15A NCAC 10B .0119 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 199 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS

(a) A Wildlife Collection ~~Licenses~~ License may be issued to a qualified ~~individuals~~ individual to take any species of wildlife resources for the following purposes:

(1) scientific collection;

(2) educational collection; or

(3) snapping turtle collection.

(b) The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

(1) "Scientific Collection" shall mean collection for the purpose of conducting scientific research or survey.

(2) "Educational Collection" means collection for the purpose of providing instruction, training, or information to the public.

(3) "Snapping Turtle Collection" means collection of snapping turtles from the family Chelydridae for sale pursuant to 15A NCAC 10H .1301.

(4) "Personal Use" means collection and holding, using as bait, or personal consumption of reptiles or amphibians.

(c) The Commission shall consider the following qualifications when issuing a license:

(1) prior research or educational experience in the same or similar field;

(2) work with or for an educational institution;

(3) type of study requested of license (permanent or catch and release);

(4) current state and quantity of species requested;

(5) collection methodology proposed; and

(6) disposition of collection.

(d) Individuals collecting and holding reptiles or amphibians for personal use shall not be required to obtain a Wildlife Collection License so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) no more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species or 24 individuals of any combination of amphibian species per person;

(2) collected reptiles and amphibians shall not be bought or sold; and

(3) no endangered, threatened, or special concern species shall be collected and retained.

(e) Endangered, threatened, and special concern species ~~may~~ shall not be taken or collected except under an endangered species permit unless there is an open season for the species. If an open season exists for the species, then the appropriate hunting, fishing, or trapping license serves as the authorization for take.

(f) ~~Wildlife Collection licenses may be issued to any individual,~~ Take under a Wildlife Collection License may be authorized so long as the take is not deemed harmful to the efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to other wildlife species that may be dependent thereon.

(g) Individuals ~~interested in obtaining a Wildlife Collection License~~ shall apply for a Wildlife Collection License by sending an application to 1701 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by completing and submitting an application online at ncwildlife.gov. ~~www.ncwildlife.org.~~ The application shall include:

(1) name, address, date of birth, email, and driver's license number; and

(2) species information.

(3) Additional information required for scientific and educational collection shall include:

(A) organizational affiliation, if any; and

(B) full documentation of research or educational proposal(s) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval, if applicable.

(h) Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be used in lieu of ~~any other~~ a hunting or trapping license required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of ~~the~~ wildlife incidental to the authorized taking. It shall not authorize the taking, possession, or transportation of any species of wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, or any other federal act to prohibit or restrict the possession and transportation of wildlife resources.

(i) Wildlife Collection Licenses for snapping turtle collection shall only be available to North Carolina residents. The following conditions shall apply:

(1) no more than 10 snapping turtles per person per day;

(2) no more than 100 snapping turtles per person per calendar year;

(3) turtles shall have a minimum curved carapace length of 13 inches; and

(4) no more than 15 trapping devices per license. Devices shall be:

(A) labeled with a waterproof tag that shows the licensee's name, WRC Customer Number, or Wildlife Collection License number;

(B) hoop traps or other trap style that allows for the unharmed release of any nontarget species or snapping turtles less than 13 inches; and

(C) checked daily per 15A NCAC 10B .0110.

(j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the license, Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(k) Licensed individuals shall submit the following information to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15 days of license expiration depending on the species taken:

(1) the numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof;

(2) dates and location of the taking; and

(3) sex, size, weight, condition, or approximate age of each specimen taken as specified on the license.

(l) A Wildlife ~~Collections~~ Collection License shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a facility.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.4;*
Eff. January 1, 1981;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; January 1, 2013; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; April 1, 2001; February 1, 1994; November 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;

Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 210 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

(a) Open All Lawful Weapons Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes, ~~spikes protruding through the skin,~~ as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by ~~*skin or velvet,*~~ *skin*, may be taken during the following seasons, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(A) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, ~~*Cumberland,*~~ Craven, Dare, Duplin, Harnett, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, ~~Sampson,~~ Scotland, Tyrrell, and Washington counties. It is unlawful to hunt or kill deer in Lake Waccamaw or within 50 yards of its shoreline in Columbus County.

(B) Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Johnston, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson counties.

(C) Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, ~~*Forsyth,*~~ Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Polk, Rutherford, ~~*Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin*~~ *and Watauga* counties.

(D) Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey counties.

(E) Two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in Alamance, Anson, Cabarrus, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Granville, Guilford, Lee, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties.

(F) Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the part of Hyde county known as Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Dare and Hyde counties known as Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the part of Currituck County known as the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of this Subparagraph.

(A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.

(B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort ~~Liberty~~ Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.

(C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.

(D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, ~~Madison,~~ and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts ~~(a)(2)(G)(i)~~ (a)(2)(E)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.

~~(E) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.~~

~~(F) The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.~~

~~(G)~~(E) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of ~~Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston~~ Avery, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk counties and in Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties, and the following parts of counties:

(i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and

(ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.

(b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(2) Restrictions

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the Archery Season.

(C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~*(b)(1)(A)*~~ *(b)(1)* of this Rule.

(c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(2) Restrictions

(A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), ~~*(E), (F), or (G)*~~ *(E)* of this Rule that has one or more open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.

(B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.

(C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.

(D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed

or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

(d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.

(2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to ~~that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to~~ the Executive Director or [~~their~~] his or her designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. ~~27699-1700.~~ 27699-1700, no later than April 1 of the year prior to initial participation. ~~Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.~~ Cities may withdraw from participation in the Urban Season by sending written notice to the Commission no later than April 1 of the year prior to their withdrawal. [~~Commission.~~]

(3) Restrictions:

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.

