

# NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER

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January 18, 2022

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### PUBLISHED BY

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For questions or concerns regarding the Administrative Procedure Act or any of its components, consult with the agencies below. The bolded headings are typical issues which the given agency can address but are not inclusive.

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**NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER**  
Publication Schedule for January 2022 – December 2022

FILING DEADLINES			NOTICE OF TEXT		PERMANENT RULE			TEMPORARY RULES
Volume & issue number	Issue date	Last day for filing	Earliest date for public hearing	End of required comment Period	Deadline to submit to RRC for review at next meeting	RRC Meeting Date	Earliest Eff. Date of Permanent Rule	270 <sup>th</sup> day from publication in the Register
36:13	01/03/22	12/08/21	01/18/22	03/04/22	03/21/22	04/21/2022	05/01/22	09/30/22
36:14	01/18/22	12/22/21	02/02/22	03/21/22	04/20/22	05/19/2022	06/01/22	10/15/22
36:15	02/01/22	01/10/22	02/16/22	04/04/22	04/20/22	05/19/2022	06/01/22	10/29/22
36:16	02/15/22	01/25/22	03/02/22	04/18/22	04/20/22	05/19/2022	06/01/22	11/12/22
36:17	03/01/22	02/08/22	03/16/22	05/02/22	05/20/22	06/16/2022	07/01/22	11/26/22
36:18	03/15/22	02/22/22	03/30/22	05/16/22	05/20/22	06/16/2022	07/01/22	12/10/22
36:19	04/01/22	03/11/22	04/16/22	05/31/22	06/20/22	07/21/2022	08/01/22	12/27/22
36:20	04/18/22	03/25/22	05/03/22	06/17/22	06/20/22	07/21/2022	08/01/22	01/13/23
36:21	05/02/22	04/08/22	05/17/22	07/01/22	07/20/22	08/18/2022	09/01/22	01/27/23
36:22	05/16/22	04/25/22	05/31/22	07/15/22	07/20/22	08/18/2022	09/01/22	02/10/23
36:23	06/01/22	05/10/22	06/16/22	08/01/22	08/22/22	09/15/2022	10/01/22	02/26/23
36:24	06/15/22	05/24/22	06/30/22	08/15/22	08/22/22	09/15/2022	10/01/22	03/12/23
37:01	07/01/22	06/10/22	07/16/22	08/30/22	09/20/22	10/20/2022	11/01/22	03/28/23
37:02	07/15/22	06/23/22	07/30/22	09/13/22	09/20/22	10/20/2022	11/01/22	04/11/23
37:03	08/01/22	07/11/22	08/16/22	09/30/22	10/20/22	11/17/2022	12/01/22	04/28/23
37:04	08/15/22	07/25/22	08/30/22	10/14/22	10/20/22	11/17/2022	12/01/22	05/12/23
37:05	09/01/22	08/11/22	09/16/22	10/31/22	11/21/22	12/15/2022	01/01/23	05/29/23
37:06	09/15/22	08/24/22	09/30/22	11/14/22	11/21/22	12/15/2022	01/01/23	06/12/23
37:07	10/03/22	09/12/22	10/18/22	12/02/22	12/20/22	01/19/2023	02/01/23	06/30/23
37:08	10/17/22	09/26/22	11/01/22	12/16/22	12/20/22	01/19/2023	02/01/23	07/14/23
37:09	11/01/22	10/11/22	11/16/22	01/03/23	01/20/23	02/16/2023	03/01/23	07/29/23
37:10	11/15/22	10/24/22	11/30/22	01/17/23	01/20/23	02/16/2023	03/01/23	08/12/23
37:11	12/01/22	11/07/22	12/16/22	01/30/23	02/20/23	03/16/2023	04/01/23	08/28/23
37:12	12/15/22	11/22/22	12/30/22	02/13/23	02/20/23	03/16/2023	04/01/23	09/11/23

This document is prepared by the Office of Administrative Hearings as a public service and is not to be deemed binding or controlling.

## EXPLANATION OF THE PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

This Publication Schedule is prepared by the Office of Administrative Hearings as a public service and the computation of time periods are not to be deemed binding or controlling. Time is computed according to 26 NCAC 2C .0302 and the Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 6.

### GENERAL

The North Carolina Register shall be published twice a month and contains the following information submitted for publication by a state agency:

- (1) temporary rules;
- (2) text of proposed rules;
- (3) text of permanent rules approved by the Rules Review Commission;
- (4) emergency rules
- (5) Executive Orders of the Governor;
- (6) final decision letters from the U.S. Attorney General concerning changes in laws affecting voting in a jurisdiction subject of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as required by G.S. 120-30.9H; and
- (7) other information the Codifier of Rules determines to be helpful to the public.

**COMPUTING TIME:** In computing time in the schedule, the day of publication of the North Carolina Register is not included. The last day of the period so computed is included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday, in which event the period runs until the preceding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday.

### FILING DEADLINES

**ISSUE DATE:** The Register is published on the first and fifteen of each month if the first or fifteenth of the month is not a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday for employees mandated by the State Personnel Commission. If the first or fifteenth of any month is a Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday for State employees, the North Carolina Register issue for that day will be published on the day of that month after the first or fifteenth that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday for State employees.

**LAST DAY FOR FILING:** The last day for filing for any issue is 15 days before the issue date excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays for State employees.

### NOTICE OF TEXT

**EARLIEST DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING:** The hearing date shall be at least 15 days after the date a notice of the hearing is published.

**END OF REQUIRED COMMENT PERIOD**  
An agency shall accept comments on the text of a proposed rule for at least 60 days after the text is published or until the date of any public hearings held on the proposed rule, whichever is longer.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO THE RULES REVIEW COMMISSION:** The Commission shall review a rule submitted to it on or before the twentieth of a month by the last day of the next month.

