



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
December 4, 2025 9:00 a.m.
1751 Varsity Drive
NCWRC Conference Room, 5th Floor
Raleigh, North Carolina

CALL TO ORDER – *Chairman Mark Craig*

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 Ray Clifton*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner John Coley*

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 Craig*

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2025 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the October 16, 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)*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

2025 THOMAS L. QUAY WILDLIFE DIVERSITY AWARD PRESENTATION – Present the 2025 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award to Dr. Bill McLarney – *Kyle Briggs, Executive Director*

BREAK FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Boating Safety Committee – December 3, 2025 – J.C. Cole, Chair

Habitat Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – December 3, 2025 – Brad Stanback, Chair

Fisheries Committee – December 3, 2025 – Monty Crump, Vice Chair

Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee – December 3, 2025 – John Coley, Chair

Wild Turkey Committee – December 3, 2025 – Steve Windham, Chair

Executive Committee – December 3, 2025 – Mark Craig, Chair

Committee of the Whole – December 3, 2025 – Mark Craig, Chair

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Beavers in North Carolina – Falyn Owens, Extension Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Management Division

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following other property matters – *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Memorial request for former staff member Clay Allen (**EXHIBIT C-1**)
- Request from Fairfield Drainage District #7 for an easement on Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County (**EXHIBIT C-2**)
- Request from RPLS Family Farms, LLC for a right-of-way access easement on Mitchell River Game Land in Surry County (**EXHIBIT C-3**)

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0307 Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments for vessel livery requirements on Lake Norman – *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rulemaking Coordinator* (**EXHIBITS D-1, D-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10F .0324 – *Betsy Haywood* (**EXHIBITS E-1, E-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10F .0338 – *Betsy Haywood* (**EXHIBITS F-1, F-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for amendments to 10F .0305 – *Betsy Haywood* (**EXHIBIT G**)

RULEMAKING

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10C .0314 Striped Bass – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for temporary amendments to 10C .0314 – *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief* (**EXHIBIT H**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10A .1601 License Fees – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for amendments to License Fees. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Will Casola, Policy Analyst* (**EXHIBITS I-1, I-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10H .1801 Commercial Activity Permitting – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearings for amendments to Commercial Activity Permitting. Review and consider approval of fiscal note – *Will Casola* (EXHIBIT J)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10D .0295 Paynes Branch Game Land – Review public comments and consider request to adopt 10D .0295 – *Will Casola* (EXHIBITS K-1, K-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – Rule Readoption: 10G .0400 Wildlife Service Agents – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10G .0400 Rules – *Will Casola* (EXHIBITS L-1, L-2)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10H .1100 Furbearer Propagation – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 10H .1100 Rules – *Will Casola* (EXHIBITS M-1, M-2)

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Strategic Plan, 2026-2035 – Consider approval of the strategic plan for 2026-2035 – *Christian Waters, Chief Deputy Director* (EXHIBIT N)

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Craig*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Briggs*

ADJOURN

EXHIBIT A



MINUTES October 16, 2025 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Mark Craig called the October 16, 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. Craig reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio streamed live and will be available at www.ncwildlife.gov.

Commissioner Monty Crump led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner David Hoyle gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison, called the roll. Hayden Rogers, John Coley, JC Cole, John Alexander, and Mike Alford were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Mark Craig	Tommy Fonville	Ray Clifton	Tom Haislip
Landon Zimmer	Tom Berry	Steve Windham	Joe Budd
David Hoyle	Brad Stanback	Monty Crump	Reid Smith
Wes Seegars	Jim Ruffin	John Stone	Justin Boyd

VISITORS

Family of Mr. Walter Cross

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Craig advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15.

NOTICES OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Received Notices of Appointments by Governor Josh Stein of Hayden A. Rogers, for a term ending June 30, 2029; J. Carlton Cole (District 1), Stephen L. Windham (District 4), and James M. Ruffin (District 7), for terms ending June 30, 2031. (**EXHIBITS A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4**); Appointments by Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger of Mark R. Craig, Thomas A. Berry, John M. Alexander, Landon Zimmer, and Joseph R. Budd for terms ending June 30, 2027 (**EXHIBITS A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9 Appointments Bill**); Appointments by House Speaker Destin Hall of John A. Stone, John T. Coley IV, Vernon Ray Clifton, Jr., Thomas L. Fonville, and Reid M. Smith for terms ending June 30, 2027 (**EXHIBITS A-10, A-11, A-12, A-13, A-14 Appointments Bill**); and Appointment by Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler of Justin D. Boyd for a term ending June 30, 2027 (**EXHIBIT A-15**) – *Margo Minkler*

EXHIBITS A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-8, A-9, A-10, A-11, A-12, A-13, A-14 and A-15 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF 2025 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR COMMISSIONER JUSTIN D. BOYD - Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), *Margo Minkler, Ethics Liaison*, read into the minutes relevant portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2025 Statement of Economic Interest for Justin D. Boyd, Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler Appointee – *Margo Minkler*

MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2025, MEETING

On a motion by *David Hoyle* and second by *Steve Windham*, the Minutes of the July 24, 2025, meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT B**.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

LAWRENCE G. DIEDRICK SMALL GAME AWARD – *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief* presented the 2025 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award posthumously to the Family of Mr. Walter Cross.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Boating Safety Committee Report – October 15, 2025 – *Ray Clifton, Vice Chair*, reported the Boating Safety Committee met on October 15, 2025. *Will Casola, Policy Analyst*, presented proposed permanent rulemaking notice of text for the General Provisions of the Local Water Safety Regulations. Next, *Betsy Haywood, No Wake Zone Coordinator*, walked the committee through proposed permanent rulemaking notice of text for Beaufort, Dare, Rowan, and Pitt counties, as well as the Town of Nags Head. *Major Chad Arnold, Law Enforcement Division*, then briefed the committee on upcoming rulemaking for a safety zone near the NC Hwy 28 Bridge on the Little Tennessee River. The committee endorsed the proposed permanent rulemaking items, which were presented as exhibits for consideration later in the meeting. There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee Report – October 15, 2025 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported the Finance, Audit and Compliance Committee met on October 15, 2025. *Elizabeth Davis, Internal Audit Director*, gave an update on internal audit engagements, reporting on progress, completed projects, and observation statuses. An administrative operations update was also provided and included the introduction of *Sanjay Nair, Internal Auditor I*. Additionally, key performance measures for the internal audit function were presented to the committee for feedback. With no concerns identified, these measures will be used to assess the function going forward, and results will be reported routinely to the committee. Finally, the results of the Council of Internal Audit required Self-Assessment Maturity Model were presented and indicated that the internal audit function is in compliance with required standards. *Jason Cottle, Chief Financial Officer*, presented a comparison between the current and prior fiscal years, highlighting the revenue and expenditure activity in both the general fund and capital improvement funds. An update was presented as to the current fund balance and asset allocation of the agency's Endowment Fund, noting the recent approval from the Office of State Budget and Management of the agency's request to increase the budget of the Setzer Hatchery renovation project in response to revised construction estimates. Lastly, the topic of increasing license fees in response to the CPI-U increase was introduced, noting the strict timeline necessary to meet an implementation date of July 1, 2026. Revenue collections were compared to initial projections, highlighting the potential impact of buyer resistance. Staff will bring this topic back before the board at the December meeting with updated data and analyses. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Big Game Committee Report – October 15, 2025 – *David Hoyle, Chair* reported the Big Game Committee met on October 15, 2025. North Carolina State University students presented the results from the Urban Deer Study that has just finished up. The students presented various aspects of the study with topics ranging from population estimates, deer survival and mortality, population dynamics, and some interesting findings related to the human component of deer management. The information from this study will inform the agency on many levels when it comes to our management of deer, especially in a highly developing landscape. Staff gave a quick update on the status of the eastern bear population estimate study, which is in the final stage of analysis and will be used along with our western estimate to help inform the development of the next Bear Management Plan which is scheduled for completion late next year. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Small Game Committee Report – October 15, 2025 – *Jim Ruffin, Chair*, reported the Small Game Committee met on October 15, 2025. *John Isenhour, Wildlife Habitat Coordinator* from the Wildlife Management Division, gave an overview of the many Private Lands Programs and Activities available for private landowners. Then he discussed the recent survey of private landowners who had worked cooperatively with Agency staff. The survey identified both opportunities and barriers to private land habitat work and can assist in informing efforts on the ground and in our marketing and outreach. Next *Fairley Mahlum, Director of Communications, Marketing, and Digital Engagement* discussed how some information from the survey and input from agency staff will be used to help development of the webpage to aid the public in finding all these opportunities that are available. Next *Brandon Minor, Northern Piedmont Forestry Manager* from the Land and Water Access Division, gave an excellent update and overview of the ongoing management in the Caswell Small Game Focal Area. Management activities are currently on schedule; there are more timber harvests planned for early 2026 and the burn acres continue to increase. Finally, *Chris Dawes, Piedmont Eco-Region Supervisor*, presented the management efforts at Tillery Game Lands and the opportunities that will continue for those acres in the future. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Land Acquisition and Property Committee – October 15, 2025 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on October 15, 2025. The Committee reviewed and approved twelve Phase I land acquisition proposals. The Committee also reviewed and recommended approval for four Phase II land acquisition proposals. The Committee reviewed and recommended denial of one utility easement request at Sandhills Game Land. The Phase II acquisition proposals and easement request were voted on later in the meeting. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Executive Committee – October 15, 2025 – *Mark Craig, Chair*, reported the Executive Committee met on October 15, 2025 and received a presentation on the draft 2026–2035 NCWRC Strategic Plan, which builds on the current framework and outlines revised goals and strategies for the next 10 years. Committee members discussed the proposed revisions with consensus to move the revised Plan to the full Commission for consideration. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee of the Whole – October 15, 2025 – *Mark Craig, Chair*, reported the Committee of the Whole met on October 15, 2025 and started with presentations on the public comments received during the 2026–2027 annual rulemaking cycle for Inland Fisheries, Land and Water Access, and Wildlife Management rules. A summary of public comments received on changes to the Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation rules were also shared. The committee received an update on the Conservation Access Pass. After a robust discussion, no action was taken, and further consideration will be given at a future meeting. The proposed 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule was also shared and was presented later in the meeting for consideration. There being no further business, the committee adjourned.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – NCWRC Law Enforcement Division – Forging the Future – *Darby Enoch & Garrett Gooch, Training Director and Assistant Training Director*, gave a presentation highlighting the most recent Law Enforcement Basic Academy that graduated in August 2025. The presentation reviewed the traditional Basic Law Enforcement Training program, the Accelerated Lateral Transfer program, and the combined Conservation Law Enforcement-