(e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals under 16 years of age during the following days:

(1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

(2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~*or velvet*~~ as distinguished from *antlers or* spikes. ~~spikes protruding through the skin.~~ A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

(g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

(h) Seasons for counties identified as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas shall be as specified in Rule .0502 of this Subchapter.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010; June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 7, ~~2026.~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027

15A NCAC 10B .0205 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

(a) The open season for taking raccoon and opossum is from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the last day of February.

(b) Bag Limits:

(1) There is no bag limit for raccoon. ~~The daily bag limit for raccoon is three and there are no season and no possession limits.~~

(2) There is no ~~restriction on~~ bag limit ~~limits~~ for opossum.

(c) Axes or saws shall not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; July 1, 2000;
Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10B .0206 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

(a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the Saturday ~~Monday~~ on or nearest ~~closest to~~ October 1 ~~15~~ through the last day of February. Gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the Monday following the closing of the open season for wild turkey in 15A NCAC 10B .0209(a) through the second Monday thereafter.

(b) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.

(c) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

(d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

History Note *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2022.

15A NCAC 10B .0212 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)

(a) Unless otherwise specified in a local act of the General Assembly, foxes may be taken year-round using firearms and archery equipment in the following counties:

(1) Ashe
(2) Catawba
(3) Haywood
(4) Perquimans
(5) Wilkes
(6) Yadkin

~~(a)~~(b) ~~Foxes may be taken with weapons~~ The open season for taking foxes using firearms, archery equipment, and ~~or~~ traps is the first Saturday in January through the fourth Saturday in January in the following counties:

~~(1) Caswell;~~
~~(2)~~(1) Clay;
~~(3)~~(2) Graham;
~~(4)~~(3) Henderson;
~~(5)~~(4) Macon; and
~~(6)~~(5) Tyrell.

~~(b)~~(c) The open season for taking foxes with firearms, archery equipment and traps in counties listed in G.S. 113-291.4B(c) are as specified in Rule 10B .0303(a) of this Subchapter.

~~(c)~~(d) The open season for pursuing or taking foxes with dogs on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land is August 2 through February 14.

~~(c)~~ (e) ~~Foxes may be taken the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1~~ The open season for taking foxes using firearms ~~archery equipment~~ is the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all areas of the State east of Interstate Highway 77, unless otherwise specified in local act of the General Assembly. ~~77 and in Mitchell County.~~

~~(d)~~ (f) For ~~areas of open season~~ seasons detailed in Paragraphs ~~(a) through (c)~~ (b), (d), and (e) of this Rule, and areas detailed in G.S. 113-291.4A(a), excluding the counties listed in 113-291.4B(c), ~~Rule,~~ the daily bag limit is ~~two;~~ two and the season limit is 10.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-131.1; 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.4; 113-291.4A; 113-291.4B*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1987; December 1, 1985;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1989;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; May 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2000;
Readopted Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10B .0219 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 201 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE

(a) When taking coyotes, the following shall apply:

(1) There is no closed season for taking coyotes.

(2) There is no bag limit.

~~(2)~~(3) Coyotes may be taken on private lands anytime during the day or night.

~~(3)~~(4) Coyotes may be taken on public lands without a permit from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

~~(4)~~(5) Coyotes may be taken on public lands with a permit from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

~~(5)~~(6) Hunters may use electronic calls. ~~calls and artificial lights to take coyotes.~~

(7) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take coyotes, except from a motorized conveyance from a public road or public road [~~right of way~~] right-of-way while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

(b) In the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrell, and Washington, the following shall apply:

(1) Coyote hunting on public lands is prohibited, except that coyotes may be taken on State-owned game lands by the holder of a permit for a specific special hunt opportunity for coyotes authorized by G.S 113-264(d).

(2) Any special hunt for coyotes pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d) shall only allow hunting from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

(3) Contests or competition coyote hunts on public lands are prohibited.

(4) If, within a calendar year, two or more red wolves are shot by one or more hunters with a valid special hunt permit for coyotes on State game lands within the five counties identified in this Paragraph, all special hunts for coyotes on State game lands within those five counties shall be suspended for one calendar year.

(5) Coyotes may be taken on private lands by permit only, and any take shall be reported within 24 hours to the by phone at 919-707-0040 or online at www.ncwildlife.gov. ~~www.ncwildlife.org.~~

(6) There is no closed season for taking coyotes on private lands. Coyotes may be taken on private lands from hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset only.

(7) Coyote hunting permits are in addition to hunting licenses. Individuals exempted from license requirements under the provisions specified in G.S. 113-276 shall acquire the coyote hunting permits to hunt coyotes in the counties specified in this Paragraph. Coyote hunting permits are valid for one calendar year and are subject to annual renewal. These permits are non-transferable. Permit holders shall submit their harvest reports in order to be eligible for permit renewal.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

Eff. July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2011;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2012;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;
Amended Eff. July 26, 2013;
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2016;
Readopted Eff. February 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10B .0223 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 201 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE

(a) There is no closed season for taking feral swine on private lands anytime during the day or night.

(b) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset during an open season for game animals or game birds using the legal manners of take allowed during those season, except that dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine on game lands that do not allow the use of dogs for hunting white-tailed deer or black bear. Where lawful, the hunting of feral swine with dogs is allowed during the applicable deer or bear season unless otherwise specified in the Rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(c) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ncwildlife.gov, ~~ncwildlife.org,~~ by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available feral swine permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits shall be non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding the taking of feral swine shall apply.

