



Fiscal Note for Proposed Wildlife Management Rules and Rule Amendments

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees
15A NCAC 10B .0101 Importation of Wild Animals and Birds
15A NCAC 10B .0105 Migratory Game Birds
15A NCAC 10B .0111 Restrictions on Raccoon and Opossum Hunting
15A NCAC 10B .0119 Wildlife Collectors
15A NCAC 10B .0123 Limitations on Certain Exotic Species
15A NCAC 10B .0203 Deer (White-tailed)
15A NCAC 10B .0205 Raccoon and Opossum
15A NCAC 10B .0206 Squirrels
15A NCAC 10B .0402 Tagging Furs
15A NCAC 10B .0403 Application for Tags
15A NCAC 10H .1301 Commercial Take of Certain Turtles Prohibited
15A NCAC 10H .1302 Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians
15A NCAC 10H .1402 Captivity License for Rehabilitation

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

Authority: G.S. 113-134; 113-270; 113-272; 113-273; 113-274; 113-276; 113-291; 113-292; 113-333

BACKGROUND

The wildlife resources of the State belong to the people of the State, including the enjoyment of these resources (G.S. 113-131(a)). The Wildlife Resources Commission (hereinafter WRC or Commission) 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). In accordance with the supply of wildlife and other factors it determines to be of public importance, the WRC may fix seasons and bag limits upon the wild animals and wild birds authorized to be taken that it deems necessary or desirable in the interests of the conservation of wildlife resources (G.S. 113.291.2(a)).

A summary of the proposed rule amendments with anticipated impacts is shown below. Proposed rule text is included in Appendix A.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES

15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES

This proposed rule change would make all regulated activities-related license and permit fees non-refundable. License and permits fees help defer the cost of processing applications and conducting inspections. It is important that the Commission retain these fees regardless of circumstances surrounding licensing, which may include denial of an application, or failure of the applicant to complete the application process.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

The state refunded 22 license or permit fees in 2020 accounting for \$620. The average cost for staff to process a license application is \$33 (1 hour/license x \$33/hr = \$33 license). Thus, the state spent at least \$726 processing and refunding \$620. Making regulated activities licenses/permits non-refundable is anticipated to save the state at least \$620/year.

Local Impact

This amendment is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Costs

An individual may have a personal loss ranging from \$10 - \$530 (trophy wildlife sale, endangered species, importation/exportation, possession, dealer, captivity, special devices) depending on the type of permit or license sought. In total, unsuccessful license applicants are expected to incur approximately \$620 in non-refundable fees annually.

15A NCAC 10B .0101 IMPORTATION OF WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Reptiles and amphibians are not included in the definition of wild animals. Because of this, individuals importing reptiles and amphibians are not required to obtain a permit, which could lead to unregulated or illegal activity. The proposed amendment to this Rule will prohibit importation without a valid permit and close the loophole for illegal importation of native reptiles and amphibians.

Language about importing cervids was removed as the importation of cervids was moved under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and is no longer applicable to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

There are many reptile and amphibian shows throughout North Carolina. However, the agency is unsure how many vendors are selling native species. This proposed amendment will allow the Commission to better track the importation and sale of native reptiles and amphibians.

The importation permit costs \$10.00. While there will be a fiscal benefit to the State because of this requirement, the Commission has no way of knowing how many people will apply for an importation permit for reptiles or amphibians, as this was previously an unregulated activity. Thus, there are no means to quantify this benefit.

Local Impact

This amendment is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Costs

The cost of obtaining a permit is \$10.00. Since importation of reptiles and amphibians has always been unregulated, there is no way for the Commission to know how many individuals were purchase a permit.

Benefits

North Carolinians benefit by knowing that their heritage resources are being well-managed. Members of the public would be assured that these animals are kept and moved in a humane way as well.

15A NCAC 10B .0105 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

The Atlantic Flyway Council and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have eliminated the Special Sea Duck Season in the Atlantic Flyway to become effective in the 2022-23 migratory game bird season, as referenced in the Federal frameworks. However, Special Sea Duck Areas in the

Atlantic Flyway will remain in place to allow crippled waterfowl to be taken from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as Special Sea Duck Areas. Currently, state rules only allow for a Special Sea Duck Area when there is a concurrent Special Sea Duck Season. This proposed change will remove the requirement for having a Special Sea Duck Season while continuing to allow for the chasing of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat under power in those areas described, delineated, and designated as Special Sea Duck Areas, which will bring state rules in concurrence with the Federal frameworks in 2022-23.

The habitat enhancement program that established posted waterfowl management areas by the Wildlife Resources Commission for Canada Goose and duck restoration no longer exists. This change will eliminate this language from NCAC 10B .0105.

The area east of US 17 is no longer designated as an “experimental” September teal season zone as referenced by the Federal frameworks calling for state rules designating these September teal season zones. This change will bring state rules in concurrence with the current Federal frameworks.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

This amendment is anticipated to have no state government impact.

Local Impact

This amendment is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefits

The proposed rule change expands hunter opportunity by eliminating the Special Sea Duck Season and still allowing for the chasing of crippled waterfowl from a motorboat in areas designated as Special Sea Duck Areas. However, because the Commission does not track the number of hunters that take advantage of this season, the Commission has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS

15A NCAC 10H .1301 COMMERCIAL TAKE OF CERTAIN TURTLES PROHIBITED

15A NCAC 10H .1302 POSSESSION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Proposed changes to the wildlife collectors rule will not only clarify activities for which a collection licenses are necessary, but will also set expectations and qualifications for licensed individuals depending on the collection activity that they do.

Specific limitations to snapping turtle collection in 10H .1301 are proposed due to increased harvest pressure in NC. Neighboring states have reduced or eliminated their commercial take of

snapping turtles which is pushing collectors from other states to NC to harvest turtles. Commission staff believe that the current limit of 100 snapping turtles per year is an unsustainable number based on harvest pressure. Proposed changes to snapping turtle collection in this rule include the following, which should reduce harvest pressure to a sustainable level:

- Setting a season
- Limiting collection to NC residents
- Limiting licenses to one per physical address
- Limiting harvest to 100 turtles per physical address per season
- Limiting daily take to 10 turtles per physical address
- Limiting license holders to 10 trapping devices per license and imposing new trap specifications
- Increasing the minimum carapace length from 11 inches to 13 inches

Additionally, Commission staff are concerned that the current possession rule allowing individuals to take and keep up to four reptiles and 24 amphibians provides many loopholes and opportunities for illegal collection, possession, and trade. Proposed amendments will create a clear distinction between collection activities that require a license (education and science or snapping turtle collection) and individuals keeping native herps as pets.

Rule 10H .1302 has been updated to match the proposed modification of the 4 total amphibian and reptile species per physical address limit per household in 10B .0119. It also proposes requiring a possession permit for individuals wanting to rehabilitate native reptiles and amphibians, as this is a growing request of the Commission.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

Proposed amendments to this rule clarify requirements for obtaining and complying with collection licenses, reduce overall complexity of the rules, and allow for increased oversight on take of native species. Additionally, proposed amendments will close any loopholes that may exist regarding the take of native reptiles and amphibians and reduce pressure on snapping turtles.

Costs

In 2021, the Commission issued 95 snapping turtle licenses (95 licenses x \$10/license fee = \$950). However, it is anticipated that fewer licenses will be sold for snapping turtle collection because only 100 turtles can be collected per season per household. The agency believes that some households were licensed to take more than 100 snapping turtles with multiple household members being licensed. Additionally, the licensing of only North Carolina residents will likely decrease the number of licenses sold. However, while implementation of these new requirements come at a cost to the state, it is anticipated that the resource benefits will outweigh the loss of revenue.

Local Impact

The amendments are not anticipated to have local government impacts.

Private Impact

Benefits

With fewer native reptiles and amphibians allowed per household, the pressure on these resources will decrease. There will also be an increase in opportunity for other residents to view and collect if they wish to do so because more resources will be available on the landscape.

Proposed limitations on snapping turtle collection are intended to reduce take to help maintain a sustainable population level.

Costs

The amendments in 10H .1302 and 10B .0119 require that no more than 4 native reptile and no more than 24 amphibian species be kept in a single residence. In 2021, the Commission issued 106 possession permits. Individuals that have been collecting more than the allotted species at their address will no longer be able to do so without a possession permit and collection license. This amendment also prohibits the sale of these animals. The Commission has no way of knowing how many individuals were selling reptile and amphibian species and for what the price and thus is an unquantifiable loss.

