

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 226 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during
36 the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of
37 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 his designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1700. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply.

(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 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

1 license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with
2 DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those
3 seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report
4 card.

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

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9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
10 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
12 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
18 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
19 *2003);*
20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
21 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
22 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
23 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0206 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 229 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS**

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

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

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

9 ~~(e) Except on game lands, gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the second Monday in May through the~~
10 ~~fourth Monday in May.~~

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

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

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14 *History Note Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

15 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
17 *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

18 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2022.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0502 is adopted as published in 40:02 NCR 229 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CWD SURVEILLANCE AREAS ~~DEFINED~~ MANAGEMENT AREAS**

4 (a) The following counties are CWD Management Areas:

- 5 (1) Cumberland;
6 (2) Forsyth;
7 (3) Stokes;
8 (4) Surry;
9 (5) Wilkes; and
10 (6) Yadkin.

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

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

- 13 (1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes protruding through the skin, as distinguished
14 from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in August and the
15 Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands unless otherwise
16 specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
17 (2) All Lawful Weapons.
18 (A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin
19 counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game
20 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
21 (B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland County the Saturday on or
22 nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands unless otherwise
23 specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
24 (3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized
25 in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day
26 immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in
27 Subparagraph (c)(4) of this Rule.
28 (4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment
29 as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B
30 .0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season
31 described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on
32 game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

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

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36 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*
37 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*

1 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*
2 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, ~~2024~~, 2024;*
3 *Eff. August 1, 2026.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0503 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 229 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0503 SURVEILLANCE AREA**

4 (a) Inside a surveillance area, placement of minerals or salt licks to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be
5 prohibited. Placement of bait, food, or food product to purposefully congregate wildlife shall be prohibited from
6 January 2 through August 31 inside a Surveillance Area, except that:

- 7 (1) bird feeders specifically designed for nongame birds shall be allowed;
8 (2) placement of bait, food, or food products to hunt during the urban archery season shall be allowed
9 within the established season in participating municipalities; and
10 (3) the placement of food specifically permitted by the Commission for scientific research, population
11 management, and wildlife control may be allowed.

12 (b) White-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation is prohibited in a Surveillance Area.

13 (c) White-tailed deer fawns originating from within a Surveillance Area shall not be transported alive outside the
14 Surveillance Area.

15 ~~(d) No cervid carcass or carcass parts originating from inside a Primary Surveillance Area (PSA) or Secondary~~
16 ~~Surveillance Area (SSA) shall be transported outside of the county of origin, except:~~

- 17 ~~(1) meat that has been boned out so that no pieces or fragments of bone remain;~~
18 ~~(2) caped hides with no part of the skull or spinal column attached;~~
19 ~~(3) antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or skulls free from meat or brain tissue;~~
20 ~~(4) cleaned lower jawbones with teeth or cleaned teeth;~~
21 ~~(5) finished taxidermy products and tanned hides;~~
22 ~~(6) carcass or carcass parts permitted by the Commission for disposal outside of the Surveillance Area;~~
23 ~~(7) carcass or carcass parts originating inside a PSA county may be transported into contiguous PSA~~
24 ~~counties; and~~
25 ~~(8) carcass or carcass parts originating inside a SSA county may be transported into contiguous SSA or~~
26 ~~PSA counties.~~

27 ~~(e)(d)~~ No person shall possess or use a substance or material that contains or is labeled as containing any excretion
28 collected from a cervid, including feces, urine, blood, gland oil, or other bodily fluid for the purposes of taking or
29 attempting to take, attracting, or scouting wildlife inside a surveillance area. This prohibition shall not apply to the
30 following substances:

- 31 (1) products labeled as containing synthetic analogs of cervid excretions;
32 (2) natural substances labeled as being collected from facilities within North Carolina that have a valid
33 Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Services;
34 (3) natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities within North Carolina
35 that have a valid Farmed Cervid License from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and
36 Consumer Services; and

- 1 (4) natural deer urine products labeled as containing excretions from facilities that meet all the
2 following requirements:
- 3 (A) determined to be free of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) based on testing by an
4 independent laboratory using a method that may help detect the presence of CWD prions;
- 5 (B) complies with a federally approved CWD herd certification program and any federal CWD
6 protocols; and
- 7 (C) participates in additional herd management requirements as specified by the Wildlife
8 Resources Commission.
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10 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*
11 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;*
12 *Emergency Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*
13 *Temporary Adoption Eff. November 29, 2022;*
14 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*
15 *Eff. January 1, ~~2024~~. 2024;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
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1 15A NCAC 10B .0504 is adopted as published in 40:02 NCR 230 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10B .0504 ~~PRIMARY SURVEILLANCE AREA~~ DISPOSAL OF CERVID CARCASSES**

4 (a) The final disposition of non-edible portions of cervid carcasses and carcass parts originating from North Carolina
5 shall be:

6 (1) in a lined landfill;

7 (2) buried 3 feet below ground and 300 feet from a waterbody; or

8 (3) lawfully left on the ground within the county of origin.

9 (b) This section shall not apply to cervid carcass parts that are lawful to possess pursuant to Rule .0124 of this

10 Subchapter.

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12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;*

13 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 2, 2022;*

14 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;*

15 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, ~~2024~~, 2024;*

16 *Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0205 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 230 as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

4 (a) For purposes of this Rule, the following manners of take definitions apply:

- 5 (1) "Natural bait" means a living or dead plant or animal, or parts thereof, or prepared substances
6 designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
7 (2) "Single hook" means a fish hook with only one point.
8 (3) "Artificial lure" means a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated by a substance that
9 attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
10 (4) "Artificial fly" means one single hook dressed with feathers, hair, thread, tinsel, rubber, or a similar
11 material to which no additional hook, spinner, spoon, or similar device is added.
12 ~~(5) "Youth anglers" are individuals under 16 years of age.~~

13 (b) For purposes of this Rule, 15A NCAC 10C .0316, and 15A NCAC 10D .0104, the following classifications and
14 restrictions apply:

- 15 (1) "Public Mountain Trout Waters" are the waters included in Paragraph (d) of this Rule and those
16 designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104.
17 (2) "Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters
18 where only artificial flies and lures having one single hook may be used. ~~No trout may be possessed~~
19 ~~or harvested while fishing these streams.~~ Waters with this designation include tributaries unless
20 otherwise noted.
21 (3) "Delayed Harvest Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where between October 1 and
22 one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday of the following June, it is unlawful
23 to possess natural ~~bait, bait or~~ use more than one single hook on an artificial lure. ~~lure, or harvest or~~
24 ~~possess trout while fishing. From 6:00 a.m. until noon on the first Saturday in June, only youth~~
25 ~~anglers may fish and these waters have no bait or lure restrictions. From noon on the first Saturday~~
26 ~~in June until September 30, October 1,~~ anglers may fish these waters with no bait or lure restrictions.
27 Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
28 (4) "Hatchery Supported Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters that have no bait or lure
29 restrictions. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted. Fishing
30 is prohibited from March 1 until 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April, except in the impounded
31 waters of the following reservoirs:

- 32 (A) Bear Creek Lake;
33 (B) Buckeye Creek Reservoir;
34 (C) Calderwood Reservoir;
35 (D) Cedar Cliff Lake;
36 (E) Cheoah Reservoir;
37 (F) Cliffside Lake;

- (G) Cullowhee Dam Impoundment, from the S.R. 1731 bridge downstream to the Cullowhee Dam;
- (H) Tanassee Creek Lake;
- (I) Queens Creek Lake; and
- (J) Wolf Lake.
- (5) "Special Regulation Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters where watercourse-specific regulations apply. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (6) "Wild Trout Waters" are Public Mountain Trout Waters identified in this Rule or 15A NCAC 10D .0104. Only artificial lures having only one single hook may be used. No person shall possess natural bait while fishing these waters. Waters with this designation do not include tributaries unless otherwise noted.
- (7) "Undesignated Waters" are the other waters in the State. These waters have no bait or lure restrictions.
- ~~(c) Seasons, creel, and size limits.~~ Seasons, creel, and size limits for trout are listed in Rule .0316 of this Subchapter.
- ~~(d) Classifications.~~ This Paragraph designates waters in each county that have a specific classification. Waters on game lands are designated in 15A NCAC 10D .0104, unless otherwise indicated in this Paragraph. The other waters are classified as Undesignated Waters.
- (1) Alleghany
- (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- Big Pine Creek
- Bledsoe Creek
- Brush Creek from the N.C. 21 bridge to the confluence with the Little River, except where posted against trespassing
- Cranberry Creek
- Glade Creek
- Little River from 400 yards upstream of the S.R. 1128 bridge, marked by a sign on each bank, to McCann Dam
- Meadow Fork
- Pine Swamp Creek
- Piney Fork
- Prathers Creek
- (B) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park
- (2) Ashe County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Big Horse Creek from the Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries

(B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River
Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both
banks to a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536
South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge
Trout Lake

(C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek
Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge
Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New
River
Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge
Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River
Nathans Creek
North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam
Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River
Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research
Station to Trout Lake
Roan Creek
Three Top Creek

(3) Avery County

(A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond
Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek
Wilson Creek, the game land portion

(B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
Boyde Coffey Lake
Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee
state line
Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where
posted against trespassing
Milltimber Creek
North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational
Park, except where posted against trespassing
North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against
trespassing
Squirrel Creek

- 1 Wildcat Lake
- 2 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Birchfield Creek
- 4 Cow Camp Creek
- 5 Cranberry Creek from the headwaters to the U.S. 19E, N.C. 194, bridge
- 6 Gragg Prong
- 7 Horse Creek
- 8 Kentucky Creek
- 9 North Harper Creek
- 10 Plumtree Creek
- 11 Roaring Creek
- 12 Rockhouse Creek
- 13 Shawneehaw Creek, the portion adjacent to Banner Elk Greenway
- 14 South Harper Creek
- 15 Webb Prong
- 16 (4) Buncombe County
- 17 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 18 Carter Creek, the game land portion
- 19 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 20 Bent Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ Rich Branch to the N.C. Arboretum boundary line
- 21 Cane Creek from ~~the headwaters~~ S.R. 2785 bridge to the S.R. 3138 bridge
- 22 ~~Corner Rock Creek from Little Andy Creek to the confluence with Walker Branch~~
- 23 Dillingham Creek from Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek
- 24 Ivy Creek from Dillingham Creek to the U.S. 19-23 bridge
- 25 Lake Powhatan
- 26 Reems Creek from Sugar Camp Fork to the U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against
- 27 trespassing
- 28 ~~Rich Branch from downstream of the confluence with Rocky Branch~~
- 29 Stony Creek from the confluence of Carter Creek and Mineral Creek downstream to
- 30 Dillingham Creek
- 31 Swannanoa from ~~the S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest~~ River Walk Park in Black Mountain
- 32 to the Wood Avenue bridge, at the intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville,
- 33 except where posted against trespassing
- 34 (5) Burke County
- 35 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- 36 Henry Fork, the portion on South Mountains State Park
- 37 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Jacob Fork from Shinny Creek to the lower South Mountains State Park boundary
- 2 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Carroll Creek, the game land portion above S.R. 1405
- 4 ~~Henry Fork from the lower South Mountain State Park line to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek~~
- 5 Linville River, ~~the portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness area and~~ the portion below
- 6 Lake James powerhouse from the upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek
- 7 (D) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Catawba River from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam
- 9 (E) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 10 The waters located on South Mountains State Park, except those waters identified in Parts
- 11 (A) and (B) of this Subparagraph
- 12 (6) Caldwell County
- 13 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 14 Wilson Creek, the game land portion below Lost Cove Creek to Philips Branch
- 15 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Boone Fork Pond
- 17 Buffalo Creek from the mouth of Joes Creek to McCloud Branch
- 18 Joes Creek from the first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to the confluence with Buffalo Creek
- 19 Wilson Creek from Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted
- 20 against trespassing
- 21 Yadkin River from the Happy Valley Ruritan Community Park to S.R. 1515
- 22 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 23 Buffalo Creek from the Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including game land
- 24 tributaries
- 25 Joes Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574
- 26 Rockhouse Creek
- 27 (7) Cherokee County
- 28 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Davis Creek from the confluence of Bald Creek and Dockery Creek to Hanging Dog Creek
- 30 Hyatt Creek from Big Dam Branch to the Valley River
- 31 Junaluska Creek from Ashturn Creek to the Valley River
- 32 Shuler Creek from the Joe Brown Hwy, S.R. 1325 bridge, to the Tennessee state line
- 33 Valley River from S.R. 1359 to the U.S. 19 Business bridge in Murphy
- 34 (B) Special Regulation Trout Waters are as follows:
- 35 Apalachia Reservoir
- 36 (8) Clay County
- 37 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

- 1 Fires Creek from Rockhouse Creek to the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area
- 2 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Buck Creek, the game land portion downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge
- 4 Fires Creek from the foot bridge in the USFS Fires Creek Picnic Area to S.R. 1300
- 5 Tusquitee Creek from Compass Creek to the lower S.R. 1300 bridge
- 6 (9) Graham County
- 7 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 8 Snowbird Creek from the USFS footbridge at the old railroad junction to USFS Rd. 2579
- 9 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 10 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
- 11 Cheoah Reservoir
- 12 Panther Creek from the confluence of Stand Creek and Rock Creek to Lake Fontana
- 13 Santeetlah Creek from Johns Branch to Lake Santeetlah
- 14 Snowbird Creek from USFS Rd. 2579 to the S.R. 1127 bridge
- 15 Stecoah Creek from the upper game land boundary to Lake Fontana
- 16 Tulula Creek from S.R. 1201 to the lower bridge on S.R. 1275
- 17 West Buffalo Creek from the confluence of Squally Creek and Little Buffalo Creek
- 18 downstream to Lake Santeetlah
- 19 Yellow Creek from Lake Santeetlah hydropower pipeline to the Cheoah River
- 20 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- 21 Little Buffalo Creek
- 22 South Fork Squally Creek
- 23 Squally Creek
- 24 (10) Haywood County
- 25 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 West Fork Pigeon River from Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of
- 27 Lake Logan
- 28 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 29 Cold Springs Creek from Fall Branch to the Pigeon River
- 30 Jonathan Creek from upstream of the S.R. 1302 bridge to the Pigeon River, except where
- 31 posted against trespassing
- 32 Pigeon River from Stamey Cove Branch to the upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge
- 33 Richland Creek from the Russ Avenue, U.S. 276, bridge to the U.S. 19 bridge
- 34 West Fork Pigeon River from Tom Creek to Queen Creek
- 35 (11) Henderson County
- 36 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 37 North Fork Mills River, the game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam

