



## Fiscal Note for 2024-2025 Annual Cycle Rule Proposals Wildlife Resources Commission - Inland Fisheries

**Rule Amendments:** 15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS  
15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS  
15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE  
15A NCAC 10C .0307 FLOUNDER  
15A NCAC 10C .0313 AMERICAN SHAD AND HICKORY SHAD  
15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS  
15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT  
15A NCAC 10C .0801 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN JOINT  
FISHING WATERS  
15A NCAC 10C .0802 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF OTHER FISHES BY  
HOOK AND LINE IN JOINT FISHING WATERS

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

**Authority:** G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-272; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305

### **BACKGROUND**

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

As part of its mission, the WRC conducts an annual review of its inland fish, wildlife, and game land regulations to determine whether the rules need to be adjusted in order to accomplish the objectives of managing wildlife resources or Commission property through a biologically

sustainable harvest consistent with sound conservation objectives; managing WRC-owned land for the conservation of wildlife resources, and the enjoyment of the public; and implementing legislative directives.

A summary of the proposed rule amendments is shown below, with the full rule text included in Appendix A. Many of the proposed amendments change what anglers may harvest in specific waters, where anglers may harvest certain species, and when anglers may harvest certain species. Several of the proposed amendments seek to increase angling opportunity, some are more restrictive to protect the resources, and others seek to provide clarity to anglers. All the proposed changes are intended to ensure future angling opportunity, and despite the changes, no impact to angling participation is expected.

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS BY RULE**

### **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS and 15A NCAC 10D .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

The WRC manages approximately 5,300 miles and 2,100 acres of the State's coldwater resources within its Public Mountain Trout Waters (PMTW) program, and in 2022 an estimated 369,968 anglers fished for trout in PMTW and contributed approximately \$1.38 billion to the State's economy.<sup>1</sup> As noted within the WRC's Trout Management Plan, the purpose of PMTW is to use science-based decision making and biologically sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of trout populations for continued and varied angling opportunities. By designating waters as PMTW, the WRC is able to enact biologically sound management that ensures the conservation and wise use of trout resources (including efforts focused on the State's only native salmonid: Brook Trout), increase awareness of angling opportunities, invest in infrastructure that provides angling access to all anglers regardless of physical ability, produce and stock approximately 1 million trout annually to provide fisheries, and partner with local (municipalities and counties), state (North Carolina State Parks and North Carolina Forest Service), and federal entities (United States Forest Service) to manage important ecological, cultural, and economic resources.

The proposed amendments will modify the list of waters designated as PMTW and further classified as Hatchery Supported Trout or Delayed Harvest Trout and reclassify the remaining waters from Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait to PMTW. To reflect changes in partnerships with landowners and angler access, approximately 1.3 miles of Delayed Harvest Trout Waters will be removed and approximately 1.2 miles of Delayed Harvest will be reclassified to Hatchery Supported. The agency will remove approximately 5.4 miles of PMTW and reclassify approximately 73 miles of Wild Trout Waters/Natural Bait to Wild Trout Waters. Changes to PMTW boundaries are necessary to clarify designations based upon partnerships with landowners, angler access, and overall trout management. Removing the Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters classification will simplify the rules for anglers.

<sup>1</sup> Evaluation of North Carolina Trout Anglers' Opinions, Participation and Socioeconomic Impact, 2023.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

Proposed rule amendments that modify the classification of PMTWs will not change on-the-ground management activities. Conservation biologists will change signage as part of their regular duties. The change in signage will not require more than one day, at an estimated one-time cost to the agency of approximately \$304 ( $\$38/\text{hr} \times 8 \text{ hrs} = \$304$ ). New signage will cost the agency approximately \$45 ( $\$0.90/\text{sign} \times 50 \text{ signs}$ ). The total one-time cost to the agency is estimated to be approximately \$349 ( $\$304 + \$45 = \$349$ ).

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Changes to PMTW boundaries will result in a net loss of approximately 5.4 miles of PMTW from public access. While this will be a loss of angling opportunity to the public in specific areas, it represents 0.10% of the total PMTW.

