

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: April 17, 2025.

Public Hearing:

Date: May 8, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual public hearing via Zoom, pre-registration is required:

https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kwTRysUqQIObCYOqUnlrNQ or join by telephone toll free: (833) 568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 002 0546

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: G.S. 150B-21.1(a)(7) b. and c. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission adopted the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 at their March 2025 meeting. To be consistent with the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan, a slot limit for Spotted Seatrout where the minimum size limit remains 14 inches, but no fish may be possessed between 20 and 26 inches and only one fish in the creel may be over 26 inches in length is proposed. The daily creel limit will be reduced from four fish to three fish per person. Current data indicates that the Spotted Seatrout population is not overfished but overfishing is occurring. These measures should end overfishing within two years.

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 April 21, 2025 and ends May 16, 2025.

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS

SECTION .0300 – GAME FISH IN INLAND FISHING WATERS

15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT

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

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

(c) There is no closed season.

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