- (1) ~~The Division of Coastal Management shall orally present the written summary of the progress report as defined in this Rule.~~
- (2) ~~A representative for the petitioner may provide written or oral comments relevant to the static line exception progress report. The Chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission may limit the time allowed for oral comments in open session based upon the number of speakers wishing to speak.~~
- (3) ~~Additional parties may provide written or oral comments relevant to the static line exception progress report. The Chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission may limit the time allowed for oral comments in open session based upon the number of speakers wishing to speak.~~

Plans exist, including the date the exception was granted, Plan was approved, the dates the progress reports were received, the design life of the large-scale beach fill project and the potential expiration dates for the static line exception, Beach Management Plans shall be maintained by the Division of Coastal Management. Both the static pre-project vegetation line list and the static line exception CRC approved Beach Management Plan list shall be available for inspection at the Division of Coastal Management, 400 Commerce Avenue, Morehead City, NC 28557.

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-124.*

**SECTION .1300 – DEVELOPMENT LINE PROCEDURES**

**15A NCAC 07J .1301 REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT LINE**

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-124.*

**15A NCAC 07J .1302 PROCEDURES FOR APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT LINE**

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-123; 113A-124.*

**15A NCAC 07J .1303 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES WITH DEVELOPMENT LINES**

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-124.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 and G.S. 150B-21.3A(c)(2)g. that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to adopt the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0325, .0326, .0409-.0430, .0701, .0702, .0801, amend the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0301, .0302, .0305-.0308, .0313, .0314, .0319, .0321-.0324, .0401, .0402, readopt with substantive changes the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0103, .0104, .0106, .0107, .0110, .0304, readopt without substantive changes the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0101, .0102, .0105, .0109, .0318, .0404-.0407, and repeal through readoption the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10C .0108 and .0111.*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.17, the Codifier has determined it impractical to publish the text of rules proposed for repeal unless the agency requests otherwise. The text of the rule(s) are available on the OAH website at <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp>.*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.2(c)(1), the text of the rule(s) proposed for readoption without substantive changes are not required to be published. The text of the rules are available on the OAH website: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp>.*

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Proposed-Regulations>

**Proposed Effective Date:** June 1, 2022

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-124.*

**15A NCAC 07J .1205 REVOCATION AND EXPIRATION OF THE STATIC LINE EXCEPTION BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL**

(a) ~~The static line exception Beach Management Plan approval shall be revoked if the Coastal Resources Commission determines, after the review of the petitioner's progress report identified in 15A NCAC 07J .1204, that any of the criteria under which the static line exception Beach Management Plan is authorized, as defined in 15A NCAC 07J .1201(d)(2) 15A NCAC 07J .1201(d)(1) through (d)(4), are not being met.~~

(b) ~~The static line exception shall expire at the end of the design life of the large-scale beach fill project defined in 15A NCAC 07J .1201(d)(2), including subsequent design changes to the project as defined in 15A NCAC 07J .1204(b).~~

(c) ~~In the event a progress report is not received by the Division of Coastal Management five years from either the static line exception initial approval of the Beach Management Plan or the previous progress report, the static line exception the Beach Management Plan approval shall be revoked automatically at the end of the five-year interval defined in 15A NCAC 07J .1204(b) for which the progress report was not received.~~

(d) ~~The revocation or expiration of a static line exception Beach Management Plan approval shall be a final agency decision and is subject to judicial review in accordance with G.S. 113A-123.~~

*Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b)(6); 113A-124.*

**15A NCAC 07J .1206 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES WITH STATIC VEGETATION LINES AND STATIC LINE EXCEPTIONS APPROVED BEACH MANAGEMENT PLANS**

A list of ~~static vegetation lines in place for petitioners CRC approved Beach Management Plans~~ and the conditions under which the static pre-project vegetation lines exist, including the date(s) the static pre-project vegetation line was defined, shall be maintained by the Division of Coastal Management. A list of ~~static line exceptions in place for petitioners CRC approved Beach Management Plans~~ and the conditions under which the exceptions

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** February 15, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Register online here: [https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_E1SApnj3Tair8wScIUZgDw](https://ncwildlife.org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_E1SApnj3Tair8wScIUZgDw)

Join by phone toll free (888-788-0099 or 877-853-5247) using Webinar ID: 160 349 4763

**Reason for Proposed Action:** Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rules classified as "necessary with substantive public interest" are required to be readopted as part of the periodic review. Additionally, rules are proposed for amendment and adoption to clarify recreational fishing and inland game fish requirements.

**Comments may be submitted to:** Rulemaking Coordinator, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; email [regulations@ncwildlife.org](mailto:regulations@ncwildlife.org)

**Comment period ends:** March 21, 2022

**Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:**

If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

**Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.**

- State funds affected
- Local funds affected
- Substantial economic impact (>= \$1,000,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required

**CHAPTER 10 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WATER SAFETY**

**SUBCHAPTER 10C - INLAND FISHING REGULATIONS**

**SECTION .0100 - JURISDICTION OF AGENCIES: CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS**

**15A NCAC 10C .0101 SCOPE AND PURPOSE (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0102 INLAND FISHING WATERS (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0103 COASTAL FISHING WATERS**

~~(a) Coastal fishing waters are the Atlantic Ocean, the various coastal sounds, and estuarine waters up to the dividing line between coastal fishing waters and inland fishing waters agreed upon by the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission, those defined in G.S. 113-129. All waters which are tributary to coastal fishing waters and which that are not otherwise designated by agreement between the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission are coastal fishing waters. in rule shall be coastal fishing waters.~~

(b) The regulations regulation and licensing of fishing in coastal fishing waters is waters, excluding joint fishing waters, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Marine Fisheries Commission; except that the following inland game fish (exclusive of spotted sea trout, red drum, flounder, white perch, yellow perch, weakfish, and striped bass) are subject to regulations regulation by the Wildlife Resources Commission when found in coastal fishing waters. waters:

- (1) brown, brook, and rainbow trout;
- (2) muskellunge, chain, and redbfin pickerel;
- (3) Alabama , largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass;
- (4) Roanoke and rock bass;
- (5) kokanee salmon;
- (6) black and white crappie;
- (7) bluegill, redbreast, redear, pumpkinseed, warmouth, flier, and all other species in the Centrarchidae family; and
- (8) walleye and sauger.

(c) Regulations Rules and laws administered by the Marine Fisheries Commission regarding fishing in coastal fishing waters are waters, excluding joint fishing waters, shall be enforced by marine fisheries inspectors. Regulations Rules and laws regarding inland game fish specified in Paragraph (b) of this Rule, when found in coastal fishing waters are waters, shall be enforced by wildlife protectors officers, unless otherwise agreed to by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; 113-292.