The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific fiscal impact of the proposed changes to private individuals. The reclassification of Wild Trout/Natural Bait Waters changes an angler's ability to use natural bait. However, in general, fewer anglers use natural bait compared to artificial in these specific streams. Reclassifying the waters simplifies the rules for anglers, and not allowing natural bait is expected to reduce catch and release mortality, leaving more fish in the water and improving angler experience.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

The proposed amendment to this rule will prohibit fishing in the Pleasant Grove floodplain slough connected to the French Broad River from March 1 to May 31, which is spawning season for Muskellunge. Although this rule applies to all fish species found in the restored floodplain sloughs connected to the French Broad River and Mud Creek in Henderson County, the majority of fish caught between March and May are Muskellunge.

The Muskellunge population in the French Broad River has been hatchery supported since 1970. The Pleasant Grove backwater slough was constructed specifically to restore spawning and nursery areas for adult and juvenile Muskellunge to promote natural reproduction and recruitment of juvenile fish to the population. The French Broad River Muskellunge population currently has extremely limited to no natural reproduction or measurable recruitment. As such, the purpose for the proposed amendment is to prevent catch and release mortality of Muskellunge during their spawning season. Closure of the Pleasant Grove slough to fishing during the Muskellunge spawning season will prevent targeted angling and the potential harvest of Muskellunge during their spawning period.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Private impacts are anticipated to be minimal as this proposal only restricts the use of the recently constructed Pleasant Grove backwater slough during the spawning period. Muskellunge stocking, public access, and fishing in the mainstem of the French Broad River will not be impacted.

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

The proposed amendment removes the possession limit of 16 - 20 inch for Largemouth Bass at Shearon Harris Reservoir.

Biological data collected over the past 15 years indicates that the current prohibited size range of 16 - 20 inches for Largemouth Bass has not worked as intended. Harvest of Largemouth Bass is low at Shearon Harris Lake and few, if any, Largemouth Bass less than 16-inches are being harvested. Low harvest has resulted in reduced overall average condition of Largemouth Bass. Removing the size restrictions to increase harvest of Largemouth Bass may help increase overall average condition and growth of fish greater than 16 inches.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

The proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

This proposed removal of possession limits should provide more harvest opportunity for largemouth bass. Any additional harvest of Largemouth Bass is expected to enhance the quality of the fishery, and the ability to possess Largemouth Bass that are 16 - 20 inches will benefit tournament anglers.

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

The proposed amendment to the rule will remove the daily creel limit of 20 fish and the minimum size limit of eight inches for Crappie in Lake Ramseur.

A 2019 assessment of Crappie in Lake Ramseur indicated slow growth and a stunted population evidenced by the abundance of smaller-sized yet older Crappie. Removing the limits will promote harvest and help to improve growth and body condition.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

Private impacts are anticipated to be minimal. Anglers will benefit from the additional harvest opportunity, and any harvest of Crappie is expected to enhance the quality of the fishery.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0307 FLOUNDER**

The proposed amendment to the rule will reduce the daily creel limit for Flounder from four fish to one fish.

According to North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 3), Flounder are overfished, and overfishing is occurring. A reduced harvest is expected to allow the Flounder population to recover to a more sustainable level. The proposed change is consistent with the daily creel limit established in Coastal Fishing Waters via DMF Proclamation FF-31-2023.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

The proposed change is consistent with regulations already in place for Coastal Fishing Waters. This proposal will reduce the harvest opportunity in Inland and Joint Fishing Waters but anglers will still be able to fish for other species. This change is expected to allow the Flounder population to recover to a more sustainable level which, in the longer term, could allow increased flounder harvest opportunity.

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

### *Modify Size Limit in Kerr Reservoir:*

This proposed amendment will prohibit the possession of fish larger than 26-inches from October 1 through May 31. Per agreement, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VADWR) is the lead for fisheries management at Kerr Reservoir, and VADWR implemented the proposed change for the Virginia portion of Kerr Reservoir effective January 1, 2023. This proposal will make the size limit consistent in the North Carolina portion of the Reservoir and provide additional protection for larger Striped Bass.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

Biological data indicate that the protection of larger Striped Bass over time is expected to enhance the quality of the fishery (i.e., larger trophy fish). However, in the near term, anglers will lose the opportunity to possess large fish. It is expected that those anglers will continue to fish, as Striped Bass fishing is very popular with NC anglers and thus, the Commission expects that this proposed change will provide anglers with an advantage in future seasons.

