



REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED LICENSE FEE RULE

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES

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Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: No
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Impact: Yes

Authority: G.S. 113-270.1B; 113-134

I. Summary

The proposed permanent rule establishes fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications the Wildlife Resources Commission issues and administers as required by Paragraph (e) of 113-270.1B. The Rule also increases the fees associated with those items not increased by Session Law (S.L.) 2019-204, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rounded up to the next whole dollar. By moving all fees to rule and adjusting those fees that have not been increased since August 1, 2014 by the CPI-U, the agency will be more equipped to deal with inflation moving forward.

II. Introduction and Purpose

This fiscal note summarizes the costs and benefits to the regulated community and the citizens of North Carolina for supporting the continued resource management and regulatory activities of the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) through increasing fees to fund these activities as permitted by G.S. 113-270.1B(e). The Commission has determined that the proposed rule has impacts to State Government and private individuals. No impact has been identified to county or municipal governments. However, if a significant number of individuals express buyer resistance because of this proposed fee increase, local government impacts may be realized.

III. Statement of Need

The Wildlife Resources Commission is tasked with conserving and sustaining the State's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input. The Commission is also the regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of North Carolina's hunting, fishing, trapping, and boating laws.

The Commission is funded by the sale of licenses, vessel titles and registrations, federal grants, general fund appropriations and other receipts. The Commission has an operational budget of approximately \$83 million per year and employs over 650 full-time employees, including: biologists, technicians, wildlife officers, conservation educators, public information officers, customer service, information technology, and administrative professionals.

The following is a breakdown of agency revenue sources for fiscal year 2018-19:

Federal funds:	30%
License receipts:	24%
Vessel receipts:	15%
Appropriations:	13%
Other receipts:	18%

IV. Background & License Information

Historically, all fees for licenses issued and administered by the Commission were established and housed in statute. However, per G.S. 113-270.1B(e), the Commission is required to adopt rules to establish fees for all licenses, permits, stamps and certifications it issues and administers, except those specified in G.S. 113-173. Additionally, the Commission was granted the ability via S.L. 2019-204, to increase these fees by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rounded up to the next whole dollar, since the last fee change. The last license fee increase was effective August 1, 2014. As such, the CPI- U for this fee increase has been calculated using the average increase in the CPI-U from August 1, 2014 through August 1, 2018 (6%).¹

The CPI-U was applied to 56 licenses in the proposed rule, all of which existed at the time of the previous fee increase and have not been subsequently increased. The 6% increase applied to these

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Consumer Price Index- All Urban Consumers, Series ID CUUR0000SA0*. 2018 <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>.

items ranges from \$1.00 to \$30.00 on annual fees and from \$1.00 to \$93.00 on lifetime licenses. The complete list of licenses and associated fees increased by the CPI-U can be found in Appendix C.

The other 31 items and associated fees were transferred directly from statute to the proposed rule without change. These items were either newly created or legislatively increased since August 2014. The elk and alligator licenses were established by S.L. 2018-90, and the other licenses and permits were either established or increased by S.L. 2019-204. The complete list of licenses and associated fees legislatively increased can be found in Appendix B.

V. Purpose of Fee Increases

Due to rising costs of employee salaries, benefits and other operating expenses, the agency incurred a \$528,000 shortfall in managing these expenses in fiscal year 2018-2019. Expenditures are expected to outpace revenues by \$651,157 in fiscal year 2019-2020. Revenue was forecasted using a weighted moving average and exponential smoothing. For fiscal year 2019-2020, the impacts of temporary rule 15A NCAC 10A .1601 were added to total revenue estimates. The same method was applied to operating expenses, combined with a 2.5% increase in the personal services expenditure amounts to account for a legislative salary and benefit increase in year 2020. An additional 2.5% was applied in year 2021 to account for legislative salary and benefit increases enacted in the 2019-2021 biennium (Table 5).

Additionally, the agency's operational costs have increased over time. The agency is involved in public infrastructure accesses on a routine basis which involve the purchase of lumber and other construction materials – the costs of all of which have risen since the agency's last fee increase in 2014. Fixed assets must be purchased and maintained in order to facilitate the construction and maintenance of the agency's infrastructure. Another primary agency objective is the enforcement of wildlife related laws which requires over 200 law enforcement personnel to provide 24-hour accessibility to the public. This responsibility demands that the agency provide a vehicle to each law enforcement officer and that boats (and associated trailers) be provided within regional areas of the state. At present, the agency's equipment (trucks, boats, tractors, etc.) associated with the enforcement and construction/maintenance of public-facing infrastructure at an age greater than 10 years is at 40%. This translates into additional costs for replacement and/or repairs to equipment now and over the next several years.

Given that the Commission is largely a receipt supported agency, there are few additional funding sources available to mitigate the shortfall. While the Wildlife Endowment Fund is often regarded as a fallback measure, it is important to note the Commission is limited in the use of these funds. The Commission has the authority to utilize a portion of the interest earned annually on this fund for "furthering the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in accomplishing the purposes of the agency as set forth in G.S. 143-239."² However, recurring agency use for personal services would not serve the purpose for which the Wildlife Endowment Fund was established. Thus, the agency is forced to find other sources to overcome the shortfall which do not negatively impact the present level of

²G.S. 143-250.1

support being provided to the regulated community and the citizens of North Carolina. The agency anticipates that the proposed fee increase will assist with filling the funding gap without any significant negative impacts to the regulated community.