focused program. It outlined the overall expectations and standards required of North Carolina Wildlife Officer recruits, emphasizing a “teammate-first” mentality, officer health and wellness, and the development of strong communication skills. The presenters also highlighted the importance of understanding the “why” behind enforcement actions and connecting that understanding to the agency’s broader mission. Finally, they stressed the importance of implementing enforcement with empathy and a servant-leadership mindset to build trust and positive relationships within the communities they serve.

2026 WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE – On a motion by Monty Crump and a second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the proposed 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule presented in **EXHIBIT D**.

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

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – On a motion by Tom Berry and a second by Brad Stanback, the Commission approved to proceed with acquisition of the following properties presented in **EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, and E-4** by *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Cardinal Drive Tracts – Montgomery County (**EXHIBIT E-1**)
- Gentry Tract – McDowell County (**EXHIBIT E-2**)
- Shutt Property – Richmond County (**EXHIBIT E-3**)
- Washburn-Spears Property – Franklin County (**EXHIBIT E-4**)

EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, and E-4 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Other Property Matters – On a motion by Tom Haislip and a second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission denied the Easement request from Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation for a transmission line right of way on Sandhills Game Land in Scotland County presented in **EXHIBIT F**.

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

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0301 General Provisions – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendment to clarify text in 15A NCAC 10F .0301 presented in **EXHIBIT G** by *Will Casola, Policy Analyst*

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

On a motion by Ray Clifton and second by Jim Ruffin, the Commission approved the following water safety rules presented in **EXHIBITS H, I, J, K and L** by *Betsy Haywood, Water Safety Rules Coordinator*:

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County – The Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0303 (**EXHIBIT H**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0310 Dare County – The Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0310 (**EXHIBIT I**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 15A NCAC 10F .0329 Rowan County – The Commission approved publishing the Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0329 (**EXHIBIT J**)

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0354 Pitt County – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0354 (**EXHIBIT K**)

Permanent Rulemaking Proposed Repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .0368 Town of Nags Head – The Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for proposed repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .0368 (**EXHIBIT L**)

EXHIBITS H, I, J, K, and L are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules – On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by John Stone, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT M-2** and adopted amendments to Inland Fisheries rules presented in **EXHIBIT M-1** by *Corey Oakley, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*.

EXHIBITS M-1 and M-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules – On a motion by Monty Crump and a second by Wes Seegars, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT N-2** and adopted amendments to Land and Water Access rules presented in **EXHIBIT N-1** by *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief*.

EXHIBITS N-1 and N-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2026-2027 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules – On a motion by Ray Clifton and a second by Landon Zimmer, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT O-2** and adopted amendments to Wildlife Management rules presented in **EXHIBIT O-1** by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*.

EXHIBITS O-1 and O-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 10H .1400 Wildlife Captivity and Rehabilitation – On a motion by Steve Windham and a second by David Hoyle, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT P-2** and adopted amendments to 10H .1401 through .1406 presented in **EXHIBIT P-1** by *Brad Howard*.

EXHIBITS P-1 and P-2 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Craig began by echoing the remarks of the previous Chairman and extended his appreciation to all committees for their continued hard work. He noted that the efficiency and smooth pace of the meeting were a direct result of the substantial preparation and efforts carried out behind the scenes. Special thanks were extended to the staff, committee chairs, and all committee members for their dedication and commitment. The Chairman also reminded everyone that this is an exciting time of year with the start of hunting season. He emphasized the importance of mentoring the next generation of hunters, noting that only about five percent of the population hunts. He encouraged all hunters to take the opportunity to introduce new individuals, especially youth, family members, and friends. He pointed out that access to land and a lack of mentorship are often barriers for newcomers, and challenged hunters across North Carolina to help overcome those barriers by taking someone new into the field this season. The Chairman concluded by calling on Commissioner Wes Seegars.

Rename Boating Access Area Motion – On a motion by Wes Seegars and a second by Tommy Fonville, the Commission approved a proposal to pursue renaming a Boating Access Area in Hyde County in honor of former Commissioner Kelly Davis, contingent upon consultation with Ms. Davis to determine the preferred location.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Director Briggs expressed condolences for the passing of Clay Allen, Technician at the Suggs Mill Pond Depot, and asked that his family be kept in everyone's thoughts. He recognized the upcoming retirement of Colonel Meyer, thanking him for his years of dedicated leadership and service. He also reported strong interest in the first permit hunt draw at the newly acquired Willow Point Saltwater Impoundment in Hyde County, with 284 applications for 82 permits. He concluded by thanking the Commissioners and staff for their continued support and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.
All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