(d) There are no bag limits on feral swine.

(e) Hunters may use electronic calls to take feral swine. ~~artificial lights and electronic calls.~~

(f) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take feral swine, except from a motorized conveyance from [~~form~~] a public road or public road [~~right of way~~] right-of-way while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2011;
Eff. February 1, 2012;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2012;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; March 21, 2013;
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10B .0502 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 212 as follows:

15A NCAC 10B .0502 *CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE* ~~*SURVEILLANCE AREAS DEFINED*~~ *MANAGEMENT AREAS*

(a) The following counties are Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Areas:

(1) Cumberland;

(2) Forsyth;

(3) Sampson;

~~(3)~~(4) *Stokes;*

~~(4)~~(5) *Surry;*

~~(5)~~(6) *Wilkes; and*

~~(6)~~(7) *Yadkin.*

(b) Prohibitions specified in Rule .0503 of this Subchapter apply to the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Open seasons for hunting deer are as follows:

(1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes. [~~*spikes protruding through the skin,*~~] *as distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in August and the Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

(2) All Lawful Weapons.

(A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland County and Sampson *County the Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.*

(3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(4) of this Rule.

(4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

(d) Seasons, bag limits, and programs specified in paragraphs (d) through (g) of Rule 10B .0203 of this Subchapter shall apply in the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*
Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;
Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;
Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024;
Eff. August 1, 2026;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 7, ~~2026.~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10C .0305 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 203 as follows:

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

(a) The daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass is five fish, except as otherwise specified in this Rule. ~~in waters identified in Paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (l), (m), *(n), and (o)* of this Rule.~~

(b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two ~~of them~~ may be less than 14 inches except as otherwise specified in this Rule. ~~in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through *(o)* of this Rule.~~

(c) There is no closed season, except in Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores in Dare County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, where Largemouth Bass shall not be taken or possessed. ~~in waters identified in Paragraph (n) of this Rule.~~

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

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

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

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

(1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;

(2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;

(3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;

(4) New Lake in Hyde County; and

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

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

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

(j) In Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass. No more than two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

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

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

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

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

~~*(o) In Lake Cammack in Alamance County, there is no daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass, and only five Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches may be possessed.*~~

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 213 as follows:

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

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

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

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

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

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

(f) In Farmer Lake, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Oak Hollow Lake, ~~Lake Townsend,~~ and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

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

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

(i) In the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore beginning at a point at Gum Point 35.419448 N 76.758752 W running southwesterly to a point at Fork Point at 35.390755 N 76.77391 W and the Neuse River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore beginning at a point at Cooper Point 35.035722 N 76.933275 W running southwesterly to a point at Fisher Landing Point 35.002583 N 76.97623 W, the following shall apply:

(1) the season for taking and possessing striped bass and striped bass hybrids is April 1 through April 30.

(2) the daily creel limit for striped bass and striped bass hybrids is one fish in aggregate.

(3) it is unlawful to possess a striped bass or striped bass hybrid less than 18 inches or between 22 and 27 inches in length.

In the inland waters tributary to the Tar-Pamlico River and Neuse River downstream of these lines, the season for taking and possessing striped bass and striped bass hybrids is closed. ~~closed year round.~~

~~(i)~~(j) In the inland fishing waters of the ~~Tar, Pungo, Neuse,~~ Pungo and Cape Fear rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, in other inland fishing waters east

of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (h), (j), and (k) of this Rule, and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing striped bass is closed year-round.

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

~~(k)~~(l) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries, excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries, the striped bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.

~~(l)~~(m) In accordance with G.S. 113-292, the Executive Director may, by proclamation, suspend or extend the hook-and-line season for striped bass in the inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of a proclamation issued pursuant to this authority.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 30, 2021;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023.
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 6, ~~2026.~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10C .0414 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 214 as follows:

15A NCAC 10C .0414 BLUEFISH

(a) The daily creel limit for bluefish is five. ~~three.~~

(b) There is no size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Bluefish shall not be sold.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;
Eff. March 15, 2023.
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 6, ~~2026.~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10C .0425 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 214 as follows:

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD

(a) The daily creel limit for sheepshead is ~~10~~ five fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is ~~10~~ 14 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Sheepshead shall not be sold.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;
Eff. March 15, 2023.
Temporary Amendment Eff. May 6, ~~2026.~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 214 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

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

(1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.

(2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or self-defense.

(3) "Youth" means individuals under 16 years of age.

(b) Trespass. Entry on game lands for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or fishing shall be as authorized by the landowner. The Wildlife Resources Commission has identified the following areas on game lands that have additional restrictions on entry or usage:

(1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to archery equipment and falconry. During the open deer seasons for these areas, antlered and antlerless deer may be taken.

(2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on a game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.

(3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

(4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public, and entry on these areas is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Commission may authorize entry when the primary purpose for the Restricted Zone shall not be compromised and the persons requesting entry demonstrate a valid need, or official business of the Commission is being conducted by a contractor or agent of the Commission. Valid needs may include access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.

(6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.

(7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S. 113-264(d).

(8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

(9) Sensitive Habitat Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Sensitive Habitat Zones" are closed to use by the public during the dates specified on the sign, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission by calling 919-707-0150 and requesting a permit.

The Commission shall conduct a public input meeting in the area where the game land is located before establishing the following zones: archery, restricted firearms, restricted deer hunting, day use only, or sensitive habitat. After the input meeting, the public comments shall be presented at an official Commission meeting for final determination.