VI. Impacts

CPI- U Fiscal Impact - Agencies

The income generated from the proposed license fee increases will have a substantial impact on the overall revenue generated by the Commission. This increased income will contribute significantly towards closing the agency's funding gap. While the fee increase relating to the CPI- U represents a moderate increase to the cost of individual licenses, the cumulative effect of income generated is substantial. The potential revenue generation per license is detailed in Appendix B and C.

As a conservative measure, the projected sales of all 55 affected licenses through 2022 were calculated using the weighted moving average, with exponential smoothing, of annual sales from 2015 to 2019. Where longitudinal sales figures were not available, trends were estimated from the 2019 sales data. The permanent rule is expected to be effective at the beginning of fiscal year 2020-2021, therefore impacts and revenue increases from this rule assessed herein are applicable from FY2020-2021 to FY2021-2022. Revenue increases estimated for FY2019-2020 are based on temporary rule 15A NCAC 10A .1061, which becomes effective January 1, 2020.³ As a result, the estimated increases for FY2019-2020 were calculated based on the proportion of licenses assumed to have been already sold (62%) prior to the temporary rule taking effect; applying the increased fee to the expected sales (38%) for the remainder of the fiscal year. Fiscal year 2019-2020 has been excluded from the total impact assessment of the permanent rule and is only included for reference.

The projected figures for FY2020-2021 to FY 2021-2022, estimate annual revenue to increase by an average of approximately \$1,231,811 for each year (Figure 1) for a total of \$2,463,621 over the affected two fiscal years (\$2,226,874 - NPV adjusted). Of the average annual total, \$729,353 benefits the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, while \$502,458 is the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries' (DMF) share of increased revenue.

The largest revenue increases are expected from the sale of *Resident Annual Sportsmen* licenses. While the fee increases per license are relatively insignificant, the sheer number of licenses issued will cumulatively comprise a potentially significant source of revenue. For example, approximately 76,560 *Resident Annual Sportsmen* licenses are issued each year. The proposed additional \$3/license has the potential to generate an average annual increase in agency revenue, over the fiscal years 2020-2021 to 2021-2022, of approximately \$214,422/year. Another large portion of revenue comes from the sale of the *Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing* license (approximately 41,012 sold per year). The proposed increase of \$4/license has the potential to increase inter-agency revenue by an average of \$162,588/year (\$121,941 - WRC and \$40,647 – DMF).

³ License fees in temporary rule 15A NCAC 10A .1601 are the same as fees proposed in the permanent rule.

Apart from the *Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing*, there are additional licenses issued and administered by WRC that are either shared or owned by the DMF. These licenses include Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses (CRFL) and Unified Fishing Licenses. Because these 21 licenses are included in the proposed Rule and CPI-U increase, DMF revenues are also anticipated to increase (Table 1). Projected sales for the licenses in Table 1 were estimated using exponential smoothing. Changes in the prices of CRFLs and Unified licenses result in an average annual increase in income of approximately \$348,007 and \$154,452 for each license respectively, for an anticipated total average annual revenue increase of approximately \$502,458 for DMF.

Table 1: Change in revenues anticipated for the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) following the proposed fee increase.

	BAU CRFL	BAU Unified	BAU Total	Fee increased CRFL	Fee increased Unified	Fee increased Total	Δ Revenue
2020 ⁴	\$4,047,345	\$2,265,390	\$6,312,735	\$4,177,280	\$2,322,124	\$6,499,404	\$186,669
2021	\$4,079,275	\$2,300,465	\$6,379,740	\$4,424,626	\$2,452,041	\$6,876,667	\$496,927
2022	\$4,133,575	\$2,388,990	\$6,522,565	\$4,484,237	\$2,546,317	\$7,030,554	\$507,989
3-yr NPV (7% Discount)	\$1,307,804						

NOTE: BAU is business as usual approach where fees are not increased.

Legislative Increase Fiscal Impact – Agency

The legislative fee changes are also expected to have a significant impact on WRC revenue. These changes include fee increases, new licenses and the discontinuance of one license type. Overall, the changes are expected to increase agency revenue, even while the elimination of the *Special Trout* license may involve significant cost (Figure 1). The only state agency expected to be impacted by these changes is the Wildlife Resources Commission.

⁴ Increases are based on temporary rule 15A NCAC 10A .1601 as this fiscal year is unaffected by the permanent rule