Mark Craig, Chairman

Date

Kyle Briggs, Executive Director

Date

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

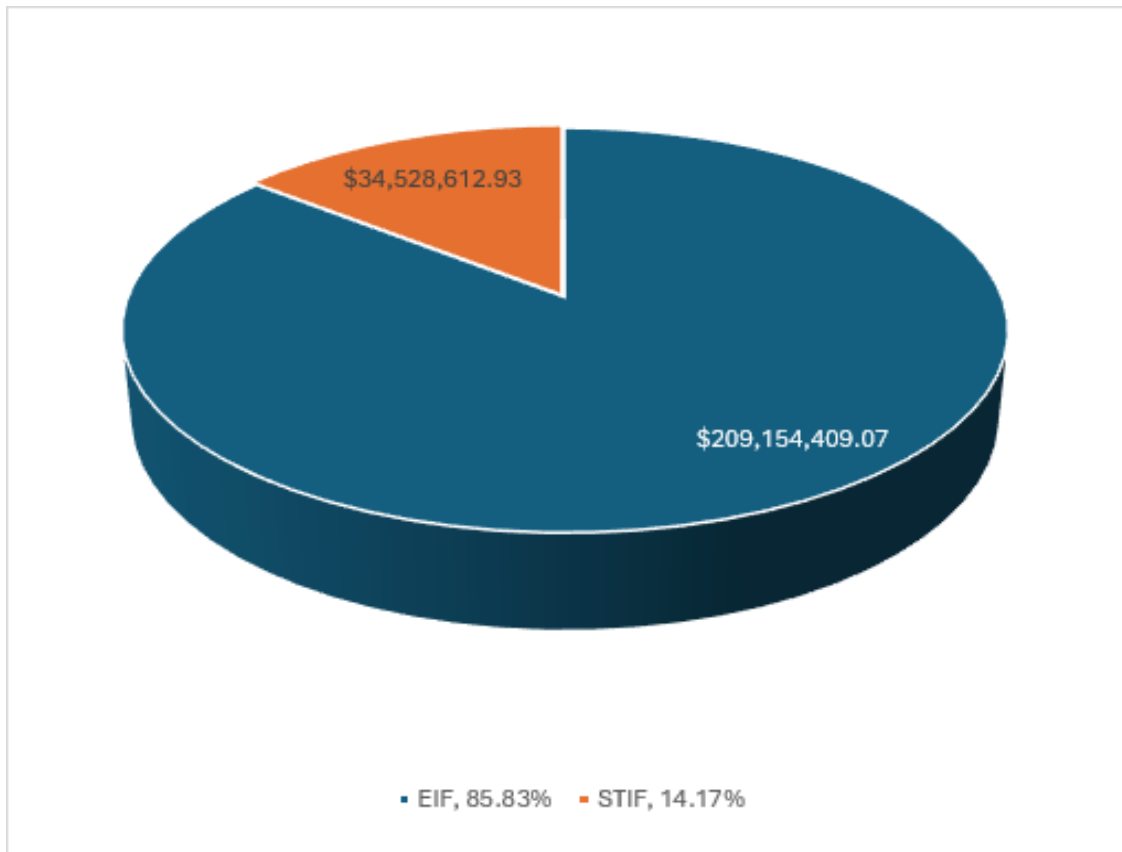
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2025

	FY 2026 General Fund	FY 2026 Capital Improvement Fund
REVENUES		
Federal funds	\$ 10,725,607.01	\$ 2,664,691.00
Local funds	\$ 1,611.98	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 143,049.25	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 4,355,665.93	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 26,721.40	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 15,326,535.44	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 195,556.59	\$ 1,344,475.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 12,659.27	\$ 446.26
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 355,844.83	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ 7,170.00	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 19,610,497.38	\$ 3,738,322.27
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 8,431,536.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 59,192,455.08	\$ 7,747,934.53
EXPENDITURES		
Personal services	\$ 14,826,413.09	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 7,126,505.72	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 3,555,885.50	\$ -
Supplies and materials	\$ 3,842,085.98	\$ -
Purchases for Resale	\$ 26,546.90	\$ -
Travel	\$ 194,106.70	\$ -
Communication	\$ 363,989.99	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 192,073.07	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 121,596.03	\$ -
Other services	\$ 1,833,313.70	\$ 861,277.62
Principal Retirement	\$ 3,927.00	\$ -
Interest and Fees	\$ 1,184.84	\$ -
Claims and benefits	\$ 543,706.70	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 38,415.98	\$ -
Capital outlay	\$ 2,218,449.74	\$ 4,623,472.37
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 817,590.89	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 18,277.00	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 1,609,448.39	\$ 14,125.85
Reimbursements	\$ (314,668.80)	\$ (980.00)
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 19,717,435.57	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 56,736,283.99	\$ 5,497,895.84
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ 2,456,171.09	\$ 2,250,038.69
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2025	\$ 21,113,142.01	\$ 4,474,732.56
FUND BALANCE - OCTOBER 31, 2025	\$ 23,569,313.10	\$ 6,724,771.25

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

Fund Balance*: Oct 31, 2025: \$243,683,022.00

ASSET ALLOCATION



2025 October

Status:		Principal	ANI Nonexpendable	ANI Expendable	Total
Adult	\$	96,260,404.20		\$ 93,722,413.59	\$ 189,982,817.79
Magazine	\$	1,573,477.50		\$ 1,260,294.60	\$ 2,833,772.10
Contributions	\$	919,479.86		\$ 3,916,447.21	\$ 4,835,927.07
Diversity	\$	442,058.04		\$ 151,159.61	\$ 593,217.65
Infant	\$	23,242,026.50	\$ 16,941,885.95		\$ 40,183,912.45
Youth	\$	3,210,586.00	\$ 1,664,049.92		\$ 4,874,635.92
					\$ 243,304,282.98
Total	\$	125,648,032.10	\$ 18,605,935.87	\$ 99,050,315.01	\$ 243,304,282.98
					\$ -
					\$ 243,304,282.98
				Total from detail area >>	\$ -

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	\$32,500,000.00
Other Capital Projects	\$10,935,880.00
Other Agency Priorities	\$ 6,890,672.61
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$ 3,328,531.00</u>


Remaining Available Expendable Income \$45,395,231.40


Clay Allen Waterfowl Impoundment Complex

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land
Bladen County, NC



Legend

 Impoundment

 Potential Kiosk Location

Potential Kiosk Location

Suggs Mill Pond Game Land

Bucks Bay Impoundment #4

Impoundment #5

Impoundment #1

NCWRC Suggs Cabin

Impoundment #3

Impoundment #2

2000 ft

Memorial Request – Clay Allen Waterfowl Impoundment Complex (Exhibit C-1)

- Name the impoundments at Suggs Mill Pond Game Land the Clay Allen Waterfowl Impoundment Complex so that it can appear as such in the map books as well as on a kiosk on site.
- Clay attended North Carolina State University, where he graduated with a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology in 2018. After graduation, Clay began his career with the NCWRC. Clay worked in the Southern Coast area on many projects and proved to be a great equipment operator, dedicated team member, and ardent steward of North Carolina's wildlife resources. Above all he loved and enjoyed waterfowl impoundment management, specifically the process of creating beneficial habitat for waterfowl while also providing an opportunity for hunters. Clay fought a brave battle with his illness and on August 21, 2025, at the age of 29, he passed on to his eternal home. Clay would tell you that he was most proud of his wife Kaylee, and their beautiful daughter Lucy.

- These five impoundments are hunting by permit only and appear as SMP 1-5 in the permit system. This memorial dedication will not change the naming of these five impoundments in the permit system.



Easement Request
Gull Rock Game Land, Hyde County
+/- 3.5 Total Miles

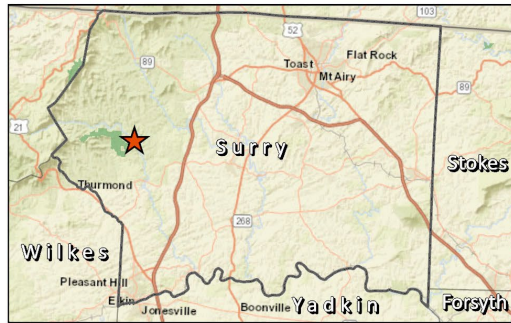


Easement Request–Gull Rock Game Land (Exhibit C-2)

- The NC Coastal Federation is requesting a temporary construction easement on Gull Rock Game Land in Hyde County.
 - The Temporary Construction Easement will allow NC Coastal Federation to execute the construction phase of this project to include dike repair, canal restoration, pump installation, and the installation of a ditch plug and culvert.
 - The primary goal of the project is to reduce water elevations in Lake Mattamuskeet by redirecting drainage from the lake.
- Fairfield Drainage District #7 is requesting a permanent easement to maintain the canals, dikes, and infrastructure, as well as pump water across Commission property.
 - The easement will allow machinery to maintain the canal system, dikes and infrastructure
 - The easement will also allow Fairfield Drainage District to pump water across Commission owned property
 - The pre-existing easement allows for pumping through the existing canal network, but does not permit sheet flow across the entirety of the property
- The Commission and NC Natural Heritage Program will retain the right to cease pumping if sheet flow from pumping is detrimental to the resource and Natural Heritage Primary Area.
- Easement value to be determined by the State Property Office.