**15A NCAC 10C .0104 JOINT FISHING WATERS**

(a) Joint fishing waters are those coastal fishing waters, hereinafter set out, denominated defined in G.S. 113-129, adopted by agreement of both the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-132(e). 113-132(e) as joint fishing waters. All waters which are tributary to joint fishing waters and which that are not otherwise designated by agreement between the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission are classified as in rule shall be joint fishing waters. The regulation and licensing of fishing in joint waters shall be as stated in 15A NCAC 10C .0106.

(b) Rules and laws regarding fishing in joint fishing waters may be enforced by both marine fisheries inspectors and wildlife officers.

Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-292.

15A NCAC 10C .0105 POSTING DIVIDING LINES (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)

15A NCAC 10C .0106 APPLICABILITY OF REGULATIONS: RULES: JOINT FISHING WATERS

(a) All coastal fishing laws and regulations rules administered by the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources Environmental Quality and the Marine Fisheries Commission shall apply to joint fishing waters except as otherwise provided and shall be enforced by fisheries enforcement officers. provided.

(b) The following inland fishing laws and regulations rules administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission shall apply to joint fishing waters and shall be enforced by wildlife enforcement officers: waters:

- (1) all laws and regulations rules pertaining to inland game fishes, fishes specified in Rule .0103 of this Section;
(2) all laws and regulations pertaining to inland fishing license requirements for hook and line fishing,
(3)(2) all laws and regulations rules pertaining to hook and line fishing except as hereinafter provided; and
(3) all laws and rules pertaining to fish, crustacea, and mollusks identified on the protected animal list, as defined in G.S. 113-331.

Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-271; 113-275; 113-182; 113-292; 113-333.

15A NCAC 10C .0107 SPECIAL REGULATIONS: REGULATIONS FOR JOINT FISHING WATERS

The following requirements shall apply in joint fishing waters and in order to effectively manage all fisheries resources in joint waters and in order to confer enforcement powers on both fisheries enforcement officers and wildlife enforcement officers with respect to certain rules, the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission deem it necessary to adopt special rules for joint waters. Such rules supersede any inconsistent rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission or the Wildlife Resources Commission that would otherwise be applicable in joint waters under the provisions of 15A NCAC 10C .0106:

- (1) Striped Bass
(a) It is it shall be unlawful to possess any striped bass or striped bass hybrid that is less than 18 inches long (total length).
(b) It is it shall be unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids between the lengths of 22 and 27 inches (total length) in joint fishing waters of the Central Southern Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.
(c) It is it shall be unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids May through September in the joint fishing waters of the Central Southern

Management Area and the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

- (d) It is it shall be unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids taken from the joint fishing waters of the Cape Fear River.
(e) It is it shall be unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit of striped bass or striped bass hybrids, in the aggregate, per person per day, regardless of the number of management areas fished.
(f) Possession possession of fish shall be assessed for the creel and size limits of the management area in which the individual is found to be fishing, regardless of the size or creel limits for other management areas visited by that individual in a given day.
(g) It is it shall be unlawful to engage in net fishing for striped bass or their hybrids in joint waters except as authorized by rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

(2) Lake Mattamuskeet

- (a) It is it shall be unlawful to set or attempt to set any gill net in Lake Mattamuskeet canals designated as joint waters.
(b) It is it shall be unlawful to use or attempt to use any trawl net or seines in Lake Mattamuskeet canals designated as joint waters.

(3) Cape Fear River. It is shall be unlawful to use or attempt to use any net, net stakes or electrical fishing device within 800 feet of the dam at Lock No. 1 on the Cape Fear River.

(4) Shad: It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American shad or hickory shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook and line.

Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-182; 113-292.

15A NCAC 10C .0108 SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS

Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; 150B-14.

15A NCAC 10C .0109 PROTECTION OF SEA TURTLES (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)

15A NCAC 10C .0110 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OF ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS IN JOINT WATERS THE ALBEMARLE SOUND AND ROANOKE RIVER MANAGEMENT AREAS

(a) The management areas for estuarine striped bass fisheries in coastal North Carolina are designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.

~~(b)(a)~~ In order to To effectively manage the recreational hook and line harvest in joint waters of the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River stock of estuarine striped bass, the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission deem it necessary to establish two management areas: ~~the Albemarle Sound Management Area and the Roanoke River Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.~~

(1) the Albemarle Sound Management Area is designated as Albemarle Sound and all its joint and inland water tributaries, (except for the Roanoke, Middle, Eastmost and Cashie rivers), Currituck, Roanoke and Croatan sounds and all their joint and inland water tributaries, including Oregon Inlet, north of a line beginning at a point 35° 48.5015' N - 75° 44.1228' W on Roanoke Marshes Point, running southeasterly to a point 35° 44 .1710' N - 75° 31 .0520' W on the north point of Eagle Nest Bay.

(2) the Roanoke River Management Area is designated as Roanoke River and its joint and inland tributaries, including Middle, Eastmost and Cashie rivers, up to the Roanoke Rapids dam.

(b) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall have principal management responsibility for the stock when it is in the ~~joint and~~ inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Management Area. The Marine Fisheries Commission shall have principal management responsibility for the stock in the coastal, ~~joint joint~~ and inland waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

(c) The annual quota for recreational harvest of the Albemarle Sound Roanoke River striped bass stock shall be divided equally between the two management areas. Each Commission shall implement management actions for recreational harvest within their respective management ~~areas that shall be consistent with the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan areas.~~

(d) To preserve jurisdictional authority of each Commission, the following means are established through which management measures may be implemented in the following management areas:

(1) in the Roanoke River Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and areas, and establish size and creel limits, whether inland or joint fishing waters, shall be vested in the Wildlife Resources Commission.

(2) in the Albemarle Sound Management Area, the exclusive authority to open and close seasons and areas, and establish size and creel limits, whether coastal or joint fishing waters, shall be vested in the Marine Fisheries Commission. The season shall close by proclamation if the quota set by the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan is projected to be taken.

Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-182; 113-292.