### *Establish Size Limit in Farmer Lake:*

This proposed amendment will establish a 16-inch minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids at Farmer Lake. The Commission has recently initiated annual stockings of hybrid Striped Bass at Farmer Lake to create a fishery. This size limit will make regulations for hybrid Striped Bass at Farmer Lake consistent with other reservoirs across North Carolina that are stocked with hybrid Striped Bass.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Harvest may be reduced in Farmer Lake, but the minimum size limit should increase the abundance of fish and help to establish a quality fishery. The WRC does not have a mechanism to determine the specific impacts of the proposed change.

### ***Modify Size Limit in Mountain Island Reservoir and Lake Thom-A-Lex:***

This proposed amendment will remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids at Mountain Island Reservoir and Lake Thom-A-Lex. The general statewide regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit and four fish daily creel will apply.

Striped Bass are no longer stocked in Mountain Island Reservoir due to poor growth and survival. Hybrid Striped Bass may be present in Mountain Island Reservoir through emigration from Lake Norman, but do not require more protection than what is already provided by the statewide regulation. Hybrid Striped Bass have not been stocked at Lake Thom-A-Lex since 2018 due to their high rate of emigration from the system. Striped Bass are not present in Lake Thom-A-Lex. Removing these reservoir-specific regulations will alleviate angler confusion about species availability and simplify rules for anglers.

## Fiscal Impact

### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendments have no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

Striped Bass have not been stocked at Mountain Island Reservoir or Lake Thom-A-Lex for several years. Removing the minimum size limit will decrease the confusion among anglers about the availability of this species in these reservoirs.

***Closure of Striped Bass Fishery in the Central/ Southern Management Area:***

This proposed amendment will clarify the season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is closed year-round in the Inland Fishing Waters of the Central/Southern Management Area. Waters covered include the Inland Fishing Waters of the Tar, Pungo, and Neuse rivers, and their tributaries.

This closure was initially implemented in March 2019 by proclamation. Maintaining the closure was recommended in Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. The closure needs to be codified in rule.

**Fiscal Impact**

***State Impact***

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

***Local Impact***

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

***Private Impact***

No private impact is anticipated as this closure has been in place through proclamation since 2019.

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

The proposed amendment to the rule will prohibit harvest of American Shad in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin upstream of Blewett Falls Dam and clarify existing language that prohibits harvest in Roanoke River reservoirs upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam.

Duke Energy-Progress is required by its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license to provide upstream passage for American Shad at Blewett Falls Dam to help restore American Shad in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin. Initial testing of fishway operations is scheduled to begin spring 2024, and full-time operation is anticipated in spring 2025. Harvest restrictions are necessary to protect spawning American Shad passed upstream of the dam. In addition, the existing rule prohibiting harvest of American Shad in Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, Lake Gaston, and John H. Kerr Reservoir is intended to protect American Shad moved upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam required by Dominion Energy's FERC license. Proposed changes to the current rule will clarify that American Shad shall not be harvested from all public fishing waters upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, which was the intent of the original rule. These changes will not prohibit catch-and-release opportunities.

**Fiscal Impact**



### *State Impact*

This rule amendment is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

### *Local Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated local government impact.

### *Private Impact*

This proposed amendment has no anticipated private impact as American Shad do not currently occur upstream on Blewett Falls Dam.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0801 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

The proposed rule will clarify the Wildlife Resources Commission's authority over certain species designated as inland game fish in all public fishing waters and clarify the size and creel limits which apply. Additionally, the rule will clarify that these species can only be taken with hook and line, that species taken incidental to commercial fishing operations shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed, and that fish with the appearance of species with size and creel limits cannot be altered.

There has been confusion in the public and government agencies as to the Commission's authority over species designated as inland game fish when found in Joint Fishing Waters. Certain inland game fish are under the authority of the Wildlife Resources Commission in all public fishing waters. The proposed rule clarifies the regulations for those species that apply to both recreational and commercial fishing in Joint Fishing Waters.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

This rule has no anticipated private impacts as the it clarifies existing regulations for game fish species in Joint Fishing Waters.