**Easement Request
Mitchell River Game Land, Surry County
+/- 0.4 Miles**



Easement Request – Mitchell River Game Land (Exhibit C-3)

- Request for a Restricted Permanent Access Easement to the Shores Property off River Road.
- Access will be restricted to ingress and egress specific to forest management practices.
- Easement value to be determined by the State Property Office.

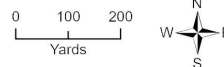
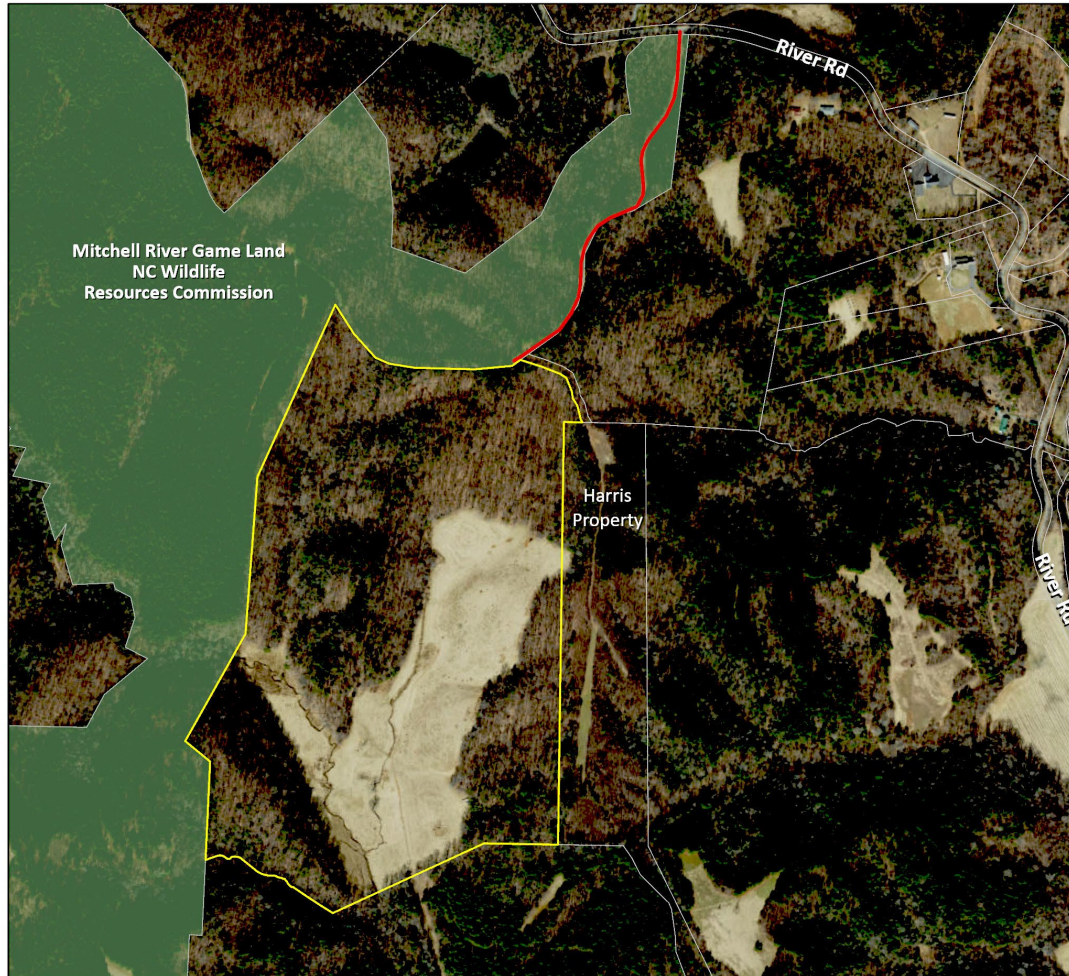


EXHIBIT D-1

December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10F .0307 Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties

One public hearing was held on September 25, 2025, with no attendees.

No comments were received during the public comment period between August 15, 2025, and October 14, 2025.

EXHIBIT D-2

December 4, 2025



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0307 – Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg Counties Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Wildlife Resources Commission staff were notified last fall of safety concerns and enforcement challenges surrounding vessel liveries on Lake Norman. Lack of regulations codified in Rule has made it difficult to enact and enforce regulations on vessel liveries, leading to lack of action against liveries and increased safety concerns among lake users. A temporary rule was adopted to address concerns during the boating season.

Permanently codifying vessel livery safety requirements in Rule will clarify standards for livery companies, facilitate and streamline enforcement activities, and improve public safety.

The amendments are identical to the temporary rule currently in effect.

15A NCAC 10F .0307 CATAWBA, IREDELL, LINCOLN, AND MECKLENBURG COUNTIES

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0307 CATAWBA, IREDELL, LINCOLN, AND MECKLENBURG COUNTIES**

2 (a) Regulated Area. This Rule shall apply to Lake Norman in Catawba, Iredell, Lincoln, and Mecklenburg counties:

- 3 (1) within 50 yards of the shoreline at Jetton Park in Mecklenburg County, from a point on the west
4 side of the park at 35.47082 N, 80.90427 W, south and around the point at 35.46703 N, 80.90360
5 W, then northeast to a point at 35.47262 N, 80.89727 W;
6 (2) Bluff Point Cove in Cornelius shore to shore, east of a line from a point 50 yards west of the south
7 shore of the cove mouth at 35.45327 N, 80.89520 W to a point 50 yards west of the north shore of
8 the cove mouth at 35.45487 N, 80.89440 W; and
9 (3) the cove immediately north of the inlet of Hager Creek in Iredell County, north of a line from a point
10 on the north shore at 35.55760 N, 80.94730 W southwest to a point on the island at the inlet of Hager
11 Creek at 35.55695 N, 80.94971 W, and east of a line from the same point on the island northwest to
12 a point on the north shore at 35.55754 N, 80.95029 W.

13 (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed within the regulated areas described
14 in Paragraph (a) of this Rule and as set forth in G.S. 75A-14.1.

15 ~~(c) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any~~
16 ~~marked swimming area on the waters of Lake Norman.~~

17 ~~(d)(c)~~ Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Lake Norman Marine Commission shall be the designated agency
18 for placement and maintenance of navigational aids and regulatory markers on the waters of Lake Norman.

19 ~~(d) Vessel Liveries. Vessel liveries operating on Lake Norman shall conduct the following activities with each vessel~~
20 ~~renter prior to relinquishing control of the vessel:~~

- 21 ~~(1) a pre-rental vessel inspection to ensure that safety equipment required by Rule .0201 of this~~
22 ~~Subchapter is on board and accessible; and~~
23 ~~(2) provide and review instruction on safe operation of the vessel rented including review of navigation~~
24 ~~rules in G.S. 75A-6.1, operating restrictions in G.S. 75A-10, an electronic or waterproof~~
25 ~~navigational map of Lake Norman, and the U.S. Coast Guard's U.S. Aids to Navigation System~~
26 ~~pamphlet.~~

27 ~~Both parties shall sign and date documentation verifying adherence to these requirements on the date the rental~~
28 ~~begins. The vessel livery shall maintain a copy of this documentation for a period of two years from the date of rental~~
29 ~~which shall be made available to law enforcement officers upon request. The vessel renter shall have a copy of the~~
30 ~~documentation on the vessel and available for law enforcement upon demand during the term of the rental.~~

31
32 History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;

33 Eff. February 1, 1976;

34 Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; October 1, 1992; May 1, 1989; March 25, 1978;

35 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December
36 6, 2016;

37 Amended Eff. October 1, 2019; October 1, 2018.

1
2

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 7, 2025.