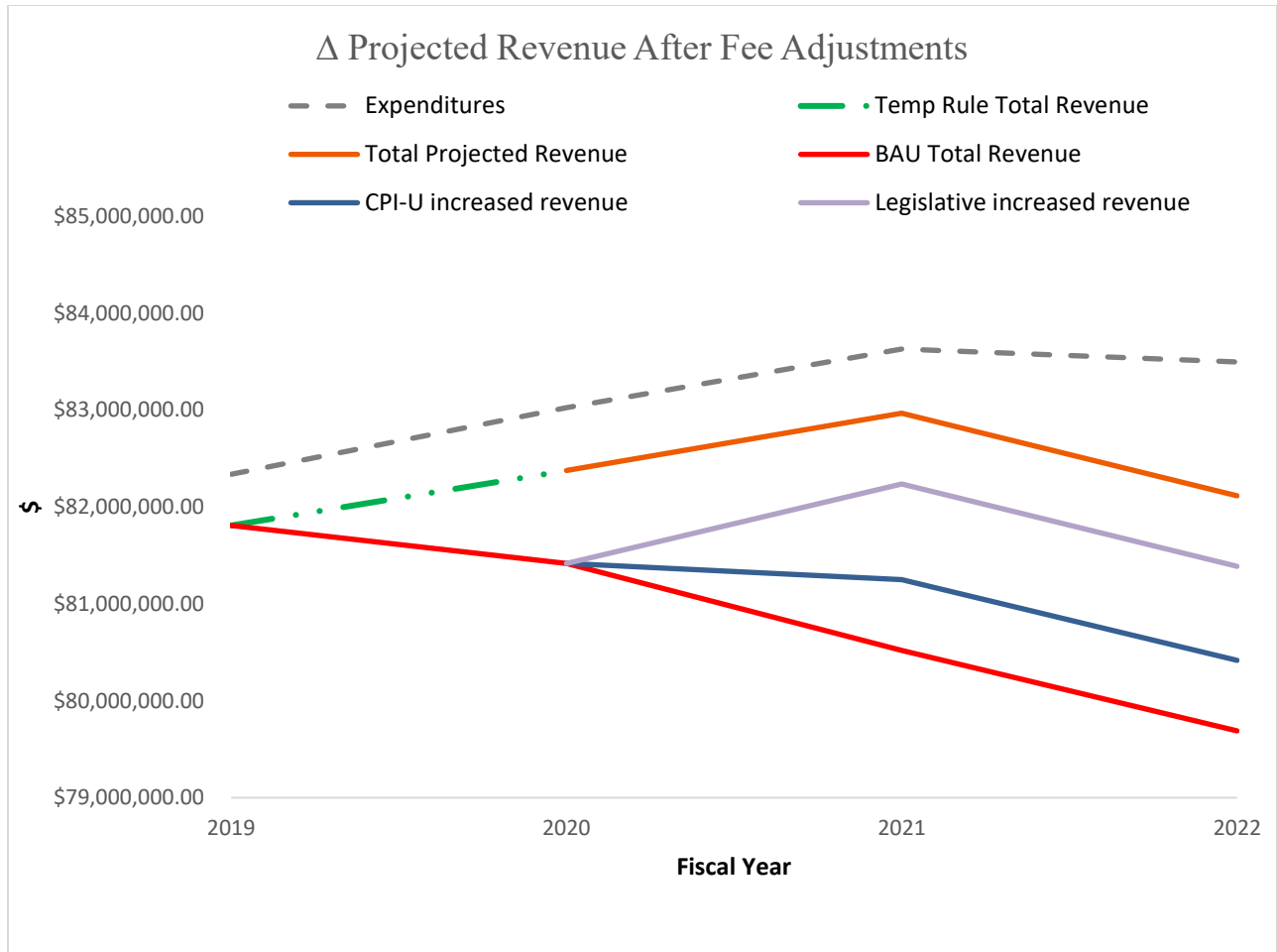


Figure 1: Estimated change in revenue from license fees after the implementation of proposed fee adjustments

A total of 32 licenses, permits and certifications comprised the license fee increases from S.L. 2018-90 and S.L. 2019-204. For existing licenses and permits that have been modified, which previous sales have been documented, a weighted moving average was used to forecast future sales to the year 2021. For licenses, permits, and certifications with limited data, sales were held constant to year 2021 based on 2018 sales figures. For new license where there are little or no data (ex. G.S. 113-270.2 (c)(7) and 113-270.3 (b)(8) and (9)), no license sales were included in the revenue projections. The changes made to each license type comprising the legislative package can be found in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Licenses and Permits modified by legislative action.

STATUTE	LICENSE TYPE	CHANGES
G.S. 113-270.1C		
(b)(1)	Resident Annual H/F Combo	Fee Increase
G.S. 113-270.2		
(c)(1)	Resident State Hunting	Fee increase
(c)(6)(a)	NR Hunting Season	Fee Increase
(c)(6)(b)	NR Hunting 10-Day	Fee Increase
(c)(7)	Falconry Hunting	New License
G.S. 113-270.3		
(b)(2)(a)	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - Season	Fee Increase
(b)(2)(b)	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - 10-Day	Fee Increase
(b)(6)	Resident American Alligator License*	New License
(b)(7)	Nonresident American Alligator License*	New License
(b)(8)	Resident Elk License*	New License
(b)(9)	Nonresident Elk License*	New License
G.S. 113-270.5		
(b)(1a)	Resident Trapping Lifetime License	New License
G.S. 113-271		
(d)(2)	Resident State Inland Fishing	Fee Increase
(d)(5)	NR State Inland Fishing	Fee Increase
(d)(6)(a)	Resident 10-day	Fee Increase
(d)(6)(b)	NR 10-day	Fee Increase
(d)(10)	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing	Fee Increase
-	Special Trout License	Removed
G.S. 113-272.4		
(c)	Wildlife and Scientific Fish Collection*	Fee Increase
G.S. 113-272.5		
(b)	Captivity License Holding	New License
(b)	Captivity License Rehab	New License
G.S. 113-273		
(g)	Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator	Fee Increase
(h)	Gamebird Propagation	Fee Increase
(k)	Taxidermy	Fee Increase
(k)	Taxidermy cervid certification	New Certification
(l)	Wildlife control agent license	Fee Increase
(m)	Alligator control agent license	New License
G.S. 113-274		
(c)(1c)	Possession permit	Fee Increase
(3)	Export/Import permit	Fee Increase
(3a)	Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit	Fee Increase
(3d)	Endangered Species Permit	Fee Increase
(3e)	Field Trial Permit	Fee Increase