## **15A NCAC 10C .0802 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF OTHER FISHES BY HOOK AND LINE IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

The proposed rule will reaffirm the Wildlife Resources Commission's authority over fishes taken by hook and line in Joint Fishing Waters and clarify the size and creel limits, seasons, and restrictions on species that may be sold. Also, clarify that the appearance of species with size and creel limits cannot be altered.

There has been confusion in the public and government agencies as to the Commission's authority over fishes taken by hook and line in Joint Fishing Waters. Per 15A NCAC 03Q .0106 and 15A NCAC 10C .0106, the Commission has authority for fish taken by hook and line in Joint Fishing Waters. The proposed rule clarifies that authority including size and creel limits, seasons, and if the species may be sold.

### Fiscal Impact

#### *State Impact*

This rule is anticipated to have no state impact as the change is part of routine fisheries management and will not require additional staff time or resources for implementation and enforcement.

#### *Local Impact*

This rule has no anticipated local government impact.

#### *Private Impact*

This rule has no anticipated private impacts as it does not modify restrictions that are currently in place. The proposed rule will clarify the limits for species taken by hook and line in Joint Fishing Waters for anglers.

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (1) Alleghany

6 (A) ~~Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:~~

7 ~~Little River from the S.R. 1133 bridge to 275 yards downstream of the intersection of S.R.~~  
8 ~~1128 and S.R. 1129, marked by a sign on both banks~~

9 ~~(B)~~(A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

10 Big Pine Creek

11 Bledsoe Creek

12 Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where  
13 posted against trespassing

14 Cranberry Creek

15 Glade Creek

16 Little River from ~~275~~ 400 yards ~~downstream~~ upstream of the ~~intersection of S.R. 1128 and~~  
17 ~~S.R. 1129, bridge, marked by a sign on both banks, each bank, to McCann Dam~~

18 Meadow Fork

19 Pine Swamp Creek

20 Piney Fork

21 Prathers Creek

22 ~~(C)~~(B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

23 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park

24 (2) Ashe County

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

26 Big Horse Creek from the Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding  
27 tributaries

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

29 Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River

30 Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both  
31 banks to ~~the North Fork New River~~ a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R.  
32 1536

33 South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge

34 Trout Lake

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

36 Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek

37 Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge

- 1 Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New  
2 River  
3 Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge  
4 Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River  
5 Nathans Creek  
6 North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam  
7 Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River  
8 Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research  
9 Station to Trout Lake  
10 Roan Creek  
11 Three Top Creek  
12 (3) Avery County  
13 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
14 Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond  
15 Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek  
16 Wilson Creek, the game land portion  
17 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
18 Boyde Coffey Lake  
19 Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee  
20 state line  
21 Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where  
22 posted against trespassing  
23 Milltimber Creek  
24 North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational  
25 Park, except where posted against trespassing  
26 North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against  
27 trespassing  
28 Squirrel Creek  
29 Wildcat Lake  
30 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
31 Birchfield Creek  
32 Cow Camp Creek  
33 Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge  
34 Gragg Prong  
35 Horse Creek  
36 Kentucky Creek  
37 North Harper Creek

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

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

- 1 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
2 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line  
3 Cheoah Reservoir  
4 Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana  
5 Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah  
6 Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge  
7 Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana  
8 Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275  
9 West Buffalo Creek  
10 Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River  
11 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:  
12 Little Buffalo Creek  
13 South Fork Squally Creek  
14 Squally Creek  
15 ~~(D) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:~~  
16 ~~Long Creek, the game land portion~~  
17 (10) Haywood County  
18 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of  
20 Lake Logan  
21 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
22 Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River  
23 Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where  
24 posted against trespassing  
25 Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge  
26 Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge  
27 West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Queen Creek, ~~including the game land portion,~~  
28 ~~except Middle Prong Creek~~  
29 (11) Henderson County  
30 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
31 North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam  
32 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line  
34 Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge  
35 Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582  
36 Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary  
37 Hungry River from S.R. 1885 to the Green River