The 10H .1302 amendment requires individuals wanting to rehab native amphibians and reptiles to pay a \$10 possession permit fee. The Commission has no way of identifying how many individuals were rehabilitating these animals, and thus cannot quantify how many people will be impacted by this change. Additionally, only North Carolina residents will be issued a collection license. This change decreases opportunity to out of state individuals wanting to collect reptiles and amphibians in North Carolina.

Proposed limitations to snapping turtle collection, including license requirements, season and take limits, trapping device limits and specifications, and increasing the minimum carapace length from 11 to 13 inches will reduce commercial and personal take of turtles for sale and consumption. Snapping turtles are sold at wholesale for around \$14.75 a pound. The Commission does not have data on the weight of turtles collected or the quantity of snapping turtles sold per license, and thus cannot quantify the loss of individual income due to the proposed changes. Additionally, individuals may be denied a license if they do not fit the proposed qualifications set by the Commission.

15A NCAC 10B .0123 LIMITATION OF CERTAIN EXOTIC SPECIES

The Tegu lizard is an established exotic species in several southeastern states such as Georgia and Florida. Since September 2020 there have been many documented sightings of this lizard in South Carolina. Recently, the Tegu lizard has been observed in Moore County and several other locations across North Carolina. Once established in the wild, Tegus are destructive and

aggressively invasive, often feeding on eggs of ground nesting birds such as turkey and quail, and could pose a dire threat to ground nesting shorebirds. In addition, Tegus have been noted as a threat to alligator nests where they have become established in Florida. Because these species are popular in the pet trade and known to be present in NC, it is important to take precautions to prevent further spread in the wild. Greenhouse Frogs have not yet been spotted in North Carolina, but have become an invasive species and very destructive in Florida and have recently moved into South Carolina. To get ahead of this species being destructive, the Commission wishes to add them to the limitation list.

The proposed rule amendment adds the Tegu Lizard (*Salvator spp.*) and the Greenhouse Frog as species that are unlawful to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, sell, transfer, or release in North Carolina.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

While unquantifiable, the main benefit of prohibiting the possession, importation, sale, and release of Tegus and Greenhouse Frogs into North Carolina is protection of our native wildlife species. Because of the destruction caused by the Tegu lizard, the state will likely avoid substantial costs in the future by prohibiting them now.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Costs

Tegu lizards are popular in the pet trade and have been observed for sale at North Carolina reptile shows and pet shops for anywhere from \$300 - \$2,000. It is anticipated that prohibiting their sale and possession will remove this source of income from the sale of this species, though the Commission has no way to quantify this loss.

Because the Tegu lizard is a popular pet, prohibiting their possession will take the opportunity of owning and selling these species away from the public and reptile show vendors. However, the agency cannot assign a monetary value to this opportunity cost.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)

The western part of the state currently has an arbitrary black powder season that was put in place when deer herd populations could not sustain a full either sex gun season. As it stands, hunters can only harvest deer of either sex on opening day of black powder and archery season. Currently, the biological objective for deer density is being met and harvest trends indicate continued growth of deer herds in the west. The population can sustain an increased harvest it

could not previously.

This amendment would remove western blackpowder either sex restriction line from rule and link blackpowder either sex restrictions to the corresponding either sex gun seasons:

- No either sex gun = First Saturday only of blackpowder
- Introductory either sex gun = Opening day through following Saturday of blackpowder
- Conservative either sex gun = Opening day through following Saturday of blackpowder
- Moderate either sex gun = No restrictions blackpowder
- Maximum either sex gun = No restrictions blackpowder

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

The proposed amendment will reduce regulatory complexity and increase consistency across open seasons for hunting deer of either sex. This will also make enforcement easier on the ground.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefits

Additional antlerless harvest would provide hunters with additional opportunity to take deer of either sex. This may lead to additional harvest, which may in turn positively affect taxidermists and deer processors. However, the Commission has no way to estimate how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity now or in the future, or what the harvest outcomes will be. Thus, the agency has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

15A NCAC 10B .0111 RESTRICTIONS ON RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING

When this rule was adopted in the 1970's, raccoon hunting was one of the 5 most popular sports in North Carolina. At that time, there were concerns among hunters that there were inadequate populations of raccoons to support the increased participation in raccoon hunting and dog training. Since then, and despite decreases in the number of raccoon hunters, fewer trips afield, and lower harvest levels, raccoon hunter success is similar to that observed in the 1970's, indicating increased raccoon populations. Depredation caused by raccoons has increased over the years, and outbreaks of canine distemper virus (CDV) in raccoons has increased between 2012

(n=1 CDV cases) and 2020 (n=21 CDV cases).

Biologists believe that raccoon populations are abundant, and overabundant in some areas. The amendment to this rule removes the restriction on daylight raccoon hunting west of US1, as there is no longer a biological or management justification.

10B .0111 is being repealed and merged into .0205 to keep racoon and opossum hunting regulations in one rule.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

Due a decline in raccoon hunters, increasing opportunities to hunt raccoons may assist the Commission in managing abundant raccoon populations. Currently, Commission staff spends time managing conflicts with racoons by providing technical guidance to the public. This is done by email or phone informing the public of their ability to take racoons in the act of causing damage, hire a wildlife control agent, trap on their property during trapping season, or obtain a depredation permit outside the trapping season to landowners themselves. There is not a system currently in place that tracks how much time is spent in these conversations and thus the agency cannot accurately determine the potential savings.

Additionally, though not expected to be notable, the increase in hunter opportunity created by the proposed amendment could increase the number of raccoon hunters. There are currently an estimated 12,530 racoon hunters in North Carolina.

Local Impact

This rule has no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefits

This amendment allows for an increase in hunter opportunity to take racoons. The Commission has no way to estimate how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity now or in the future, thus has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

This proposed amendment allows for a 14-day spring gray squirrel season on private lands with a daily limit of eight squirrels. Squirrels are an abundant and widely distributed natural resource that is underutilized across the state. In the 1970's squirrel harvest was four times higher than it is currently.

Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia all have spring squirrel seasons. At least eight other states also have a spring squirrel season. In NC, reproductive biology allows for a spring season as gray squirrels have completed their winter/spring breeding cycle. This proposed season follows the spring breeding pulse at the same interval that the fall season follows the summer breeding pulse. Thus, the Commission believes this will have no impact on the squirrel population.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Benefits

This rule amendment provides additional opportunity for hunters and has the potential to benefit the state by positively impacting recruitment and retention of hunters, leading to increased hunting license sales. The average annual harvest per hunter ranges from 3 to 14 depending where in the state the individual is hunting. The opportunity for additional harvest allows the chance for continued participation. However, this additional opportunity is unquantifiable.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefits

This amendment increases hunting opportunity for those that already squirrel hunt and for those that may want to hunt small game. Small game is a good place for newer and younger hunters to start their hunting experience because the resource is abundant, which increases their likelihood of success, creating an enjoyable hunting experience and increasing their chances of continuing in the activity. However, the Commission has no way to estimate how many hunters will take advantage of this opportunity now or in the future, thus has no means to quantify this benefit.

15A NCAC 10B .0403 APPLICATION FOR TAGS

CITES tags are used by trappers that want to sell otter and bobcat furs. In the past, these tags have cost trappers \$2.20 each. The market for furs and pelts as drastically decreased in recent years and to require them to pay a tagging fee that is close to what pelts are worth now, would place a financial burden on the trappers who want them. The CITES tags are provided to the Commission free of charge from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the fees collected were revenue.

Due to the decreasing market for pelts and furs that have driven down the cost, the Commission is removing the tag fee. To ensure that an excess of tags are not being provided to individuals

which could diminish or exhaust supply during the season, making them unavailable to individuals that need CITES tags, there will be a maximum request limit of 50 tags for bobcat and 150 tags for otter.

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

Costs

Eliminating the fee (\$2.20 per tag) for CITES tags will reduce revenue to the Commission by approximately \$2,268.20¹ per year (1,031 tags/year x \$2.20/tag = \$2,268.20/year). However, when compared to the other revenue generated by the Commission, this loss is negligible.

Benefits

The elimination of the CITES tag fee may help with retention of trappers who sell bobcat and otter furs. If this is the case, trapping license sales revenue would remain consistent instead of declining.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Benefit

The trappers that purchase these tags will be saving \$2.20 per tag for an average savings of \$33.00 per year² [(10 otter tags x \$2.20) + (5 bobcat tags at \$2.20) = \$33].