EXHIBIT E-1

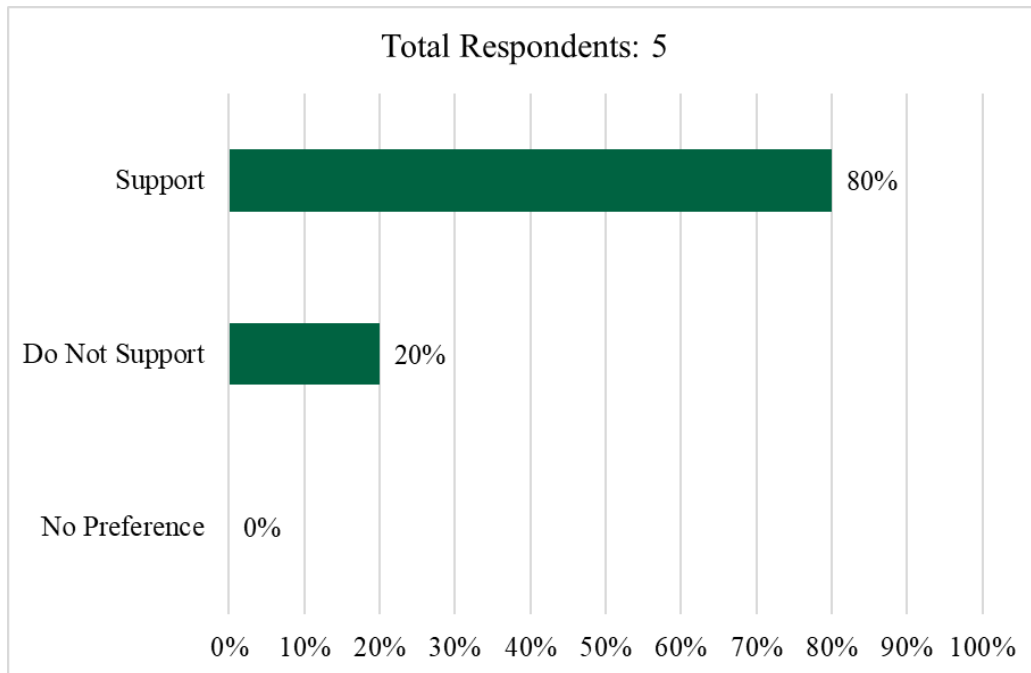
December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Davidson County 15A NCAC 10F .0324

One public hearing was held on September 30, 2025, with one attendee.

15A NCAC 10F .0324 DAVIDSON COUNTY



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

EXHIBIT E-2

December 4, 2025



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0324 Davidson County Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Notice of Text was published in the *North Carolina Register* with open comment period and public hearing for amendments to enlarge the no-wake zone on High Rock Lake shore to shore beginning 50 yards north of Skip Jack Marina and including the waters south of the marina within 50 yards south of the Raven Point Boy Scout dock; to remove the no-wake zone in the cove on High Rock Lake at High Rock Shores Drive; to incorporate the names and addresses of marked and maintained no-wake zones around public docks, marinas, boat service areas, boating access areas, swim areas, bridges, and trestles on High Rock Lake, Badin Lake, Tuckertown Reservoir, and Yadkin River; and to designate responsibility for implementing placement of regulatory markers to various agencies.

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0324 DAVIDSON COUNTY**

2
3 ~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to those portions of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake~~
4 ~~that lie within the boundaries of Davidson County.~~

5 ~~(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed:~~

6 ~~(1) — within 50 yards of any marked public boat launching ramp, bridge, dock, marina, boat storage~~
7 ~~structure, boat service area or pier while on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and~~
8 ~~Badin Lake in Davidson County;~~

9 ~~(2) — High Rock Shores Drive Cove on High Rock Lake in Hi Roc Shores Subdivision in Silver Hill~~
10 ~~Township, shore to shore northeast of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.67720 N, 80.24526~~
11 ~~W to a point on the west shore at 35.67663 N, 80.24437 W;~~

12 ~~(3) — Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake shore to shore, from a point 50 yards north of the docks at~~
13 ~~Camp Walter Johnson at 35.67130 N, 80.16592 W to a point 100 yards south of the docks at~~
14 ~~35.66993 N, 80.16582 W;~~

15 ~~(4) — the cove in Oakwood Acres on Abbotts Creek Cove on High Rock Lake shore to shore, west of a~~
16 ~~line from a point on the south shore at 35.64704 N, 80.24787 W to a point on the north shore at~~
17 ~~35.64809 N, 80.24870 W; and~~

18 ~~(5) — Beaverdam Creek Cove on Badin Lake, shore to shore north of a line from a point on the east shore~~
19 ~~at 35.50714 N, 80.09994 W to a point on the west shore at 35.50715 N, 80.10086 W.~~

20 ~~(c) Speed Limit in Mooring Areas. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed while within a~~
21 ~~marked mooring area on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson County.~~

22 ~~(d) Swimming Areas. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall permit it to enter any~~
23 ~~marked public swimming area on the waters of High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Lake, and Badin Lake in Davidson~~
24 ~~County.~~

25 ~~(e) Placement of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Davidson County shall be the designated agency for~~
26 ~~placement of the markers implementing this Rule.~~

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

28 ~~(1) High Rock Lake:~~

29 ~~(A) the waters of the cove shore to shore in Abbotts Creek between North Shore Drive and~~
30 ~~South Shore Drive, east of a point at 35.64752 N, 80.24875 W;~~

31 ~~(B) the waters shore to shore from a point 50 yards north of the docks at Camp Walter Johnson~~
32 ~~at 35.67130 N, 80.16592 W to a point 100 yards south of the docks at 35.66993 N,~~
33 ~~80.16582 W, on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake;~~

34 ~~(C) the waters within 50 yards of the High Rock Boat Dock Marina pier north of Abbotts Creek~~
35 ~~Cove on High Rock Lake in Lexington, at 35.64992 N, 80.24802 W;~~

36 ~~(D) the waters shore to shore in the cove at Skip Jack Harbor Marina and the Raven Point Boy~~
37 ~~Scout Camp dock, from a line at a point 50 yards south of the Raven Point Boy Scout Camp~~

dock on the east shore of the cove at 35.63722 N, 80.27054 W, to a point on the west shore of the cove at 35.63788 N, 80.27212 W, northward ending 50 yards north of the Skipjack Harbor Marina dock at a line from a point on the east shore at 35.64070 N, 80.26864 W to a point on the west shore at 35.64064 N, 80.27050 W;

(E) the waters within 50 yards of the High Rock Marina and Campground and fuel dock in Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point on the southwest shore at 35.68274 N, 80.25228 W, around the peninsula to a point on the north shore at 35.68439 N, 80.25052 W;

(F) the waters 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the N.C. Highway 8 Bridge on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point northeast of the bridge at 35.64564 N, 80.18493 W to a point southwest of the bridge at 35.64488 N, 80.18559 W;

(G) the waters 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the railroad trestle over Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point east of the trestle at 35.61161 N, 80.23434 W, to a point west of the trestle at 35.61151 N, 80.23535 W;

(H) the waters shore to shore 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the SR 1396 bridge, otherwise known as the Linwood-Southmont Road Bridge on Swearing Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point northeast of the bridge at 35.69185 N, 80.30139 W to a point southwest of the bridge at 35.69135 N, 80.30218 W.

(I) the waters within 50 yards northwest and 50 yards southeast of SR 2294 bridge otherwise known as the Holloway Church Road Bridge on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point east of the bridge at 35.67612 N, 80.25005 W, to a point west of the bridge at 35.67663 N, 80.25097 W;

(J) the waters within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the N.C. Highway 8 bridge and railroad trestle on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point southeast of the railroad trestle at 35.64235 N, 80.25508 W, to a point northeast of the bridge at 35.64292 N, 80.25396 W;

(K) the waters 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the N.C. Highway 47 bridge on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, from a point north of the bridge at 35.74835 N, 80.24164 W, to a point south of the bridge at 35.74759 N, 80.24163 W;

(L) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at the Southmont Boat Ramp on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake at Wildlife Recreation Area Access Road, at 35.64694 N, 80.25990 W;

(M) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at Buddle Creek Swim Area Boat Ramp on Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake, on Holloway Church Road, at 35.68212 N, 80.22924 W;