- 1 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Broad River from the end of S.R. 1611 to the Rutherford Co. line
3 Cane Creek from the railroad bridge upstream of the S.R. 1551 bridge to the U.S. 25 bridge
4 Clear Creek from Laurel Fork to S.R. 1582
5 Green River from the Lake Summit powerhouse to the game land boundary
6 Hungry River from ~~S.R. 1885~~ Little Hungry River to the Green River
- 7 (12) Jackson County
- 8 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
9 Flat Creek
10 Tuckasegee River, the game land portion upstream of Tanasee Creek Lake, including the
11 Duke Energy powerline corridor
12 Tuckasegee River the portion upstream from the Clark property
- 13 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
14 Tuckasegee River from downstream of the N.C. 107 bridge to the falls located 275 yards
15 upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks
- 16 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
17 Balsam Lake
18 Bear Creek Lake
19 Cedar Cliff Lake
20 Cullowhee Creek from Tilley Creek to the Tuckasegee River
21 Dark Ridge Creek from Jones Creek to Scott Creek
22 Greens Creek from Greens Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1370 to Savannah Creek
23 Savannah Creek from Shell Branch to Cagle Branch
24 Scott Creek from Dark Ridge Creek to the Tuckasegee River, except where posted against
25 trespassing
26 Tanasee Creek Lake
27 Tuckasegee River from John Brown Branch to the downstream N.C. 107 bridge
28 Tuckasegee River from the falls located 275 yards upstream of the U.S. 23-441 bridge,
29 marked by a sign on both banks, to the S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmont
30 Wolf Creek Lake
- 31 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
32 Gage Creek
33 North Fork Scott Creek
34 Tanasee Creek
35 Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
36 Wolf Creek except Balsam Lake and Wolf Creek Lake
- 37 (13) Macon County

- 1 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Nantahala River from Whiteoak Creek to the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal
- 3 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
4 Burningtown Creek from Left Prong to the Little Tennessee River
5 Cartoogechaye Creek from downstream of the U.S. 64 bridge to the Little Tennessee River
6 Cliffside Lake
7 Cullasaja River from Sequoyah Dam to the U.S. 64 bridge near the junction of S.R. 1672
8 Nantahala River from Dicks Creek to Whiteoak Creek
9 Nantahala River from the Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to the Swain Co. line
10 Queens Creek Lake
- 11 (14) Madison County
- 12 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
13 Big Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge
14 Shelton Laurel Creek from the N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel
15 Creek
16 Spring Creek from the N.C. 209 bridge at the Hot Springs city limits to the iron bridge at
17 end of Andrews Ave.
- 18 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
19 Big Laurel Creek from Puncheon Fork to the S.R. 1318, Big Laurel Rd., bridge downstream
20 of Bearpen Branch
21 Big Pine Creek from the S.R. 1151 bridge to the French Broad River
22 Little Ivy Creek from the confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to the
23 confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy
24 Max Patch Pond
25 Meadow Fork Creek from Meadow Fork Campground to Spring Creek
26 Puncheon Fork from Wolf Laurel Branch to Big Laurel Creek
27 Roaring Fork from Fall Branch to Meadow Fork
28 Shelton Laurel Creek from the confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to the N.C. 208
29 bridge at Belva
30 Shut-in Creek from the confluence of East Fork Shut-in Creek and West Fork Shut-in
31 Creek to the French Broad River
32 Spillcorn Creek from Baker Creek to the S.R. 1330 bridge
33 Spring Creek from the junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to the confluence with Meadow
34 Fork
35 West Fork Shut-in Creek from the lower game land boundary to the confluence with East
36 Fork Shut-in Creek
- 37 (15) McDowell County

- 1 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
2 Newberry Creek, the game land portion
- 3 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
4 Catawba River, the portion adjacent to the Marion Greenway
5 Curtis Creek, the game land portion downstream of the USFS boundary at Deep Branch
6 Mill Creek from the U.S. 70 bridge to the I-40 bridge
- 7 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
8 Armstrong Creek from the Cato Holler line downstream to the upper Greenlee line
9 Catawba River from the Catawba Falls Campground to the Old Fort Recreation Park
10 Little Buck Creek, the game land portion
11 North Fork Catawba River from the headwaters to North Cove School at the S.R. 1569
12 bridge
- 13 (16) Mitchell County
- 14 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
15 Cane Creek from the N.C. 226 bridge to the S.R. 1189 bridge
16 North Toe River from the U.S. 19E bridge to the N.C. 226 bridge
- 17 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
18 Big Rock Creek from the headwaters to ~~the N.C. 226 bridge at the S.R. 1307 intersection~~
19 the S.R. 1325 bridge
20 Cane Creek from S.R. 1219 to the N.C. 226 bridge
21 East Fork Grassy Creek
22 Grassy Creek from East Fork Grassy Creek to the mouth
23 ~~Little Rock Creek from the Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted~~
24 ~~against trespassing~~
25 North Toe River from the Avery Co. line to the S.R. 1121 bridge
- 26 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
27 Green Creek from the headwaters to the Green Creek bridge, except where posted against
28 trespassing
29 Little Rock Creek the portion upstream of the Green Creek bridge, including the tributaries,
30 except where posted against trespassing
31 Wiles Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
- 32 (17) Polk County
- 33 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
34 Green River from the Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek
- 35 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
36 Green River from the mouth of Cove Creek to the natural gas pipeline crossing
37 North Pacolet River from Joels Creek to the N.C. 108 bridge

- 1 (18) Rutherford County
- 2 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 3 Broad River from the Henderson Co. line to the U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted
- 4 against trespassing
- 5 (19) Stokes County
- 6 (A) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 7 Dan River from the Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of
- 8 S.R. 1421
- 9 (20) Surry County
- 10 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- 11 Ararat River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River Greenway downstream of the N.C.
- 12 103 bridge
- 13 Mitchell River from 0.6 miles upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the lowermost bridge
- 14 on S.R. 1330
- 15 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 16 Ararat ~~River from the S.R. 1727 bridge to~~ River, the portion adjacent to the Ararat River
- 17 Greenway upstream of the N.C. 103 bridge
- 18 Big Elkin Creek from the dam 440 yards upstream of the N.C. 268 bridge to a point 265
- 19 yards downstream of N.C. 268, marked by a sign on both banks
- 20 Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the I-77 bridge
- 21 Little Fisher River from the Virginia state line to the N.C. 89 bridge
- 22 Lovills Creek from the U.S. 52 Business bridge to the Ararat River
- 23 Pauls Creek from the Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below the S.R. 1625 bridge
- 24 (21) Swain County
- 25 (A) Delayed Harvest Waters Trout Waters are as follows:
- 26 Tuckasegee River from the U.S. 19 bridge to the Slope Street bridge
- 27 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- 28 Alarka Creek from the game land boundary to Fontana Reservoir
- 29 Calderwood Reservoir from Cheoah Dam to the Tennessee state line
- 30 Cheoah Reservoir
- 31 Connelly Creek from Camp Branch to the Tuckasegee River
- 32 Deep Creek from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Boundary line to the
- 33 Tuckasegee River
- 34 Nantahala River from the Macon Co. line to the existing Fontana Lake water level
- 35 (22) Transylvania County
- 36 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

- Davidson River from the headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek, Grogan Creek, Cedar Rock Creek and John Rock Branch
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- East Fork French Broad River from East Fork Baptist Church to ~~the~~ 350 yards downstream ~~S.R. 1107 of Whitmire Falls, marked by a sign on both banks~~ bridge
- Little River from the confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- Davidson River from Avery Creek to the lower USFS boundary
- French Broad River from the confluence of the North Fork French Broad River and West Fork
- French Broad River to the Island Ford Rd., S.R. 1110, Access Area
- Middle Fork French Broad River from upstream of the U.S. 178 bridge to the French Broad River
- West Fork French Broad River from S.R. 1312 to confluence with North Fork French Broad River
- (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:
- The waters located on Gorges State Park
- Whitewater River from Silver Run Creek to the South Carolina state line
- (23) Watauga County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Laurel Creek from the confluence of North Fork Laurel Creek and South Fork Laurel Creek to Elk Creek, excluding tributaries
- Pond Creek from the headwaters to the Locust Ridge Rd. bridge, excluding the pond adjacent to Coffee Lake
- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- Lake Coffey
- Watauga River from the S.R. 1114 bridge to the Valle Crucis Community Park lower boundary
- Watauga River from the S.R. 1103 bridge to the confluence with Laurel Creek
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- Beaverdam Creek from the confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203
- Beech Creek
- Buckeye Creek from Buckeye Creek Reservoir dam to Grassy Gap Creek
- Buckeye Creek Reservoir
- Cove Creek from the S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to the S.R. 1214 bridge at Sherwood
- Dutch Creek from the second S.R. 1136 bridge to the mouth

1 Elk Creek from the S.R. 1510 bridge at Triplett to the Wilkes Co. line, except where posted
2 against trespassing

3 Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1123 bridge at the S.R. 1157 intersection to the Watauga River

4 Meat Camp Creek from the S.R. 1340 bridge at the S.R. 1384 intersection to N.C. 194

5 Middle Fork New River from adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1539 and U.S. 321 to the
6 South Fork New River

7 Norris Fork Creek

8 South Fork New River from the canoe launch 70 yards upstream of U.S. 421 bridge to the
9 lower boundary of Brookshire Park

10 Stony Fork from the S.R. 1500 bridge at the S.R. 1505 intersection to the Wilkes Co. line

11 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

12 Dutch Creek from the headwaters to the second S.R. 1136 bridge

13 Howard Creek

14 Maine Branch from the headwaters to the North Fork New River

15 North Fork New River from the confluence with Maine Branch and Mine Branch to the
16 Ashe Co. line

17 Winkler Creek from the lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to the confluence with the South Fork
18 New River

19 (24) Wilkes County

20 (A) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

21 East Prong Roaring River from Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower
22 boundary

23 Elk Creek from the Watauga Co. line to the lower boundary of the Blue Ridge Mountain
24 Club

25 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development

26 Reddies River from the Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to the confluence
27 with the Yadkin River

28 Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany Co. line to the confluence with the
29 East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek

30 (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

31 Basin Creek from the S.R. 1730 bridge to the confluence with Lovelace Creek

32 Bell Branch Pond

33 Boundary Line Pond

34 Cub Creek from 0.5 miles upstream of the S.R. 2460 bridge to the S.R. 1001 bridge

35 Darnell Creek from the downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to the confluence with the North
36 Fork Reddies River

1 East Prong Roaring River from the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary to the Low
2 Meadows Lane bridge
3 Fall Creek from the S.R. 1300 bridge to the confluence with South Prong Lewis Fork,
4 except where posted against trespassing
5 Middle Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the bridge on S.R. 1580
6 Middle Prong Roaring River from the headwaters to the second bridge on S.R. 1736
7 North Fork Reddies River from the headwaters to the Union School bridge on S.R. 1559
8 Pike Creek
9 Pike Creek Pond
10 South Fork Reddies River from the S.R. 1355 bridge to the confluence with the Middle
11 Fork Reddies River
12 South Prong Lewis Fork from Fall Creek to the U.S. 421 bridge adjacent to the S.R. 1155
13 intersection

14 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

15 The waters located on Stone Mountain State Park, except East Prong Roaring River from
16 Bullhead Creek to the Stone Mountain State Park lower boundary where Delayed Harvest
17 Trout Waters regulations apply, and Stone Mountain Creek from the falls at the Alleghany
18 Co. line to the confluence with the East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek in Stone
19 Mountain State Park where Delayed Harvest Trout Waters regulations apply

20 (25) Yancey County

21 (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:

22 South Toe River from the headwaters to Upper Creek
23 Upper Creek

24 (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:

25 Cane River from Blackberry Ridge Rd. to the downstream boundary of Cane River County
26 Park

27 (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:

28 Bald Mountain Creek, except where posted against trespassing
29 Cane River from Bee Branch, S.R. 1110, to Bowlens Creek
30 Price Creek from the junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek
31 South Toe River from Clear Creek to the lower boundary line of Yancey Co. Recreation
32 Park, except where posted against trespassing

33 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

34 Cattail Creek from the bridge at Mountain Farm Community Rd. to the N.C. 197 bridge
35 Lickskillet Creek
36 Middle Creek from the game land boundary to the mouth
37

1 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-272; 113-292;*
2 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
3 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;*
4 *October 1, 1992;*
5 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
6 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
7 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002;*
9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 6/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
11 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
12 *2003);*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
14 *August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
15 *1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
16 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; August 1, 2022;*
18 *August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0208 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 238 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0208 SPAWNING AREAS**

4 (a) No person shall fish from March 1 to May 31 in the following restored floodplain sloughs ~~connected to the French~~
5 ~~Broad River and Mud Creek~~ in Henderson County:

- 6 (1) Mud Creek slough ~~Slough~~ 1 at 35.403687 N, 82.531970 W connected to the French Broad River,
7 located 0.25 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd. (S.R. 1345).
8 (2) Mud Creek slough ~~Slough~~ 2 at 35.398380 N, 82.528750 W connected to the French Broad River,
9 located 1.0 miles upstream of Butler Bridge Rd.
10 (3) Mud Creek slough ~~Slough~~ 3 at 35.396449 N, 82.525462 W connected to Mud Creek, located 0.1
11 miles upstream from confluence with the French Broad River.
12 (4) Pleasant Grove slough at 35.298384 N, 82.584716 W connected to the French Broad River, located
13 0.25 miles upstream from S.R. 1205, Etowah School Road.
14 (5) King's Bridge slough at 35.377100 N, 82.530389 W connected to the French Broad River, located
15 0.6 miles downstream from N.C. Hwy 191, Haywood Road.