15A NCAC 10H .1401 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION

Proposed amendments to this rule will prohibit the rehabilitation of the nine-banded armadillo and upland game bird eggs. The nine-banded armadillo is a non-native species that is expanding its range into North Carolina. Since 2007, it has been confirmed in 23 counties and has become established in several counties in western North Carolina. The nine-banded armadillo is susceptible to collisions with vehicles and almost all observations of dead armadillos are the result from such collisions. This proposal will clarify that nine-banded armadillos cannot be rehabilitated, just as other non-native species (e.g., coyote, nutria, feral swine) are prohibited from being rehabilitated. The Commission is not aware of a desire by licensed rehabilitators to rehabilitate armadillos, due to their inexperience with this species, as well as the severity of most injuries.

Rehabilitation of upland game bird eggs would likely cause chicks hatched in captivity to become imprinted to humans, making survival in the wild after release unlikely.

¹ Revenue generated from 1,031 tags sold in 2019-2020 trapping season

² Based upon average number of otter and bobcat tags provided per person per season

Impacts & Benefits

State Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no state government impact.

Local Impact

This rule is anticipated to have no local government impact.

Private Impact

Costs

The proposed changes could be considered a lost opportunity for rehabilitators. However, the Commission only knows of one rehabilitator that has attempted to rehab an injured armadillo and based on their experience, would not be likely to do this again. Additionally, the Commission is unaware of how many licensed rehabilitators have been hatching upland game bird eggs. Thus, the agency has no way to quantify this loss.

SUMMARY

Quantifiable Impacts

State

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated from the proposed CITES tag rule change:

- Lost revenue = \$2,268.20/year

The following quantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed change refunds:

- Estimated increased revenue of \$620/ year.

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated from the collection license rule change:

- Lost revenue = \$950/year

The total annual quantifiable impact to the state is anticipated at approximately \$3,838.

Private

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated from the proposed Tegú Lizard rule change:

- Potential lost revenue = \$300-\$2,000/lizard

The following quantifiable costs are anticipated from the proposed importation permit and possession permit rule change:

- \$10 permit fee
- Potential lost importation revenue = \$100-\$1,000/native reptile or amphibian

The following quantifiable benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Average CITES tag savings = \$33/annually

Though quantifiable, the potential private costs of the proposed rule changes cannot be determined due to lack of data.

Unquantifiable Impacts

State

The following unquantifiable state benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Adding native reptiles and amphibian to the list of species requiring a permit may increase revenue.
- Restrictions on snapping turtle collection is anticipated to reduce pressure on the snapping turtle population.
- Collection license and possession permit amendment allows increased oversight of native reptile and amphibian species.
- Prohibiting the possession and release of Tegus protects native species.
- Removing the western blackpowder either sex restriction line reduces regulatory complexity of either-sex season hunting in the west and increases consistency across open seasons.
- Removing the daylight hunting restriction on raccoons, increases hunter opportunity while managing the racoon population.
- Opening a spring squirrel season on private land increases opportunity and may promote hunter recruitment and retention.

Private

The following unquantifiable private benefits were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Removing the special sea duck season expands hunter opportunity by allowing hunting in special seas duck areas.
- Snapping turtle collection license changing from per person to per physical address reduces the competition for snapping turtles and increases opportunity for more participation from others.
- Allowing additional antlerless harvest of either sex increases hunter opportunity.

- Allowing additional antlerless harvest of either sex may increase revenue for taxidermists and deer processors.
- Removing raccoon hunting restrictions increases hunter opportunity.
- Opening a spring squirrel season on private land increases hunter opportunity.

The following unquantifiable private costs were identified for the proposed rule changes:

- Changing the per person collection license limit to a per household license limit, adding qualifications, and limiting collection to NC residents is likely to decrease of the number of snapping turtles being sold per individual, resulting in a loss of revenue of approximately \$14.75/pound.
- Prohibiting the sale of native amphibians and reptiles and changing the per-person possession limit to a per-household possession limit may result in lost income.
- Prohibiting the possession of Tegu Lizards after (August 1, 2022) will mean individuals can no longer have them as pets.

While most of the impacts are unquantifiable, the Commission believes that benefits to both the state and private entities outweigh the costs.

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES.**

2 (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-
3 270.1B(e).

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-
28 270.3:

- 29 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - \$14.00.
- 30 (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - \$239.00.
- 31 (3) Bear Management Stamp - \$11.00.
- 32 (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
 - 33 (A) Season License - \$100.00.
 - 34 (B) Ten-Day License - \$80.00.
- 35 (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - \$11.00.
- 36 (6) Game Land License - \$16.00.
- 37 (7) Falconry License - \$11.00.
- 38 (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - \$14.00.

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- 1 (9) Resident American Alligator License - \$250.00.
- 2 (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - \$500.00.
- 3 (11) Resident Elk License - \$500.00.
- 4 (12) Nonresident Elk License - \$1,000.00.
- 5 (f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.
- 6 113-270.4:
- 7 (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$16.00.
- 8 (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - \$159.00.
- 9 (g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:
- 10 (1) Resident State Trapping License - \$32.00.
- 11 (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - \$300.00.
- 12 (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - \$133.00.
- 13 (h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the
- 14 Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:
- 15 (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - \$25.00.
- 16 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - \$265.00.
- 17 (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - \$45.00.
- 18 (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
- 19 (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$9.00.
- 20 (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - \$23.00.
- 21 (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$16.00.
- 22 (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
- 23 (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - \$11.00.
- 24 (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - \$106.00.
- 25 (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing License - \$8.00.
- 26 (i) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in
- 27 G.S. 113-272.2:
- 28 (1) Resident Special Device License - \$80.00.
- 29 (2) Nonresident Special Device License - \$530.00.
- 30 (j) The fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall be \$10.00.
- 31 (k) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S.
- 32 113-272.5:
- 33 (1) Captivity License for Holding - \$50.00.
- 34 (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - \$10.00.
- 35 (l) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S.
- 36 113-273:
- 37 (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - \$64.00.
- 38 (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - \$318.00.

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- 1 (3) Fur-dealer Station License - \$128.00.
- 2 (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - \$100.00.
- 3 (5) Game Bird Propagation License - \$10.00.
- 4 (6) Furbearer Propagation License - \$27.00.
- 5 (7) Taxidermy License - \$50.00.
- 6 (8) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - \$5.00.
- 7 (9) Wildlife Control Agent License - \$50.00.
- 8 (10) Alligator Control Agent Certification - \$25.00.
- 9 (m) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:
- 10 (1) Possession Permit - \$10.00.
- 11 (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - \$10.00.
- 12 (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - \$10.00.
- 13 (4) Endangered Species Permit - \$10.00.
- 14 (5) Field Trial Permit - \$10.00.
- 15 (n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:
- 16 (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$69.00.
- 17 (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$41.00.
- 18 (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
- 19 (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$292.00.
- 20 (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.
- 21 (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 22 \$716.00.
- 23 (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 24 \$1,643.00.
- 25 (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 26 \$32.00.
- 27 (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
- 28 License - \$117.00.
- 29 (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
- 30 License - \$117.00.
- 31 (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$477.00.
- 32 (o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in
- 33 G.S. 113-174.2:
- 34 (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.
- 35 (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$32.00.
- 36 (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$6.00.
- 37 (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.
- 38 (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$106.00.

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- 1 (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$159.00.
- 2 (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$265.00.
- 3 (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$530.00.
- 4 (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$16.00.
- 5 (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.
- 6 (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - \$11.00.

7

8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);*

9 *Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2020;*

10 *Eff. July 1, 2020.*

11 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*

12

13

14

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0101 IMPORTATION OF WILD ANIMALS, ~~ANIMALS AND BIRDS~~ BIRDS, AND**
2 **NATIVE REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

3 (a) Before any live wild ~~bird, bird or wild animal~~ animal, or any native reptile or amphibian, is imported into North
4 Carolina for any purpose, a permit shall be obtained from the Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife
5 Resources Commission authorizing the importation, using application forms provided by the Commission.