The total expected revenue from the legislative fee increases, based on sales projections to FY2021-2022, is approximately \$1,707,538 per year over the two affected fiscal years (2020-2022). This totals roughly \$3,415,075 over that period (\$3,087,797NPV-adjusted). Much of the revenue increase can be attributed to G.S. 113-271 hook-and-line inland fishing licenses. The components of increases to these licenses alone account for nearly \$1.47 million/yr in increased revenue. However, the removal of the *Special Trout* license is anticipated to come at a cost of approximately \$545,000 per year. Another significant increase in revenue stems from the changes to hunting licenses incorporated in G.S. 113-270.2 which amounts to roughly \$509,000 per year on average. Details on the revenue increases can be found in Appendix B.

It should be noted that that impacts of various new licenses on revenue are not yet known as no data are currently available on constituent interest in the licenses. It is assumed that the impacts of the newly implemented licenses on revenue will not be significant.

Economic Impact – Private Individuals

The burden of costs associated with the proposed CPI-U and legislative fee increases fall primarily on the individual licensees. However, because the increases to individual licenses are relatively small, the agency does not anticipate significant negative impacts on license sales and, therefore the economic contributions of licensed individuals. Using annual state hunting license data from 2008-2018, a linear regression model was used to determine the relationship between annual sales and prices. With the changes in annual price of a hunting license being adjusted for inflation (using 2008 as a reference point), as well as the price increase in 2014, the model did not identify a significant negative relationship between license purchases and price changes (Table 3). However, a caveat of the measured relationship is that it does not account for changes in license purchases for reasons other than price, such as the decreasing interest in hunting which has been observed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.⁵ This trend and other unidentified factors affecting sales cannot be controlled for at this time with the available data. Therefore, the effect of increased prices on various license sales is uncertain.

Table 3: Statistical relationship between the price of fees and total annual sales for WRC Hunting and Fishing licenses from 2008 to 2018.

	Estimate	SE	statistic	p-value
Fee	6.17	13.19	-0.468	.651
Sales	0.001	.0002	1.745	.115

VII. Alternatives

The agency has continued to reduce its operating expenditures in order to offset the increasing costs of salaries, benefits and other operating expenses. However, this model will not continue to

⁵ United States Fish and Wildlife Service, *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. (2011;2016)

be effective as costs increase. The agency cannot maintain this model if the increased demand for services and infrastructure is to be met. Thus, several alternatives have been considered to narrow the funding gap before proposing the rule in Appendix A. These included moving the fees to rule without an increase, rounding down to the nearest whole dollar amount, and applying the CPI-U to the statutory fees but rounding to the nearest \$0.25. The Commission dismissed the alternative of leaving the fees as-is in favor of utilizing the CPI-U, as allowed by statute, to raise the fees and assist with narrowing the funding gap and increasing fees for under-valued licenses. Rounding down to the nearest whole dollar amount after applying CPI-U adjustment to the statutory fees would provide, on average, \$535,480 (Table 4) less than the proposed round-up increase. This accounts for an opportunity cost of \$110,520 for the WRC and \$424,959 for DMF, resulting in the dismissal of this option. Rounding license increases to the nearest \$0.25 would decrease total projected annual revenue by approximately \$214,608 on average per annum over FY2020-2022 (approximately \$50,020/year for WRC and approximately \$164,588/year for DMF). Due to such substantial potential losses in revenue in comparison with the roundup increase, the Commission also dismissed this option.

Table 4: Average annual revenue increase based on fee increase alternative.

Alternative Scenario	WRC Revenue Increase	DMF Revenue Increase	Total Revenue Increase	Difference from Round-up increase
No Increase	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,231,811)
Round-down	\$618,832	\$77,499	\$696,331	(\$535,480)
Round to Nearest .25	\$679,332	\$337,870	\$1,017,203	(\$214,608)
Round-up	\$729,353	\$502,458	\$1,231,811	0

VIII. Uncertainties Regarding Participants’ Sensitivity to Proposed Fee Increases

Determining future trends in the number of each license sold is difficult. Information in this section has been compiled from actual license sale and trend data since the last license fee increase on August 1, 2014.

The Commission’s 2014 fee increases, while not a wholesale fee restructuring, did target specific licenses for increase, but was designed so as not to alienate the hunting and angling public while strategically capturing revenue for the most utilized and most under-valued licenses. Given that the agency had not increased fees since the 1980’s, many of its licenses were not appropriately valued for the 2014 market conditions. These fee increases ranged from \$2 to \$200 per license.

As the Commission worked its way through the impact of the 2014 fee increases, the need for routine fee increases became apparent. As a measured approach to fee increase methodology, the Commission requested the ability to increase fees for hunting, fishing, trapping and other activity licenses issued and administered by the Commission to allow a fee increase to reflect the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers since the last fee revision.

As depicted in Figures 2 and 3 below, total licenses purchased have been in decline since the 2014 fee increase, while license revenue from hunting and fishing licenses began to decrease in fiscal year 2016-17 and have continued this decline. While it could be assumed that the increase in

license fees alone caused this decline, this relationship cannot be conclusively drawn based on available data (Table 2). Nonetheless, the downward trend of license sales is a concerning statistic which could be attributed to a variety of factors. For instance, a series of national surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service⁶ found a decreasing trend in the participation of hunters and anglers. Additionally, there seems to be a direct correlation between the decreasing sale of annual licenses and the increasing number of active licenses, which includes active lifetime licenses which are a one-time purchase (Figure 4). These observations could suggest that more people are holding or purchasing lifetime licenses instead of annual licenses, thus contributing to the declining license sales and revenues alongside decreasing participation rates.