**15A NCAC 10C .0111 IMPLEMENTATION OF ESTUARINE STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT PLANS: RECREATIONAL FISHING**

Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-138; 113-182; 113-292.

**SECTION .0300 - GAME FISH**

**SECTION .0300 – GAME FISH IN INLAND FISHING WATERS**

**15A NCAC 10C .0301 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED**

(a) The following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes: fishes in inland, joint, and coastal fishing waters:

- ~~(1)~~ mountain trout, all species including but not limited to rainbow, brown and brook trout;
- ~~(2)~~ muskellunge, chain (jack) and redbfin pickerel;
- ~~(3)~~ yellow perch, when found in inland waters, walleye and sauger;
- ~~(4)~~ black bass, including Alabama, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and redeye bass;
- ~~(5)~~ black and white crappie;
- (1) Alabama bass, largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass;
- (2) black crappie and white crappie;
- (3) chain pickerel (jack), muskellunge, and redbfin pickerel;
- (4) kokanee salmon;
- (5) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout;
- (6) sauger and walleye; and
- ~~(6)~~(7) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), flier, pumpkinseed, redbreast (robin), redbear (shellcracker), pumpkinseed, warmouth, Roanoke bass, rock bass, bass (redeye), flier, Roanoke bass, warmouth, and all other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule; Rule.

(b) The following fishes are classified as inland game fishes when found in inland fishing waters:

- ~~(7)~~ spotted sea trout (speckled trout), when found in inland fishing waters;
- ~~(8)~~ flounder, when found in inland fishing waters;
- ~~(9)~~ red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum), when found in inland fishing waters;
- ~~(10)~~ striped bass, white bass, white perch and Morone hybrids (striped bass white bass), when found in inland fishing waters;
- ~~(11)~~(1) American shad and hickory shad; shad, when found in inland fishing waters;
- ~~(12)~~ kokanee salmon; and
- ~~(13)~~(2) black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead; bullhead, when found in inland fishing waters.
- (3) flounder;
- (4) red drum (channel bass, red fish, puppy drum);



- (5) spotted sea trout (spekeled trout);
- (6) striped bass, white bass, white perch, and Morone hybrids (striped bass-white bass); and
- (7) yellow perch.

*Authority G.S. 113-134.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0302 MANNER OF TAKING INLAND GAME FISHES**

- (a) Inland game fishes may only be taken with hook and line unless otherwise provided.
- (b) Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.
- (c) Game fishes taken incidental ~~to~~ to
  - ~~(1)~~ commercial fishing operations in joint fishing waters or coastal fishing waters shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed.
  - ~~(2)~~ the use of special devices for taking nongame fishes from inland fishing waters as authorized in Rule .0402 of this Subchapter 15A NCAC 10C .0402 or as authorized by 15A NCAC 10C .0407 by anglers licensed under G.S. 113-272.2(c) shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed except:
    - ~~(A)~~(1) that a daily creel limit of American and hickory shad may be taken with dip nets and bow nets from March 1 through April 30 in those waters where such gear may be lawfully used; and
    - ~~(B)~~(2) white perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes in all impounded waters west of Interstate 95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).

(d) Inland game fishes taken from Inland Fishing Waters shall not be sold.

~~(d)~~(e) In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook may be used from 1 April to 30 June. "Barbless" as used in this Rule requires that the hook does not have a barb or the barb is bent down.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.3; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0304 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF INLAND GAME FISHES**

~~(a) It is unlawful to take in one day more than the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel limit; to possess more fish than the daily creel limit in effect on those waters being fished; to possess any fish outside of the size limit in effect on those waters being fished; to possess more fish than the daily creel limit while boating or afield; or to possess at any place more than three days creel limit. It is unlawful to destroy unnecessarily any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters.~~

- (a) Individuals shall only take up to the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel limit.
- (b) Individuals shall only possess on those waters being fished:

- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
- (2) fish conforming to the size limit for the species; and
- (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

(c) Individuals shall only possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

~~(b)~~(d) No ~~person~~ person, while fishing or afield, shall ~~shall~~ remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any game fish having a minimum size limit so as to render it impracticable to measure its total original length. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any game fish having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

- (1) unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from inland fishing waters;
- (2) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any game fish having a size limit so to render it impracticable to measure its total original length; or
- (3) change the appearance of any game fish having a daily creel limit so to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292.*

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

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

(b) There is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), and (l)~~ (d) through (n) of this Rule.

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
- (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
- (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
- (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
- (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and all their tributaries including Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank River, Perquimans River,

Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River, Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the NC Hwy 264/45 bridge, and all other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

~~(h)~~(j) In Shearon Harris Reservoir in Chatham and Wake counties and Lake Hampton in Yadkin County, there is no minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass, but only two Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches and no Largemouth Bass between 16 and 20 inches may be possessed.

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

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

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

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

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0306 CRAPPIE**

(a) There is no daily creel limit for Crappie, except for waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b)~~, ~~(c)~~, ~~(d)~~, ~~(e)~~, and ~~(f)~~ (d) through (h) of this Rule.

~~(b)~~ There is no minimum size limit for these fish, except for in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(d)~~, ~~(e)~~, and ~~(f)~~ (f) through (h) of this Rule.

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

~~(b)~~(d) In Buckhorn Reservoir in Wilson and Nash counties, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

~~(e)~~(e) In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit is 20 fish.

~~(d)~~(f) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is 10 inches:

- (1) B. Everett Jordan Reservoir;
- (2) Roanoke River and its tributaries downstream of Roanoke Rapids dam;
- (3) Cashie River and its tributaries;
- (4) Middle River and its tributaries;
- (5) Eastmost River and its tributaries; and
- (6) Lake Mattamuskeet and associated canals in Hyde County.

~~(e)~~(g) In the following waters, the daily creel limit is 20 fish and the minimum size limit is eight inches:

- (1) Lake Norman;
- (2) Lake Hyc0;
- (3) Lake Ramseur;
- (4) Cane Creek Lake (Union County);
- (5) Lake Hampton (Yadkin County);
- (6) Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam and all tributaries;
- (7) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- (8) Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam and all tributaries;
- (9) Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam and all tributaries;
- (10) Cape Fear River and all tributaries;
- (11) Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam and all tributaries;
- (12) Lumber River including Drowning Creek and all tributaries;
- (13) all other public fishing waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir in Nash County, Sutton Lake in New Hanover County, and waters listed in Paragraph ~~(d)~~(f) of this Rule; and
- (14) all public waters west of Interstate 77, except Lake Chatuge.