6 ~~(b) Deer, elk, or other species in the family Cervidae may only be imported into the state of North Carolina from a~~
7 ~~herd in which Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been detected for at least five years and has been managed~~
8 ~~using standards equivalent to, or more stringent than, the criteria specified in 15A NCAC 10H .0301 and 15A NCAC~~
9 ~~10H .0302. The individual U.S. or Mexican state or territory, Canadian province or other country of origin must have~~
10 ~~CWD monitoring requirements that are at least as stringent as those described in this Rule, 15A NCAC 10H .0301~~
11 ~~and 15A NCAC 10H .0302. The originating individual U.S. or Mexican state's or territory's, Canadian province's or~~
12 ~~other country's CWD monitoring program must be jointly reviewed by Wildlife Resources Commission and~~
13 ~~Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services personnel before approval of any importation of cervids into North~~
14 ~~Carolina. There shall be no importation from individual U.S. or Mexican states or territories, Canadian provinces or~~
15 ~~other countries in which CWD has been detected, either in a wild herd or a captive herd.~~

16 ~~(c) Cervids imported into North Carolina shall be individually identified by tags provided by the Wildlife Resources~~
17 ~~Commission that shall be affixed by the licensee to each cervid as set forth in 15A NCAC 10H .0301.~~

18 (d) Waterfowl imported into North Carolina must be received from facilities or individuals who are certified under
19 the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) as pullorum-typhoid and avian influenza negative. If the source birds
20 are not part of NPIP, they must be tested pullorum-typhoid and avian influenza negative by NPIP standards within 30
21 days prior to entry into North Carolina. Health certificates for imported waterfowl shall be available for inspection by
22 authorized Commission personnel upon request.

23

24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106.549.97; 113-134; 113-272.6; 113-274; 113-291.3;*

25 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 8, 2002; May 17, 2002;*

27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2010; May 1, 2010; June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004.*

28 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

29

APPENDIX A

1 15A NCAC 10B .0105 MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

2 (a) Cooperative State Rules:

3 (1) ~~The taking of sea ducks (scoter, eider and old squaw) during any federally announced season for~~
4 ~~only these species shall be limited to the~~ The waters of the Atlantic Ocean, and ~~to~~ those coastal
5 waters south of US 64 that are separated by a distance of at least 800 yards of open water from any
6 shore, island or ~~marsh.~~ marsh are designated as a special hunting area for the taking of sea ducks
7 (scoter, eider, and long-tailed duck) as referenced by the Federal frameworks calling for state rules
8 designating these special areas.

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

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

25 (1) No migratory game bird may be taken:

26 (A) With a rifle;

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

30 ~~(2) No migratory game bird may be taken:~~

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

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

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

6 (3) Crippled waterfowl may be taken from a motorboat under power in those areas described,
7 delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule.

8 ~~(4) Waterfowl hunting and harassment and other unauthorized activities is prohibited on posted~~
9 ~~waterfowl management areas established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for Canada Geese~~
10 ~~and ducks restoration. Information on impoundments can be found at newwildlife.org.~~

11 ~~(5)~~ (4) In that area of Roanoke Sound adjacent to and immediately Northeast of Roanoke Island as marked
12 by buoys designating the waterfowl rest area, it is unlawful to harass or take any waterfowl.

13 ~~(6)~~ (5) The area east of US 17 is designated as ~~a an experimental~~ September teal season zone as referenced
14 by the Federal frameworks calling for state rules designating ~~experimental areas.~~ these zones.

15 ~~(e) Reporting Requirements:~~ For tundra swan and Canada goose seasons where a permit is required to hunt by
16 Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, hunter questionnaires shall be filled out online at
17 www.ncwildlife.org, or on the Commission supplied, ~~supplied on~~ preaddressed, postage-paid ~~cards~~ cards.
18 Questionnaires shall be completed by or returned to the Commission and postmarked no later than April 1 following
19 the end of the applicable season. ~~Failure to return the questionnaire and animal parts, if required, by this date shall~~
20 ~~make the individual ineligible to receive a permit for the following applicable season. In lieu of returning a hard copy,~~
21 ~~individuals may fill out a questionnaire on line through the Wildlife Commission web site at newwildlife.org when this~~
22 ~~option is available by April 1 following the end of the applicable season.~~

23 (d) Failure to return the questionnaire and animal parts, if required, by this date shall make the individual ineligible to
24 receive a permit for the following applicable season.

25
26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 50 C.F.R. 20.21; 50 C.F.R. 20.105;*
27 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
28 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; April 1, 1992; February 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;*
29 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 10, 1998;*
30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; May 1, 2007; June 1, 2005; May 1, 2004; July 1, 2000;*
31 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*
32

APPENDIX A

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0111 RESTRICTIONS ON RACCOON AND OPOSSUM HUNTING**

2 ~~(a) Axes or saws may not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.~~

3 ~~(b) Except in Richmond County, raccoon may not be shot during daylight hours west of US 1.~~

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.1;*

6 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

7 *Amended Eff. August 1, 1981; August 1, 1979; August 1, 1978; August 1, 1977.*

8 *Repealed Eff. August 1, 2022.*

9

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS**

2 ~~(a) Collection Licenses. The Executive Director may license qualified individuals to take or collect any species of~~
3 ~~wildlife resources except that endangered, threatened, and special concern species may not be taken or collected except~~
4 ~~under a special permit issued by the Executive Director for research purposes, unless there is an open season for the~~
5 ~~species. If an open season exists for the species, then the appropriate hunting, fishing, or trapping license serves as the~~
6 ~~authorization for take. This Rule shall not prohibit an individual from killing an endangered, threatened, or special~~
7 ~~concern species in defense of his own life or the lives of others without a permit. Individuals who annually collect~~
8 ~~fewer than five reptiles or fewer than 25 amphibians that are not on the endangered, threatened, or special concern~~
9 ~~lists shall be exempted from this license requirement, except snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) less than 11 inches~~
10 ~~(curved carapace length) shall not be collected at all. The license shall be issued upon payment of a fee in accordance~~
11 ~~with G.S. 113-272.4, except that licenses shall be issued to representatives of educational or scientific institutions or~~
12 ~~of governmental agencies without charge. The license shall be used in lieu of any other hunting or trapping license~~
13 ~~required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of the wildlife incidental to the authorized taking,~~
14 ~~except that it shall not authorize the taking, possession, or transportation of any species of wildlife in violation of the~~
15 ~~Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or any other~~
16 ~~federal act to prohibit or restrict the possession and transportation of wildlife resources.~~

17 ~~(b) Limits on collection. Individuals shall collect no more than 10 turtles from the family Chelydridae (snapping~~
18 ~~turtles) per day and no more than 100 per calendar and these turtles shall have a curved carapace length greater than~~
19 ~~11 inches. Individuals shall collect no more than 10 turtles from the family Kinosternidae (mud and musk turtles) per~~
20 ~~day and no more than 100 per calendar year.~~

21 ~~(c) Qualifications of Licensees. In addition to representatives of educational and scientific institutions and~~
22 ~~governmental agencies, the collection license may be issued to any individual for any purpose when it is not deemed~~
23 ~~inimical to the efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to some other wildlife species that may be~~
24 ~~dependent thereon.~~

25 ~~(d) Methods of Taking. The manner of taking wildlife resources under a collection license may be specified by the~~
26 ~~Executive Director pursuant to G.S. 113-272.4(d) and need not be restricted to the usual methods of hunting or~~
27 ~~trapping.~~

28 ~~(e) Term of License. The Executive Director may, pursuant to G.S. 113-272.4(e), impose time limits and other~~
29 ~~restrictions on the duration of any collection license, but unless so restricted the license shall be valid from January 1~~
30 ~~through December 31 of the applicable year.~~

31 ~~(f) Report of Collecting Activity. Each individual licensed under this Rule shall submit a report to the Wildlife~~
32 ~~Resources Commission within 15 days following the date of expiration of the license. The report shall show the~~
33 ~~numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof. The Executive Director may require~~
34 ~~additional information for statistical purposes such as the dates and places of the taking and the sex, size, weight,~~
35 ~~condition, and approximate age of each specimen taken.~~

36 ~~(g) Other Requirements and Restrictions. The Executive Director may, pursuant to G.S. 113-272.4(d), impose such~~
37 ~~other requirements and restrictions on persons licensed under this Rule as he may deem to be necessary to the efficient~~
38 ~~administration of the wildlife conservation statutes and rules.~~

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1 (a) Wildlife Collection Licenses may be issued to qualified individuals to take, as defined in G.S. 113-130, any species
2 of wildlife resources for the following purposes:

- 3 (1) scientific collection;
- 4 (2) educational collection; or
- 5 (3) snapping turtle collection.

6 (b) The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

- 7 (1) “Scientific collection” shall mean collection for the purpose of conducting scientific research or
8 survey.
- 9 (2) “Educational collection” means collection for the purpose of providing instruction, training, or
10 information to the public.
- 11 (3) “Snapping turtle collection” means collection of snapping turtles from the family *Chelydridae* for
12 sale pursuant to 10H .1301.
- 13 (4) “Personal use” means collection and holding, using as bait, or personal consumption of reptiles or
14 amphibians.

