

1 15A NCAC 10C .0101 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1237 as follows:

2
3 **SUBCHAPTER 10C – INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS**

4
5 **SECTION .0100 – JURISDICTION OF AGENCIES: CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS**

6
7 **15A NCAC 10C .0101 SCOPE AND PURPOSE**

8 The following rules pertain to the classification of the waters of North Carolina as coastal fishing waters, inland fishing
9 ~~waters~~ ~~waters~~, and joint fishing waters. These rules are adopted jointly by the Marine Fisheries Commission and the
10 Wildlife Resources Commission. In addition to the classification of the waters of the ~~state~~ ~~State~~, these joint rules set
11 forth guidelines to determine which fishing activities in joint ~~fishing~~ waters are regulated by the Marine Fisheries
12 Commission and which are regulated by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Finally, the joint rules set forth special
13 fishing regulations applicable in joint ~~fishing~~ waters that can be enforced by officers of the ~~division~~ ~~Division~~ of ~~marine~~
14 ~~Marine~~ ~~fisheries~~ ~~Fisheries~~ and the Wildlife Resources Commission. These regulations do not affect the jurisdiction
15 of the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission in any matters other than those
16 specifically set out.

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18 *History Note: Authority G.S. ~~113-132~~; 113-134; ~~113-132~~; 113-136;*
19 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
20 *Amended Eff. January 1, 1977.*
21 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0102 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1237 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0102 INLAND FISHING WATERS**

4 Inland fishing waters are all inland waters except private ~~ponds;~~ ponds and all waters connecting with or tributary to
5 coastal sounds or the ocean extending inland from the dividing line between coastal fishing waters and inland fishing
6 waters agreed upon by the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission. All waters which
7 that are tributary to inland fishing waters and which that are not otherwise designated by agreement between the
8 Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission are inland fishing waters. The regulation and
9 licensing of fishing in inland fishing waters is under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Resources Commission.
10 Regulations and laws administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission regarding fishing in inland fishing waters
11 are enforced by wildlife enforcement officers.

12 Note: A private pond is a body of water arising within and lying wholly upon the lands of a single owner or a single
13 group of joint owners or tenants in common, and from which fish cannot escape, and into which fish of legal size
14 cannot enter from public waters at any time. This does not include any impoundment located on land owned by a
15 public body or governmental entity.

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17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; ~~113-129; 113-132;~~*

18

Eff. February 1, 1976;

19

Amended Eff. January 1, 1977.

20

Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0103 is readopted with changes as published in 36:14 NCR 1237 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0103 COASTAL FISHING WATERS**

4 ~~[(a)]~~ Coastal fishing waters are the Atlantic Ocean, the various coastal sounds, and estuarine waters up to the dividing
5 line between coastal fishing waters and inland fishing waters agreed upon by the Marine Fisheries Commission and
6 the Wildlife Resources Commission. ~~[those defined in G.S. 113-129.]~~ All waters ~~which that~~ are tributary to coastal
7 fishing waters ~~and which that~~ are not otherwise designated by agreement between the Marine Fisheries Commission
8 and the Wildlife Resources Commission are coastal fishing waters. ~~[in rule shall be coastal fishing waters.]~~

9 ~~[(b)]~~ The ~~regulations~~ regulation and licensing of fishing in coastal fishing waters is ~~[waters, excluding joint fishing~~
10 ~~waters, shall be]~~ under the jurisdiction of the Marine Fisheries Commission; except that ~~[the following]~~ inland game
11 fish ~~(exclusive~~ exclusive of spotted ~~sea trout, scattrout,~~ red drum, flounder, white perch, yellow perch, weakfish, and
12 striped ~~bass) bass~~ are subject to regulations ~~[regulation]~~ by the Wildlife Resources Commission ~~[when found]~~ in coastal
13 fishing waters. ~~[waters:]~~

14 ~~[(1)]~~ ~~[brown, brook, and rainbow trout;]~~

15 ~~[(2)]~~ ~~[muskellunge, chain, and redfin pickerel;]~~

16 ~~[(3)]~~ ~~[Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass;]~~

17 ~~[(4)]~~ ~~[Roanoke and rock bass;]~~

18 ~~[(5)]~~ ~~[kokanee salmon;]~~

19 ~~[(6)]~~ ~~[black and white crappie;]~~

20 ~~[(7)]~~ ~~[bluegill, redbreast, redear, pumpkinseed, warmouth, flier, and all other species in the Centrarchidae~~
21 ~~family; and]~~