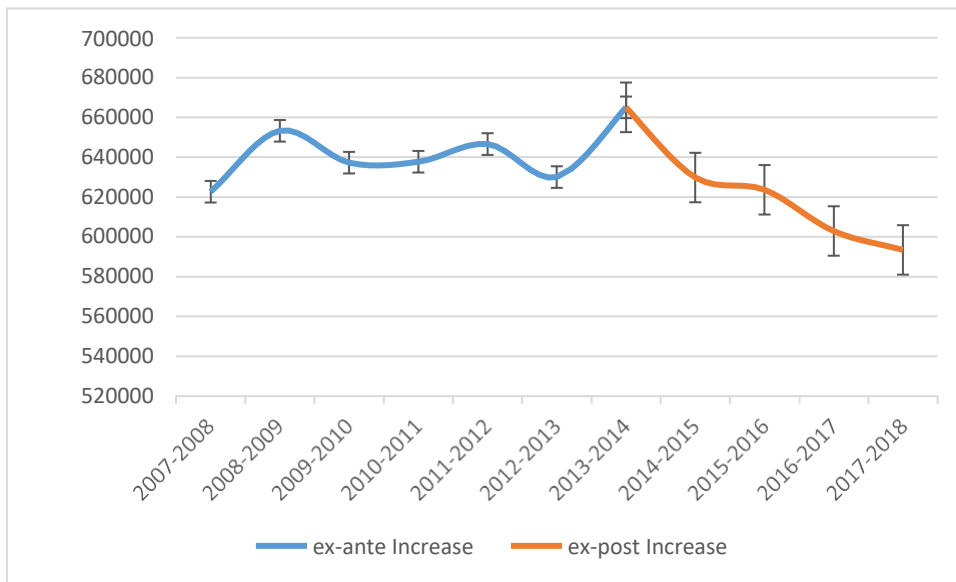


Figure 2: Annual number of licenses purchased (excluding activity licenses), before and after the fee increase in 2014.

⁶United States Fish and Wildlife Service, *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*. (2011;2016)

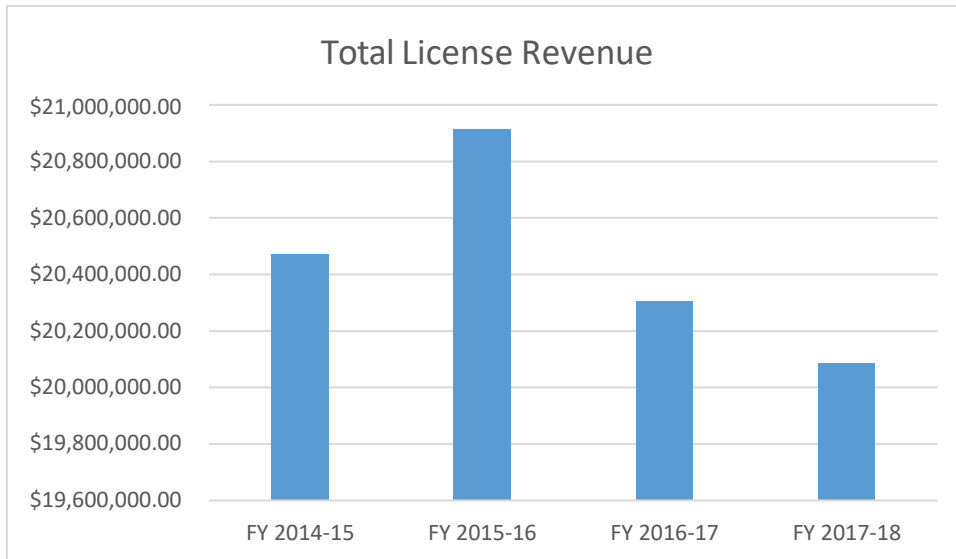


Figure 3: Total recreational license revenues (excluding activity licenses) obtained by the Commission, following the increase in the price of hunting, fishing and, trapping licenses.