15 (c) The Commission may consider the following qualifications when issuing a license:

- 16 (1) prior research or educational experience in the same or similar field;
- 17 (2) work with or for an educational institution;
- 18 (3) type of study requested of license (permanent or catch and release);
- 19 (4) current state and quantity of species requested;
- 20 (5) collection methodology proposed; and
- 21 (6) disposition of collection.

22 (d) Individuals collecting and holding reptiles or amphibians for personal use shall not be required to obtain a Wildlife
23 Collection License so long as the following conditions are met:

- 24 (1) no more than 4 reptile species and 24 amphibian species per physical address;
- 25 (2) collected reptiles and amphibians shall not be bought or sold; and
- 26 (3) no endangered, threatened, or special concern species shall be collected and retained.

27 (e) Endangered, threatened, and special concern species may not be taken or collected except under an endangered
28 species permit unless there is an open season for the species. If an open season exists for the species, then the
29 appropriate hunting, fishing, or trapping license serves as the authorization for take.

30 (f) Wildlife Collection licenses may be issued to any individual, so long as the take is not deemed harmful to the
31 efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to other wildlife species that may be dependent thereon.

32 (g) Individuals interested in obtaining a Wildlife Collection License shall apply by completing and submitting an
33 application online at www.ncwildlife.org. Information required by the applicant shall include:

- 34 (1) name, address, date of birth, email, and driver’s license number; and
- 35 (2) species information.

36 Additional information required for scientific and educational collection shall include:

- 37 (1) organizational affiliation, if any; and
- 38 (2) full documentation of research or educational proposal(s) and IACUC, if applicable.

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1 (h) Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be used in lieu of any other hunting or trapping license required by law and
2 shall authorize possession and transportation of the wildlife incidental to the authorized taking. It shall not authorize
3 the taking, possession, or transportation of any species of wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the
4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or any other federal act to prohibit or restrict
5 the possession and transportation of wildlife resources.

6 (i) Wildlife Collection Licenses for snapping turtle collection shall only be available to North Carolina residents. The
7 following conditions shall apply:

8 (1) collection shall occur from June 1 through September 30;

9 (2) no more than 10 snapping turtles per physical address per day;

10 (3) no more than 100 snapping turtles per physical address per season;

11 (4) turtles shall have a minimum curved carapace length of 13 inches; and

12 (5) no more than 10 trapping devices per license. Devices shall be:

13 (1) Clearly labeled with a waterproof tag that shows the licensee's name, or WRC Customer
14 Number, or Wildlife Collection License number.

15 (2) Hoop traps or other trap style that allows for the unharmed release of any nontarget species
16 or snapping turtles less than 13 inches.

17 (3) Checked daily per 15A NCAC 10B .0110.

18 (j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the license, Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be valid from January
19 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

20 (k) Licensed individuals shall submit the following information to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15
21 days of license expiration depending on the species taken:

22 (1) the numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof;

23 (2) dates and location of the taking; and

24 (3) sex, size, weight, condition, or approximate age of each specimen taken as specified on the license.

25 (l) Wildlife Collections License shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a facility.

26 (m) The Executive Director or his or her designee may, pursuant to G.S. 113-272.4(d), require further restrictions or
27 conditions on individuals licensed under this Rule as they may deem to be necessary to the efficient administration of
28 the wildlife conservation statutes and rules.

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.4;*

31 *Eff. January 1, 1981;*

32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; January 1, 2013; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; April 1, 2001; February*
33 *1, 1994; November 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;*

34 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

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1 15A NCAC 10B .0123 LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN EXOTIC SPECIES

2 ~~(a) Except as provided in this Rule, it shall be unlawful to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, sell, transfer,~~
3 ~~or release into public or private waters or lands of the State, any live specimen(s) of Tongueless or African Clawed~~
4 ~~Frog (*Xenopus* spp.), Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*), Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), any Asian Newts~~
5 ~~(genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Tylototriton*), or Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta*~~
6 ~~*elegans*).~~

7 (a) Except as provided in this Rule, it shall be unlawful to import, transport, export, purchase, possess, sell, transfer,
8 or release into public or private waters or lands of the State, any live specimen(s) of

9 (1) Tongueless or African Clawed Frog (*Xenopus* spp.);

10 (2) Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*);

11 (3) Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*);

12 (4) any Asian Newts (genera *Cynops*, *Pachytriton*, *Paramesotriton*, *Laotriton*, *Tylototriton*);

13 (5) Red-eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*);

14 (6) any Tegu (genera *Salyator* and *Tupinambis*); or

15 (7) Greenhouse Frog (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*).

16 (b) The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission may by permit authorize importation, transportation,
17 exportation, purchase, possession, sale, or transfer of any species in this Rule by the following entities, subject to the
18 specified limitations:

19 (1) Retail and Wholesale Establishments. Importation, possession, sale, transfer, transportation, and
20 exportation of these species within North Carolina, by retail and wholesale establishments whose
21 primary business is providing scientific supplies for research, shall be allowed by permit, provided
22 the following conditions are met:

23 (A) the application for a permit shall be in writing and include plans for holding, transportation,
24 advertisement, and sale to allow a determination of the safeguards employed to prevent
25 accidental escape and sales to unauthorized individuals;

26 (B) in-state sale or transfer is allowed only to agencies, entities, and institutions listed in
27 Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph;

28 (C) exportation shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the importing state;

29 (D) all specimens shall be possessed in indoor facilities; and

30 (E) transportation of specimens shall employ safeguards that prevent accidental escape.

31 (2) Government Agencies and Research Institutions. Purchase, importation, possession, transfer,
32 transportation, and exportation of these species within North Carolina shall be allowed by permitted
33 state and federal governmental agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions,
34 provided the following conditions are met:

35 (A) the application for a permit shall be in writing and include plans for holding, transportation,
36 final disposition, and safeguards to prevent accidental escape;

37 (B) exportation shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the importing state;

38 (C) all specimens shall be possessed in indoor facilities;

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- 1 (D) transportation of specimens shall employ safeguards that prevent accidental escape; and
2 (E) the agency's, entity's, or institution's Animal Use and Care Committee has approved the
3 research protocol for these species.

4 (c) Notwithstanding Paragraph (a) of this Rule, it shall be lawful for private individuals in possession of a live
5 specimen(s) of Red-eared Slider(s)(*Trachemys scripta elegans*) prior to August 1, 2018, to retain, transport, transfer,
6 or export the animal(s) in their possession. Notwithstanding Paragraph (a) of this Rule, it shall be lawful for private
7 individuals in possession of a live specimen(s) of Tegu(s) (genera *Salvator* and *Tupinambis*) and Greenhouse Frogs
8 (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*) prior to August 1, 2022, to retain, transport, transfer, or export the animal(s) in their
9 possession.

10 (d) Notwithstanding Paragraph (a) of this Rule, facilities open to the public for education may apply for a permit to
11 collect, receive, and possess ~~Red-eared Slider(s).~~ any of the species listed in Paragraph (a).

12

13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274; 113-292;*
14 *Eff. February 1, 1994;*
15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; April 1, 1997.*
16 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

17

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 DEER (WHITE-TAILED)**

2 (a) Open Seasons (All Lawful Weapons) for hunting deer:

3 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
4 from knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet, may be taken on all game lands except Buffalo
5 Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to
6 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Deer With Visible Antlers seasons on these Game Lands), during the
7 following seasons:

8 (A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick,
9 Carteret, Columbus*, Cumberland, Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones,
10 Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson,
11 Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties.

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

13 (B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in all of Bertie, Camden, Chowan,
14 Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin,
15 Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and
16 Wilson counties.

17 (C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe,
18 Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes,
19 Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties.

20 (D) Monday of Thanksgiving week through the third Saturday after Thanksgiving Day in all
21 of Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson,
22 Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey
23 counties.

24 (E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all of Alamance, Anson,
25 Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg,
26 Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union
27 counties.

28 (F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those parts of Camden, Gates,
29 and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in those
30 parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National
31 Wildlife Refuge; in that part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National
32 Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River
33 National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the
34 Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in that part of Currituck County known as the
35 Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

36 (2) Deer of Either Sex. Except on Game Lands, deer of either sex may be taken during the open seasons
37 and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this

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1 Subparagraph (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for either-sex deer seasons on Game Lands). Deer
2 of either sex may be taken during the open season identified in Part (H) of this Subparagraph.

3 (A) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4 during the period from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in those
5 parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National
6 Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the
7 Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in those parts of Anson and Richmond counties
8 known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in those parts of Currituck County
9 known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife
10 Refuge.