(c) Littering. No person shall deposit litter, trash, garbage, or other refuse on any game land except in receptacles provided for disposal of refuse at designated camping and target-shooting areas. No garbage dumps or sanitary landfills shall be established on a game land by a person, firm, corporation, county, or municipality, except as permitted by the landowner.

(d) Use of weapons. ~~*No*~~ *Except for archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, no* person shall ~~*discharge:*~~ *discharge a weapon within 150 yards of:*

(1) ~~*a weapon within 150 yards of*~~ a game land building or designated game land camping area, except where posted otherwise; *or*

(2) ~~*a weapon within 150 yards of*~~ a residence located on or adjacent to game *lands.* ~~*lands, except on Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and*~~

~~*(3) a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan Game Lands.*~~

No person shall hunt with or have in possession a shotgun shell containing lead or toxic shot while hunting on a posted waterfowl impoundment on a game land, except shotgun shells containing lead buckshot may be used while deer hunting. Individuals carrying a concealed handgun shall adhere to the requirements set forth in G.S. 14-415.11, even if the state issuing the concealed handgun permit is not North Carolina. On Butner-Falls of Neuse, Jordan, Kerr Scott, and Vance game lands, no person shall possess loaded firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons except as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327.13, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions. This document may be accessed at www.ecfr.gov at no cost. On Buckhorn, Chatham, Harris, Hyco, Lee, Mayo, and Sutton Lake game lands; Pee Dee River Game Land north of U.S. 74; and that portion of R. Wayne Bailey- Caswell Game Land that is located north of U.S. 158 and east of N.C. 119, no person shall possess a firearm during closed hunting seasons or closed hunting days for game birds or game animals, except under the following conditions:

(1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;

(2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;

(3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or

(4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

(e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

(1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt, trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina hunting or trapping license.

(2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.

(3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

(4) Exceptions:

(A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;

(B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three hundred dollars ($300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~ without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. ~~*The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1.*~~ *Training dogs is prohibited at the Sandhills Field Trial facilities. Unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter and except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission,* ~~*Dogs may*~~ *dogs shall* not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west

of *I-95, or* ~~*I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed*~~ from March 15 through June 15 on game lands located east of ~~*I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission.*~~ *I-95.* Additionally, on game lands located west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when the field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the game land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization demonstrates their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0300, trapping of furbearing animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the open trapping seasons for those areas, established by rule. Foxes may be trapped on game lands from October 1 through the end of February in a county with an open fox trapping season that falls between October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during a fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

(1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Sandhills Game Land;

(2) in posted "safety zones" located on a game land;

(3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;

(4) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and

(5) from April 1 through September 31.

At a trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on a game land except on roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and on trails posted for vehicular travel, unless the person:

(1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or

(2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (k).

(i) Camping.

(1) No person shall camp on a game land except on an area posted by the landowner for camping.

(2) *Camping on posted camping areas is allowed from September 1 through the last day of February and from March 31 through May 31 unless otherwise specified in rules of this Subchapter.*

(3) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at a designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period, unless otherwise specified in rules of this Subchapter. After 14 consecutive days of camping, personal belongings shall be removed from the game land.

~~(3)~~*(4)* A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.

(j) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds, domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when release of animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in the area and is in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(k) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use on game lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from this restriction but shall comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other all-terrain wheelchairs on areas where foot travel is allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.

(l) Disabled Access Program. Disabled individuals who meet the requirements of G.S. 113-296 may obtain a Disabled Access Permit and Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification online at ncwildlife.org. The Disabled Access Permit allows individuals to operate electric wheel chairs, all-terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands whose owners have agreed to that use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated online, at www.ncwildlife.org. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is constantly in visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in lawful activities while assisting a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. A vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to game lands under this provision shall have the Disabled Access Permit available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers upon request. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions

may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land. It is unlawful for anyone other than disabled persons holding a Disabled Access Permit, during waterfowl season, to hunt within 100 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind. The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification allows individuals to apply for available Disabled sportsman permit hunting opportunities as prescribed in G.S. 113-296.

(m) Public nudity. Public nudity, including nude sunbathing, is prohibited on game lands, including land or water. For the purposes of this Section, "public nudity" means a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering the person's genitals, pubic area, anal area, or female breasts below a point from the top of the areola while in a public place.

~~(n) Shooting Ranges. On public shooting ranges managed by the Commission, no person shall use designated shooting ranges for purposes other than for firearm or bow and arrow marksmanship, development of shooting skills, or for other safe uses of firearms and archery equipment. Other uses, including camping, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly involved with recreational or competitive shooting are prohibited, unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission. No person, when using any shooting range, shall deposit debris or refuse on the grounds of the range. This includes items used as targets, except that clay targets broken on the range, by the shooter, may be left on the grounds where they fall. No person shall shoot items made of glass on the grounds of the range. No person may leave a vehicle or other obstruction in a location or position that it will prevent, impede, or inconvenience the use by other persons of any shooting range. No person shall leave a vehicle or other object parked in a place on the shooting range other than the place or zone that is designated and posted or marked as an authorized parking zone. No person shall handle firearms or bow and arrow on a shooting range in a careless or reckless manner. No person shall intentionally shoot into any target holder, post, or other permanent fixture or structure while using a shooting range. No person shall shoot a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off of the range, except that shotgun shot, size No. 4 or smaller may be allowed to travel from the range if it presents no risk of harm or injury to a person. Persons using a shooting range shall obey posted range safety rules and those persons who violate range safety rules or create a public safety hazard shall leave the shooting range if directed to by law enforcement officers or to leave by Commission employees. No person shall handle firearms on a shooting range while under the influence of an impairing substance. The consumption of alcohol or alcoholic beverages on a shooting range is prohibited. Open days and hours of operation shall be designated on signs and at least one sign shall be posted at the entrance to each shooting range. No person, when using a shooting range, shall do an act that is prohibited or neglect to do an act that is required by signs or markings placed on the area under authority of this Rule for regulating the use of the area.~~

~~(o)~~(n) Limited-access Roads. During the months of June, July, and August, roads posted as "Limited-access Roads" are open to motorized vehicles from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. These roads shall be posted with the opening and closing times.

