



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
April 17, 2025 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – *Chairman Monty Crump*

This meeting is being streamed live for the public to attend and recorded as a public record. The recording of the meeting will be available at www.ncwildlife.gov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Commissioner Joe Budd*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner Wes Seegars*

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – *Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison*

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY – North Carolina General Statute §138A-15 mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquires as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman Crump*

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2025 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the February 6, 2025 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT A)**

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT – Receive Financial Status Report on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund. – *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer (EXHIBIT B)*

ENDOWMENT FUND EXPENDABLE INCOME ALLOCATION – Consider Approval of Calendar Year 2024 Investment Income Allocation – *Jason Cottle (EXHIBIT C)*

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee – April 16, 2025 – *Wes Seegars, Vice Chair*

Rules Committee – April 16, 2025 – *Wes Seegars, Chair*

Land Acquisition & Property Committee – April 16, 2025 – *Tom Berry, Chair*

Boating Safety Committee – April 16, 2025 – *J. C. Cole, Chair*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Recent Capital Improvements and Construction Projects – Jody Reavis, Capital Improvements Coordinator, and Jim Sullivan, Engineer

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

2025-2026 Webless Migratory Birds, Resident Canada Geese, Extended Falconry, and Waterfowl Seasons – Review U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frameworks, receive public comments, and select the 2025-2026 season dates and bag limits for webless migratory birds, resident Canada geese, extended falconry, and waterfowl – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief* **(EXHIBITS D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4)**

2025 Migrant Peregrine Falconry – Consider staff recommendations to establish a season for taking up to 5 migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry in 2025 – *Brad Howard* **(EXHIBIT E)**

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following properties – *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager* **(EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)**

- Harris Cove Tract – Madison County **(F-1)**
- Gladly Fork Fish Hatchery – Transylvania County **(F-2)**

Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following other property matters – *Ben Solomon* **(EXHIBITS G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4)**

- Land Trade – NCDOT requests a property trade in Dare and Tyrrell Counties **(G-1)**
- Lease Renewal – Duke Energy requests a lease renewal for the Foothills Trail on Toxaway Game Land **(G-2)**
- Disposition – Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy requests the disposition of an easement area on a property in Avery County **(G-3)**
- Easement Request – Private landowner requests an ingress and egress easement on Holly Shelter Game Land **(G-4)**

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County – Review public comments and consider final adoption of an amendment to create a no-wake zone shore to shore in Brice Creek from north of the Brice's Creek Bridge, south-southwestward around Merchant's Grocery, docking facilities, fuel dock and public boat ramp, ending at a line southeast of the peninsula and sharp curves on the east side of Brice Creek – *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rulemaking Coordinator* **(EXHIBITS H-1, H-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0368 Caswell and Person Counties – Review public comments and consider adoption of an amendment to designate responsibility for placement and maintenance of markers on Hyco Lake to the Person and Caswell Boards of Commissioners – *Betsy Haywood* **(EXHIBITS I-1, I-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County – Consider agency request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing for a proposed amendment on Gunpowder Creek on Lake Hickory in Caldwell County, to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road – *Betsy Haywood* **(EXHIBIT J)**

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10B, 10C and 10D Rules – Youth Definitions & Deer Season – Review public comments and consider request to adopt proposed amendments to the 10B, 10C and 10D rules – *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator* **(EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)**

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout – Review public comments and consider request to adopt temporary closure of the sea trout season in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters – *Carrie Ruhlman* **(EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)**

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for temporary amendments to sea trout size and creel limits in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters – *Carrie Ruhlman* **(EXHIBIT M)**

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10D .0260 Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey Counties – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for temporary amendments to the activities allowed on the Lutz Tract in Caldwell County – *Carrie Ruhlman* **(EXHIBIT N)**

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Crump*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Briggs*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A



MINUTES February 6, 2025 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Monty Crump called the February 6, 2025 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room at the agency's headquarters in Raleigh. Crump reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.org.

Commissioner Tom Haislip led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Tom Berry gave the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, *Commission Liaison*, called the roll. Thomas Fonville, Ray Clifton, Hayden Rogers, Reid Smith, and J.C. Cole were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Monty Crump	Wes Seegars	Jim Ruffin	Landon Zimmer
Mark Craig	John Alexander	John Stone	Tom Haislip
David Hoyle	Tom Berry	Kelly Davis	Mike Alford
John Coley	Brad Stanback	Steve Windham	Joe Budd

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Crump advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Commissioner Zimmer recused himself from discussion and action on **EXHIBIT D-2**.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2024 MEETING

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Wes Seegars, the Minutes of the December 5, 2024 meeting was approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

EXHIBIT A is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Jason Cottle, *Chief Financial Officer*, presented a status report in **EXHIBIT B** on the Wildlife Resources Commission General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

EXHIBIT B is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2024 THOMAS L. QUAY WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AWARD PRESENTATION – Executive Director Kyle Briggs presented the 2024 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award to Dr. Wilson Laney.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Land Acquisition and Property Committee Report – February 5, 2025 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported that the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on February 5, 2025. The Committee began by reviewing the 2026-2027 Land and Water Access rule proposals. The Committee also reviewed and approved three Phase I land acquisition proposals, two Phase II land acquisition proposals, and two other property matters. Chairman Berry concluded by reminding the Committee of two important ongoing projects in the mountain region that would establish new game lands: the Turkey Ridge-Callaway Mountain project and the Hickorynut Mountain project. Neither project would be possible without our valued conservation partners. With no additional topics, the meeting was adjourned.

Fisheries Committee Report – February 5, 2025 – *John Stone, Chair* reported the Fisheries Committee met on February 5, 2025. *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented the 2026-2027 Fishing Rule Proposals, which addressed fishing in impoundments that are Hatchery Supported Trout Waters, boundary changes to Public Mountain Trout Waters, Largemouth Bass, White Bass, no fishing during spawning season in the King's Bridge slough, and prohibiting the transport and possession of golden mussels. *Seth Mycko, District 5 Fisheries Biologist*, discussed how Piedmont municipal lakes are hidden gems for great Largemouth Bass fishing. He outlined Commission fisheries management activities such as conducting fish surveys and installing fish habitat, including artificial structures and native aquatic vegetation. He also highlighted the ease of access and amenities that contribute to a great fishing experience for any angler. Christian Waters presented on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) proclamation to close the Spotted Seatrout season in coastal and joint fishing waters until June 15,

2025, due to recent cold stun natural mortality events. After discussing potential options for Commission action, the committee voted unanimously for staff to prepare a temporary rule to close the harvest season for Spotted Seatrout in inland fishing waters and joint fishing waters (when taken by hook and line) until June 15. Christian Waters also discussed how NCDMF is reviewing Striped Bass data through 2024 for the Neuse and Tar River basins to determine if the populations are self-sustaining and what effect the gill net closure above the ferry line has had. Staff will provide future updates to the committee. *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Assistant Chief*, discussed restoration efforts following Hurricane Helene at both Armstrong and Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatcheries. Due to fish loss at Armstrong, 2025 trout stockings will need to be reduced by 20%. Corey also mentioned that the *Better Fishing with 2 Bald Biologists* podcast will now include video content placed on the agency's YouTube channel and used for other marketing and communication efforts. With no additional topics, the meeting was adjourned.

Big Game Committee Report – February 5, 2025 – *David Hoyle, Chair*, reported that the Big Game Committee had met on February 5, 2025. *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*, shared the Wildlife Management Division's Big Game Rule Proposals for the upcoming rule cycle. Most proposals were aimed at transitioning into a CWD management phase in the agency's CWD areas for the 2026 deer season. Establishing these rules is expected to help address CWD on the landscape while maintaining hunter support in these areas. In more positive news regarding deer, staff recommended moving to a full-season either-sex harvest in six western deer season counties and the final three counties of the northwestern deer season. These changes highlight the continued improvement in deer numbers on private lands in the west. Next, *Miranda Turner, Wildlife Health Biologist*, provided an update on the status of CWD in the state. Eight new positive deer were detected this year, but all were within the current positive counties, so there were no surprises. Finally, *Colleen Olfenbuttel, Game Mammal and Surveys Unit Supervisor*, shared preliminary harvest numbers for the past deer and bear seasons. It was a strong year for both species, with the second-highest deer harvest on record and another record harvest for bears. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee Report – February 5, 2025 – *Landon Zimmer, Chair* reported the Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee met on February 5, 2025. *Elizabeth Davis, Internal Audit Director*, presented a thorough overview of the Internal Audit Strategic Plan, detailing its development process as well as current goals. The committee was updated on the status of all current engagements and their anticipated completion timeline, noting that the addition of a new internal audit position is currently underway. Lastly, an action plan update was provided to the committee, outlining the timeline for implementing corrective actions for items identified during previous internal audit reviews. *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, presented the committee with a comparison of current and prior-year expenditure and revenue figures in both the general and capital improvement funds, highlighting any variances in excess of one million dollars. An update was provided on the current balance of the agency's endowment fund and its asset allocation. The committee will continue to monitor the fund's performance closely and determine if any adjustments need to be made to the current allocation. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee of The Whole Report – February 5, 2025 – *Monty Crump, Chair* reported the Committee of the Whole met on February 5, 2025. *Brad Howard* presented rule proposals for changes to the spring gray squirrel season and for establishing biologically sensitive time periods for the 2026-2027 annual rule cycle. Next, *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*, reviewed the proposed rule and public comments received regarding changes to the water safety rules for White Lake in Bladen County. Following that, *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator*, reviewed the proposed rule and public comments received for a temporary rule for vessel liveries on Lake Norman in Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties. There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – The History and Status of Canada Geese in North Carolina – *Doug Howell, Migratory Game Bird Coordinator*, presented a 125-year history of two North Carolina Goose Populations. Atlantic Population Canada geese, who breed in arctic Canada, underwent significant declines beginning in 1960 through 1992, when the season was closed in the Atlantic Flyway for 15 years. This decline spurred a goose stocking program from 1983-1988 to augment declining goose hunting opportunities. Several thousand problem geese from as far north as Ontario, CA were transported to NC where they were released in the Coastal Plain and Piedmont. This formed the foundation of today's Resident Goose Population. Resident goose numbers grew significantly over the next several decades and are currently slightly above WRC's management goal, but stable, as monitored by goose banding.

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – On a motion by Tom Berry and second by Kelly Davis, the Commission approved to proceed with the acquisitions of the following properties presented in **(EXHIBITS C-1, C-2)** by *Ben Solomon, Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Ransom Road Tracts – Haywood County **(C-1)**
- Bell Tract – Pender County **(C-2)**

EXHIBITS C-1, C-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Other Property Matters – On a motion by Mike Alford and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved the request for ingress, egress and utilities easement on Sandhills Game Land presented in **(EXHIBIT D-1)** by *Ben Solomon*

- Sandhills Game Land – Request for ingress, egress and utilities easement on Sandhills Game Land **(D-1)**

With Commissioner Landon Zimmer recused, and on a motion by Tom Berry and second by Steve Windham, the Commission approved the NC DOT request for permanent right of way easement, and a temporary construction easement along Highway 561 at Shocco Creek Game Land presented in **(EXHIBIT D-2)** by *Ben Solomon*

- Shocco Creek Game Land – NC DOT requests a permanent right of way easement, and a temporary construction easement along Highway 561 at Shocco Creek Game Land **(D-2)**

EXHIBITS D-1, D-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0304 Bladen County – On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by Joe Budd, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT E-1)** and adopted proposed changes within the Restricted Area at White Lake in Bladen County presented in **(EXHIBIT E-2)** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*

EXHIBITS E-1, E-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Temporary Rulemaking – 15A NCAC 10F .0307 – Lake Norman Vessel Liveries – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by John Alexander, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **(EXHIBIT F-1)** and adopted proposed vessel livery requirements on Lake Norman presented in **(EXHIBIT F-2)** by *Carrie Ruhlman, Rulemaking Coordinator*

EXHIBITS F-1, F-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout – On a motion by John Stone and second by Steve Windham, the Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for a temporary closure of the sea trout harvest season in inland waters and for hook-and-line in joint fishing waters **(EXHIBIT G)** by *Christian Waters, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

EXHIBIT G is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Crump opened his comments by recognizing the agency's staff for their outstanding work in managing natural resources based on science and biology. He emphasized their decades-long commitment, which has led to significant conservation successes, sometimes even presenting new challenges in recovery efforts. Additionally, he highlighted the swift efforts of staff in Western North Carolina to restore the hatchery-supported trout program, acknowledging its vital economic impact on the region. The Chairman also welcomed the Executive Director to his first meeting in the role, noting that he has already been deeply engaged in legislative matters and key initiatives. He commended the Executive Director's institutional knowledge, experience, and dedication, which have enabled him to make a strong start. In closing, Chairman Crump provided an update on the agency's transition into the new Samarcand Wildlife Law Enforcement building, which should be fully operational by the end of the week. He mentioned plans to coordinate a ribbon-cutting event for the Commissioners, including a tour and luncheon, to showcase the completed facility.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Executive Director Briggs began by expressing gratitude to the Commissioners for their confidence in him and for appointing him to the position. He noted that January had passed quickly and appreciated the calls and advice he had received. He also extended his thanks to agency staff, particularly Deputy Directors Hocutt and McRae, for their support in helping him transition into the role. He took the opportunity to announce that Christian Waters would be joining the executive team as Chief Deputy Director, beginning Monday. He expressed enthusiasm for the experience and contributions Christian would bring to the agency as they continue advancing conservation efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC webinar meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Monty Crump, Chairman

Date

Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
CAFR 52G - STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES and CHANGES in FUND BALANCES

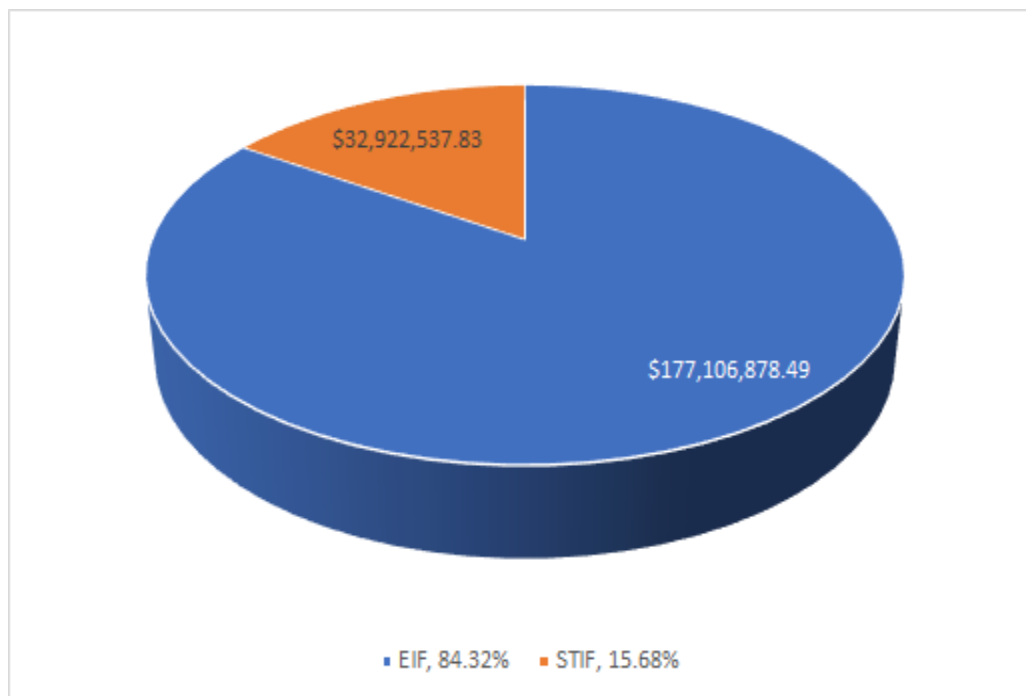
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
AS OF FEB 28, 2025

	FY 2025 General Fund	FY 2025 Capital Improvement Fund
REVENUES		
Federal funds	\$ 21,740,814.15	\$ 909,828.32
Local funds	\$ 1,377.78	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 474,471.22	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 7,316,105.49	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 65,463.90	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 23,329,711.26	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 1,217,918.48	\$ 300,491.00
Miscellaneous	\$ (19,864.40)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 163,957.84	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 46,728,621.15	\$ 5,103,154.62
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 12,553,893.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 113,572,469.87	\$ 6,313,473.94
EXPENDITURES		
Personal services	\$ 29,299,347.04	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 14,061,050.04	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 8,031,699.64	\$ 165,541.10
Supplies and materials	\$ 5,874,031.32	\$ 430.35
Purchases for Resale	\$ 58,646.15	\$ -
Travel	\$ 496,338.14	\$ 319.26
Communication	\$ 631,964.88	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 448,609.76	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 272,976.00	\$ -
Other services	\$ 2,916,009.77	\$ -
Principal Retirement	\$ 8,557.00	\$ -
Interest and Fees	\$ 243.00	\$ -
Claims and benefits	\$ 1,052,962.18	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 165,527.20	\$ 100.00
Capital outlay	\$ 6,764,438.43	\$ 5,859,609.87
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 1,717,665.41	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 163,584.93	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 2,557,413.91	\$ 17,087.63
Reimbursements	\$ (398,385.23)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 40,874,959.39	\$ 380.51
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 114,998,138.96	\$ 6,043,468.72
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ (1,425,669.09)	\$ 270,005.22
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2024	\$ 28,742,870.36	\$ 4,689,552.52
FUND BALANCE - FEB 28, 2025	\$ 27,317,201.27	\$ 4,959,557.74

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

Fund Balance*: Feb 2025 \$210,029,416.32

ASSET ALLOCATION



2025 February						
			ANI	ANI		
Status:		Principal	Nonexpendable	Expendable	Total	
	Adult	\$ 91,530,068.70		\$ 71,937,577.77	\$ 163,467,646.47	
	Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 1,044,403.32	\$ 2,617,880.82	
	Contributions	\$ 908,471.38		\$ 3,259,916.50	\$ 4,168,387.88	
	Diversity	\$ 349,263.52		\$ 77,159.26	\$ 426,422.78	
	Infant	\$ 22,598,189.00	\$ 12,412,377.03		\$ 35,010,566.03	
	Youth	\$ 3,219,361.00	\$ 1,142,922.99		\$ 4,362,283.99	
					\$ 210,053,187.97	
	Total	\$ 120,178,831.10	\$ 13,555,300.02	\$ 76,319,056.85	\$ 210,053,187.97	
					\$ -	
			Total from detail area >>		\$ 210,053,187.97	
					\$ -	

Of the amount noted above as expendable income, the figures below represent WRC's known obligations for Endowment income over the next three years:

Setzer Hatchery Renovation	\$19,700,000.00
Other Capital Projects	\$ 3,679,202.00
Other Agency Priorities	\$ 4,644,341.00
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$ 4,916,226.00</u>

Remaining Available Expendable Income	\$43,379,287.85
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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

M. Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Expendable Income Earned in Calendar Year 2024

	Amount of Expendable Income Earned
Adult Lifetime Licenses	\$ 19,749,573.01
Magazine Subs Lifetime	\$ 377,304.08
Contributions - General	\$ 196,676.36
Contributions - Diversity	\$ 320,018.35
Total	<u>\$ 20,643,571.80</u>

The formula for determining the amount of income available to support *Wildlife in North Carolina* magazine was passed in a motion by the Commission on May 18, 2007. The motion allocated 100 percent of the income earned from magazine lifetime subscriptions to the magazine budget.

EXHIBIT D-1

April 17, 2025



Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 2025–26 Hunting Seasons on Certain Migratory Game Birds

Special September Teal Season

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and September 30, an open season on all species of teal may be selected by the following States in areas delineated by State regulations:

Atlantic Flyway: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 9 consecutive hunting days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. The daily bag limit is 6 teal.

Waterfowl

Atlantic Flyway

Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots

Outside Dates: Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Duck Limits: 60 days. The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, including no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which can be female), 2 black ducks, 3 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider). The season for scaup may be split into 2 segments, with one segment consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-scaup daily bag limit, and the second segment consisting of 20 consecutive days with a 2-scaup daily bag limit.

Closures: The season on harlequin ducks is closed.

Merganser Limits: The daily bag limit of mergansers is 5. In States that include mergansers in the duck bag limit, the daily limit is the same as the duck bag limit.

Coot Limits: The daily bag limit is 15 coots.

Zoning and Split Seasons: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and West Virginia may split their seasons into 3 segments. Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Vermont may select seasons in each of 3 zones; Pennsylvania may select seasons in each of 4 zones; and New York may select seasons in each of 5 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 2 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia may select seasons in each of 2 zones; and all these States may split their season in each zone into 3 segments. Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia must conduct an evaluation of the impacts of zones and splits on hunter dynamics (e.g., hunter numbers, satisfaction) and harvest during the 2021–25 seasons.

Scoters, Eiders, and Long-tailed Ducks

A craft under power may be used to shoot and retrieve dead or crippled sea ducks in the Sea Duck Area in the Atlantic Flyway. The Sea Duck Area includes all coastal waters and all waters of rivers and streams seaward from the first upstream bridge in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York; in New Jersey, all coastal waters seaward from the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) Demarcation Lines shown on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Nautical Charts and further described in 33 CFR 80.165, 80.501, 80.502, and 80.503; in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 1 mile of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in South Carolina and Georgia; and in any waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in any tidal waters of any bay that are separated by at least 800 yards of open water from any shore, island, and emergent vegetation in Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia; and provided that any such areas have been described, delineated, and designated as special sea duck hunting areas under the hunting regulations adopted by the respective States. Sea ducks may be taken only during the regular open season for ducks and are part of the regular duck season daily bag (not to exceed 4 total sea

ducks and no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders [one hen eider], and 3 long-tailed ducks) and possession limits.

Canada Geese

Special Early Canada Goose Seasons:

A Canada goose season of up to 15 days during September 1–15 may be selected for the Eastern Unit of Maryland. Seasons not to exceed 30 days during September 1–30 may be selected for Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York (Long Island Zone only), North Carolina, Rhode Island, and South Carolina. Seasons may not exceed 25 days during September 1–25 in the remainder of the Flyway. Areas open to the hunting of Canada geese must be described, delineated, and designated as such in each State's hunting regulations.

Daily Bag Limits: Not to exceed 15 Canada geese.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except that during any special early Canada goose season, shooting hours may extend to one-half hour after sunset if all other waterfowl seasons are closed in the specific applicable area.

Regular Canada Goose Seasons

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: Specific regulations for Canada geese are shown below by State. These seasons may also include white-fronted geese in an aggregate daily bag limit. Unless specified otherwise, seasons may be split into two segments.

North Carolina

RP Zone: An 80-day season may be held between October 1 and March 10, with a 5-bird daily bag limit. The season may be split into 3 segments.

Northeast Hunt Unit: A 30-day season may be held between the Saturday prior to December 25 (December 20) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit.

Light Geese

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 107-day season between October 1 and March 10, with a 25-bird daily bag limit and no possession limit. States may split their seasons into three segments.

Brant

Season Lengths, Outside Dates, and Limits: States may select a 30-day season between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) and January 31, with a 1-bird daily bag limit. States may split their seasons into two segments.

Swans

General Swan Season: In portions of the Atlantic Flyway (Delaware, North Carolina, and Virginia) and the Central Flyway (North Dakota, South Dakota [east of the Missouri River], and that portion of Montana in the Central Flyway), an open season for taking a limited number of swans may be selected. Permits will be issued by the States that authorize the take of no more than 1 swan per permit. A second permit may be issued to hunters from unused permits remaining after the first drawing.

Each State choosing a general swan season must evaluate hunter participation, species-specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in providing measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State should use appropriate measures to maximize hunter compliance with the State's program for swan harvest reporting. Each State must achieve a hunter compliance of at least 80 percent in providing species-determinant measurements of harvested swans for species identification. Each State must provide to the Service by June 30 following the swan season, a report detailing hunter participation, species specific swan harvest, and hunter compliance in reporting harvest.

Tundra Swan Season: In lieu of a general swan hunting season, states may select a season only for tundra swans. States selecting a season only for tundra swans must obtain harvest and hunter participation data.

These general swan seasons and tundra swan seasons are also subject to the following conditions:

In the Atlantic Flyway

- The season may be 90 days, between October 1 and January 31.
- In Delaware, no more than 272 permits may be issued.

- In North Carolina, no more than 4,853 permits may be issued.
- In Virginia, no more than 475 permits may be issued.

Common Moorhens and Purple Gallinules

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31 in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 70 days in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways. Seasons may be split into 2 segments. The daily bag limit is 15 common moorhens and purple gallinules, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

Rails

Outside Dates: States included herein may select seasons between September 1 and January 31 on clapper, king, sora, and Virginia rails.

Hunting Seasons: Seasons may not exceed 70 days and may be split into 2 segments.
Daily Bag Limits

Clapper and King Rails: In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Rhode Island, 10, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. In Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, 15, singly or in the aggregate of the two species.

Sora and Virginia Rails: In the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways and the Pacific Flyway portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming, 25 rails, singly or in the aggregate of the two species. The season is closed in the remainder of the Pacific Flyway.

Snipe

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and February 28, except in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia, where the season must end no later than January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 107 days and may be split into two segments. The daily bag limit is 8 snipe.

Zoning: Seasons may be selected by zones established for duck hunting.

American Woodcock

Outside Dates: States in the Eastern and Central Management Regions may select hunting seasons between September 13 and January 31.

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Seasons may not exceed 45 days in the Eastern and Central Regions. The daily bag limit is 3. Seasons may be split into two segments.

Zoning: New Jersey may select seasons in each of two zones. The season in each zone may not exceed 36 days.

Doves

Outside Dates: Between September 1 and January 31 in the Eastern Management Unit, and between September 1 and January 15 in the Central and Western Management Units, except as otherwise provided, States may select hunting seasons and daily bag limits as follows:

Eastern Management Unit

Hunting Seasons and Daily Bag Limits: Not more than 90 days, with a daily bag limit of 15 mourning and white-winged doves in the aggregate.

Zoning and Split Seasons: States may select hunting seasons in each of two zones. The season within each zone may be split into not more than three periods. Regulations for bag and possession limits, season length, and shooting hours must be uniform within specific hunting zones.

Special Falconry Regulations

In accordance with 50 CFR 21.29, falconry is a permitted means of taking migratory game birds in any State except for Hawaii. States may select an extended season for taking migratory game birds in accordance with the following:

Extended Seasons: For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be

divided into a maximum of 3 segments.

Framework Dates: Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10.

Daily Bag Limits: Falconry daily bag limits for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 birds, singly or in the aggregate, during extended falconry seasons, any special or experimental seasons, and regular hunting seasons in all States, including those that do not select an extended falconry season.

Regular Seasons: General hunting regulations, including seasons and hunting hours, apply to falconry. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry. The falconry bag limit is not in addition to gun limits.

EXHIBIT D-2



April 17, 2025

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons Public Comments

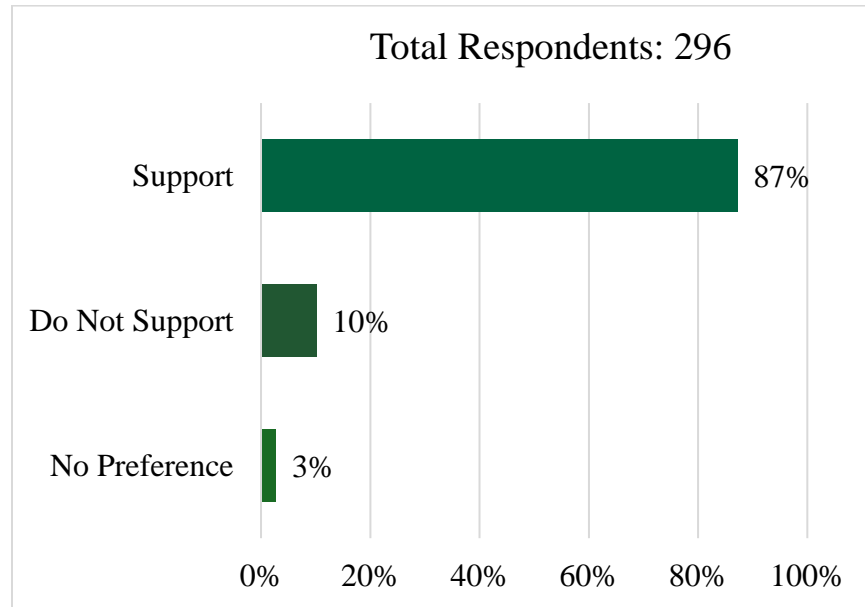
It is important that you first select each of the proposed hunting season(s) for which you would like to provide comment from this page. Once you have made your selections for the various seasons you would like to comment on, you can't return to the original list.

- ☐ Dove Gun Season (Includes Mourning Dove and White-winged Dove)
- ☐ Woodcock Gun Season
- ☐ Snipe Season
- ☐ Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season
- ☐ September Teal Season
- ☐ General Duck Season - Coastal Zone
- ☐ General Duck Season - Inland Zone
- ☐ Canada Goose Season - Resident Population Zone (Also includes White-fronted Geese)
- ☐ Canada Goose Season - Northeast Hunt Zone (Also includes White-fronted Geese)
- ☐ Light Goose Regular Season (Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)
- ☐ Light Goose Conservation Order Season (Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)
- ☐ Brant Season
- ☐ Tundra Swan Season
- ☐ Youth Waterfowl Day(s) - Inland & Coastal Zones
- ☐ Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s) - Inland & Coastal Zones
- ☐ Extended Falconry Season for Doves
- ☐ Extended Falconry Season for Woodcock
- ☐ Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens
- ☐ Extended Falconry Season for Ducks - Inland & Coastal Zones

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Dove Gun Season

(Includes Mourning Dove and White-Winged Dove)



Choices	Responses	
Support	87%	258
Do Not Support	10%	30
No Preference	3%	8
Total		296

Frameworks:

90 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

September 1st – October 4th

November 8th – November 29th

December 16th – January 31st

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	24	62	20	13	48	36	11	19	10	15	258
Do Not Support	3	3	3	1	9	11	0	0	0	0	30
No Preference	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	8
Total	29	66	23	14	59	47	13	19	10	16	296

Dove Gun Season Comments

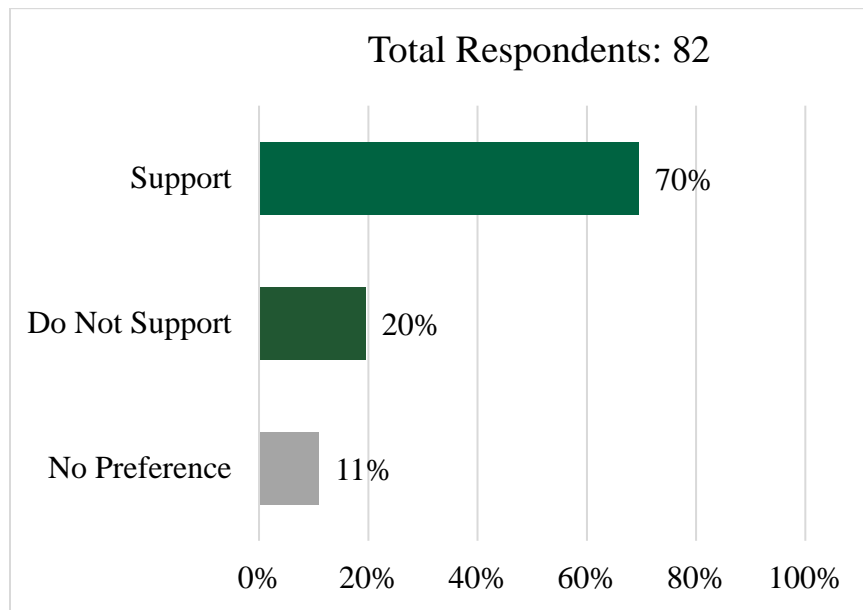
1	A lot of dove were present at the beginning of the year
2	Allow hunting on Sundays
3	Allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays. It is time to move on from the archaic bible thumping ideology trying to force people into churches instead of the woods
4	Allow Sunday hunting
5	Allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds in NC
6	ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING!
7	Can you look in on Conan preserve in Williamston and clean up the pathways please
8	Do not support because Sunday hunting is not allowed. All other game species can be hunted on Sunday. Please allow Sunday hunting
9	Dove season days need to be augmented to around 120 days. Those of us who work full time and can only hunt on Saturdays need more days to justify the purchase of an annual hunting license
10	Dove season needs to always fall on the Saturday before Labor day even if that Saturday is in August. The reason being so people can get to hunt two days instead of one. We all have to go to work on the 2nd!
11	Dove season should move further into February
12	Eliminate the 2nd season; allow hunting from Sept. 1st through Nov. 29th. Ask yourselves, how many hunt dove after opening weekend
13	Having Dove season opener on the Saturday would make it easier for many people who are working to hunt the opener being a place where many people make memories of hunting
14	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays
15	I also believe that it should go from October 1 through February 14th
16	I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday.
17	I propose that dove season wording be changed to the Saturday before Labor Day to accommodate those who do not have Labor Day off from work. Furthermore, to accommodate those who plan the weekend for family camping/get-together/hunting events.
18	I support the season dates but please get rid of the compensatory days and allow for Sunday hunting. Our neighboring states in SC VA and TN all allow it to some degree.
19	I support the September 1st opening as the Labor Day dove shoot is a big tradition
20	I support these date ranges, but I would like to see dove hunting allowed on Sundays with the understanding that the segment lengths would need to be shortened to accommodate the 90-day limit.
21	I think maybe go back to starting dove season at noon rather than first light then it gives the birds the morning to eat and then the evenings to get shot at along with a break on Sunday. I've been hunting south mtn game lands opening day and there has been a big decline in the amount of birds you even see much less get a chance to shoot at and after the first hour of light most the birds are shot or done flying. I don't know what the solution is but maybe starting at noon would give them a break or at least make it to where there not all wiped out by Monday
22	I would also suggest that for the 32 public game lands that you can hunt waterfowl that you do 50% of games lands to require permits and the other 50% where you don't need them, also I think it would be beneficial to not have it where it is set for three days out of the week and certain holidays before the game lands when it comes to waterfowl, due to a good portion of North Carolina having a very dense military population. Some of us only get Saturdays too hot so I think it would be more beneficial to allow on all public game lands Monday through Saturday for waterfowl for that also thank you should be allowed more than pretty much 3 three days out of the week for the season during the splits
23	I would like it to start at 12 noon on opening day. That would get to the fields and had time for a meal
24	I would like to see changes made, to allow Sunday dove hunting

25	I would like to see the commission improve land for dove opportunities in and around Macon and Jackson counties. We have the queens branch dove field but it's never planted satisfactory for doves.
26	I would like to see the season extended past January 31
27	I would like to see the September 1 - October 18 or 25; make gap from nov 29 longer. The early season is when I do the most dove hunting. And let us hunt on Sunday
28	I would propose cutting the October season and tacking it on to the front end of December. I would also propose hunting on Sunday be legal, it seems rather illogical that you can hunt for deer but not duck on Sundays. Especially when other surrounding Bible belt states such can.
29	If I only have 1 thing and it's for my personal favor is 1st season extend 1 week longer and open 2nd season 1 week later. Thanks
30	It is time for North Carolina to drop the Sunday exclusion and allow NC hunters the same opportunities that hunters in other states are afforded. The inability to hunt on Sundays is a slap in the face to all sportsmen in NC.
31	It would be nice for it to be longer, but I don't hunt doves specifically, except maybe on opening day. They are usually a target of opportunity.
32	Looks great! Keep on keeping in!
33	
34	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
35	no hunting Sunday
36	Oct. 1-4 is good; Oct. 9-11 would be better
37	Opening day for dove should fall on a Saturday NOT a Monday.
38	The opening day of Dove season should begin on the Saturday before Labor day. It should not depend on the calendar day if Labor day falls on the 1st. My opinion is to have Dove open on August 30th
39	Opening day should always be the Saturday before Labor Day. Regardless of the month.
40	Opening on a Monday makes life difficult for countless hunters with other responsibilities.
41	Please always make the Opening Day of Dove Season, just the Sat. before Labor Day unless it opens 2 weeks later on a Sat. Many people travel for several hours just to get to a good hunting spot. Having Opening happen on a Monday prevents many from even hunting that day because they have to get up early the next day to go to work or even later on Monday night. Please have the opening day for doves to start on a Sat. Either make it where it's ok to hunt doves in Aug. or even 2 weeks later in Sept. Thank you for your consideration in this!
42	Please consider allowing Sunday hunting
43	Please consider Sept 6th -> October 11
44	Please stop the senseless and cruel hunting of these beautiful creatures. Killing these beautiful birds should not be a sport and I, among many, loathe it and the ones holding the guns.
45	Sept. 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays
46	The September season shouldn't start until 9/15
47	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
48	The first season should last longer. That is when most dove hunting takes place. Please add to first season and take away from last season. Please allow hunting on Sundays.
49	The season should not come in on a Monday, it should open on the Saturday before Labor Day regardless of whether or not that day is in September.
50	The third segment should be extended to the last federally legal day or February 28th, whichever is later.
51	Try to have dove hunting on Sunday, most popular game in the state, out of state hunter and people who can only hunt on weekends are limited to this game
52	U need to put the season back one month
53	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays as many of us who work only have 1 day a week that we can hunt migratory game birds.