16 (b) Each slough shall be marked with signs on both banks.
17

18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

19 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

20 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004; July 1, 1993; July 1, 1989; July 1, 1985; July 1, 1984;*

21 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024.*
23
24

1 15A NCAC 10C .0211 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 438 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10C .0211 POSSESSION OF CERTAIN FISHES**

4 (a) It shall be unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, sell, or stock in the public or private waters of North Carolina
5 any live individuals of:

- 6 (1) African longfin eel (*Anguilla mossambica*);
- 7 (2) amur sleeper (*Percottus glenii*);
- 8 (3) applesnail (any species of the genus *Pomacea*);
- 9 (4) Asian pond mussel (any species of the genus *Sinanodonta*)
- 10 ~~(4)(5)~~ Asian swamp eel, swamp or rice eel (*Monopterus albus*);
- 11 ~~(5)(6)~~ Australian red claw crayfish or red claw (*Cherax quadricarinatus*, or other species in the genus
12 *Cherax*);
- 13 ~~(6)(7)~~ bigclaw crayfish (*Faxonius placidus*);
- 14 ~~(7)(8)~~ bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*);
- 15 ~~(8)(9)~~ black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*);
- 16 ~~(9)(10)~~ brown hoplo (*Hoplosternum littorale*);
- 17 ~~(10)(11)~~ Chinese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*);
- 18 ~~(11)(12)~~ Creole painted crayfish (*Faxonius palmeri creolanus*);
- 19 ~~(12)(13)~~ Crucian Carp (*Carassius carassius*);
- 20 ~~(13)(14)~~ European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*);
- 21 ~~(14)(15)~~ European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*);
- 22 ~~(15)(16)~~ European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*);
- 23 (17) golden mussel (any species of the genus *Limnoperna*);
- 24 ~~(16)(18)~~ Japanese mysterysnail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*);
- 25 ~~(17)(19)~~ marbled Crayfish or Marmorkrebs (*Procambarus virginalis* or *Procambarus fallax f. virginalis*);
- 26 ~~(18)(20)~~ olive mysterysnail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*);
- 27 ~~(19)(21)~~ Oriental weatherfish (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*);
- 28 ~~(20)(22)~~ piranha (any species of the genera *Pristobrycon*, *Pygocentrus*, *Pygopristis*, or *Serrasalmus*);
- 29 ~~(21)(23)~~ Prussian Carp (*Carassius gibelio*);
- 30 ~~(22)(24)~~ quagga mussel (*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) or any mussel in the family *Dreissenidae*;
- 31 ~~(23)(25)~~ red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*);
- 32 ~~(24)(26)~~ red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus* or *Melanoides tuberculata*);
- 33 ~~(25)(27)~~ redbelly catfish (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*);
- 34 ~~(26)(28)~~ round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*);
- 35 ~~(27)(29)~~ rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus* or *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*);
- 36 ~~(28)(30)~~ ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus* or *Gymnocephalus cernua*);
- 37 ~~(29)(31)~~ rusty crayfish (*Faxonius rusticus*);

1 ~~(30)~~(32) shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*);
2 ~~(31)~~(33) silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*);
3 ~~(32)~~(34) snakehead fish (from the Family Channidae, formerly Ophiocephalidae);
4 ~~(33)~~(35) tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*, *Proterorhinus semilunaris*, and *Proterorhinus*
5 *semipellucidus*);
6 ~~(34)~~(36) virile crayfish (*Faxonius virilis*);
7 ~~(35)~~(37) walking catfish (any member of the genus *Batrachus*);
8 ~~(36)~~(38) white amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), except for triploid individuals as permitted in
9 Paragraph (b) of this Rule;
10 ~~(37)~~(39) yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*); or
11 ~~(38)~~(40) zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*).

12 (b) A person may buy, possess, or stock grass carp that have been certified to be triploid or sterile, only for the purpose
13 of controlling aquatic vegetation under a permit issued by the Executive Director or his or her designee based on an
14 evaluation of the potential for escapement and threat to sensitive aquatic habitats.

15 (c) It shall be unlawful to transport, possess, or release live river herring, also known as alewife or blueback herring,
16 in the waters of the Little Tennessee River in and upstream of Lake Santeetlah and Cedar Cliff Lake, including all the
17 tributaries and impoundments thereof, and on adjacent shorelines, docks, access ramps, and bridge crossings.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;*
20 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
21 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;*
22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*
23 *Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;*
24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;*
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;*
26 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*
28
29

1 15A NCAC 10C .0305 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 239 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS**

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

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

8 (c) There is no closed season, except in waters identified in Paragraph (n) of this Rule.

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

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

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

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

- 17 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
18 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
19 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
20 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
21 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and their tributaries, including Roanoke River
22 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
23 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
24 Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the N.C. Hwy
25 264/45 bridge, and the other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

9 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 10, 1990, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 22, 1990, for a period of 168 days to expire on November 1, 1990;*

12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 1991, for a period of 180 days to expire on November 1, 1991;*

13 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; October 1, 1992;*

14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 1994 for a period of 180 days or until the permanent rule*
15 *becomes effective, whichever is sooner;*

16 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995;*

17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;*

18 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*

19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

20 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;*

22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 8, 2002 [This rule replaces the rule proposed for permanent*
23 *amendment effective July 1, 2002 and approved by RRC in May 2001];*

24 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC in April 2002);*

25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*

26 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
27 *2003);*

28 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012;*

29 *March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
30 *2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*

31 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

32 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0316 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 239 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT**

4 (a) Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

5 (1) The daily creel limit for trout ~~in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters~~ is seven fish.

6 (2) There is no minimum size limit. ~~limit for these fish.~~

7 (3) The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except in the reservoirs
8 identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0205 where trout may be taken year-round. ~~March 1, except for waters~~
9 ~~designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.~~

10 (b) Wild Trout Waters.

11 (1) The daily creel limit for trout ~~in Wild Trout Waters~~ is four fish.

12 (2) The minimum size limit ~~for these fish~~ is seven inches.

13 (3) There is no closed season.

14 (c) Catch and Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters. No trout shall be harvested ~~from Catch and~~
15 ~~Release/Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters.~~ Trout shall not be or possessed while fishing these waters.

16 (d) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters. ~~The daily creel limit for trout in Delayed Harvest Trout Waters is seven fish. There~~
17 ~~is no minimum size limit for these fish. The Youth-only Delayed Harvest Trout Water Season is from 6:00 a.m. on~~
18 ~~the first Saturday in June until 12 p.m. that same day. During this season individuals under 16 years of age may fish.~~
19 ~~From 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30, the Delayed Harvest Trout Waters Season is open~~
20 ~~for anglers. From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout shall~~
21 ~~not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters. Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are closed to fishing from~~
22 ~~one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June to 6 a.m. on the first Saturday in June.~~

23 (1) From October 1 to one-half hour after sunset on the Friday before the first Saturday in June, trout
24 shall not be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters.

25 (2) Only individuals under 16 years of age may fish from 6:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in June until
26 12 p.m. that same day.

27 (A) The daily creel limit for trout is seven fish.

28 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

29 (3) The open season is from 12:00 p.m. on the first Saturday in June until September 30.

30 (A) The daily creel limit for trout is seven fish.

31 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

32 (e) Special Regulation Trout Waters. ~~The daily creel limits, size limits, and seasons for trout in Special Regulation~~
33 ~~Trout Waters are as follows:~~

34 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County)

35 (A) ~~the~~ The daily creel limit for trout is three ~~trout.~~ fish.

36 (B) There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches.

37 (C) There is no closed season.

(2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam

(A) ~~the~~ The daily creel limit for trout is two fish.

(B) The minimum size limit is 14 inches.

(C) There is no closed season.

(f) Undesignated Waters.

(1) The daily creel limit for trout ~~in undesignated trout waters~~ is seven fish.

(2) There is no minimum size limit. ~~limit for these fish.~~

(3) There is no closed season.

~~(g) There is no closed season on taking trout from Linville River within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area and the impounded waters of the following power reservoirs and municipally owned water supply reservoirs open to the public for fishing.~~

~~(1) — Bear Creek Lake;~~

~~(2) — Buckeye Creek Reservoir;~~

~~(3) — Calderwood Reservoir;~~

~~(4) — Cedar Cliff Lake;~~

~~(5) — Cheoah Reservoir;~~

~~(6) — Cliffside Lake;~~

~~(7) — Tanassee Creek Lake;~~

~~(8) — Queens Creek Lake; and~~

~~(9) — Wolf Lake.~~

~~(h) In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters the season for taking all species of fish is the same as the trout fishing season.~~

~~(g)(i)~~ Trout water classifications ~~designations~~ and manners of take are set forth in 15A NCAC 10C .0205.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;

Eff. November 1, 2013;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015;

Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0318 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 240 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for white bass is 10 fish.

5 (b) There is ~~a 14-inch~~ no minimum size limit.

6 (c) There is no closed season.

7
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

9 *Eff. November 1, 2013.*

10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017;*

11 *Readopted Eff. March 15, 2023; ~~2023~~.*

12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0321 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 240 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0321 SMALLMOUTH BASS**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for smallmouth bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of
5 this Rule.

6 (b) There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in
7 waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Rule.

8 (c) There is no closed season.

9 (d) In Lake Santeetlah in Graham County, there is no daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass less
10 than 14 inches. The daily creel limit for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass greater than 14 inches is five fish in
11 aggregate.

12 (e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and
13 spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for smallmouth bass.

14 (f) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily
15 creel limit for largemouth ~~bass, bass and~~ smallmouth ~~bass, and spotted~~ bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no
16 minimum size limit for smallmouth bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only
17 one largemouth ~~bass, bass or~~ smallmouth ~~bass, or spotted~~ bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

20 *Eff. August 1, 2020;*

21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0322 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 240 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0322 ALABAMA BASS AND SPOTTED BASS**

4 (a) There is no daily creel limit for Alabama bass or spotted bass, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d) and
5 ~~(e)~~ Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

6 (b) There is no minimum size limit.

7 (c) There is no closed season.

8 (d) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and
9 spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

10 ~~(e) In the Alleghany County portion of New River downstream of Fields Dam (Grayson County, Virginia), the daily~~
11 ~~creel limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass is five fish in aggregate. There is no minimum size~~
12 ~~limit for spotted bass, but no fish between 14 and 22 inches in length may be possessed and only one largemouth bass,~~
13 ~~smallmouth bass, or spotted bass greater than 22 inches may be possessed.~~

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*

16 *Eff. August 1, 2020;*

17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0325 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 252 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT**

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

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

7 (c) There is no closed season.
8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

10 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;*

11 *Eff. March 15, 2023;*

12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 7, 2025; May 2, ~~2025~~; 2025;*

13 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
14
15

1 15A NCAC 10D .0102 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 241 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

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

- 5 (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from
6 manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.
7 (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or
8 self-defense.
9 (3) "Youth" means individuals under 16 years of age.

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

- 13 (1) Archery Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Archery Zones" hunting is limited to archery
14 equipment and falconry. During the open deer seasons for these areas, antlered and antlerless deer
15 may be taken.
16 (2) Safety Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Safety Zones" hunting is prohibited. No person
17 shall hunt or discharge a firearm or bow and arrow within, into, or across a posted safety zone on a
18 game land. Falconry is exempt from this provision.
19 (3) Restricted Firearms Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Firearms Zones" the use
20 of centerfire rifles is prohibited.
21 (4) Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Zones" are closed to use by the public,
22 and entry on these areas is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife Resources
23 Commission. The Commission may authorize entry when the primary purpose for the Restricted
24 Zone shall not be compromised and the persons requesting entry demonstrate a valid need, or official
25 business of the Commission is being conducted by a contractor or agent of the Commission. Valid
26 needs may include access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to
27 conduct activities in the public interest.
28 (5) Temporary Restricted Zone. Portions of game lands posted as "Temporary Restricted Zones" are
29 closed to use by the public, and entry is prohibited without written approval from the Wildlife
30 Resources Commission. An area of a game land shall be declared a Temporary Restricted Zone
31 when there is a danger to the health or welfare of the public.
32 (6) Scouting-only Zone. On portions of the game lands posted as "Scouting-only Zones" the discharge
33 of firearms or bow and arrow is prohibited.
34 (7) Restricted Deer Hunting Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Restricted Deer Hunting
35 Zones" the use of dogs for taking deer is prohibited, except as allowed by permit as provided in G.S.
36 113-264(d).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

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

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

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

10 (4) Exceptions:

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

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

15 (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial
16 area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three
17 hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from
18 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
19 day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building
20 or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting,
21 educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or
22 other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox
23 Trial facility without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry
24 or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities
25 shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than
26 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no
27 more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be
28 scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that
29 the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial
30 Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October
31 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31
32 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. ~~The~~
33 ~~use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills~~
34 ~~Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1.~~
35 Training dogs is prohibited at the Sandhills Field Trial facilities. Unless otherwise specified in Rules of this Subchapter
36 and except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission, Dogs may dogs shall
37 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306;*
8 *143-318.10;*
9 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;*
11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;*
12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;*
13 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;*
17 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
18 *2003);*
19 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May*
20 *1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;*
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;*
22 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017;*
23 *August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
24 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;*
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1 2025; November 1, 2023.*
26
27

1 15A NCAC 10D .0104 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 244 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0104 FISHING ON GAME LANDS**

4 (a) Game lands are open to public fishing except:

- 5 (1) restocked ponds when posted against fishing;
- 6 (2) Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge;
- 7 (3) Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch, in Transylvania County; and
- 8 (4) private ponds where fishing is prohibited by the owners.

9 (b) No trotline, set-hook, net, trap, gig, or other special fishing device mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(b),(c),(d),
10 and (f) may be used in impounded waters located entirely on game lands.

11 (c) Archery equipment may be used to take nongame fishes in impounded waters located entirely on game lands
12 except for those waters mentioned in 15A NCAC 10C .0404(a).

