

**Note from the Codifier:** The OAH website includes notices and the text of proposed temporary rules as required by G.S. 150B-21.1(a1). Prior to the agency adopting the temporary rule, the agency must hold a public hearing no less than five days after the rule and notice have been published and must accept comments for at least 15 business days.  
For questions, you may contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 984-236-1850 or email [oah.postmaster@oah.nc.gov](mailto:oah.postmaster@oah.nc.gov).

## TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

**Notice** is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1(a3) that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to adopt the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0218.

**Codifier of Rules** received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule(s) on: April 19, 2024.

### Public Hearing:

**Date:** May 1, 2024

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

### Location:

Virtual Public Hearing via Zoom. Registration Required:

[https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_3nf\\_6aV8TseZYB\\_5Q215vQ](https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3nf_6aV8TseZYB_5Q215vQ)

Join by phone: Toll Free (833) 568-8864

Webinar ID: 160 805 6277

**Reason for Proposed Temporary Action:** The effective date of a recent act of the General Assembly or of the U.S. Congress, cite: S.L. 2023-137, s. 6, effective date: December 1, 2024. Session Law 2023-137, Section 6, requires that any person who recreationally harvests red drum, flounder, spotted seatrout (speckled trout), striped bass and weakfish (gray trout) from coastal fishing waters, joint fishing waters, and inland fishing waters adjacent to coastal or joint fishing waters report that harvest to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. The law directs the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission to adopt temporary rules to implement the requirements and to adopt permanent rules to replace the temporary rules. The temporary rules will remain in effect until the permanent rules that replace them become effective.

**Comment Procedures:** Comments from the public shall be directed to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email [regulations@ncwildlife.org](mailto:regulations@ncwildlife.org). The comment period begins April 22, 2024 and ends May 20, 2024.

## CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

### SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

#### SECTION .0200 - GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### **15A NCAC 10C .0218 HARVEST REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

(a) For the purpose of this Rule, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Division" means the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

(2) "inland fishing waters adjacent to joint or coastal fishing waters" means inland fishing waters upstream of joint or coastal fishing waters of the Roanoke, Tar, Neuse, and Cape Fear rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course of the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 except in the Lumber River and its tributaries.

(3) "harvest" means catching a fish and reducing it to permanent possession.

(b) An individual who harvests the following species from joint fishing waters or inland fishing waters adjacent to joint or coastal fishing waters shall report the information required in Paragraph (b) of Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0124 to the Division at <https://www.ncmarinefisheries.net> or record the harvest on a Division-issued report card when harvest is complete:

(1) flounder;

(2) red drum;

(3) spotted seatrout;

(4) striped bass; and

(5) weakfish.

(c) Individuals using a Division-issued report card shall report the information electronically at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries> by midnight the day after harvest is complete.

(d) An individual shall not remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of the fish to render it impractical to identify, count, or measure while fishing or afield and until harvest has been recorded or reported.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-170.3.*