54	We should be able to hunt Doves & Ducks on Sunday like most states. Know the Federal Government gives us a total of 60 days. Let us hunt.
55	We should extend the Dove season to one week beyond January 31st for youth and adults. They probably will not be a whole lot of hunting doves at that time of year, but gives an option for the adults to hunt a little deeper in the season, and particularly the kids to have an option if the weather has not brought the waterfowl in
56	When September starts on a Monday, I would like to see it come in on the Saturday prior.
57	Why can't Dove season start earlier than Sept 1? This year there is no Labor Day weekend Saturday to hunt.
58	I wish the opening day could go back to a noon 12 pm start time.
59	I would really like to see the dove season start a little later for the first split and extend further in October. It has been my experience for most years that migration has been happening later
60	Would recommend allowance of Sunday hunting with an exchange of one weekday if needed to manage the total days. i.e. give up Tuesday - or just shorten the season.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Woodcock Gun Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	70%	57
Do Not Support	20%	16
No Preference	11%	9
Total		82

Frameworks:

45 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 13th

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

December 11th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	6	11	4	3	12	5	3	5	1	7	57
Do Not Support	0	2	1	0	2	3	2	1	4	0	15
No Preference	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	1	10
Total	8	14	5	3	16	8	7	8	5	8	82

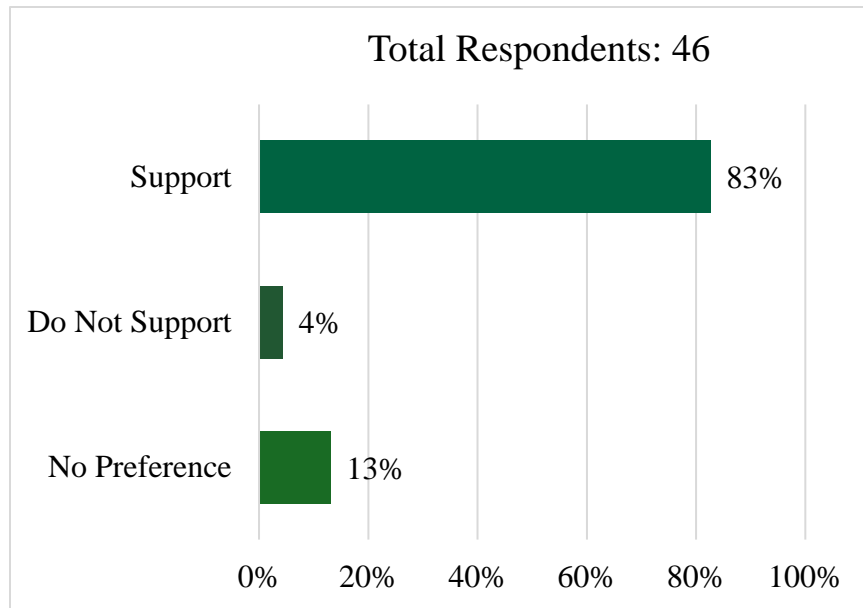
Woodcock Gun Season Comments

1	Allow hunting migratory species on Sunday.
2	As primarily an upland hunter, it sure would be nice to be able to hunt woodcock for more than a month. Due to the deer season I, and at least some other hunters, don't take our dogs onto public land during deer season. That really only leaves the month of January to hunt woodcock, and without very many wild quail that makes for an awfully short season. I would prefer it to start on January 1 and go through mid-February.
3	Can we extend the season earlier in Dec to equal 45 days? If so we should.
4	Change woodcock season back to what it was beginning Dec. 1. Hard winters like this year's move the birds out of state. Another reason is that it used to give woodcock hunters who hunt in NC and SC an additional two weeks of hunting season. Now NC and SC seasons are the same.
5	Do not start before November
6	Great job guys
7	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays
8	I LIVE AND HUNT IN THE MOUNTAINS. OUR PUSH OF WOODCOCK SEEM TO BE MORE IN NOVEMBER. WHEN SEASON COMES IN THE CHANCES ARE EXTREMELY FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. I PROPOSE WE GO TO A SEASON SPLIT SIMILART TO HOW VIRGINIA DOES THERS.
9	I live in western North Carolina, due to the extended rifle season in deer season, I cannot hunt game land due to so many deer hunters, and risk of my dogs being mistaken or shot for a deer, by January 1 end of deer season most of the woodcock have migrated south due to cold weather, the woodcocks usually show back up in February and season is closed last of January. I hunt mostly in western North Carolina on game lands(Sandy Mush), where you can only hunt Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. I purpose there should be days like Tuesday and Thursday be open for small game hunting thus allowing myself as a bird hunter a chance to hunt with no threat of my dogs being shot accidentally by deer hunters. I also was raised with great respect for the other hunters and don't want to interrupt anyone else's hunt. I grew up with my dad following bird dogs thru the woods, please do something to help us small game hunters carry this on to the next generation. Thanks Luther Myron Coates
10	I see the most woodcock on my property in November. By the time the season comes in, the woodcock have flown south. I would like to see a split season on woodcock. Thanks.
11	I support these date ranges, but I would like to see woodcock hunting allowed on Sundays, with the understanding that the segment lengths would need to be shortened to accommodate the 45 day total.
12	I think a 45-day season would be helpful.
13	I think the season should be December 1- February 12th
14	
15	It needs to be later. See them at end of season and in feb regularly
16	no hunting on Sunday
17	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
18	Please consider my comment for opening up Sunday hunting on migratory birds, in particular woodcock.
19	Please open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
20	prefer to see a split season, for western NC and eastern NC
21	Season needs to be earlier beginning like November 1st - January 1st. Woodcock arrive in WNC in mid-October and are usually gone by mid-December.
22	Season needs to extend into February, migrating birds often do not arrive here until last days of January into February

23	Season should be extended through end of February like quail. Migration seems to be a tad bit later in season. Lots of woodcock holding place in late season. There does not seem to be many woodcock hunters. I don't think the population would be hurt at all.
24	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays
25	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
26	The Woodcock season runs too late in the year. It's not a matter of when the peak of the migration is present, it's about protecting the females (which lay the eggs, I doubt Douglas Howell knows this). Start the season and end the season a month earlier so we harvest more males, both juvenile and adult, and protect the females, which migrate later. I know you don't care at all about the American Woodcock, and heaven forbid you disturb your precious deer hunters, but changing the date would provide for a better female carry over. And since they're polygamous, that would help the population. The grouse and quail are all but gone, but you government employees keep getting your service awards.
27	Wish it could stay in all of feb or at least mid-way thru feb
28	Wishing for a longer season!
29	I would like to see a later date start in December of when woodcock comes in and push season later into February. While conceptual only, I have spent years hunting woodcock in the foothills and mountains. The migration always seems to start later in December and then start their migration back in February. I flush many in early February grouse hunting. It is my understand that February is the beginning of their breeding season. Potentially let it end with the late season goose.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Snipe Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	83%	38
Do Not Support	4%	2
No Preference	13%	6
Total		46

Frameworks:

107 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: February 28th

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

October 28th – February 28th.

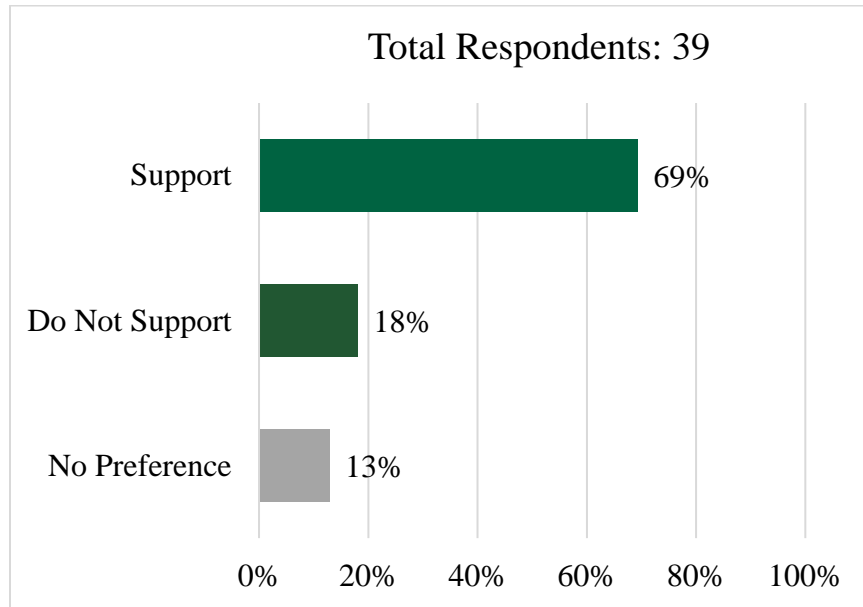
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	5	9	2	2	7	4	1	1	2	5	38
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
No Preference	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	6
Total	6	10	3	2	9	4	3	2	2	5	46

Snipe Season Comments

No Comments

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	69%	27
Do Not Support	18%	7
No Preference	13%	5
Total		39

Frameworks:

70 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

September 1st – November 20th.

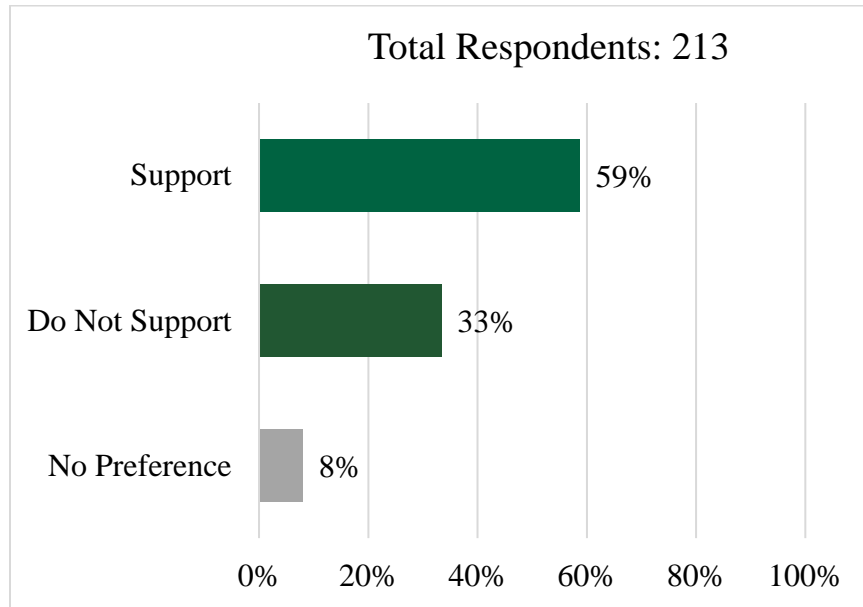
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	6	2	3	4	2	1	1	1	4	27
Do Not Support	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	7
No Preference	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	5
Total	4	9	3	3	7	3	3	2	1	4	

Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Gun Season Comments

No Comments

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

September Teal Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	59%	125
Do Not Support	33%	71
No Preference	8%	17
Total		213

Frameworks:

16 consecutive hunting days (East of US Hwy 17 only)

Earliest opening date: September 1st

Latest closing date: September 30th

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

September 20th – September 30th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	16	39	13	7	14	15	2	7	2	10	125
Do Not Support	8	9	6	3	18	7	3	7	3	7	71
No Preference	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	17
Total	27	50	21	11	34	24	7	16	5	18	213

September Teal Season Comments

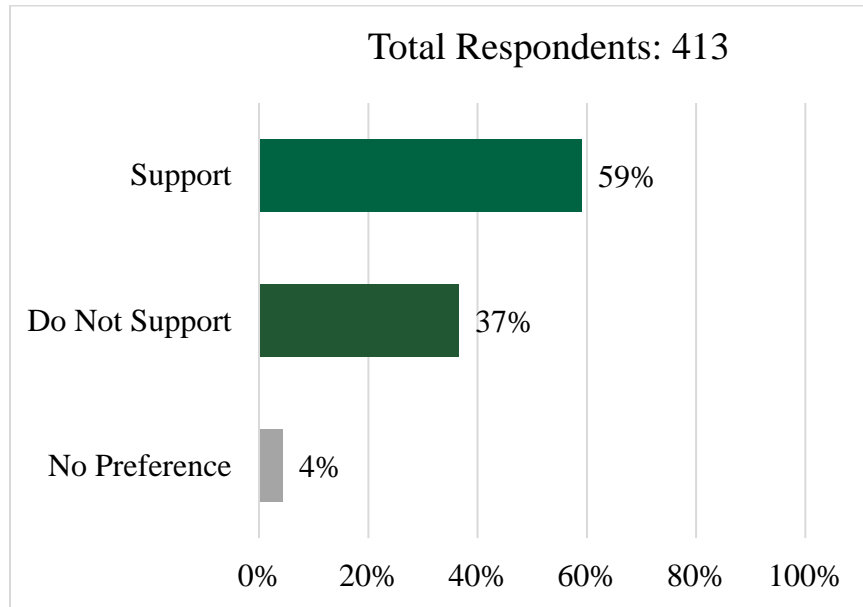
1	A total waste of time
2	Add these 9 days to the regular duck season
3	Add these days to the regular seasons
4	Allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays, it's time to move on from the archaic bible thumping theology of forcing people into church instead of the woods
5	Allow Sunday hunting
6	Allow Sunday hunting
7	Blue wings will have migrated, needs to open Sept 1
8	cut out september teal
9	Do away with early Teal season. No migratory bird hunting in September. Lengthen birds.
10	Earlier in September
11	First week of september to end of September would be more effective.
12	For only 9 days, the entire state needs to be opened up to hunted.
13	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays
14	I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday.
15	I like opening day during the week
16	I support the date range, as my anecdotal experiences tell me when the teal will be in North Carolina. I would like to see Sunday hunting as a part of early teal season. We are far behind the VAST majority of states that allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds. These blue laws are a direct violation of the separation between Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is). Adding Sunday hunting for migratory birds would effectively double the hunting opportunities for people that work a "regular" job Monday-Friday.
17	I would be curious as to why dropping it down to only 9 days so that I could make an education opinion.
18	I would like to see "East of U.S. Hwy. 17 Only" extended further inland
19	In eastern North Carolina, temperatures do not typically drop until after September. The "early season" that is typically one weekend in October should be replaced by an October Teal Season.
20	Keep it the original length i.e. 16 days but move it to Oct 1-16 for example. The birds do not show up in SE NC until Oct at the absolute earliest
21	Keep it to 16 days like 24/25
22	
23	Most of our blue wing teal seem to be gone by the end of the month. 9 days in the middle of the month would be preferred.
24	It must be 9 consecutive days. With allowing hunting on the Sunday. During those 9 days.
25	Needs to be 1 week longer
26	Needs to be earlier
27	Needs to be earlier in September
28	Needs to open up before the 20th, ten days to hunt teal is not enough.
29	no hunting on Sunday
30	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
31	No Sunday Hunting
32	open from sept 1st through sept 30th
33	OPEN SUNDAY HUNTING!!
34	Open up the early teal season statewide. If they can differentiate between teal and wood ducks east of Hwy 17 we can do it west of Hwy 17 as well. We see loads of teal around here in September during the early goose season. No reason we can't have a season here

35	Please move the season up in September. Blue wings show up much earlier!
36	Reduce the number of days in the September season and add them to the regular duck season. It's always too warm and it seems like there are not many birds here during that time.
37	Remove the early teal season and add those days as Sundays during the regular season.
38	Removing Teal season and extending 2nd split. I think the option if given to the community would receive great feedback.
39	Saturday to Saturday, split the season
40	Season needs to open around Sept. 12th
41	Season should open sooner
42	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
43	September 12th start date, blue wings are moved way down by the 20th
44	September 13th -September 27th
45	September 15-25th
46	September 18th, Thursday should be start date
47	September 1st - 10th
48	Should be for the whole state
49	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
50	Teal have moved on by the 20th, I would prefer an earlier season, sept 1st through sept 20th
51	Teal needs to be open beginning of september. Sept 1st thru 10th or middle at latest.
52	Teal season is about the only time hunters have access to many of the NCWRC waterfowl impoundments. It is unfortunate to reduce the number of days from prior years. Many waterfowl impoundments are managed under the lottery permit system, and as a result are effectively closed to public land hunters. Public land hunters need MORE access to the waterfowl impoundments, not continued reduced access.
53	Teal Season should be spread statewide
54	Teal Season should be statewide like in Virginia.
55	The dates need be the beginning of September the blue wings will have pushed through already
56	The majority of the early Teal have already moved on by late September, I would rather the season start in the middle of the month to give hunters a better opportunity at success..
57	The teal migration has typically already came through at this time.
58	There is no reason we should only have 10 days of teal season. The birds are plentiful and highly migratory meaning they aren't present in most locations long. A short season equals substantially less opportunities for hunters as a result
59	There literally are NO DUCKS HERE in September and we spend more time swatting mosquitos
60	There should be at least 14+ days of early teal season due to migration patterns in the coastal zone.
61	These dates are too late considering the amount of teal available earlier in the month. A better date range would be September 10-20.
62	This should be pushed until the first 10 days in October
63	To late
64	Too late, teal have already passed through
65	We don't need a teal season, this is hurting duck hunting and the duck population in North Carolina
66	We need early teal in wnc never have an opportunity to harvest bluewings in the western part of the state bluewings are already gone by early duck in oct. Resident goose really only benefits the private land hunter not much benefit on what little public opportunity we have here in the mountain region.
67	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays as many of us who work only ha

68	We start to get our Blue wings August 15! That proposed dates most if not all blues will be passed through by then in Currituck. Last year it came in on the 12th of September. That is a good time for both Green and Blues.
69	Western NC could have a real season because we are missing out on hunting opportunities.
70	Why can't we have an early teal season west of 17?
71	Why is the rest of the state not allowed to have an early teal season? Everyone should have the opportunity to hunt teal during the September season.
72	why shorten the season? Teal season has actually gotten better the past couple years. Give people more of a chance to hunt them.
73	I would like to see statewide teal season. Hunters are already having to identify ducks before shooting and the killing of wood ducks would be minimal. Having this small zone deprives the rest of the state from hunting opportunities
74	You need to extend the teal season to the entire state, not just east of Hwy. 17

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone



Choices	Responses	
Support	59%	244
Do Not Support	37%	151
No Preference	4%	18
Total		213

Frameworks:

60 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 27th

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

October 24th – October 25th

November 8th – November 29th

December 19th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	16	39	13	7	14	15	2	7	2	10	125
Do Not Support	8	9	6	3	18	7	3	7	3	7	71
No Preference	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	17
Total	27	50	21	11	34	24	7	16	5	18	213

General Duck Gun Season – Coastal Zone Comments

1	1st split should be longer and the LESSER, not GREATER, Scaup limit should be increased to at least 4 birds daily bag limit. There are more than thousands this year!
2	2 days in Oct are not necessary, add those 2 days to Nov season or earlier in Dec season
3	All duck seasons should be altered in a way that hunting on Sundays would be allowed. Corrections for a further distance for churches be implemented so there is no disruption for services. Two segments would be sufficient in allowing adequate time for season. With a major split between late November to mid-December. Many people in the duck hunting community find the swamp and water or whatever location being hunted as a church metaphorically speaking. Finding beauty and love in God's creation while providing for themselves and family. For many being outdoorsman is how we connect closer to the Lord and his creation. So, there should be some separation between law and church. This also allows adequate hunting time for people who work all week long and instead of only getting a day to hunt they get two.
4	Allow hunting on Sundays. It's absurd that NC doesn't allow this yet.
5	Allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays, it's time move on from the archaic bible thumping theology of forcing people into churches instead of the woods.
6	ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING
7	Allow Sunday hunting
8	Based on the number of sea ducks that I'm seeing, I believe that sea duck season should be allowed a half mile offshore beginning October 1 through January 31. There are also very few hunters in the ocean. This is the way it was a few years ago, and I think that was a well-placed season.
9	Bird population seems to be a lot lower this year than in previous years. I feel like we need to cut the season to a 30-day maximum season and 3 bird limit. Not forever but at least a few seasons.
10	Bring duck season in on a sat so kids can hunt
11	Cut out October, start season earlier in November or extend into February
12	Delete October 24th-October 25, Add 2 weekdays in February 2 and Feb 3
13	Do away with any hunting of migratory birds in September.
14	Do away with October season and add to last season segment
15	Do away with the first segment and let us hunt more in the last segment. There is not any ducks here for the first segment. I would rather be able to hunt more later in the year.
16	Do away with the first split add to second and third
17	Do away with the first two splits and add them to the end of the last split!
18	Do away with the October dates
19	Duck season needs to be extended to the end of February
20	Duck season should start in December and end in February when it's actually cold out. It's still 80 degrees in the south in October and November
21	Ducks coming later and later; the October season is a waste of days ...open week of Thanksgiving and run continuous and if necessary close the gap in December
22	Eliminate October dates
23	Eliminate October season and grant an additional 2 days in December. Nov 8-29, Dec 16-31
24	Eliminate the Oct Season and add to November (backend) since there are typically very few birds in the migration in early portion of the year.
25	Eliminate the October season / shorten the November season and extend the 3rd split
26	Extend season into February take away early season
27	Favor more days in last segment. I'd be fine to eliminate Oct and shorten November to one week around Thanksgiving

28	For those of us more inland, we typically do not get birds until the end of season - in many cases the week after season closes. Perhaps taking an early week away and adding it to the end of the season for this part of the state would be ideal.
29	Get rid of first week of November season and put back in the first week of December; if we have two youth days one should be in the split in December; also black duck should open with regular season limit one a day
30	Get rid of October season put days in December
31	Get rid of the October Season and a little bit of November and consider Sunday hunting
32	Get rid of the two-day October season
33	Get rid of this costal/inland mess. Go back to early 4-day October season for the state. 95 and Johnston county is not coastal.
34	Give a few more days in October and November and take them from January
35	Give us Sunday also
36	Give us Sunday hunting and get rid of October season.
37	Good dates.
38	Good like it is.
39	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
40	<p>I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday. There is no scientific evidence that indicates not hunting on Sunday reduces pressure on birds. With no scientific basis for this framework, the only reason it remains is due to social pressure derived from religious motives. These motives should not be a part of how natural resources are maintained. Also, in my opinion we should not have an October season as it is still too early to have good hunting opportunities in NC. I also don't think splitting the state into two zones meets the intended goal of increasing hunting opportunities. I think adding Sundays would serve this goal much better. If two zones are used, the respective splits should take place in the main part of the season, Nov-Jan. I would like to see the season be the last two weeks in November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last spit start on the same days and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends. Game lands with 3 day a week structures for waterfowl hunting should be arranged with some game lands open on Sundays. For example, Tues, Thurs, Sat for some game lands and Wed, Fri, Sun for others or something similar. Also, game lands that are in close proximity to each other should be on alternating schedules to maximize hunting opportunities in those area. I also do not support the change to J Morgan Futch and Texas Plantation moving to one day a week. I think this decision was based on a flawed survey and defeats the purpose of providing hunters with more hunting opportunities. This is the first year I was not drawn for either unit and since I was not selected I will not receive the survey the manager of those impoundments sends out. The results will be skewed because of this. The hunters selected may report that they are satisfied but those that were not selected are likely unsatisfied but they will not receive that survey. That survey should be sent to, at least, everyone that submitted to the drawing and realistically to everyone with the waterfowl privilege on their license. This will provide a more accurate picture of hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl permit draw process. I also think the drawing should be CLOSER to the hunting dates and not farther away as was done this season. The drawing should be no more than a month away from the season. Some states have weekly drawings and with NC's move to the online app, I suspect it would be possible to automate a weekly drawing. This will help ensure hunters are able to attend hunts they are drawn for and are less likely to have conflicts that could not be foreseen 2+ month in advance. I also don't think the blind draw locations are always managed correctly. For example, this year in North River, the millet planted did very well but the open areas by blind 3 were set far away from the blind instead of centered on the blind. This is not the correct way to arrange crops around a blind. The water was also too low in that impoundment with no water directly in front of the blind. It was basically a mud flat. Birds were in the area but didn't come in as well as they would have with better management.</p>

41	I do not support hunting waterfowl for TWO DAYS IN OCTOBER. Give us those two days in the last split when there is better opportunity for hunting. Also think its time our state catches up with the times and allows hunting for waterfowl on Sundays.
42	I don't see the significance of the two day October season. I would prefer those days be added to the other two portions of the season.
43	I feel that the duck season for our area can still stay 60 days but should just come in later and stay open later. I have noticed that more of the big ducks come in when the season is almost over it would be nice if we could make it open later and run through February. I also feel that the wood duck limit could be higher than 3 that's about all we kill in my area maybe a mallard or gadwall here and there but mostly wood ducks. My last thing I'm wondering about would be the goose zones it's very confusing in Bertie county where the goose line map is drawn and I feel like I'm in the zone where you can shoot more it's just very hard to understand it would be better to just make that county one zone or the other not both thanks.
44	I have been hunting ducks since 1974 in North Carolina. The populations of all species just do NOT warrant a season longer than 30 days. We need to have eliminate the early teal season, as well as the Thanksgiving season and allow 30 days from 7 December to 7 January. If this is done, it will conserve populations whose numbers are being exaggerated purely to insure that money is being made by all concerned parties. Limiting seasons will not only reduce takes but allow the few birds that do make it this far South to re-establish ancient migratory patterns .
45	I like that duck season ends Jan 31, but would rather the last split come in on Dec 13 or even Dec 15 if you want to give birds two weekends to rest. . Take those days away from early November.
46	I love and appreciate that the Commission is allowing us to hunt the whole month of January. But, I would very much prefer to have two extra days in December rather than the two days in October. That is the only thing I would change about the proposed season dates.
47	I still think we need to cut either late NOV and some of Mid Dec and hunt into Feb . and outlaw impoundments!
48	I support if it includes the Sundays within those dates
49	I support the continued Sunday day of rest for migratory birds
50	I support the date ranges. Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be a part of North Carolina waterfowl seasons. This is with the understanding that segment lengths would need to be shortened or modified to accommodate the 60-day total. Personally, I would like to see a major reduction in the November split to account for the addition of Sunday hunting across the season- following the structure of our Mid-Atlantic neighbors (who see a lot more ducks) like Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware (all of which I hunt). We are far behind the VAST majority of states who allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds, and it's time to catch up. These Blue Laws are a direct violation of separation of Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is) and it's not right. I am a very serious waterfowl hunter, and I travel across the country to hunt. It's much easier to plan an out-of-state trip to most states that allow Sunday hunting so that I can maximize my vacation time. More travelers = more money. I have many friends and family members who would be more willing to visit to hunt if they could hunt Sunday morning before making the trip home. The refusal to add Sunday hunting is misguided from biological, economic, and moral points of view. To put it simply- those who oppose Sunday hunting just don't like to hunt that much... some of us do!
51	I support the three-season segment structure as well as the selected dates for each segment.
52	I support these season dates. BUT please read this. Years when the October season ends and the birds have less than a week before the November season starts, slide the October season earlier by a week. To provide a rest for the October birds. I know it's only a 2-day October season but allows hunters who can hunt that Friday or that Saturday of the October season to rest their birds more than a week before the heavy pressure of November. Plus, it breaks up the gap post teal season. Split the gap from the end of teal to the November opener in half. That's the optimal October hunt dates. Thank you!

53	I think getting rid of Teal Season and/or extending second split would be a great change.
54	I think most people would give up some of the early season to gain more time into FEB.
55	I would also support adding October 23 and beginning the last split on December 19
56	I would cut the October season and tack it on the front end of the December season. I would also allow hunting on Sundays due to the illogical nature that you're allowed to hunt deer but not duck.
57	I would like to ask if you would consider opening the season around the end of November or early December and carrying into February. It's too hot and dangerous due to snakes and mosquitoes in September and October in eastern North Carolina. Our best time to hunt is January and would probably be good in February as well. Thanks for considering my opinion
58	I would like to see December 18 and 19, pulled and put in for October 22 and 23 instead. Since going to the 2-day October season it has been impossible to pull a permit for the game land impoundments as everyone is applying for the one day on Saturday. Prior to the 2-day October season we would always apply first choice for the Wednesday and more often than not would get a selection. If we didn't get selected we would take that Wednesday off of work and usually hunt public waters and have one of the best hunts of our season. Additionally, I would like to see NC raise the bag limit for hooded mergansers from 2 to the 5 that the Federal guidelines allows for. Many days during the middle portion of the season these underrated ducks provide most or all of the action we encounter. If the concern is that they will be not consumed I can assure you we eat all that we harvest. More often than not the flavor is better in these than in our coastal bluebills. Lastly I would like to continue with the hybrid scaup season of 40/1 and 20/2 days and limits.
59	I would like to see the October season eliminated, the opening day moved back another week and the split in December shortened.
60	I would like to see the Veteran hunting days moved to the beginning of a season rather than at the end.
61	I would prefer the seasons to be at least 3 weeks apart.
62	I would rather have October 17 and 18.
63	I'd like to see the 2 day early season abolished or moved back how it was 4 seasons ago. A 4-day season second week of October
64	I'd suggest shortening the Nov season and adding those days to Dec when more birds are here.
65	Increase Bluebill Limits . VERY abundant species in NC
66	Instead of 2 days in October I'd rather have the days added on the end of the November season
67	It appears the proposed dates do not allow for Sunday hunting. I support no Sunday hunting. The quality of duck hunting improves for all hunters when waterfowl have a day of rest. It also give hunters a longer window given that the season has a max total of 60 hunting days.
68	It is ridiculous that you cannot hunt Duck on Sunday. Cuts the season in half for the weekend warrior.
69	It would be a great idea to let First responders hunt one extra Saturday after season like the military does!
70	It would be great to take away oct season and bring it into one more weekend of February
71	Just skip those 2 days in October and give us a weekend or two in February please
72	Lengthen the season into February even if November has to be slightly shorter
73	Less days in November, More time in days in December
74	Let us hunt Sundays like Virginia and South Carolina.
75	Like the break between segments 2 and 3 to support later season hunting
76	
77	Many fellow hunters I have spoken with agree, we would rather give up a few early days in November in order to hunt an extended second season extending into February, if it is not prohibited by federal regulations. The weather here in NC simply doesn't hold many birds until late winter. It would give NC guides the chance to provide better hunts and allow NC hunters the opportunity to hunt early season out of state and not miss any hunting days in their home state.

78	More days that do not overlap between the zones
79	More time in October and December, less time in early November
80	Most ducks in my area don't show up until January and later. Latest possible dates. It would be nice to hunt into February.
81	Move 1st week in November to 1st week in December.
82	Move everything back by 1 week.
83	Move Oct back to Oct. 9-11
84	Move the 2-day October season to start the December season on the 16th
85	Move the early season date back to the first or second weekend in October. Get rid of the inland and coastal zone and move it back to a statewide hunting season. That way everyone in the state can hunt three days during the beginning of October. If you have it at the end of October, all of the local wood ducks have moved out and nothing else comes in so the season is pointless and doesn't benefit the coastal zone at all.
86	Move the days in October to either the end of the November split or the beginning of the December split. October is just too early for the ducks to be down here.
87	Move the Oct season days into the later season and move the second split opening day back so it doesn't conflict with opening day bear.
88	Move the October 2 day season to late season
89	Move the October split to the first week
90	My biggest complaint is for us hunters who just get weekends to hunt we only have 1 day which is Saturday, I with a lot of other hunters would really appreciate adding Sundays to the duck hunting schedule. All other states around us allow Sunday hunting, SC, TN and VA
91	My proposed idea is to get rid of the October season, and add those dates into December
92	I need more days in October!
93	Need to do something about the draw hunts at goose creek. Had a draw there and 100 boats encircled the impoundment. Every time ducks were coming in someone on the outside would shoot. I know it's game land but on draw days it should be for draw hunts not sky busters. My suggestion is no hunting outside of impoundment on draw day hunts. It was a waste of time and effort on my part. And in case you didn't know, walking in the impoundment is not easy. It was a waste of gas, paying for a place to stay and the 10\$ for the draw hunt
94	Need to push the season back two weeks and allow it to end the 2nd week of February. Slide every season back a week or two.
95	Needs to run at least 3 weeks longer when duck numbers and weather are actually ideal for duck hunting
96	no early season. open season Nov 24-Jan 31---that's 60 hunting days
97	no hunting on Sunday
98	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
99	No need for October and November season should be shortened to allow for more days in early December.
100	No Oct season needed. We don't have migrators this early in the season
101	No October season / November 15 - December 6 / December 18 - February 7
102	No Sunday Hunting
103	North Carolina waterfowl migration has declined so severely in the last 25yrs. We have more hunters than ducks! If we do get ducks they are pressured so hard that they leave as fast as they came. The number of days in the season needs to be reduced to like 2 days a week. They have been lying about the duck numbers for years and if the country doesn't do something waterfowl hunting will be a thing of the past!
104	November season needs to go until Dec 6. Take off begging of Nov season. Why is the Dec season coming in on a Thursday? Allow hunting on Sunday. Please change the proposed season.

