

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

TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1 that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0303.

Codifier of Rules approved this rule as an emergency rule effective August 10, 2026 and received for publication the following notice and proposed temporary rule(s) on: July 30, 2026.

Public Hearing:

Date: September 3, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual public hearing via Zoom. Pre-registration is required: https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ddL9qhxAQBzGFw7qTvV5g, or join by phone toll free: (833) 568-8864, Webinar ID: 165 412 6419

Reason for Proposed Temporary Action: A serious and unforeseen threat to the public health, safety or welfare. G.S. 150B-21.1 (a) (7) a. The proposed amendment expands the no-wake zone in the waters of Blount Creek in Beaufort County, 140 yards south-southeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge on Mouth of the Creek Road.

The NC Department of Transportation has contracted for the replacement and realignment of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge. The new permanent bridge, along with a temporary construction bridge, will be built just south of the current bridge. Once complete, the existing bridge will be demolished. The Board of Commissioners of Beaufort County is the designated agency for this no-wake zone; however, NCDOT and their contractor will be responsible for placing regulatory markers under this temporary rule. A permanent amendment to this no-wake zone is expected to be implemented once the existing bridge is demolished. The extended no-wake zone helps protect construction crews working on the bridge project.

Comment Procedures: Comments from the public shall be directed to: Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email regulations@ncwildlife.gov. The comment period begins August 3, 2026 and ends September 14, 2026.

CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY

SUBCHAPTER 10F - MOTORBOATS AND WATER SAFETY

SECTION .0300 - LOCAL WATER SAFETY REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10F .0303 BEAUFORT COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the following waters in Beaufort County:

- (1) Aurora.
 - (A) the waters within 50 yards of Smith Creek Boating Access Area on Smith Creek, 3484 NC Highway 33 E; and
 - (B) the waters within 50 yards of Aurora Boating Access Area on South Creek, 1 Main Street.
- (2) Belhaven.
 - (A) the waters within 50 yards of Belhaven Boating Access Area on Pantego Creek, 135 West Water Street; and
 - (B) the waters within 50 yards of Wrights Creek Boating Access Area on Pungo Creek, 1922 Wilkins Road.
- (3) Chocowinity.
 - (A) the portion of Blounts Creek north of a line ~~35~~ 175 yards south-southeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge from a point on the east shore at 35.43187 N, 76.96823 W ~~35.43333 N, 76.96985 W~~ to a point on the west shore at 35.43212 N, 76.97193 W ~~35.43267 N, 76.97196 W~~ and south of a line 350 yards north-northeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge from a point on the east shore at 35.43553 N, 76.96962 W to a point on the west shore at 35.43679 N, 76.97011 W;
 - (B) the canals at the eastern end of the peninsula between Chocowinity Bay and the Pamlico River at Fork Point and Whichard Beach, beginning at the canal entrance off Chocowinity Bay at a point at 35.50296 N, 77.03043 W and beginning at the canal entrance off the Pamlico River at a point at 35.50340 N, 77.02364 W; and
 - (C) Blounts Creek south of a line 100 yards north of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area at 350 Crisp Landing Road, from a point on the east shore at 35.40846 N, 76.96091 W to a point on the west shore at 35.40834 N, 76.96355 W, and north of a line 100 yards south of Cotton Patch Landing, from a point on the east shore at 35.40211 N, 76.96573 W to a point on the west shore at 35.40231 N, 76.96702 W.
- (4) Washington.

- (A) the portion of Broad Creek south of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.49472 N, 76.95693 W to a point on the west shore at 35.49477 N, 76.96014 W and north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.48894 N, 76.95052 W to a point on the west shore at 35.48660 N, 76.95879 W;
 - (B) the waters within 50 yards of Masons Landing Boating Access Area on Tranters Creek, 625 Clarks Neck Road; and
 - (C) the waters within 50 yards of Havens Garden Boating Access Area on Runyon Creek, 1053 East Main Street.
- (5) the navigable portion of Nevil Creek extending upstream from its mouth at the Pamlico ~~River~~, River.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Placement of Markers.
- (1) the Board of Commissioners of Beaufort County shall be the designated agency implementing the portion of Parts (a)(3)(C) south of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area; and Parts (a)(2)(A) and (B), (a)(3)(A) and (B), and (a)(5) of this Rule;
 - (2) the City of Washington shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(4)(A) through (a)(4)(C) of this Rule; and
 - (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing the portion of Part (a)(3)(C), the waters of Blounts Creek shore to shore from 100 yards north of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area to 100 yards south of the Boating Access Area; and Parts (a)(1)(A) and (B) of this Rule.

Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15.