13 (d) Waters located on the following game lands ~~listed in this Subparagraph~~ are designated as public mountain trout
14 ~~waters except as noted.~~ waters:

- 15 (1) Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood County.
- 16 (2) DuPont State Forest Game Lands in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except:
 - 17 (A) Little River from 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls downstream to the DuPont State
 - 18 Forest boundary;
 - 19 (B) Lake Imaging;
 - 20 (C) Lake Dense;
 - 21 (D) Lake Alfred;
 - 22 (E) Lake Julia; and
 - 23 (F) Fawn Lake.
- 24 (3) Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, except Green River downstream of the
25 natural gas pipeline crossing.
- 26 (4) Headwaters State Forest Game Land in Transylvania County.
- 27 (5) Nantahala National Forest Game Lands in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and
28 Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee
29 Lake.
- 30 (6) Pisgah National Forest Game Lands in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson,
31 Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey counties, except:
 - 32 (A) Cedar Rock Creek, Grogan Creek, and John Rock Branch;
 - 33 (B) North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek;
 - 34 (C) Big Laurel Creek downstream from the US 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River;
 - 35 (D) Mill Ridge Pond;
 - 36 (E) Nolichucky River;
 - 37 (F) Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line; and

- (G) Spring Creek below US Forest Service road 223.
- (7) Pond Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.
- (8) Little Fork State Forest Game Land in Wilkes County.
- (9) South Mountains Game Land in Burke, Cleveland, McDowell, Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
- (10) Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe County.
- (11) Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes County.
- (12) Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania County.
- (13) William H. Silvers Game Land in Haywood County.

(e) The designated public mountain trout waters ~~located on the game lands listed~~ identified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule are Wild Trout Waters unless classified otherwise in 15A NCAC 10C .0205(d).

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;
July 1, 1992;
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. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010;
May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023; ~~2023~~.
Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0205 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 245 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0205 BLADEN LAKES STATE FOREST GAME LAND IN BLADEN COUNTY**

4
5 Bladen Lakes State Forest ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
7 Season.
- 8 (2) Except for blackpowder firearms, rifles larger than .22 caliber rimfire shall not be used.
- 9 (3) On the Singletary Lake Tract, the use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited.
- 10 (4) Wild turkey hunting on the Singletary Lake Tract is by permit only.
- 11 (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
12 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102
13 of this Subchapter.
- 14 (6) The use of dogs for pursuing or taking foxes shall be prohibited from February 15 through August
15 1.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

18 *Eff. November 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*

19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0211 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 245 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND**
4 **WAKE COUNTIES**

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

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for
7 Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
9 (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;
10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
11 (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
12 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
13 hunting after November 1.
- 14 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 16 (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 17 (6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on that portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls Lake.
- 18 (7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to
19 hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game
20 animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~45~~ 16 through
21 August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.
- 22 (8) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
23 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 24 (9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall
25 not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping
26 area.

27
28 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
29 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*
30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.*
31
32

1 15A NCAC 10D .0212 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 245 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0212 BUXTON WOODS GAME LAND IN DARE COUNTY**

4 Buxton Woods ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the first Friday thereafter.
7 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
8 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails.
9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
11 *Eff. November 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
13
14

1 15A NCAC 10D .0215 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 246 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0215 R. WAYNE BAILEY-CASWELL GAME LAND IN CASWELL COUNTY**

4 (a) R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

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

7 (2) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through
8 August 31, and on Sundays only, September 1 through May 15. Horseback riding is allowed on
9 roads opened to vehicular traffic and on those gated roads and trails that are posted for equestrian
10 use. People age 16 or older horseback riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license
11 as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).

12 (3) On the posted waterfowl impoundment, waterfowl hunting is by permit after November 1.

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

15 (5) Target shooting is prohibited, except at the R. Wayne Bailey-Caswell Shooting Range.

16 (b) Hunting shall be by permit for the following species in the area posted as the Caswell Small Game Focal Area:

17 (1) quail and woodcock; and

18 (2) rabbit and squirrel on days outside of the three days per week framework.
19

20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

21 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0217 is repealed as published in 40:02 NCR 246 as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0217 CHOWAN GAME LAND IN CHOWAN COUNTY**

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

6 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~, 2022;*

7 *Repealed Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0218 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 246 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0218 CHOWAN SWAMP GAME LAND IN BERTIE, GATES, AND HERTFORD**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Chowan Swamp ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
7 Season.
- 8 (2) Bear hunting is restricted to the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November bear season
9 and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December bear season except in that portion
10 of Chowan Swamp Game Land in Gates County that is east of Highway 158/13, south of Highway
11 158, west of Highway 32, and north of Catherine Creek and the Chowan River where the bear season
12 is the same as the season dates for the Gates County bear season.
- 13 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
14 ~~14 in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule
15 .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 16 (4) Horseback riding is prohibited except during May 16 through August 31 and on Sundays only
17 September 1 through May 15 on those roads that are open to vehicular traffic and on those gated
18 roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- 19 (5) Target shooting is prohibited.

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
22 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*
23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
24
25

1 15A NCAC 10D .0229 is amended with changes as published in 40:02 NCR 246 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

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

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D ~~.0103(d)(2)~~, .0103(e), waterfowl in posted waterfowl
8 impoundments shall be taken only on the following days:
 - 9 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - 10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - 11 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in ~~October~~ October, through the end of all
13 waterfowl seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments:
14 Pamlico Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- 15 (4) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities,
16 except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
17 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through
18 March 15.
- 19 (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February~~ February, and March 31
20 ~~through May 14~~ [14], in areas both designated and allowed on areas posted as for camping areas; as
21 specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 22 (6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through
23 January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- 24 (7) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on
25 the Beaufort County portion north of ~~NC~~ N.C. ~~33~~ 33, except for that portion east of Smith Creek
26 and south of Campbell Creek.
- 27 (8) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.
- 28 (9) Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

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

1 15A NCAC 10D .0232 is amended with changes as published in 40:02 NCR 247 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0232 GULL ROCK GAME LAND IN HYDE COUNTY**

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

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl on ~~posted waterfowl impoundments~~ the E. Merle Edwards/Loop Road Impoundment
8 shall be taken only on the following days:
- 9 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 11 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl season.
- 12 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February~~ February, and March 31
13 ~~through May 14~~ [14] in allowed on areas designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified
14 in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 15 (4) Bear may only be taken the first Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the November Bear ~~Season~~
16 Season, and the second Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday of the December Bear Season.
- 17 (5) Waterfowl hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments on the Willow Point tract is by permit only.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
20 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
21 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 1, 2022;*
22 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; June 1, 2023.*
23

1 15A NCAC 10D .0236 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 247 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0236 HOLLY SHELTER GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY**

4 Holly Shelter ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl may be taken only on the following days:
 - 8 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
 - 9 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
 - 10 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 11 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
12 ~~14 in areas designated and~~ allowed on areas posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102
13 of this Subchapter.
- 14 (4) On that portion north of the Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road to Baby Branch, east of the
15 Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50, deer hunting and bear hunting are
16 permit only.
- 17 (5) The use of dogs for hunting deer and bear is prohibited:
 - 18 (a) all open days on that portion of the game land that is south of Baby Branch extending west
19 to Stag Park Road, west of Shaw Road, north of Meeks Road extending west to Stag Park
20 Road and east of Stag Park Road; and
 - 21 (b) on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and
22 New Year's days, and except for the area north of Bear Garden Road, west of Shaw Road
23 to Baby Branch, east of the Northeast Cape Fear River, south of NC 53 and west of NC 50,
24 where the use of dogs for deer and bear hunting is by permit only.
- 25 (6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Pender 4 Tract is restricted from September 1 to the last day of
26 February and April 1 to May 15 to individuals that possess valid hunting opportunity permits, unless
27 otherwise authorized by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- 28 (7) Hunters who possess a Disabled Access Permit may operate an All Terrain Vehicle on and within
29 100 yards of trails designated for Disabled Sportsman Access.
- 30 (8) Target shooting is prohibited, except on the Holly Shelter Shooting Range.
- 31 (9) Geocaching is restricted to closed days for taking bear, deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

32
33 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
34 Eff. November 1, 2022; 2022;
35 Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.
36
37

1 15A NCAC 10D .0239 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 247 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

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

- 5 (1) During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.
- 6 (2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.
- 7 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May 14.~~
- 8 allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 9 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 10 (5) During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, the use of bicycles is
- 11 restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.

12
13 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
14 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0240 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 248 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0240 JORDAN GAME LAND IN CHATHAM, DURHAM, ORANGE, AND WAKE**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Jordan ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on open days of the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer
7 With Visible Antlers.
- 8 (2) Waterfowl may be taken only on:
9 (a) Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days; and
11 (c) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (3) Horseback riding, including all equine species, is allowed only on those areas posted as American
13 Tobacco Trail and other areas posted for equestrian use. Unless otherwise posted, horseback riding
14 is permitted on posted portions of the American Tobacco Trail anytime the trail is open for use. On
15 other trails posted for equestrian use, horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May
16 16 through August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or
17 older shall obtain a game land license prior to engaging in horseback riding on an area other than
18 the American Tobacco Trail.
- 19 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 20 (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an Archery Zone.
- 21 (6) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to
22 hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the applicable seasons for game birds
23 and game animals.
- 24 (7) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
25 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

26
27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
28 *Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2022;*
29 *Eff. March 15, 2023;*
30 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.*
31
32

1 15A NCAC 10D .0241 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 248 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES**

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

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

6 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
7 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102~~
8 of this Subchapter.

9 (3) Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0249 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 252 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY**

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

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
- 8 (a) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 9 (b) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
- 10 (c) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 11 (3) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 12 (4) Placement of docks, piers, and personal property for more than 24 consecutive hours on the shoreline
13 or lakebed of Mayo Lake is prohibited.

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
16 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*
17 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
18
19

1 15A NCAC 10D .0258 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 248 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0258 PEE DEE RIVER GAME LAND IN ANSON, MONTGOMERY, RICHMOND, AND**
4 **STANLY COUNTIES**

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

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for
7 Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
8 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
9 (3) Horseback riding is allowed seven days per week from May 16 through August 31, and on Sundays
10 only September 1 through May 15 only on roads opened to vehicular traffic and gated roads and
11 trails posted for equestrian use.
12 (4) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting shall be ~~prohibited~~
13 ~~on that portion south of US-74. prohibited, except on that portion north of US-74 and east of Pee~~
14 Dee River where hunting shall be by permit only.
15

16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
17 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.*
19
20

1 15A NCAC 10D .0260 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 252 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,**
4 **HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,**
5 **TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

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

- 7 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
8 Season.
- 9 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke
10 County), and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 11 (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
12 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of
13 an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- 14 (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County). ~~in the Wilson Creek portion~~
15 ~~of Pisgah Game Land (Caldwell County)~~
- 16 (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County),
17 and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties).
- 18 (6) Entry on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and
19 posted use of trails and parking areas is prohibited.

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
22 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*
23 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
24

1 15A NCAC 10D .0265 is amended with changes as published in 40:02 NCR 248 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0265 ROANOKE RIVER WETLANDS IN BERTIE, HALIFAX, MARTIN, AND**
4 **NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES**

5 **Upper and Lower** Roanoke River Wetlands **Game Lands are** ~~is~~ hunting and trapping by Permit only, in which the
6 following applies:

- 7 (1) Vehicles are prohibited on roads or trails except those operated on Commission business or by
8 permit holders.
- 9 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
10 ~~14 in allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas, provided, however, that~~
11 ~~camping is allowed at any time within 100 yards of the Roanoke River on the state-owned portion~~
12 ~~of the game land, as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.~~
- 13 (3) Target Shooting is prohibited.

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
16 *Eff. November 1, 2022. 2022;*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
18
19

1 15A NCAC 10D .0267 is repealed as published in 40:02 NCR 249 as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0267 ROBESON GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY**

4

5 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

6 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

7 *Repealed Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0271 is amended with changes as published in 40:02 NCR 249 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0271 SANDHILLS GAME LAND IN HOKE, MOORE, RICHMOND, AND SCOTLAND**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Sandhills ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

6 (1) Hunting is prohibited on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds from the Wednesday on or
7 nearest October 18 through March 31 except as follows:

8 (a) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on the open days of the
9 archery season through the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day; with blackpowder
10 firearms and archery equipment the open days of the blackpowder firearms season through
11 the third Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day; and only deer with visible antlers may be
12 taken with all lawful weapons from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through
13 the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;

14 (b) dove may be taken on open days from the opening day of the dove season through the third
15 Saturday thereafter;

16 (c) gray and fox squirrel may be taken on open days from the second Saturday before
17 Thanksgiving Day through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;

18 (d) rabbit may be taken on open days from the second Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day
19 through the Saturday following Thanksgiving Day;

20 (e) waterfowl may be taken on open days during waterfowl season;

21 (f) wild animals and wild birds may be taken as part of a Disabled Sportsmen Program Permit
22 Hunt; and

23 (g) raccoon and opossum may be taken on open days from sunrise Monday on or nearest
24 October 15 through the last day of February.

25 (2) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days from the
26 Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day.

27 (3) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with [Blackpowder] blackpowder firearms or archery
28 equipment on open hunting days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the
29 Wednesday of the second week thereafter.

30 ~~(2)(4) The Antlered deer may be taken with all lawful weapons on Deer With Visible Antlers season is the~~
31 ~~open hunting days from the second Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through the third Saturday~~
32 ~~after Thanksgiving Day Day, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds.~~

33 (5) Antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season is by permit only.

34 (6) Antlered deer may be taken with [Blackpowder] blackpowder firearms or archery equipment, except
35 on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, on open hunting days from the third Monday after
36 Thanksgiving Day through January 1.