- 1 (12) Jackson County
- 2 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Flat Creek
- 4 Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the
- 5 Duke Energy powerline corridor
- 6 Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property
- 7 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards
- 9 upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- 10 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 11 Balsam Lake
- 12 Bear Creek Lake
- 13 Cedar Cliff Lake
- 14 Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River
- 15 Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek
- 16 Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek
- 17 Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch
- 18 Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
- 19 trespassing
- 20 Tanasee Creek Lake
- 21 Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge
- 22 Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge,
- 23 marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont
- 24 Wolf Creek Lake
- 25 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Gage Creek
- 27 North Fork Scott Creek
- 28 Tanasee Creek
- 29 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- 30 Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- 31 ~~(E) Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:~~
- 32 ~~Chattooga River from the S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line~~
- 33 (13) Macon County
- 34 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal
- 36 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River

- 1 Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River  
2 Cliffside Lake  
3 Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672  
4 Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek  
5 Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line  
6 Queens Creek Lake  
7 (C) ~~Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:~~  
8 ~~Chattooga River from the S.R. 1100 bridge to the South Carolina state line~~  
9 ~~Kimsey Creek~~  
10 ~~Park Creek~~
- 11 (14) Madison County  
12 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge  
14 Shelton Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel  
15 Creek  
16 Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at  
17 end of Andrews Ave.  
18 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
19 Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream  
20 of Bearpen Branch  
21 Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River  
22 Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the  
23 confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy  
24 Max Patch Pond  
25 Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek  
26 Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek  
27 Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork  
28 Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208  
29 bridge at Belva  
30 Shut-in Creek  
31 Spillcorn Creek  
32 Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow  
33 Fork  
34 West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East  
35 Fork Shut-in Creek
- 36 (15) McDowell County  
37 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Newberry Creek, the game land portion
- 2 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway
- 4 Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch
- 5 Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge
- 6 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line
- 8 Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park
- 9 Little Buck Creek, the game land portion
- 10 North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569
- 11 bridge
- 12 (16) Mitchell County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge
- 15 North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
- 16 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 17 Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection
- 18 Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge
- 19 East Fork Grassy Creek
- 20 Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth
- 21 Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted
- 22 against trespassing
- 23 North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
- 24 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against
- 26 trespassing
- 27 Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries,
- 28 except where posted against trespassing
- 29 Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- 30 (17) Polk County
- 31 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 32 Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
- 33 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 34 Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing
- 35 North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge
- 36 (18) Rutherford County
- 37 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted  
2 against trespassing
- 3 (19) Stokes County
- 4 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
5 Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of  
6 S.R. 1421
- 7 (20) Surry County
- 8 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
9 Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway  
10 Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge  
11 on S.R. 1330
- 12 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
13 Ararat River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to the N.C. 103 bridge  
14 Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265  
15 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks  
16 Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge  
17 Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge  
18 Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River  
19 Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
- 20 (21) Swain County
- 21 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:  
22 Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
- 23 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:  
24 Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir  
25 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line  
26 Cheoah Reservoir  
27 Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River  
28 Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the  
29 Tuckasegee River  
30 Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
- 31 (22) Transylvania County
- 32 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:  
33 Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking  
34 Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
- 35 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:  
36 East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to the downstream S.R. 1107  
37 bridge

- 1 Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
- 2 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary
- 4 French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West
- 5 Fork
- 6 French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area
- 7 Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad
- 8 River
- 9 West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French
- 10 Broad River
- 11 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 12 The waters located on Gorges State Park
- 13 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- 14 (E) ~~Wild Trout Natural Bait Waters are as follows:~~
- 15 ~~North Fork French Broad River, the game land portion downstream of S.R. 1326~~
- 16 ~~Thompson River from S.R. 1152 to the South Carolina state line, except where posted~~
- 17 ~~against trespassing~~
- 18 (23) Watauga County
- 19 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek
- 21 to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries
- 22 Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond
- 23 adjacent to Coffee Lake
- 24 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 25 Lake Coffey
- 26 Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower
- 27 boundary
- 28 Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek
- 29 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 30 Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek
- 31 to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203
- 32 Beech Creek
- 33 Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek
- 34 Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- 35 Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood
- 36 Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth
- 37 Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted

