

1 15A NCAC 10C .0205 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0205 PUBLIC MOUNTAIN TROUT WATERS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (B) Delayed Harvest Trout Waters are as follows:
- Big Horse Creek from the S.R. 1324 bridge to the North Fork New River
 - Helton Creek from 900 yards upstream of the S.R. 1372 bridge, marked by a sign on both banks to a point adjacent to intersection of N.C. 16 and S.R. 1536
 - South Fork New River from the upstream end of Todd Island to the S.R. 1351 bridge
 - Trout Lake
- (C) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- Beaver Creek from N.C. 221 to the confluence of Beaver Creek and South Beaver Creek
 - Big Horse Creek from Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to the S.R. 1324 bridge
 - Big Laurel Creek from the S.R. 1315 bridge to the confluence with the North Fork New River
 - Buffalo Creek from the S.R. 1133 bridge to the N.C. 194-88 bridge
 - Cranberry Creek from the Alleghany Co. line to the South Fork New River
 - Nathans Creek
 - North Fork New River from the Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam
 - Old Fields Creek from N.C. 221 to the South Fork New River
 - Peak Creek from the upper boundary of the NCDA-NCSU Upper Mountain Research Station to Trout Lake
 - Roan Creek
 - Three Top Creek
- (3) Avery County
- (A) Catch and Release Artificial Flies and Lures Only Trout Waters are as follows:
- Elk River, the portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond
 - Lost Cove Creek, the game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek
 - Wilson Creek, the game land portion
- (B) Hatchery Supported Trout Waters are as follows:
- Boyde Coffey Lake
 - Elk River from the S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line
 - Linville River from S.R. 1504 to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing
 - Milltimber Creek
 - North Toe River from Watauga St. to Roby Shoemaker Wetlands and Family Recreational Park, except where posted against trespassing
 - North Toe River from S.R. 1164 to Mitchell Co. line, except where posted against trespassing
 - Squirrel Creek

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 Norris Fork Creek

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

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

11 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

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

13 Howard Creek

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

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

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

19 (24) Wilkes County

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

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

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

25 Elk Creek, the portion on Leatherwood Mountains development

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

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

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

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

32 Bell Branch Pond

33 Boundary Line Pond

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

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

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

14 (C) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

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

20 (25) Yancey County

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (D) Wild Trout Waters are as follows:

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

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

1 15A NCAC 10C .0208 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

19 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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

21 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

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

1 15A NCAC 10C .0211 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-274(c)(1c); 113-292;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1984;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. July 18, 2002;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2013; August 1, 2011; June 1, 2009, June 1, 2005; August 1, 2004;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0305 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;*

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

20 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

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

1 15A NCAC 10C .0316 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

4 (a) Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

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

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

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

10 (b) Wild Trout Waters.

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

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

13 (3) There is no closed season.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

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

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

31 (B) There is no minimum size limit.

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

34 (1) Apalachia Reservoir (Cherokee County)

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

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

37 (C) There is no closed season.

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

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

(B) The minimum size limit is 14 inches.

(C) There is no closed season.

(f) Undesignated Waters.

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

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

(3) There is no closed season.

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

~~(1) — Bear Creek Lake;~~

~~(2) — Buckeye Creek Reservoir;~~

~~(3) — Calderwood Reservoir;~~

~~(4) — Cedar Cliff Lake;~~

~~(5) — Cheoah Reservoir;~~

~~(6) — Cliffside Lake;~~

~~(7) — Tanassee Creek Lake;~~

~~(8) — Queens Creek Lake; and~~

~~(9) — Wolf Lake.~~

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

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

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

Eff. November 1, 2013;

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

Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;

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

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1 15A NCAC 10C .0321 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

8 (c) There is no closed season.

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

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

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

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292;*
20 *Eff. August 1, 2020;*
21 *Amended Eff. March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021.*
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1 15A NCAC 10C .0322 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

6 (b) There is no minimum size limit.

7 (c) There is no closed season.

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

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

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

16 *Eff. August 1, 2020;*

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

1 15A NCAC 10C .0325 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

7 (c) There is no closed season.
8

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

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

11 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*
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1 15A NCAC 10D .0104 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-272; 113-292; 113-305;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000; July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;
July 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2010;
May 1, 2009; August 1, 2004;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023.