- (N) the waters within 50 yards of the dock and ramp at the Pebble Beach Boat Ramp on Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake off N.C. Highway 8, south of the N.C. Highway 8 Bridge, at 35.64356 N, 80.18570 W;
- (2) Badin Lake:
- (A) the waters of Beaverdam Creek Cove on Badin Lake shore to shore, north of a point at 35.50710 N, 80.10036 W in New London; and
- (B) the waters within 50 yards of the Circle Drive Boating Access Area on Badin Lake, at 724 Shoreline Drive, New London.
- (3) Tuckertown Reservoir. The waters 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the railroad trestle at Ellis Creek on Tuckertown Reservoir, from a point east of the trestle at 35.52983 N, 80.18650 W, to a point west of the trestle at 35.52966 N, 80.18749 W; and
- (4) Yadkin River:
- (A) the waters 50 yards north and 50 yards south of the N.C. Highway 29/70 bridge, otherwise known as the Wil-Cox Bridge, and the railroad trestle near Yadkin River Park on the Yadkin River in Linwood, from a point north of the bridge at 35.72328 N, 80.391137 W, to a point south of the railroad trestle at 35.72263 N, 80.39137 W; and
- (B) the waters within 50 yards of the York Hill Yadkin River (YRST) boat ramp on the Yadkin River at 35.72398 N, 80.39116 W, west of SR 1147 in Linwood.
- (b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed while on the waters of the regulated areas designated in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (c) Swimming Areas:
- (1) Buddle Creek Swimming Area. No person operating a vessel shall permit it to enter the Swimming Area at the Buddle Creek Swim Area at Abbotts Creek on High Rock Lake in Lexington, east of the ropes from a point at 35.68124 N, 80.22895 W; and
- (2) Pebble Beach Swimming Area. No person operating a vessel shall permit it to enter the Swimming Area at the Pebble Beach Swim Area at Flat Swamp Creek on High Rock Lake in Denton, west of the ropes from a point at 35.64403 N, 80.18557 W to the shore at the N.C. Highway 8 bridge.
- (d) Placement of Markers.
- (1) the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(1)(A) through (E), (a)(2)(A), and (a)(4)(A) and (B) of this Rule;
- (2) Cube Hydro Carolinas shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(1)(L) through (N); and Subparagraph (c)(1) and (2) of this Rule; and
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(1)(F) through (K), (a)(2)(B); and (a)(3) of this Rule.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;
Eff. July 1, 1976;*

1 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; May 1, 2004; December 1, 1995; December 1, 1991; August 1,*
2 *1991; September 1, 1982;*
3 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
4 *6, 2016;*
5 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2018.*

EXHIBIT F-1

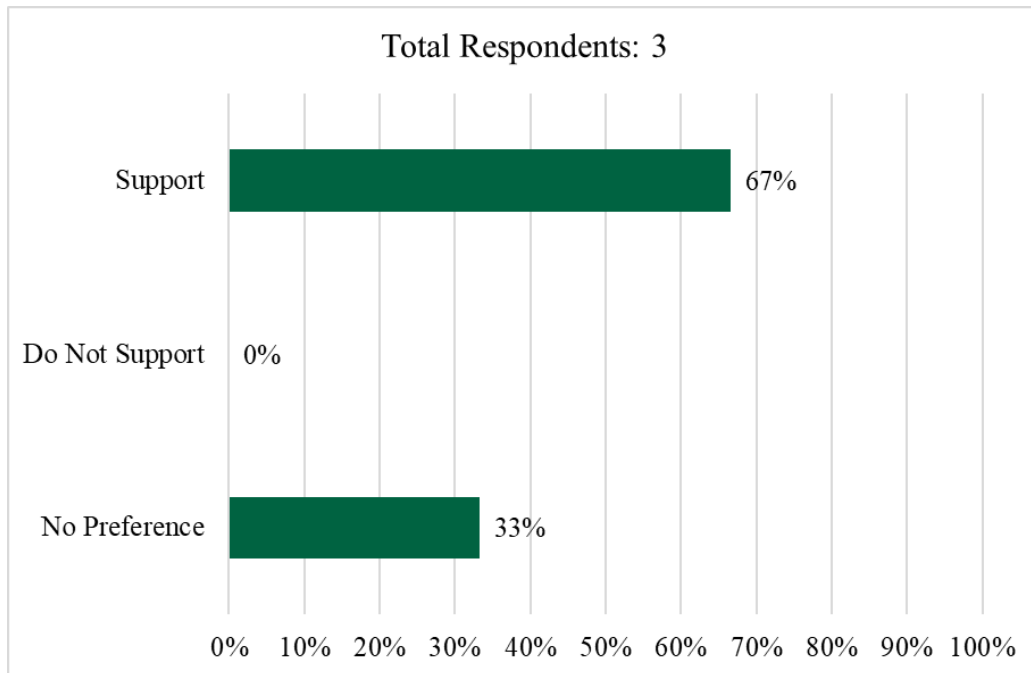
December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Caldwell County 15A NCAC 10F .0338

One public hearing was held on September 30, 2025, with one attendee.

15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY



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

EXHIBIT F-2

December 4, 2025



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0338 Caldwell County Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Notice of Text was published in the *North Carolina Register* with open comment period and public hearing for amendments to establish a no-wake zone on Lake Hickory shore to shore 50 yards northeast and 50 yards southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge (Grace Chapel Road); to enlarge the no-wake zone in the City of Hickory shore to shore from a point 50 yards southwest of the U.S. Highway 321 bridge, northward past River Walk on the east shore and Lake Hickory Pub and Marina on the west shore, ending at a point 460 yards northeast of the bridge; and to designate responsibility for implementing placement of regulatory markers to various agencies.

1 **15A NCAC 10F .0338 CALDWELL COUNTY**

2
3 (a) Regulated Areas. This Rule ~~shall apply~~ applies to the following waters in Caldwell County:

4 ~~(1) — Catawba River;~~

5 ~~(2)(1)~~ Lake Rhodhiss:

6 (A) within 50 yards of the marina facilities at Castle Bridge Marina, 6131 Castle Bridge Drive
7 in Granite Falls;

8 (B) within 50 yards of the Castle Bridge Boating Access Area, 6131 Connelly Springs Road in
9 Granite Falls; and

10 (C) within 50 yards of the Conley Creek Boating Access Area, 5475 Waterworks Road in
11 Granite Falls Falls; and

12 ~~(3) — Little Gunpowder Lake; and~~

13 ~~(4)(2)~~ Lake Hickory:

14 ~~(A) — within 30 yards of the docks at the Lake Hickory Marina and Boat Rentals, on Limbaugh~~
15 ~~Lane in the City of Hickory;~~

16 (A) the waters shore to shore beginning 50 yards southwest of the U.S. Highway 321 Bridge,
17 from a line at a point on the east shore of Lake Hickory at 35.75636 N, 81.37646 W to a
18 point on the west shore at 35.75820 N, 81.37843 W, northeast past River Walk on the east
19 shore and Lake Hickory Pub and Marina on the west shore, ending at a line from a point
20 on the east shore at 35.76041 N, 81.37425 W to a point on the west shore at 35.76054 N,
21 81.37713 W in the City of Hickory;

22 (B) within 50 yards of the Gunpowder Boating Access Area, at 5450 Hurricane Hill Road in
23 Granite Falls; ~~and~~

24 (C) within 50 yards of the Lovelady Boating Access Area, at 5682 Rocky Mount Road in
25 Granite Falls. Falls; and

26 (D) the waters of Gunpowder Creek shore to shore, within 50 yards northeast and 50 yards
27 southwest of the Adam W. Klutz Bridge on Grace Chapel Road in Granite Falls.

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

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

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

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

36 ~~(1) — the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall place the markers implementing~~
37 ~~Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3), and Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule;~~

- 1 ~~(2) — the City of Hickory shall place the markers implementing Part (a)(4)(A) of this Rule; and~~
2 ~~(3) — the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall place and maintain the markers~~
3 ~~implementing Parts (a)(2)(B), (C), and (a)(4)(B), (C) of this Rule.~~
4 (1) the Board of Commissioners of Caldwell County shall be the designated agency implementing
5 Subparagraph (a)(1)(A) of this Rule;
6 (2) the City of Hickory shall be the designated agency implementing Part (a)(2)(A) of this Rule; and
7 (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing
8 Parts (a)(1)(B) and (C) and (a)(2)(B) through (D) of this Rule.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*
11 *Eff. August 23, 1981;*
12 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
13 *6, 2016;*
14 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2024; July 1, 2018.*
15

EXHIBIT G

December 4, 2025



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0305 Brunswick County Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

Proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0305 create a no-wake zone in the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) at Oak Island in Brunswick County and designate responsibility for implementing placement of regulatory markers to various agencies.

