



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

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10C .0205 Public Mountain Trout Waters
15A NCAC 10C .0211 Possession of Certain Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0305 Black Bass
15A NCAC 10C .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 .0401 Manner of Taking Nongame Fishes
15A NCAC 10C .0402 Taking Nongame Fishes for Bait or Personal Consumption

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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 ensures the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest

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.

Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendment to the Rule will combine the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters and Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters) into a single classification (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters). Regulatory complexity has been identified routinely by trout anglers as an impediment to their experiences, and the Commission identified the need to reduce rule complexity within its Trout Management Plan. This change will reduce angler confusion and address rule complexity.

In addition, the proposed amendment will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported, Wild Trout, or Wild Trout Natural Bait. To reflect changes in partnerships with landowners and angler access, approximately 10.6 miles of Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters and 15.5 miles of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters will be removed from PMTW. Approximately 1.4 miles of Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters will be reclassified to Wild Trout Waters. Additional boundary clarifications are proposed which do not add or remove PMTW. Changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with landowners, angler access, 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/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule amendment has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated related to combining the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications. This change will provide additional angling opportunity and decrease regulatory complexity. Changes to PMTW boundaries will result in a net loss of approximately 26.1 miles of PMTW from public access. While this loss is a loss of angling opportunity to the public in specific areas, it represents less than 0.5% of PMTW. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals, which may include changes to angler behavior (i.e., fishing less or fishing more).

15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will add African Longfin Eel, Creole Painted Crayfish, Bigclaw Crayfish, Marbled Crayfish or Marmorokrebs, Applesnail, Olive Mysterysnail, European Eel, Oriental Weatherfish, Brown Hoplo, Yellow Bass, Shortfin Eel, Crucian Carp, Prussian Carp,

European Perch, European Minnow, and Amur Sleeper 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. These species are freshwater fish not native to North Carolina. Impacts 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. The proposed change also includes taxonomic clarifications and corrections.

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 fiscal impacts are anticipated. The number of the species held in captivity in North Carolina is unknown but believed to very limited. There are currently no known established wild populations in North Carolina. 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 .0305 BLACK BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for black bass species was reformatted into species-specific rules during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

The proposed amendment will also prohibit harvest of Largemouth Bass from three ponds associated with the City of New Bern's Martin-Marietta Park in Craven County. To address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Largemouth Bass once the ponds are opened to the public, no harvest of Largemouth Bass from the ponds is recommended.

Fiscal Impact

State Impact

No impacts are anticipated. Clarifying the size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the New River will not change current on-the-ground management. Prohibiting the harvest of Largemouth Bass from three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park is part of routine fisheries management.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No 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 changes. Clarifying the size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the New River will not change current on-the-ground management. User group and fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive for the three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park as the fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will prohibit harvest of Striped Bass from three ponds associated with the City of New Bern's Martin-Marietta Park in Craven County. Periodic flooding from the Neuse River has introduced Striped Bass into these ponds. To provide consistent regulations in the area and to address concerns regarding potential overharvest of Striped Bass once the ponds are opened to the public, no harvest of Striped Bass from the ponds is recommended.

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. 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. User group and

fiscal effects are anticipated to be positive for the three ponds associated with Martin-Marietta Park as the fishery develops.

15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT

The proposed amendment to the Rule will combine the two-existing PMTW catch-and-release classifications (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only Trout Waters and Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters) into a single classification (Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters). Regulatory complexity has been identified routinely by trout anglers as an impediment to their experiences, and the Commission identified the need to reduce rule complexity within its Trout Management Plan. This change will reduce angler confusion and address rule complexity.

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/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \248).

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

No fiscal impacts are anticipated. This change will provide additional angling opportunity and address rule complexity.

15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS

The proposed amendment to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for Smallmouth Bass was created during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

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 to the Rule will clarify that the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in the Alleghany County portion of the New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia) is five fish in combination. The rule for Alabama and Spotted Bass was created during the 2020-2021 rule-making cycle, and this combined daily creel limit was inadvertently omitted from the NCAC. The size and creel limits for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass in this reach of the New River are consistent with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations downstream.