- (3) ~~The archery season is on open days from the Saturday on or nearest to September 10 to the fourth Friday before Thanksgiving Day and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment on open hunting days during the archery season, by permit during the Deer with Visible antlers season, and the blackpowder firearms season as stated in this Subparagraph. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.~~
- (4) ~~Blackpowder firearms season is the open days from the fourth Saturday preceding Thanksgiving Day through the Wednesday of the second week thereafter and, except on the J. Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms on open hunting days during the blackpowder firearms season. Only deer with visible antlers may be taken from the third Monday after Thanksgiving Day through January 1.~~
- (5) ~~Antlered and antlerless deer hunting during the All Lawful Weapons Season for Deer With Visible Antlers is by permit only.~~
- ~~(6)(7)~~ In addition to the regular hunting days, waterfowl may be taken on the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- ~~(7)(8)~~ Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.
- ~~(8)(9)~~ Horseback riding on field trial grounds from the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 through March 31 is prohibited unless participating in authorized field trials. Horseback riding is allowed on the remainder of the Sandhills Game Land seven days per week on roads that are open to vehicular traffic and gated roads and trails posted for equestrian use.
- ~~(9)(10)~~ 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.
- ~~(10)(11)~~ Target shooting is prohibited, except at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex.
- ~~(11)(12)~~ Swimming is prohibited in the lakes.
- (13) Fox squirrel hunting is by permit only.
- (14) Hunting deer with dogs is by permit only.
- (15) Training dogs for the purpose of pursuing or chasing deer is prohibited.
- (16) An individual convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting deer with dogs shall not be eligible to receive a permit for hunting deer with dogs the season following conviction.

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, 2026; August 1, 2023.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0275 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 250 as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0275 SHOCCO CREEK GAME LAND IN FRANKLIN, HALIFAX, NASH, AND**
4 **WARREN COUNTIES**

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

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

8 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited.

9 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
10 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas both designated and posted as for camping areas; as specified in Rule .0102
11 of this Subchapter.

12 (4) Target Shooting is prohibited.

13

14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

15 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0276 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 250 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0276 SOUTH MOUNTAINS GAME LAND IN BURKE, CLEVELAND, MCDOWELL,**
4 **AND RUTHERFORD COUNTIES**

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

- 6 (1) The Deer With Visible Antlers Season begins on the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day through
7 January 1. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment beginning the Saturday
8 on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the Blackpowder Firearms
9 Season described in this Rule. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with blackpowder firearms
10 beginning two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer With Visible Antlers
11 described in this Rule through the second Friday thereafter.
- 12 (2) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible
13 Antlers Season.
- 14 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails during the following dates:
- 15 (a) January 2 through March 31;
16 (b) May 16 through August 31;
17 (c) Sundays only - April 1 through May 15; and
18 (d) Sundays only - September 1 through January 1.
- 19 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 20 (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
21 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and posted as for camping areas. as specified in Rule .0102~~
22 of this Subchapter.
- 23 (6) The maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at any posted and designated camping area
24 is 14 days within any 30-day period.

25
26 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
27 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
28 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 5, 2024;*
29 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; October 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0278 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 250 as follows:

2

3 **15A NCAC 10D .0278 SUGGS MILL POND GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND CUMBERLAND**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Suggs Mill Pond ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

6 (1) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
7 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102~~
8 of this Subchapter.

9 (2) Entry is prohibited on scheduled hunt or trapping days except for:

10 (a) hunters or trappers holding special hunt or trapping permits; and

11 (b) persons using Campground Road to access Suggs Mill Pond Lake at the dam.

12 (3) During the period of November 1 through January 31, except on Sundays, the use of vessels on
13 Suggs Mill Pond Lake and Little Singletary Lake is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl
14 hunters possessing a valid and current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources
15 Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d).

16 (4) During the period of November 1 through March 15, the use of vessels on managed waterfowl
17 impoundments is limited to waterfowl hunting only by waterfowl hunters possessing a valid and
18 current Hunting Opportunity Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S.
19 113-264(d).

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

22 *Eff. November 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*

23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*

24

1 15A NCAC 10D .0283 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 251 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0283 THURMOND CHATHAM GAME LAND IN ALLEGHANY AND WILKES**
4 **COUNTIES**

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

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible
7 Antlers Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited except on designated trails May 16 through August 31, and all
9 horseback riding is prohibited from September 1 through May 15. People age 16 or older horseback
10 riding on this game land shall possess a Game Lands license as required by G.S. 270.3(b)(3).
- 11 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
12 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024.*
17
18

1 15A NCAC 10D .0291 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 251 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0291 WHITEHALL PLANTATION GAME LAND IN BLADEN AND PENDER**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Whitehall Plantation ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting and trapping by permit only, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
7 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and posted as for camping areas, as specified in Rule .0102~~
8 ~~of this Subchapter.~~
9 (2) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on
10 the Long Ridge Tract.
11

12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

13 *Eff. November 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*

14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
15
16

1 15A NCAC 10D .0294 is amended as published in 40:02 NCR 251 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0294 NORTH BEND GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

4 North Bend ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

- 5 (1) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated trails, except for hunters engaged in the act of hunting
6 during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals.
7 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
8 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
9 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
10 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

13 *Eff. August 1, ~~2024~~ 2024;*

14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2026.*
15
16

1 15A NCAC 10H .1401 is amended with changes as published in 40:01 NCR 13 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1401 DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

4 (a) The rules in this Section apply to all captivity licenses issued by the Wildlife Resources ~~Commission, Commission.~~
5 ~~including those applicable to non-farmed cervids in accordance with G.S. 106-549.97.~~

6 (b) The possession of ~~any species of~~ native wild animal ~~animals~~ or wild birds ~~bird and any member of the family~~
7 ~~Cervidae~~ is unlawful, unless the individual ~~in possession~~ obtains a captivity license from the Commission as provided
8 by this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to ~~any endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined by 15A~~
9 ~~NCAC 10I-0100~~ or farmed cervids as defined by G.S. 106-549.97.

10 (c) Captivity licenses may be issued by the Commission to ~~qualified~~ individuals meeting the requirements ~~for~~
11 ~~rehabilitation and captivity licenses~~ detailed in this Section for holding ~~of~~ wild animals or wild birds alive in captivity
12 for ~~scientific, educational, exhibition, or other purposes, as~~ purposes specified in G.S. 113-272.5.

13 (d) The following definitions shall apply to ~~all rules~~ the Rules in this Section:

14 (1) "Apprentice" means an individual applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation that has not held
15 this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state.

16 ~~(1)(2)~~ "Animal" means a wild animal and wild bird, as defined in this Rule.

17 ~~(2)(3)~~ "Category" means a designation on a captivity license for rehabilitation that defines a species or
18 subset of species.

19 ~~(3)(4)~~ "Educational institution" or "scientific research institution" means any public or private school,
20 facility, organization, or institution of vocational, professional, or higher education that uses live
21 animals as part of a course of training, or for research, or other experiments, and is at least 50 percent
22 funded by grants, awards, loans, or contracts from a department, agency, or instrumentality of
23 federal, State, or local government. These terms do not include elementary or secondary schools.

24 ~~(4)(5)~~ "Education" or "educational purposes" means providing instruction or information to the public
25 about wild animals or wild birds.

26 ~~(5)(6)~~ "Enclosure" means a structure housing captive wild animals or wild birds that prevents escape,
27 protects the animal from injury, and is equipped with structural barriers to prevent any physical
28 contact between the animal and the public.

29 ~~(6)(7)~~ "Exhibition" means any display of wild animals or wild birds for the public, whether for-profit or
30 not-for-profit.

31 ~~(7)(8)~~ "Facility" means a designated location in North Carolina where wild animals or wild birds are held
32 for rehabilitation or holding purposes. This includes enclosures, rooms, and buildings.

33 ~~(8)(9)~~ "Farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

34 ~~(9)(10)~~ "Foster" or "surrogate" means a wild animal, or a wild bird held under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Service federal migratory bird rehabilitation ~~permit~~ permit, used to rear wild animals or wild birds
36 being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation.

(10)(11) "Habituation" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to temporarily lose fear of humans, pets, or objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted.

(11)(12) "Imprinting" means causing a wild animal or wild bird to permanently lose fear of humans, pets, or objects that impacts its ability to survive in the wild unassisted, and is a non-reversible condition.

(12)(13) "Migratory birds" means the term as defined in G.S. 113-129.

(13)(14) "Native" means a wild animal or wild bird that currently maintains, or historically maintained, populations naturally in North Carolina and whose range expansion was not solely dependent on human introduction. ~~occurs or historically occurred in the wild in North Carolina.~~

(14)(15) "Nest box" or "den" means a structure that provides a retreat area that is within, attached to, or adjacent to an enclosure.

(15)(16) "Non-farmed cervid" means the term as defined in G.S. 106-549.97.

(16)(17) ~~"Non native" means a wild animal or wild bird that~~ [does not occur and] has not historically occurred in the wild in North Carolina.

(17)(18) "Pet" means ~~any~~ an animal kept or used for amusement or companionship.

(18)(19) "Publicly operated zoo" means a park or facility where living animals are kept and exhibited to the public, and that is operated by a federal, State, or local government agency.

(19)(20) "Rabies species" are raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, bobcat, ~~or~~ and coyote.

(20)(21) "Residence" means a private home, dwelling unit in a multiple family structure, hotel, motel, camp, manufactured home, or any other place where people reside.

(21)(22) "Shelter" means a structure or feature that protects captive wild animals or wild birds from direct sunlight and precipitation.

(22)(23) "Scientific use" and "scientific purpose" means the use of wild animals or wild birds for application of the scientific method to investigate any relationships amongst natural phenomena or to solve a biological or medical problem. This definition applies only to educational or scientific research institutions unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

(23)(24) "Unfit" means wild animals or wild birds that are:

- (A) incapacitated by injury or other means to the extent that they cannot feed or care for themselves without human assistance;
- (B) rendered imprinted by proximity to humans, pets, or objects; or
- (C) a non-native species.

(24)(25) "Wild animal" means game animals, fur-bearing animals, and all other wild mammals except feral swine or marine mammals found in coastal fishing waters.

(25)(26) "Wild bird" means the term as defined in G.S. 113-129.(15a), excluding the species listed in 15A NCAC 10B .0121.

(e) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license for rehabilitation or a captivity license for holding shall apply for the license by completing and submitting the appropriate forms set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section.

(f) Applicants for either license shall meet the following requirements:

1 (1) ~~Be~~ be 18 years of age ~~or older~~ at the time of application;

2
3 (2) have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years;

4 ~~(2)(3)~~ ~~Have~~ have no criminal convictions under G.S. 113-294 or G.S. 14, Article 47 ~~of the North Carolina~~
5 ~~General Statutes~~ within 10 years of the date of application; and

6 ~~(3)(4)~~ ~~Have~~ have no criminal convictions under the federal Animal Welfare Act within 10 years of the date
7 of application.

8 (g) ~~No~~ A captivity license shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a holding facility.

9 (h) Captivity licenses are annual licenses and shall terminate no later than December 31 of the year the license is
10 issued.

11 (i) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, ~~no~~ a transportation permit ~~shall be~~ is not required to move wild
12 animals or wild birds held under a captivity license within the State. ~~Any~~ A person transporting an animal ~~that is~~ held
13 under a captivity license shall have the captivity license or a copy of the license in ~~his or her~~ their possession. ~~An~~
14 ~~exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild birds~~
15 ~~into or out of the State.~~

16 (j) An exportation or importation permit as defined in G.S. 113-274(c)(3) is required to transport wild animals or wild
17 birds into or out of the State.

18 ~~(j)(k)~~ Individuals holding a captivity license shall comply with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and
19 Consumer Services requirements for disclosing reportable diseases. A list of current reportable diseases as determined
20 by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is available at no cost at www.ncagr.gov,
21 and is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions.

22
23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

24 *Eff. January 1, ~~2020~~. 2020;*

25 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10H .1402 is amended with changes as published in 40:01 NCR 14 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1402 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR REHABILITATION**

4 (a) A captivity license for rehabilitation ~~shall be required for~~ authorizes the lawful possession of injured, crippled, or
5 orphaned native wild animals or wild birds for the purpose of providing short term care and eventual release into the
6 animal's natural habitat. ~~A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:~~

- 7 (1) ~~— Possession of~~ endangered, threatened, or special concern species ~~as defined by 15A NCAC 10I~~
8 ~~.0100; specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter Rehabilitation of these species~~
9 also requires an endangered species permit from the ~~Commission;~~ Commission.

10 (b) A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for:

- 11 ~~(2)(1)~~ domestic animals;
12 ~~(3)(2)~~ feral swine;
13 ~~(4)(3)~~ nutria;
14 ~~(5)(4)~~ coyote;
15 ~~(6)(5)~~ adult black bear;
16 ~~(7)(6)~~ adult white-tailed ~~deer or elk;~~ deer;
17 ~~(8)(7)~~ elk; ~~nine-banded armadillo;~~ or
18 ~~(9)(8)~~ eggs of upland game birds.

19 ~~(b)(c)~~ A captivity license for rehabilitation shall not be issued for the purpose of holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 20 (1) as pets;
21 (2) for education, exhibition, or scientific ~~purposes, except as provided in Rule .1403 of this Section;~~
22 purposes;
23 (3) for dog training;
24 (4) for hunting; or
25 (5) acquired unlawfully.

26 ~~(c)(d)~~ Individuals who do not possess a captivity license for rehabilitation may take temporary possession of injured,
27 crippled, or orphaned wild animals or wild birds, except rabies species and black bear cubs, provided they are
28 surrendered to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian or an individual licensed under this Rule within 24 hours of
29 taking possession of such animals.

30 ~~(d)(e)~~ North Carolina licensed veterinarians providing medical care to sick, injured, or crippled wild animals or wild
31 birds are not required to have a license for rehabilitation from the Commission. North Carolina licensed veterinarians
32 without a captivity license for rehabilitation may ~~hold~~ treat wild animals or wild birds until the animal is medically
33 stable. Once medically stable, the wild animal or wild bird shall be transferred to an individual possessing with a valid
34 captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species. ~~Licensed veterinarians~~
35 ~~rehabilitating wild animals or wild birds shall have a valid captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

36 ~~(e)(f)~~ Apprenticeship. Individuals shall designate a rehabilitation mentor with a valid captivity license for
37 rehabilitation in North Carolina on their application for a captivity license for rehabilitation and submit the Wildlife

1 Rehabilitation Mentor Apprentice Agreement Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section, applying for a captivity
2 license for rehabilitation that have never held this license in North Carolina or a similar license in another state shall
3 be designated as an apprentice. The following requirements conditions shall apply to an apprentice license:
4 apprentices:

5 (1) On the application, the apprentice shall designate a mentor with a valid captivity license for
6 rehabilitation in NC, who has held that license for two or more years;

7 (2) An apprentice shall complete at least 12 months of supervised rehabilitation activities under a
8 licensed rehabilitator; and

9 (3)(1) An apprentice license shall may only possess at their own facility authorize the possession of
10 squirrels, rabbits, and ~~opossums~~. opossums, and chipmunks approved by their mentor if the mentor
11 is authorized to rehabilitate small mammals.