- 1 against trespassing
- 2 Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River
- 3 Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194
- 4 Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the
- 5 South Fork New River
- 6 Norris Fork Creek
- 7 South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the
- 8 lower boundary of Brookshire Park
- 9 Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line
- 10 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 11 Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge
- 12 Howard Creek
- 13 Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River
- 14 North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the
- 15 Ashe Co. line
- 16 ~~Watauga River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1580 bridge~~
- 17 Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork
- 18 New River
- 19 (24) Wilkes County
- 20 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower
- 22 boundary
- 23 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
- 24 Club
- 25 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development
- 26 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence
- 27 with the Yadkin River
- 28 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the
- 29 East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek
- 30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 31 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek
- 32 Bell Branch Pond
- 33 Boundary Line Pond
- 34 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge
- 35 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North
- 36 Fork Reddies River
- 37 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the ~~S.R.~~

- 1                                   ~~4002~~ Low Meadows Lane bridge
- 2                                   Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork,
- 3                                   except where posted against trespassing
- 4                                   Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580
- 5                                   Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736
- 6                                   North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559
- 7                                   Pike Creek
- 8                                   Pike Creek Pond
- 9                                   South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle
- 10                                  Fork Reddies River
- 11                                  South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155
- 12                                  intersection
- 13                                  (C)     Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14                                    The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
- 15                                    Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest
- 16                                    Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany
- 17                                    Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone
- 18                                    Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply
- 19                                  (25)    Yancey County
- 20                                    (A)     Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21                                    South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek
- 22                                    Upper Creek
- 23                                    (B)     Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 24                                    Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County
- 25                                    Park
- 26                                    (C)     Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 27                                    Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing
- 28                                    Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek
- 29                                    Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek
- 30                                    South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation
- 31                                    Park, except where posted against trespassing
- 32                                    (D)     Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 33                                    Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge
- 34                                    Lickskillet Creek
- 35                                    Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- 36

37    *History Note:     Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*

1                   *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
2                   *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*  
3                   *October 1, 1992;*  
4                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
5                   *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
6                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
7                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*  
8                   *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*  
9                   *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
10                  *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
11                  *2003);*  
12                  *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
13                  *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*  
14                  *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
15                  *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
16                  *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*  
17  
18



1 **15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

2 (a) No person shall fish ~~by any method~~ from March 1 to May 31 in the following restored floodplain sloughs  
3 connected to the French Broad River and Mud Creek in Henderson County:

- 4 (1) Slough 1 at 35.403687 N, 82.531970 W connected to the French Broad River, located 0.25 miles  
5 upstream of Butler Bridge Rd (SR 1345).
- 6 (2) Slough 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W connected to the French Broad River, located 1.0 miles  
7 upstream of Butler Bridge Rd.
- 8 (3) Slough 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W connected to Mud Creek, located 0.1 miles upstream from  
9 confluence with the French Broad River.
- 10 (4) Pleasant Grove slough at 35.298384 N, 82.584716 W connected to the French Broad River, located  
11 0.25 miles upstream from S.R. 1205, Etowah School Road.

12 (b) Each slough shall be marked with signs on both banks.

13

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

15 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

16 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;*

17 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*

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19

1 **5A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS**

2 (a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (l),  
3 (m), and (n) of this Rule.

4 (b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in  
5 waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (n) of this Rule.

6 (c) There is no closed season, except ~~for~~ in waters identified in Paragraph ~~(f)~~ (n) of this Rule.

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

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

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

14 (g) The minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass is 14 inches in the ~~following:~~ following waters:

15 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

16 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

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

18 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and

19 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and ~~all~~ their tributaries, including Roanoke River  
20 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank  
21 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,  
22 Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy  
23 264/45 bridge, and ~~all~~ the other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3  
4 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
5 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*  
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*  
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*  
9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*  
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule*  
11 *becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*  
12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*  
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*  
14 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*  
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*  
16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*  
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*  
18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*  
19 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*  
20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*  
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*  
22 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*  
23 *2003);*  
24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*  
25 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*  
26 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*  
27 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
28 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*  
29  
30

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

2 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except ~~for~~ in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (h) of this Rule.

3 (b) There is no minimum size limit except in waters identified in Paragraphs (f) through (h) of this Rule.

4 (c) There is no closed season.

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

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

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

8 (1) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;

9 (2) Cashie River and its tributaries;

10 (3) Middle River and its tributaries;

11 (4) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and

12 (5) Lake Mattamuskeet in Hyde County.