~~(p)~~(o) No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of a bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other part thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

~~(q)~~(p) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on a game land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals attracted to these foods.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; June 1 2025; November 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10D .0103 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 202 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

(a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:

(1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of an impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(14a); ~~20-4.01(48b);~~

(2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;

(3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from using a roadway; ~~and~~

(4) affixing nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation. This prohibition does not apply to mounting hardware for game cameras, lag screw steps, or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the vegetation; and [~~vegetation.~~]

(5) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform whose construction violates Subparagraph (4) of this Rule.

~~(4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag screw steps or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.~~

(b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game birds.

(c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this Subchapter.

(d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.

(e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

(1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;

(2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;

(3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;

(4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and

(5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

(f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

(1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;

(2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;

(3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and

(4) hunting migratory game birds.

(g) On designated Youth Waterfowl Days, the following shall apply:

(1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;

(2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and

(3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.

(i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."

(j) Definitions:

(1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.

(2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.

(3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.

(4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

(5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.

(6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter,

or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity shall apply.

(7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

(k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(l) On permit hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.

(m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

(1) Bertie, Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;

(2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;

(3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;

(4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);

(5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and

(6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

(n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(o) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.

(p) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.

(q) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; September 1, 1995; July 1, 1995; September

1, 1994; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October 1, 2004;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10D .0106 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 204 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS

(a) Bear may be taken on posted designated bear management areas specified in Paragraph (c) of this Rule ~~during the open season~~ by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ~~ncwildlife.org,~~ ncwildlife.gov, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available bear management area permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits are ~~shall be~~ non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding the taking of bear shall apply.

(b) The following shall be posted designated bear management areas:

Bachelor Bay designated bear management area – Bertie and Washington counties
Columbus County designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
Croatan designated bear management area – Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
Fires Creek designated bear management area – Clay County
Flat Top designated bear management area – Mitchell and Yancey counties
Green Swamp designated bear management area – Brunswick County
Gull Rock designated bear management area – Hyde County
Harmon Den designated bear management area – Haywood County
Juniper Creek designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties
North River designated bear management area – Camden and Currituck counties
Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County
Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
Pungo River designated bear management area – Hyde County
Rich Mountain designated bear management area – Madison County
Sherwood designated bear management area – Haywood County
Suggs Mill Pond designated bear management area – Bladen and Cumberland counties
Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County
Thurmond Chatham designated bear management area – Allegheny and Wilkes counties
Wayah designated bear management area – Macon County

(c) It shall be lawful to take bear on the following designated management areas when authorized by permit issued by the Commission in accordance with G.S. 113-264(d):

Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties

Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County

Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania

Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County

(d) Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on designated bear management areas.

(e) Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed ~~between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15~~ on designated bear management areas located in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109 ~~15A NCAC 10B .0109.~~ except from the Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9 through the last day of February.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*
Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; March 15, 2023.

15A NCAC 10D .0202 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES

Angola Bay Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Target shooting is prohibited.

(3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0210 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRANCH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON COUNTY

Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0211 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

Butner-Falls of Neuse ~~*game land*~~ *Game Land* is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.

(2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:

(a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;

(b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

(c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl hunting after November 1.

(3) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

(5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.

(6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on ~~that~~ the portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.

(7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~*15*~~ *16* through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~*14.*~~ *15.*

(8) Camping is ~~*restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.*~~ *allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.*

(9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping area.

(10) Entry on the New Light Beach Tract (Wake County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, and trapping is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. November 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10D .0213 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0213 CAPE FEAR RIVER WETLANDS GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY

Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on ~~that portion known as~~ the Roan Island Tract.

(3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion ~~of the game land that is~~ west of the Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC 210 to the Black River.

(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

(5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0214 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0214 CARTERET COUNTY GAME LAND IN CARTERET COUNTY

Carteret County Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(2) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(3) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.

(4) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0221 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0221 CROATAN GAME LAND IN CARTERET, CRAVEN, AND JONES COUNTIES

Croatan Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:

(a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

(b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

(c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl Impoundment is by permit only.

(4) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.

(5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0222 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0222 CURRITUCK BANKS GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

Currituck Banks Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.

(2) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do not use a firearm.

(3) The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

(4) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their hunt.

(5) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to a tree.

(6) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.

(7) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0229 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES

Goose Creek ~~*game land*~~ *Game Land* is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D .0103(e), waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:

(a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;

(b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and

(c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.

(3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October, through the end of all waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.

(4) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities, except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through March 15.

(5) Camping is ~~*restricted to September 1 through the last day of February, and March 31 through May 14 in areas both designated and*~~ *allowed on areas* posted ~~*as*~~ *for* camping ~~*areas.*~~ *as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.*

(6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.

(7) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on the Beaufort County portion north of N.C. 33, except for that portion east of Smith Creek and south of Campbell Creek.