12 (2) An apprentice shall keep records of small mammals at their facility. Records shall contain the
13 following information:

14 (i) species;

15 (ii) quantity;

16 (iii) date acquired; and

17 (iv) final disposition and date.

18 To remove the apprentice conditions from a captivity license for rehabilitation, an apprentice shall complete 12 months
19 of supervised rehabilitation activities under a licensed rehabilitator and submit a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation
20 Apprentice Upgrade Form described in Rule .1406 of this Section.

21 (g) Mentorship. Individuals who have held a valid captivity license for rehabilitation in North Carolina for two years
22 may serve as a rehabilitation mentor to apprentices. Mentors shall:

23 (1) have no convictions for violations of the Rules of this Section in the previous three years; and

24 (2) keep records of the small mammals assigned to their apprentices for rehabilitation, if applicable.
25 Records shall contain the following information:

26 (i) species;

27 (ii) quantity;

28 (iii) date acquired; and

29 (iv) final disposition and date.

30 (f)(h) Individuals applying for a captivity license for rehabilitation shall meet statutory and regulatory requirements,
31 including those in G.S. 113-272.5 and all applicable rules of this Section. Individuals seeking to rehabilitate migratory
32 birds shall provide proof of a valid and concurrent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Migratory Bird
33 Rehabilitation permit for each category of migratory birds to be rehabilitated. ~~The Commission shall state on the~~
34 ~~captivity license for rehabilitation the categories of wild animals and wild birds that the individual is licensed to~~
35 ~~possess.~~

36 (g)(i) Required facilities.

- (1) Individuals ~~holding with~~ a captivity license for rehabilitation shall conduct their rehabilitation activities at the facility designated on their license that meets the minimum standards set forth in the "Miller, E.A., ~~edition. E.A.~~ 2000. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN. 116 pages. ISBN 1-931439-00-1." This publication is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available ~~at no cost at~~ http://www.nwrawildlife.org/page/Minimum_Standards. ~~free of charge at~~ www.ncwildlife.gov.
- (2) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals and wild birds undergoing rehabilitation shall be separated from pets, domestic animals, livestock, and non-native animals.
- (3) ~~All wild~~ Wild animals shall be kept in separate enclosures by species.
- (4) Rehabilitation in a residence shall have designated, separate rooms used only for housing, treatment, and rehabilitation.
- (5) Handling of wild animals and wild birds shall be for treatment only.
- ~~(h) Wild animals or wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release, based upon advice from a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~
- ~~(i)(j)~~ Release of rehabilitated wild animals and wild birds.
- (1) Wild animals and wild birds showing symptoms of or believed to be infected with a zoonotic disease shall be euthanized or treated prior to release.
- ~~(1)(2)~~ Rehabilitated ~~All rehabilitated~~ wild animals and wild birds shall be released ~~as soon as when~~ the animal can be expected to survive in the wild or has attained full recovery from illness or ~~injury, as determined by the rehabilitator or a North Carolina licensed veterinarian.~~ injury.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ Wild animals and wild birds may remain in a rehabilitation facility for ~~no longer than~~ 180 days. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case-by-case basis by evaluation, which may include the nature of the animal's condition and recommended treatment plan.
- ~~(3)(4)~~ Wild animals and wild birds shall not be released on the property ~~owned by of~~ another unless the rehabilitator has written permission dated within the last 12 months from the landowner.
- ~~(4)~~ ~~Wild animals or wild birds that are unfit shall be non-releasable and humanely euthanized. However, the Commission shall consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds on a case-by-case basis when written authorization is requested from the Commission. The wild animal or wild bird shall only be transferred to an individual or facility with a captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section when written authorization is obtained from the Commission.~~
- ~~(j)(k)~~ Transfer of Animals.
- (1) Wild animals originating outside the State shall not be accepted for the purpose of rehabilitation unless written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

- (2) Wild animals received for rehabilitation ~~may~~ shall not be exported outside the State for the purpose of rehabilitation or release ~~after rehabilitation~~ unless written authorization is obtained from both the Commission and the state where the wild animal will be exported to or released from.
- (3) ~~It shall be unlawful for a license holder to sell any wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds being held under a captivity license for rehabilitation, rehabilitation shall not be sold.
- (4) ~~It shall be lawful for a license holder to transfer a wild animal or wild bird~~ Wild animals and wild birds may be transferred to another individual who possesses a valid captivity license for rehabilitation with the appropriate category for the given species ~~or a wild bird to another individual with a valid permit for the given species.~~
- (5) Wild animals and wild birds that are unfit for release shall be humanely euthanized, except that the Commission may consider transfer of wild animals and wild birds upon written request from the rehabilitator. The wild animal or wild bird unfit for release may be transferred to an individual or facility with a valid captivity license for holding as set forth in Rule .1403 of this Section after written authorization is obtained from the Commission.

~~(k)(l)~~ (l) White-tailed Deer Fawn. Fawns.

- (1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the white-tailed deer fawn category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, and release~~ possess and rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate white-tailed deer fawns, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~
- (2) ~~No white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn~~ fawns shall not be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping ~~fawn~~ fawns that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.
- (3) ~~Any white-tailed~~ White-tailed deer ~~fawn~~ fawns held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using ~~only~~ Commission-provided tags.
- (4) Orphaned white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 90 days. Injured white-tailed deer fawns shall be held ~~for~~ no longer than 180 ~~days~~ days. ~~No white-tailed deer fawns shall be possessed after or until December 31, whichever occurs first. 31. If a longer rehabilitation period is needed, the license holder shall notify the Commission in writing. The Commission shall consider extended rehabilitation on a case by case basis. A fawn shall be considered an adult on December 31 of the birth year. Upon written request from the rehabilitator, the Commission may consider extended rehabilitation depending on the likelihood of rehabilitation success as determined by the Commission.~~
- (5) Records of ~~all white-tail~~ white-tailed deer fawn rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn Rehabilitation Activity Form specified in Rule .1406 of this Section~~ within 15 days of license expiration. ~~expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.~~

(6) ~~Any individual or facility with the white-tailed deer category may not rehabilitate white-tailed fawn~~
White-tailed deer fawns shall not be rehabilitated on properties licensed for farmed cervids.

(4) ~~Elk Calves.~~

(1) ~~Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate elk calves.~~

(2) ~~Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the elk calf category. To become licensed to rehabilitate elk calves, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

(3) ~~Any elk calves held for more than 48 hours shall be permanently tagged using only Commission-provided tags.~~

(4) ~~Any individual or facility with the elk calf category may not rehabilitate elk calves on properties licensed for farmed cervids.~~

(5) ~~No elk calf shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping elk calves that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.~~

(6) ~~Records of all elk calf rehabilitation shall be maintained on a form, as set forth in Rule 1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission within 15 days of expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license~~

(m) Black Bear Cubs.

(1) Only individuals under a signed cooperative agreement with the Commission to meet conservation objectives shall be authorized to rehabilitate black bear cubs.

(2) Individuals in a cooperative agreement with the Commission shall obtain a captivity license for rehabilitation with the black bear cub category. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate black bear cubs, an individual shall meet all the requirements of the captivity license for rehabilitation.~~

(2) No black bear cub shall be possessed until the applicant has constructed or acquired an enclosure for keeping black bear cubs that complies with the standards set forth in Paragraph ~~(g)~~(i) of this Rule, and the facility has been verified by a representative of the Commission.

(n) Rabies Species.

(1) Only individuals holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with the rabies species category may ~~possess, rehabilitate, or release~~ possess and rehabilitate rabies species. ~~To become licensed to rehabilitate rabies species, an individual shall meet all requirements of and~~ In addition to the general captivity license for rehabilitation requirements, individuals requesting to rehabilitate rabies species shall:

(A) have held an active rehabilitation license within or outside of the State for ~~at least~~ the previous three years and have rehabilitated wild animals during that time;

(B) certify 12 hours of rabies or rabies species-specific ~~training~~ training, or a combination ~~thereof; thereof, for their initial application;~~

- (C) certify up-to-date rabies ~~immunization~~ pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov for ~~any rehabilitator, themselves, staff member members, or volunteer, and volunteers~~ who may come in contact with rabies species. ~~Proof species; of immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be provided and upon the request of the Commission or authorized representative and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;~~
- (D) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the rehabilitator has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies ~~species;~~ species. ~~Contact information for the veterinarian shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated;~~
- (E) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated activities and ~~location.~~ location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities; ~~Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being rehabilitated.~~
- (F) have separate ~~facilities~~ enclosures from non-rabies species adequate for the species ~~to be rehabilitated.~~ being rehabilitated. ~~Enclosures within the facility shall that are locked to prevent escape of the animal and egress of the animal, and ingress of other wild mammals; exposure to people, pets, livestock, and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Exterior eaging shall be locked and surrounded by double fencing or a solid wall barrier; and~~
- (G) have a secondary barrier surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those identified in Part (n)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- ~~(G) coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of rabies species. A written protocol for testing shall be posted at the facility and made available for inspection by the Commission upon request.~~
- (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies species;
- (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the rabies species;
- (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department; and
- (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- ~~(2)(3)~~ Except for bats, rehabilitation and release of rabies species is not authorized in counties where the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Oral Rabies

Vaccination (ORV) program is conducted, as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at www.aphis.usda.gov.

~~(3)~~(4) Except as otherwise specified in this Section, rabies species shall not be removed from their containment except for treatment, release, maintenance of the enclosure, or euthanasia.

~~(4)~~(5) Rehabilitated rabies species ~~must~~ shall be released in ~~either~~ the county where they were rehabilitated or the county where they were found.

~~(5)~~(6) All rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If ~~any~~ a human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, or brain ~~and~~ or spinal cord material from ~~any~~ a rabies species, the license holder shall contact the local ~~Health Department~~ health department immediately to report the incident. ~~The local Health Department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the brain for rabies testing.~~ Rehabilitators shall abide by ~~all requests made by~~ requests from authorized public health department personnel, animal control, ~~or~~ and Commission personnel regarding disposition of the animal. ~~No rabies~~ Rabies species that ~~has~~ have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal or ~~dies~~ die in captivity ~~can be~~ shall not be released or disposed of until the local ~~Health Department~~ health department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test results shall be reported to the Commission within five business days of receipt from the health department.

~~(6)~~(7) Records of all rabies species rehabilitation shall be ~~maintained on a form, as described~~ submitted to the Commission on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity Report specified in Rule .1406 of this Section, and submitted to the Commission Section within 15 days of license expiration. ~~expiration of the license or prior to the request for reissuance of the license.~~

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;
Eff. January 1, 2020;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2026; May 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10H .1403 is amended as published in 40:01 NCR 18 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1403 CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

4 (a) The purpose of a captivity license for holding is to authorize the possession of lawfully taken or acquired native
5 wild animals or wild birds for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes. ~~A captivity license for holding shall not~~
6 ~~be issued for endangered, threatened, or special concern species as defined in 15A NCAC 10I .0100. Possession of~~
7 ~~these endangered, threatened, or special concern species specified in Rules 10I .0103 through .0105 of this Chapter~~
8 ~~also~~ requires an endangered species permit from the Commission.

9 (b) A captivity license for holding shall not be issued for holding wild animals or wild birds:

- 10 (1) ~~As~~ as pets;
11 (2) ~~For~~ for breeding unless approved by the Commission;
12 (3) ~~For~~ for dog training;
13 (4) ~~For~~ for hunting; or
14 (5) ~~Acquired~~ acquired unlawfully.

15 (c) Individuals seeking to obtain a captivity license for holding migratory birds shall possess and provide proof of a
16 valid, concurrent, and applicable federal permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, if required.

17 (d) Individuals seeking to hold wild animals for education, exhibition, or scientific purposes that require a license
18 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shall obtain a captivity permit as defined by G.S. 113-274 prior to obtaining
19 the animal.

20 (e) ~~No captivity license for holding shall be issued and no wild~~ Wild animals ~~or and~~ wild birds shall not be possessed
21 until ~~the applicant~~ an individual has ~~constructed or acquired~~ an enclosure for keeping a wild animal or wild bird in
22 captivity that complies with the standards set forth in Rule .1404 of this Section, ~~and the facility has been verified by~~
23 ~~a representative of the Commission or and~~ the individual has ~~shown proof of~~ a valid, concurrent, and applicable U.S.
24 Department of Agriculture license or exemption from ~~USDA licensing requirements.~~ requirements, both verified by a
25 representative of the Commission.

26 (f) Changes to an animal's enclosure after verification shall be reported to the Commission in writing within 10
27 business days.

28 (g) The following conditions shall apply to captivity licenses for holding wild animals ~~or and~~ wild birds:

- 29 (1) Wild animals and wild birds shall not come into contact with pets, non-native animals, livestock, or wild
30 animals or wild birds held under a captivity license for ~~rehabilitation. This provision shall not apply~~
31 ~~to rehabilitation, except for surrogate animals or~~ wild animals or wild birds used to foster other wild
32 animals and wild birds;
33 (2) Rabies species outside of their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder
34 or their designee is in control of the animal and it does not have physical contact with the public,
35 domestic animals, non-native animals, livestock, or other wild animals or wild birds; and
36 (3) Wild animals outside their enclosure shall be kept restrained ~~at all times so that~~ the license holder
37 or their designee is in control of the animal and it presents no danger to the ~~public; and public.~~

1 ~~(4) Wild animals shall not roam free unrestrained outside of an enclosure.~~

2 ~~(g)(h)~~ License holders with wild animals or wild birds used for education or exhibition outside of their facility, facility
3 shall maintain records of all education and exhibition ~~activities on a form, as described activities.~~ Records shall be
4 submitted to the Commission on the Captivity License for Holding Education and Exhibition Activity Form specified
5 in Rule .1406 of this Section, Section within 15 days of license expiration, and shall ~~retain records~~ be retained for a
6 period of 12 months following expiration of the license.