~~(f)~~(h) In John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit is 25 fish and the minimum size limit is nine inches.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0307 FLOUNDER, SEA TROUT, AND RED DRUM FLOUNDER**

~~In inland fishing waters, Sea Trout (Spotted or Speckled), Flounder, and Red Drum (also known as Channel Bass, Red Fish or Puppy Drum) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established in the Rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.~~

- ~~(a)~~ The daily creel limit for flounder is four fish.
- ~~(b)~~ The minimum size limit is 15 inches.
- ~~(c)~~ The season for taking and possessing flounder is September 1 through September 14.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0308 KOKANEE SALMON**

- ~~(a)~~ The daily creel limit for ~~Kokanee Salmon~~ kokanee salmon is four fish.
- ~~(b)~~ There is no minimum size limit, ~~limit for Kokanee Salmon.~~
- ~~(c)~~ There is no closed season, ~~season for Kokanee Salmon.~~

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0313 AMERICAN SHAD AND HICKORY SHAD (AMERICAN AND HICKORY)**

(a) The daily creel limit for American and ~~Hickory Shad~~ hickory shad in the aggregate is 10 fish, only one of which may be an

American ~~Shad, shad~~, except for waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b), (c) and~~ (d) through (f) of this Rule.

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

~~(c)~~ There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (g) of this Rule.

~~(b)(d)~~ In the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, Pee Dee River, and their tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and ~~Hickory Shad~~ hickory shad is 10 in the aggregate.

~~(e)(e)~~ In the inland waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and ~~Hickory Shad~~ hickory shad is 10 in the aggregate, only five of which may be American ~~Shad, shad~~.

~~(d)(f)~~ In Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, Lake Gaston and John H. Kerr Reservoir, no American ~~Shad shad~~ may be possessed.

~~(e)(g)~~ The season for taking American and ~~Hickory Shad~~ hickory shad with dip nets and bow nets is March 1 through April 30.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass and its hybrids is four fish in the aggregate, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b), (c), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j)~~ (d), and (g) through (l) of this Rule.

(b) The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j)~~ (d) through (l) of this Rule.

(c) There is no closed season, except for waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(g), (h), (i), (j), and (k)~~ (i) through (m) of this Rule.

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

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

~~(d)(f)~~ In Lake Norman, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Thom-A-Lex, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size limit for ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

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

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

~~(g)(i)~~ In the inland fishing waters of Neuse, Pungo, and Tar Pamlico rivers and their tributaries extending upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs ~~(f), (h), (i), and (j)~~ and (j) through (l) of this Rule,

the daily creel limit for ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate. The minimum size limit is 26 inches. In these waters, the season for taking and possessing ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass is closed from May 1 through September 30.

~~(h)(j)~~ In the inland fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass is closed year-round.

~~(i)(k)~~ In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as ~~established in 15A NCAC 03R-0201 and~~ identified in 15A NCAC 10C ~~0110, 0110(a)(2),~~ which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

~~(j)(l)~~ In designated inland and joint fishing waters of ~~Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, the Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries (excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries),~~ Sound Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(1), the ~~Striped Bass~~ striped bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent ~~joint or~~ coastal fishing waters.

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

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0318 WHITE BASS (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0319 WHITE PERCH**

(a) There is no daily creel limit for ~~White Perch, white perch~~.

(b) There is no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) In and west of Haywood, Buncombe, and Rutherford counties, it is unlawful to transport, possess, or release live ~~White Perch, white perch~~.

(e) White perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).

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

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

(a) The daily creel limit for ~~Smallmouth Bass~~ smallmouth bass is five fish, except in waters identified in Paragraphs ~~(b), (c), and (d)~~ through (f) of this Rule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(b)~~ There is no minimum size ~~limit~~ limit.

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

~~(b)(d)~~ In Lake Chatuge in Clay County, the daily creel limit for ~~Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Alabama Bass, and Spotted Bass~~ largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Alabama bass, and spotted bass is 10 fish in aggregate.

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

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0323 REDEYE BASS**

(a) The daily creel limit for ~~Redeye Bass~~ redeye bass is five fish.

(b) There is no minimum size limit for ~~Redeye Bass~~, redeye bass, but only two of them may be less than 14 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0324 CATFISH BULLHEADS**

(a) The daily creel limit for ~~Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead~~ black bullhead, brown bullhead, flat bullhead, snail bullhead, white catfish, and yellow bullhead is 10 fish in aggregate.

~~(b)~~ There is no minimum size ~~limit~~ limit.

~~(c)~~ There is no ~~or~~ closed ~~season~~, ~~season~~ for ~~Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead, Flat Bullhead, Snail Bullhead, White Catfish, and Yellow Bullhead~~.

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

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

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

(b) The minimum size limit is 14 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0326 RED DRUM**

(a) The daily creel limit for red drum (also known as channel bass, red fish or puppy drum) is one fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is 18 inches and no fish over 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

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

**SECTION .0400 – JURISDICTION OF AGENCIES;  
CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS NONGAME FISH IN  
INLAND FISHING WATERS**

**15A NCAC 10C .0401 MANNER OF TAKING  
NONGAME FISHES**

(a) Except as permitted by the rules in this Section, ~~it is unlawful no person shall~~ to take nongame fishes from the inland fishing waters of North Carolina in any manner other than with hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license, license, or inland fishing license.

(b) Nongame fishes may be taken ~~from inland fishing waters by hook and line, grabbling, or special device with a special device fishing license~~ at any time without restriction as to size limits or creel limits, except as designated specified in this Rule. Section.

(c) Special devices ~~may only be used to take nongame fishes~~ with a special device fishing license shall only be used in those counties and waters with open season designated in ~~Rule .0407 of this Section.~~ 15A NCAC 10C .0407.