(8) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

(9) Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;
Eff. March 15, 2023;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025.

15A NCAC 10D .0239 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

Johns River ~~*game land*~~ *Game Land* is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

(1) During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.

(2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

(3) Camping is ~~*restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.*~~ *allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.*

(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

(5) During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, entry is restricted to permit holders. ~~the use of bicycles is restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.~~

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.

15A NCAC 10D .0241 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES

(a) Juniper Creek ~~*game land*~~ *Game Land* is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Camping is ~~*restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14 in*~~ *allowed on* areas ~~*both designated and*~~ posted ~~*as*~~ *for* camping ~~*areas.*~~ *as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.*

(3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026.

15A NCAC 10D .0246 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0246 LIGHT GROUND POCOSIN GAME LAND IN PAMLICO COUNTY

Light Ground Pocosin Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0251 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES ~~SWAIN, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES~~

~~(a)~~ Nantahala Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies: ~~Area.~~

~~(b)~~(1) Antlerless deer shall not be taken during the All Lawful Weapons Season. ~~In this game land Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season in that portion located in Transylvania County.~~

~~(c)~~(2) Dogs may be used to hunt feral swine during the open bear season established in 15A NCAC 10B .0202 and from January 1 through January 31.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10D .0254 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0254 NEW LAKE GAME LAND IN HYDE AND TYRRELL COUNTIES

New Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0256 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES

North River Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

(3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only. ~~permit.~~

(4) All activities on the North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments except waterfowl hunting and trapping during the trapping season are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone from November 1 through March 15.

(5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.

15A NCAC 10D .0257 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

Northwest River Marsh Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.

(3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

(4) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0260 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL, TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES

Pisgah Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell County), and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).~~

(3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.

(4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).

(5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County), Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell County), and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).~~

(6) Entry on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and posted use of trails and parking areas is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, 2022;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 7, 2025;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; January 1, 2026.

15A NCAC 10D .0270 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY

Sampson Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Target shooting is prohibited.

(3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0279 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0279 ~~SUGGS~~ SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

~~Suggs~~ Sutton Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the first Friday thereafter.

(2) Target shooting is prohibited.

(3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0284 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY

Tillery Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.

(2) Horseback riding is prohibited.

(3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

(4) ~~Wild turkey~~ Quail, wild turkey, and woodcock hunting is by permit only.

(5) Target Shooting is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. October 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0290 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

White Oak River Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

~~(2) Except as provided in Item (3) of this Rule, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:~~

~~(a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~

~~(b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~

~~(c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~

~~(3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.~~

~~(4)~~(3) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:

(a) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);

(b) hunting is by permit only; and

(c) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

~~(5)~~(4) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

~~(6)~~(5) Target ~~Shooting~~ shooting is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. November 1, ~~2022.~~ 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10D .0296 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 209 as follows:

15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

Big Swamp Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

(1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

(2) The use of dogs for hunting deer or bear is prohibited.

(3) Target shooting is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
Eff. August 1, 2027.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission requests the renaming of subchapter 15A NCAC 10E as follows:

SUBCHAPTER 10E – ~~PUBLIC FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS AREAS~~ COMMISSION FACILLITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission requests the addition of a section title for subchapter 15A NCAC 10E as follows:

SECTION .0100 – PUBLIC FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS AREAS

15A NCAC 10E .0201 is adopted with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 217 as follows:

SECTION .0200 – SHOOTING RANGES

15A NCAC 10E .0201 DEFINITIONS

(a) The following definitions shall apply to the Rules in the Section:

(1) "Downrange" is the area located forward of the firing line extending in the direction where firearms or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, may be safely aimed and discharged.

(2) "Firing Line" is the designated area on the shooting range where individuals are authorized to fire firearms and archery equipment under supervision of the Range Safety Officer.

(3) "Range is cold" means that live firing is prohibited and firearms and archery equipment shall not be loaded, handled, or fired.

(4) "Range is hot" means that live firing is authorized.

(5) "Range Safety Officer" or "RSO" is a designated Commission employee or volunteer responsible for ensuring that activities conducted on the shooting range are safe and compliant with established rules and procedures.

(6) "Range Pass" is a card issued to an individual who has provided identification and attended a range safety briefing. A range pass is valid one year from issuance.

(7) "Shooting range" or "range" means the area designed for use of firearms or archery equipment.

(8) "Shooting range facility" or "range facility" means the shooting range and associated operational areas, including indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, backstops, berms, parking areas, offices, restrooms, and ingress and egress roadways.

(9) "Sky drawing" is the action of pointing archery equipment into the air and drawing the string, rather than aiming the equipment downrange.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;*
Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10E .0202 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 218 as follows:

15A NCAC 10E .0202 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) Shooting range facilities owned and managed by the Commission are for trap shooting, skeet shooting, five-stand shooting, rifle shooting, pistol shooting, practice archery, and 3D archery. Non-specified use of range facilities is prohibited unless approved, in writing, by the Commission.

(b) Individuals using shooting range facilities shall:

(1) adhere to posted signs and verbal Range Safety Officer (RSO) instruction;

(2) wear eye protection; and

(3) wear ear protection on the firearm firing line.

(c) General Restrictions. The following shall be prohibited at shooting range facilities:

(1) open-toed shoes;

(2) individuals under the influence of an impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(14a);

(3) alcohol or alcoholic beverages;

(4) smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco or nicotine products, except in designated smoking areas;

(5) eating or drinking while on the firing line;

(6) harassment or intimidating behavior toward staff or other guests;

(7) parking vehicles outside of designated parking areas; and

(8) animals other than service dogs.