7 ~~(h)(i) It is unlawful for a license holder to sell,~~ Sale, transfer, ~~or and~~ release ~~the of a~~ wild animal or wild bird held
8 under ~~the license,~~ a captivity license for holding is prohibited, except that ~~such the~~ wild animal or wild bird may be
9 surrendered to an agent of the ~~Commission,~~ Commission or transferred to another individual who has obtained a
10 license to hold the wild animal or wild bird in captivity. Upon transfer, the transferor shall create a record for the wild
11 animal or wild bird showing the ~~transferors~~ transferor's name, address, tag number if available, license number, date
12 of transfer, and transferor's signature, verifying that the information contained in the record is true and correct. A copy
13 of the record shall be retained by the transferee for three years from the date of transfer.

14 ~~(i)(j)~~ Non-releasable animals lawfully held under a captivity license for rehabilitation pursuant to Rule .1402 of this
15 Section, except for white-tailed deer ~~fawns and elk calves,~~ fawns, may be transferred to a captivity license for holding
16 under the following conditions:

17 (1) ~~A a~~ North Carolina licensed veterinarian submits a written recommendation stating the reason ~~or~~
18 ~~reasons~~ why the wild animal or wild bird cannot be released into the wild. The explanation shall
19 include a description of the incapacitation of the animal and a detailed explanation of why the animal
20 will not experience chronic pain from its condition or injuries;

21 (2) ~~The the~~ Commission authorizes the transfer ~~and or~~ continued possession of the wild animal or wild
22 bird; and

23 (3) ~~For for an~~ imprinted ~~animals,~~ animal, the individual with the captivity license for holding shall not
24 be the same individual that rehabilitated ~~that specific the~~ animal.

25 ~~(j)(k)~~ Rabies ~~Species~~ Species.

26 (1) License holders with rabies species shall:

27 (A) certify up-to-date rabies ~~immunization~~ pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with
28 current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control
29 and Prevention at www.CDC.gov for ~~any themselves,~~ staff ~~member~~ members and ~~or~~
30 ~~volunteer~~ volunteers who may ~~come in~~ contact with rabies ~~species;~~ species. ~~Proof of~~
31 ~~immunization to demonstrate that the vaccine was administered shall be provided upon~~
32 ~~request of the Commission and shall be kept at the license holder's facility;~~

33 (B) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with
34 whom the license holder has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical
35 treatment to the rabies ~~species;~~ species. ~~Contact information for the veterinarian shall be~~
36 ~~posted at the facility where the rabies species are being held;~~

- (C) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and ~~their~~ local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated activities and location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities;
~~location. Contact information for these agencies shall be posted at the facility where the rabies species are being held;~~
- (D) have separate enclosures from non-rabies ~~species species. Enclosures shall that are locked~~
~~to prevent escape egress of the animal animal and ingress of other wild mammals; and~~
~~exposure to people, pets, livestock and other captive or free ranging wildlife. Enclosures~~
~~shall be locked and surrounded by a~~
- (E) have a secondary barrier to prevent unauthorized contact with the public; and barrier
surrounding the rabies species enclosure that restricts contact with people other than those
identified in Part (k)(2)(A) of this Rule, pets, and livestock.
- (E) ~~coordinate with appropriate local health department regarding euthanasia and testing of~~
~~rabies species. Written protocols for testing shall be posted at the facility and made~~
~~available for inspection by the Commission upon request.~~
- (2) The following information shall be posted at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon
request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies
species;
- (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the
rabies species;
- (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department;
and
- (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- (2)(3) ~~All rabies~~ Rabies species shall be considered potentially infected with the rabies virus. If ~~any a~~
human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds
the brain and spinal cord, or brain ~~and or~~ spinal cord material from ~~any a~~ rabies species, ~~he or she~~
the license holder shall immediately contact the local health department ~~immediately~~ to report the
incident. ~~The local health department may require euthanasia of the animal and submission of the~~
~~brain for rabies testing.~~ License holders shall abide by ~~all~~ requests ~~made by from~~ authorized public
health department personnel, animal control, ~~or and~~ Commission personnel regarding disposition of
the animal. ~~No rabies~~ Rabies species that ~~has~~ have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal
or ~~dies die~~ in captivity ~~can~~ shall not be disposed of until the local ~~Health Department~~ health
department investigates the situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test results
shall be reported to the Commission within 5 business days of receipt from the health department.
- (4)(1) ~~Black Bear;~~ Bear.

(1) In accordance with G.S. 19A-10 and G.S. 19A-11, ~~no~~ captivity license licenses for black bear may be issued ~~for a black bear, except to:~~

(A) a publicly operated zoo;

(B) an educational institution; or

(C) a facility holding a black bear under conditions simulating natural habitat pursuant to Rule ~~.1404(e)~~ .1404(d) of this Section.

(2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall transport black bear ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the Commission.

~~(4)(m) Cougar:~~ Cougar.

(1) In accordance with G.S. 113-272.5, ~~no~~ captivity license licenses for cougars may be issued ~~for a cougar, except to:~~

(A) a publicly operated zoo;

(B) an educational or scientific institution; or

(C) a facility holding a cougar under conditions simulating a natural habitat pursuant to Rule ~~.1404(f)~~ .1404(e) of this Section.

(2) Except for emergency transport to a North Carolina licensed veterinarian, no individual shall transport cougar ~~for any purpose~~ without first obtaining a transportation permit from the Commission.

~~(m)(n) Non-Farmed Cervids:~~ Cervids.

(1) ~~It is unlawful to hold any non farmed cervids under a~~ No ~~captivity licenses for holding shall be issued for cervids. holding, except for animals being held under a valid captive cervid license issued prior to September 30, 2015 that are not farmed cervids, as specified by G.S. 106-549.97.~~

~~(2) The following conditions shall apply to non farmed cervid licenses issued prior to September 30, 2015:~~

~~(A) no reproduction within the existing herd;~~

~~(B) no new non farmed cervids shall be added to the existing herd from the wild or from farmed cervids held under the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services farmed cervid program;~~

~~(C) the escape of any non farmed cervid from the facility shall be reported to the Commission within one hour of discovery. The license holder shall request a permit to take the escaped non farmed cervid pursuant to the terms of the permit. The dead cervid shall be submitted by the license holder to a North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) approved laboratory for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing, unless the Commission determines that the risk of CWD transmission as a result of this escape is negligible;~~

~~(D) the Commission shall be notified within 24 hours if any non farmed cervid within the facility exhibits clinical symptoms of CWD, as described on the CWD Alliance website at~~

~~www.cwd-info.org, or if a quarantine is placed on the facility by the State Veterinarian.~~

~~All non-farmed cervids that exhibit symptoms of CWD shall be tested for CWD;~~

(E) ~~the carcass of any non-farmed cervid that was six months or older at time of death shall be submitted by the license holder to a NCDA approved laboratory and tested for CWD within 48 hours of knowledge of the cervid's death, or by the end of the next business day, whichever is later. The Commission issued ear tag shall not be removed from the cervid's head prior to submitting the head for CWD testing;~~

(F) ~~the license holder shall make all records pertaining to tags, licenses, or permits issued by the Commission available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~

(G) ~~the license holder shall make all licensed facilities, enclosures, and the record book(s) documenting required monitoring of the outer fence of the enclosure(s) at each licensed facility available for inspection by the Commission upon request, during the facility's business hours, or at any time an outbreak of CWD is suspected or confirmed within five miles of the facility or within the facility itself;~~

(H) ~~the fence surrounding the enclosure shall be inspected by the license holder once a week to verify its stability and to detect the existence of any conditions or activities that threaten its stability. In the event of severe weather or any other condition that presents potential for damage to the fence, inspection shall occur every three hours until cessation of the threatening condition, except that no inspection is required under circumstances that threaten the safety of the person conducting the inspection and inspections shall resume as soon as possible.~~

(i) ~~a record book shall be maintained to record the time and date of each inspection of the fence, the name of the person who performed the inspection of the fence, and the condition of the fence at time of inspection. The person who performs the inspection shall enter the date and time of detection and the location of any damage threatening the stability of the fence. If the fence is damaged, the license holder shall record a description of measures taken to prevent ingress or egress by non-farmed cervids. Each record book entry shall bear the signature or initials of the license holder attesting to the veracity of the entry. The record book shall be made available for inspection by a representative of the Commission upon request, or during the facility's business hours; and~~

(ii) ~~any opening or passage through the enclosure fence shall, within one hour of detection, be sealed or otherwise secured to prevent a non-farmed cervid from entry or escape. Any damage to the enclosure fence that threatens its stability shall be repaired within one week of detection;~~

- 1 ~~(I) — each non farmed cervid held under this license shall be tagged as follows:~~
- 2 ~~(i) — a single button ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~
- 3 ~~by the license holder onto either the right or left ear of each non farmed cervid,~~
- 4 ~~provided that the ear chosen to bear the button tag shall not also bear a bangle tag,~~
- 5 ~~so that each ear of the cervid bears only one tag;~~
- 6 ~~(ii) — a single bangle ear tag provided by the Commission shall be permanently affixed~~
- 7 ~~by the license holder onto the right or left ear of each non farmed cervid, provided~~
- 8 ~~that the ear bearing the bangle tag does not also bear the button tag; and~~
- 9 ~~(iii) — once a tag is affixed in the manner required by this Rule, it shall not be removed;~~
- 10 ~~(J) — a permit to transport non farmed cervids may be issued by the Commission to an applicant~~
- 11 ~~for the purpose of transporting the animal(s) for export out of State, to a slaughterhouse for~~
- 12 ~~slaughter, between non farmed cervid facilities covered by this Rule, or to a veterinary~~
- 13 ~~medical facility for treatment provided that the animal for which the permit is issued does~~
- 14 ~~not exhibit clinical symptoms of CWD. Application for a transportation permit shall be~~
- 15 ~~made to the Commission by completing and submitting the non farmed cervid~~
- 16 ~~transportation form detailed in Rule .1406 of this Section. Any person transporting a non~~
- 17 ~~farmed cervid shall present the transportation permit to any law enforcement officer or~~
- 18 ~~representative of the Commission upon request, except that a person transporting a non~~
- 19 ~~farmed cervid by verbal authorization for veterinary treatment shall provide the name of~~
- 20 ~~the person who issued the approval to any law enforcement officer or representative of the~~
- 21 ~~Commission upon request.~~
- 22

23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*

24 *Eff. January 1, ~~2020~~; 2020;*

25 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*

26

1 15A NCAC 10H .1404 is amended as published in 40:01 NCR 22 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1404 MINIMUM STANDARDS CAPTIVITY LICENSE FOR HOLDING**

4 (a) The following minimum standards shall apply to wild animals and wild birds held under a captivity license for
5 ~~holding; holding.~~ Each license holder shall comply with the following general requirements in addition to requirements
6 specified by species.

7 (1) General Sanitation and Food Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following~~
8 ~~general requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

9 (A) ~~water; clean~~ Clean drinking water shall be provided. All pools, tanks, water areas, and
10 water containers provided for swimming, wading, or drinking shall be clean. Enclosures
11 shall provide drainage for surface water and ~~runoff; runoff.~~

12 (B) ~~sanitation; water~~ Water disposal and waste disposal shall be in accordance with all
13 applicable local, State, and federal ~~laws; laws.~~

14 (C) ~~food; food~~ Food shall be of a type and quantity that is appropriate for the ~~particular~~ species
15 and shall be provided in an unspoiled and uncontaminated ~~condition; and condition.~~

16 (D) ~~waste; fecal~~ Fecal and food waste shall be removed from inside, under, and around
17 enclosures and disposed of in a manner that prevents noxious odors or pests.

18 (2) General Enclosure Requirements. ~~Each license holder shall comply with the following general~~
19 ~~requirements in addition to any requirements specified by species:~~

20 (A) ~~all enclosures~~ Enclosures constructed of chain link or other approved materials shall be
21 braced and securely ~~anchored; anchored.~~

22 (B) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures shall be ~~ventilated; ventilated.~~

23 (C) ~~enclosures~~ Enclosures with a natural substrate shall have a dig barrier that prevents ~~escape;~~
24 escape.

25 (D) ~~the~~ The young of ~~any~~ an animal may be kept with the parent or foster animal of the same
26 species in a single-animal enclosure until ~~weaning; weaned.~~ After weaning, if the animals
27 are kept together, the requirements for multiple-animal enclosures shall ~~apply; apply.~~

28 (E) ~~chains~~ Chains or tethers shall not be used as a method of confinement for wild animals
29 inside ~~the enclosure; an enclosure.~~

30 (F) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with ~~at least~~ one shelter, nest box, or den large
31 enough to accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same ~~time; and time.~~

32 (G) ~~each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall have ~~at least~~ one elevated area large enough to
33 accommodate all animals in the enclosure at the same time.

34 (3) Single animal enclosures shall have the following minimum dimensions and horizontal areas, or
35 dimensional equivalents:

36

Animal	Length (ft.)	Width (ft.)	Height (ft.)	Total Square Footage
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Wild Turkey	6	4	8	24
Coyote	8	8	6	64
Fox (Red and Gray)	8	4	4	32
Raccoon	8	4	4	32
Bobcat	10	5	5	50
Otter	10	5	5	50
Squirrel	4	2	2	8
Groundhog	8	4	4	32
Rabbit	6	3	3	18
Opossum	6	3	3	18
Skunk	6	3	3	18
Armadillo	8	6	4	48

For animals not mentioned elsewhere in this Rule, a single animal ~~enclosures~~ enclosure shall be a cage with one horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ four times the nose-rump length of the animal and the other horizontal dimension being ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. The vertical dimensions shall be ~~at least~~ two times the nose-rump length of the animal. No cages shall be less than four feet by two feet by two feet, or less than eight square feet.