(d) Archery equipment ~~may used~~ with either a hunting license or inland fishing license may only be used to take nongame fishes year-round in all inland fishing waters, except:

- (1) ~~for the take of catfish on in the~~ for the take of catfish on in the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and in all ~~tributaries,~~ tributaries, where only catfish can be taken;

- (2) in impounded waters located on the Sandhills Game Land; and
- (3) in public mountain trout waters.

(e) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used to take nongame fishes as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206.

(f) The season for taking nongame fishes by hook and line in designated public mountain trout waters is the same as the trout fishing season. Trout seasons are designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0316.

~~(g) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea), may be taken only from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in:~~

- ~~(1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and~~
- ~~(2) University Lake in Orange County.~~

The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea).

~~(h) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) and it is unlawful to possess more than 50 crabs per person per day or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.~~

~~(i) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take river herring (alewife and blueback herring) that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:~~

- ~~(1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;~~
- ~~(2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;~~
- ~~(3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;~~
- ~~(4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;~~
- ~~(5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;~~
- ~~(6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;~~
- ~~(7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and~~
- ~~(8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.~~

~~(j) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, it is unlawful to take channel or blue catfish by means other than hook and line; the daily creel limit for channel catfish is seven. Waters where this creel limit applies shall be posted on site with signs indicating the creel limit.~~

~~(k) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following waters:~~

- ~~(1) Lake Norman;~~
- ~~(2) Mountain Island Lake;~~
- ~~(3) Lake Wylie;~~
- ~~(4) Badin Lake;~~
- ~~(5) Lake Tillery;~~
- ~~(6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);~~
- ~~(7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA);~~
- ~~(8) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and~~
- ~~(9) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.~~

~~(l) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.~~

~~(m) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25, and the minimum size limit is 9 inches. Eels greater than 9 inches in length and with a minimum body depth greater than 1/2 inch may be cut for use as bait.~~

~~(n) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Mountain Island Reservoir, and Lake Wylie, except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment.~~

~~(o) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed on Lake Norman and the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir, except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.~~

~~(p) In inland fishing waters, gray trout (weakfish) recreational seasons, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by Marine Fisheries Commission rule or proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director in adjacent joint or coastal fishing waters.~~

~~(q) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (h), (i), (k), (m), and (p) of this Rule having a size limit so as to render it impractical to measure its total original length, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this Rule. No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Paragraphs (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) of this Rule having a daily creel limit so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession, except as provided in Paragraph (m) of this Rule.~~

~~(r) Nongame fishes taken by hook and line, grabbling, or by special device with a special device fishing license may be sold, sold unless otherwise specified in this Section, with the following exceptions:~~

- ~~(1) alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties);~~
- ~~(2) blue crab; and~~
- ~~(3) bowfin.~~

~~(s) Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters.~~

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0402 TAKING NONGAME FISHES BY SPECIAL DEVICE FOR BAIT OR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION**

(a) The use of equipment specified in this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.

~~(a)(b) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait or personal consumption in the inland waters of North Carolina using equipment other than:~~

- (1) a net of dip net design not greater than six feet across;
- (2) a seine of not greater than 12 feet in length (except in Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County where there is no length limitation) and with a bar mesh measure of not more than one-fourth inch;
- (3) a cast net;

- (4) a bow net for the seasons and waters in which the use of bow nets is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;
- (5) a dip net when used in conjunction with a licensed hand-crank electrofisher;
- (6) a gig (except in Public Mountain Trout Waters);
- (7) up to three traps for the seasons and waters in which the use of traps is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;
- (8) up to two eel pots;
- (9) a spear gun for the seasons and waters in which the use of a spear gun is authorized in 15A NCAC 10C .0407;
- (10) minnow traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter and 24 inches in length, with funnel openings not exceeding one inch in diameter, from which all fish and animals are removed daily, and that are labeled with the user's Wildlife Resources Commission customer number or name and address;
- (11) a hand-held line with a single bait attached;
- (12) a single, multiple-bait line for taking crabs not to exceed 100 feet in length, marked on each end with a solid float no less than five inches in diameter, bearing legible and indelible identification of the user's name and address, and under the immediate control and attendance of the person using the device, with a limit of one line per person and no more than one line per vessel; or
- (13) a collapsible crab trap with the largest open dimension not greater than 18 inches and that by design is collapsed at all times when in the water, except when it is being retrieved or lowered to the bottom, with a limit of one trap per person.

~~(b) The use of equipment under this Rule requires a valid license that provides basic inland fishing privileges.~~

(c) It is unlawful to sell nongame fishes or aquatic animals taken under this Rule.

(d) Game fishes taken shall be returned unharmed to the water, except for the following: ~~white perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County).~~

- (1) American and hickory shad may be taken when captured with dip nets and bow nets from March 1 through April 30 subject to the size and creel limits specified in 15A NCAC 10C .0313.
- (2) white perch may be taken when captured in a cast net being used to collect nongame fishes for bait or personal consumption in all impounded waters west of I-95 and in the Tar River Reservoir (Nash County) subject to the size and creel limits specified in 15A NCAC 10C .0319.

(e) No person shall take or possess during one day more than 200 nongame fish, in aggregate, for bait or personal ~~consumption~~ subject to the consumption, accounting for species specific size

and creel limits identified in ~~15A NCAC 10C .0401~~ Section .0400 of this Subchapter.

(f) Any fishes taken for bait purposes are included within the daily possession limit for that species.

(g) It is unlawful to take nongame fish for bait from the following waters:

- (1) Public Mountain Trout Waters (except in impounded waters of power reservoirs and municipally-owned water supply reservoirs);
- (2) Bear Creek in Chatham County;
- (3) Deep River in Chatham, Lee, and Moore counties and downstream of Coleridge Dam in Randolph County;
- (4) Fork Creek in Randolph County; and
- (5) Rocky River in Chatham County.

~~(i) No person while fishing shall remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish having a size limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to render it impractical to measure its total original length, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m). No person while fishing shall change the appearance of any nongame fish having a daily creel limit identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0401 so as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0401(m).~~

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272; 113-272.3; 113-292.*

**15A NCAC 10C .0404 SPECIAL DEVICES (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0405 POSSESSION OF LICENSES (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0406 TRAWLS AND DREDGES (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0407 PERMITTED SPECIAL DEVICES AND OPEN SEASONS (READOPTION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES)**

**15A NCAC 10C .0409 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF NONGAME FISHES**

(a) Individuals shall only take up to the daily creel limit of those species of nongame fish having a specified creel limit.