22 ~~[(8)]~~ ~~[walleye and sauger.]~~

23 ~~[(c)]~~ Regulations ~~[Rules]~~ and laws administered by the Marine Fisheries Commission regarding fishing in coastal
24 fishing waters are ~~[waters, excluding joint fishing waters, shall be]~~ enforced by marine fisheries inspectors.
25 Regulations ~~[Rules and laws]~~ regarding inland game fish ~~[specified in Paragraph (b), when found]~~ in coastal fishing
26 waters are ~~[waters, shall be]~~ enforced by wildlife ~~protectors~~ officers, unless otherwise agreed to by the Wildlife
27 Resources Commission.

28
29 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; 113-292;*

30 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

31 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1991; January 1, 1977.*

32 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

33

1 15A NCAC 10C .0104 is readopted with changes as published in 36:14 NCR 1237 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0104 JOINT FISHING WATERS**

4 [(a)] Joint fishing waters are those coastal fishing waters, hereinafter set out, waters, denominated [defined in G.S.
5 113-129, adopted] by agreement of [both] the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission
6 pursuant to G.S. [113-132(e)] 113-132(e) as joint fishing waters. All waters which that are tributary to joint fishing
7 waters and which [that] are not otherwise designated by agreement between the Marine Fisheries Commission and the
8 Wildlife Resources Commission are classified as [in rule shall be] joint fishing waters. ~~The regulation and licensing
9 of fishing in joint waters shall be as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0106.~~

10 [(b)] ~~[Rules and laws regarding fishing in joint fishing waters may be enforced by both marine fisheries inspectors
11 and wildlife officers.]~~

12

13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-292;*

14 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

15 *Amended Eff. January 1, 1977.*

16 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0105 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1238 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0105 POSTING DIVIDING LINES**

4 The dividing lines of all major bodies of water and watercourses which are divided by the agreement of the Marine
5 Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission so that portions of the same are constituted inland
6 fishing waters, coastal fishing waters, or joint fishing waters shall be marked with signs insofar as may be practicable.
7 Unmarked and undesignated tributaries shall have the same classification as the designated waters to which they
8 connect or into which they flow. No unauthorized removal or relocation of any such marker shall have the effect of
9 changing the classification of any body of water or portion thereof, nor shall any such unauthorized removal or
10 relocation or the absence of any marker affect the applicability of any regulations pertaining to any such body of water
11 or portion thereof.

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13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134;*

14 *Eff. January 1, 1977.*

15 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0106 is readopted with changes as published in 36:14 NCR 1238 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0106 APPLICABILITY OF REGULATIONS; RULES; JOINT FISHING WATERS**

4 (a) All coastal fishing laws and regulations [rules] administered by the Department of ~~Environment, Health, and~~
5 ~~Natural Resources~~ Environmental Quality and the Marine Fisheries Commission [shall] apply to joint fishing waters
6 except as otherwise provided in this Section and shall be enforced by marine fisheries enforcement officers. inspectors.
7 [provided.]

8 (b) The following inland fishing laws and regulations [rules] administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission
9 [shall] apply to joint fishing waters and shall be enforced by wildlife enforcement officers: [waters:]

10 (1) all laws and regulations [rules] pertaining to inland game ~~fishes fishes;~~ [fishes specified in Rule
11 .0103 of this Section;]

12 (2) all laws and regulations pertaining to inland fishing license requirements for hook and line fishing,
13 fishing; and

14 (3)[(2)] all laws and regulations [rules] pertaining to hook and line fishing except as hereinafter provided.
15 [provided; and]

16 [(3)] all laws and rules pertaining to fish, crustacea, and mollusks identified on the protected animal list,
17 as defined in G.S. 113-331;]

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19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-271; 113-275; 113-182; 113-292; 113-333;*

20 *Eff. January 1, 1977;*

21 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1990; April 15, 1979..*

22 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0107 is readopted with changes as published in 36:14 NCR 1238 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0107 SPECIAL REGULATIONS: ~~REGULATIONS FOR~~ JOINT FISHING WATERS**