105	Oct season should move back to the first week of Oct and be a week long. November should be shortened to 2 weeks these days moved to Oct/Dec splits.
106	October 25-26
107	October season is horrible we need to hunt the first week in October this is wrong to the people like me that put up wood duck boxes and then all of them leave before November when it gets cold
108	October Season is useless, get rid of it and add it either to the start of 3rd split or end of 2nd
109	October Season of 2 days is not sufficient. We need more hunting into later parts of the season. Suggest the removing some Nov dates and move to December
110	Only ones who would benefit from this early season. Growing up in Currituck County I have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of migrant waterfowl outside of compounds constructed to harbor waterfowl for the sole purpose of making money by sadly shooting the ducks in these private refuges.
111	Only thing I'd like to see different is move the 2 October days into December and open up on the 16 of December. More waterfowl have migrated down at that time.
112	Open 1 week later in Nov & open 1 week earlier in Dec
113	open it to maximum days.
114	Open late season from January 1 through mid-February.
115	Open late segment on 12/16 in lieu of 2-day Oct. Season.
116	open Sunday hunting
117	OPEN SUNDAY HUNTING FOR ALL WORKING PEOPLE
118	Place a permit for scissor rigs in Pamlico county
119	Please allow Sunday hunting in Coastal Zone
120	Please consider the avian flu impact on the number of waterfowl. Also consider the changing climate since birds seem to be nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer.
121	Please do NOT allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays
122	Please do NOT have any Sunday duck hunting. The ducks need a day of rest.
123	Please get rid of the early October season dates. Add those two days to the front or back end of the November split. In the coastal zone, for October we are down here swatting mosquitos more than seeing ducks.
124	Please move the seasons back until after Thanksgiving. There is so much wasted time in the season prior to Thanksgiving. Shifting the season to align with the traditionally colder NC weather makes far more sense. Even the first 2 weeks of February would make a huge difference in the overall quality of duck season for many coastal hunters.
125	PLEASE shorten the season and add Sundays as a hunt day.
126	Please start the season later so it can end later.
127	Prefer a shorter second season and an extended third season
128	Prefer the break to be as follows: Nov 15 - 29, Dec 13 - 31.
129	Push more days to the end of the latest closing date
130	Push season back 2 weeks, extend Bluebill "Scaup" limit to 3-4.

131	<p>RE: NCWRC Migratory Game Bird Public Comments Dear Board of Wildlife Commissioners, I hope this letter finds you all doing well and having had a successful hunting season. Below are a few comments I would like to provide for the upcoming 2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird season, specifically waterfowl in the Coastal Duck Zone.</p> <p>1. No wildlife enforcement officer in Pamlico County, NC. This has been an ongoing issue for the past two (2) to three (3) years where Pamlico County has not had an assigned enforcement officer. We have been relying on the assistance of Sgt. David Midyette of Craven County and Sheriff Chris Davis to plug holes in a festering problem. Over the past decade, the amount of guided float blind hunts has exploded from us routinely encountering one (1) to two (2) around the perimeter of our property to over twenty (20) floating blinds set up on Saturday, January 18, 2025. We are routinely encountering more and more hunters in our area (Bay River, Pamlico Sound and Neuse River) who are blatantly disregarding State Law Chapter 581, SB 616, AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE DISTANCES FOR HUNTING MIGRATORY WILD WATERFOWL IN CARTERET AND PAMLICO COUNTIES (Safe Distances Act) as well as are flying unmanned aircraft (drones) over our permanent hunting locations while we are actively hunting. We have also encountered many individuals hunting on our private property, as well as the private property of our neighbors in the area. These actions are occurring because it is a widely known fact that there is no enforcement in Pamlico County and both State and local law enforcement do not actively issue citations for violation of the Safe Distances Act. The 1981 Pamlico County law and similar laws in Currituck and Dare Counties were established in the last 1970s and early 1980s to ensure the rights and privileges of all sportsmen hunting in these counties will be protected and enforced equally to ensure everyone's safety while still enjoying waterfowl and continuing to ensure a healthy and viable wildlife population for future generations. These safe distances are constitutionally sound principals and have survived scrutiny in both the North Carolina and United States Supreme Court. In fact, the Commonwealth of Virginia recently enacted statewide legislation that went into effect the first of this year that limits distances that floating blinds (500 yards) may be to one another as well as to any riparian blind, whether it is occupied or not. Virginia Code 29.1-344 states: the owners of riparian rights, their lessees or permittees shall have the exclusive privilege of licensing and erecting stational blinds on their shoreline to shoot waterfowl over public water; no other floating blind shall be located in the public waters within 500 yards of a riparian blind, whether it is occupied or not.</p> <p>2. Youth hunt dates. I ask that the Commission consider an alternative, traditionally warmer youth hunting date for this upcoming waterfowl season. The average temperature in late January and early February across North Carolina ranges from lows of 20 degrees to highs in the 40s or low 50s. There are obvious outliers in this State, but overall, it is a fair characterization that waterfowl hunting in February is much colder than earlier season dates in October, November and the first half of December. I think we can all agree that colder weather affects children more than adults and due to their smaller size, they are more susceptible to hypothermia as well as lose heat faster than adults do. This year at our club, NeuPamBay Duck Club in Pamlico County, we designated the Coastal Duck Zone season date of Saturday, October 26 as our Youth Day and it was a HUGE success! With the warmer weather, combined with a date that occurred before daylight savings time, the kids were able to sleep a little longer in the morning and hunt a little later in the evening. It is my request that this Commission consider moving at least one (1) of the end of season youth date hunts to the Saturday before the November regular season begins, or a Saturday during the regular season or a December split.</p> <p>3. Regular season dates. During the 2024-2025 season the December split date started back on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. I have heard many times that the NCWRC seeks to promote dates that increase hunter's opportunities. With that in mind, opening the season back during the middle of a week does not appear to accomplish that goal. My recommendation would be to start the November season on a Friday (for example, Friday, 11/8/2024), which would have allowed a two (2) day extended weekend opening date. At least then the December season would have opened back on a Thursday, 12/19/2024). Another option to consider, when you have two (2) extra days it may be a good idea to open waterfowl hunting only to the Saturdays in December that are not otherwise being hunted versus a mid-week start date. This would allow more waterfowl hunting opportunities for youth and hunters that work a weekday job with little time off allowed. For example, for the 2024-2025 season if waterfowl hunting had been allowed on Saturday, December 7th and Saturday,</p>
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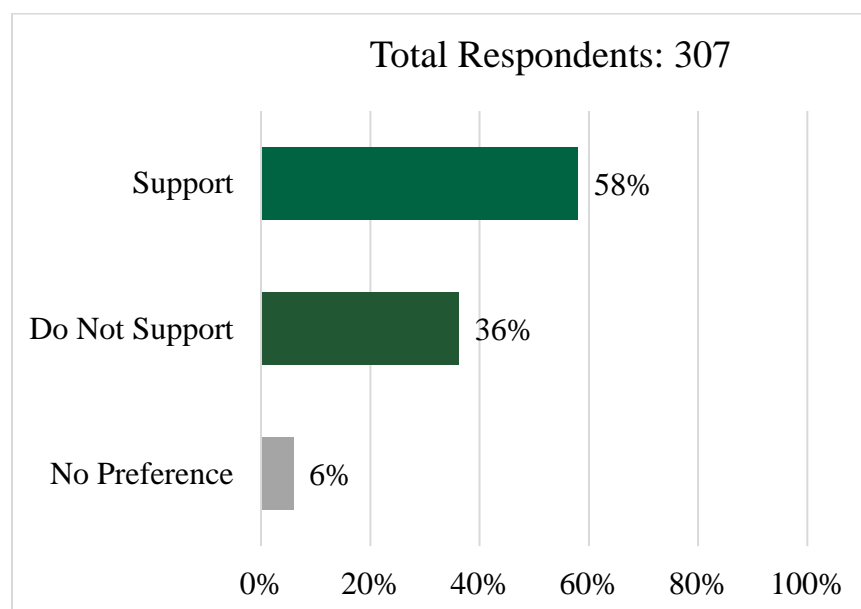
	December 14th, the regular December season would have started back on Friday, December 20th. These scenarios would both give migratory waterfowl opportunities to rest during the week, while also allowing additional hunting opportunities during the weekend that may not otherwise be available to many hunters. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these matters above. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions. Respectfully, Chris G. B. Dozier (919) 818-1767 cgbdozier@gmail.com
132	Really wish you all would move the October season back a week like the inland season
133	Reduce bag limits on wood ducks please. They are hammered.
134	Revise to November 7th-29th and December 19th - January 31.
135	Sea duck bag should be in addition to regular 6 duck bag. Also season prior to Jan 6 for Scaup should be closed. Mistake bird concept has been discouraged for years. If the resource is in that much trouble, close it like it was for canvasbacks going back to mid 70's.
136	Season should be extended a little bit
137	Season should be pushed back to end in February and start in November. We do not get a big push of birds down here until January most of the time sometime hardly get any birds until the last week. If we pushed the season back start date and end date would open up more opportunities for hunters on the East Atlantic flyway!
138	SEASON SHOULD LAST ONE WEEK LONGER, GO THROUGH 1ST WEEK OF JANUARY
139	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
140	Shorten mid-season for sure by 5 days extend late into February
141	Shorten November season 1 week, give us another week in February
142	Shorten the Nov season by 14 days to make it week long
143	Shorten the November season and start season earlier in December
144	Shorten the season to help the bird populations to rebound.
145	Split too long. Recommend going back to a 2 week long season split. November season starting too early. Recommend pushing back one week or 1/2 week and shortening split to two weeks
146	Start duck season November 1st - Middle of January. No Sunday hunting.
147	Start of the General Season (11/8) is too early. Please push it back a week or two
148	Stop the sky busters hunting the outside of the impound on draw day hunts. Our draw hunt was ruined by these people. 10\$ wasted, 150\$ gas, time off work and 400\$ house rental. All a waste
149	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
150	Sunday hunting!
151	Take a few days away from the November season and put it in the October season. Why have October season be 2 days. Thats not even worth having the October season. Keep the December-January season the way it is.
152	Take a week from the Nov 8th through the 29th and add a week after Jan 31st. Also allow hunting on Sundays
153	Take out the oct season and add to December
154	Take the late October and November seasons away. Extend those days until February because the ducks do not get down the flyway in good numbers until February. Ending by February 20th allows for better numbers before they begin to pair off for spring.

155	The 3rd segment of the duck season should start on a Saturday and end on Saturday. It should start on Dec 20, 2025 and end on Jan 31, 2026. The first Youth Day should be Feb 7, 2026. The Last Youth Day should be Feb 14, 2026. Veterans Should not be on Youth days. Pamlico Point and other public impoundments are a war zone with veterans and youth hunting on the same day. Someone's child will be shot soon. The NCWRC should either not have veterans on youth days or make all public impoundments permit only for youth/veterans days.
156	The break between Dec and January is too long. It puts us killing mating pairs at the end of January and the two extra days in February
157	The Coastal zone October 24-25 season should be expanded to 3 days (Oct 23-25) and waterfowl permits should be issued for the Thursday and Saturday dates.
158	The Coastal Zone season should be increased from 2 days to 3 days. For example, Thursday Oct 23 to Saturday Oct 25. This will enable 2 lottery permit hunt days during this season.
159	The December part of the season is a waste of time, energy and money in the coastal zone. I would much prefer days in February than the early December days. The birds are not moving in any significant numbers until January. I have been hunting the coastal zone for over 45 years and can attest to warmer conditions and the need to add more days at the end.
160	The December season should begin and end on a Saturday. The extra days created by this should be added to the front end of the October season. Therefore, 2 days should be added to the October season.
161	The first segment should consist of the 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th
162	The last several years the big ducks (mallards etc) have appeared later and stayed later. They have been at highest numbers on my impoundment after the season is over. Might consider shifting the season a week or two later
163	The last split should go back to two weeks
164	The November season needs to start later and last longer. Allow hunting on Sundays. NC is one of the only states in the nation that does not allow hunting on Sunday.
165	The October season is pointless. Hunting on Sundays like EVERY OTHER STATE around is important for those that can only hunt weekends.
166	the October season need to go back the 2nd week in October.
167	The October split needs to be more than 2 days even if you have to add days to the 60 day.
168	The October weekend should be added on to the end of the second split. As mentioned previously, the September Teal season yields high temperatures as they don't typically drop until mid-October. Frigid temperatures are typically present until mid-February, so the two-day October season could be added on to either split.
169	The overall duck season needs to be shifted to the right due to the ever-changing migration patterns ducks are holding up further up north till later in the season and the month of February seems to have more birds then December so yes January is good but also limited so shifting the whole season right by a month would provide more successful hunt days for hunters.
170	The season needs to end on the last Saturday in January if it's not the 31st
171	The season should be shifted to end around or at the same time as goose season. Most migrating birds do not arrive until the last week or so of the season, leaving little time for hunters to take advantage of late season migrators.
172	The season should come in for the final split on a Saturday preferably the 13th even if we have to lose days off of the front end
173	The third split should start later and end the first weekend of February
174	The two-day season seems to be too early for our coastal migration. Perhaps it can be a little later, or the days delegated to the middle and late seasons
175	The whole season needs to be moved back at least 2 weeks

176	These splits are as good as you can do given the constraints of the framework. Thanks for the later 1st split for coastal;. Less to do with the season splits but possibly relevant to waterfowl hunting is the potential for the avian virus to impact waterfowl populations and therefore seasons. Are there considerations of having flexibility with the seasons to adjust dates or end seasons early based on a potential outbreak? Thanks for the good work you do. I won't repeat this comment for inland seasons, but it would still apply.
177	They should extend the duck season later into the new year. Every year we have a giant influx of duck come in right after the season that we don't not get the chance to hunt.
178	To many days in November. It would be preferred to have more days in December.
179	To short of a season , remove October and add February dates
180	Trade the early dates for dates in February
181	Unless Sunday hunting has been added, it ends on a Sunday Maybe add that day back in December
182	We need a regulation rule, no hunting within 500 yds of an occupied blind.
183	We need a two-week season in October from the 7-21st.
184	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays as many of us who work only have 1 day we can hunt a week.
185	We need to modify the 3rd segment date to somehow cover the season through February 15th.
186	We should be able to hunt 30 minutes after sunset as well
187	We should strongly consider pushing the season back another week or two. Removing the October split and adding it to the end of the last split would be my request. The weather finally arrives the last week of the season leaving us with only one good week to hunt with cold weather. The other thing I feel even more strongly about is allowing us to hunt on Sundays. I don't know what you need to do to make the season work but for those weekend warriors the inability to hunt on Sunday morning is really tough.
188	Why not take the 1st season and move those days to either the 2nd or 3rd season? More ducks are here, and more people hunt during November -January
189	With late seasonal warming, I would like to see the season dates moved into February when colder weather tends to move the flights further South.
190	I would like to see the season open for all of December, even if it meant removing some of November. I would like for the October 2 day season to go away to add to December
191	Would love to add a day to October split and subtract Nov 29th or Dec 18th
192	I would love to see Sunday hunting and feel like the economic impact data would support Sunday hunting.
193	would prefer 2 season segment of November 8-November 29 and December 16-January 31
194	Would prefer opening 2nd split one week later nov 15 and starting last split week earlier Dec 11.
195	I would prefer that the October season be at least 3 weeks before the start of the regular duck season, based on some research on mallards' response to disturbance effects.
196	Would prefer to hunt more days in December by starting the season later and reducing the split between seasons to just 2 weeks.
197	Would prefer to see the December season open on a Saturday by taking a few days from the November season
198	Would rather first phase be Nov. 15-Dec. 6 like it used to be.
199	Would rather have 2nd segment November 25- December 6
200	Would rather have it oct 3-4 or 10-11
201	Would recommend allowance of Sunday hunting with an exchange of one weekday if needed to manage the total days. i.e. give up Tuesday - or just shorten the season.
202	You need to keep the youth/vet hunt on the two Saturdays following the regular season and start the December season so that the regular season ends on a Saturday.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

General Duck Gun Season – Inland Zone



Choices	Responses	
Support	58%	178
Do Not Support	36%	111
No Preference	6%	18
Total		307

Frameworks:

60 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 21st

Latest closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

October 16th – October 18th

November 8th – November 29th

December 18th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	10	21	22	10	40	30	9	17	9	10	178
Do Not Support	4	9	12	8	38	17	9	10	1	3	111
No Preference	2	1	2	4	3	3	2	0	1	0	18
Total	16	31	36	22	81	50	20	27	11	13	307

General Duck Season – Inland Zone Comments

1	Get rid of this inland/coastal mess and go back to early October 4 day season. 95 and Johnston Co is not coastal!
2	30-day season 3 bird limit
3	Add October 16, 17 & 18 to December 16, 17 & 18
4	Add the October days to November or December
5	Allow hunting on Sundays
6	Allow hunting on Sundays. It's absurd that NC doesn't allow this yet.
7	Allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays, it's time to move on from the archaic bible thumping theology of forcing people into churches instead of the woods.
8	ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING
9	Allow Sunday hunting
10	Any possibility that it could be extended till the end of February
11	The season needs to go to end of February
12	December 19 is too late to bring season back in should from November 8 run the entirety of the remaining season dates from November 8
13	Definitely would be in support of a 60-day straight season in the inland zone. Typically, between the 2nd and 3rd split we miss the majority of the migration here in the foothills.
14	Do away with any migratory hunting of birds in September.
15	Do away with first split add to second and third
16	Do away with the 2 days in October or push them later in the month. I rather you remove the October days and put them in December.
17	Do not support it because Sunday hunting is not allowed. All other game species can be hunted on Sunday. Please allow Sunday hunting
18	Duck season is really too early, I know that it is for local birds but ducks haven't started to migrate.
19	Duck season should move further into February
20	Duck seasons need to run at least 3 weeks later for ideal duck numbers and weather for duck hunting occur season always go out to early when duck numbers and weather are low, and bad ducks always show up in tremendous numbers inland 1 to 2 weeks after season closes every year
21	Due the weather issues this year and the migration being off I think it would be fair to extend each of the seasons by a week
22	Earlier October season, say 2nd-4th
23	Early season should start earlier in October as it used to
24	Eliminate the 1st split, add those days to 3rd split by opening Sundays in January
25	Eliminate October dates
26	Eliminate October season and grant an additional 3 days in December. Nov 8-29, Dec 16-31.
27	Extend the season into February even if November has to be slightly shorter
28	Final split should come in on the 13th of December even if we have to lose time on the front
29	Get rid of October add days in December
30	Get rid of October and add to start of 3rd split or end of 2nd split
31	Get rid of October season and part of November and let us hunt Sundays
32	Get rid of the October season. Add to third season segment.
33	Give us Sunday also like Virginia does
34	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays
35	I believe the Mallard limit should not be 4, but the 2 it was originally. I spent many days afield this season and shot 4 mallards total all season.

36	<p>I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday. There is no scientific evidence that indicates not hunting on Sunday reduces pressure on birds. With no scientific basis for this framework, the only reason it remains is due to social pressure derived from religious motives. These motives should not be a part of how natural resources are maintained. Also, in my opinion we should not have an October season as it is still too early to have good hunting opportunities in NC. I also don't think splitting the state into two zones meets the intended goal of increasing hunting opportunities. I think adding Sundays would serve this goal much better. If two zones are used, the respective splits should take place in the main part of the season, Nov-Jan. I would like to see the season be the last two weeks on November, 15 days, with the remaining 45 days being the last 45 available days in the current federal framework. This would make the last split start on the same days and the November split starting 8 days later. It would add 8 Sundays to the season that would provide more opportunity to hunters that can only hunt on weekends. Game lands with 3 day a week structures for waterfowl hunting should be arranged with some game lands open on Sundays. For example Tues, Thurs, Sat from some game lands and Wed, Fri, Sun for others or something similar. Also, game lands that are in close proximity to each other should be on alternating schedules to maximize hunting opportunities in those areas. I also do not support the change to J Morgan Futch and Texas Plantation moving to one day a week. I think this decision was based on a flawed survey and defeats the purpose of providing hunters with more hunting opportunities. This is the first year I was not drawn for either unit and since I was not selected I will not receive the survey the manager of those impoundments sends out. The results will be skewed because of this. The hunters selected may report that they are satisfied but those that were not selected are likely unsatisfied, but they will not receive that survey. That survey should be sent to, at least, everyone that submitted to the drawing and realistically to everyone with the waterfowl privilege on their license. This will provide a more accurate picture of hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl permit draw process. I also think the drawing should be CLOSER to the hunting dates and not farther away as was done this season. The drawing should be no more than a month away from the season. Some states have weekly drawings and with NC's move to the online app, I suspect it would be possible to automate a weekly drawing. This will help ensure hunters are able to attend hunts they are drawn for and are less likely to have conflicts arise that could not be foreseen 2+ months in advance. I also don't think the blind draw locations are always managed correctly. For example, this in North River, the millet planted did very well but the open areas by blind 3 were set far away from the blind instead of centered on the blind. This is not the correct way to arrange crops around a blind. The water was also too low in that impoundment we had no water directly in front of the blind. It was basically a mud flat. Birds were in the area but didn't come in as well as they would have with better management.</p>
37	<p>I recommend NO segment in October 16th. - 18th. There are never enough birds. I recommend not starting November till November 15th and ending December 6th. Lastly, I recommend we open duck season for SUNDAY hunting. So many states in the US allow waterfowl hunting on Sundays which gives the working class a day to get out in the outdoors. Even if there was a set time you had to be done hunting on Sundays for local churches, say 10:00am.</p>

38	I support the date ranges. Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be a part of North Carolina waterfowl seasons. This is with the understanding that segment lengths would need to be shortened or modified to accommodate the 60-day total. Personally, I would like to see a major reduction in the November split to account for the addition of Sunday hunting across the season- following the structure of our Mid-Atlantic neighbors (who see a lot more ducks) like Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware (all of which I hunt). We are far behind the VAST majority of states who allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds, and it's time to catch up. These Blue Laws are a direct violation of separation of Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is) and it's not right. I am a very serious waterfowl hunter, and I travel across the country to hunt. It's much easier to plan an out-of-state trip to most states that allow Sunday hunting so that I can maximize my vacation time. More travelers = more money. I have many friends and family members who would be more willing to visit to hunt if they could hunt Sunday morning before making the trip home. The refusal to add Sunday hunting is misguided from biological, economic, and moral points of view. To put it simply- those who oppose Sunday hunting just don't like to hunt that much... some of us do!
39	I support the season dates but please get rid of the compensatory days and allow for Sunday hunting. Our neighboring states in SC VA and TN all allow it to some degree.
40	I think duck season should start later in the year and maybe drop down to two splits. The hunting over the past couple of years has been poor and I feel like the warmer temps is keeping the birds up north. Secondly, I'm working on making Mattamuskeet a fun hunt again. It has really gone downhill.
41	I would cut the October season and tack it on the front end of the December season. I would also allow hunting on Sundays due to the illogical nature that you're allowed to hunt deer but not duck.
42	I would like to see the down time shortened to 2 weeks rather than 3 weeks between 2nd & 3rd split without effecting the length of the third split. Or open up waterfowl hunting on Sundays & then you could keep the 3-week gap.
43	I would like to see the seasons start mid-November and go through mid-February. The weather has changed over the years and the birds are migrating later and later to this area.
44	I would prefer to see the early season start on Thurs and end on Sat instead of Wed - Fri. I have a tour that will not be able to hunt any of those days because of school
45	I would purpose true general duck season dates be the same time frame as the coastal.
46	I would say take away the November slip and add it to February
47	If possible to shorten the gap between 2 and 3 season to allow colder weather to set
48	if we can open up that short 3-day season as early as September 27th, then why don't we do it? in the middle of Carolina you are killing locals anyway, nothing migrates through here until late October
49	Increase days in October or cancel October and add days to November
50	Inland duck season needs to be pushed back, we are consistently seeing birds migrate later in the year and do not get the opportunity to harvest these birds
51	Inland needs at least 15 days longer as the majority of the fly zones are towards the coast
52	It is ridiculous that you cannot hunt duck on Sunday. Cuts the season in half for the weekend Warrior. Makes me consider no longer purchasing a license.
53	It is vital that the 4-day early October season actually be EARLY! In years past it was the week before the regular season and ruined the purpose and experience as well as over hunted areas. The proposed dates for the upcoming season are acceptable.
54	Just starting to duck hunt, the more opportunity the better!
55	Let us hunt Sunday and get rid of the October season
56	Like the break between segments 2 and 3 to support waterfowl migration and late season hunting
57	Longer season needed
58	Make early season 2 days and add a day to 2nd split

59	Make the October season only 2 days and add the additional day on the start of the December split. There are more birds in our state in December than October. It would allow for a more quality opportunity if one of the October days was moved to December. It appears the proposed dates do not allow for Sunday hunting. I support no Sunday hunting. The quality of duck hunting improves for all hunters when waterfowl have a day of rest. It also give hunters a longer window given that the season has a max total of 60 hunting days.
60	More days that do not overlap between the zones
61	Most of the time our weather in NC does not get cold enough until December-February. Why can't we swap October month of the splits for the month of February
62	Move duck season to start later. Duck season doesn't really start getting decent until 3rd split
63	Move October back to first week in October
64	Move season back 1 month for each split
65	My comments are related to puddle ducks: We have managed for ducks with flooded corn impoundments since 1960. The number of ducks seen during the waterfowl season has SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED for at least the last fifteen years, even with reduced hunting pressure. The ducks arrive in fair numbers in February. In the 1960's, 70's, 80's and most of the 90's we would have plenty of ducks by Thanksgiving Day and throughout the season, excepting periods when the impoundments were frozen. I went hunting every Saturday of the 2023-24 season and didn't even see a mallard (two) until the last day of the season. This past season we had mallards arrive the last two Saturdays of the season. I feel our setup has benefited many, many more ducks than what we have harvested over the years. Yet, the resources, cost, time and effort to continue our operation is no longer justified with the proposed hunting seasons. Please understand that if the trend we have witnessed is known by the biologists and is predominantly the result of a steady decline in the eastern flyway waterfowl population then the proposed dates make more sense, and I would support leaving them as recommended. I am not interested in damaging a sustainable resource. On the other hand, if the population of diving ducks has remained relatively steady then I would hope consideration would be given to slide the entire waterfowl season forward one month. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.
66	Need a two-week season in October 7-21st.
67	Need add on 1 week earlier to second season, This is just to favor my personal preferences
68	no hunting on Sunday
69	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
70	No Sunday Hunting
71	North Carolina needs a February season. For the last few years, the birds seem to arrive late.
72	November December split to wide. move October earlier
73	Oct dates are not necessary
74	Oct season should move back to first week of Oct and be a week long. November should be shortened to 2 weeks these days moved to Oct/Dec splits.
75	October 19-21
76	open it for the maximum days possible
77	Open it later in November so there is only a week to ten days closed between these dates
78	open season Nov 24-Jan 31; that's 60 hunting days
79	OPEN SUNDAY HUNTING
80	open Sunday hunting
81	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer.
82	Please do NOT allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays
83	Please get rid of the useless October split!!!
84	Please see previous comment - we need a later season INLAND!

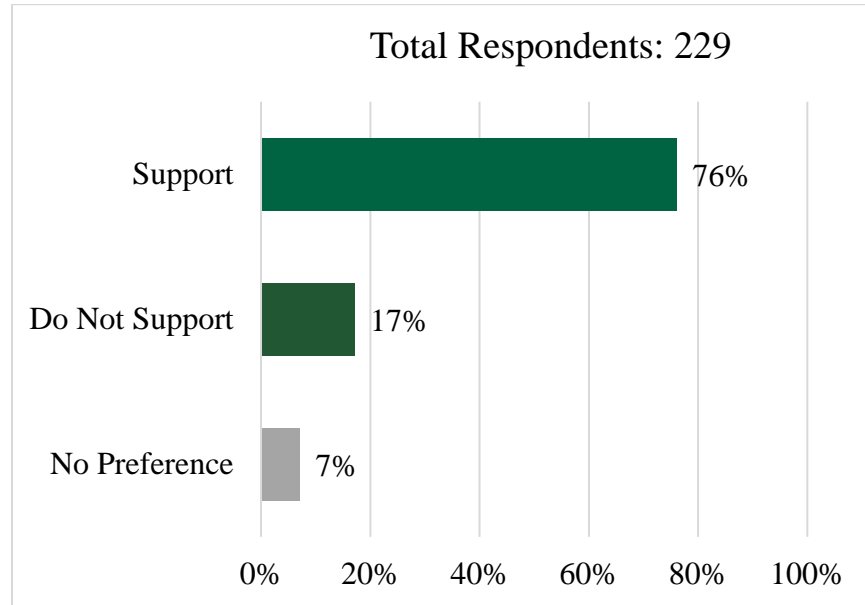
85	Please shorten the season and add Sunday as a hunt day.
86	Push back 2 weeks, extend Bluebill "Scaup" limit to 3-4
87	Remove October split and allow hunting on Sundays
88	Same as coastal zone
89	Same reason given before.
90	Season needs to end on the last Saturday of January work the season dates forward from there.
91	Season needs to open earlier in October like it used too
92	Season should be moved into February and push back the start date.
93	See earlier comment
94	See previous comments
95	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
96	Shorten Nov season by 14 days to be a weeklong season.
97	Shorten November season and start season earlier on December
98	Start duck season November 1st - Middle of January. No Sunday hunting. Duck zones are meaningless. These zones have no bearing on season. Get rid of zones and apply season statewide.
99	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
100	Support even though i think the migration happens later for birds in central NC needs to be extended a little bit into February. i know the ducks are paired up by then but its when the birds reach us. it used to not be this way but over the last few years i have witnessed decline in birds during the season
101	Take away the November season and add days to December
102	Take our early season back to the first week of October as it used to be
103	Take out the oct and add to December
104	Take the three dates in October and move them to the other segments. Usually it is still too warm to draw birds in.
105	Thanks for the great work! I've hunted public lands for over 40 years and have only been in NC for 2 years. The public land management and opportunities to hunt are outstanding! The amount you all get done with staff and budget limitations is impressive. Keep up the great work!
106	The lack of Sunday waterfowl hunting is a detriment to the working-class hunter. Sunday hunting restrictions should be removed.
107	The October Season from several years ago was so much better and more productive. It allowed us to harvest blue wing teal which is rare in the later October Season. A second split than extends into early December would be better than the current suggestion. Every year, we get the short end of the stick and lose a lot of birds during that long split from November to December
108	The October season is pointless. Hunting on Sundays like EVERY OTHER STATE around is important for those that can only hunt weekends.
109	The season needs to be moved back there are more birds here than in the season
110	The season should be shifted to end around or at the same time as goose season. Most migrating birds do not arrive until the last week or so of the season, leaving little time for hunters to take advantage of late season migrators.
111	The split from the end of November to the middle of December is too long. It is time for North Carolina to drop the Sunday exclusion and allow NC hunters the same opportunities that hunters in other states are afforded. The inability to hunt on Sundays is a slap in the face to all sportsmen in NC.
112	The third split should start later and end later (first weekend in February)
113	The whole state should be the same dates
114	Veteran hunting days moved to the beginning of the last season

115	We kayak the river a lot and in multiple clubs and groups very rarely do we see any wood ducks or any type duck. I feel that restrictions should be tighter, and limit lowered need to get the population back up use to see a lot of wildlife 6 to ten years ago now it scary how few we see
116	We must take action now to preserve the waterfowl populations and promote their growth. Limit waterfowl seasons to 7 Dec - 7 January in order that more ducks will make it back to the northern breeding grounds. It will also promote reestablishment of the traditional migratory paths further south as these birds will return and bring their offspring with them. We need to do this for three years. Give the birds a rest! But this won't be done because too many are making too much money off licenses, shells, gear, outfitting and more. Soon, there won't be any ducks left for my grandchildren!
117	We need less days in October, it is still warm and there are cottonmouths in the water. The ducks also barely fly that early in the season.
118	We need more game lands. There are no birds. Kids are overhunting and trying to sky bust birds, and you know what I am talking about. So, the birds don't come back. It's a joke.
119	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays
120	We need to modify the 3 segments to where we can get the first two weeks of February as part of the season.
121	We need to open up Sundays for duck hunting that would give us weekend hunters and extra day, cause all states around us allow it.
122	We should be able to hunt 30 minutes after sunset as well
123	When studying hunter success rates in NC and other states, the common thought that later seasons mean killing more birds is often debunked. I would love to see our October season back to the beginning of October as it used to be. An extra week here with a week taken off at the end of January would be very beneficial to NC Hunters.
124	Why have you split the state as you have? I live 1/2 mile from I95. It seems arbitrary without rhyme or reason. The reason for this split has never been explained.
125	Why make two zones?
126	Why not move the days from the 1st split to either the 2nd or 3rd split when more ducks are here and more people hunt? Other states do that.
127	Wood Ducks are our bread-and-butter in central NC. I'd like to see the 'early' season return to the original 1 full week in October OR eliminated entirely and replaced with the 1st week of February.
128	It would be better to hunt more later in the year. Do away with the first segment and put it towards the last segment.
129	Would like Oct 2-4
130	WOULD LIKE TO NOT INCLUDE THE OCTOBER EARLY SEASON AND EXTEND THE REGULAR SEASON INTO MIDDLE OF FEBUARY.
131	I would like to see the early season be at least 4 days instead of 3...better opportunity if weather impacts things.
132	I would love to see the season extended a couple weeks into February
133	I would love to see the third split run from beginning of Jan until 2nd week of Feb and then youth/ vet days last 2 weeks of February but happy with current model .
134	Would rather have more time in October and December and less time in November
135	Would rather have oct split 2-4 or 9-11
136	Would recommend allowance of Sunday hunting with an exchange of one weekday if needed to manage the total days. i.e. give up Tuesday - or just shorten the season.
137	You need to push the earliest season to the last week in September or the first week in October, otherwise the teal are already gone. In other words, beginning on Oct. 16 is too late to include any teal in western NC.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone

(Also includes White-Fronted Geese)



Choices	Responses	
Support	76%	174
Do Not Support	17%	39
No Preference	7%	16
Total		229

Frameworks:

80 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

October 16th – October 25th

November 8th – December 6th

December 18th – February 7th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	14	40	13	9	32	26	7	14	5	14	174
Do Not Support	4	5	8	3	12	4	1	2	0	0	39
No Preference	5	2	0	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	16
Total	23	47	21	13	47	31	11	17	5	14	229

