



Thanks to bear hunters participating in our bear cooperator program, NCWRC gets data from bears harvested in North Carolina. Information from harvested bears helps the NCWRC monitor the status of our bear population, which is an important aspect of our bear management program.

Bear hunters can submit information on the weight of their harvested bear and will find out the age of their harvested bear through the mandatory submission of the upper or lower premolar teeth.

To find out more about the mandatory bear cooperator program, contact your district biologist or call 919-707-0050. Or visit our website at: ncwildlife.org/bearcooperator

Top ten male bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2023.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	1998	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	880	10.75
2	2014	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	784	9.75
3	2014	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	782	9.75
4	2012	WASHINGTON	Coastal	DG	Male	780	6.75
4	2013	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	780	8.75
4	2023	BEAUFORT	Coastal	ST	Male	780	6.75
5	2009	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	760	6.75
5	2019	BEAUFORT	Coastal	DG	Male	760	7.75
6	2016	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	757	8.75
7	2007	DARE	Coastal	ST	Male	752	7.75
8	2001	GATES	Coastal	DG	Male	742	9.75
8	2023	NORTHAMPTON	Coastal	DG	Male	740	12.75
9	2001	BEAUFORT	Coastal	DG	Male	740	13.75
10	2022	JONES	Coastal	ST	Male	737	14.75

Table 2. Number of harvested bears weighing over 500 lbs. in North Carolina, 1969-2023.

Weight Category	Total bears	Mountains	Coast	Piedmont
500-599 lbs	1,781	86	1,690	4
600-699 lbs	480	14	465	1
700-799 lbs	38	0	38	0
> 800 lbs.	1	0	1	0



NCWRC staff and hunters weighing a bear in eastern North Carolina.

See next page for top 10 female bear weights



Top ten female bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2023.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	2015	Martin	Coastal	S	DG	520	18.75
2	2017	Sampson	Coastal	R	DG	517	13.75
3	2017	Hyde	Coastal	R	ST	482	6.75
4	2020	Edgecombe	Coastal	R	DG	471	8.75
5	2010	Chowan	Coastal	S	DG	450	13.75
5	2010	Hyde	Coastal	S	DG	450	3.75
6	2007	Hyde	Coastal	R	ST	445	9.75
7	2018	Washington	Coastal	R	DG	440	13.75
8	2013	Caldwell	Mountains	R	DG	438	5.75
8	2019	Pitt	Coastal	R	ST	438	11.75
9	2022	Washington	Coastal	R	DG	431	TBD
10	2016	Hyde	Coastal	U	ST	429	12.75



NCWRC staff weighing a 445 lbs. female bear taken by a female hunter in Hyde County in 2007.