11 (B) The open either-sex deer hunting dates established by the appropriate military commands
12 at each of the military installations listed in this Paragraph, during the period from Saturday
13 on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in that part of Brunswick County known as the
14 Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in that part of Craven County known and marked
15 as Cherry Point Marine Base, in that part of Onslow County known and marked as the
16 Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall
17 Military Reservation.

18 (C) Youth either-sex deer hunts. First Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting by
19 permit only on a portion of Belews Creek Steam Station in Stokes County designated by
20 agents of the Commission; the third Saturday in October for youth either-sex deer hunting
21 by permit only on Mountain Island State Forest in Lincoln and Gaston counties; and the
22 second Saturday in November for youth either-sex deer hunting by permit only on
23 apportion of Warrior Creek located on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir, Wilkes County designated
24 by agents of the Commission. A youth is defined as a person under 18 years of age.

25 (D) The first open Saturday of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph
26 (a)(1) of this Rule in all of Buncombe*, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania
27 counties.

28 *Except for that part east of NC 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers,
29 west of US 25, and north of NC 280

30 (E) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph
31 (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in all of Avery, Burke, Caldwell,
32 McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.

33 (F) The first open day of the Deer with Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1)
34 of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter in all of Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford
35 counties.

36 (G) All the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers season described in Subparagraph (a)(1)
37 of this Rule in and east of Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and
38 Gaston counties and in the following parts of counties: Buncombe: That part east of NC

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- 1 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of US 25, and north of NC
2 280; and Henderson: That part east of NC 191 and north and west of NC 280.
- 3 (H) The fourth Saturday in September in all counties, subject to the following restriction: only
4 persons under the age of 18 years may hunt.
- 5 (b) Open Seasons (Archery) for hunting deer:
- 6 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag
7 limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment during the
8 following seasons:
- 9 (A) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open
10 day of the Blackpowder Firearms and Archery Seasons described in Subparagraph (c)(1)
11 of this Rule; and the Sunday immediately following the closing of blackpowder firearms
12 and archery season identified in Part (c)(1)(B) of this Rule to the Sunday before
13 Thanksgiving in the counties and parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With
14 Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson
15 Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC
16 10D .0103 for Archery seasons on these Game Lands).
- 17 (B) Sunday immediately following the closing of the open season for Deer With Visible
18 Antlers through January 1 in the counties and parts of counties having the open season for
19 Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.
- 20 (2) Restrictions
- 21 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
22 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the archery
23 season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in
24 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- 25 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
26 may be used during the archery deer hunting season.
- 27 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken during archery seasons specified by Part (b)(1)(A) of this
28 Rule.
- 29 (D) Only deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished from knobs
30 or buttons covered by skin or velvet, shall be taken during the archery season specified by
31 Part (b)(1)(B) of this Rule.
- 32 (c) Open Seasons (Blackpowder Firearms and Archery) for hunting deer:
- 33 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be
34 taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment during the following seasons:
- 35 (A) Two Saturdays preceding the first day of the Deer with Visible Antlers seasons described
36 in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter
37 except on Buffalo Cove, Nicholson Creek, Rockfish Creek, Sandhills, and South

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- 1 Mountains Game Lands (Refer to 15A NCAC 10D .0103 for Blackpowder Firearms and
2 Archery seasons on these Game Lands):
- 3 (B) Monday on or nearest October 1 through the second Saturday thereafter in the counties and
4 parts of counties having the open seasons for Deer With Visible Antlers specified by Part
5 (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.
- 6 (2) Restrictions
- 7 (A) Deer of either sex may be taken during blackpowder firearms and archery season in any
8 county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(G) of this Rule that has either-sex days for all
9 lawful weapons and in the following counties: Polk, Rutherford, McDowell, Burke,
10 Caldwell, and Cleveland. ~~Deer of either sex may be taken on the first Saturday day of this
11 season only in all other counties.~~
- 12 (B) Deer of either sex may be taken during the first open day of the blackpowder firearms and
13 archery season thru the first Saturday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in
14 Part (a)(2)(D) of this Rule
- 15 (C) Deer of either sex may be taken on the first open Saturday of the blackpowder firearms
16 and archery season in any county or county part not set forth in Part (a)(2) of this Rule.
- 17 ~~(B)(D)~~ In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
18 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the blackpowder
19 firearms and archery seasons, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead
20 or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- 21 (3) As used in this Rule, “blackpowder firearms” means Any firearm - including any firearm with a
22 matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system - manufactured in or before
23 1898, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if such replica is not
24 designed or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any
25 muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that
26 is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the
27 muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.
- 28 (d) Open Season (Urban Season) for hunting deer:
- 29 (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag
30 limits set out in Paragraph (e) of this Rule, deer of either sex may be taken with bow and arrow in
31 participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following
32 January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on any game land or part
33 thereof that occurs within a city boundary.
- 34 (2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the urban season shall send a letter to that effect no
35 later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the urban season to the Executive Director or his
36 designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of
37 the city's boundaries within which the urban season shall apply.
- 38 (3) Restrictions:

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1 (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission is authorized to regulate the use of dogs as
2 provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the urban
3 season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in
4 accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

5 (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer
6 shall be used during the urban season.

7 (e) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two of which may be deer with visible antlers and four of
8 which may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin or velvet as
9 distinguished from spikes protruding through the skin. In addition to the bag limits described above, a hunter may
10 obtain multiple bonus antlerless deer harvest report cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife
11 Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season
12 described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned
13 game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part
14 of the possession and season limit. The bag limits described above do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in
15 the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using
16 Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be
17 set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program,
18 regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with these DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP
19 license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for
20 deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags
21 may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to all the restrictions of those seasons,
22 including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

23
24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
25 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
26 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
27 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
29 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
32 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
33 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
34 *2003);*
35 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015;*
36 *August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May*
37 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005.*
38 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM**

2 (a) ~~Open Season:~~—The open season for taking raccoon and opossum ~~shall be~~ is from sunrise Monday on or nearest
3 October 15 through the last day of February.

4 (b) Bag Limits:

5 (1) The daily bag limit for raccoon is three and there are no season and no possession limits.

6 (2) There is no restriction on bag limits for opossum.

7 ~~Note:—See 15A NCAC 10B .0111 prohibiting axes, saws and shooting in certain western counties.~~

8 (c) Axes or saws shall not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.

9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

11 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

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

14 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; July 1, 2000;*

15 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

16

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS**

2 ~~(a) Squirrel Open Seasons:~~

3 (1) ~~Gray and red squirrels may be taken by hunting on the Monday on or closest to October 15 to the~~
4 ~~last day of February.~~

5 (2) ~~Fox squirrels may be taken by hunting on the Monday on or nearest October 15 to January 31.~~

6 (a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the Monday on or closest to October 15 through the last day of
7 February.

8 (b) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

9 (c) Gray squirrels may be taken by hunting on the second Monday in May through the fourth Monday in May on
10 privately owned lands.

11 ~~(b) Squirrel Bag Limits:~~

12 (1) ~~The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight and there are no season and no possession~~
13 ~~limits.~~

14 (2) ~~The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.~~

15 (c) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight and there are no season or possession limits.

16 (d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

17

18 *History Note* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

19 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
21 *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

22 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019.*

23

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0402 TAGGING FURS**

2 (a) Except as provided in Rule .0404 and .0405 of this Section, ~~it is unlawful to transport or to buy, buying, sell,~~
3 ~~selling, barter, bartering, trade, trading, or otherwise transfer~~ transferring possession or ownership of the carcass or
4 pelt of any bobcat, ~~otter~~ otter, or fox without having affixed to such carcass or pelt an individual tag provided by the
5 North Carolina Wildlife Resources ~~Commission. Commission is prohibited. Each such tag shall bear a serial number.~~
6 ~~When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service repeals its tagging requirements for otter and bobcat this paragraph shall~~
7 ~~apply only to tagging foxes.~~

8 (b) ~~It is unlawful for any person to import~~ Importing into this ~~State~~ State, the carcass or pelt of any otter or bobcat
9 ~~which that~~ that has not been previously affixed with a tag required and supplied by the state ~~in which~~ where the animal
10 was ~~taken. taken shall be prohibited. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service repeals its tagging requirements for~~
11 ~~otter and bobcat this Paragraph shall no longer apply.~~

12 (c) Foxes shall be tagged in accordance with G.S. 113-291.4.