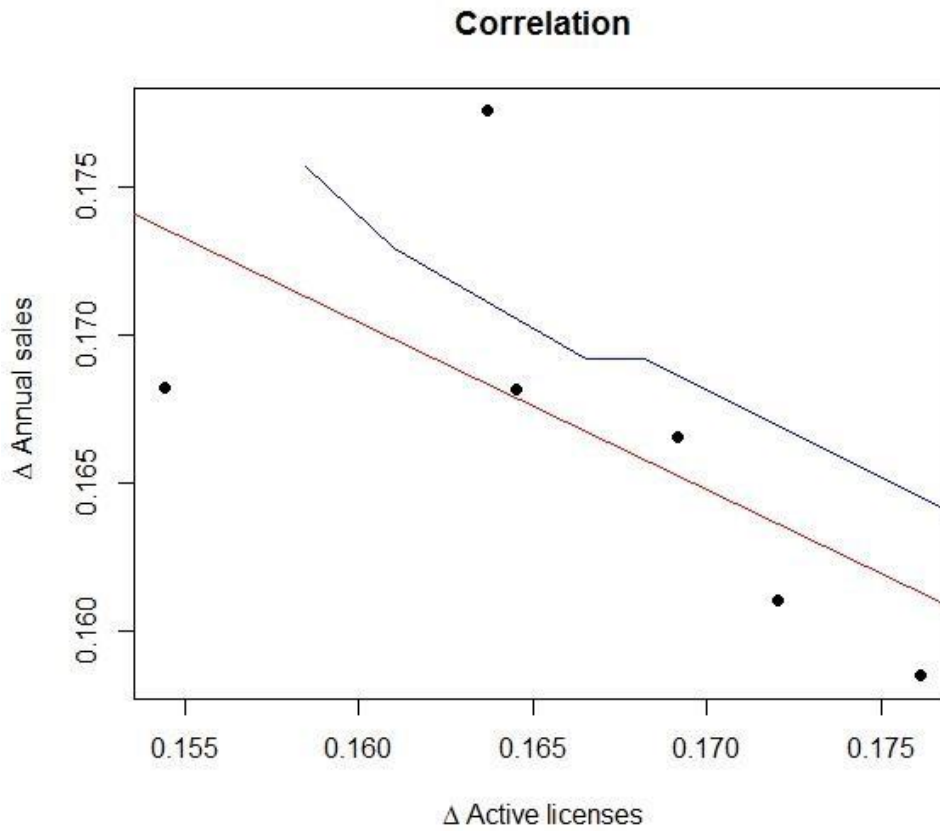


Figure 4: Correlation between declining sales and increasing active lifetime licenses.

This decline in annual sales makes it difficult to accurately determine the long-term impacts of these proposed increases on revenue, as it is likely that the trend of decreasing sales would have occurred regardless of fee increases.

Sensitivity Analysis

While the decline in the sale of licenses has been recorded in the years following the last fee increase, it could be attributed to a number of factors. While it is unlikely that buyer resistance is a leading factor, it is important to understand the potential for buyer resistance when proposing new fees. If price sensitivity is higher than expected, agency revenues will be lower than projected. Furthermore, if individuals choose not to purchase a license due to the price increase, those individuals will lose the benefits of the activity and experience.

According to a 2011 study on license fees in NC by Responsive Management, 80% of participants in hunting and fishing at that time found the licenses to be undervalued. However, they also showed high levels of resistance to an increase in the license fees⁷. After explaining that the fee had not been increased since 1987, participants in the study indicated lower levels of opposition for an increase. After then being presented with an explanation of how the increased license fees were spent, there was even lower opposition.

IX. Conclusions

Twenty-four percent (24%) of the agency's annual revenue comes from the sale of hunting, fishing, trapping, and activity licenses. Little has been done over the past five years to help the agency keep up with the rising cost of living and employee benefits. Due to the nature of the agency's funding structure, there are few options available to mitigate the growing shortfalls in the following fiscal years.

The combined legislated and inflation-based license fee increases are expected to reduce the funding shortfall in the first fiscal year. However, based on projected sales and increasing expenses, the WRC will continue to incur an increasing shortfall exceeding one million dollars in FY 2022 without further fee changes or additional revenue from other sources.

The Commission believes that the fiscal benefits to the agency from the proposed fee increases far outweigh the minimal costs (\$1.00 - \$93.00) per license to constituents. Additionally, by transferring statutory license fees to rule, the Commission will be better equipped in the future to efficiently and effectively keep up with inflation.

Direct Impacts from Proposed Rules

State: Increased total revenue of approximately \$5,878,696 between fiscal years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (a NPV of \$5,314,671 in 2019 dollars using a 7% discount rate). This is comprised of total revenue increases of \$4,873,780 (\$4,406,556-NPV adjusted) for the WRC and \$1,004,916

⁷ Duda, M.D. et al., 2011. *Understanding the Impact of Changes to North Carolina's Hunting and Fishing License Structure and Fee Schedule*. Responsive Management, pp. 370-371.

(\$908,115-NPV adjusted) for the DMF over these two fiscal years. These impacts will continue in 2023 and following the expected ongoing downward trend.

Private: In aggregate, licensees will incur the equivalent cost increases above, averaging \$2,341,045 per year over fiscal years beginning 2020-2022 (NPV \$5,314,671 over two years). Depending on license(s) purchased, individuals could incur an additional cost of \$1.00 to \$30.00 for annual licenses or an additional one-time cost of \$1.00 to \$93.00 for lifetime licenses. These impacts will continue in 2023 and following the expected ongoing downward trend.

Table 5: 3-year projections of annual WRC revenue from CPI-U adjusted and legislative fee increased license sales (formulated using exponential smoothing of annual license for sales data for each license from previous 4 years) for increased fees and a business as usual (BAU) approach where fees are not increased.

	2018-2019	2019-2020 ⁸	2020-2021	2021-2022
WRC License Sales	655,636	654,039	634,417	628,487
BAU WRC License Revenue	13,053,642	13,377,383	12,771,753	12,783,242
BAU Total Revenue	81,810,178	81,418,926	80,522,126	79,689,910
Expenditures	82,338,552	83,027,852	83,631,529	83,499,183
BAU Shortfall	(528,374)	(1,608,926)	(3,109,403)	(3,809,273)
CPI-U Δ Revenue	-	293,084	730,606	728,099
Legislative Δ Revenue	-	664,685	1,716,334	1,698,741
Total Δ Revenue	-	957,769	2,446,940	2,426,840
Total Projected Revenue	81,810,178	82,376,695	82,969,066	82,116,750
Projected Surplus (Shortfall)	(528,374)	(651,157)	(662,463)	(1,382,433)
2-yr NPV (7%) of increased income	4,406,556			

⁸ Increases are based on temporary rule 15A NCAC 10A .1601 due to take effect Jan. 1, 2020. Increase estimates for FY19-20 were calculated assuming that 62% of license sales had already occurred prior to Jan. 2020 for which the fee increases were not applied.