(d) Prior to entering the shooting range, individuals participating in shooting sports shall complete the following steps to receive a Range Pass:

(1) sign-in with the RSO;

(2) attend a safety briefing; and

(3) complete a range waiver by providing the following information:

(A) first and last name;

(B) age and age certification;

(C) ethnicity;

(D) gender;

(E) zip code;

(F) email address;

(G) shooting range facility location;

(H) range selection;

(I) NCWRC license status;

(J) attestation of the Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement; and

(K) electronic signature.

(e) Age Restrictions.

(1) Individuals under 18 years of age shall be accompanied by an adult when on the firing line.

(2) Individuals 12 years of age and younger shall have one-on-one adult supervision when on the firing line.

(f) Violation of a provision of this Section or RSO instruction shall be grounds for removal from the range facility.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;*
Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10E .0203 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 218 as follows:

15A NCAC 10E .0203 RANGE REQUIREMENTS

(a) Firearms.

(1) Firearms shall not be carried into the range facility office.

(2) Firearms shall be cased during transport to and from the firing line.

(3) Firearms shall remain unloaded until on the firing line and the range is hot.

(4) Concealed carry of firearms is prohibited.

(5) Firearms shall not be loaded, handled, or fired when the range is cold.

(6) Fully automatic and automatic simulated firearms are prohibited.

(7) Firearms shall not be pointed at a person.

(8) Firearms shall be pointed downrange at all times.

(b) Archery Equipment.

(1) Arrows shall remain unnocked until individuals are on the firing line and the range is hot.

(2) Broadhead tips are prohibited.

(3) Sky drawing is prohibited.

(4) Firearms are prohibited on the practice archery and 3D archery range.

(5) Individuals using the 3D archery range shall wear a blaze orange vest.

(c) Trap and Skeet.

(1) Shot other than size 7.5, 8, or 9 is prohibited.

(2) Muzzle velocity greater than 1300 feet per second is prohibited.

(3) The firearm's action shall be open and the firearm shall be unloaded when moving between stations.

(d) Ammunition.

(1) Individuals shall use the correct ammunition for their firearms.

(2) Individuals shall collect their spent cartridges, paper targets, trash, litter, and personal items before leaving the shooting range.

(3) The following types of ammunition are prohibited:

(A) tracer;

(B) incendiary;

(C) armor-piercing;

(D) steel core; and

(E) other types deemed unsafe by the RSO.

(e) Targets.

(1) Individuals shall supply their own paper targets.

(2) Target stands provided by the Commission shall be used.

(3) Steel targets are prohibited, unless provided by the Commission.

(4) Glass targets are prohibited.

(5) Intentionally shooting into target stands, posts, or other permanent structures is prohibited.

(6) Shooting a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off the range is prohibited.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;*
Eff. January 1, 2027.

15A NCAC 10H .0810 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 219 as follows:

15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS

(a) No raptor shall be taken from the wild in this State except by an individual holding a current falconry license as defined in Rule .0801 of this Section, or a falconry permit or license from the individual's state of residence if the individual is a non-resident of North Carolina. Falconers may only take species of raptors from the wild that are authorized under their level of permit or license. If a falconer captures an unauthorized species of raptor or other bird, he or she must release that bird immediately upon capture.

(b) All levels of licensees may take up to two raptors from the wild annually, subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(2). Apprentices may keep ~~only~~ one bird at a time.

(c) Apprentices may take ~~any species of raptor~~ raptors from the wild except for those species specified in 50 CFR 21.82(c)(2)(i)(E).

(d) ~~Any~~ A raptor native to this State may be taken from the wild subject to the restrictions on species and license level as follows:

(1) ~~Only persons~~ An individual holding General or Master level falconry licenses may take nestlings. Nestlings may ~~only~~ be taken from January 1 ~~May 1~~ through July 31. ~~June 30.~~ No more than two nestlings may be taken by the same licensee. At least one nestling shall be left in the nest or aerie.

(2) First year (passage) birds may be taken from August 1 through the last day of February, except that marked raptors may be retrapped at any time.

~~(3) American kestrels (Falco sparverius) and great horned owls (Bubo Virginianus) may only be taken when over one year old. Only General and Master falconers may take this age class in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(i). The time period for taking is from August 1 through the last day of February.~~

~~(4)~~(3) Only General and Master falconers may take a federally threatened species and the falconer shall follow the restrictions in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(ix).

~~(5)~~(4) A falconer shall obtain a North Carolina endangered species permit before taking ~~any~~ raptors listed in 15A NCAC 10I .0103, 15A NCAC 10I .0104, or 15A NCAC 10I .0105. Furthermore, a falconer shall possess a special hunt permit to take a passage peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius).

(e) Traps shall be designed to prevent injury to the raptor. ~~All traps~~ Traps, except box-type ~~traps~~ traps, shall be attended and visible to the trapper ~~at all times~~ when in use. Box-type traps ~~must~~ shall be checked every 24 hours. Traps ~~must~~ shall be ~~of~~ one of the following types:

(1) Leg noose snare traps, the nooses of which shall be tied to prevent the noose from locking when under pressure. The trapper shall use a drag weight based on the species being trapped.

(2) Nets that collapse on and enclose around the raptor.

(3) Box-type traps with automatic closing entry doors or funnels.

(f) Licensees may recapture their own birds, banded birds, captive-bred birds, or birds wearing falconry equipment. Disposition of these birds shall be in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv) through (v). ~~their own birds or any birds~~

~~wearing falconry equipment at any time. Disposition of banded birds, captive-bred birds, and birds wearing falconry equipment is as allowed in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv) (v).~~

(g) Licensees shall keep their license on their person when trapping raptors.