13 (d) The carcasses or pelts of foxes lawfully taken and lawfully tagged may be sold; except those taken under a
14 ~~depredation permit in any county where the sale of foxes or parts thereof is prohibited by local law.~~

15

16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273; 113-276.1; 50 C.F.R. 23; 87 Stat. 884;*

17 *Eff. November 14, 1978;*

18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2010; August 1, 2004; January 1, 1992; October 11, 1980; October 1, 1980;*

19 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022.*

20

21

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1 **15A NCAC 10B .0403 APPLICATION FOR TAGS**

2 (a) Fur tags shall be ~~distributed~~ issued free of charge, excluding postage if applicable, by completing and submitting
3 in response to a request form to applications made on forms supplied by the Commission. Commission online at
4 www.ncwildlife.org.

5 (b) Fur tag requests shall include the following applicant information:

6 (1) name, telephone number, email address, and physical address;

7 (2) date of birth and driver's license number;

8 (3) WRC Customer number; and

9 (4) type and quantity of tags requested.

10 (c) The following restrictions shall apply to fur tags:

11 (1) no more than 50 bobcat tags shall be issued per request;

12 (2) no more than 150 otter tags shall be issued per request; and

13 (3) fox tags may be limited in accordance with area, bag, possession, or season limits.

14

15 (b) ~~The fees to be charged for each fur tag are as follows:~~

16

Species	Fee
Bobcat	2.20
Otter	2.20

17
18
19
20 (c) ~~Foxes shall be tagged in accordance with G.S. 113-291.4(g). The carcasses or pelts of foxes lawfully taken and~~
21 ~~lawfully tagged in an area of open fox season, and those taken under a depredation permit, and those taken under a~~
22 ~~local law that permits foxes to be sold may be sold; provided that this Paragraph shall not authorize the sale of carcasses~~
23 ~~or pelts of foxes taken under a depredation permit in any county in which the sale of foxes or parts thereof is prohibited~~
24 ~~by local law.~~

25

26

27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1; 113-273; 113-276.1; 113-291.4;*

28 *Eff. November 14, 1978;*

29 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2003; January 1, 1992; August 1, 1988; July 1, 1988; July 1, 1984.*

30 *Readopt Eff. August 1, 2022.*

31

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1 **15A NCAC 10H .1301 ~~COMMERCIAL TAKE OF CERTAIN TURTLES PROHIBITED~~ SALE OF**
2 **NATIVE TURTLES**

3 ~~(a) For the purposes of this Rule, "commercial taking" means the taking, possession, collection, transportation,~~
4 ~~purchase, or sale of five or more individual turtles or any turtle part, per person in a calendar year.~~

5 ~~(a) Buying or selling any native turtle species is prohibited except for snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) with a~~
6 ~~curved carapace length of 13 inches or greater as authorized by 10B .0119.~~

7 ~~(b) It shall be unlawful to engage in the commercial taking of any native turtle species in the families Emydidae or~~
8 ~~Trionychidae.~~

9 ~~(c) The prohibition on commercial taking in this Rule shall not apply to the following:~~

10 ~~(1) A licensed veterinarian when holding for purposes of medical treatment;~~

11 ~~(2) A holder of a valid captivity permit for the purposes of rehabilitation;~~

12 ~~(3) A publicly financed zoo, scientific research facility or institution of higher education, or any State~~
13 ~~or federal agency;~~

14 ~~(4) Any person who accidentally collects five or more turtles incidental to any lawful activity, and who~~
15 ~~immediately returns them to the wild; or~~

16 ~~(5) Property owners who legally apply for and receive depredation permits from the Wildlife Resources~~
17 ~~Commission, or one of its Wildlife Damage Control Agents.~~

18 ~~(d) No native turtle shall be sold, except:~~

19 ~~(1) as authorized by 10A NCAC 41A .0302; and~~

20 ~~(2) snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) with a curved carapace length of 11 inches or greater.~~

21 ~~(e) Violators shall be subject to a replacement cost per individual turtle that shall equal the replacement cost for~~
22 ~~"species with no open season" as set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0117(c).~~

23

24 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-333(a)(6);*

25 *Eff. May 1, 2007;*

26 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
27 *6, 2016;*

28 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; November 1, 2019.*

29

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1 15A NCAC 10H .1302 POSSESSION OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

2 (a) Possession permits are required for the possession, importation, transportation, purchase, and sale per physical
3 address of:

- 4 (1) 25 or more individuals of any combination of native amphibian species; or
- 5 (2) five or more individuals of native reptile species.

6 ~~(b) Possession permits shall not be required for the possession, importation, transportation, purchase, and sale of:-~~

- 7 ~~(1) 24 or fewer individuals of any combination of native amphibian species; or~~
- 8 ~~(2) four or fewer individuals of native reptile species.~~

9 (b) Possession permits are required for the rehabilitation of native reptiles and amphibians.

10 (c) Nothing in this Rule shall be construed to authorize the collection of any wildlife resources from the wild or the
11 taking, possession, transportation, sale, purchase, or release to the wild of any wildlife resources or their parts in
12 violation of State or federal laws or regulations.

13 (d) At no time shall permitted animals be released to the wild, except under situations of research or rehabilitation
14 with written permission from the Wildlife Resources Commission.

15 ~~(e) The sale of native turtles shall be unlawful, except as authorized by 10A NCAC 41A .0302 and snapping turtles~~
16 ~~(Chelydra serpentina) with a curved carapace length of 11 or greater.~~

17 ~~(e)~~ (e) A possession permit shall not be issued for:

- 18 (1) holding reptiles and amphibians that were acquired unlawfully;
- 19 (2) holding reptiles and amphibians for unlawful sale or trade;
- 20 (3) ~~selling snapping turtles (Chelydra serpentina) less than 11 inches (curved carapace length); persons~~
21 collecting snapping turtles under the collection license laid out in 10B .0119;
- 22 (4) ~~collecting five or more individual native turtles from the families Emydidae or Trionychidae from~~
23 ~~the wild in a given year, except those entities exempted from collection in Rule .1301(e) of this~~
24 Section; collection of native reptiles and amphibians from the wild;
- 25 ~~(5) collecting five or more individuals in aggregate from other native reptile families or 25 or more~~
26 ~~individual amphibians from the wild in a given year without first having secured a valid Collection~~
27 License;
- 28 ~~(6)~~ (5) individuals in violation of the requirements of a collection license, as set forth in 15A NCAC 10B
29 4.0119, endangered species permit, as set forth in 15A NCAC 10I .0100, or possession permit as set
30 forth in this Section; or
- 31 ~~(7)~~ (6) individuals who do not first obtain possession permits prior to acquiring the following wildlife
32 resources in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

33 ~~(e)~~ (f) ~~The~~ Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit permit, Possession Permits shall be valid from
34 January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

35 ~~(h)~~ (g) Individuals permitted under this Rule shall submit a report to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15
36 days following the date of permit expiration. The report shall contain the numbers of each species held under the
37 permit and the use or disposition thereof.

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1 (h) Any person engaged in the purchased transportation and sale of more than 100 snapping turtles is required to have
2 a possession permit. Permitted persons shall submit the numbers of snapping turtles taken under the permit and the
3 use or disposition thereof; to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15 days of permit expiration.

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-274(c)(1c);*

6 *Eff. May 1, 2007;*

7 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2009;*

8 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
9 *6, 2016;*

10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; November 1, 2019; August 1, 2017.*

11

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1 **15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION**

2 (a) A captivity license for rehabilitation shall be required for lawful possession of injured, crippled, or orphaned native
3 wild animals or wild birds for the purpose of providing short term care and eventual release into the animal's natural
4 habitat. A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:

- 5 (1) Endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined by 15A NCAC 10I .0100.
6 Rehabilitation of these species requires an endangered species permit from the Commission;
- 7 (2) Domestic animals;
- 8 (3) Feral swine;
- 9 (4) Nutria;
- 10 (5) Coyote;
- 11 (6) Adult black bear; ~~or~~
- 12 (7) Adult white-tailed deer or ~~elk~~ elk;
- 13 (8) Nine-banded armadillo or;
- 14 (9) Eggs of upland game birds.

15 (b) A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for the purpose of holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 16 (1) As pets;
- 17 (2) For education, exhibition, or scientific purposes, except as provided in Rule .1403 of this Section;
- 18 (3) For dog training;
- 19 (4) For hunting; or
- 20 (5) Acquired unlawfully.

21 (c) Individuals who do not possess a captivity license for rehabilitation may take temporary possession of injured,
22 crippled, or orphaned wild animals or wild birds, provided they are surrendered to a North Carolina licensed
23 veterinarian or an individual licensed under this Rule within 24 hours of taking possession of such animals.

