



## Drone Fishing: Not Allowed in North Carolina

Drones have become quite popular for all kinds of recreational and commercial uses in recent years, so it is reasonable for anglers to ask if they can use them for fishing.

The answer is a simple one: No.

North Carolina law (G.S. 14-401.24) makes it a class 1 misdemeanor to fish or hunt with an unmanned aircraft system (a drone).

Specifically defined in state law (G.S. 113-130), fishing includes all operations during, immediately preparatory and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill or otherwise harm any fisheries resource.

This means:

- It is illegal to use a drone as a spotter to look for bait or fish.
- It is illegal to use a drone to carry a baited line out into the water to help you cast.
- It is illegal to use a drone to corral fish closer to the boat where you are fishing.
- It is illegal to use a drone for fishing in any way.

To view the applicable state laws, visit <https://www.ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes>.