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 .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES

The proposed amendment to the Rule will establish an exception to the general statewide regulation for Blue Catfish in the North Carolina portion of the Dan River (Caswell Co.), downstream of Danville, VA by allowing only one fish greater than 32 inches to be possessed in the daily creel. From the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA, the Dan River flows downstream through Caswell County for approximately 10 miles before flowing back into Virginia and then into John H. Kerr Reservoir. The proposed change is consistent with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' regulations for Blue Catfish and will provide continuity when enforcing regulations on the river.

The proposed amendment will also allow American Eel greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit to be used for cut bait provided the body depth of the eel is at least ½ inch. During the 2018-2019 rule-making cycle, a rule was adopted prohibiting the removal the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of any nongame fish with a specific size and/or creel limit. American Eel is subject to this rule, and before it became effective, eels were a popular cut bait among anglers, especially those targeting trophy catfish. Anglers have requested the ability to use eels once again as cut bait. The requirement that the body depth of the cut bait be at least ½ inch is consistent with the ½-inch x ½-inch mesh restriction for eel pots. While American Eel is considered depleted across its range by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, using legally harvest eels as cut bait is not expected to impact the overall population.

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 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 changes. Establishing consistent size and creel limits for Blue Catfish in the Dan River will simplify rules for anglers and allowing the use of legally harvested American Eel as cut bait will provide additional angling opportunity.

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

The proposed amendment to the Rule will allow American Eel greater than the 9-inch minimum length limit to be used for cut bait provided the body depth of the eel is at least ½ inch. During the 2018-2019 rule-making cycle, a rule was adopted prohibiting the removal the head or tail or otherwise changing the appearance of any nongame fish with a specific size and/or creel limit. American Eel is subject to this rule, and before it became effective, eels were a popular cut bait among anglers, especially those targeting trophy catfish. Anglers have requested the ability to use eels once again as cut bait. The requirement that the body depth of the cut bait be at least ½ inch is consistent with the ½-inch x ½-inch mesh restriction for eel pots. While American Eel is considered depleted across its range by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, using legally harvest eels as cut bait is not expected to impact the overall 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 fiscal impacts are anticipated. Allowing the use of legally harvested American Eel as cut bait will provide additional angling opportunity.

APPENDIX A

1 15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

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

- 3 (1) "Natural bait" means any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared
4 substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 5 (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
- 6 (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by any substance that
7 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- 8 (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or any
9 similar material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon or similar device is added.
- 10 (5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 18 years of age.

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

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

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1 ~~(9)(8)~~ "Undesignated Waters" are all other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure
2 restrictions. ~~Trout may not be possessed while fishing these waters from March 1 until 7:00 a.m. on~~
3 ~~the first Saturday in April.~~

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

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

9 (1) Alleghany

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

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

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

14 Big Pine Creek

15 Bledsoe Creek

16 Brush Creek (N.C. 21 bridge to confluence with Little River, except where posted against
17 trespassing)

18 Cranberry Creek

19 (Big) Glade Creek

20 Little River (275 yards downstream from the intersection of S.R. 1128 and S.R. 1129
21 [marked by a sign on each bank] to McCann Dam)

22 Meadow Fork

23 Pine Swamp Creek

24 Piney Fork

25 Prathers Creek

26 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

27 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

28 (2) Ashe County

29 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

30 Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)

31 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

32 Big Horse Creek (S.R. 1324 bridge to North Fork New River)

33 Helton Creek (SR 1372 bridge to North Fork New River)

34 South Fork New River (upstream end of Todd Island to the SR 1351 bridge)

35 Trout Lake

36 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

37 Beaver Creek (N.C. 221 to confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek)

38 Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to S.R. 1324 bridge)