Canada Goose Season – Resident Population Zone Comments

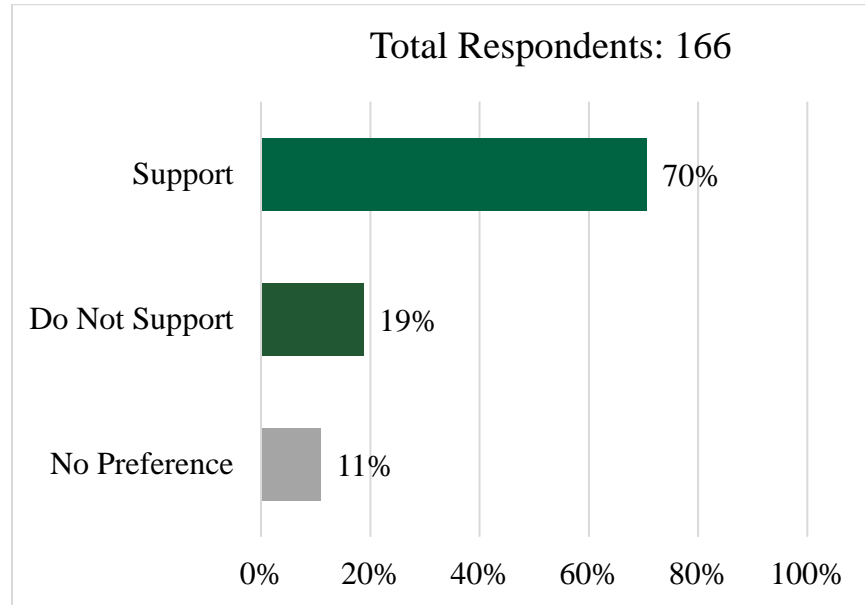
1	Allow Sunday hunting
2	Dates outside duck season should be added to the end of season in Feb. Perhaps Nov dates moved to Feb/Mar. Understood there are only 80 days to work with, but cutting the season off in early Feb robs piedmont hunters of another month to hunt waterfowl.
3	Do away with electronic calls in September
4	Eliminate October dates
5	Extend another week into February
6	Extend another week into February
7	Extend further into March and allow hunting on Sundays
8	Goose season needs to be at different dates than duck and youth duck. It's hard to hunt duck and geese in the same areas on youth days. Let goose season be in for a couple Saturdays after youth duck or visa versa
9	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
10	I can have the most successful Canada Goose hunting in February after duck season ends. The geese will move into areas where we can hunt them after about a week of duck season being closed. I'd rather see some of the proposed days taken out and added to February. Be able to hunt geese all of February. Might make a dent on the resident population then because they are pairing up for breeding season as well.
11	I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday.
12	I like it being open the first week in December to still allow goose hunting when Duck is closed.
13	I support the date ranges. Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be a part of North Carolina waterfowl seasons. This is with the understanding that segment lengths would need to be shortened or modified to accommodate the 60-day total. Personally, I would like to see a major reduction in the November split to account for the addition of Sunday hunting across the season- following the structure of our Mid-Atlantic neighbors (who see a lot more ducks) like Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware (all of which I hunt). We are far behind the VAST majority of states who allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds, and it's time to catch up. These Blue Laws are a direct violation of separation of Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is) and it's not right. I am a very serious waterfowl hunter, and I travel across the country to hunt. It's much easier to plan an out-of-state trip to most states that allow Sunday hunting so that I can maximize my vacation time. More travelers = more money. I have many friends and family members who would be more willing to visit to hunt if they could hunt Sunday morning before making the trip home. The refusal to add Sunday hunting is misguided from biological, economic, and moral points of view. To put it simply- those who oppose Sunday hunting just don't like to hunt that much... some of us do!
14	I think it would be awesome to have a good amount of time after duck season to chase geese, I would get the season as close to March 10 as you could
15	I think the 3rd season ending date should be January 31 the same as the last day of duck season.
16	I would cut the October season and tack it on the front end of the December season. I would also allow hunting on Sundays due to the illogical nature that you're allowed to hunt deer but not duck.
17	I would like to see an extended season for Canada Goose. The geese do not really show up until late January to early February. Having the season extend through March would be absolutely amazing.
18	Increase the bag limits
19	Increase the legal daily bag limit.
20	Keep up the great work
21	Maybe the last season go into march.
22	need later seasons and none are here in October anyway

23	Need more resident geese taken during a very long season. They are abundant and very destructive to this area. When I was younger you never saw one, they have been overprotected and are over populated
24	Need to push later into February for geese in central NC
25	Needs to open with dove season on September 1st like always has and run at least to end of February when numbers are higher
26	No early season.
27	No February hunting or October hunting, too close to duck season just give us one a person all season
28	no hunting on Sunday
29	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
30	No need for October season
31	No Sunday Hunting
32	open Sunday hunting
33	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer. Very young goslings were found in Garner on February 6th this year.
34	Please shorten the season and add Sunday as a hunt day.
35	Recommend the last split run through the end of February. The geese have been coming later every year.
36	Remove the October season and add to the end of February
37	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
38	Should be altered to allow 90 days of hunting but allowing hunting on Sundays
39	Should be mirrored with duck season but yet again Oct dates should be put into Nov season
40	SUNDAY HUNTING Again
41	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
42	Take out the Oct season and add to February
43	Take the October dates and tack them onto Feb. Shorten the second set to align with duck season and put the rest of the dates on the end of the season.
44	The last segment should come in later and go deeper into February. October days should be shaved off
45	The regulations need to be easier to understand...for example, how close can you be to a building when hunting on a lake?
46	The season should start with the second split (Nov 8- Dec 6th) and be extended additional days into Feb due to the warm winters we experience and the lack of available hunting opportunities in October when it is still very warm.
47	This gives us avid hunters and guides a wider season to have better hunting. This by far is the best one!
48	This is ok but would be ok with the October season being pushed out a week to link up with November
49	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays
50	We still need more resident days in February. 7 extra days at the end is not long enough. I would rather reduce the early September season and put 10-15 days in February. Birds are more responsive to weather conditions, easier to hunt, and there are more accessible places to hunt them in February than September.
51	I would like the season to go to later in February
52	I would like to go to Feb 14th, cut off October season
53	Would like to have more time in January through march and less time in November/December
54	Would like to see it run until March or do a spring goose season same as September regulations

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone

(Also includes White-Fronted Geese)



Choices	Responses	
Support	70%	117
Do Not Support	19%	31
No Preference	11%	18
Total		166

Frameworks:

30 days

Earliest opening date: December 20th

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

December 29th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	29	20	9	3	18	18	5	4	0	6	112
Do Not Support	11	6	5	0	7	4	2	0	0	1	36
No Preference	3	2	0	2	4	2	2	1	0	2	18
Total	43	28	14	5	29	24	9	5	0	9	166

Canada Goose Season – Northeast Hunt Zone Comments

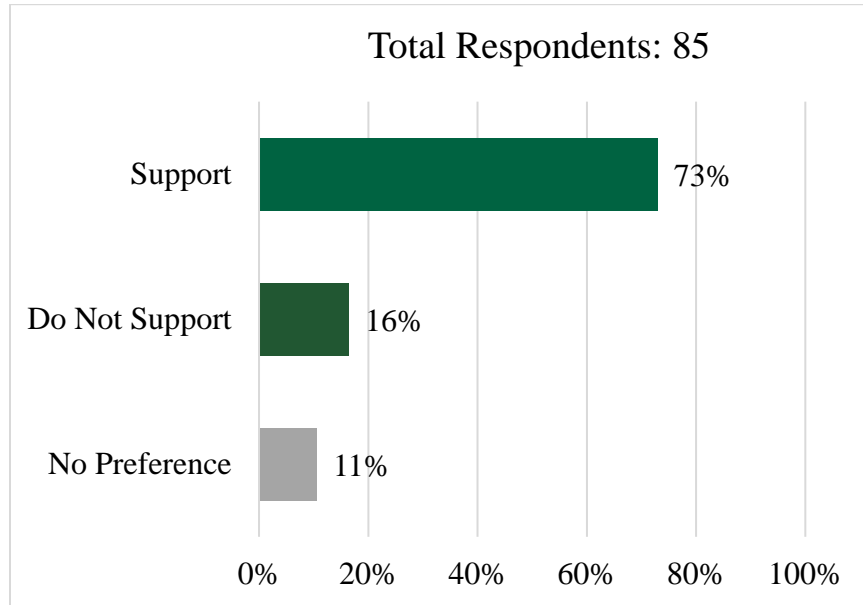
1	December 20th is a better opening date
2	Extend late season 2 more weeks
3	Framework should be revisited in the zone.
4	Geese are migratory birds, make the seasons the same. Have a coastal and inland zone and keep it simple. There is no need to complicate the regulations and zones for a Canadian Goose.
5	Geese don't migrate here anymore the only ones here in November are residents so one a day all season
6	Give us Sunday like Virginia
7	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
8	I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday.
9	I do not understand why the limit is 1 bird per day in this zone. This is by far one of the best zones in the entire state for Canadian geese. Season could be longer, not many people actually partake in goose hunting due to limits & length of season
10	I support the date ranges. Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be a part of North Carolina waterfowl seasons. This is with the understanding that segment lengths would need to be shortened or modified to accommodate the 60-day total. Personally, I would like to see a major reduction in the November split to account for the addition of Sunday hunting across the season- following the structure of our Mid-Atlantic neighbors (who see a lot more ducks) like Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware (all of which I hunt). We are far behind the VAST majority of states who allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds, and it's time to catch up. These Blue Laws are a direct violation of separation of Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is) and it's not right. I am a very serious waterfowl hunter, and I travel across the country to hunt. It's much easier to plan an out-of-state trip to most states that allow Sunday hunting so that I can maximize my vacation time. More travelers = more money. I have many friends and family members who would be more willing to visit to hunt if they could hunt Sunday morning before making the trip home. The refusal to add Sunday hunting is misguided from biological, economic, and moral points of view. To put it simply- those who oppose Sunday hunting just don't like to hunt that much... some of us do!
11	If it is going to be a 2 goose per day limit for 30 days, open it for the whole 60 days. No difference to have 2 bird limit for 30 days or 1 bird for 60
12	Increase limit, all birds are resident geese
13	Increase the daily legal bag limit
14	Is this a federal framework? The public should be able to see a report on harvest and population estimates in the Northeast zone. We have been experimenting with this population for a long time. I believe we should open the same statewide, if we are not able to see the benefits.
15	It should mirror the last two duck seasons. There are more geese around than ever.
16	It should open with general Duck the 18th
17	Just make Bertie county one zone or the other not both.
18	Leave season open for youth and vets
19	Let us kill more than one.
20	
21	More than 1 goose should be 4 or 5 geese are everywhere.
22	Most Canada geese I've ever seen in December and January, Hyde county especially even other counties around. Past 2 years has been huge number of Canada geese in Hyde county. Limit should definitely be more than one, I feel 5 like every county around Hyde and the northeast zone. The season should be from December 8th to January 31st. And the limit should definitely be more than 1.

23	Need to adjust bag limit back to 2 birds. Only Canada geese getting hunted & killed are one shot while duck hunting. Moving back to 2 birds would allow hunters to solely target geese.
24	no hunting on Sunday
25	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
26	No Sunday Hunting
27	Open Dec 24 if possible. Having geese open between Christmas and New Year would increase opportunity.
28	Open Dec. 20 or let everyone shoot 1 goose per day through the whole season.
29	Open it with the third split season.
30	Open Sunday hunting
31	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer. Very young goslings were found in Garner on February 6th this year.
32	Please shorten the season and add Sunday as a hunt day.
33	Really enjoined not having to have the permit to shoot my goose in the NE hunt zone.
34	See previous comment
35	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
36	Should start at Thanksgiving
37	Strongly disagree, just as many resident geese in coastal zone as inland zone... need coastal geese numbers thinned out also
38	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well. Over regulation on geese will prove to be disastrous. There are no areas in NC that Canada geese should be over-managed.
39	The true Canada goose migration is much like the ducks in the face they are migrating later in the season making it difficult for hunters to actually fill bag limits they are causing more damage to public parks and recreation sites because hunters can't contribute to the population control due to later migrations.
40	There should be a longer season including the October season and November season
41	This NE zone needs to have a earlier start date and bag limit increased
42	Up the amount from 1
43	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Light Goose Regular Season

(Includes Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)



Choices	Responses	
Support	73%	62
Do Not Support	16%	14
No Preference	11%	9
Total		85

Frameworks:

107 days, no more than 3 season segments

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: March 10th

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

October 24th – February 7th.

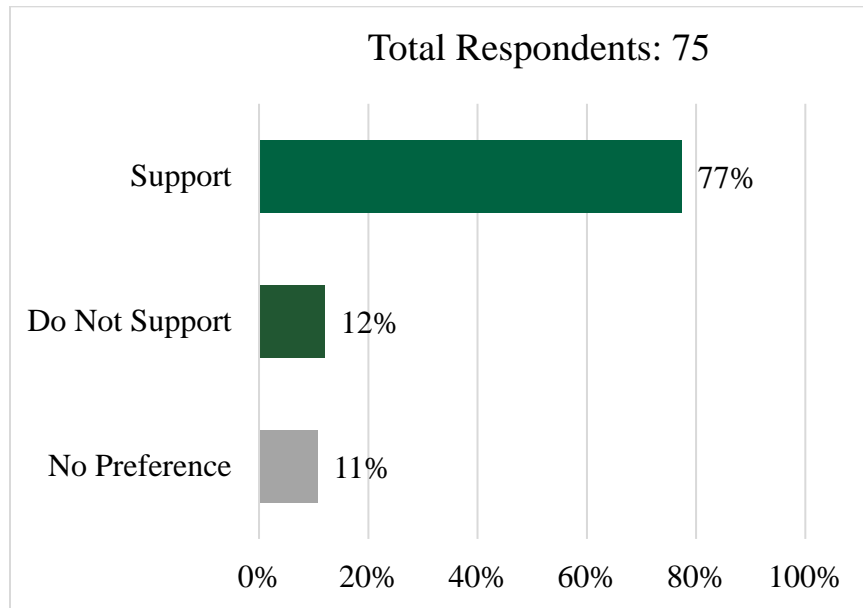
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	11	12	16	4	5	8	1	1	1	3	62
Do Not Support	3	1	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	14
No Preference	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	9
Total	16	15	20	5	8	9	3	3	1	5	85

Light Goose Regular Season Comments

1	From the people in the back: Open Sunday Hunting!
2	Give us more days in February, rather than October.
3	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
4	I do not support any season framework that prohibits hunting migratory birds on Sunday.
5	M10-C
6	needs to run later, into march
7	no hunting on Sunday
8	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
9	No Sunday Hunting
10	Open later and close later. Migrations have changed
11	open Sunday hunting
12	open to maximum days possible
13	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer.
14	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
15	Should start later and run until March 10
16	Sunday hunting needs to be allowed, of all things, for the Conservation Order. If you're trying to get rid of something (don't pretend that's not what it's about #savethetundra), why wouldn't you want to give people the maximum opportunity? Snow goose numbers in North Carolina aren't what they are on the Eastern Shore, but not allowing people to hunt Sunday, when most people have off, is plain ignorance. This is the most egregious example of some antiquated law taking precedence over a management strategy.
17	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
18	Take it to March 10th

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Brant Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	77%	58
Do Not Support	12%	9
No Preference	11%	8
Total		75

Frameworks:

30 days, no more than 2 season segments

Earliest opening date: September 27th

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

December 29th – January 31st.

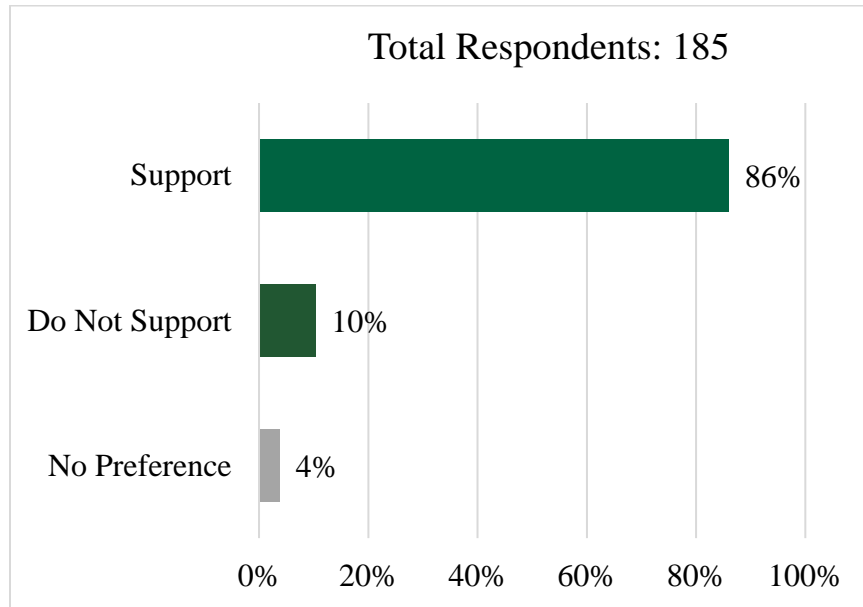
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	13	13	8	5	4	8	1	2	2	2	58
Do Not Support	0	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	9
No Preference	1	1	0	1	1	1	1		0	0	8
Total	14	16	10	7	7	11	2	44	2	2	75

Brant Season Comments

1	Allow brant hunting on Sunday. Most hunters don't know how to even get on a brant. You might as well let those of us who can handle it be able to do it on our day off.
2	Brant season needs to be open the entire last split of duck season
3	Close the season. The population is hurting
4	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
5	No hunting on Sunday
6	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
7	No Sunday Hunting
8	Open it when the December season starts
9	Open Sunday hunting
10	Open to maximum days possible
11	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer. Very young Canada goose goslings were found in Garner on February 6th this year.
12	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
13	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Tundra Swan Season



Choices	Responses	
Support	86%	159
Do Not Support	10%	19
No Preference	4%	7
Total		185

Frameworks:

90 days, permit only (4,721 permits)

Earliest opening date: October 1st

Closing date: January 31st

The proposed 2025-2026 season dates are:

November 8th – January 31st.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	24	45	23	10	12	17	3	8	2	15	159
Do Not Support	3	3	4	0	4	2	2	0	0	1	19
No Preference	1	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	0	7
Total	28	48	27	10	19	20	6	9	2	16	185

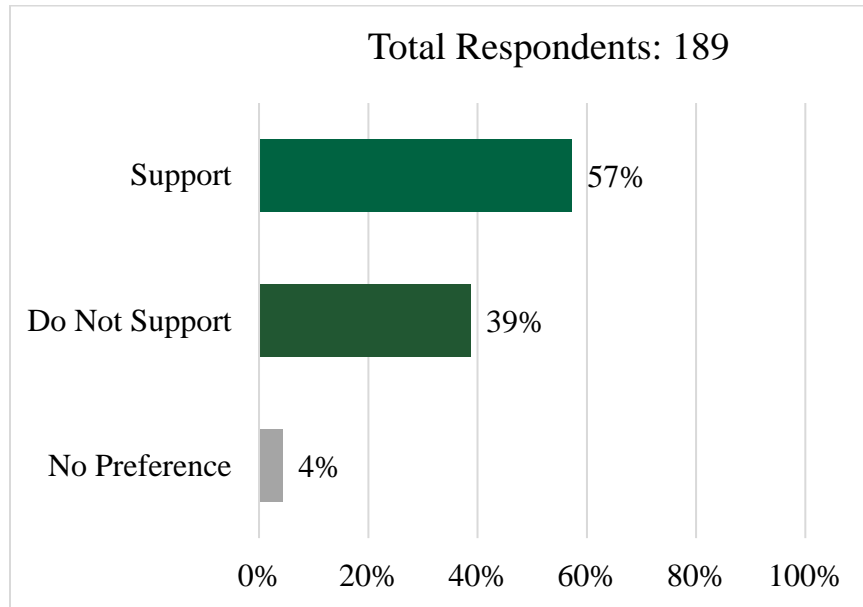
Tundra Swan Season Comments

1	6000 Permits / December 8 - February 7
2	Allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds in NC
3	At one time, you could swan hunt after the regular duck season had ended. It would be fun to still be able to do that, which would extend our waterfowl hunting season.
4	Can we look into drawing be only for residents of NC for the 4800 permits. Then after a specific deadline if there are still permits available open a second drawing take place allowing anyone out of state or what have you can put in for them. Residents are losing out on swan permits to people who are out of state
5	Do not open season till December
6	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays.
7	I love swan season
8	I support but it really needs to include Sundays
9	I think the state residence should get first priority on the permits drawings
10	If allowed 90 days the season should be 90 days.
11	If anything, that could improve this would be to set aside some permits for the folks that are or have limited amount of forward motion to hunt if they qualify. Maybe a few days just for them only at the start of the season as you would for Youth Week
12	I'm assuming legitimate biology is taking place for the amount of permits, and if so, I support that number. Sunday hunting needs to be allowed for swan hunting and all migratory birds. This is a major economic driver in ENC. Farmers want to get rid of them because they're disgusting hogs that eat and destroy everything (talk to a farmer, don't sit in Raleigh and speculate). The refusal to allow guides to make money and help your own state's agricultural practitioners is, again, ignorant. Little old Delaware just allowed Sunday hunting for migratory birds this past season. Get with the program.
13	Issue additional permits
14	Need more permits given to residents of NC
15	no hunting on Sunday
16	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
17	No Sunday Hunting
18	No Sunday hunting for swan either
19	open on Sundays in January
20	Open season
21	open Sunday hunting
22	Open the first week of February for all permit holders
23	open to maximum days possible
24	Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of birds. Also, please consider that climate change has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer.
25	Please give lifetime licensees have them!
26	Please shorten the season and add Sunday as a hunt day.
27	Should be allowed 1 per season without a permit.
28	SOMTIMES HARD TO GET PERMIT
29	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
30	Swans are in the same category as ducks and geese. They are migrating later in the season and arriving in the hunt areas just as season is going out. Need to extend the season well into February
31	There should be no swan hunting if duck season is out it puts way too much pressure on everything else around that we are not allowed to hunt during the split

32	Too much time. Swans are under duress.
33	Well managed!!!
34	Would like the option of swan season for all adults during the youth waterfowl season. Most swan hunts are done as a group and having the option of being able to fill your swan tag 2 different weekends after duck season would be beneficial.
35	Would love to see the season extended a few weeks into February

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Youth Waterfowl Days



Choices	Responses	
Support	57%	108
Do Not Support	39%	73
No Preference	4%	8
Total		189

Guidelines for selecting Youth Waterfowl Days include:

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. The day(s) must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays.
3. There can be no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Youth Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Youth Waterfowl Days).
4. Youth waterfowl days can be held concurrently with Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days.

*The proposed 2025-2026 Youth Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are:
December 6th and February 7th.*

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	15	28	16	3	10	17	5	6	0	8	108
Do Not Support	12	23	22	5	3	4	1	1	0	2	73
No Preference	1	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	8
Total	28	52	40	8	16	21	7	7	0	10	189

Youth Waterfowl Days Comments

1	Both in February
2	Abolish the youth seasons.
3	Add a seniors hunt in addition to veterans and youth. Move the youth age back to 15 being the oldest "youth" to participate.
4	Allow Sunday hunting And put the both back in February
5	ALLOW YOUTH TO HUNT ON SUNDAY WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN SCHOOL. Can it be any more obvious?
6	Both dates after Jan 31
7	Both dates should be in February or end of January.
8	Both days need to be before the regular duck season. Every youth season for other game is before the regular season.
9	Both days should be after the regular season like it is currently
10	Both days should be held in February, that's when we have the most ducks which would give our kids the best chance at an enjoyable hunt with hopefully a lot of birds being seen
11	Both youth and veteran days should be after season in February to maximize changes for youth and veterans
12	Both Youth days need to be after the General Duck Season goes out
13	Core Sound Decoy festival is that weekend in December. Also, my friend hosts a youth hunt at a preserve during the 2 Saturdays in December the season is out. It's good for the birds to have a break. There is almost always birds here fully plumed in February. Some birds like redheads don't get here until later in the season. Having the dates at the end gives kids their best chance at everything our state has to offer for waterfowl.
14	Dates should be at the end of season (i.e., two Sats in Feb) so there might be birds around for youth/vets to see.
15	December 13 / February 14
16	Either do both in February or one in October one in February
17	Feb 7 and Feb 14. This will keep in line with a great migration and allow the youth to have some great days in the duck blind.
18	Feb. 7th and Feb. 14th
19	February 7th & 14 th . I don't understand the dates choices above. February 7th & 14th gives the birds a 1-week rest.
20	February 7th and 14th , keep it the same ! Or give them veterans a day during the split is better
21	The first 2 weekends after regular adult season in February gives Youth the most opportunity at a chance to get shots in a wider area such as the sound at divers. The Scaup season for Dec. 6 would only be 1 bird and that is a great bird for youth hunters to have access to.
22	For the coastal zones, please refrain from hunt checks on the youth/veteran days. It interrupts the one day some of these folks and young hunters get to come out and enjoy the resource we all work hard to manage for them. Check folks at the ramp or leaving their impoundments but please not while they are actively hunting.
23	Great idea
24	Have them prior to the regular season so the youth will have a better chance prior to the birds being shot so much
25	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays
26	I am not opposed to the youth day change but will note that many clubs likely would not allow a Dec. youth day, but instead want their impoundments to rest between splits. Also, unlike this past 24-25 season, there needs to be a full week off before the first youth day to allow kids the best hunting opportunity.

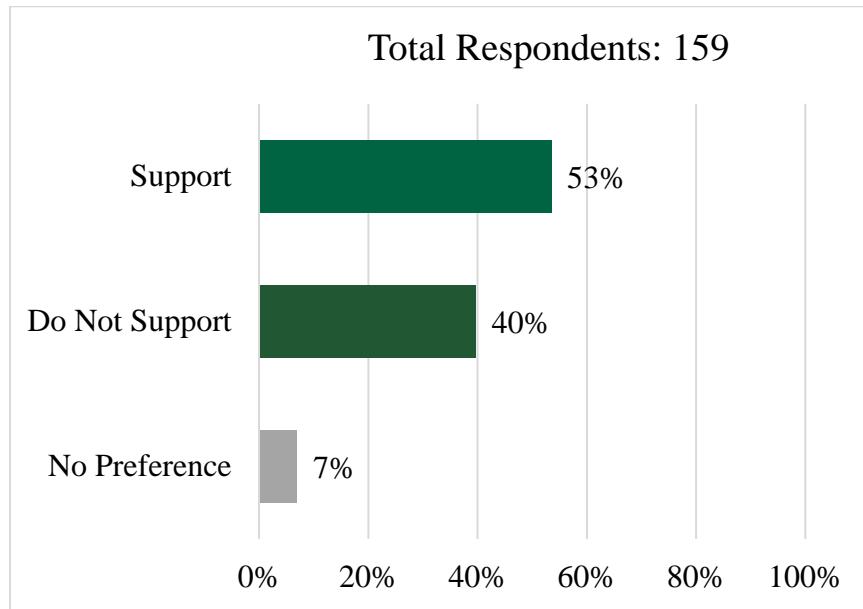
27	I believe there should only be one day for youths, and it should be December 6th at this point. Do not support any hunting into February!!
28	I do not support the December 6th Youth Waterfowl Days. Historically, there are more ducks in February, so the hunting is better for the youth. Landowners are also more willing to host youth hunts in February once the regular season is over. Having a youth hunt in December will have less participation because some landowners will not allow hunting then.
29	I do not support this new change at all. When the purpose of these days is to get youth in the field and to become a part of the sport. The intent should not be to put one of those days in while almost all other hunting seasons including deer are still in. Additionally, there are many permit hunt opportunities that would be lost out on like Mattamuskeet, which doesn't even open for hunts until after this time. Holding the hunts in February allows for pressured birds to have some rest and make for good enjoyable hunts for the youth participants. Lastly there have been several annual youth hunts established on the coast from local clubs that have scheduled the events for the second Saturday in February. The second Saturday this year falls on February 14th, which even counting for Sunday's still falls within the 14-day window. I think changing the date defeats the purpose of the initial intent of the days, which is to add more participants to the great sport of water-fowling.
30	I don't agree with special days for youth.
31	I would rather keep youth days and Veterans Day the same as this year's season.
32	I like and support the change. I think it can work well.
33	I like December 6th, but move Feb date to the 1st
34	I prefer the option that puts both days in February
35	I son had the pleasure to go to Hyde County to hunt during the youth season and we had a blast. Now please understand that he didn't shoot his limit, but he was very close. It was an awesome shoot. Normally we see 10 to 15 ducks and maybe a shot or two. He was so excited that he couldn't decide which bird to shoot. I was jealous, we had my son standing in flooded corn with the person who invited him and 2 wonderful dogs. Great late season cold hunt.
36	I support October 25th, 2025 and February 7th, 2026.
37	I support these dates as they allow time for birds to rest between regular season and youth days. I also support resting time between the early youth day and Dec. 18 late season opening date.
38	I think the day in December is great. Typically, not as cold, so it would be much more comfortable for the youth.
39	I understand the NC Wildlife Commission wants to encourage youth to get involved with hunting sports. I have found that parents are more not likely to take their children on youth days because they themselves cannot hunt. As selfish and disappointing as this may be, it rings true for a lot of hunters with children. In support for more youth getting involved I suggest more youth waterfowl days, specifically between the first and second long seasons when parents are eager to be in the woods, birds are showing up, and they are more likely to take their children.
40	I'd prefer Feb 7 and Feb 14th
41	If everyone else cant hunt after Jan 31st when birds finally get pushed down here with the weather, then no one else should either.
42	If there can be four total days. Why not have youth and coastal days set on different dates. This would allow youth to have more opportunity to hunt without pressure
43	It is nice to have a day for the kids when it may not be so cold. Could even put a day in October or November.
44	It is nice to split the youth days up a bit. Also, it is nice that it may not be as brutally cold for the kids earlier, so they may better enjoy their experience.
45	It needs to be the 7 and 14 of February no debate

46	It would be great to add senior citizens to these dates for two very good reasons 1. it would make a really good day for a senior citizen to go with a youth and hunt like grandfather and grandson and number two ..it is hard for old folks to compete with hunter less than half their age. Like getting up at 3am to get to the better hunting spots
47	Just add a single day in November and a second day in January.
48	Keep the dates being the first 2 Saturdays in February
49	Keep the waterfowl days at the end of February. Some of the best hunting for the kids.
50	Love this idea. Having both days after the season made no sense. The ducks are most wary at this point. Youth and veterans should have the best chance at getting birds.
51	Needs to be 2 youth days in 2nd split and 2 to 4 youth days consecutive Saturdays at the close of the season mid to late February when numbers of birds and weather are ideal for the youth to have a very successful hunt and not killing 1 or 2 birds and losing interest in the sport because of not producing and being bored
52	No Dec 6th, but Add in Feb 14
53	no hunting on Sunday
54	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
55	No, keep both days occurring after the regular season closes January 31. You are robbing the kids of better hunting opportunities by putting a day between seasons. Strongly disagree
56	One additional youth waterfowl day should be included
57	open Sunday hunting
58	Please allow this to happen to have a youth day in December that would be amazing. I have always wanted to hunt on my birthday and that would be amazing!
59	Please do not make the first youth day on December 6th. Historically the hunting is not as good as it would be in February. Children need to have success when hunting at a young age in order to develop a passion for it. The youth/veteran days should be on February 7th and 14th. I feel that the majority of people would prefer these dates instead of the ones that have been proposed.
60	Put ALL youth days in the month of February to give them more of an opportunity
61	See notes from prior. GREAT IDEA moving one of the Youth Dates to December. I would also recommend the first Saturday in November, 11/1/2025 as a better Youth Date than 2/7/26.
62	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
63	Should be the last two weekends after season closure as that is when most migration here in this state is.
64	Should have two youth Saturdays in February
65	Split them up so they can hunt 4 days between the two zones. This is critical for expanding youth hunting and providing as many opportunities for them as possible.
66	Suggest doing a day in late Sept or early Oct when the piedmont is loaded with wood duck and the weather is mild. This will promote a more enjoyable hunt for youth, mild temps and lots of shooting.
67	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
68	Support moving the date to December - having too high duck harvest in February kills breeding pairs
69	The 3rd segment of the duck season should start on a Saturday and end on Saturday. It should start on Dec 20, 2025 and end on Jan 31, 2026. The first Youth Day should be Feb 7, 2026. The ducks need a break between regular season. The Last Youth Day should be Feb 14, 2026. Veterans should not be on Youth days. Pamlico Point and other public impoundments are a war zone with veterans and youth hunting on the same day. Someone's child will be shot soon. The NCWRC should either not have veterans on youth days or make all public impoundments permit only for youth/veterans days.

70	The December split is critical to rest and needed water drawdowns to maintain food sources in managed impoundments and wetlands. I would love to see a coastal youth day at the beginning of the season when temperatures are milder. A singular February date is also good, but 2 February dates could have a significant impact on pair bonded and bred hens.
71	The Military days should not be the same as youth!!
72	The youth days should be after the regular season. I do not like the introduction of a day in December. there are not enough ducks to support this pressure in the middle of the season.
73	The youth days should be as late as possible following the regular waterfowl season. 2/7 and 2/14 would be better dates. Let youth season be just for youth. Give veterans other days. Do not run youth and veteran days concurrently. Lower youth age limit to 16
74	There should be no youth season allowed. If the general public can't hunt in February neither should youth.
75	There needs to be more game wardens on public waters checking people on youth day. I see several people out every year that have no kids with them and I doubt all of them are veterans.
76	These dates are too late !
77	Very nice update. Taking the second February Saturday and replacing it with a December Saturday allows kids to hunt when different batch of birds may be in the area. Well done.
78	We need both of the days in February, and the first day does not need to be the day after the regular season goes out, because the birds have not had time to go without pressure, and the hunting quality for the kids will be better. I'm all for a third youth day in December, but keep the two February dates. Sometimes the birds aren't even here in numbers by early December.
79	Why add a day in during the middle of splits 2-3? I have no problem with youth days but honestly feel like a lot of the youth are hunting most regular seasons as well. Why mess up letting the birds rest in the middle of the splits?
80	Would like both days kept at the end of the season
81	Would rather see youth days on back-to-back weekends at the end of the season as it currently.
82	Youth days should be Feb. 7th and 14th
83	Youth days should be on the first two Saturdays of February like in past years. It gives the ducks a chance to rest and provides a better chance of success for youth.
84	Youth days should be the last two Saturdays of the season
85	Youth will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the youth hunting days.
86	Youth will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the youth hunting days.
87	Youth will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the youth hunting days.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)



Choices	Responses	
Support	53%	85
Do Not Support	40%	63
No Preference	7%	11
Total		156

Guidelines for selecting Veterans/Military days include:

1. The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular hunting season for ducks, mergansers and coots or in the closed portion between season segments.
2. There can be no more than 2 Veteran/Military Waterfowl days in the Inland duck hunting zone and no more than 2 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in the Coastal duck hunting zone (4 total Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days).
3. Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days can be held concurrently with Youth Waterfowl Days.

