule; and

34 ~~(19)~~(14) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

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

36
37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

38 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

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

40 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON**

2 The daily creel limit for Kokanee Salmon is ~~seven~~four fish. There is no minimum size limit for ~~these fish.~~Kokanee
3 Salmon. There is no closed season for Kokanee Salmon.

4

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

6 *Eff. November 1, 2013.*

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 20 inches from October 1 through May 31. From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel
9 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.), Hyco Lake,~~ Moss Lake, Mountain
14 Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for
15 Striped 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 of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in 15A
29 NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110, which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost
30 rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through
31 April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam.
32 During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the
33 minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily
34 creel limit. Only one fish larger than 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), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules
38 or 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 Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT**

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 Paragraph (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:

17 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum
18 size 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
20 daily 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 the following power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs open to the
25 public for fishing.

26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;

27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;

29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;

31 (6) Cliffside Lake;

32 (7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and

34 (9) Wolf Lake.

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

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

38 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
39 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*
40 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*
41 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*
42

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Smallmouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except
4 in waters identified in Paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no closed season.

5 (b) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass
6 less than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass greater than 14 inches is five fish
7 in aggregate.

8 (c) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
9 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass.

10 (d) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) there is
11 no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length
12 may be possessed and only one Largemouth Bass or Smallmouth Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
14

- 1 **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**
2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama Bass or Spotted Bass, except for waters identified in paragraph (b) of this
3 Rule. There is no minimum size limit or closed season.
4 (b) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and
5 Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.
6
7 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS**

2 The daily creel limit for Redeye Bass is five fish. There is no minimum size limit for Redeye Bass, but only two of
3 them may be less than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

4
5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH**

2 The daily creel limit for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow
3 Bullhead is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit or closed season for Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead,
4 Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

5
6 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;
7
8

9 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES**

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

13 (b) Nongame fishes may be taken by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license
14 at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated in this Rule.

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

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

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

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

22 (g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may be taken only from impounded waters,
23 except mussels shall not be taken in:

- 24 (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
25 (2) University Lake in Orange County.

26 The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for
27 the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*).

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

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

- 32 (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
33 (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
34 (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
35 (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
36 (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
37 (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
38 (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
39 (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

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

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

- 45 (1) Lake Norman;
46 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
47 (3) Lake Wylie;
48 (4) Badin Lake;
49 (5) Lake Tillery;
50 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
51 (7) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
52 (8) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

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

- 1 (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing
2 in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches.
- 3 (n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and
4 Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.
- 5 (o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr
6 Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 7 (p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as
8 those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent
9 joint or coastal fishing waters.
- 10 (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
11 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure
12 its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in
13 Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its
14 identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession.
- 15 (r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may
16 be sold, with the following exceptions:
- 17 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr
18 Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
- 19 (2) blue crab; and
- 20 (3) bowfin.
- 21 (s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

22

23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292;*
24 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
25 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; May 1, 1992;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994;*
27 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
29 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
33 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
34 *2003);*
35 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2019; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
36 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
37 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*
38