39 Big Laurel Creek (S.R. 1315 bridge to confluence with North Fork New River)

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- 1 Buffalo Creek (S.R. 1133 bridge to N.C. 194-88 bridge)
2 Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
3 Nathans Creek
4 North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
5 Old Fields Creek (N.C. 221 to South Fork New River)
6 Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
7 Roan Creek
8 Three Top Creek
9 (3) Avery County
10 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
11 Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
12 Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)
13 Wilson Creek (game land portion)
14 ~~(B) — Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:~~
15 ~~Wilson Creek (game land portion)~~
16 ~~(B)~~ Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Boyde Coffey Lake
18 Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state
19 line)
20 Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line,
21 except where posted against trespassing)
22 Milltimber Creek
23 North Toe River — upper (Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family
24 Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing)
25 North Toe River — lower (S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
26 trespassing)
27 Squirrel Creek
28 Wildcat Lake
29 ~~(D)~~(C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
30 Birchfield Creek
31 Cow Camp Creek
32 Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)
33 Gragg Prong
34 Horse Creek
35 Kentucky Creek
36 North Harper Creek
37 Plumtree Creek
38 Roaring Creek
39 Rockhouse Creek

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- 1 Shawneehaw Creek (portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway)
2 South Harper Creek
3 Webb Prong
- 4 (4) Buncombe County
- 5 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Carter Creek (game land portion)
- 7 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
9 Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
10 Corner Rock Creek (Little Andy Creek to confluence with Walker Branch)
11 Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
12 Ivy Creek (Ivy River)(Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
13 Lake Powhatan
14 Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
15 trespassing)
16 Rich Branch (downstream from the confluence with Rocky Branch)
17 Stony Creek
18 Swannanoa (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of
19 N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- 20 (5) Burke County
- 21 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
22 Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)
- 23 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
24 Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)
- 25 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
26 Carroll Creek (game land portion above S.R. 1405)
27 Henry Fork (lower South Mountain State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
28 Linville River portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and portion below Lake
29 James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek)
- 30 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
31 Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam)
- 32 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
33 All waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
34 A and B of this Subparagraph
- 35 (6) Caldwell County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
37 Wilson Creek (game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch)
- 38 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
39 Boone Fork Pond

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- 1 Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch)
- 2 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)
- 3 Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
- 4 against trespassing)
- 5 Yadkin River (Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515)
- 6 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land tributaries)
- 8 Joes Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)
- 9 Rockhouse Creek
- 10 (7) Cherokee County
- 11 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
- 13 Hyatt Creek (Big Dam Branch to Valley River)
- 14 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)
- 15 Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy [S.R. 1325] bridge to Tennessee state line)
- 16 Valley River (S.R. 1359 to U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy)
- 17 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Apalachia Reservoir
- 19 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 20 Bald Creek (game land portion)
- 21 Dockery Creek (game land portion)
- 22 North Shoal Creek (game land portion)
- 23 (8) Clay County
- 24 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Fires Creek (Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area)
- 26 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27 Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)
- 28 Fires Creek (foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300)
- 29 Tusquitee Creek (Compass Creek to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
- 30 (9) Graham County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 32 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579)
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
- 35 Cheoah Reservoir
- 36 Panther Creek (confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana)
- 37 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah)
- 38 (Big) Snowbird Creek (USFS Road 2579 to S.R. 1127 bridge)
- 39 Stecoah Creek (upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana)

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- 1 Tulula Creek (S.R. 1201 to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
- 2 West Buffalo Creek
- 3 Yellow Creek (Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to Cheoah River)
- 4 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 Little Buffalo Creek
- 6 South Fork Squally Creek
- 7 Squally Creek
- 8 (D) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 9 Deep Creek
- 10 ~~Franks Creek~~
- 11 Long Creek (game land portion)
- 12 (10) Haywood County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake
- 15 Logan)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Cold Springs Creek (Fall Branch to Pigeon River)
- 18 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against
- 19 trespassing)
- 20 Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- 21 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue [U.S. 276] bridge to U.S. 19 bridge)
- 22 West Fork Pigeon River (Tom Creek to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands,
- 23 except Middle Prong)
- 24 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 25 ~~Hemphill Creek~~
- 26 Hurricane Creek
- 27 (11) Henderson County
- 28 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)
- 30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 (Rocky) Broad River (end of S.R. 1611 to Rutherford County line)
- 32 Cane Creek (railroad bridge upstream of S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
- 33 Clear Creek (Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582)
- 34 Green River (Lake Summit powerhouse to game land boundary)
- 35 (Big) Hungry River (S.R. 1885 to Green River)
- 36 (12) Jackson County
- 37 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Flat Creek
- 39 Tuckasegee River (upstream from the Clark property)

