

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.

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 amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0325.

Codifier of Rules received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule(s) on: February 9, 2026.

Public Hearing:

Date: February 25, 2026

Time: 12:00PM

Location: Virtual public hearing via Zoom. Pre-registration is required: https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ek39A1FMRgG5fzzzNMGjxw, or join by phone toll free: (833) 568-8864, Webinar ID: 160 789 3769

Date: March 10, 2026

Time: 6:00PM

Location: N.C. Cooperative Extension, Lenoir County Center, 1791 NC-11, Kinston, NC 28504

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: G.S. 150B-21.1(a)(7) b. and c. As a result of a cold stun event and in accordance with the North Carolina Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan, the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) issued a proclamation closing the recreational and commercial harvest of Spotted Seatrout in joint and coastal fishing waters. To alleviate angler confusion, the proposed amendment will close Spotted Seatrout harvest through June 30, 2026 in waters within NCWRC's jurisdiction (Inland Fishing Waters and Joint Fishing Waters by hook-and-line) to be consistent with the NCDMF closure.

Comment Procedures: Comments from the public shall be directed to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.gov. The comment period begins February 9, 2026 and ends March 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

SECTION .0300 – GAME FISH IN INLAND FISHING WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEATROUT

~~(a) The daily creel limit for seatrout (spotted or speckled) is three fish.~~

~~(b) The minimum size limit is 14 inches, but no fish between 20 and 26 inches in length may be possessed and only one seatrout greater than 26 inches may be possessed.~~

~~(c) There is no closed season.~~

(a) Seatrout (spotted or speckled) shall not be taken or possessed.

(b) The temporary amendment shall expire on June 30, 2026.

Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305.