- (b) Individuals shall only possess, on those waters being fished:
- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
  - (2) fish conforming to the size limit of the species; and
  - (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

(c) Individuals shall only possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

- (d) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:
- (1) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any nongame fish specified in Section .0400 as having a size limit, so as to render it impractical to measure its total original length, except as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.

- (2) change the appearance of any nongame fish that has a species-specific daily creel limit in Section .0400, as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0410 AMERICAN EEL**

- (a) The daily creel limit for American eels taken from or possessed, regardless of origin, while boating on or fishing in inland fishing waters is 25.
- (b) The minimum size limit is nine inches.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Eels greater than nine inches in length and with a minimum body depth greater than ½ inch may be cut for use as bait.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0411 ATLANTIC CROAKER**

- (a) The daily creel limit for Atlantic croaker is 50 fish.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Atlantic croaker shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0412 BLACK DRUM**

- (a) The daily creel limit for black drum is 10 fish.
- (b) The minimum size limit is 14 inches and no fish over 25 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Black drum shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0413 BLUE CRAB**

- (a) Blue crabs shall have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).
- (b) It is unlawful to possess more than 50 crabs per person per day, or to exceed 100 crabs per vessel per day.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Blue crabs shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0414 BLUEFISH**

- (a) The daily creel limit for bluefish is three.
- (b) There is no size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Bluefish shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0415 BOWFIN**

- (a) There is no daily creel limit for bowfin.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.

- (d) Bowfin shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0416 BLUE CATFISH, CHANNEL CATFISH, AND FLATHEAD CATFISH**

- (a) There is no daily creel limit for blue, channel, and flathead catfish, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) of this Rule.
- (b) There is no minimum size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, no person shall take channel or blue catfish by means other than hook and line.
- (e) In waters that are stocked and managed for catfish and located on game lands, on Commission-owned property, or on the property of a cooperator, including waters within the Community Fishing Program, the daily creel limit for channel catfish is seven on waters posted with signs indicating the creel limit.
- (f) The daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches is one fish in the following waters:

- (1) Lake Norman;
- (2) Mountain Island Lake;
- (3) Lake Wylie;
- (4) Badin Lake;
- (5) Lake Tillery;
- (6) John H. Kerr Reservoir (North Carolina portion);
- (7) Dan River (Downstream of the Union Street Dam in Danville, VA);
- (8) Lake Gaston (North Carolina portion); and
- (9) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir.

- (g) The daily creel limit is five catfish in aggregate on the Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam to the South Carolina state line and all tributaries.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0417 COBIA**

- (a) The daily creel limit for cobia is one fish.
- (b) The minimum size limit is 36 inches.
- (c) The season for taking and possessing cobia is May 1 to December 31.
- (d) Cobia shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0418 FRESHWATER MUSSELS**

- (a) Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea), may only be taken from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in:
  - (1) Lake Waccamaw in Columbus County; and
  - (2) University Lake in Orange County.
- (b) The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels is 200 in the aggregate, except there is no daily possession limit for the Asiatic clam (Corbicula fluminea).
- (c) There is no minimum size limit.

(d) There is no closed season.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0419 GRASS CARP**

(a) There is no daily creel limit for grass carp, except for waters identified in Paragraphs (d) and (e) of this Rule.

(b) There is no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed except that one fish per day may be taken with archery equipment on the following waters:

- (1) Lake James;
- (2) Lookout Shoals Lake;
- (3) Mountain Island Reservoir; and
- (4) Lake Wylie.

(e) Grass carp shall not be taken or possessed except for scientific study by permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission on the following waters:

- (1) Lake Gaston (S.L. 2009-261);
- (2) Roanoke Rapids Reservoir (S.L. 2009-261);
- (3) Lake Norman; and
- (4) the North Carolina portion of John H. Kerr Reservoir.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0420 KING MACKEREL**

(a) The daily creel limit for king mackerel is three fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is 24 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) King mackerel shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0421 MARGINED MADTOM AND TADPOLE MADTOM**

Margined madtom and tadpole madtom shall not be taken or possessed.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0422 STRIPED MULLET AND WHITE MULLET**

(a) The daily creel limit for striped mullet and white mullet is 200 fish in aggregate.

(b) There is no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0423 ALEWIFE AND BLUEBACK HERRING**

(a) There is no daily creel limit for alewife or blueback herring (river herring), except for waters identified in Paragraph (e) of this Rule.

(b) There is no minimum size limit, except for waters identified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) While boating on or fishing in the following inland fishing waters, no person shall take alewife and blueback herring that are greater than six inches in length, or possess such herring regardless of origin in:

- (1) Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam;
- (2) Tar River downstream of Rocky Mount Mill Dam;
- (3) Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam;
- (4) Cape Fear River downstream of Buckhorn Dam;
- (5) Pee Dee River downstream of Blewett Falls Dam;
- (6) Lumber River, including Drowning Creek;
- (7) all the tributaries to the rivers listed above; and
- (8) all other inland fishing waters east of I-95.

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

(f) Alewife and blueback herring, excluding those less than six inches in length collected from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties), may not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0424 SHARKS**

Sharks shall not be taken or possessed.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD**

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

(b) The minimum size limit is 10 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Sheepshead shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0426 SPANISH MACKEREL**

(a) The daily creel limit for Spanish mackerel is 15 fish.

(b) The minimum size limit is 12 inches.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Spanish mackerel shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0427 SPOT**

(a) The daily creel limit for spot is 50 fish.

(b) There is no minimum size limit.

(c) There is no closed season.

(d) Spot shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0428 TARPON**

Tarpon shall not be taken or possessed.



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

**15A NCAC 10C .0429 WEAKFISH (GRAY TROUT)**

- (a) The daily creel limit for weakfish (gray trout) is one fish.
- (b) The minimum size limit is 12 inches.
- (c) There is no closed season.
- (d) Weakfish shall not be sold.

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

**15A NCAC 10C .0430 OTHER FISHES**

- (a) For any nongame fish species not specifically listed in this Section, there is no daily creel limit.
- (b) There is no size limit.
- (c) There is no closed season.