The proposed 2025-2026 Veterans/Military Waterfowl Days in both the Inland Zone and Coastal Zone are: December 6th and February 7th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	16	18	8	3	5	12	5	7	2	9	85
Do Not Support	10	22	12	4	3	7	1	2	0	2	63
No Preference	1	0	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	11
Total	27	40	26	8	10	19	7	9	2	11	159

Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s) Comments

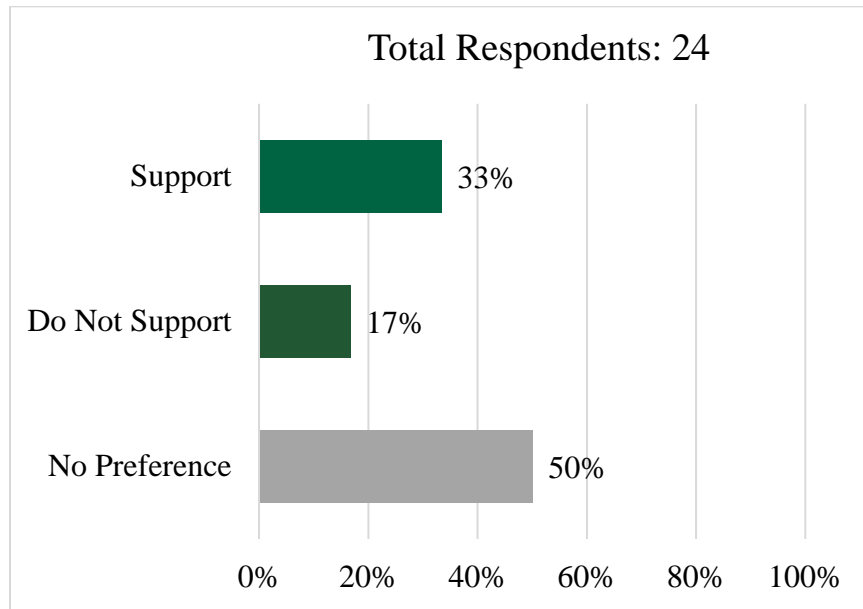
1	Veterans should also be able to hunt migratory birds on Sundays.
2	A family member should be able to hunt with the veteran - what fun is hunting by yourself? My father is a veteran and my hunting partner as his son, why shouldn't I be able to hunt with him?
3	Ad your law enforcement community to this
4	Again, why put a day in the middle of the split? While I appreciate our Veterans most of those I know get to hunt more during the regular season than I do. I have not really ever understood why we provide the extra days due to this fact.
5	Also open to first 2 Saturdays of February after season ends as recent years have been
6	Big time support this overall but keep it how it has been with both days after regular season especially for coastal.
7	Both days should be after the regular season like it is currently
8	Both in February
9	Dates are too late
10	Dates should be at end of season (2 Sats in Feb) so youth/vets might see some birds.
11	December 6th is one of the worse days of the migration. Please move to February or before the first October split.
12	Do away with this season, these are adults not kids and they do not need extra days
13	Do not believe there should be any Veterans/Military days. I appreciate their service but don't need a special season for them. YOUTH DAY ONLY!!!
14	February 7th & 14th
15	I do not support the December 6th hunt. Both Youth/Vet hunts need to be in February.
16	I do not support the veteran's day being with youth day as this takes away from the opportunities with youth. Public Game Lands on youth day was ridiculous due to the number of vets out there when you are trying to teach a child about duck hunting.
17	I don't agree with special days for veterans or military.
18	I don't think the veterans hunt should overlap with the youth hunt. I would prefer both days to be prior to the regular duck season opening. Additionally, extra pressure from adult veterans hunting is not biologically sound in February when many ducks have formed pair bonds.
19	I like the option of an earlier date and later date. Thank you
20	I like the December date but move Feb to the 1st. Let the healthy ducks breed
21	I prefer the option that puts both dates in February
22	I suggest Dec 7 and Dec 14th; a similar concept to this year.
23	I support our vets very much but there should be different days for vet and youth many vets hunt all year and as any hunter knows introducing hunting is hard but even a harder task when you are competing with seasoned hunters
24	I support the Veteran/Military season, but this day or days should not overlap youth. Give the Vets Dec 6th and youth early Oct and Feb 7th.
25	I would like to suggest adding extra hunting days for seniors over 55 years of age.
26	I would like to suggest the last Youth/Veteran hunt day in Feb be moved to the last weekend in Dec, just before the 2nd split regular season begins.
27	IF THE NCWRC CONTINUES TO ALLOW VETERANS TO HUNT THE PUBLIC IMPOUNDMENTS WITH YOUTHS, SOMEONE WILL BE SHOT SOON. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE WAR ZONE AT PAMLICO POINT!!!! The 3rd segment of the duck season should start on a Saturday and end on Saturday. It should start on Dec 20, 2025 and end on Jan 31, 2026. The first Youth Day should be Feb 7, 2026. The ducks need a break between regular season. The Last Youth Day should be Feb 14, 2026. Veterans should not be on Youth days. Pamlico Point and other public impoundments are a war zone with veterans and youth hunting on the same day. Someone's child will be shot soon. The NCWRC should either not have veterans on youth days or make all public impoundments permit only for youth/veterans days.

28	It needs to be the 7th and 14th of Feb, there is no debate
29	Keep both in February or do one in October
30	Keep the days at the end of February. Some of the best hunting.
31	keep them the first 2 Saturdays in February
32	Keeping these season on the 7 and 14 Feb will allow the youth to have a better migration. Which will also allow them to enjoy the outdoors better.
33	Leave both days in February at the end of the season. Also leave both youth days at the end of the season. Meant to say this for youth day but couldn't figure out how to go back
34	Lots of wood ducks are already building nest by Feb 7
35	Love this idea. Having both days after the season made no sense. The ducks are most wary at this point. Youth and veterans should have the best chance at getting birds.
36	Make an additional military or youth day to support the geese dates moving right by several weeks.
37	Military Days should be no the same as youth!!
38	military shouldn't have an exclusive day to hunt. they don't pay anymore for a license than a civilian.
39	Need to be the following 2 Saturdays after the season ends.
40	no hunting on Sunday
41	NO HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
42	open Sunday hunting
43	Please do not make the first youth/veteran day on December 6th. Historically the hunting is not as good as it would be in February. Children need to have success when hunting at a young age in order to develop a passion for it. The youth/veteran days should be on February 7th and 14th. I feel that the majority of people would prefer these dates instead of the ones that have been proposed.
44	Please make sure there is one week between last regular day of the season and the first Vet/Youth Hunt. This year ending on a Friday and the first hunt on a Sat was not a good scenario. I think it would be nice to run the youth hunts the first two Sats and then the Vets the following two Sats
45	Put ALL veteran days in February to give them more of an opportunity
46	Put them both back in February. Allow Sunday hunting
47	Same comment I had for youth days. Core sound decoy fest is that weekend in December, my friend hosts a youth hunt at a preserve that weekend, and the migration tends to lean towards the latter part of the season on many species.
48	See previous comment
49	Sept 21st through Feb 28th. Private lands hunt Sundays.
50	SHOULD ADD SENIORS TO THESE HUNT DATES. OVER 70 YRS OF AGE
51	Should have 2 Saturdays in February
52	Should stay at end of season for best results
53	Strongly disagree, keep both days in February for better opportunities.
54	Strongly support ! 1 veteran day not on youth day
55	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.
56	They deserve the best dates we can give them.
57	They should have their own days, not to interfere with youth days. Should add first responders or at least law enforcement to the days also.
58	This is a great idea for dates, I would also like to see the same opportunities for veterans to hunt permit only impoundments just like the youth are able to. At this time veterans are not allowed to hunt permitted impoundments such as white oak impoundment and Pamlico point impoundment although youth are.
59	Unfair to allow veterans the chance to hunt in February and not allow first responders. Due to the schedule first responders work it often makes it difficult for them to hunt most of the season. If you allow veterans you should allow first responders.

60	Veteran days should be the first two Saturdays of February like in past years as it gives the birds a chance to rest providing a better chance of success for veterans.
61	Veterans deserve special opportunities as a small way to repay them for their sacrifices. You should let them hunt on Sunday.
62	Veterans should have their own separate days. Separate from the youth days.
63	Veterans will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the veteran hunting days.
64	Veterans will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the veteran hunting days.
65	Veterans will have a much better opportunity at the end of the regular season, so I support February 7 and February 14 as the veterans hunting days.
66	Vets deserve the best chance at ducks for what all they've done for this country so it should be in February also when we have the most ducks
67	We should be able to hunt 30 minutes after sunset as well
68	Where do we hunt
69	Would be nice if we could get the 4 days on separate days to enable kids more opportunities to hunt with the pressures of the public adding to hunt areas.
70	Would like both days kept at the end of the season in February
71	Would like them to not be concurrent with the youth days as the lakes are just as full as a regular day right now.
72	Would Prefer December 13 and Feb 7
73	Yes! Love one day in December and 1 in February!

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Doves



Choices	Responses	
Support	33%	8
Do Not Support	17%	4
No Preference	50%	12
Total		24

Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2025-2026 Extended Falconry season dates are:

October 6th – October 18th.

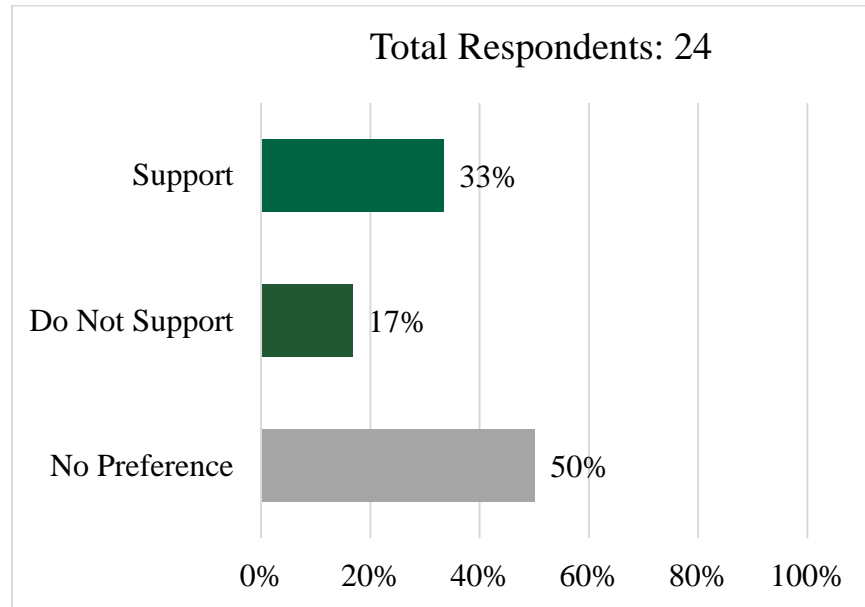
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Do Not Support	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
No Preference	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	12
Total	4	4	5	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	24

Extended Falconry Season for Doves Comments

1	Falconry crossing property boundaries should be classified as trespassing
2	NO GUN HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
3	no hunting on Sunday
4	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Woodcock



Choices	Responses	
Support	33%	8
Do Not Support	17%	4
No Preference	50%	12
Total		24

Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2025-2026 Extended Falconry season dates are:

December 1st - December 10th

February 2nd - February 21st.

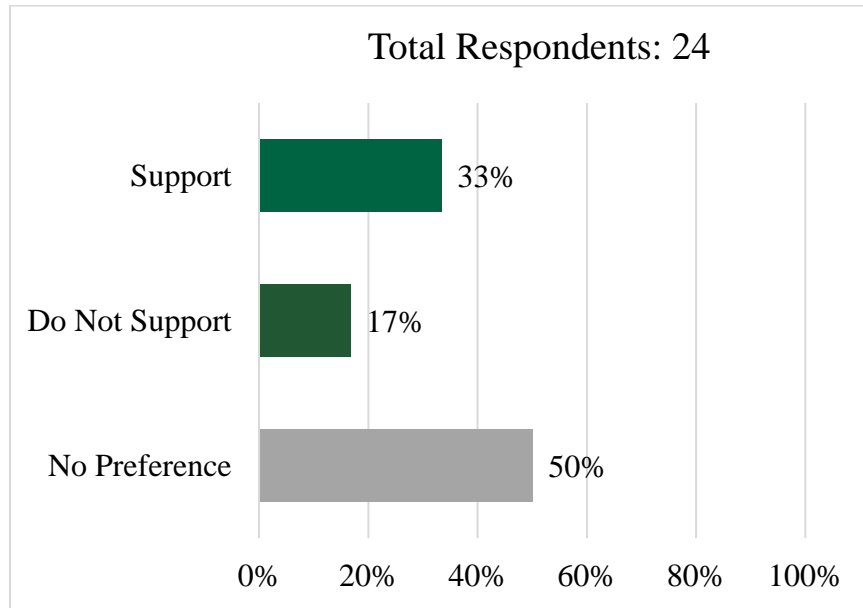
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Do Not Support	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
No Preference	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	12
Total	4	4	5	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	24

Extended Falconry Season for Woodcock Comments

1	Falconry crossing property boundaries should be classified as trespassing
2	NO GUN HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
3	no hunting on Sunday
4	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens



Choices	Responses	
Support	20%	8
Do Not Support	2%	4
No Preference	78%	12
Total		24

Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2025-2026 Extended Falconry season dates are:

December 6th - January 10th.

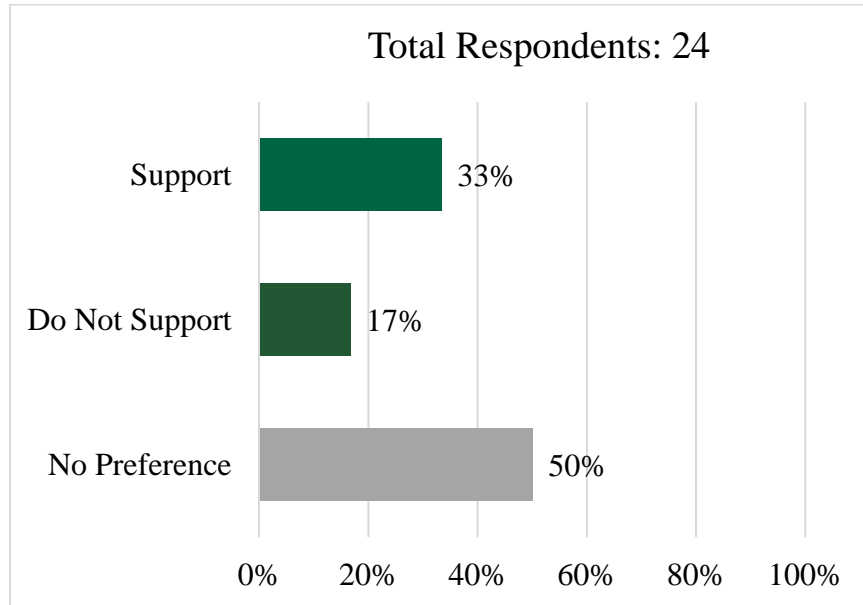
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Do Not Support	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
No Preference	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	12
Total	4	4	5	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	24

Extended Falconry Season for Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens Comments

1	Falconry crossing property boundaries should be classified as trespassing
2	NO GUN HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
3	no hunting on Sunday
4	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.

2025-2026 Migratory Game Bird Seasons

Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones



Choices	Responses	
Support	33%	8
Do Not Support	17%	4
No Preference	50%	12
Total		24

Guidelines for extended falconry seasons include:

1. The season must fall between September 1st and March 10th.
2. Total available falconry days (including gun season) must not exceed 107 days.

The proposed 2025-2026 Extended Falconry season dates are:

October 1st - October 11th

February 2nd - February 7th.

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out of State	Totals
Support	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8
Do Not Support	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
No Preference	1	3	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	12
Total	4	4	5	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	24

Extended Falconry Season for Ducks – Inland & Coastal Zones Comments

1	Falconry crossing property boundaries should be classified as trespassing
2	NO GUN HUNTING ON SUNDAYS
3	no hunting on Sunday
4	Sunday hunting should be allowed as well.

General Comments on Migratory Game Birds

1	<p>1. Should have active first responder days added to the Veterans Day.</p> <p>2. Northeast Goose Zone - if there is to be a 2 goose limit for 30 days, then maybe it should be 1 goose a day for the 60 day season. I have extensively hunted the northeast zone for the last 10 years. I have had better chances in November than I ever had in January. It is ridiculous that where I hunt is less than a half mile from the Virginia line, and they can shoot geese the whole season. They are the same birds!!!</p>
2	<p>5 years ago the season didn't come in until middle of November with only a two week first season thus taking away the best week of hunting which was historically the first week of December. Ever since the state changed the black duck limit to two we don't hardly see them anymore so we should just get one black duck a day all season. The first two weeks of the season it's almost impossible to tell the difference between gadwalls, mallards, and hen pintails. The seasons dates that have been put in place for 5 years now almost seem like they are set up to not let people shoot ducks. There should be no hunting in February due to everything being paired up but a three-week split the time all the calendar ducks show up in December really hurts the average public waterfowler's chances of actually shooting ducks. Honest opinion perfect season would be the last two weeks of November the first two weeks of December a week split then shoot it out early January the earlier it goes out the better</p>
3	<p>60 days straight though with the exceptions of Sundays from middle November until middle January would be awesome.....</p>
4	<p>Abolish blind laws</p>
5	<p>Again, I would like for the commission to consider a special extended season for seniors, 55 and over. There aren't many waterfowl hunters in this age bracket, but give the few left a chance at extra days. Thanks!</p>
6	<p>All ducks seasons excluding the October season should begin and end on a Saturday.</p>
7	<p>Allow duck and dove hunting on Sunday.</p>
8	<p>Allow duck hunting on Sunday. I may have to start hunting in VA because they allow duck hunting on Sunday. North Carolian is one of the only states in the country that does not allow duck hunting on Sunday. The proposed season have duck season coming in on Thursday. Why not allow hunting on Sunday, that would fix the problem of the season coming in and going out on a weekday. When no one with a job can hunt. As hunting number decline (especially duck hunters), the general populations need to have more opportunity to hunt. Allowing duck hunting on Sundays would provide more opportunities. I work 40 hours a week and most of the time I can only hunt on the weekends. I have been a volunteer with ducks unlimited for over 20 years. Thank you for taking this into consideration. William Nixon Lifetime Sportsman</p>
9	<p>Allow first responders (active/retired) to hunt the youth and military days.</p>
10	<p>Allow for hunting of webless migratory birds, on Sunday's.</p>
11	<p>Allow migratory bird hunting on Sundays. It's time to move on from the archaic bible thumping theology forcing people into churches instead of the woods. North Carolina is one of the only states still stuck in the 1800'ss with this out-of-date law. Working class people are limited to only one day a week throughout the season forcing overcrowded public land on Saturdays and leading to safety issues. It's time the government overreach of determining how we spend our Sundays is abolished.</p>
12	<p>Allow Sunday hunting</p>
13	<p>Allow Sunday hunting</p>
14	<p>Allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds.</p>
15	<p>ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING! Pretty simple the working man wants to be in the field on the weekends.</p>

	Rest the birds if you must on Monday Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Stop screwing us out of a weekend day to hunt ducks and doves.
16	Allow waterfowl hunting on Sundays. It's absurd that NC doesn't allow this yet. I agree that public land needs rest days, but you can manage this better with logical splits and migration pushes rather than non-Sunday hunting. Catch up with the times NC Wildlife.
17	Almost 3 weeks between 2nd and 3rd split too long. Prefer 2-week break,, opening 2nd split week later, giving that week to start of 3rd split
18	As many pintails as were seen in the coastal zone this year, the pintail limit should be upped from 1 to at least 2 maybe 3, especially since the studies came out showing that hunting doesn't affect population as much as nesting habitat does
19	As stated earlier we would much prefer to have less December days and more days in February.
20	As time goes on birds seem to show up later and later with the change in weather patterns, I would be more in favor of giving more days as late as possible throughout the season. Get rid of the early season as more often than not migration has not really started. Push the start of November back a week or so as well.
21	Because the general duck season dates for the coastal and inland zones are so similar, seems like way too much trouble and potential confusion to have 2 zones. Why bother? I understand that shorter duck seasons (30 & 45 days for example) may necessitate a wider disparity in season dates for the 2 zones, but not 60 days (given the preferred season dates you've chosen). I suggest not having 2 duck zones given the dates are so similar.
22	Bird population seems to be low compared to previous years. I feel a temporary 30 day limit and 3 bird limit would help grow population.
23	Black duck limit should be entire time of duck season, neighboring states Va and SC do not have such a rule so why should NC? Do away with black duck coming in at end of Nov. Also bluebill limit should be same bag limit for entirety if season, greaters don't get here until January if they get here at all anyway if that's the species designed to help. I'm fine with 2 scaup per person but it should be entirety of season not last 21 days of season.
24	Blind laws of certain counties are being used to limit what non-locals can hunt.
25	Blue bill limit should be up to 4 for sure. We should open up a season for cormorants they are getting very bad in a lot of areas.
26	Comments were left under the swan season and northeast goose season. Also , preferences points for Mattamuskeet and Futch. I know individuals who has put in for Futch for 10 years and never got drawn.
27	Connie island is a good place to hunt, but it needs to be cleaned up on the walk ways.
28	Consider raising the bag limit of lesser and greater scaup from 1 to 2 all season instead of after the 8th or 9th
29	Continue the Statewide policy of no migratory bird hunting on Sundays. It improves our hunt quality and gives hunters a greater window to pursue migratory game given the 60- and 90-day max hunting day restrictions.
30	Correction to the coastal waterfowl season. One day should be added such as the 23rd. Understanding that Sundays are no hunt days.
31	Could we consider some regulations for flooding too much area to simply control waterfowl on private property or open up more hunting opportunities for public land. Corporate Waterfowl hunting has put an extreme limit on hunting opportunities for average citizens,
32	cut out september and October. start season later November and run into February. close season for 1-3 years to allow population to grow
33	Distribute the seasons better for the 60-day waterfowl season. Increase the daily bag limit of geese.
34	Do away with electronic calls in September
35	Don't mess with the February youth hunt Saturday's. Putting one in December will only defeat the purpose of bringing new blood into the sport. There are so many other hunting opportunities already in

	<p>December.</p> <p>Bump up the Hooded Merganser bag limit from 2 to 5 as the federal framework allows for. Keep the Scaup season as the hybrid season of 40/20.</p>
36	<p>Duck and goose regular season should be altered for hunting on Sundays while still allowing for the allotted days with some modifications to other rules such as, no hunting within 1500 yards of a public church, or no hunting on Sundays between 1000am-1200pm if needed both ideas could be considered together. But separation of church and state would allow for optimized hunting days for outdoorsman and allowing for no disruption for church's in the process. As many outdoorsman in this state find being outdoors with Gods creation as close as we can get to God and the church without the physical aspect of being inside one.</p>
37	<p>Duck hunting in NC ha gone to squat ! That's unless you spend thousands of dollars on " legal baiting ". Since when was leaving hundreds of acres of corn ,beans ,millet , milo etc . the list goes on and on a natural occurrence. Please explain this to me . You can put water on corn but you can't put corn in the water. The heritage of waterfowl hunting " our sound hunting" is just about all but gone . You can't kill a bird where I have hunted my entire life . These impoundments are holding and killing most of all the Ducks in this state . Maybe the only answer is to cut the limit in half and maybe some of these legal baiters will find something else to do with their thousands of dollars .</p>
38	<p>duck limits should be reduced to 4 or 5 daily</p>
39	<p>Duck populations for the inland zone have really decreased. Please lower the limits and shorten the season to help improve our hunting for this generation and the next</p>
40	<p>Duck season dates should be adjusted where there are more days to hunt in December</p>
41	<p>Eliminate the October season and move those days into the later seasons and push back opening day for the second split so it does not conflict with opening day of Bear season.</p>
42	<p>Explain the reasons why you split the state at I95.</p>
43	<p>First Responders should have a special day like the military does. Proof of employment should be required.</p>
44	<p>Foolish seasons and complications is not what the taxpayer, or license purchases are for. Each reg and the enforcement thereof cost money. The primary directive was to protect landowners from poachers and trespassing, not to stop people from taking the resources on one's own land. Its really simple duhu!! Leave the seasons open for a long time and folks will get board. How many people hunt past the first week of dove? Not many. Doing all these short streaks in duck season makes everyone hunt the next opening.</p> <p>Or better yet the maximum of migration for ducks happens the end of Jan into the 2nd week of Feb. So do as you wish, I don't hunt anymore anyway. Seems every time I can the seasons out, or I can't use my own land on a Sunday.</p>
45	<p>For eastern NC it would be better to not have the first season and extend the last two due to the amount of ducks migrating here at the time. The weather is generally not in our favor either until December usually.</p>
46	<p>Get with the times and ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING!!!</p> <p>Absolutely ridiculous NC still practices this old, antiquated crap. It doesn't help waterfowl at all.</p>
47	<p>Good Hunting Seasons</p>
48	<p>Growing up in Currituck County NC this past year was the first-time hunting waterfowl in the last 15 years. I have noticed a dramatic decrease in the number of ducks outside of private refuges or compound constructed for the sole purpose of sadly making money shooting the ducks harboring in these compounds. Hunting parties would easily bag their limit by lunchtime, return in the afternoon and bag their limits again by sunset. Blinds in the outer lying areas of the compounds would rarely have opportunities to shoot. In my opinion, no hunting blinds should be allowed within 2000 yards of a privately owned or state managed waterfowl sanctuary.</p>
49	<p>Have reported hunters rallying ducks on Neuse River to Wildlife officers twice this past season and received no response.</p>

50	Hunting has steadily declined over the past seven years. The season and limits both need to be shortened/lowered.
51	Hunting on Sundays would allow people that work during the week to have an extra day to hunt on the weekends.
52	I agree with the NC/VA woodcock gun seasons.
53	I am in favor of extending the days in the dove season to at least 120. Those of us who work full time can only hunt on Saturdays. The current season proposal discriminates against folks. It is also hard to justify purchasing an annual hunting license if I can only hunt 9-12 times per year. Please remember that the people that work full time have the disposable income to support wildlife conservation efforts.
54	I appreciate the NCWRC and the efforts that they make to provide good public hunting opportunities. I do think however, that the wood duck limit should be reduced back to two. I also think that hunting hours should end on public ground at 1 PM as they are in most impoundments. Pressure on public land is like nothing I've experienced in 34 years of hunting public land.
55	I ask that North Carolina residents get preference points for drawing a swan permit and impoundment draw hunts over nonresidents. Also youth and veterans have separate hunt days, one each, not combine the two groups together when the general public is not allowed to hunt. I feel one day should be set aside still just for the next generation of hunters to focus on and the veterans also have their own day afield in their honor to support them.
56	I believe the youth season should be limited to youth aged 15 years or younger.
57	I do not hunt birds
58	I do not support the change to J Morgan Futch and Texas Plantation moving to one day a week. I think this decision was based on a flawed survey and defeats the purpose of providing hunters with more hunting opportunities. This is the first year I was not drawn for either unit and since I was not selected I will not receive the survey the manager of those impoundments sends out. The results will be skewed because of this. The hunters select may report that they are satisfied but those that were not select are likely unsatisfied, but they will not receive that survey. That survey should be sent to, at least, everyone that submitted to the drawing and realistically to everyone with the waterfowl privilege on their license. This will provide a more accurate picture of hunter satisfaction with the waterfowl permit draw process. I also think the drawing should be CLOSER to the hunting dates and not farther away as was done this season. The drawing should be no more than a month away from the season. Some states have weekly drawings and with NC's move to the online app, I suspect it would be possible to automate a weekly drawing. This will help ensure hunters are able to attend hunts they are drawn for and are less likely to have conflicts that could not be foreseen 2+ month in advance. I also don't think the blind draw locations are always manages correctly. For example, this your in North River, the millet planted did very well but the open areas by blind 3 were set far away from the blind instead of centered on the blind. This is not the correct way to arrange crops around a blind. The water was also do low in that impoundment we no water directly in front of the blind. It was basically a mud flat. Birds where in the area but didn't come in as well as they would have with better management. I think the permits should go back to the system of one person draws a permit and can take two guests. With the online system, the two guest would be required to also purchase a permit for those hunts up two 24 hours before the hunt. I know they change to the current system was made because the old system was seen as unfair to solo hunters, but I doubt this is accurate. And, I have never seen anyone hunting solo on these hunts, so I suspect the number of solo permit draws is comparatively low.
59	I don't like the October duck split. We don't have many ducks so we should avoid putting pressure solely on our residents. Start the clock as late as possible and give us Sunday's.
60	I don't see why we can't have a 6-bird limit as just 6 birds. No 3 of this 1 of that 3 of these. Make the limit a bird limit just like Canada.
61	I feel the season opens before we have received migrating ducks and the split is right in the heart of the migration. We should push the opener back and shorten the split.

62	I have hunted with my dad and now I have my son's and daughter. I have added grandbabies also. To watch them look at a young doe walking across the field and there is excited. Hunt to me is tradition. Couldn't care if I pull a trigger. Thanks to the wildlife and the people who watch over them.
63	I have noticed an increase in hunters pursuing waterfowl in the last few years. This year (2024-2025 season) was the most amount of hunting traffic I have witnessed in over 10 years. As a result, waterfowl have been visually disturbed due to the increase pressure from hunters, particularly in the 3rd season. As North Carolina's population grows and new young hunters begin their journey, it has become obvious that a large number of individuals are not following the regulations. I believe a larger presence of Wildlife Officers is needed. Additionally, I support a shorter season and or additional days of the week where hunting is not allowed.
64	I have read where Eastern Flyway may get 3 Pintails, and I sure hope NC plans to take advantage of that. Would not be opposed to making it a drake only Pintail limit.
65	I only hunt waterfowl on my farm pond. Ducks and geese generally visit between seasons and after the season closes. Canada Geese seem to mostly visit at the end of the season (more later in February and throughout the spring and summer).
66	I propose that dove season wording be changed to the Saturday before Labor Day to accommodate those who do not have Labor Day off from work. Furthermore, to accommodate those who plan the weekend for family camping/get-together/hunting events. This is a major event for our extended family as well as others. Saturday is the only day some of our family can hunt unless they take a vacation day from work. Thank you for your consideration.
67	I support the continued closure of migratory bird hunting on Sundays. My primary reason is that opening an additional day on the weekend would result in disproportionate increases in pressure on migratory birds, degrading the health of wintering birds and negatively impacting the quality of hunting.
68	I support the continued Sunday day of rest for migratory birds. I understand it may be limiting to hunters' work schedules, but I feel it is important for a rest day with as many groups are now hunting.
69	<p>I support the date ranges for all the seasons, with perhaps the exception that we should be hunting ducks and geese into February as migrations change, but I know this agency isn't ready for that conversation.</p> <p>Sunday hunting for migratory birds needs to be a part of North Carolina waterfowl seasons. This is with the understanding that segment lengths need to be shortened or modified to accommodate the totals days. To sum up my comments for each section of this survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunday hunting would effectively double the hunting opportunity for people who work a "regular" job Monday-Friday. -I would like to see a major reduction in the November split to account for the addition of Sunday hunting across the season- following the structure of our Mid-Atlantic neighbors (who see a lot more ducks) like Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware (all of which I hunt). -We are far behind the VAST majority of states who allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds, and it's time to catch up. These Blue Laws are a direct violation of separation of Church and State (we all know that's why it is the way it is) and it's not right. -I am a very serious waterfowl hunter, and I travel across the country to hunt. It's much easier to plan an out-of-state trip to most states that allow Sunday hunting so that I can maximize my vacation time. More travelers = more money. I have many friends and family members who would be more willing to visit to hunt if they could hunt Sunday morning before making the trip home. -Common sense dictates that Sunday hunting should be allowed, in particular & at the minimum, for light goose Conservation Order and youth seasons. -Swan hunting is a major economic draw. Missing out on a lot of opportunity by not allowing resident and non-residents to travel to hunt swans on Sunday. -Sunday hunting is not a biological concern for the population. If it was, it wouldn't be allowed in almost every other state! <p>The refusal to add Sunday hunting is misguided from biological, economic, and moral points of view.</p>

	I hunt over 50 days across dove, deer, waterfowl, and turkey season, typically 4-5 states every year and have a regular (8-5 M-F) job, that pays less than \$50k/year. I'm not some rich dude that just does whatever he wants. Most people aren't hunting anywhere close to that. In my view- those who oppose Sunday hunting just don't like to hunt that much... some of us do!
70	I think it would be very convenient for us Sportsmen to hunt migratory birds on Sundays like some other states, because it gives opportunity to people who work the week to go 2 days during the weekend
71	I think the Blue Bill limit should be back at 2 all season the NE goose zone should be 2-4 a day not 1 and NC residences should get first priority during the swan permit drawing.
72	I think the commission should consider opening up Sundays for the taking of migratory game birds. Many hunters only can hunt weekends, and this would effectively double their opportunity to pursue their favorite quarry.
73	I think the general population would prefer Sunday hunting in exchange for either a weekday being "off limits" or for shorter seasons.
74	I think the scaup bag limit should be raised to three during the final 20-day period. I have seen a huge number of bluebills in various areas in the coastal zone and believe that the limit of two may be too strict.
75	I think the September goose season limit needs to be lowered and potentially goose season as a whole needs to be shortened because the local geese numbers in my area have been going down for the last 4-5 years and whenever I do get a chance to hunt some they are extremely educated because everybody and they're brother can go jump shoot at them for about 100 days out of the year but maybe that's just the case for me I'm not sure
76	I want to know why in the world rich people from Raleigh etc. are allowed to hunt exclusive impoundments where the ducks that used to be scattered are congregated SWIMMING IN FLOODED CORN which is clearly NOT a standard agricultural practice but yet a regular hunter can't put one grain of corn in the water!!!! I've been duck hunting every year since 1968 except for two years in the Army, and I have become ashamed of what I have seen happen to duck hunting. It's clear that the resource is being managed for just the high-end duck hunter.
77	I would also like to see more game warden officials in Pitt County off the Tar River near Grimesland. I have been having a big issue as a landowner and duck hunter with people trespassing onto private property and baiting ducks. This is a problem that needs to be addressed and solved during the upcoming year.
78	I would like to see a Biological survey done on these birds in SE NC supporting the historical seasons. Give the birds more time to migrate south. Move the season back 1 week.
79	I would like to see a time when we can hunt on Sunday in North Carolina, it seems silly that we're not allowed to hunt on Sundays when other states around us are. Especially when you're allowed to hunt deer on Sunday. I believe it should be an all or nothing experience, either you are allowed to hunt any and everything on Sunday, or you are not.
80	I would like to see better designation on online maps on what is a public hunt area
81	I would like to see more habitat management in these public hunting areas. Most duck hunters that hunt public land have a hard time competing with private land. The false blinds placed on the perimeter of these private impoundments hinder the public from hunting the many coves and bays in our marsh and it ends up bottlenecking them to just a few areas that don't have blinds on the banks. It becomes in some cases a literal fight to get a good spot. There has to be something that can be done to allow more of our public land to be legally accessible to hunters. I've hunted here my entire life and I've watched this sport change a lot. I shouldn't have to leave my house before midnight to get a decent spot on public land 2 hours from home just because there are so few limited good spots to hunt publicly because of the blind laws and poorly managed public land.
82	I would like to see Sunday hunting for ducks legalized just as it is in many other states. The state can choose another day during the week such as Wednesday for a rest day.