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- 1 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Tuckasegee River (downstream N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards upstream of
3 the U.S. 23-441 bridge [marked by a sign on each bank])
- 4 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Balsam Lake
6 Bear Creek Lake
7 Cedar Cliff Lake
8 Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
9 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
10 Greens Creek (Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek)
11 Savannah Creek (Shell Branch to Cagle Branch)
12 Scott Creek (Dark Ridge Creek to Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
13 trespassing)
14 Tanasee Creek Lake
15 Tuckasegee River — upper (John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge)
16 Tuckasegee River — lower (falls located 275 yards upstream of U.S. 23-441 bridge
17 [marked by a sign on each bank] to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
18 Wolf Creek Lake
- 19 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
20 Gage Creek
21 North Fork Scott Creek
22 Tanasee Creek
23 Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
24 Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake)
- 25 (E) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
26 ~~Buff Creek~~
27 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line)
28 Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
29 Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
- 30 (13) Macon County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Burningtown Creek (Left Prong to Little Tennessee River)
35 Cartoogechaye Creek (downstream U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)
36 Cliffside Lake
37 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672)
38 Nantahala River — upper (Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek)
39 Nantahala River — lower (Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain Co. line)

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- 1 Queens Creek Lake
- 2 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 3 Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
- 4 Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
- 5 Kimsey Creek
- 6 Overflow Creek (game land portion)
- 7 Park Creek
- 8 Tellico Creek (game land portion)
- 9 Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)
- 10 (14) Madison County
- 11 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
- 13 Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)
- 14 Spring Creek (N.C. 209 bridge at Hot Springs city limits to iron bridge at end of Andrews
- 15 Ave.)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Big Laurel Creek (Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Rd.] bridge downstream of
- 18 Bearpen Branch)
- 19 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
- 20 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence
- 21 with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)
- 22 Max Patch Pond
- 23 Meadow Fork Creek (Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek)
- 24 Puncheon Fork (Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek)
- 25 Roaring Fork (Fall Branch to Meadow Fork)
- 26 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
- 27 Shut-in Creek
- 28 Spillcorn Creek
- 29 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to USFS Rd. 223)
- 30 West Fork Shut-in Creek (lower game land boundary to confluence with East Fork Shut-
- 31 in Creek)
- 32 (C) Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait are as follows:
- 33 Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary)
- 34 (15) McDowell County
- 35 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Newberry Creek (game land portion)
- 37 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Catawba River (portion adjacent to Marion Greenway)
- 39 Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch)

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- 1 Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)
- 2 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler line downstream to upper Greenlee line)
- 4 Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
- 5 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
- 6 ~~Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against~~
- 7 ~~trespassing)~~
- 8 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
- 9 (16) Mitchell County
- 10 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 11 Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to S.R. 1189 bridge)
- 12 North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 13 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
- 15 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
- 16 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 17 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
- 18 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against
- 19 trespassing)
- 20 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)
- 21 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 22 Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- 23 Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek bridge, including all tributaries, except where
- 24 posted against trespassing)
- 25 Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
- 26 (17) Polk County
- 27 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 28 Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)
- 29 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing)
- 31 North Pacolet River (Joels Creek to N.C. 108 bridge)
- 32 (18) Rutherford County
- 33 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 (Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
- 35 against trespassing)
- 36 (19) Stokes County
- 37 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 38 Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)
- 39 (20) Surry County

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- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Ararat River (portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway)
3 Mitchell River (0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge on S.R.
4 1330)
- 5 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
6 Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)
7 Big Elkin Creek (dam 440 yards upstream of N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265 yards
8 downstream of N.C. 268 [marked by a sign on each bank])
9 Fisher River (Cooper Creek)(Virginia state line to I-77 bridge)
10 Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)
11 Lovills Creek (U.S. 52 Business bridge to Ararat River)
12 Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to .3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)
- 13 (21) Swain County
- 14 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Tuckasegee River (U.S. 19 bridge to Slope Street bridge)
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Alarka Creek (game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir)
18 Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
19 Cheoah Reservoir
20 Connelly Creek (Camp Branch to Tuckasegee River)
21 Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to Tuckasegee River)
22 Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)
- 23 (22) Transylvania County
- 24 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
25 Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek
26 and Grogan Creek)
- 27 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
28 East Fork French Broad River (East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107
29 bridge)
30 Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)
- 31 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower USFS boundary)
33 French Broad River (confluence of North Fork French Broad River and West Fork)
34 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd. [S.R. 1110] Access Area
35 Middle Fork French Broad River (upstream U.S. 178 bridge to French Broad River)
36 West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad
37 River)
- 38 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
39 All waters located on Gorges State Park