4 ~~[The following requirements shall apply in joint fishing waters and] In order to effectively manage all fisheries~~
5 ~~resources in joint waters and in order to confer enforcement powers on both fisheries enforcement officers and wildlife~~
6 ~~enforcement officers with respect to certain rules, the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources~~
7 ~~Commission deem it necessary to adopt special rules for joint waters. Such rules~~ The following shall supersede any
8 inconsistent rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission or the Wildlife Resources Commission that would otherwise
9 be applicable in joint fishing waters under the provisions of 15A NCAC 10C .0106:

10 (1) Striped Bass

- 11 (a) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to possess any striped bass or striped bass hybrid that is less than
12 18 inches ~~long (total length);~~ total length.
- 13 (b) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids between ~~the lengths~~
14 ~~of~~ 22 and 27 inches ~~(total length)~~ total length in joint fishing waters of the Central Southern
15 Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.
- 16 (c) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids May through
17 September in the joint fishing waters of the Central Southern Management Area and the
18 Albemarle Sound Management Area.
- 19 (d) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids taken from the
20 joint fishing waters of the Cape Fear River.
- 21 (e) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit of striped bass or striped
22 bass hybrids, in the aggregate, per person per day, regardless of the number of management
23 areas fished.
- 24 (f) Possession ~~[possession]~~ of fish shall be assessed for the creel and size limits of the
25 management area in which the individual is found to be fishing, regardless of the size or
26 creel limits for other management areas visited by that individual in a given day.
- 27 (g) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to engage in net fishing for striped bass or their hybrids in joint
28 fishing waters except as authorized by rules of the Marine Fisheries ~~Commission.~~
29 Commission as set forth in 15A NCAC 03M .0201, 0202, .0204, .0205, and .0512.

30 (2) Lake Mattamuskeet

- 31 (a) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to set or attempt to set any gill net in Lake Mattamuskeet canals
32 designated as joint fishing waters.
- 33 (b) It is ~~[it shall be]~~ unlawful to use or attempt to use any trawl net or seines in Lake
34 Mattamuskeet canals designated as joint fishing waters.

- 35 (3) Cape Fear River. It is ~~[shall be]~~ unlawful to use or attempt to use any net, net ~~stakes~~ stakes, or
36 electrical fishing device within 800 feet of the dam at Lock No. 1 on the Cape Fear River.

1 (4) Shad: It is ~~shall be~~ unlawful to possess more than 10 American shad or hickory shad, in the
2 aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line.
3

4 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-182; 113-292;
5 Eff. January 1, 1977;
6 Amended Eff. July 1, 2008; May 1, 2005; August 1, 2000; July 1, 1993; November 1, 1991; January
7 1, 1991; August 1, 1985.
8 Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0108 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1238 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0108 SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS**

4 The several sounds and estuarine and tributary waters all or portions of which are specifically classified as inland,
5 joint, or coastal fishing waters by agreement of the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources
6 Commission are listed in the regulations of the Marine Fisheries Commission under 15A NCAC 3Q .0200 and such
7 list and classification is incorporated herein by reference, ~~shall include any later amendments, and is made a part of~~
8 ~~this Section to the same extent as if the same were fully set forth herein.~~ including subsequent amendments and
9 editions.

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11 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; ~~150B-14;~~

12 *Eff. January 1, 1977;*

13 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; January 1, 1981; January 1, 1978.*

14 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0109 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1238 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0109 PROTECTION OF SEA TURTLES**

4 Pursuant to a cooperative agreement entered into on the fifth day of February, February 1979, by the Department of
5 ~~Environment, Health, and Natural Resources~~, Environmental Quality, the Marine Fisheries Commission, and the
6 Wildlife Resources Commission, the Wildlife Resources Commission ~~will~~ shall exercise regulatory jurisdiction over
7 any species of sea turtles, and their eggs and nests, consistent with designation of such species as endangered or
8 threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As provided by said agreement, the law enforcement officers of
9 both the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission shall have jurisdiction to enforce any
10 state laws and regulations, including those contained in 15A NCAC 10I, relating to endangered or threatened species
11 of sea turtles and their eggs and nests.