83	I would like to see the late seasons extend into February. Losing early season time is preferable to actually hunting when there are birds here.
84	<p>I would like to see the option for using lead shot west of Interstate 95 and steel shot east of Interstate 95 reinstated.</p> <p>The number of wounded ducks and geese that get away because of using steel shot and later dying are equal to my seasonal bag limits, if not exceeding my limit.</p> <p>The lake I hunt is very deep. My decoys are strung about 18 to 25 feet. I have very few loons in my area, which I think are mainly going after fish, and the number of diving ducks are limited going that deep.</p> <p>I'm sure there are other pollutants that are much more harmful for the water foul.</p> <p>Steel shot is very expensive and does not have knock down power of lead, leading to a surge in the raccoon populations</p> <p>My wing shots land about 40 yards out or more and is about 50 feet deep.</p> <p>The old way, east and west of Interstate 95 using lead or steel was a good law.</p> <p>Thank you Joe Logan Hickory</p>
85	I would love for someone to please explain to me what part of planting, tending, and then FLOODING 600 acres of corn is a "Natural Agricultural Practice". This simply allows a small percentage (~1-2%) of the population to hold 99% of ducks. I would also like to understand what exactly the difference is in "Putting WATER in corn" and "Putting CORN in water"! It feels as though the entire cornerstone of duck hunting has now become a way of catering to the minority of those that can afford the aforementioned 600 acres of flooded corn. It simply feels as though you cannot commit \$100k+ to harvesting waterfowl a hunter may as well stay at home.
86	I would rather do away with our early duck season and move it to the end of February because that is really when we get most our ducks and geese.
87	<p>I'd like to see some kind of blind review on the coast. Too many hunters are building offshore blinds close to the blind(s) they actually hunt, which is an attempt to keep people using a boat blind farther away. These blocker blinds are very small wooden structures that maybe one person could fit in that are being built with no intention of being hunted out of.</p> <p>North Carolina could be a lot better waterfowl hunting if we would build/plant more rest areas and refuges. There's some key areas along the rivers/sounds/lakes that could be worked and planted and hold really good numbers of waterfowl. Which would help attract and hold birds throughout the season making public land and private land hunters more successful while providing ducks a safe rest area.</p>
88	<p>If we can move our teal dates up a week in September would be awesome. That's our best chance at blue wings! We start picking up birds around August 15th.</p> <p>Last year was September 12-30, 2024. Keep it the same!</p>
89	In general, I think everything is pretty good. Maybe just start the seasons later and end later. Closer to march. Thank you.
90	<p>In general, I will share again the following comments and heart felt opinions.</p> <p>I am 41 years old. I am a third generation Core Sound Waterfowler. My grandfather, father, myself and now my son have hunted for generations these waters with an unmatched commitment to preserve the resource for generations to come. Multiple factors, I believe are threatening our commitment and beyond our ability to legally influence.</p> <p>In short....our flyway is at risk of failing due to numerous factors. The waterfowl that used to swarm the outer banks of NC are a fraction of their historic numbers and have been in decline for sometime.</p> <p>1.) Loss of habitat.... Sea Level rise....Habitat is being lost up and down the outer banks due to Sea</p>

	<p>Level rise. Not much any of us can do about that but in my experience, ducks require three things and safe roosting / feeding areas is one. The marsh is dying off faster and faster every where I've hunted in the last 5 years in coastal NC.</p> <p>2.) Loss of natural food sources....with sea level rise and other contributing factors such as run-off from farming operations, increasing boat traffic, changes in salinity due to new inlets opening and closing etc.... the natural food sources necessary for migratory waterfowl on the outer banks are disappearing from areas I've known to historically be abundantly available. Our migratory waterfowl of the easter flyway and outer banks require sufficient food sources to aid their migrations. Were it not for "illegal" efforts by locals to manage the resource as they recognize as necessary.... our coastal flyway would have already collapsed. It is important to remember that our coastal duck zone and its associated season generate millions of dollars of valuable revenue and have an incalculable socio economic benefit to not just the coastal counties but all of NC as these folks prepare for trips and commute to the coast.</p> <p>3.) The law states that no feed source should alter or influence a flyway. My friends....you don't have to be an astronaut to look at the overwhelming investments into developing mainland waterfowl impoundments versus the declining presence of all but the diving ducks on the outer banks to know that the flyway has effectively been forever changed. I have no issue with the impoundment hunters, their owners or their practices. However, it should be realized that to the duck.....there is NO DIFFERENCE between an engineered impoundment planted with agricultural crops for the sole purpose of attracting waterfowl versus placing the harvest of that crop manually in areas natural to their HISTORIC migration routes as a supplemental food source to sustain them as measures are implemented to restore their NATURAL habitats. If anything, it is the better of the two options. The resource instead has been stolen and is being hoarded by the wealthier hunters for their PRIVATE enjoyment. I have no issue with this if we are allowed to play by the same rules.</p> <p>I request the commission review these comments and discuss them. I request new rules be considered that allow coastal communities to supplement their flyways to maintain a valuable resource for future generations and for the overwhelming socioeconomic impacts.</p> <p>We should not be worried about losing our jobs, our property, our right to pursue our passion for Waterfowling all while only attempting to preserve it for our children to enjoy. At the very least, perhaps consider establishing coastal "sanctuary zones" where migratory waterfowl can rest, find food and be near fresh water sources free of any pressure from boats or hunters. Hunting in or around these zones within a certain buffer would result in the harshest of penalties. To be effective, they'd need to exist every 10-20 miles of the outer banks.</p> <p>Our flyway is in threat. Please take action to allow us to help save it free of fear that we'll be penalized for doing only what is fair and necessary.</p> <p>kindest regards and thank you for your review of these and other comments that may support the same,</p> <p>James Davis</p>
91	In general, getting more time in DEC or FEB at the cost of giving up some early season wouldn't bother anyone. It seems we get most of our birds later now.
92	In my area over the past several years teal seem to come on time but the mallards, widgeons and gadwalls are showing up later and are most numerous after duck season closes. Consider extending the season.
93	increase Bluebill Limits . VERY abundant species in NC
94	Increase the lesser scaup bag limits. to 2 birds before jan 9. 3 after. good numbers seen this year.

95	<p>Increase the Pintail limit to 2. Make Black Ducks legal all season. Increase bluebills to 3 all season. Make Canada Geese legal all season.</p>
96	<p>Increases access and hunting opportunities, Revisit allowing Sunday hunting in NC. Consider allowing upland bird (woodcock) hunting on Sundays. Increase burns, planting, and Maintenance on public game lands to increase habitat.</p> <p>500-yard blind rules are increasing pressure for areas that are not affected by this rule as well as leading to conflicts. These blinds are put into place only to limit hunting opportunities for non-landowners. most of these "blinds" are nothing more than markers/stakes that allow landowners to use this law to their advantage and remain un-hunted and un kept throughout hunting season. These blinds also in some cases are in public waters. PUBLIC Waters.</p>
97	<p>It is difficult to apply for permits. There needs to be a book that lays all the permit hunting opportunities out for each individual. That way we can make a better-informed choice on where we would like to hunt public.</p>
98	<p>It is vital that the 4-day early October season actually be EARLY! In years past it was the week before the regular season and ruined the purpose and experience as well as over hunted areas. The proposed dates for the upcoming season are acceptable.</p>
99	<p>It's time our state catches up with other states and allows us to hunt on Sundays for migratory birds. I travel out of the state every year and it's senseless that they can hunt on Sundays but here at home we can't! We are already very limited to the number of days that are actually good for hunting ducks especially with a warming climate. The very least NC wildlife could do would be to allow Sunday hunting.</p>
100	<p>Keep up the good work!</p>
101	<p>Keep up the good work!</p> <p>Had I know this general comment box was available, I would have included my comment on the avian virus here.</p>
102	<p>Keep up the great work</p>
103	<p>Let us hunt Sundays for ducks</p>
104	<p>Let us shoot black ducks when the duck season starts! Don'ts make the break too long between December and January. Ducks are mating by February. End the last kid /vet day on the 31 of January.</p>
105	<p>Losing the four-day October waterfowl season has had a very negative impact on my family and their hunting enjoyment in NC. We need to get back to the four days around the weekend AFTER Columbus Day weekend. So October 15-18, 2025.</p>
106	<p>Lower the mallard limit back to 2, 1 hen only, and the wood duck limit to 2, 1 hen only.</p>
107	<p>Make at least 1 youth day Feb. 14th not on the veterans hunt day , youth days should always be the following 2 Saturdays after the last season !! 1 pintail 2 bluebills all season</p>
108	<p>Make duck season come in later and last through February because there's seems to be a lot of new ducks arriving when it's closing and when I was younger I always noticed the youth days were always better because they were later. I believe the wood duck limit could go up because they are very plentiful. And the goose zone in Bertie county needs to be one or the other not both it's very confusing when you hunt very close to the line thanks.</p>
109	<p>Make it illegal to shoot after 3pm, have sent this recommendation for 10+ years. I believe this would help allow people to have better seasons due to people not being allowed to hunt roosts. There is not enough game wardens in north Carolina to catch people hunting illegally in the afternoons. Also would love for NC to allow waterfowl hunting on Sundays like other states are doing.</p>

110	Maybe decrease the daily and season bag limits on dove. Increase the bag limits on geese. I see more geese over the years and less doves.
111	Military and veterans continue to hunt in state permitted impoundments even with regulations prohibiting the practice during youth days. Youth and veterans enter the impoundments prior to 4am on hunt days. There needs to be more enforcement during youth/veterans seasons at state impoundments. It is a free for all and dangerous today.
112	More hunters than ducks! The only organization doing anything productive is delta waterfowl. Nc needs to create some more impoundments/hunting locations for what waterfowl we do get! Need to reduce the number of days a week people can hunt temporarily to see if it helps with all the over pressuring of the birds!
113	More lesser scaup daily bag limit; at least 4
114	Most of the ducks show up in November. Start the 60 days season starting November 1st through middle of January. Include NO SUNDAY hunting. Get rid of "coastal and inland duck zones". They are meaningless and have no place. A day or two difference in start and end seasons makes no difference. These zones make it confusing to new and old hunters. Besides using I 95 as dividing line is insulting and serves no purpose.
115	Mostly Ducks and lots Canadas in Hyde county this year, duck limits are fine, Canada goose season in northeast zone need to be worked on.
116	Move limits to 6 birds of any species so we can enjoy our hunts without fear of extortion! It leads to birds being left in the field and missed opportunities. To be honest, when a group of ducks comes in with the sun somewhat behind them. They are black silhouettes, and the finest autobahn bird watcher can tell what species they are either. Limiting us on certain species is not helping anything when other states are shooting 6-8 a day. The population surveys are done from an airplane and produce improbable numbers€. That to me is scientist for we counted a few, but we have no idea how many there area. If we kill more than 6, by all means, clap us in irons and throw us in the brig. The way we are doing it now is another creative way to keep poor people poor and limit our right to hunt and fish. And let's not start on the fishing! In short, 6 ducks and go home = Good, confusing limits spreadsheet with inevitable tickets = Bad.
117	Move October days to December.
118	Move season back into February for inland zone.
119	Move the September teal season up a few days. 12-30 was last year!
120	My concerns are on the dates as submitted.
121	NA
122	Nc waterfowl never arrive until mid-January on our coast!
123	NC Wildlife doesn't care about hunters or what we are wanting. The seasons for western NC are not based on when we see ducks. I don't know where you get these dates from, but it is not helpful to the hunters. We lose a lot of ducks in between the November split and now making the split longer we lose a ton of birds. Y'all are more interested in writing tickets than anything else.
124	NC's law on no hunting of migratory birds on Sundays needs to be reviewed. Most of us have jobs that require us to take vacation to hunt during the week. Our kids have school. Saturday and Sunday are the best opportunity for us to get out in the outdoors and for some reason, we cannot hunt migratory fowl on Sunday. You can go to other states and hunt on Sunday. Ask the people that hunt and support the WILDLIFE COMMISSION, and I am confident that the plurality would agree with making it legal to hunt on Sundays.
125	NCWRC does a great job!
126	Need to add more youth days
127	Need to do something about cormorants on inland zone all the lakes are loaded with them they screw up fishing and some of the duck hunting on the lakes in the inland zone and seem to be very populated
128	Need to do something about the ones who don't have draw hunts. The encircled the impound and our hunt was a waste of time. My suggestion is no hunting within 500 yards of a designated impound on draw day hunts. If Pamlico co can pass a no hunting within 500 yards of a permanent blind you can

	too. Which by the way is not right. I could see if it's an occupied blind but with no one there that's different. Blinds from mouse harbor ditch to Jones Bay and a 4x8 piece of plywood that says no hunting. Hunting there has just about ended. It's a shame.
129	Never, and I repeat never, end the season on any day other than Saturday. Federal frameworks, # of days can be adjusted during the earlier season, whatever it takes. This year was not only a mess in public locations by ending it on a weekday, but also penalized those that are self-employed or can not take off from work.
130	no hunting on Sunday
131	No Sunday Hunting Given a general warming trend, it may warrant shifting seasons to a little later within the year
132	North Carolina must open migratory game bird hunting to Sundays. It is inexcusable that we still deal with this while other states and hunters are not bound by these restrictions. The vast majority of hunters work full time and are not able to hunt during the week, the inability to hunt on Sundays is an affront to all things outdoors.
133	North Carolina needs more habitat prepared to attract more birds and hold them. Wheat fields, milo, corn etc. These fields need to be cut and burnt off to help wildlife. This would have a good hunt for people to go and enjoy the outdoors more and be successful. We have a lot of unused game land in Columbus County.
134	North Carolina really needs to allow Sunday hunting of waterfowl. I drive down from PA to hunt with my son who is a NC resident, and having an extra day would really be nice. Not allowing hunting on Sunday serves no purpose and is only a remnant of the old blue laws. I am a Hunter Ed instructor in PA, and it is proven that Sunday is a day when many outlaws hunt because they know law-abiding hunters can't.
135	Northeast hunt zone goose limits need to be increased per day
136	Not enough days! When your days off are not Sat or Tuesday but Sunday you miss a lot of hunting on game lands. No hunting on Sunday needs to be changed in NC! Season could miss October and add February dates. Thank you for letting me voice my frustration and concerns!!
137	Nothing else
138	Now this is just my opinion, but you should up the number of the limit on diver duck species bluebills and redheads to 4 all season plenty of them around. Also, I know it was nationwide but they changed the number of pintails to three next season definitely more divers in North Carolina than pintails unless you hunt a private impoundment somewhere in Hyde County which most of us don't.... just saying. Anyways I appreciate all you guys do for North Carolina for our hunting and fishing. Blessings!!
139	On public game land due to deer season being extended (rifle season), please consider opening small game hunting (Sandy Mush) game lands to one- or two-days week small game only. I have bird dogs and out of respect to the deer hunting don't want to interrupt anyone's hunt, or risk someone shooting the dogs mistakenly for a deer. The woodcock come thru first two or three weeks in December, then move south before rifle season is over January 1. When they migrate back it is in February and the season is over. I love to bird hunt, I know it's not as important to most as big game hunting, but I have had so many memories with my dad that is 86 chasing grouse, I just want my grandsons to come to love bird hunting as much as possible. Thanks Luther Myron Coates
140	open Sunday hunting
141	Open Sunday Hunting for Waterfowl !!!!
142	Overall great job approved of proposed dates. Thank you and the staff for all you do.
143	Overall, the season was good things didn't get better till January which only left us with 30 or so days of success on the water. The overall duck/goose and swan season needs to shift to the right by a month we are seeing more and more late migrations due to the fact the waters and food north of NC are freezing up later forcing the ducks south. I am a veteran and have a youth hunter as well and the

	February hunt day was one of the best we had all season. Thanks for taking the time to listen and supporting the hunters of today and tomorrow.
144	<p>Pamlico Point impoundment could really use more monitoring during season. I have hunted outside of the impoundment numerous times and have seen a few groups hunting inside the impoundment on days when hunting is not permitted even with a permit.</p> <p>Another suggestion is to do away with the early October season, start the November season later and allow Sunday hunting.</p>
145	Please allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds such as dove and ducks in the 3rd split! Take the days from the November split and let Sundays be open, please. These rules limit the working man to just a handful of days to hunt overcrowded waters. Thank you.
146	Please allow Sunday hunting for migratory birds in NC
147	Please come up with a way to limit the amount of people guiding on scissor rigs in Pamlico county. They hunt every day and there is nothing they have to pay for besides a captains license to run charters. Start making this a permit hunt or make them purchase one to limit the amount of them out there. It's time for something to change.
148	Please consider my comment for opening Sunday hunting on migratory birds.
149	<p>Please consider opening the Opening Day of Dove Season to always on a Sat. Many hunters travel several hours away just to get to a good spot, and many cannot traveling on Monday because of work constraints. Either allow opening day for doves be the Sat. before Labor Day or even a week or two after Labor Day just as long as it's on a Sat.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration in this!</p>
150	<p>Please consider that avian flu is impacting the number of wild birds. I wonder if it makes sense to wait and see the impact before setting the season, especially if certain species are impacted more heavily than others. I suppose you adjust the bag limit or decrease the number of licenses you give out.</p> <p>Also, please consider that climate change possibly has birds nesting earlier in the spring and later in the summer. Very young Canada geese were found in Garner on February 6th. From what I can tell, hunting season ended on February 8th. I can send you photos and find out the exact location for you.</p>
151	Please do not allow migratory game bird hunting on Sundays. I know a lot of other states allow it but I would like for the NCWRC to not allow it.
152	Please explain why Black Ducks are not allowed to be harvested until later in the late season
153	<p>Please extend waterfowl season to Sundays in NC as many states allow it. Please consider having an end time of 10:00 am for local churches. This gives the working class more options to get in the great outdoors.</p> <p>I recommend NO October season. There are never many birds in the area the last 7 years from Greensboro NC - West into the Mountains.</p> <p>Please consider moving November start date to Monday November 17th and ending that segment December 1st? This would be awesome ONLY if Sundays are allowed to be hunted on. Late season in NC is the best opportunity to see waterfowl for all of the state.</p> <p>Thank you for all you do and allowing us to carry out our heritage of being in the great outdoors.</p>
154	Please for the open Sunday Hunting. We are one of the last states that does not offer it and it has no hindrance on the waterfowl hunting quality. Take the extra revenue and build more habitat. We are missing out on a significant revenue stream from Sunday waterfowl hunting. Contact me at (919) 428-8368 if you would like me to come speak somewhere about this.
155	Please get rid of compensatory days and allow for Sunday hunting. This limitation severely restricts opportunity for those who can only hunt on the weekends. Our neighboring states to the north, south and west all allow hunting migratory birds on Sunday to some degree. This rule is an outdated blue

	law rather than something that is based on science and should be changed immediately to increase opportunity for license holders.
156	Please open Sunday hunting for migratory birds.
157	Please reconsider the number of bluebills (scaup) that can be harvested. I live on Adam's Creek in Craven County, about 1-mile south of its junction with the Neuse River. We had thousands of those birds last year and this year. If there is a deficit, I am not seeing it. Please consider raising the daily limit on this species this year.
158	Please revert back to the old sea duck season, beginning October 1 and running through January 31. Half mile out.
159	Please review the daily limit on wood ducks and scaup
160	Please shorten the season and add Sunday as a hunt day.
161	Please take off the September October dates and the November if possible and add them to February. Not many people hunt these early seasons because of the snakes and mosquitoes. Thanks for your consideration
162	Previous comments should probably have been placed here.
163	The previous page is where I commented.
164	<p>RE: NCWRC Migratory Game Bird Public Comments</p> <p>Dear Board of Wildlife Commissioners,</p> <p>I hope this letter finds you all doing well and having had a successful hunting season. Below are a few comments I would like to provide for the upcoming 2025 – 2026 Migratory Game Bird season, specifically waterfowl in the Coastal Duck Zone.</p> <p>1. No wildlife enforcement officer in Pamlico County, NC. This has been an ongoing issue for the past two (2) to three (3) years where Pamlico County has not had an assigned enforcement officer. We have been relying on the assistance of Sgt. David Midyette of Craven County and Sheriff Chris Davis to plug holes in a festering problem. Over the past decade, the amount of guided float blind hunts has exploded from us routinely encountering one (1) to two (2) around the perimeter of our property to over twenty (20) floating blinds set up on Saturday, January 18, 2025.</p> <p>We are routinely encountering more and more hunters in our area (Bay River, Pamlico Sound and Neuse River) who are blatantly disregarding State Law Chapter 581, SB 616, AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE DISTANCES FOR HUNTING MIGRATORY WILD WATERFOWL IN CARTERET AND PAMLICO COUNTIES (Safe Distances Act) as well as are flying unmanned aircraft (drones) over our permanent hunting locations while we are actively hunting. We have also encountered many individuals hunting on our private property, as well as the private property of our neighbors in the area. These actions are occurring because it is a widely known fact that there is no enforcement in Pamlico County and both State and local law enforcement do not actively issue citations for violation of the Safe Distances Act.</p> <p>The 1981 Pamlico County law and similar laws in Currituck and Dare Counties were establishes in the last 1970s and early 1980s to ensure the rights and privileges of all sportsmen hunting in these counties will be protected and enforced equally to ensure everyone's safety while still enjoying waterfowl and continuing to ensure a healthy and viable wildlife population for future generations. These safe distances are constitutionally sound principals and have survived scrutiny in both the North Carolina and United States Supreme Court. In fact, the Commonwealth of Virginia recently enacted statewide legislation that went into effect the first of this year that limits distances that floating blinds (500 yards) may be to one another as well as to any riparian blind, whether it is occupied or not.</p> <p>Virginia Code 29.1-344 states: the owners of riparian rights, their lessees or permittees shall have the exclusive privilege of licensing and erecting stationary blinds on their shoreline to shoot waterfowl</p>

	<p>over public wates no other floating blind shall be located in the public waters within 500 yards of a riparian blind, whether it is occupied or not.</p> <p>2. Youth hunt dates. I ask that the Commission consider an alternative, traditionally warmer youth hunting date for this upcoming waterfowl season. The average temperature in late January and early February across North Carolina ranges from lows of 20 degrees to highs in the 40s or low 50s. There are obvious outliers in this State, but overall, it is a fair characterization that waterfowl hunting in February is much colder than earlier season dates in October, November and the first half of December. I think we can all agree that colder weather affects children more than adults and due to their smaller size, they are more susceptible to hypothermia as well as lose heat faster than adults do.</p> <p>This year at our club, NeuPamBay Duck Club in Pamlico County, we designated the Coastal Duck Zone season date of Saturday, October 26 as our Youth Day and it was a HUGE success! With the warmer weather, combined with a date that occurred before daylight savings time, the kids were able to sleep a little longer in the morning and hunt a little later in the evening. It is my request that this Commission consider moving at least one (1) of the end of season youth date hunts to the Saturday before the November regular season begins, or a Saturday during the regular season December split.</p> <p>3. Regular season dates. During the 2024 – 2025 season the December split date started back on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. I have heard many times that the NCWRC seeks to promote dates that increase hunter’s opportunities. With that in mind, opening the season back during the middle of a week does not appear to accomplish that goal. My recommendation would be to start the November season on a Friday (for example, Friday, 11/8/2024), which would have allowed a two (2) day extended weekend opening date. At least then the December season would have opened back on a Thursday, 12/19/2024).</p> <p>Another option to consider, when you have two (2) extra days it may be a good idea to open waterfowl hunting only to the Saturdays in December that are not otherwise being hunted versus a mid-week start date. This would allow more waterfowl hunting opportunities for youth and hunters that work a weekday job with little time off allowed. For example, for the 2024-2025 season if waterfowl hunting had been allowed on Saturday, December 7th and Saturday, December 14th, the regular December season would have started back on Friday, December 20th. These scenarios would both give migratory waterfowl opportunities to rest during the week, while also allowing additional hunting opportunities during the weekend that may not otherwise be available to many hunters.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your consideration of these matters above. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions.</p> <p>Respectfully, Chris G. B. Dozier (919) 818-1767 cgbdozier@gmail.com</p>
165	really wish the state would up the guide fee and make it a legitimate requirement to become a guide in this state.
166	Regarding Youth Days. On most Public Impoundments the Veterans get there in mass before the youth get to the sites and they are pushed out w/ Pamlico Point being a great example. Should consider a Veterans Day and a Youth Day separately from each other
167	Regulate when you can hunt on the outside of waterfowl impoundments. For example; goose creek game land; available to hunt on Monday, Thursday, Saturday. This would give ducks rest time flying to and from impoundments and make draw hunt opportunities better for those awarded.

168	Same as every year. Regarding Public hunting i think GWs should be on site in the morning and educating every hunter on "Sky Busting"
169	Season for migratory duck hunts is too early. Suspend all hunting for ducks in September and add to the the season with additional days in February. February 1-10 or February 1-15. The current seasons don't match up with migratory patterns.
170	<p>Selected dates seem reasonable, and supportive of hunters and conservation. The Youth/Veterans Day(Dec 6) is a change from past seasons, but I believe it makes sense.</p> <p>No other significant comments.</p> <p>My gratitude for the opportunity to comment and for the effort the NCWC expends in this difficult task.</p>
171	SENIORS OVER 70 YRS OF AGE SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE YOUTH / VETERANS EXTENDED HUNTING RIGHTS.
172	Separate youth and veteran waterfowl days! There is no reason an adult needs to hunt during youth days. The ramp at Pamlico Point this past season shows this clearly. There were 52 truck/boat trailers at the Oyster Creek ramp. Youth hunters should not be able to drive themselves. Max youth age to 16 and let youth have their time.
173	September Teal Season is a bust in the coastal areas, we spend more time swatting mosquitos than hunting, and there aren't any birds here. This was the worst season in 10 years in Onslow County coastal areas. All the birds are here in February now, please shift early season teal to mid-October, and take the October duck days and give us a few weekends in February instead.
174	September teal should include wood ducks and be statewide, not just east of 17. Eliminate the few days in October season and make teal/wood duck September season 10 days total.
175	Sharon Harris sucks you killed all the aquatic vegetation on the lake, dumb ass. Keep those ass hole bass fishermen off the lake of Duck Hunting Days , Duck Hunters Only !!!!!!!!! No exceptions, 500-dollar fine Min!!!! We only get a few days and can't hunt Harris every day, Bull Shit!!! You politicians suck, screw the people you clowns represent. I am disabled and old and it's no fun hunting in NC anymore. Get a pay raise
176	should have an over 70 years age hunt simultaneous with Youth hunts
177	<p>SOMEONE WILL BE SHOT IN THE PUBLIC IMPOUNDMENTS IF YOU DON'T LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON YOUTH DAYS. THE VETERANS HUNTING THE IMPOUNDMENTS HAS RUINED IT. GIVE THEM THEIR OWN DAYS!!!!</p> <p>The 3rd segment of the duck season should start on a Saturday and end on Saturday. It should start on Dec 20, 2025 and end on Jan 31, 2026. The first Youth Day should be Feb 7, 2026. The ducks need a break between regular season. The Last Youth Day should be Feb 14, 2026. Veterans should not be on Youth days. Pamlico Point and other public impoundments are a war zone with veterans and youth hunting on the same day. Someone's child will be shot soon. The NCWRC should either not have veterans on youth days or make all public impoundments permitted only for youth/veterans days.</p>
178	Something need to be done to correct the disconnect between Federal and State baiting regulations. The stayed says hunters can bait for birds but must not hunt within 300 yards of the bait. The Feds state that there can be no bait placed for the taking of birds and can issue a citation for baiting a fly way. It is not just, for a hunter to get a federal citation while following state law.
179	Split between November and Dec season too long. Go back to two week split. Shift October Days to December in coastal zone.
180	Stop hunting on the outside of the impound on draw day hunts. 500 yards from a designated waterfowl impound only on draw day hunts. Our hunt was ruined by these sky busters. Everything coming into the impound was shot at on the outside of the impound. Ducks were shot at 150 yards away by these people only to flare the ducks so they wouldn't go into the impound. Draw hunt gas hotel food time off work. I'm out about 600\$.
181	stop raising the prices of licenses and permits, it's ridiculous that we pay more and more and receive less and less. you have stolen our rights, and you sell them back to us, you all should be ashamed of

	<p>yourselves. as for the new proposal of permits for anyone using WRC land, that will not be received well by the public. it should and potentially is criminal what you are trying to impose. its our land and our resources that we have an inalienable right to have access to. i was proud of this agency when you stood up to NCDMF recently, but now i see you have picked up some of their tactics. allow baiting on NC public lands, allow public carrying on game lands outside of the hunting season, allow target practice on game lands again, PLANT SUNFLOWERS AT PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS, PLANT SUNFLOWERS AT PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS, PLANT SUNFLOWERS AT PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS. extend deer gun season. Make NC hunting and fishing Great Again.</p>
182	Sunday duck hunting should be allowed.
183	Sunday hunting for for migratory birds!!! Give the people what they want and alot of other states have.
184	Sunday hunting should be implemented. Old money in the east is the only reason it is not currently acceptable.. if the argument is for a day of rest make it Wednesday so we can attract more youth on the weekends
185	Support opening early teal season to the entire state and not just east of hwy 17. Early October season to go back to the first Wed-Sat of October as it used to be.
186	Take a few days away from the first couple of splits and add Sunday hunting for us duck hunters who only get weekends to hunt.
187	Take away 1st split for general waterfowl and apply those days to Sundays in January. Apply the same blue-law style time constraints we have for big game on Sundays. Adding 4 weekend days will benefit the general public and drive revenue for coastal towns. In my opinion recruitment and retention of NC hunters would benefit by increasing opportunities but working within the federal limit of 60-day season. Let's work to add more weekend opportunity for waterfowl.
188	Take away the first split give us Sunday to duck and goose hunt like virgin does it'ss not that hard
189	Take duck limit both zones to 4 ducks total.
190	Teal Season always starts way too late, especially in Southeastern NC. It needs to start earlier. As far as the regular duck season I am more than happy with the dates provided!
191	Thank you again for extending the duck season all the way through the end of January. I would just ask, again, if we be given more days in December by taking away the two days in October, when it's usually still quite warm and not as many ducks around.
192	Thank you for all the hard work.
193	Thank you for all you do and the decisions you have to make. You are appreciated. Clark Gibson
194	Thank you for allowing me to provide feedback into the proposed seasons.
195	<p>Thank you for your work.!</p> <p>WILDLIFE OFFICERS SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN THEIR HOME COUNTY OR AN ADJACENT COUNTY UNTIL THEY HAVE SERVED A MINIMUM OF 15 years IN A WILDLIFE POSITION !</p>
196	<p>Thanks for allowing us to submit comments. Although I do not get the opportunity to hunt at the coast very much, I am going to try to allow myself more time to enjoy our outdoors this coming hunting season.</p> <p>I am proud of each and every person in the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. You have a thankless job, and you do it well. This is from a 26-year military veteran...thank you!</p> <p>Please consider allowing a veteran's only hunting day during the first part of a designated waterfowl season.</p>
197	Thanks for letting us have this say in this, to whoever decided to get the license holders opinions has my support, THANKS
198	The 2024 -2025 season should have ended on a Saturday. I feel it should have ended on February 1st and the youth/veteran days should have been the next two Saturdays. I do not agree with the framework which states the regular season can't be after January 31st. Our climate is changing and it seems like more of our cold weather in NC does not arrive until February and March. Most years, many of the ducks don't show up until after January 31st. The two days in October are not hunted by most people. They should be added to the November or December/January season. I hope this

	<p>information is taken into consideration.</p> <p>Thanks, Zack Credle</p>
199	The ban on Sunday hunting is unfair to working class hunters. The ban on Sunday waterfowl hunting should be lifted as well as the ban on firearm shooting from 930-1230
200	<p>The defined age for "Youth" should revert to previous standing, with the oldest participating youth being no older than 15 years of age. I believe that a "Seniors" hunt should be allowed at the end of the season, those 70 and older should be allowed to hunt just like veterans and youth.</p> <p>Push the duck season dates as far into the winter as possible.</p>
201	<p>The dove season is good the way it is. A split season on woodcock providing opportunities during November would work well. We often jump them while rabbit hunting so a split season would be much better if the first split began when rabbit season begins. Duck season dates are fine. I'd really like to see the evening hours on ducks extended to 30 minutes after sunset. This will allow for any evening hunt. 95 percent of duck hunters only hunt the mornings. Our predominant duck in the piedmont is mallards and wood ducks. Wood ducks rarely fly in the evenings before sunset; however, they do fly from sunset until 30 minutes after. The goose season is fine. I hardly hunt any of the other species.</p>
202	<p>The Eastern Flyway has a lot of resting places for ducks before they get to North Carolina, and it takes some really cold weather in the northern part of the flyway to get the ducks down into North Carolina. That being said, it seems like the first 2 weeks of February are always when the good duck hunting reaches North Carolina. It would really be great if we could massage the 3 season segments as to allow the season to close on February 15th instead of January 31st every year.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Mike</p>
203	<p>The entire Waterfowl season for the whole state of NC needs to be pushed to February 14 excluding youth and veteran hunts. From October-late December we get maybe 1-2 pushes of ducks. As a public land hunter, I hunt 50-60 days of the season. The first half of the season consists of watching fisherman 80-200 yards in front of our spread and no "new" migratory birds until December. We get a small push of Ringnecks every year somewhere between November 15-30 other than that we have to wait for the cold fronts up north to push the birds down to us. Another point hunting public land, NO WATERFOWL HUNTER should be able to leave the boat ramp until AT LEAST 3-4am. People will go camp the night before just to get a spot for what we think will be a good morning to hunt once we actually get the migratory birds.</p>
204	<p>The framework declares "States may select 2 days in each duck hunting zone as Youth Waterfowl Days in addition to their regular duck season". If I read this properly, EACH hunting zone (Inland and Coastal) can have 2 youth day hunts - so NC youth hunters could have 4 days total if dates were staggered in each zone.</p>
205	<p>The Limit for bluebills (scaup) needs to increase to 2 birds for the whole season</p> <p>Keep pintail limit at 1 , no more than 2</p> <p>Keep youth days for Feb. 7th and 14th</p> <p>DO NOT CHANGE YOUTH DAYS ! For them to have the very best experience</p>
206	<p>The migration usually isn't peak in North Carolina until late December to February. I say we get rid of the October split and extend into February</p>
207	<p>The NCWRC needs to increase their efforts to provide game land opportunities for hunters in the NC Piedmont, especially the Triangle. This area continues to increase dramatically in population, yet the game land acreage in this area has not increased in the 34 years I've lived here. This increased pressure makes it virtually impossible to enjoy hunting on public land these days. If you want to continue to bring young people into the sport you need to increase the Piedmont game lands.</p>
208	<p>The NWRC need to do a better job of planting crops on the Butner-Falls game land dove fields and duck impoundments. They also need to make sure the impoundments have enough water. The pumps</p>