(h) Raptors injured due to falconry trapping ~~efforts~~ shall be treated humanely and in accordance with ~~50~~ 50 CFR 21.82(e)(5).

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3(b)(4); 50 C.F.R. 21.29;*
Eff. September 1, 1979;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; July 1, 1998;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; June 1, 2022; February 1, 2018.

15A NCAC 10I .0102 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 219 as follows:

15A NCAC 10I .0102 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES

(a) There is no open season for taking the species listed in Rules .0103, .0104, or .0105 of this Section, except for the American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) as set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0224.

(b) Except as provided in Paragraphs (d) and (h) of this Rule, there is no purchase, sale, or take of the species listed in Rules .0103, .0104, or .0105 of this Section.

(c) Take of federally listed endangered and threatened fish and wildlife species requires a federal permit, as specified in 50 ~~C.F.R~~ CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter B, hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and additions, and a state endangered species permit, as specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule. 50 ~~C.F.R.~~ CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter B is available free of charge at ~~www.ecfr.gov.~~ https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B.

(d) The Executive Director or his or her designee may issue endangered species permits to take, possess, sell, propagate, transport, import, export, transfer, barter, trade, or stock federally listed and State-listed ~~state-listed~~ endangered, threatened, or special concern ~~species~~ species or their parts to:

(1) an individual or institution conducting a scientific investigation for the perpetuation, restoration, or management of a species;

(2) a public or private educator or exhibitor who demonstrates that he or she has lawfully obtained the specimens in his or her possession, possesses the equipment and expertise to care for the specimens, and abides by applicable caging requirements for the species set forth in 15A NCAC 10H .1404;

(3) a person who lawfully possessed the species for 90 days immediately prior to the date that the species was listed and who abides by applicable caging requirements for the species set forth in 15A NCAC 10H .1404;

(4) a person with demonstrable depredation from a Special Concern Species, or American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis);

(5) a licensed falconer who meets the requirements of the rules in 15A NCAC 10H .0800;

(6) a retail or wholesale establishment whose primary function is providing scientific supplies, provided that:

(A) the specimens were lawfully obtained from captive populations or wild populations outside of North Carolina;

(B) the specimens are possessed in indoor facilities; and

(C) safeguards are provided during transportation to prevent accidental escape of the specimens.

(7) state and federal government agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions within North Carolina provided that:

(A) the specimens are possessed in indoor facilities;

(B) safeguards are provided during transportation to prevent accidental escape of the specimens; and

(C) the agency's or institution's Animal Care and Use Committee has approved the research protocol for the species.

(e) Additional permits or authorizations from the Commission shall be required for importation, exportation, propagation, transfer, transportation, stocking, and release of endangered, threatened, or special concern species or their parts. ~~species.~~

(f) An individual may apply for an endangered species permit online at www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com by providing the following information:

(1) name, address, phone number, and email of the applicant;

(2) applicant's affiliation, if applicable;

(3) species name and quantity;

(4) proposed activities;

(5) map with specific location of activities identified, if applicable;

(6) the source of the specimens and documentation of lawful acquisition;

(7) caging or confinement plans for specimens, if applicable;

(8) qualifications and explanation of experience for anyone working with the species;

(9) research proposal, if applicable;

(10) proof that federal permits have been applied for or obtained, if applicable;

(11) plans for care of specimens and copy of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee permit, if applicable; and

(12) plans for final disposition of specimens.

(g) Endangered species permits shall not be transferrable by license holder or by site.

(h) The species listed in Rules .0103, .0104, and .0105 of this Section may be taken or possessed without a permit when:

(1) an individual takes the species in defense of his or her own life or the lives of others, as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0106.

(2) an individual has obtained a permit to take an American alligator in accordance with 15A NCAC 10B .0224.

(3) an individual possesses meat or other parts of American alligators that have been lawfully taken, possessed, or bought in a state where there is an open season for harvesting alligators and the products are marketed in packages or containers that are labeled to indicate the state in which the animals were taken and the identity, address, and lawful authority of the processor or distributor.

(4) an individual is taking or harassing a red wolf (Canis rufus) pursuant to the conditions in 50 CFR ~~C.F.R.~~ 17.84(c), hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, available free of charge at ~~www.ecfr.gov.~~ https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-17/section-17.84.

(5) an individual who meets the requirements of G.S. 113-261, who, when acting in the course of his or her official duties, takes, possesses, or transports endangered, threatened, or special concern species if the action is necessary to:

(A) aid a sick, injured, diseased, or orphaned specimen;

(B) dispose of a dead specimen;

(C) salvage a dead specimen that may be useful for scientific study; or

(D) remove specimens that constitute a demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human safety and release the specimen unharmed, in a habitat that is suitable for survival.

(i) Take, possession, sale, propagation, transportation, importation, exportation, transfer, barter, trade, or stocking of endangered, threatened, or special concern species under Paragraphs (d) and (h) of this Rule is subject to federal reporting requirements, and reporting requirements of the endangered species permit.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3; 113-292; 113-333; 113-337;*
Eff. June 11, 1977;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; May 1, 2009; April 1, 2003; April 1, 2001; April 1, 1997; February 1, 1994; September 1, 1989; March 1, 1981; March 17, 1978.
Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; July 1, 2016;
Readopted Eff. October 1, ~~2024.~~ 2024;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.