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

14 (1) Lake Norman;

15 (2) Lake Hyco;

16 ~~(3)~~ ~~Lake Ramseur;~~

17 ~~(4)~~(3) Cane Creek Lake in Union County;

18 ~~(5)~~(4) Lake Hampton in Yadkin County;

19 ~~(6)~~(5) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam including tributaries;

20 ~~(7)~~(6) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam including tributaries;

21 ~~(8)~~(7) Haw River downstream of B. Everett Jordan Reservoir Dam including tributaries;

22 ~~(9)~~(8) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam including tributaries;

23 ~~(10)~~(9) Cape Fear River including tributaries;

24 ~~(11)~~(10) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam including tributaries;

25 ~~(12)~~(11) Lumber River including Drowning Creek including tributaries;

26 ~~(13)~~(12) public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake  
27 in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph (f) of this Rule;

28 ~~(14)~~(13) public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge; and

29 ~~(15)~~(14) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir.

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

31

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

33 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

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

35 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

36 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2020.*

37 **15A NCAC 10C .0307 FLOUNDER**

- 1 (a) The daily creel limit for flounder is ~~four~~ one fish.
- 2 (b) The minimum size limit is 15 inches.
- 3 (c) The season for taking and possessing flounder is September 1 through September 14.

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5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*  
6 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*  
7 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2021;*  
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;*  
9 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.*

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11

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

2 (a) The daily creel limit for American and hickory shad in ~~the~~ aggregate is 10 fish, only one of which may be an  
3 American shad, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.

4 (b) There is no minimum size limit.

5 (c) There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

6 (d) In the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, Pee Dee River, and their tributaries, the daily creel  
7 limit for American and hickory shad is 10 in ~~the~~ aggregate.

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

10 (f) In ~~all~~ public waters of the Roanoke River upstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, including Roanoke Rapids Reservoir,  
11 Lake ~~Gaston~~ Gaston, and John H. Kerr Reservoir, and their tributaries, and in public waters of the Yadkin-Pee Dee  
12 River upstream of Blewett Falls Dam, including Blewett Falls Reservoir, and its tributaries, no American shad may  
13 be possessed.

14 (g) The season for taking American and hickory shad with dip nets and bow nets is March 1 through April 30.  
15

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

17 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*

18 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

19 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023.*  
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21

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

2 (a) The daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is four fish in ~~the~~ aggregate, except in waters identified in  
3 Paragraphs (d) and (g) through ~~(m)~~(l) of this Rule.

4 (b) The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through ~~(m)~~(l) of  
5 this Rule.

6 (c) There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (i) through ~~(m)~~(l) of this Rule.

7 (d) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA  
8 and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on striped bass and its hybrids is two in ~~the~~ aggregate and the  
9 minimum size limit is 20 inches. No fish greater than 26 inches may be possessed from October 1 through May 31.  
10 From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit ~~on~~ for striped bass and its hybrids is four in ~~the~~ aggregate  
11 with no minimum size limit.

12 (e) In Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, the minimum size limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 20 inches  
13 from October 1 through May 31. There is no minimum size limit for these fish from June 1 through September 30.

14 (f) In Farmer Lake, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, ~~Mountain Island Reservoir~~, Oak Hollow Lake, ~~Lake Thom A Lex~~, Lake  
15 Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

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

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

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

26 ~~(j)~~(i) In the inland fishing waters of the Tar, Pungo, Neuse, and Cape Fear River rivers and its their tributaries  
27 ~~downstream of Buckhorn Dam~~ extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its  
28 tributaries and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and  
29 possessing striped bass is closed year-round.

30 ~~(k)~~(j) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in  
31 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110 which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and  
32 Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing striped bass and its hybrids is March  
33 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids  
34 Lake Dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is one fish in ~~the~~ aggregate,  
35 and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. ~~No fish over 22 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit.~~  
36 possessed.

37 ~~(k)~~(k) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan

1 River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries, excluding the Roanoke River and  
2 Cashie River and their tributaries, the striped bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those  
3 established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.  
4 ~~(m)~~(l) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend or extend the hook-  
5 and-line season for striped bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to  
6 violate the provisions of a proclamation issued pursuant to this authority.