- (4) The minimum square footage for a multiple animal ~~enclosures~~ enclosure shall be determined by multiplying the required square footage for a single animal enclosure by a factor of 1.5 for one additional animal and that result by the same factor, successively, for each additional animal. Vertical dimensions may remain the same as for single animal enclosures.

~~(b) Non farmed Cervids.~~

- ~~(1) the minimum size of the enclosure shall not be less than one-half acre for the first three animals and an additional one-fourth acre for each additional animal. No more than 25 percent of the enclosure shall be covered with water;~~
- ~~(2) the enclosure shall be surrounded by a fence at least eight feet high, of sufficient strength and design to contain cervids and prevent contact with wild cervids;~~
- ~~(3) each enclosure shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all the animals in the enclosure at the same time; and~~
- ~~(4) cervids shall not be contained within or allowed to enter a place of residence or any enclosure that has not been approved to hold cervids by the Commission, except as specifically authorized by law or rule of the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

~~(e)(b) Alligators.~~

- (1) ~~the~~ The minimum land area size of the enclosure shall be based upon the length of the longest animal. Land area with both horizontal dimensions ~~at least~~ as long as the longest animal shall be

provided. In case of more than one animal, the combined area covered by all their bodies while aligned parallel without overlap shall not exceed 50 percent of the land ~~area;~~ area.

(2) The enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid.

(3) ~~the~~ The enclosure shall have a structural barrier of sufficient strength to contain the animals, and shall prevent contact between an the observer and alligator(s); the alligators.

~~(3) in addition to the land area, the enclosure shall contain a pool of water large enough for all the animals in the enclosure to completely submerge themselves at the same time. Steps shall be taken to prevent the surface of the water from freezing solid;~~

~~(4) steps shall be taken to provide opportunities for the alligator to regulate its body temperature;~~

~~(5)(4) each enclosure~~ Enclosures shall be equipped with a shelter or shelters large enough to accommodate all alligators animals in the enclosure at the same time; and time.

~~(6)(5) the~~ The facility shall have a perimeter boundary 8 eight feet in height, to prevent unauthorized entry and confine the animals. This boundary should be located at least 3 three feet from the primary enclosure, be no less than 8 feet in height, and be and constructed of not less than 11.5 gauge chain link or equivalent.

~~(d)(c)~~ Wild Birds. Enclosures for wild birds may house more than one animal, provided that the enclosure is ~~built to the standards specified below and~~ permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

(1) Enclosures for wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://national-wildlife-rehabilitators-association.myshopify.com/>.

~~enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://bookstores.umn.edu/product/gift/raptors-captivity-0->~~

(2) Enclosures for raptors shall be built to standards detailed in the University of Minnesota's "Raptors in Captivity: Guidelines for Care and Management," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for a fee at <https://www.hancockhouse.com/>. ~~enclosure for all other wild birds shall be designed using the standards established by the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's "Wildlife in Education: A Guide for the Care and Use of Program Animals," which is hereby incorporated by reference, excluding subsequent amendments and editions, and is available for order at <https://www.nwrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx>.~~

1 ~~(e)~~(d) Black Bear. Black bears held in captivity at facilities other than publicly operated zoos or educational
2 institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the requirements of
3 G.S. 19A-11.

4 ~~(f)~~(e) Cougar. Cougars held in captivity ~~by~~ at facilities other than publicly operated zoos, educational, or scientific
5 research institutions shall be held in enclosures simulating a natural habitat, developed in accordance with the
6 requirements of G.S. 113-272.5(e)(4).

7
8 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;

9 *Eff. January 1, ~~2020~~. 2020;*

10 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10H .1405 is amended as published in 40:01 NCR 24 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1405 CAPTIVITY LICENSE REVOCATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

4 (a) Representatives of the Commission ~~shall be permitted to~~ may enter the premises of ~~any~~ a license holder's facility
5 upon request or during the facility's business hours for inspection or scientific purposes.

6 (b) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a license holder's
7 captivity ~~license~~, license if the license holder violates ~~any~~ a provision of G.S. 14, Article 47, or G.S. 113, Subchapter
8 IV, ~~or any~~ rules promulgated by the Commission in this ~~Chapter~~ Chapter, or any conditions of the license. The
9 determination whether to warn, cite, suspend, or revoke a captivity license for rehabilitation or holding shall be based
10 upon the seriousness of the violation, and may include:

11 (1) ~~Failing~~ failure to provide required facilities for the housing of wild animals and wild birds as
12 specified in Rule ~~.1402(g)~~ .1402(i) and Rule .1404 of this Section;

13 (2) ~~Providing~~ providing false or inaccurate information on license applications or reports submitted to
14 the Commission;

15 (3) ~~Possessing~~ possessing wild animals or wild birds not permitted by the captivity license for
16 rehabilitation, or the captivity license for holding;

17 (4) ~~Using~~ using animals undergoing rehabilitation for education, exhibition, profit, or ~~science~~ science;

18 (5) allowing wild animals undergoing rehabilitation to have ~~involving~~ contact with or proximity to the
19 public;

20 (5)(6) ~~Failing~~ failure to comply with monitoring or record-keeping ~~requirements as provided by the rules~~
21 ~~of this Section;~~ requirements;

22 (6)(7) ~~Taming~~, taming, ~~taming~~, imprinting, or otherwise improperly handling animals held for
23 rehabilitation;

24 (7)(8) ~~Failing~~ failure to treat conditions that warrant medical attention;

25 (8)(9) ~~Failing~~ failure to notify the appropriate agencies after a rabies exposure as described in Rules .1402
26 and .1403 this Section; ~~or~~

27 (9)(10) ~~Allowing~~ allowing a wild animal held under a captivity license for holding to roam free unrestrained
28 outside of its ~~enclosure~~; or enclosure.

29 (10) ~~The license holder of a facility holding captive cervid(s) failing to:~~

30 (A) ~~comply with tagging requirements as provided by rules of this Section; or~~

31 (B) ~~comply with requirements for maintaining the enclosure fence as provided by rules of this~~
32 ~~Section.~~

33 (c) An individual holding a captivity license for rehabilitation with ~~the apprentice designation~~ apprenticeship
34 conditions shall notify the Commission within 10 business days if he or she no longer has a mentor ~~mentor~~, and
35 provide a list of animals in their possession by species and quantity. The apprentice shall obtain another mentor within
36 30 days and notify the Commission with that individual's information. If the apprentice fails to obtain another mentor

1 ~~within 60 days, the Commission shall revoke his or her their~~ license and he or she shall be required to reapply for a
2 ~~license with apprenticeship conditions. an apprentice license.~~

3 (d) If a wild animal or wild bird is unlawfully possessed or the Commission revokes a captivity license for
4 rehabilitation or holding, ~~then~~ the Commission may seize and determine future treatment of the wild animal or wild
5 bird, to include release, relocation, or euthanasia.

6 ~~(e) The Commission shall revoke a non farmed cervid license, and the holder of that license shall forfeit the right to~~
7 ~~keep non farmed cervids and be required to turn the animals over to a representative of the Commission upon request~~
8 ~~of the Commission, under any of the following circumstances or conditions:~~

- 9 (1) ~~The license holder fails to submit a cervid carcass to a NCDA approved laboratory for testing for~~
10 ~~Chronic Wasting Disease within 48 hours of knowledge of that cervid's death or close of the next~~
11 ~~business day, whichever is later, as provided by Rule .1403(m) in this Section;~~
12 (2) ~~A cervid has been transported without a permit; or~~
13 (3) ~~Chronic Wasting Disease has been confirmed in a cervid at that facility.~~

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;*
16 *Eff. January 1, 2020; 2020;*
17 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
18

1 15A NCAC 10H .1406 is amended as published in 40:01 NCR 25 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1406 FORMS FOR CAPTIVITY LICENSES**

4 (a) Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license ~~for rehabilitation~~ shall apply to the Commission using the
5 ~~Captivity License for Rehabilitation Form available at www.newwildlife.org, www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com.~~

6 (b) Information required ~~by~~ from the applicant for a captivity license for rehabilitation shall include:

- 7 (1) ~~The applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
8 (2) ~~The~~ facility site address;
9 (3) ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
10 (4) ~~The~~ categories of wild animals and wild birds to be rehabilitated;
11 (5) ~~A~~ a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit, if applicable;
12 (6) ~~The name and signature of mentor, if applicable; and~~
13 (7) a completed Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form or Wildlife Rehabilitation
14 Apprentice Upgrade Form, if applicable;
15 (7)(8) ~~Certification~~ certification of 12 hours of rehabilitation related ~~training; training for rabies species~~
16 application, if applicable; applicable; and
17 (9) certification of up-to-date rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis, if applicable.

18 (b)(c) ~~Individuals interested in obtaining a captivity license for holding shall apply to the Commission using the~~
19 ~~Captivity License for Holding Form available at www.newwildlife.org.~~ Information ~~supplied by~~ required from the
20 applicant for a captivity license for holding shall include:

- 21 (1) ~~The Applicant's~~ name, mailing address, residence address, telephone number, and date of birth;
22 (2) ~~The~~ facility site address;
23 (3) ~~Any~~ organizational affiliation, if applicable;
24 (4) ~~The~~ species information including quantity and source for all animals to be held; ~~and~~
25 (5) ~~The purpose for holding animals in captivity; captivity; and~~
26 (6) a copy of a valid Federal Migratory Bird Permit and USDA License, if applicable.

27 (e) ~~Individuals requesting a transportation permit for non farmed cervids shall apply to the Commission using the~~
28 ~~Non farmed Cervid Transportation Form available at www.newwildlife.org.~~ Information supplied by the applicant shall
29 include:

- 30 (1) ~~The applicant's name, mailing address, residence address, and telephone number;~~
31 (2) ~~The facility site address;~~
32 (3) ~~The captivity license number;~~
33 (4) ~~The species and sex of each non farmed cervid transported;~~
34 (5) ~~The tag number(s) for each non farmed cervid transported;~~
35 (6) ~~The date of transportation;~~
36 (7) ~~The vehicle or trailer license plate number and state of issuance of the vehicle or trailer used to~~
37 ~~transport the non farmed cervid;~~

1 ~~(8) The name, address, county and phone number of the destination facility to which the non farmed~~
2 ~~cervid will be transported;~~

3 ~~(9) The symptoms for which the non farmed cervid requires veterinary treatment, if applicable;~~

4 ~~(10) The date of slaughter, if applicable;~~

5 ~~(11) The name and location of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture Diagnostic lab where the~~
6 ~~head of the non farmed cervid is to be submitted for CWD testing, if applicable.~~

7 (d) Individuals rehabilitating white-tailed deer fawns ~~or elk calves~~ shall record their name, license number, and the
8 following information for each cervid on the Annual White-tailed Deer Fawn / Elk Calf Fawn Rehabilitation Activity
9 Form available at ~~www.newwildlife.org;~~ www.ncwildlife.gov;

10 ~~(1) The captivity license number;~~

11 ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

12 ~~(3)(2) The species and sex;~~

13 ~~(4)(3) The tag number;~~

14 ~~(5)(4) The disposition; and disposition and date;~~

15 ~~(5) name and license number of transferee, if applicable; and~~

16 ~~(6) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

17 (e) Individuals rehabilitating rabies species shall record their name, license number, and the following information
18 for each animal on the Annual Rabies Vector Species Rehabilitation Activity ~~Form~~ Report available at
19 ~~www.newwildlife.org;~~ www.ncwildlife.gov;

20 ~~(1) The captivity license number;~~

21 ~~(2)(1) The date of acceptance; received;~~

22 ~~(3)(2) The species and sex; species;~~

23 ~~(4)(3) The location county of origin, if known;~~

24 ~~(4) sex;~~

25 ~~(5) estimated age;~~

26 ~~(5)(6) The disposition; disposition and date; and~~

27 ~~(6)(7) The date name and license number of transferee, transfer to other appropriately licensed captivity~~
28 ~~license holder, if applicable; or and~~

29 ~~(7)(8) The date and location county of release, if applicable.~~

30 (f) Individuals holding species under a Captivity captivity License license for ~~Holding, holding~~ for educational and
31 exhibition purposes shall record the following information on the Captivity License for Holding Education and
32 Exhibition Form available at ~~www.newwildlife.org;~~ www.ncwildlife.gov;

33 ~~(1) The captivity license number;~~

34 ~~(2) The date of educational or exhibition activity;~~

35 ~~(3) The species and numbers of wild animals or wild birds used in the educational or exhibition activity;~~

36 ~~(4) The organization or group involved in the educational or exhibition activity; and~~

37 ~~(5) The description of educational or exhibition activity, if applicable; applicable.~~

1 (g) Information required from an apprentice on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Mentor-Apprentice Agreement Form,
2 available at www.ncwildlife.gov shall include:

3 (1) apprentice's name, facility address, phone number, and signature;

4 (2) mentor's name, address, WRC number, rehabilitation license number, and signature.

5 (h) Wildlife rehabilitation mentors shall provide the following information on the Wildlife Rehabilitation Apprentice
6 Upgrade Form, available at www.ncwildlife.gov, to certify compliance with requirements of Rule .1402(f) of this
7 Section:

8 (1) name, address, phone number, captivity license number, and signature;

9 (2) apprentice name, address, phone number, and captivity license number; and

10 (3) dates of mentorship.

11 ~~(g)(i) All forms~~ Reports and forms shall be ~~signed, dated, and~~ submitted to ~~the Wildlife Resources Commission with~~
12 ~~applicable fees mandated by G.S. 113-272.5 and G.S. 113-270.1B.~~ rapr@ncwildlife.gov, 1707 Mail Service Center,
13 Raleigh NC 27699-1700, or through www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com upon application or within 15 days of license
14 expiration, as required by the Rules of this Section.

15
16 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 106-549.97(b); 113-134; 113-272.5; 113-274;

17 Eff. January 1, 2020; 2020;

18 Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.