	<p>are there, use them. The river was never low this year. Flat River impoundment was too low. The ducks won't come if there is not enough food and deep enough water. Thirteen rows of Egyptian Wheat is not a crop.</p> <p>The impoundments at Suggs Mill usually have a decent crop and Futch almost always does (as long as the farmer doesn't harvest all of it).</p> <p>Talk to the guys down at Conoho, they know how to prepare a dove field.</p>
209	The October hunting days are useless it would be better for us to be able to hunt on Sundays and sacrifice those days and some in November to be able to hunt and give the birds time to rest and not be pressured until then.
210	The October season is pointless. Hunting on Sundays like EVERY OTHER STATE around is VERY important for those that can only hunt weekends. There is absolutely NO reason to not allow hunting on Sundays in NC. This is 1800.
211	The October split should be the first or second week for both. To allow blue wing teal before they're gone. Late October is usually only wood ducks, and on the coastal zone it doesn't help because migration has not happened much. Also, open black duck all of November. Their numbers are doing great. Let us hunt black ducks!!
212	<p>The proposed coastal duck season is just about as good as you can make it. Well done.</p> <p>In my perfect world we would add a week in November and take it out of December.</p>
213	<p>The public dove/waterfowl impoundments in Falls/Jordan Lakes need A LOT of work. No corn, no crops, sporadic mowing, and the water levels are consistently low, even later in the year.</p> <p>For the past 2 years I've hunted Dove opening day in Falls Lake. Every dove field was packed with hunters on opening day, but NOBODY fired a shot because there were NO BIRDS. We ALL walked out around 8am on opening day. This is NOT an exaggeration! If the public game lands in central NC are not maintained I fear regular hunters like myself will stop paying to hunt public land and spend our money on private hunts.</p> <p>Please understand that I DO NOT WANT to be forced to hunt private land! I love hunting public land and everything the hunting public stands for. I'm aware money is tight, but if more resources could be allocated to the Piedmont area we might see harvest numbers increase.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and all y'all hard work--God bless you!</p> <p>--Sam</p>
214	The Public Impoundments should only be open to youth-on-youth days.
215	The regulation needs to be better written. With all the seasons and state vs federal rules, it is very difficult to be sure I am staying straight. Step 1 would be to make duck, and goose dates all the same. Simple is good! How close can you hunt to a dwelling? to a dock? None of that is clear.
216	The season should start in November and end the end of February instead of first split in October and ending end of January. Will allow more birds to make it down this far as well as not make hunters feel like they have to kill anything that flies because of lack of birds which would help the population in my opinion!
217	<p>The State might encourage the use of shell limits per day (say 36 shells) to provide incentive for hunters to take betters shots (discourage sky-busting)</p> <p>The State might encourage private landowners to setup "reserve" or "non-hunted" lakes / wetlands by providing funds for feed in these reserve areas. This would strengthen ducks and numbers of ducks during migration. The state could restrict feeding areas be at least 500 ft (or some other distance) to document what is acceptable to avoid improper behavior. While reserves such as Mattamuskeet are helpful to birds, private landowners could be encouraged to also provide helpful reserves.</p>
218	The swamp in the Dan River Game Lands next to Harrington Hwy (Hwy 311) should be managed similarly to the duck impoundments on other game lands in NC. I live near that area and drive by the parking area frequently. The number of hunters this season compared to previous seasons has increased significantly. The swamp is small and most likely cannot sustain the increased volume of

	<p>hunters. I chose not to hunt there this season because I felt that it would be unsafe because there were so many other hunters for such a small area.</p> <p>I also had the opportunity to hunt Pamlico county this year in early January before the Jan 9th Scaup limit increase. The number of blue bills in the area was significant and we could have shot our limit 4X over. If the Scaup limit was increased to 2 birds all season, at least in the costal region, I'm sure every hunter in the area would greatly appreciate it.</p>
219	The third split opener is way too late in the month. Most ducks have passed through during this time frame. I would recommend that the third split start the first Saturday of December. And then end the season mid-January.
220	The three-week split basically makes December a useless month to hunt
221	The whole duck season needs to be moved back by at least 2 weeks. It is getting warmer and staying warmer longer. The ones of us that mostly hunt swamps can't hardly get in the swamp with the snakes and mosquitos trying to carry us off. Not to mention the very few birds that are around during the early season of duck hunting. Please move the season back.
222	The whole state should be allowed to have an early teal season. Other states surrounding us have early teal seasons.
223	The woodcock ended up harder than normal this year due to the hard freezes that happened in mid January. Flushed 4 total in Burke Co and 2 in Stanley Co. this was all late December.
224	There has been extensive research showing that the introduction of tame or farm mallards that are primarily used in controlled hunting preserves have bred with wild mallards. This has caused an issue with the genetics of mallards causing them not to migrate as far in the winter amongst other things. Why in the world are these hunting preserves still allowed to release these birds??
225	<p>There is a belief that Waterfowl hunting rules have been somewhat "regional" at least from what is hunters hear and I believe that has facilitated some hunters developing practices that are "not clearly legal." The biggest example that I hear from non-hunters is duck/goose hunters hunting while moving with the trolling motor down and in operation in coves with homes close by.</p> <p>Then, when we consider hunting in coastal counties, there are "apparent" Regulations related to restrictions for hunting from boat blinds that don't apply to freshwater waterways. If this is true, where are these regulations managed and communicated? This situation leads to frustration and lost hunting opportunities by ethical hunters who won't go because they can't fully plan and conduct a safe hunt within the actual hunting laws. There is an obligation with the NC Wildlife organization to ensure that the laws are clear for the licensed hunters and landowners in NC. Is there any action in progress to address these clear gaps?</p> <p>Note that this is a very applicable parallel to the Marine Fisheries Commission vs NC Wildlife rules for coastal waters. I know that there is on-going work to address those challenges. I have not heard of any actions in progress related to waterfowl hunting. I would appreciate knowing more. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>
226	<p>There is Federal data and Local data.</p> <p>What weight to you place on each in making your determination?</p>
227	<p>There is no legitimate reason to exclude air guns from hunting these seasons/species (as well as turkey season). Air guns don't have the affective range of a crossbow which can be used on all of these species. ANYONE who says otherwise does not understand FPE/ballistics (doesn't own a Chronograph for sure). Air guns are quiet, accurate and have been used for centuries (Lewis and Clark carried air guns) for putting game on the table. They are used all over the country, N.C. is lagging behind on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for this forum, I'm a supporter of NC Wildlife. I truly wish you had more influence over Dare County, and we had a lot less USFW.</p>
228	There is no biological reason why NC limits the black duck season. When all the states around us don't hunt them full season.
229	<p>There needs to be more permits available for tundra swan because there are a lot.</p> <p>The wood duck limit needs to be increased from three to at least four because of how many there are.</p> <p>Blue bill limit should be at least two all season because they are very abundant.</p>

230	<p>There should not be a two-week gap between November end and December start. And I don't support Veteran/Military hunt days period and don't support February Youth Hunts and also think Youth age limits should be dropped back to 15 and younger !! Any kid who can drive shouldn't be considered a youth.</p> <p>I also think these surveys are just to placate the hunters and feel like these proposed dates are already decided by the elites on the Wildlife Commission and won't change no matter what we say! Just my opinion.</p>
231	Think of kids on opening day
232	This will occur more naturally with the 2025-26 calendar, but more attention needs to be given to beginning and ending seasons on Saturdays and having a full week of rest between the regular and youth day seasons.
233	This year (24-25) was better than the last few years, but I still recommend working from the latest allowable dates backward to the number of allowable days.
234	Understanding the federal guidelines influence bird limits due to duck surveys, I would like to see an increased limit on wood ducks
235	Up the limit of wood ducks
236	Update Pintail Limit to 2 per day per licensed hunter during 3rd split allocated days.
237	<p>Veterans should be allowed to hunt the Waterfowl Permit-only blinds on veteran hunt days to recognize their service and sacrifice. Allowing veterans access to these as a form of appreciation for their dedication to our country. Additionally, giving veterans access would promote inclusivity and honor those who have served, just as youth are given a chance to engage in these Permit only activities.</p> <p>Example from this past season- Veterans/Youth waterfowl February 8th 2025, only youth were allowed to hunt goose creek impoundment, veterans could not. Why is this?</p>
238	Want to make sure there is still a September no plug season
239	<p>Waterfowl numbers have been declining precipitously since I started hunting in 1974. I have never shot more than 15 ducks per year in North Carolina and it wasn't for lack of trying. That said, the ducks were so much more numerous and better distributed in the 70'ss than they are now. I remember seeing huge flocks of Pintails at Pamlico Sound and Mattamuskeet in the 70'ss. Not anymore. The numbers of birds overall are greatly reduced due to overhunting, destruction of the Northern breeding grounds, the resulting increase of natural predation and the lack of unmolested wintering grounds. We need to drastically reduce the season and bag limits if we are to enjoy this resource in the future. Giving them a break will allow the populations to recover and in doing so, they will reestablish their ancient migratory patterns further south.</p>
240	<p>Waterfowl Permit hunts are some of NC most special hunt offerings we have. I would like to see the permit hunts with a maximum of 1 box of shells. There is no reason it should take someone more than 25 shells to harvest 6 ducks. It ruins everyone's else hunts when you got folks taking countless bad shots. If you can't kill 6 ducks with 25 shells, you need to go practice. These permits are special, and the hunt should be treated as such.</p>
241	<p>Waterfowl regulations and the lottery permit requirements are being misused to reduce access to public lands. In many cases, game lands shooting hours have been reduced from full-day legal shooting times to only half-days, The number of hunting access days per week on certain game lands have been reduced from three to one.</p> <p>Access to public lands should be restored by increasing the number of days per week where hunting is allowed. Reverting to the historical Mon-Wed-Sat or Tue-Thu-Sat schedule will increase hunter opportunity by approximately 300%. Public lands should no longer be closed to the public.</p>
242	We don't see any birds at all until mid-Dec / early Jan . Which often means we only have a legitimate chance at hunting ducks in our home counties for 30days .
243	we have lost a lot of wildlife in Robeson County I fill and all the wood duck nest boxes are gone also and the few we see left and bought to fall in river
244	We have seen a very consistent showing of large numbers of bluebills in the outer banks area. The limit of 1 a man, later in the season moved to 2 a man, in my humble opinion can maybe be a little

	more relaxed in the ways of a higher bag limit. I personally saw this season, many more bluebills than buffleheads, who have a higher bag limit
245	We need a regulation, rule, not allowing another hunter to hunt within 500 yards of an occupied blind.
246	We need more later season dates. Also land designated for hunters to park should be monitored.
247	We need to allow Sunday hunting. So many states allow it. To the normal M-F 8 to 5 worker its only possible to get out once a weekend.
248	We need to be allowed to Hunt on Sundays. Most of us only get 1 day a week to hunt because of this. Most states allow hunting on Sundays and so should we. It's ridiculous that we can't. There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to. Thank you for your time and service.
249	<p>We should be able to hunt 30 minutes after sunset as well. Ducks don't fly before sunset, they fly after. The same way ducks start flying around 30 minutes before sunrise. It applies the same. Harvesters like myself are missing out on meals to feed our families with this sunset rule in place. It needs to be changed.</p> <p>Very Respectfully,</p> <p>Gurney White</p>
250	We should be able to hunt on Sunday for Doves & Ducks like most States. I know the Federal Government gives each state 60 days. Let us hunt
251	We should go back to 30 minutes after sunset
252	We very much support the youth/veteran hunt days. We would like to see the last one in February be moved the weekend in Dec just before the second season split begins.
253	We would be better off to have the 1st split dates moved to either the 2nd or 3rd split. More ducks are here later in the season and more hunters then as well. Just because we have always had a "wood duck" season in October doesn't mean it makes sense now. The Federal framework doesn't require 3 splits it is the maximum. Other states just have 2 splits in the season, and we should as well. Thanks
254	What will be planted at Hill Field in Jones County this year?
255	While the seasons are generous the state controlled permit and impoundments need to be managed better to provide better habitat. Adding even natural forage to these areas would greatly improve the amount of waterfowl that use these areas. Access in some areas is also difficult and could be improved to make these places more easily accessible for all hunters.
256	Why can we hunt waterfowl on Sundays like the other states
257	Why do I contact engineering over and over again about the boat ramp at Henderson point and never get a response from them as promised
258	Wish you all will start the dove season the following Saturday September 6 because of the corn being picked a little later on private property the last few years where me and a few people hunt. Also wish you would move the October duck season back a week like the inland zone because we seem to have more birds along the coast migrating through in mid-October than later October. Definitely more blue winged teal.
259	With the 60 applicable days a year of duck hunting if we can move the 3rd season more into the first couple weeks of February i believe hunters will be more bountiful in their hunts, as NC doesn't see its coolest temps until January.
260	Wood duck and mallard limits should be lowered by one bird
261	Woodcock limit be raised up
262	worked very well this yr
263	Would be willing to work with the commission to improve habitat in Macon and Jackson counties for doves, ducks and geese!
264	Would like Oct 2-4
265	Would like to see Teal Season open up to the entire state and not just the coast. For just 9 days of hunting, the inland hunters need some days as well.

266	<p>Would like to see the "No Sunday Hunting" restriction removed. I understand this to be a very old rule.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
267	<p>Would like to see the limit of 2 blue bills extended during the 3rd season in the coastal area or the bag limit increased on bluebills.</p>
268	<p>Would love to see 3 pintail limit next season and 2 scaup limits. The full season especially in coastal zone scaup outnumber almost every species i encounter at the coast 1 scaup limit is way to conservative imo. Also, would like to state that our western public dove fields could be planted far better especially sandy mush. And we could use some waterfowl wma draw blinds in the western part of the state. Duck hunters do exist east of Raleigh!</p>
269	<p>Would love to see duck season pushed into February when we see more birds migrate to our part of the country</p>
270	<p>Would love to see non hunters on game lands to not have so much free roam.</p> <p>This year I witnessed quite a bit of trail walkers, dogs off leash, even had a guy bring out his family and proceeded to target shoot on the dove field.</p>
271	<p>You can deer hunt on Sundays or at least part of it. Are ducks more religious than deer and other game. Hunting on Sunday is a must for folks that work weekday jobs, or they must consider no longer getting the license. Eats into your revenue. Ridiculous.</p>
272	<p>YOU GUYS NEED TO BUILD NO HUNTING ALLOWED REFUGES ADJACENT TO THE GAMELANDS TO ACTUALLY HOLD DUCKS FOR HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES. THIS WILL INCREASE HUNTER SUCCESS RATES AND REVENUE FOR PERMIT HUNT APPLICATIONS.</p> <p>ALSO WHY DO WE STILL CONTINUE TO NOT ALLOW SUNDAY HUNTING? THIS STATE IS SO FAR BEHIND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WHEN IT COMES TO MANAGING RESOURCES ITS A SHAME. STATES LIKE ILLINOIS MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS MANAGE THEIR WATERFOWL HUNTING 100x BETTER THAN NC.</p>
273	<p>You need to change the season for the American Woodcock from mid-November to the end of December. The male birds, both juvenile and adult, migrate first. This would allow for a better winter carryover of female birds, and since they're polygamous, it would aid in the next spring's hatch (something I doubt Douglas Howell understands). I know you guys don't care about the American Woodcock and heaven forbid you jeopardize your precious Deer hunters. The Grouse and quail are all but gone, but you government employees keep getting your service awards.</p>
274	<p>Youth and Veterans hunts should not be in early December, one of the worst times of the year to hunt migratory birds on public lands. Early season gets you local birds while late season gets you late season divers. I have been keeping notes on all my hunts and by far the slowest time of the year early to mid-December.</p>
275	<p>youth day should be the last 2 days after the regular season</p>
276	<p>Youth days need to be February 7th and 14th</p> <p>One military day can be during the December split</p> <p>1-2 pintail limit</p> <p>2 bluebill limit all season !</p>
277	<p>Youth season should be limited to individuals 15 and under or make the hunting license requirement 18 and over. Requiring 16- and 17-year-olds the same license requirements as adults should exclude them from youth season.</p> <p>Sept Teal season should be state wide like it is in Virginia.</p> <p>The late Oct spits in the western zone should be moved back to late Sept or early Oct.</p> <p>Canada goose season should be extended till March to allow goose hunters to goose hunt and not cater to duck hunters that just happen to shoot geese while duck hunting. Close the Nov goose season and expand more into Feb/March.</p>

EXHIBIT D-3

April 17, 2025



2025-26 Migratory Game Bird Gun Season Proposed Frameworks and WMD Staff Recommendations

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mourning Dove & White-winged dove	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 90 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 1 – October 4, November 8 – November 29, December 16 – January 31	15
King & Clapper Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 1 – November 20	15
Sora & Virginia Rails	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 25 singly or in the aggregate	September 1 – November 20	25
Gallinule & Moorhens	Outside Dates: September 1 – January 31; 70 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 15 singly or in the aggregate	September 1 – November 20	15
Woodcock	Outside Dates: September 13 – January 31; 45 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 3	December 11 – January 31	3
Snipe	Outside Dates: September 1 – February 28; 107 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 8	October 28 – February 28	8

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Canada Goose (September season)	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30 (statewide); 30 days, daily bag of 15</p> <p>Special methods: During the September Canada goose season only, the following expanded hunting methods area allowed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extended shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset. 2. unplugged guns 3. electronic calls <p>Note: The special methods are not allowed in areas with another open waterfowl season, e.g., September teal.</p>	<p>September 1 – 30 (statewide)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. extend shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset 2. allow use of unplugged guns 3. allow use of electronic calls <p>These expanded methods are <u>only</u> to be allowed west of U.S. 17.</p>	15
September Teal	<p>Outside Dates: September 1 – 30; 9 consecutive days, daily bag of 6, east of U.S. 17 only</p>	September 11 – September 20 (East of U.S. 17 only)	6
General Duck Season	<p>Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) – January 31; 2 duck hunting zones with no more than 3 segments in either zone, 60 days & daily bag of 6 ducks in each zone. <u>Species specific bag limits are the same in each zone.</u></p> <p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck. For scaup, states can choose a 60-day season with a 1 bird daily bag limit, or a “hybrid” season consisting of 40 consecutive days with a 1-bird daily bag limit and 20 consecutive days with a 2-bird daily bag limit. The season on harlequin ducks is closed.</p>	<p><u>Inland Zone:</u> October 16 – October 18, November 8 – November 29, December 19 – January 31</p> <p><u>Coastal Zone:</u> October 24 – October 25, November 8 – November 29, December 18 – January 31</p>	<p>Includes a total of 6 ducks with no more than 4 total sea ducks [no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (1 hen eider), or 3 long-tailed ducks], 4 mallards with no more than 2 hen mallards, 3 wood ducks, 3 pintails, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 2 black ducks, 1 mottled duck and 1 fulvous whistling duck. Prior to January 9 the scaup bag limit is 1, on January 9 and after it is 2. The season on harlequin ducks is closed. The season on black ducks and mottled ducks is closed until November 22.</p>

			Staff Recommendations	
Species	Frameworks		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Mergansers	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 5 mergansers.		Same as general duck season	5 mergansers no more than 2 hooded mergansers
Coots	Outside dates: same as general duck season; daily bag of 15 coots		Same as general duck season	15 coots
Sea Ducks	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) – January 31; season must coincide with the general duck season, daily bag of 4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. The sea duck bag limit counts towards the general duck bag limit of 6 ducks.		October 24 – October 25, November 8 – November 29, December 18 – January 31	4 total sea ducks with no more than 3 scoters, 3 eiders (no more than 1 hen eider) or 3 long-tailed ducks. Sea duck daily bag limits count towards the general duck daily bag limit of 6 ducks.
Canada Geese (Resident Population Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 80 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 5 Canada geese or white-fronted geese either singly or in the aggregate		October 16 – October 25, November 8 – December 6, December 18 – February 7	5
Canada Geese (Northeast Hunt Zone) – includes Canada Geese and White-fronted geese	Outside Dates: Saturday prior to December 25 (December 20) – January 31; 30 days, daily bag of 1 Canada goose or white-fronted goose		December 29 – January 31	1

Species	Frameworks		Staff Recommendations	
			Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Brant	Outside Dates: Saturday nearest September 24 (September 27) – January 31; 30 days with 2 segments, daily bag of 1		December 29 – January 31	1
Light Geese (includes snow and Ross's geese) – regular season	Outside Dates: October 1 – March 10; 107 days with 3 segments, daily bag of 25 (no possession limit)		October 24 – February 7	25 (no possession limit)
Light Geese (includes snow and Ross's geese) – Conservation Order season	Outside Dates: Must occur when no other waterfowl season is open, no daily bag, no possession limit; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electronic calls allowed • unplugged guns allowed • extended shooting hours to ½ hour past sunset allowed 		February 9 – March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By permit only • no daily bag limit • no possession limit • electronic calls allowed • unplugged guns allowed • allow shooting to extend to ½ hour past sunset
Tundra Swan	Outside Dates: October 1 – January 31; 90 days, no segments allowed, 1 per season with valid permit (4,853 permits available)		November 8 – January 31	1 per season with valid permit

Species	Frameworks	Staff Recommendations	
		Staff Recommended Season	Daily Bag
Youth Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 youth days allowed in each duck zone. • The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments. • The day must occur on any non-school day. In North Carolina, this includes Saturdays and any statewide holidays. • States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, Youth hunters may not be over the age of 17. 	<u>Inland Zone:</u> December 6 & February 7 <u>Coastal Zone:</u> December 6 & February 7	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.
Veterans/Military Waterfowl Day(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 veterans/military days allowed in each duck zone. • Includes veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training). • The day(s) can occur up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season or in the closed portion between season segments. • Can be held concurrently with the Youth Waterfowl Day(s). 	<u>Inland Zone:</u> December 6 & February 7 <u>Coastal Zone:</u> December 6 & February 7	Includes ducks, geese, brant, tundra swans, mergansers and coots (in each zone). Must have a valid permit if hunting tundra swans.

- Federal guidelines allow for shooting hours for all migratory game birds to be from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Possession limit is three times the daily bag for all species.

EXHIBIT D-4



April 17, 2025

Extended Falconry Season Highlights & WMD Staff Recommendations for 2025-26 Extended Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Bird Species

General Restrictions/Guidelines

- Seasons must fall between September 1 and March 10
- Total days available for falconry cannot exceed 107 (for each species) and includes regular, i.e., gun seasons, experimental seasons and extended falconry seasons
- The falconry daily bag limit is 3 permitted migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate. The regular, i.e., gun season bag limits for individual species do not apply.
- Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of 3 segments
- The falconry bag limit is not in addition to the gun bag limit

WMD Staff Recommendations

If the Commission chooses staff recommended “gun” seasons as presented, we recommend the following extended falconry seasons.

Mourning dove/White-winged dove	October 6 – October 18
Rails, Gallinule and Moorhens	December 6 – January 10
Woodcock	December 1 – December 10 and February 2 – February 21
Ducks, mergansers and coots	October 1 – October 11 and February 2 – February 7

EXHIBIT E

April 17, 2025



2025 Staff Recommendations to Allow Take of Migrant Peregrine Falcons from the Wild for Use in Falconry

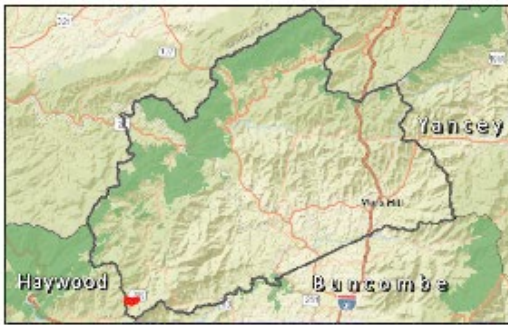
The Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyway Councils approved an allowable take of 144 Peregrine Falcons by falconers. Based upon this allocation, the USFWS is allowing the take of up to 48 fall migrants in 2025 east of 100 degrees W longitude to Atlantic Flyway states.

North Carolina is allocated up to 5 birds.

Based on this allocation of up to 5 birds for take from within North Carolina, WMD staff recommends that the WRC accept the USFWS allocation framework and establish a season in 2025 with the following stipulations.

- Total allowable take is up to 5 birds during the period from September 20, 2025 through October 20, 2025.
- Any bird taken must be a juvenile.
- Take would be allowed only by permit from the WRC and only east of US Highway 17.
- No banded birds could be taken. Any banded birds captured must be released immediately at the site of capture.
- Permits will be issued through our special hunts permitting system (random).
- An individual issued a permit must have the proper state and federal falconry licenses/permits.
- Each person receiving a permit must complete a post-season survey provided by WMD staff and submit that survey no later than December 15, 2025.

Harris Cove Tract
Madison County
+/- 205 Acres



Harris Cove Tract (Exhibit F-1)

Acquisition Plan

- Donation from Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

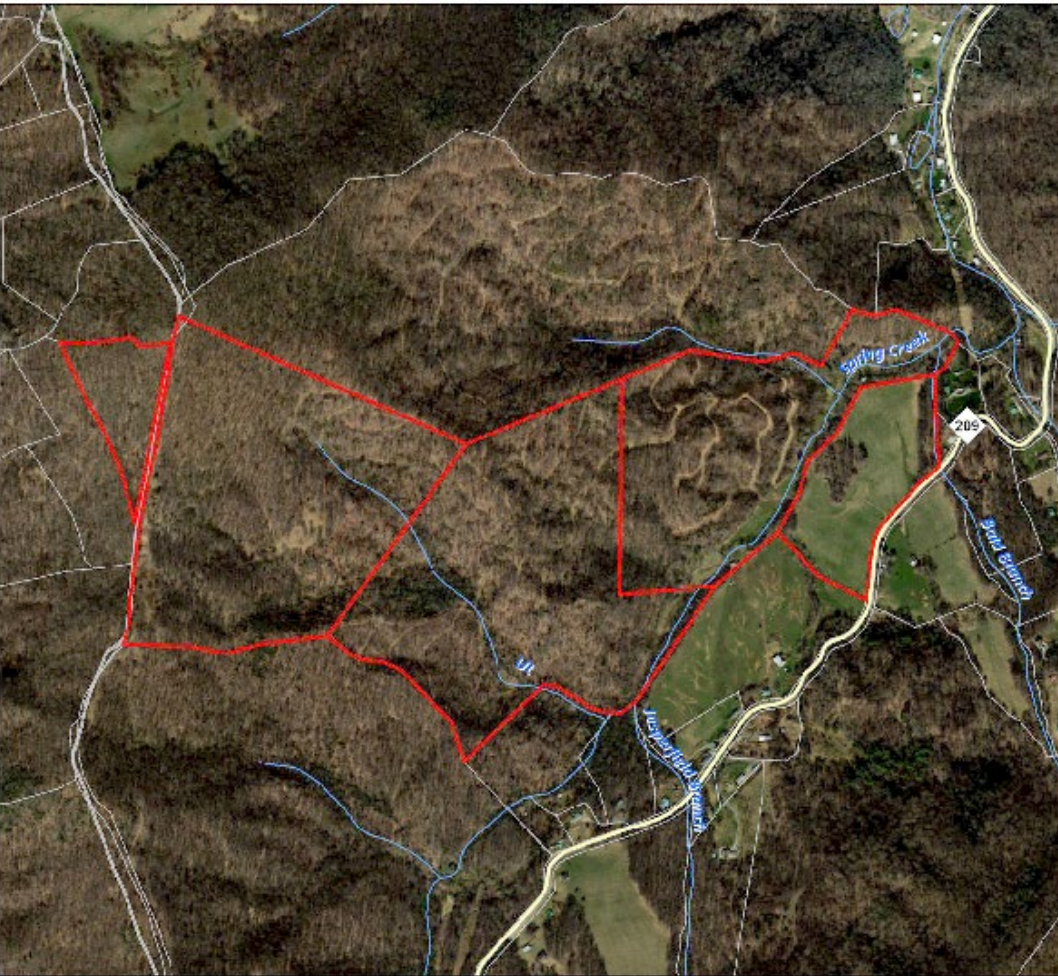
Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

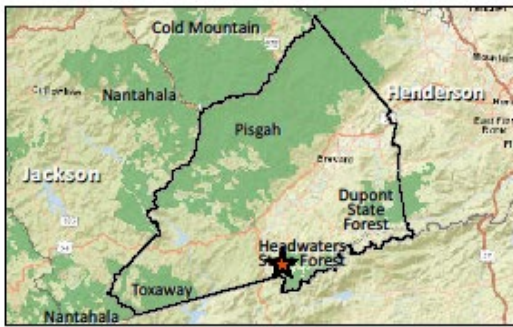
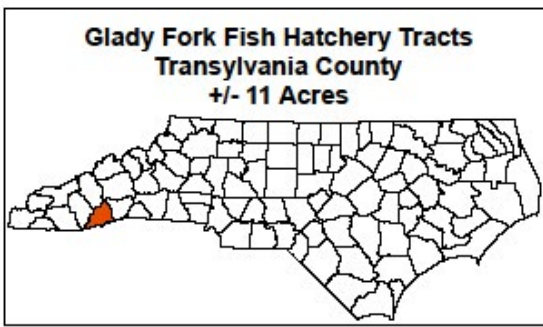
Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$4,000

- Boundary establishment
- Gate installation

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval





Glady Fork Hatchery (Exhibit F-2)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$1,205,000

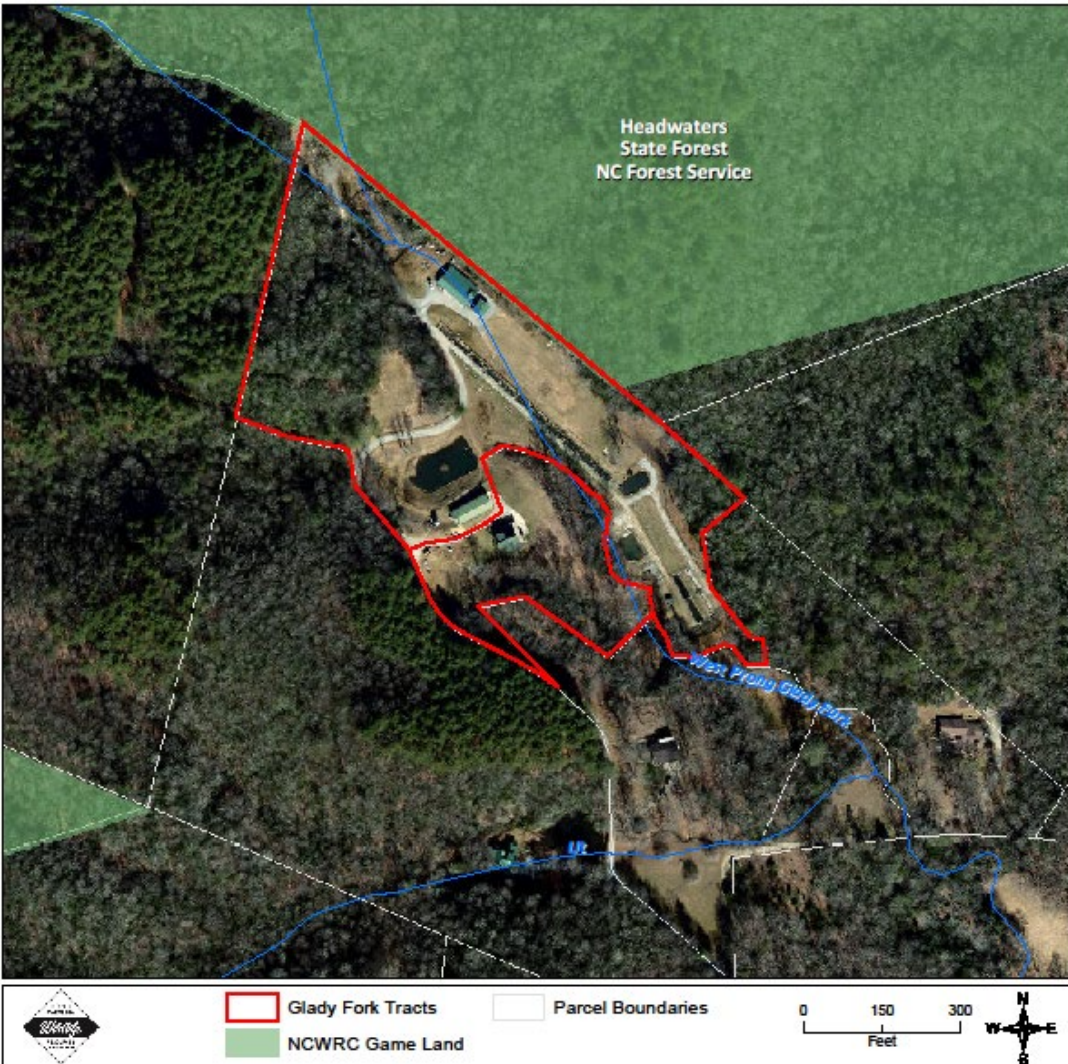
<u>Endowment Fund</u>	<u>\$1,325,000.00</u>
	\$1,325,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$0.00

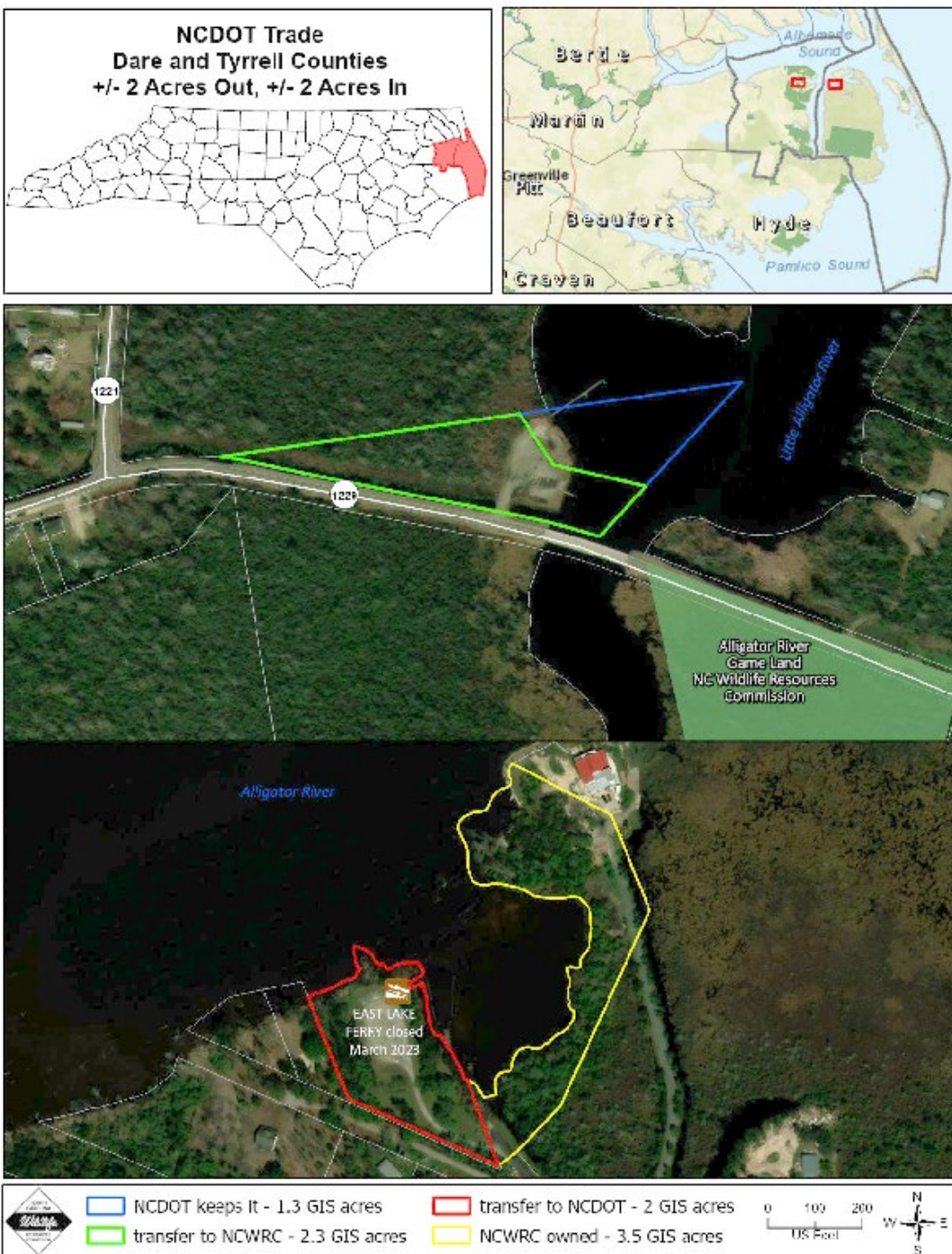
Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



NCDOT Land Trade – Dare and Tyrrell Counties (Exhibit G-1)

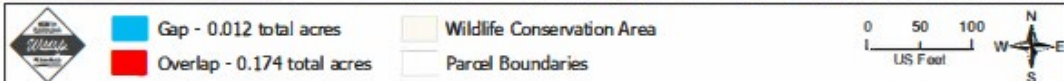
- NCDOT requests a land trade in Dare and Tyrrell Counties.
- NCDOT owned parcel is 2.3 acres (Little Alligator Property)
- NCWRC owned parcel is 2 acres (East Lake Property)
- NCDOT will retain a portion of their parcel to maintain deep water access and a loading area, as well as an access easement.
- NCDOT's property has an existing boat ramp and parking area. Under NCWRC ownership, there is potential to utilize this area as a public boating access area.
- NCDOT needs NCWRC's property for the bridge replacement project at the Lindsey Warren Bridge on HWY 64.