Brunswick County submitted an application (Attachment A) and Resolution (Attachment B) for rulemaking for a no-wake zone in a portion of the ICW at Oak Island, 50 yards west and 50 yards east of the G.V. Barbee Bridge, otherwise known as the Oak Island Bridge. Enforcement staff completed an Assessment Matrix (Attachment C). The area under the bridge and around American Marine Construction just east of the bridge is congested, with large vessels traveling under the bridge at unregulated speed. Large wakes create hazards for people embarking and disembarking at the narrow boarding area at the docks. A travel lift haul-out area and 40-foot barge are immediately adjacent to the ICW setback channel. No Fiscal Note is required. Implementation costs are private.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District was consulted about rulemaking in the federal channel. They concur with rulemaking for a no-wake zone 50 yards west and 50 yards east of the G.V. Barbee Bridge.

15A NCAC 10F .0305 BRUNSWICK COUNTY

~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to the waters described as follows:~~

- ~~(1) Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown, from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp located at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W;~~
- ~~(2) Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;~~
- ~~(3) Morningstar Marinas Southport, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;~~
- ~~(4) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;~~
- ~~(5) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;~~
- ~~(6) the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach;~~
- ~~(7) Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;~~
- ~~(8) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;~~
- ~~(9) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Sunset Beach in the vicinity of the S.R. 1172 Sunset Beach Bridge and Sunset Beach Boating Access Area at 101 Sunset Boulevard, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the Sunset Beach Bridge at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W;~~
- ~~(10) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach in the vicinity of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge and Ocean Isle Beach Boating Access Area at 67 Causeway Drive, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89551 N, 78.44077 W;~~
- ~~(11) Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W;~~
- ~~(12) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Holden Beach, N.C. Highway 130 Holden Beach Bridge and~~

Holden Beach Boating Access Area at 99 S. Shore Drive, shore to shore between a point 250 feet west and a point 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge;

- (13) — Intracoastal Waterway, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area at 4950 Fish Factory Road SE in Southport;
- (14) — within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway at 356 Riverview Drive SE in Bolivia;
- (15) — within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area on the Intracoastal Waterway at 1921 Brick Landing Road SW in Shallotte;
- (16) — within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area on Rice Creek at 797 Gordon Lewis Drive SE in Winnabow; and
- (17) — within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River at 9739 Pireway Road NW in Ash.

~~(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) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies shall place or place and maintain 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 Aldermen of Varnamtown for placement in the area indicated in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule;~~
- ~~(2) — the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County for placement in areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (8) and (a)(11) of this Rule; and~~
- ~~(3) — the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the placement and maintenance of areas indicated in Subparagraphs (a)(9), (a)(10), and (a)(12) through (17) of this Rule.~~

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

- (1) Varnamtown. Lockwood Folly River in the Town of Varnamtown from a point at 33.94966 N, 78.22587 W, 500 yards northwest of the boat ramp at the end of S.R. 1123 otherwise known as Fisherman Road, to a point at 33.94498 N, 78.22206 W, 180 yards southeast of the boat ramp, and including the portion of the river otherwise known as Mill Creek where it meets Lockwood Folly River directly across from the boat ramp, to a point 100 feet northeast at 33.94687 N, 78.22235 W
- (2) Calabash. Calabash River in the Town of Calabash, from a point in the water at the end of Marina Drive at 33.88638 N, 78.56254 W to a point 650 yards southwest at the southern end of the deep-sea fishing docks at 33.88344 N, 78.56751 W;
- (3) Southport. Morningstar Marinas Southport, shore to shore beginning at its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91685 N, 78.02865 W;
- (4) Town Creek Township. Town Creek east of S.R. 1609, otherwise known as Clearview Lane in Town Creek Township, shore to shore from a point at 34.16788 N, 78.07139 W, north and east around a bend in the creek to a point at 34.16910 N, 78.07030 W;

- (5) Shallotte:
- (A) Shallotte River east of S.R. 1233, otherwise known as Village Point Road SW south of the Town of Shallotte, shore to shore from its intersection with the Intracoastal Waterway at a point at 33.91477 N, 78.37103 W to point 500 feet north at 33.91613 N, 78.37126 W;
 - (B) Lockwood Folly River at Rourk's Landing Subdivision, beginning at a point south of the subdivision at 33.95338 N, 78.22553 W, north and west around two sharp bends in the channel and ending north at a point at 33.95539 N, 78.22900 W; and
 - (C) within 20 yards of the shoreline and 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the Brick Landing Boating Access Area on the Intracoastal Waterway at 1921 Brick Landing Road SW in Shallotte.
- (6) Ocean Isle Beach:
- (A) Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach in the vicinity of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge and Ocean Isle Beach Boating Access Area at 67 Causeway Drive, shore to shore from a point 100 yards east of the N.C. Highway 904 Odell Williamson Bridge at 33.89578 N, 78.43870 W, to a point 100 yards west of the Bridge at 33.89551 N, 78.44077 W; and
 - (B) the waters in the natural and concrete canals located on the south side of the Intracoastal Waterway, east of N.C. Highway 904 in the Town of Ocean Isle Beach.
- (7) Oak Island:
- (A) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, within 100 yards of the hotel and marina at the northern end of 57th Place West in the Town of Oak Island;
 - (B) Montgomery Slough, otherwise known as Davis Creek, shore to shore from its entrance at the Intracoastal Waterway west of SW Yacht Drive at a point at 33.92145 N, 78.19408 W, to the canal end at NE 40th Street in the Town of Oak Island;
 - (C) Intracoastal Waterway, within 50 yards of the Oak Island Boating Access Area at 4950 Fish Factory Road SE in Oak Island; and
 - (D) Intracoastal Waterway 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the G.V. Barbee Bridge otherwise known as the Oak Island Bridge, in Oak Island.
- (8) Sunset Beach. Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Sunset Beach in the vicinity of the S.R. 1172 Sunset Beach Bridge and Sunset Beach Boating Access Area at 101 Sunset Boulevard, shore to shore from a point 150 yards east of the Sunset Beach Bridge at 33.88173 N, 78.50995 W, to a point 50 yards west of the bridge at 33.88111 N, 78.51194 W;
- (9) Bolivia. The waters within 50 yards of the Sunset Harbor Boating Access Area adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway at 356 Riverview Drive SE in Bolivia;
- (10) Holden Beach. Intracoastal Waterway in the Town of Holden Beach, N.C. Highway 130 Holden Beach Bridge and Holden Beach Boating Access Area at 99 S. Shore Drive, shore to shore between a point 250 feet west and a point 100 feet east of the Holden Beach Bridge;

- (11) Winnabow. The waters within 50 yards of Rices Creek Boating Access Area on Rice Creek at 797 Gordon Lewis Drive SE in Winnabow; and
- (12) Ash. The waters within 50 yards of the Pireway Boating Access Area on Waccamaw River at 9739 Pireway Road NW in Ash.

(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) Placement of Markers.

- (1) the Board of Aldermen of Varnamtown shall be the designated agency implementing Part (a)(1) of this Rule;
- (2) the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County shall be the designated agency implementing Subparagraphs (a)(2) through (4), (a)(5)(A) and (B), (a)(6)(A) and (B), and (a)(7)(A), (B), and (D) of this Rule;
- (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing Subparagraphs (a)(5)(C), (a)(7)(C), and (a)(8) through (12) of this Rule.

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993; January 1, 1989; January 1, 1987;

Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; April 1, 1999;

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

Amended Eff. May 1, 2021; July 1, 2018;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2022;

Temporary Amendment Eff. August 15, 2023;

Amended Eff. February 1, 2024;

Temporary Amendment Exp. Eff. May 11, 2024;

Amended Eff. February 1, 2025.