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13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-181; 113-182; 113-224; 113-305;*

14 *Eff. April 29, 1979;*

15 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1990.*

16 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0110 is readopted with changes as published in 36:14 NCR 1238-1239 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0110 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ~~OF~~ ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS IN**
4 **JOINT FISHING WATERS ~~[THE ALBEMARLE SOUND AND ROANOKE~~**
5 **~~RIVER MANAGEMENT AREAS]~~**

6 (a) The management areas for estuarine striped bass fisheries in coastal North Carolina are designated in 15A NCAC
7 03R .0201.

8 (b) ~~(a)~~ In order to ~~[To]~~ effectively manage the recreational hook and line harvest in joint fishing waters of the
9 Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River stock of ~~[estuarine]~~ striped bass, the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife
10 Resources Commission deem it necessary to establish two management areas: the Albemarle Sound Management
11 Area and the Roanoke River Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.

12 ~~[(1)]~~ the Albemarle Sound Management Area is designated as Albemarle Sound and all its joint and
13 inland water tributaries, (except for the Roanoke, Middle, Eastmost and Cashie rivers), Currituck,
14 Roanoke and Croatan sounds and all their joint and inland water tributaries, including Oregon Inlet,
15 north of a line beginning at a point 35° 48.5015' N - 75° 44.1228' W on Roanoke Marshes Point,
16 running southeasterly to a point 35° 44 .1710' N - 75° 31 .0520' W on the north point of Eagle Nest
17 Bay.

18 ~~[(2)]~~ the Roanoke River Management Area is designated as Roanoke River and its joint and inland
19 tributaries, including Middle, Eastmost and Cashie rivers, up to the Roanoke Rapids dam.

20 ~~[(b)]~~ The Wildlife Resources Commission shall have principal management responsibility for the stock when it is in
21 the joint and inland [and joint] fishing waters of the Roanoke River Management Area. The Marine Fisheries
22 Commission shall have principal management responsibility for the stock in the coastal, joint [joint] joint, and inland
23 fishing waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

24 ~~[(c)]~~ The annual quota for recreational harvest of the Albemarle Sound Roanoke Sound-Roanoke River striped bass
25 stock shall be divided equally between the two management areas. Each Commission shall implement management
26 actions for recreational harvest within their respective management areas that shall be consistent with the North
27 Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan. [areas.]

28 ~~[(d)]~~ To preserve jurisdictional authority of each Commission, the following means are established through which
29 management measures may be implemented in the following management areas:

30 ~~[(1)]~~ [in the Roanoke River Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and
31 areas, and establish size and creel limits, whether inland or joint fishing waters, shall be vested in
32 the Wildlife Resources Commission.]

33 ~~[(2)]~~ [in the Albemarle Sound Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and
34 areas, and establish size and creel limits, whether coastal or joint fishing waters, shall be vested in
35 the Marine Fisheries Commission. The season shall close by proclamation if the quota set by the
36 North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan is projected to be taken.]

1 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-182; 113-292;*
2 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*
3 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2005.*
4 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0111 is readopted as published in 36:14 NCR 1239 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0111 IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT PLANS:**
4 **RECREATIONAL FISHING**

5 The Marine Fisheries and Wildlife Resources Commissions shall implement their respective striped bass management
6 plans for recreational fishing pursuant to their respective rulemaking powers. To preserve jurisdictional authority of
7 each Commission, the following means are established through which management measures can be implemented by
8 a single instrument in the following management areas:

9 (1) In the Roanoke River Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and areas
10 and establish size and creel limits, whether inland or joint fishing waters, shall be vested in the
11 Wildlife Resources Commission. An instrument closing any management area in joint **fishing**
12 waters shall operate as a ~~jointly issued~~ **jointly-issued** instrument opening or closing seasons or areas
13 to harvest in the Roanoke River Management Area.

14 (2) In the Albemarle Sound Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and
15 areas and establish size and creel limits, whether coastal or joint fishing ~~waters~~ **waters**, shall be
16 vested in the Marine Fisheries Commission. The season shall close by Marine Fisheries
17 Commission proclamation if the quota is about to be exceeded. In the Albemarle Sound
18 Management Area administered by the Marine Fisheries Commission, a proclamation affecting the
19 harvest in joint and coastal **fishing** waters, excluding the Roanoke River Management ~~Area~~ **Area**,
20 shall automatically be implemented and effective as a Wildlife Resources Commission action in the
21 inland **fishing** waters and tributaries to the waters affected.

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23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-292;*

24 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

25 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2005.*

26 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*