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

**SECTION .0700 - FISHES IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

**15A NCAC 10C .0701 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

(a) For the purposes of this rule, the following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes in joint fishing waters:

- (1) Alabama bass, largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass;
- (2) black crappie and white crappie;
- (3) chain pickerel (jack), muskellunge, and redfin pickerel;
- (4) kokanee salmon;
- (5) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout;
- (6) Roanoke bass and rock bass (redeye);
- (7) sauger and walleye; and
- (8) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), flier, pumpkinseed, redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), warmouth, and all other species of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule.

(b) Inland game fishes shall not be taken by any method other than with hook and line, except that landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.

(c) Size, creel limits, and seasons for inland game fishes in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those designated in Section .0300 of this Subchapter for inland fishing waters.

(d) Inland game fishes taken incidental to commercial fishing operations shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

(e) Inland game fishes taken from joint fishing waters shall not be sold.

(f) Individuals shall only take up to the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel limit.

(g) Individuals shall only possess, on those waters being fished:

- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
- (2) fish conforming to the size limit for the species; and
- (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

(h) Individuals shall only possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

(i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:

- (1) unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters;
- (2) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any game fish having a size limit so to render it impracticable to measure its total original length; or
- (3) change the appearance of any game fish having a daily creel limit so to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292.

**15A NCAC 10C .0702 TAKING AND POSSESSION OF OTHER FISHES BY HOOK AND LINE IN JOINT FISHING WATERS**

(a) This Rule applies to fish taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, excluding the species listed in 15A NCAC 10C .0701.

(b) Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.

(c) Set hooks, jug hooks, and trotlines may be used as designated in 15A NCAC 10C .0206 to take fishes in joint fishing waters.

(d) Size, creel limits, and seasons for fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters shall be the same as those designated in Sections .0300 and .0400 of this Subchapter for inland fishing waters with the following exceptions:

- (1) In the joint fishing waters of the Tar-Pamlico River, Pungo River, and their tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in the aggregate.
- (2) In the joint fishing waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries, the daily creel limit for American and Hickory Shad is 10 in the aggregate, only five of which may be American Shad.
- (3) In the joint fishing waters of the Central Southern Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 03R .0201, size, creel limits, and seasons for striped bass and its hybrids are listed in 15A NCAC 10C .0107.
- (4) In the joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(2), which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing Striped Bass and its hybrids is March 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids Lake dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids is two fish in the aggregate, and the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish between 22 inches and 27 inches in length shall be possessed in the daily creel limit. Only one fish larger than 27 inches may be possessed in the daily creel limit.
- (5) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area, as

identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110(a)(1), the Striped Bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.

(e) Fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters may be sold except those fishes for which the sale is prohibited as designated in Sections .0300 and .0400 of this Subchapter for inland fishing waters.

(f) For fishes taken by hook and line in joint fishing waters, individuals shall only take up to the daily creel limit of fish having a specified creel limit.

(g) Individuals shall only possess, on those waters being fished:

- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
- (2) fish conforming to the size limit of the species; and
- (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

(h) Individuals shall only possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

(i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:

- (1) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any fish taken by hook and line specified in Sections .0300 or .0400 of this Subchapter as having a size limit, so to render it impractical to measure its total original length, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.
- (2) change the appearance of any fish taken by hook and line that has a species specific daily creel limit in Sections .0300 or .0400 of this Subchapter, as to obscure its identification or render it impractical to count the number of fish in possession, except for American Eel as provided in 15A NCAC 10C .0410.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292.*

**SECTION .0800 – GAME FISH IN COASTAL FISHING WATERS**

**15A NCAC 10C .0801 INLAND GAME FISHES DESIGNATED IN COASTAL FISHING WATERS**

(a) For the purposes of this Rule, only the following fishes are classified and designated as inland game fishes in coastal fishing waters:

- (1) Alabama bass, largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass;
- (2) black crappie and white crappie;
- (3) chain pickerel (jack), muskellunge, and redfin pickerel;
- (4) kokanee salmon;
- (5) mountain trout, all species including but not limited to brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout;
- (6) Roanoke bass and rock bass (redeye);
- (7) sauger and walleye; and
- (8) sunfish, including bluegill (bream), flier, pumpkinseed, redbreast (robin), redear (shellcracker), warmouth, and all other species

of the sunfish family (Centrarchidae) not specifically listed in this Rule.

(b) Inland game fishes shall not be taken by any method other than with hook and line, except that landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on hook and line.

(c) Size, creel limits, and seasons for inland game fishes in coastal fishing waters shall be the same as those in inland waters designated in Section .0300 of this Subchapter.

(d) Inland game fishes taken incidental to commercial fishing operations shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

(e) Inland game fishes taken from coastal fishing waters shall not be sold.

(f) Individuals shall only take up to the daily creel limit of those species of inland game fish having a specified creel limit.

(g) Individuals shall only possess, on those waters being fished:

- (1) the specified daily creel limit for the species;
- (2) fish conforming to the size limit for the species; and
- (3) the daily creel limit while fishing or afield.

(h) Individuals shall only possess up to three days creel limit at any place.

(i) No person, while fishing or afield, shall:

- (1) unnecessarily destroy any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters;
- (2) remove the head or tail or otherwise change the appearance of any game fish having a size limit so to render it impracticable to measure its total original length; or
- (3) change the appearance of any game fish having a daily creel limit so to obscure its identification or render it impracticable to count the number of fish in possession.

*Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-135; 113-135.1; 113-292.*

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*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Wildlife Resources Commission intends to adopt the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0378, amend the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0317, .0323, .0327, .0333, .0336, .0354, and repeal the rules cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0312 and .0318.*

*Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.17, the Codifier has determined it impractical to publish the text of rules proposed for repeal unless the agency requests otherwise. The text of the rule(s) are available on the OAH website at <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp>.*

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Proposed-Regulations>

**Proposed Effective Date:** June 1, 2022

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** February 7, 2022

**Time:** 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Register online here: [https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_Y9QFsIphS4aoXivOh09rTA](https://ncwildlife-org.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Y9QFsIphS4aoXivOh09rTA)