24 (d) North Carolina licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or crippled wild animals or wild
25 birds are not required to have a license for rehabilitation from the Commission. North Carolina licensed veterinarians
26 without a captivity license for rehabilitation may hold wild animals or wild birds until the animal is medically stable.
27 Once medically stable, the wild animal or wild bird shall be transferred to an individual possessing a captivity license
28 for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species. Licensed veterinarians rehabilitating wild
29 animals or wild birds shall have a valid captivity license for rehabilitation.

30 (e) Individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation that have never held this license in North Carolina
31 or a similar license in another state shall be designated as an apprentice. The following requirements shall apply to an
32 apprentice license:

- 33 (1) On the application, the apprentice shall designate a mentor with a valid captivity license for
34 rehabilitation in NC, who has held that license for two or more years;
- 35 (2) An apprentice shall complete at least 12 months of supervised rehabilitation activities under a
36 licensed rehabilitator; and
- 37 (3) An apprentice license shall only authorize the possession of squirrels, rabbits, and opossums.

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- 1 (f) Individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation shall meet statutory and regulatory requirements,
2 including those in G.S. 113-272.5 and all applicable rules of this Section. Individuals seeking to rehabilitate migratory
3 birds shall provide proof of a valid and concurrent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Migratory Bird
4 Rehabilitation permit for each category of migratory birds to be rehabilitated. The Commission shall state on the
5 captivity license for rehabilitation the categories of wild animals and wild birds that the individual is licensed to
6 possess.
- 7 (g) Required facilities.
- 8 (1) Individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation shall conduct their rehabilitation activities
9 at the facility designated on their license that meets the minimum standards set forth in the "Miller,
10 E.A., edition. 2000. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition. National Wildlife
11 Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages. ISBN 1-931439-00-1." This publication is
12 hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available
13 at no cost at http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum_Standards.
- 14 (2) All wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation shall be separated from pets, domestic
15 animals, livestock, and non-native animals.
- 16 (3) All wild animals shall be kept in separate enclosures by species.
- 17 (4) Rehabilitation in a residence shall have designated, separate rooms used only for housing, treatment,
18 and rehabilitation.
- 19 (5) Handling of animals shall be for treatment only.
- 20 (h) Wild animals or wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be
21 euthanized or treated prior to release, based upon advice from a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.
- 22 (i) Release of rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds.
- 23 (1) All rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds shall be released as soon as the animal can be expected
24 to survive in the wild or has attained full recovery from illness or injury, as determined by the
25 rehabilitator or a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.
- 26 (2) Wild animals and wild birds may remain in a rehabilitation facility for no longer than 180 days. If
27 a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing.
28 The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis by evaluation, which
29 may include the nature of the animal's condition and recommended treatment plan.
- 30 (3) Wild animals and wild birds shall not be released on property owned by another unless the
31 rehabilitator has written permission dated within the last 12 months from the landowner.
- 32 (4) Wild animals or wild birds that are unfit shall be non-releasable and humanely euthanized.
33 However, the Commission shall consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds on a case-by-case
34 basis when written authorization is requested from the Commission. The wild animal or wild bird
35 shall only be transferred to an individual or facility with a captivity license for holding as set forth
36 in Rule .1403 of this Section when written authorization is obtained from the Commission.
- 37 (j) Transfer of Animals.

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- 1 (1) Wild animals originating outside the State shall not be accepted for the purpose of rehabilitation
2 unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission.
- 3 (2) Wild animals received for rehabilitation may not be exported outside the State for the purpose of
4 rehabilitation or release after rehabilitation unless written authorization is obtained from both the
5 Commission and the state where the wild animal will be exported to or released from.
- 6 (3) It shall be unlawful for a license holder to sell any wild animal or wild bird being held under a
7 license for rehabilitation.
- 8 (4) It shall be lawful for a license holder to transfer a wild animal or wild bird to another individual who
9 possesses a valid captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given
10 species or a wild bird to another individual with a valid permit for the given species.
- 11 (k) White-tailed Deer Fawn.
- 12 (1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the white-tailed deer fawn
13 category may possess, rehabilitate, and release white-tailed deer fawns. To become licensed to
14 rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity
15 license for rehabilitation.
- 16 (2) No white-tailed deer fawn shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an
17 enclosure for keeping fawn that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule,
18 and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.
- 19 (3) Any white-tailed deer fawn held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using only
20 Commission-provided tags.
- 21 (4) Orphaned white-tailed deer fawns shall be held for no longer than 90 days. Injured white-tailed deer
22 fawns shall be held for no longer than 180 days or until December 31, whichever occurs first. If a
23 longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing.
24 The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis. A fawn shall be
25 considered an adult on December 31 of the birth year.
- 26 (5) Records of all white-tail deer fawn rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule
27 .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license
28 or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.
- 29 (6) Any individual or facility with the white-tailed deer category may not rehabilitate white-tailed fawn
30 on properties licensed for farmed cervids.
- 31 (l) Elk Calves.
- 32 (1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation
33 objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate elk calves.
- 34 (2) Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for
35 rehabilitation with the elk calf category. To become licensed to rehabilitate elk calves, an individual
36 shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.
- 37 (3) Any elk calves held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using only Commission-
38 provided tags.

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1 (4) Any individual or facility with the elk calf category may not rehabilitate elk calves on properties
2 licensed for farmed cervids.

3 (5) No elk calf shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for
4 keeping elk calves that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, and the
5 facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

6 (6) Records of all elk calf rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this
7 Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior to the
8 request for reissuance of the license

9 (m) Black Bear Cubs.

10 (1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation
11 objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate black bear cubs.

12 (2) Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for
13 rehabilitation with the black bear category. To become licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs, an
14 individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.

15 (2) No black bear shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for
16 keeping black bear that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, and the
17 facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

18 (n) Rabies Species.

19 (1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the rabies species category may
20 possess, rehabilitate, or release rabies species. To become licensed to rehabilitate rabies species, an
21 individual shall meet all requirements of the general captivity license for rehabilitation and shall:

22 (A) have held an active rehabilitation license within or outside of the State for at least the
23 previous three years and have rehabilitated during that time;

24 (B) certify 12 hours of rabies or rabies species-specific training or a combination thereof;

25 (C) certify up-to-date rabies immunization in accordance with current Advisory Committee on
26 Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at
27 www.CDC.gov for any rehabilitator, staff member or volunteer, who may come in contact
28 with rabies species. Proof of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was
29 administered shall be provided upon the request of the Commission or authorized
30 representative and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;

31 (D) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with
32 whom the rehabilitator has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical
33 treatment to the rabies species. Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at
34 the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated;

35 (E) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and local health department
36 prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated
37 activities and location. Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility
38 where the rabies species are being rehabilitated.

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- 1 (F) have separate facilities from non-rabies species adequate for the species to be rehabilitated.
2 Enclosures within the facility shall prevent escape of the animal and exposure to people,
3 pets, livestock, and other captive or free-ranging wildlife. Exterior caging shall be locked
4 and surrounded by double fencing or a solid wall barrier; and
- 5 (G) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of
6 rabies species. A written protocol for testing shall be posted at the facility and made
7 available for inspection by the Commission upon request.
- 8 (2) Except for bats, rehabilitation and release of rabies species is not authorized in counties where the
9 United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Oral Rabies
10 Vaccination (ORV) program is conducted, as specified by the United States Department of
11 Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at www.aphis.usda.gov.
- 12 (3) Except as otherwise specified in this Section, rabies species shall not be removed from their
13 containment except for treatment, release, maintenance of the enclosure, or euthanasia.
- 14 (4) Rehabilitated rabies species must be released in either the county where they were rehabilitated or
15 the county where they were found.
- 16 (5) All rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If any human or
17 domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain
18 and spinal cord, or brain and spinal cord material from any rabies species, the license holder shall
19 contact the local Health Department immediately to report the incident. The local Health
20 Department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the brain for rabies testing.
21 Rehabilitators shall abide by all requests made by authorized public health department personnel,
22 animal control, or Commission personnel regarding disposition of the animal. No rabies species that
23 has scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal or dies in captivity can be released or disposed
24 of until the local Health Department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary.
- 25 (6) Records of all rabies species rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as described in Rule .1406
26 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior
27 to the request for reissuance of the license.

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29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

30 *Eff. January 1, 2020.*

31 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022.*

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