Appendix A: Proposed Rule Text

15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES.

(a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-270.1B(e).

(b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:

- (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$35.00.
- (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
- (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.

(c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:

- (1) Annual Sportsman License - \$53.00.
- (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - \$212.00.
- (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - \$371.00.
- (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$530.00.
- (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$1,272.00.
- (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - \$16.00.
- (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - \$106.00.
- (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - \$106.00.

(d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:

- (1) Resident State Hunting License - \$25.00.
- (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - \$265.00.
- (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - \$22.00.
- (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - \$39.00.
- (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:
 - (A) Season License - \$100.00.
 - (B) Ten-Day License - \$80.00.
- (6) Falconry Hunting License - \$25.00.

(e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.3:

- (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - \$14.00.
- (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - \$239.00.
- (3) Bear Management Stamp - \$11.00.
- (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
 - (A) Season License - \$100.00.
 - (B) Ten-Day License - \$80.00.
- (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - \$11.00.
- (6) Game Land License - \$16.00.
- (7) Falconry License - \$11.00.
- (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - \$14.00.
- (9) Resident American Alligator License - \$250.00.
- (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - \$500.00.
- (11) Resident Elk License - \$500.00.
- (12) Nonresident Elk License - \$1,000.00.

(f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.4:

- (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$16.00.
- (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$159.00.

(g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:

- (1) Resident State Trapping License - \$32.00.
- (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - \$300.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - \$133.00.

(h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:

- (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - \$25.00.
- (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - \$265.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - \$45.00.
- (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
 - (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$9.00.
 - (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$23.00.
- (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$16.00.
- (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
- (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
- (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - \$106.00.
- (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing License - \$8.00.

(i) The following fees shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:

- (1) Resident Special Device License - \$80.00.
- (2) Nonresident Special Device License - \$530.00.

(j) The fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall be \$10.00.

(k) The following fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.5:

- (1) Captivity License for Holding - \$50.00.
- (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - \$10.00.

(l) The following fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S. 113-273:

- (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - \$64.00.
- (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - \$318.00.
- (3) Fur-dealer Station License - \$128.00.
- (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - \$100.00.
- (5) Game Bird Propagation License - \$10.00.
- (6) Furbearer Propagation License - \$27.00.
- (7) Taxidermy License - \$50.00.
- (8) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - \$5.00.
- (9) Wildlife Control Agent License - \$50.00.
- (10) Alligator Control Agent Certification - \$25.00.

(m) The following fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:

- (1) Possession Permit - \$10.00.
- (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - \$10.00.
- (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - \$10.00.

(4) Endangered Species Permit - \$10.00.

(5) Field Trial Permit - \$10.00.

(n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:

(1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$69.00.

(2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$41.00.

(3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:

(A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$292.00.

(B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.

(C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$716.00.

(D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$1,643.00.

(E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$32.00.

(F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$117.00.

(G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$117.00.

(4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.

(o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-174.2:

(1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.

(2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$32.00.

(3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$6.00.

(4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.

(5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$106.00.

(6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$159.00.

(7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$265.00.

(8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$530.00.

(9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.

(10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.

(11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);
Eff. July 1, 2020.*

Appendix B: Legislative fee increases and potential increased revenue for FY2020-2021 to FY2021-2022

Statute	License Type	Current Fee	New Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
G.S. 113-270.1C						
(b)(1)	Resident Annual H/F Combo	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$10.00	\$100,680	\$182,207
G.S. 113-270.2						
(c)(1)	Resident State Hunting	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$113,385	\$205,139
(c)(6)a.	NR Hunting Season	\$80.00	\$100.00	\$20.00	\$138,120	\$249,662
(c)(6)b.	NR Hunting 10-Day	\$60.00	\$80.00	\$20.00	\$157,230	\$284,163
(c)(7)	Falconry Hunting	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
G.S. 113-270.3						
(b)(2)a.	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - Season	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$26,706	\$48,281
(b)(2)b.	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - 10-Day	\$80.00	\$84.80	\$5.00	\$23,640	\$42,731
(b)(6)	Resident American Alligator License*	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$5,000	\$9,040
(b)(7)	Nonresident American Alligator License*	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	NA	NA
(b)(8)	Resident Elk License*	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	NA	NA
(b)(9)	Nonresident Elk License*	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	NA	NA
G.S. 113-270.5						
(b)(1a)	Resident Trapping Lifetime License	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	NA
G.S. 113-271						
(d)(2)	Resident State Inland Fishing	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$837,535	\$1,515,198
(d)(5)	NR State Inland Fishing	\$36.00	\$45.00	\$9.00	\$309,974	\$560,123
(d)(6)a.	Resident 10-day	\$7.00	\$9.00	\$2.00	\$46,238	\$83,620
(d)(6)b.	NR 10-day	\$18.00	\$23.00	\$5.00	\$252,980	\$457,273
(d)(10)	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing	\$5.00	\$8.00	\$3.00	\$20,049	\$36,194