7

8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*  
9 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*  
10 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*  
11 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020;*  
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 30, 2021;*  
14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022;*  
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;*  
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 26 (1) Bear Creek Lake;
- 27 (2) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;
- 28 (3) Calderwood Reservoir;
- 29 (4) Cedar Cliff Lake;
- 30 (5) Cheoah Reservoir;
- 31 (6) Cliffside Lake;
- 32 (7) Tanssee Creek Lake;
- 33 (8) Queens Creek Lake; and
- 34 (9) Wolf Lake.

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

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

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*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*  
*Eff. November 1, 2013;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;*  
*Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

1 **15A NCAC 10C .0801 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

2 (a) For the purposes of this rule, the following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes in joint  
3 fishing waters:

- 4 (1) Alabama bass, largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass;
- 5 (2) black crappie and white crappie;
- 6 (3) chain pickerel (jack), muskellunge, and redbfin pickerel;
- 7 (4) kokanee salmon;
- 8 (5) mountain trout, including but not limited to brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout;
- 9 (6) Roanoke bass and rock bass (redeye);
- 10 (7) sauger and walleye; and
- 11 (8) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), flier, pumpkinseed, redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker),  
12 warmouth, and the other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this  
13 Rule.

14 (b) Inland game fishes shall not be taken by methods other than with hook and line, except that landing nets may be  
15 used to land fishes caught on hook and line.

16 (c) Size, creel limits, and seasons for inland game fishes in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those designated  
17 in Section .0300 for inland fishing waters.

18 (d) Inland game fishes taken incidental to commercial fishing operations shall be immediately returned to the water  
19 unharmmed.

20 (e) Inland game fishes taken from joint fishing waters shall not be sold.

21 (f) Individuals may take up to the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel  
22 limit.

23 (g) On the waters being fished, individuals may possess:

- 24 (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
- 25 (2) fish conforming to the size limit for the species; and
- 26 (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

27 (h) Individuals may possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

28 (i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:

- 29 (1) unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters;
- 30 (2) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of a game fish having a size limit to  
31 render it impracticable to measure its total original length; or
- 32 (3) change the appearance of a game fish having a daily creel limit to obscure its identification or  
33 render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

34  
35 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292;

1 15A NCAC 10C .0802 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF OTHER FISHES BY HOOK AND LINE IN  
2 JOINT FISHING WATERS

3 (a) This Rule applies to fish taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, excluding the species listed in 15A  
4 NCAC 10C .0801.

5 (b) Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.

6 (c) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206 to take fishes in joint  
7 fishing waters.

8 (d) Size, creel limits, and seasons for fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those  
9 designated in Sections .0300 and .0400 for inland fishing waters with the following exceptions:

10 (1) In the joint fishing waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, and their tributaries, the daily  
11 creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in aggregate.

12 (2) In the joint fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for  
13 American and Hickory Shad is 10 in aggregate, five of which may be American Shad.

14 (3) In the joint fishing waters of the Central Southern Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC  
15 03R .0201, size, creel limits, and seasons for striped bass and its hybrids are listed in 15A NCAC  
16 10C .0107.

17 (4) In the joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as identified in  
18 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(2), which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers  
19 and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is  
20 March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound  
21 upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped  
22 Bass and its hybrids is two fish in aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish  
23 between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. One fish  
24 larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

25 (5) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area, as  
26 identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(1), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel  
27 limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries  
28 Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.

29 (e) Fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters may be sold except those fishes for which the sale is  
30 prohibited in Sections .0300 and .0400 for inland fishing waters.

31 (f) For fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, individuals may take up to the daily creel limit of fish  
32 having a specified creel limit.

33 (g) On the waters being fished, individuals may possess:

34 (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;

35 (2) fish conforming to the size limit of the species; and

36 (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

37 (h) Individuals may possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

- 1 (i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:  
2       (1) remove the head or tail or change the appearance of a fish taken by hook and line specified in  
3       Sections .0300 or .0400 as having a size limit, to render it impractical to measure its total original  
4       length, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.  
5       (2) change the appearance of a fish taken by hook and line that has a species-specific daily creel limit  
6       in Sections .0300 or .0400, to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the  
7       number of fish in possession, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.

8  
9 History Note: Authority G.S. 11 3-134; 11 3-135; 11 3-135.1; 11 3-292;

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