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- 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 Flies and 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. River – upper (S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary)~~
- 16 Watauga River – lower (S.R. 1103 bridge to confluence with Laurel Creek)
- 17 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an
- 19 unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)
- 20 Beech Creek
- 21 Buckeye Creek (Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek)
- 22 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 23 Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood)
- 24 Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)
- 25 Elk Creek (S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to Wilkes Co. line, except where posted against
- 26 trespassing)
- 27 Laurel Creek (S.R. 1123 bridge at S.R. 1157 intersection to Watauga River)
- 28 Meat Camp Creek (S.R. 1340 bridge at S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194)
- 29 Middle Fork New River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to South Fork
- 30 New River)
- 31 Norris Fork Creek
- 32 South Fork New River (canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to lower
- 33 boundary of Brookshire Park)
- 34 Stony Fork (S.R. 1500 bridge at S.R. 1505 intersection to Wilkes Co. line)
- 35 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- 37 Howard Creek
- 38 Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)
- 39 North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)

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- 1 Watauga River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1580 bridge)
- 2 Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)
- 3 (24) Wilkes County
- 4 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 5 East Prong Roaring River (Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park
- 6 lower boundary)
- 7 Elk Creek — upper (Watauga Co. line to lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
- 8 Club)
- 9 Elk Creek — lower (portion on Leatherwood Mountains development)
- 10 Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with the Yadkin
- 11 River)
- 12 Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong
- 13 Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
- 14 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 15 Basin Creek (S.R. 1730 bridge to confluence with Lovelace Creek)
- 16 Bell Branch Pond
- 17 Boundary Line Pond
- 18 Cub Creek (.5 mile upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)
- 19 Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River)(downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence
- 20 with North Fork Reddies River)
- 21 East Prong Roaring River (Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to S.R. 1002 bridge)
- 22 Fall Creek (S.R. 1300 bridge to confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork, except where
- 23 posted against trespassing)
- 24 Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)
- 25 Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)
- 26 North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek)(headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R.
- 27 1559)
- 28 Pike Creek
- 29 Pike Creek Pond
- 30 South Fork Reddies River (S.R. 1355 bridge to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies
- 31 River)
- 32 South Prong Lewis Fork (Fall Creek to U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to S.R. 1155 intersection)
- 33 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 All waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 35 Bullhead Creek downstream to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where
- 36 Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from falls at
- 37 Alleghany County line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 38 in Stone Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 39 (25) Yancey County

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- 1 (A) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
2 South Toe River (headwaters to Upper Creek)
3 Upper Creek
- 4 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
5 Cane River (Blackberry Ridge Rd. to downstream boundary of Cane River County Park)
- 6 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
7 Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
8 Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)
9 Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)
10 South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation Park,
11 except where posted against trespassing)
- 12 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to N.C. 197 bridge)
14 Lickskillet Creek
15 Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)
16

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1 15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