Easement Disposition – Avery County (Exhibit G-3)

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy has requested an easement disposition on the Cranberry Iron Mine Property in Avery County.
- NCWRC currently holds a conservation easement on the property.
- The easement disposition will release the overlap and gap areas along the boundary, allowing SAHC to resolve the encroachment issues, and conserve the property.
- Total area included in this request is 0.186 acres.
- Encroachment areas involve private property with permanent infrastructure that existed before the conservation easement was in place.

Easement Disposition
Cranberry Iron Mine Property
Avery County - 0.186 Acres



Easement Request
Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender County
+/- 260 Feet



Easement Request – Holly Shelter Game Land (Exhibit G-4)

- Easement request from a private landowner (Beasley family) that is partnering with The Nature Conservancy on a conservation easement project.
- Landowner requests a cart path easement, approximately 300 feet in length across Holly Shelter Game Land (HSGL).
- The easement will allow TNC to encumber the Beasley owned Big Island tract with Navy and State conservation easements, which will conserve the HSGL inholding in perpetuity.
- Landowner would grant NCWRC administrative access across their property to Holly Shelter Game Land.
- Staff propose an easement trade, at no cost to the landowner or NCWRC.

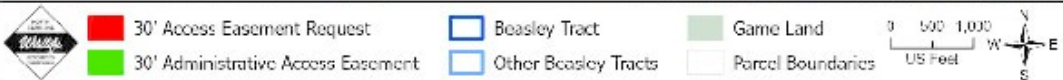


EXHIBIT H-1

April 17, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10F .0347 – Craven County, Brice Creek

No public comments were received during the open comment period.

One public hearing was held on February 12, 2025. There were no attendees.

EXHIBIT H-2

April 17, 2025



ADOPTION OF PERMANENT AMENDMENT

15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY, BRICE'S CREEK

Notice of Text was published in the North Carolina Register with an open comment period and public hearing, for an amendment to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore in Brice Creek to mitigate several hazards to boater safety, from north of Brice's Creek Bridge south-southwestward around Merchant's Grocery, docking facilities and fuel dock, and a public boat ramp, and ending at a line southeast of the peninsula and sharp curves on the east side of Brice Creek.

Staff seeks your adoption of the proposed Rule amendment, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be June 1, 2025.

15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY

~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply applies to the following waters in Craven County:~~

- ~~(1) the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106 W, to south of a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06903 N, 76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N, 76.97225 W, northeast to include all waters, shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour otherwise known as Spring Creek;~~
- ~~(2) Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River west of a point at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;~~
- ~~(3) the triangular area in the waters at the end of the Matthews Point Marina main pier located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the Neuse River, between a point 300 feet east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W, and a point 300 feet west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;~~
- ~~(4) the waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on the Trent River in Trent Woods; and~~
- ~~(5) the portion of Southwest Prong Slocum Creek in the City of Havelock, shore to shore east of a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89122 N, 76.92302 W to a point on the south shore at 34.89102 N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W.~~

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

- (1) New Bern:

- (A) the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina, north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106 W, to south of a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06903 N, 76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N, 76.97225 W, northeast to include all waters, shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour otherwise known as Spring Creek;
 - (B) Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River west of a point at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Spring Garden Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 585 NW Craven Middle School Road, New Bern;
 - (D) within 50 yards of Cool Springs Boating Access Area on Swift Creek, 1065 Cool Springs Road, New Bern;
 - (E) within 50 yards of Brices Creek Boating Access Area on Brice Creek, 953 Perrytown Road, New Bern; and
 - (F) the portion of Brice Creek beginning 50 yards north of the Brices Creek Bridge shore to shore, south-southwest around Merchant's Grocery, docking facilities, fuel dock, and a public boat ramp, then southeastward, south of the peninsula and sharp curve on the east side of Brice Creek to a line from a point on the west shore at 35.06587 N, 77.07078 W to a point on the east shore at 35.06638 N, 77.06893 W.
- (2) Havelock:
- (A) the triangular area in the waters at the end of the Bishops Marina main pier located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of Neuse River, between a point 300 feet east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W, and a point 300 feet west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;
 - (B) the portion of Southwest Prong Slocum Creek, shore to shore east of a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89122 N 76.92302 W to a point on the south shore at 34.89102 N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W;
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Slocum Creek Boating Access Area on Slocum Creek, 99 U.S. Highway 70 W, Havelock; and
 - (D) within 50 yards of the Hancock Creek Boating Access Area on Hancock Creek, 1100 Cahogue Creek Road, Havelock.
- (3) Trent Woods. The waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on Trent River at 4005 Trent Pines Drive, Trent Woods.
- (4) Bridgeton. The waters within 50 yards of the Bridgeton Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 880 Wildlife Road, Bridgeton.
- (5) Grifton. The waters within 50 yards of the Maple Cypress Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 360 Maple Cypress Road, Grifton.

(6) Vanceboro. The waters within 50 yards of the Cow Pen Landing Boating Access Area on Neuse River, 1199 Cow Pen Landing Road, Vanceboro.

(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

~~(c) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any swimming area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

(d) (c) Placement of Markers. ~~Subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the following agencies shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing this Rule:~~
~~[The following agencies shall place or place and maintain are designated for placement or placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Army Corps of Engineers:]~~

- (1) the Board of Commissioners of Craven County shall be the designated agency for placement in regulated areas indicated in ~~Subparagraphs (a)(1),(2), (3), and (4) of this Rule;~~ Parts (A)(1)(A), (a)(1)(A), (B), and (F), and Part (a)(2)(A); and Subparagraph (a)(3);
- (2) the City of Havelock shall be the designated agency for placement in the regulated area indicated in ~~Subparagraph (a)(5) Part (a)(2)(B) of this Rule.~~ Rule; and
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency for placement and maintenance of markers in the regulated areas in Parts (a)(1)(C), (D), and (E), ~~[(2)(C)]~~ Parts (a)(2)(C) and [(D);] (D), and [Parts (4), (5), and] Subparagraphs (a)(4) through (6) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. August 1, 1984;
Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; October 1, 1989; June 1, 1989;
Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2016; July 1, 1998;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; October 1, 2018.

15A NCAC 10F .0347 - Requested No-Wake Zone
Brices Creek, Craven County

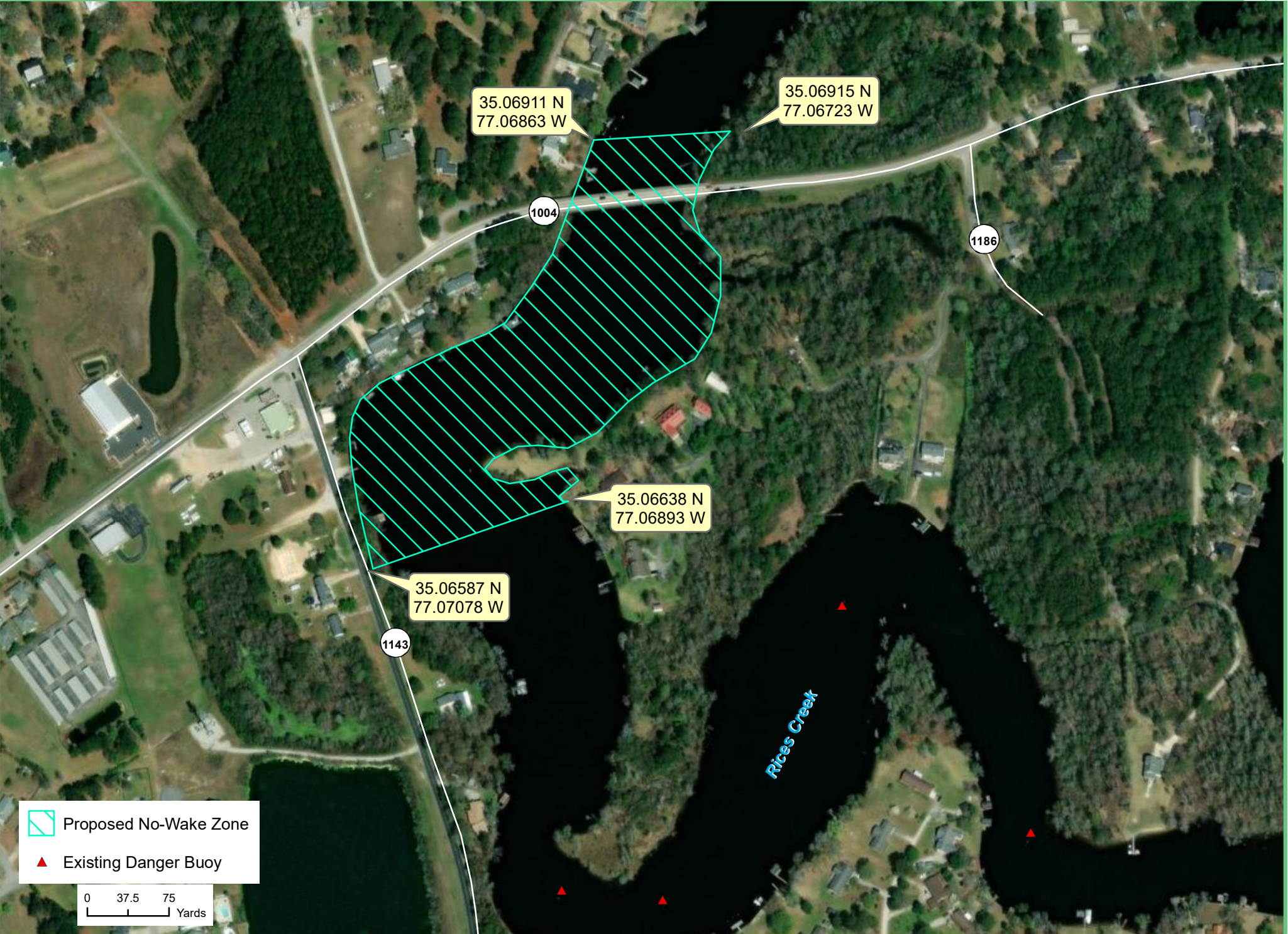


EXHIBIT I-1

April 17, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10F .0363 – Caswell and Person counties, Hyco Lake

No public comments were received during the open comment period.

One public hearing was held on February 12, 2025. There were no attendees.

EXHIBIT I-2

April 17, 2025



ADOPTION OF PERMANENT AMENDMENT

15A NCAC 10F .0363 CASWELL AND PERSON COUNTIES, HYCO LAKE

Notice of Text was published in the *North Carolina Register* with an open comment period and public hearing, for technical amendment to designate responsibility for placement and maintenance of markers on Hyco Lake to the Boards of Commissioners of Caswell and Person counties.

Staff seeks your adoption of the proposed Rule amendment, subject to final review by the N.C. Rules Review Commission. The earliest effective date of the Rule will be June 1, 2025.

15A NCAC 10F .0363 CASWELL AND PERSON COUNTIES

- (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the waters of Hyco Lake in Caswell and Person counties.
- (b) Speed Limit Near Bridges. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within 50 yards of ~~any~~ a bridge that crosses the waters of Hyco Lake.
- (c) Speed Limit in Canals. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within ~~any~~ canals on Hyco Lake.
- (d) ~~Placement of Markers.~~ Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The ~~Board~~ Boards of Commissioners of Caswell and Person Counties ~~shall be~~ are the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. November 1, 1990;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;

Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; October 1, 2018.

EXHIBIT J

April 17, 2025



15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY

Wildlife Enforcement was notified of hazards to boater safety at the Adam W. Klutz bridge on Grace Chapel Road, on Gunpowder Creek on Lake Hickory in Caldwell County. Citizens in the area have voiced concerns that the bridge is very low with clearance issues with some types of vessels.

Enforcement completed an Assessment Matrix (ATTACHMENT A). They noted that some boats have hit pilings and damaged Bimini tops on the undercarriage of the bridge. Enforcement reported that boats pull tubers under the bridge as well. Tubers sometimes are forced to push off of a piling to avoid running into it. Incidents are caused when boaters are not mindful of the low clearance at the bridge, which on the south side is only eight feet.

Staff requests Commission approval to publish Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and public hearing, for rulemaking to establish a no-wake zone shore to shore within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge.

The Wildlife Resources Commission is the designated agency for placement and maintenance of no wake markers in the regulated area in Gunpowder Creek on Lake Hickory.

15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY

(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the following waters in Caldwell County:

- (1) Catawba River;
- (2) Lake Rhodhiss:
 - (A) within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive in Granite Falls;
 - (B) within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, 6131 Connelly Springs Road in Granite Falls; and
 - (C) within 50 yards of the Conley Creek Boating Access Area, 5475 Waterworks Road in Granite Falls.
- (3) Little Gunpowder Lake; and
- (4) Lake Hickory:
 - (A) within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals, on Limbaugh Lane in the City of Hickory;

- (B) within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area, at 5450 Hurricane Hill Road in Granite Falls; ~~and~~
- (C) within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area, at 5682 Rocky Mount Road in Granite Falls. ~~Falls;~~ and
- (D) the waters of Gunpowder Creek shore to shore, within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road.

(b) Speed limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within any regulated area described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while within a marked mooring area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(d) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any marked public swimming area on the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(e) Placement of Markers. The following agencies ~~shall~~ are designated to place or place and maintain the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and United States Army Corps of Engineers:

- (1) the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall ~~place-the~~ be the designated agency for placement of markers implementing Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3), and Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule;
- (2) the City of Hickory shall ~~place-the~~ shall be the designated agency for placement of markers implementing Part (a)(4)(A) of this Rule; and
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ~~shall place and maintain-the~~ shall be the designated agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing Parts (a)(2)(B), (C), and (a)(4)(B), ~~(C)~~ (C), and (D) of this Rule.

History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

Eff. August 23, 1981;

Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December 6, 2016;

Amended Eff. February 1, 2024; July 1, 2018.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Wildlife Resources Commission Enforcement
- Primary contact information: _____
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lake Hickory, Caldwell County
 - Location: Gunpowder Creek at Deputy Adam W. Klutz Bridge
 - Popular name of area, if any: _____
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: _____ Widest Point: _____
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
 There have been citizen concerns voiced about the height of the Deputy Adam Klutz Bridge. The bridge is very low and boats have been observed hitting the pilings, having their Bimini tops damaged scraping the undercarriage of the bridge, and people on tubes coming in contact with the bridge structure because of hazards to navigation through the low section.

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Ensure proposed no-wake zone map/and or location is agreed upon by point of contact



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

Provide detailed reason given from point of contact for the request

Enforcement is requested to evaluate hazards to boater safety and navigation caused by the low bridge. This part of Gunpowder Creek at the bridge on Lake Hickory is approximately 170 yards wide and in some parts of the creek it is 100 yards wide. There are many residential docks, sharp turns and diminished sight lines. There is a danger buoy southwest of the bridge where the creek makes a sharp curve around a peninsula. Please assess the area for a possible no-wake zone shore to shore, within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the bridge. This distance is consistent with other low bridges in the State, where navigation is impeded by the low height of the bridge. If Enforcement finds that a longer no-wake zone around the bridge is needed please advise staff.

If the Commission approves the rule amendment for a no wake zone at this bridge, the Land and Water Access section will provide purchase, placement, and maintenance of markers.

- Is the proposed no-wake zone located within an area that is regulated by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers or the Division of Coastal Management (CAMA) i.e., Intracoastal Waterway?

YES ☐

NO ☒

When dealing with the point of contact, please advise that placement of markers in these waters is subject to prior approval of above agency in waters where applicable. NCWRC has no authority to supersede these rules.



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY HAZARD

Identify all public safety hazards in this section by checking the block and listing name and/or location

☐ FUELING DOCK OR FACILITY

Name of Facility: _____

☐ PUBLIC SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL AREA

Would the establishment of a roped swimming area or placement of no-wake regulatory buoys be more appropriate?

ROPED SWIM AREA ☐

NO-WAKE BUOYS ☐

☐ PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

Name of Access Area: _____

☐ PUBLIC FISHING PIER OR FISHING ACCESS AREA

Name of Pier/Access Area: _____

☐ RESTAURANT DOCKS

Name of Restaurant: _____

Number of Docks: _____

☐ OTHER (list and describe)

SECTION 3: NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS

Identify all potential hazards associated with the proposed no-wake zone (check all that apply)

☐ OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) _____

Can obstructions be removed? ☐ YES ☐ NO

☐ NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) _____

☐ SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) _____



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

☐ OBSTRUCTED VISION (for approximately how great a distance) _____

STRUCTURES: (Check all applicable)

☐ DAM Name: _____

☐ SPILLWAY Location: _____

☐ FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE Location: _____

☒ BRIDGE Roadway: Grace Chapel Rd
Height above water: variable
Width between piers: 30 ft

☐ TRESTLE Height above water: _____
Width between piers: _____

☐ POWER LINE _____

☐ LOCK Lock Number: _____

☐ JETTY _____

☐ SUBMERGED STRUCTURE Identify Structure: _____

- Would placement of "Danger" buoys or other informational markers mitigate the hazards in lieu of a no-wake zone? ☐ YES ☐ NO

☐ SANDBAR _____

☐ SHOAL _____

☐ OTHER (list and describe)



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 4: SUMMARY OF BOATING SAFETY STATISTICS

Identify known data reflecting safety concerns:

☐ BOAT INCIDENTS Date(s): _____

☐ CITATIONS ISSUED Violations: _____

☒ VERIFIED COMPLAINTS List: damage to bimini tops

- =====
- Rate traffic density in this area MEDIUM
 - Is traffic density specific to weekend/and or holidays? YES ☒ NO ☐
 - Does traffic density or ability to maneuver a vessel due to traffic cause safety issues?
YES ☐ NO ☒

SECTION 5: CURRENT REGULATIONS

- List existing local laws currently in place restricting vessel speed in the requested area:
NA
- Would enforcement of existing boating laws mitigate the issues and concerns addressed in the proposed area?

☐ YES Identify Violations: _____
☒ NO



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 6: NO-WAKE ZONE DIMENSIONS AND SCOPE

Evaluate the applicant's proposed no-wake request based on criteria and complete Section 6. If investigated area does not meet criteria for a no-wake zone, move to section 7. If the area meets no-wake zone criteria but the proposed area exceeds the need to address the issues, recommend appropriately sized area and attach map with changes.

A. PROPOSED

- If approved, does no-wake zone extend into a designated channel?
☒ YES Distance extended into channel: entire channel
☐ NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): 300 ft
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: two minutes
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 390 ft Widest: 510 ft
- Does proposed no-wake zone meet criteria for consideration?
☒ YES: Appropriately sized
☐ YES: Adjusted size recommended
☐ NO
- Description/Explanation of adjusted size
- ☐ Adjusted map attached



NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 7: OFFICER ASSESSMENT OF WATER SAFETY HAZARDS

- Does the proposed area meet the criteria to be recommended as a no-wake zone?

YES: ☒

NO: ☐

- Justification:

While there have been no reportable boat incidents as a result of this bridge, the addition of a NWZ would only cause a minimal effect on traffic density as most vessels are already traveling at no wake speed in order to safely pass.

Officer: E.D. Gleason 330

Date: 02/23/2024

Sergeant: D.K. Ethridge #265

Date: 2/28/2024

15A NCAC 10F .0338 - Requested No-Wake Zone
Deputy Adam W. Klutz Bridge, Gunpowder Creek, Lake Hickory, Caldwell County

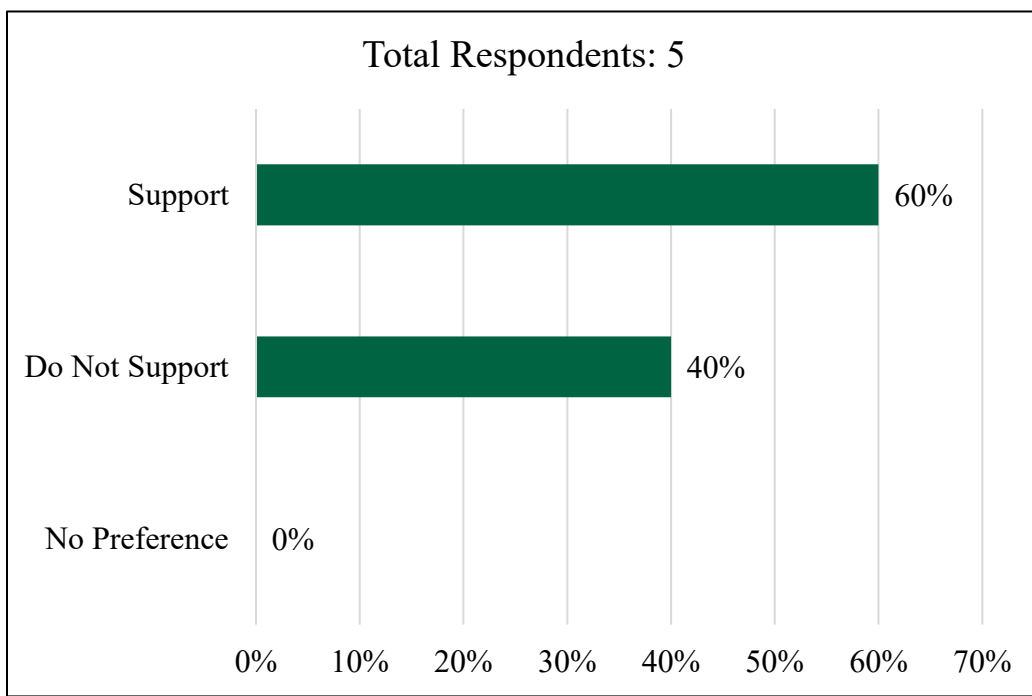


EHIBIT K-1

April 17, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Youth Age & Youth Deer Days 15A NCAC 10B .0203, 10C .0316, and 10D .0102



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	5

One public hearing was held on February 13, 2025.

EXHIBIT K-2

April 17, 2025



Proposed Amendments to the Age of Youth and the Youth Deer Days Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Standardize the age of youth to individuals under the age of 16 throughout Rules in Subchapters 10B, 10C and 10D.

Create a two-day youth season for deer like exists for waterfowl and turkey, in response to hunter recommendations.

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER (pg. 2-6)

15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT (pg. 7-8)

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE (pg. 9-15)

1 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during
34 the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through (G) of this
35 Subparagraph. ~~Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the fourth Saturday in September in all~~
36 ~~counties and on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday following in those counties listed in Parts~~
37 ~~(a)(1)(D) of this Rule by persons under the age of 18.~~

- (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 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) 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) 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 counties and in 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 ~~(e)~~ (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) 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) 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.

~~(e)~~ (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 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.

~~(f)~~ (g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (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

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

5
6 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;*
7 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*
8 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1,*
9 *1994; July 1, 1993;*
10 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*
11 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
15 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17,*
16 *2003);*
17 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;*
18 *August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;*
19 *June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;*
20 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;*
21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.*
22

15A NCAC 10C .0316 MOUNTAIN TROUT

(a) The daily creel limit for trout in Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish. The open season is from 7 a.m. on the first Saturday in April until March 1, except for waters designated in Paragraph (g) of this Rule.

(b) The daily creel limit for trout in Wild Trout Waters is four fish. The minimum size limit for these fish is seven inches. There is no closed season.

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

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

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

(1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County) the daily creel limit is three trout. There is no minimum size limit, but only one may be greater than 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(2) Catawba River (Burke County) from Muddy Creek to the City of Morganton water intake dam the daily creel limit is two fish. The minimum size limit is 14 inches. There is no closed season.

(f) The daily creel limit for trout in undesignated trout waters is seven fish. There is no minimum size limit for these fish.

(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.

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

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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, 2024; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

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

- 3 (1) "Permanent Hunting Blind" means a structure that is used for hunter concealment, constructed from
4 manmade or natural materials, and that is not disassembled and removed at the end of the day's hunt.
5 (2) "Target shooting" means the discharge of a firearm for purposes other than hunting, trapping, or
6 self-defense.
7 (3) "Youth" means individuals under ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

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

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

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

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

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

12 (d) Use of weapons. No person shall discharge:

- 13 (1) a weapon within 150 yards of a game land building or designated game land camping area, except
14 where posted otherwise;
- 15 (2) a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-
16 Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and
- 17 (3) a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan
18 Game Lands.

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

- 30 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length
31 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;
- 32 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;
- 33 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or
- 34 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

35 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

- (1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt, trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina hunting or trapping license.
- (2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.
- (3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.
- (4) Exceptions:
- (A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;
- (B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.
- (f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 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 day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west of 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. 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) 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

1 this Subchapter. After 14 consecutive days of camping, personal belongings shall be removed from
2 the game land.

- 3 (3) A hunting, fishing, trapping or Game Lands License is required for individuals age 16 or older to
4 camp on game lands in areas posted for camping except when camping within 100 yards of the
5 Roanoke River on the state-owned portion of the Roanoke River Wetlands Game Land, within 100
6 yards of the Neuse River on that portion of the game land west of NC-43, and in posted areas along
7 the Mountains-to-Sea Trail on Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land.

8 (j) Release of Animals and Fish. It is unlawful to release pen-raised animals or birds, wild animals or birds,
9 domesticated animals, except hunting dogs and raptors where otherwise permitted for hunting or training purposes, or
10 feral animals, or hatchery-raised fish on game lands without written authorization. It is unlawful to move wild fish
11 from one stream to another on game lands without written authorization. Written authorization shall be given when
12 release of animals is determined by a Wildlife Resources Commission biologist not to be harmful to native wildlife in
13 the area and is in the public interest or advance the programs and goals of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

14 (k) Non-Highway Licensed Vehicles. It is unlawful to operate motorized land vehicles not licensed for highway use
15 on game lands except for designated areas on National Forests. Disabled persons as defined in Paragraph (l) of this
16 Rule and people who have obtained a Disabled Access Program permit are exempt from this restriction but shall
17 comply with the terms of their permit. Furthermore, disabled persons, as defined under the federal Americans with
18 Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 126) may use wheelchairs or other all-terrain wheelchairs on areas where foot travel is
19 allowed. Off road vehicles including ATVs, UTVs, and ebikes are not permitted.

20 (l) Disabled Access Program. Disabled individuals who meet the requirements of G.S. 113-296 may obtain a Disabled
21 Access Permit and Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification online at ncwildlife.org. The Disabled Access Permit allows
22 individuals to operate electric wheel chairs, all-terrain vehicles, and other passenger vehicles on any Commission-
23 maintained road open for vehicular travel and those trails posted for vehicular travel and ungated or open-gated roads
24 otherwise closed to vehicular traffic on game lands owned by the Wildlife Resources Commission and on game lands
25 whose owners have agreed to that use. Those game lands, or parts thereof, where this Paragraph applies are designated
26 online, at www.ncwildlife.org. This Paragraph does not permit vehicular access on fields, openings, roads, paths, or
27 trails planted for wildlife food or cover. One companion, who is identified by a companion card issued to each qualified
28 disabled person, may accompany a disabled person to provide assistance, provided the companion is constantly in
29 visual or verbal contact with the disabled person. The companion may participate in lawful activities while assisting
30 a disabled person, provided license requirements are met. A vehicle used by a qualified disabled person for access to
31 game lands under this provision shall have the Disabled Access Permit available for inspection by wildlife
32 enforcement officers upon request. Hunters who qualify under the Disabled Sportsman Program and their companions
33 may access special hunting blinds for people with disabilities during regularly scheduled, non-permit hunting days on
34 a first come basis, except for those blinds located on the Restricted Area of Caswell Game Land. It is unlawful for
35 anyone other than disabled persons holding a Disabled Access Permit, during waterfowl season, to hunt within 100
36 yards of a waterfowl blind designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission as a Disabled Sportsman's hunting blind.

1 The Disabled Sportsman Hunt Certification allows individuals to apply for available Disabled sportsman permit
2 hunting opportunities as prescribed in G.S. 113-296.

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

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

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

32 (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
33 thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

34 (q) Baiting. Except as provided in Paragraph (g) of this Rule, no person shall place, or cause to be placed on a game
35 land, salt, grain, fruit, or other foods without written authorization from an agent of the Commission. Written
36 authorization may be provided for Commission authorized projects or Commission contractors to meet specific

objectives. Except as authorized by rule, no person shall take or attempt to take wild birds or wild animals attracted to these foods.

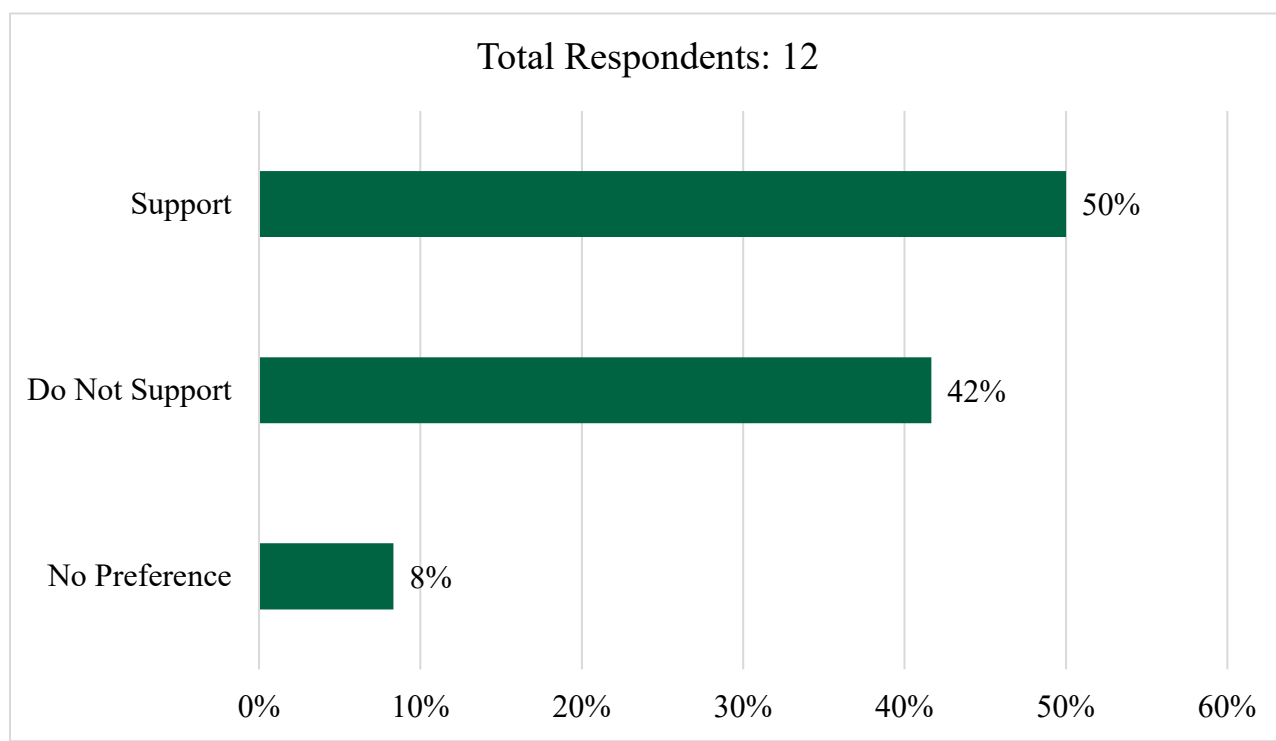
History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2023.

EHIBIT L-1

April 17, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Seatrout Temporary Amendments 15A NCAC 10C .0325



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Do Not Support	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	2	6	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	12

One public hearing was held on February 27, 2025.

EXHIBIT L-2

April 17, 2025



Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) has issued a proclamation closing recreational and commercial harvest for Spotted Sea Trout in joint and coastal fishing waters until **June 30, 2025**, due to a cold stun event, consistent with the North Carolina Spotted Sea Trout Fishery Management Plan. The proposed amendment will close Spotted Sea Trout harvest until **June 30, 2025** in waters within NCWRC's jurisdiction (Inland Fishing Waters and hook-and-line in Joint Fishing Waters) to be consistent with the NCDMF closure.

15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT

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.~~

(a) Sea trout (spotted or speckled) shall not be taken or possessed.

(b) The temporary amendment shall expire on June 15, 2025.

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

Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;

Eff. March 15, 2023.

EXHIBIT M

April 17, 2025



Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0325 Sea Trout Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission adopted the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1 at their March 2025 meeting. To be consistent with the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan, a slot limit for Spotted Seatrout where the minimum size limit remains 14 inches, but no fish may be possessed between 20 and 26 inches and only one fish in the creel may be over 26 inches in length is proposed. The daily creel limit will be reduced from four fish to three fish per person. Current data indicates that the Spotted Seatrout population is not overfished but overfishing is occurring. These measures should end overfishing within two years.

15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT

15A NCAC 10C .0325 SEA TROUT

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

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

(c) There is no closed season.

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

Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2022;

Eff. March 15, 2023.

EXHIBIT N

April 17, 2025



**Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10D .0260
Pisgah Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood,
Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga, and
Yancey Counties
Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment,
and Presentation at Public Hearing**

The Lutz Tract portion of the game land is heavily used and overcrowded in the summer months with people camping and gathering. This use results in litter and human waste that creates environmental hazards and habitat degradation. The overcrowding also creates safety issues along the narrow roadway where cars block the thoroughfare on a NCDOT roadway, hindering access for emergency vehicles if needed. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office has expressed concern and asked for allowed activities on the property to be restricted.

The US Forest Service is closing the southern section of the Wilson Creek corridor, and NCDOT is beginning construction on the access road which will exacerbate issues on the game land. The portion of Wilson Creek on the Lutz Tract is designated as Delayed Harvest Trout Waters, and additional use of the Lutz Tract will impact angler access and experience. The proposed amendment should help reduce overcrowding.

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

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

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

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

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;
Eff. October 1, 2022.*