Statute	License Type	Current Fee	New Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
G.S. 113-272.4						
(c)	Wildlife and Scientific Fish Collection*	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$1,530.00	\$2,766
G.S. 113-272.5						
(b)	Captivity License Holding	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$7,695	\$13,913
(b)	Captivity License Rehab	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$115	\$208
G.S. 113-273						
(g)	Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$17,400.00	\$31,460
(h)	Gamebird Propagation	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$2,010.00	\$3,634
(k)	Taxidermy	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$22,640.00	\$40,933.53
(k)	Taxidermy cervid cert	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	NA	NA
(l)	Wildlife control agent license	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$30,100.00	\$54,421
(m)	Alligator control agent license	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	NA	NA
G.S. 113-273						
(c)(1c)	Possession permit	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$1,270.00	\$2,296
(3)	Export/Import permit	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$600.00	\$1,085
(3a)	Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,712
(3d)	Endangered Species Permit	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$1,890.00	\$3,417
(3e)	Field Trial Permit	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$1,250.00	\$2,260
Totals		\$536.00	\$3,502.80	\$2,967.00	\$2,252,771	\$4,073,588
Removed License	Special Trout	\$13.00	\$0.00	\$1.00	-\$545,237.33	-\$985,791
Net Total					\$1,707,537	\$3,087,797

Appendix C: Proposed CPI-U fee increases and potential increased revenue for FY2020-2021 to FY2021-2022

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$1,047	\$1,894
Annual Sportsman	\$50.00	\$53.00	\$3.00	\$214,422	\$388,109
Infant Lifetime Sportsman	\$200.00	\$212.00	\$12.00	\$27,978	\$50,588
Youth Lifetime Sportsman	\$350.00	\$371.00	\$21.00	\$7,833	\$14,162
Adult Lifetime Sportsman	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00	\$23,505	\$42,508
Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman	\$1,200.00	\$1,272.00	\$72.00	\$4,500	\$8,134
Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$2,263	\$4,102
Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$333	\$607
Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00	\$7,350	\$13,290
Controlled Hunting Preserve	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$2.00	\$3,890	\$7,029
Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$3.00	\$42,777	\$77,287
Resident Big Game Hunting	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$1.00	\$23,745	\$42,952
Nonresident Bear Hunting	\$225.00	\$239.00	\$14.00	\$17,752	\$32,033
Bear Management Stamp	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$35,090	\$63,391
Bonus Antlerless Deer	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$2,178	\$3,941
Game Land	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$4,797	\$8,668
Falconry	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$139	\$251
Migratory Waterfowl Hunting	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$1.00	\$8,138	\$14,708
Hunting and Fishing Guide License - Resident	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$2,043	\$3,691
Hunting and Fishing Guide License - Nonresident	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$9.00	\$806	\$1,458
Resident State Trapping	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$2.00	\$4,432	\$8,014
Nonresident State Trapping	\$125.00	\$133.00	\$8.00	\$308	\$557
Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00	\$12,937	\$23,360

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$6,213	\$11,246
Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$1,047	\$1,894
Special Landholder & Guest Fishing	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$2,832	\$5,126
Resident Special Device	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$5.00	\$620	\$1,121
Nonresident Special Device	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00	\$75	\$135
Fur Dealer - Resident	\$60.00	\$64.00	\$4.00	\$34	\$61
Fur Dealer - Nonresident	\$300.00	\$318.00	\$18.00	\$36	\$65
Furbearer Propagation	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$2.00	NA	NA
Fur Station	\$120.00	\$128.00	\$8.00	\$24	\$43
Unified Licenses (WRC portion)					
Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$50.00	\$53.00	\$3.00	\$121,941	\$220,513
Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0	NA	NA
Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$200.00	\$212.00	\$12.00	\$71,988	\$130,001
Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$350.00	\$371.00	\$21.00	\$12,422	\$22,451
Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00	\$39,660	\$71,638
Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$1,200.00	\$1,272.00	\$72.00	\$1,080	\$1,948
Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$3,961	\$7,175

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$6,570	\$11,872
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$1,392	\$2,520
Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00	\$11,198	\$20,213
Unified Licenses (DMF portion)					
Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$40,647	\$73,504
Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$51,158	\$92,409
Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$5.00	\$29,995	\$54,168
Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$3549	\$6,414
Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$175.00	\$186.00	\$11.00	\$14,542	\$26,267
Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$350.00	\$371.00	\$21.00	\$315	\$568
Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$3,960	\$7,175
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$1,095	\$1,979

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Increase	Avg Increase	NPV (7%) of increase (2020-2022)
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$232	\$420
Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$200.00	\$212.00	\$12.00	\$8,958	\$16,170
DMF Licenses					
Annual Resident CRFL	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$112,596	\$203,475
Annual Nonresident CRFL	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$2.00	\$42,865	\$77,532
Ten-Day Resident CRFL	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	\$43,941	\$79,399
Ten-Day Nonresident CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$135,572	\$245,062
Infant Lifetime CRFL	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00	\$549	\$994
Youth Lifetime CFRL	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$9.00	\$702	\$1,270
Resident Adult Lifetime CRFL	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00	\$4,403	\$7,975
Nonresident Adult Lifetime CFRL	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00	\$375	\$679
Resident Age 70 Lifetime CRFL	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$5,713	\$10,322
Resident Disabled Veteran CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$793	\$1,434
Resident Totally Disabled CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00	\$498	\$900
WRC Total				\$729,353	\$1,318,759
DMF Total				\$502,458	\$908,115
Total				\$1,231,811	\$2,226,874