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~~; piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 5 (2) ~~"walking catfish" (*Clarias batrachus*);~~ walking catfish (any member of the genus *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 erythrophthalmus*~~); erythrophthalmus or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*;
- 11 (8) round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 12 (9) tubenose goby (~~*Proterorhinus marmoratus*~~); ~~*marmoratus*~~, *Proterorhinus semilunaris*, and
13 *Proterorhinus semipellucidus*;
- 14 (10) ruffe (~~*Gymnocephalus cernuus*~~); *cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*;
- 15 (11) Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 16 (12) Chinese mysterysnail (~~*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*~~); *chinensis*;
- 17 (13) red-rim melania (~~*Melanoides tuberculatus*~~); *tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*;
- 18 (14) virile crayfish (~~*Orconectes (Gremicambarus)*~~); *Faxonius virilis*;
- 19 (15) rusty crayfish (~~*Orconectes (Procericambarus)*~~); *Faxonius rusticus*;
- 20 (16) Australian red claw crayfish or ~~"red claw"~~ red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species of
21 "giant" crayfish species in the genus *Cherax*);
- 22 (17) white amur or ~~"grass carp"~~ grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*); ~~*idella*~~, except for triploid
23 individuals as permitted in Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
- 24 (18) Asian swamp eel, swamp or "rice" rice eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 25 (19) red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 26 (20) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*);
- 27 (21) quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family Dreissenidae; ~~or~~
- 28 (22) redtail catfish (~~*Phractocephalus hemioliopus*~~); *hemioliopus*;
- 29 (23) African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*);
- 30 (24) Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 31 (25) bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*);
- 32 (26) marbled Crayfish or Marmor Krebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 33 (27) applesnail (any species of the genus *Pomacea*);
- 34 (28) olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 35 (29) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 36 (30) Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 37 (31) brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*);
- 38 (32) yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*);
- 39 (33) shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);

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1 (34) Crucian Carp (Carassius carassius);

2 (35) Prussian Carp (Carassius gibelio);

3 (36) European perch (Perca fluviatilis);

4 (37) European minnow (Phoxinus phoxinus); or

5 (38) amur sleeper (Perccottus glenii).

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

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

12

APPENDIX A

1 15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

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

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

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

11 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass,
12 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate. The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 12 inches.

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

14 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

15 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

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

17 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 (j) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~) ~~there~~
32 Virginia, the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
33 is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
34 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

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

37 (l) In Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern ~~Shores, Shores in Dare County, County~~
38 and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, no Largemouth Bass may be possessed.

39

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

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), (c), (d), (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, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake
14 Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

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

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

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

25 (h) In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn ~~Dam, Dam and in~~
26 the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass
27 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.

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

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15A NCAC 10C .0316 TROUT (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)

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

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

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

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

(e) The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:

(1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

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

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

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

(1) Bear Creek Lake;

(2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;

(3) Calderwood Reservoir;

(4) Cedar Cliff Lake;

(5) Cheoah Reservoir;

(6) Cliffside Lake;

(7) Tanassee Creek Lake;

(8) Queens Creek Lake; and

(9) Wolf Lake.

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

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

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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)~~ (b),
3 (c), and (d) of this Rule. There is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than
4 14 inches except 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~~
11 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
12 is no minimum size limit for Smallmouth Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and
13 only one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

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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) and
3 (c) of this 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,
5 and Spotted Bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

6 (c) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, ~~Virginia~~ there
7 Virginia), the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass is 5 fish in aggregate. There
8 is no minimum size limit for Spotted Bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only
9 one Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Spotted Bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

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1 **15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING NONGAME FISHES (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020)**

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

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

7 (c) Special devices may only be used to take nongame fishes with a special device fishing license in those counties
8 and waters with open season designated in Rule .0407 of this Section.

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

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

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

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

- 16 (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
- 17 (2) University Lake in Orange County.

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

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

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

- 24 (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- 25 (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- 26 (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- 27 (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- 28 (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- 29 (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- 30 (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- 31 (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

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

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

- 37 (1) Lake Norman;
- 38 (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- 39 (3) Lake Wylie;

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- 1 (4) Badin Lake;
- 2 (5) Lake Tillery;
- 3 (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- 4 (7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA)
- 5 ~~(7)(8)~~ Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- 6 ~~(8)(9)~~ Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

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

9 (m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing
10 in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. Eels greater than 9 inches in length and with a
11 minimum body depth greater than ½ inch may be cut for use as bait.

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

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

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

19 (q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish
20 specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure
21 its total original ~~length-length~~, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule. No person while fishing shall change
22 the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule
23 having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in
24 ~~possession~~, possession, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this rule.

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

- 27 (1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr
28 Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);
- 29 (2) blue crab; and
- 30 (3) bowfin.

31 (s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.

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1 15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait from the following waters:

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

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1 (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph
2 County;

3 (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and

4 (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.

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