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Application for Water Safety Rulemaking on Navigable Waters of the State of North Carolina

*Water safety rulemaking applications are considered at August and December NCWRC meetings.
Please submit information at least six (6) weeks in advance.*

1. Governmental Unit: Brunswick County Date: 8/7/25
 Contact Name: Niel Brooks
 Mailing Address: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
 Email: [REDACTED]
2. In accordance with G.S. 75A-15, the above-named subdivision of the State applies to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for water safety rulemaking in the following waters:
 Name of Body of Water, County, Location: Intracoastal Waterway, Brunswick County, 50 yards east and west of Oak Island Bridge
 Popular Name (if any): Oak Island Bridge
 Describe Proposed Regulated Area – No-Wake Zone, Swim Area, Other:

No-Wake Zone

3. Safety hazard prompting rulemaking request (No Wake Zones, marked swim areas, and mooring areas shall be approved to mitigate hazards to boater and recreational water safety):
 The NC Wildlife Resources Commission is charged with promulgating water safety rules. By statute, No Wake Zones may be established in public trust waters **only** to mitigate hazards to boating safety. The statutory authority of the WRC **does not** allow creation of a no wake zone in some instances. Some of those instances include:

- Erosion
- Noise Abatement
- Property Damage
- Protection of Docks or Piers
- Future Development
- Wildlife Area Protection
- Wake issues for a particular type of vessel

Is the purpose of the requested NO WAKE ZONE for an area that falls into one of the instances listed above?

YES ☐ NO ☒

If YES, please know that the NCWRC by statute may not be able to approve the requested NWZ

Does the proposed NO WAKE ZONE have any of the following water safety hazards?

- Known navigational hazards
- Structures in the area such as dams, spillways, flood control structures, trestles, power lines, and fueling docks
- Narrow and shallow waters
- Areas of obstructed vision
- Designated recreational or swimming areas
- Congested areas with high traffic
- History of documented accidents
- Public boat access areas
- Areas due to other circumstances present a critical risk to public safety

Does the requested NO WAKE ZONE include any of the above?

YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, please explain which one(s) in detail:

Heavily congested area with boater safety hazards caused by large wakes in area with limited visibility and narrow channel waters.

4. Include the following information with your application:

- a. Statement that public notice was given of the intention to make application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for the Rule that is being proposed
- b. A resolution from the above-named governmental unit requesting rulemaking for the waters named in Item 2
- c. Affirmation that the local unit of government *or* a designee agrees to purchase and place markers that conform to U.S. Aids to Navigation (USATONS) standards to implement a Rule. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is required to submit a Fiscal Note to the Office of State Budget and Management to report the fiscal impact of a Rule on a state or local unit of government.

Regulatory markers that do not conform to USATONS standards and that are placed without authorization by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission shall be unlawful.

Mail or Email completed application and supporting documents to:

- **No Wake Zone Coordinator**



- **Wildlife Resources Commission**



Signature

Date

8/7/2025



BRUNSWICK COUNTY

No Wake Zone Coordinator

August 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

In accordance with 4.a. of the D-1 Application Form, this letter is to provide statement that public notice was given of the intention to make application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for a Rule to create a No-Wake Zone on the Intracoastal Waterway, 50 yards both east and west of the Oak Island Bridge. This notice was providing by the publishing of the public hearing notice on the Board of Commissioners page of the Brunswick County website:

[REDACTED] The public hearing notice was also disseminated through the Sunshine List.

This letter also serves to affirm that American Marine Construction agrees to purchase and place markers that conform to U.S. Aids to Navigation (USATONS) standards to implement a Rule.

A copy of the signed Resolution has been included with this statement and D-1 application.

Sincerely,

Niel Brooks

Deputy County Manager



BRUNSWICK COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A NO WAKE ZONE IN THE INTERCOASTAL
WATERWAY AT THE OAK ISLAND BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, The Intracoastal Waterway at the Oak Island Bridge is a heavily traveled and congested waterway with narrow channel waters with limited visibility; and


WHEREAS, Unregulated boating speeds near and under the Oak Island Bridge cause large and dangerous wakes resulting in significant safety hazards; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County requested that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission conduct a boater safety hazards assessment of the area, in accordance with GS 75A-15; and


WHEREAS, It was determined that the establishment of a No Wake Zone running 50 yards both east and west of the bridge will mitigate the safety hazards resulting from unregulated boater speed; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Brunswick County will submit a D-1 application to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for rulemaking to create a No Wake Zone at the Oak Island Bridge.

This the 21st day of July, 2025.


MIKE FORTE, CHAIRMAN
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


DARALYN SPIVEY, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners





NO-WAKE ZONE INVESTIGATION MATRIX

SECTION 1: APPLICANT REQUEST AND INFORMATION

- Name of organization/entity: Brunswick County
- Primary contact information: Haynes Brigman, Depy Co. Mgr. [REDACTED]
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Intracoastal Waterway, Brunswick Co
 - Location: within 50 yards east and west of Oak Island Bridge (per USACE concurrence)
 - Popular name of area, if any: American Marine Construction east of bridge
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 313' Widest Point: 546'
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
 Heavily congested area at American Marine Construction with large wakes by vessels traveling under the Oak Island Bridge at unregulated speed; narrow boarding area at docks

Attach map of designated no-wake zone

Attached map shows limitation of 50 yards east and west of the bridge. American Marine Construction requested assessment around the business. USACE does not concur with extending the eastern NWZ 150 yards, and concurs with NWZ 50 yards east and 50 yards west of the bridge.

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

Tommy Perry of American Marine Construction [REDACTED] states that there is obstructed vision as vessels go east under the Oak Island bridge and around the bridge protection poles, that are hazardous to boaters traveling at high speed. The boats throw large wakes that create hazards to persons who stand on the docks of American Marine Construction and who board and disembark from boats there. There is a travel lift haul out area and a 40-foot barge immediately adjacent to the ICW setback channel. Mr. Perry states there is a large fireworks display there on July 4th (since 1988) that is hazardous to pedestrians and to boats in the water that congregate in the area in front of the business. Brunswick County requests a boater safety hazards assessment in the area.

- 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 ☒ have received USACE concurrence

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)

Marine Construction, vessel repair, workers on or near dock.

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: 906
Height above water: 65' above mean high water
Width between piers: 100' N to S vessel passage

☐ 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: _____

-
- 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:
Local Laws, None. State Laws, Duty of operator to operate vessel as to not cause damage to property, injury or death.
- 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: 100 yards in the ICW running East to West
☐ NO
- Total distance travelled at no-wake speed (in feet): 300
- Estimated travel time through propose area at no-wake speed: 1.14 min at 2.6kt or 3mph
- Width of proposed no-wake zone (in feet): Narrowest: 313' Widest: 546'
- 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:

Heavily congested area at American Marine Construction with large wakes by vessels traveling under the Oak Island Bridge at unregulated speed; narrow boarding area at docks.

Officer: _____

Sergeant: M L Criscoe

Date: _____

Date: 10/31/2024







EXHIBIT H

December 4, 2025



Proposed Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10C .0314 Striped Bass Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearing

The proposed temporary amendments establish a Striped Bass harvest season April 1 to April 30, in the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore between Gum Point and Fork Point and the Neuse River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore between Cooper Point and Fisher Landing Point. The proposed daily creel limit for striped bass and striped bass hybrids is one fish in aggregate. A slot limit is proposed where the minimum size limit is 18 inches, and no fish may be possessed between 22 and 27 inches in length.

The NC Division of Marine Fisheries is also changing their regulations to provide regulatory consistency in coastal waters. This regulatory change is part of the cooperative Striped Bass management between the two agencies.

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

1 15A NCAC 10C .0314 is proposed for amendment under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is four fish in e aggregate, except in waters identified in
5 Paragraphs (d) and (g) through ~~(h)(m)~~ of this Rule.

6 (b) The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) through ~~(h)(m)~~ of
7 this Rule.

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

9 (d) In the Dan River upstream from its confluence with Bannister River to the dam at Union Street in Danville, VA
10 and in John H. Kerr Reservoir, the daily creel limit on striped bass and its hybrids is two in aggregate and the minimum
11 size limit is 20 inches. No fish greater than 26 inches may be possessed from October 1 through May 31. From June
12 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is four in aggregate with no minimum
13 size limit.

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

16 (f) In Farmer Lake, Hyco Lake, Moss Lake, Oak Hollow Lake, Lake Townsend, and Salem Lake the minimum size
17 limit for striped bass and its hybrids is 16 inches.

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

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

23 (i) In the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore beginning at a
24 point at Gum Point 35.419448 N 76.758752 W running southwesterly to a point at Fork Point at 35.390755 N 76.77391
25 W and the Neuse River and its tributaries upstream of a line shore to shore beginning at a point at Cooper Point
26 35.035722 N 76.933275 W running southwesterly to a point at Fisher Landing Point 35.002583 N 76.97623 W, the
27 following restrictions shall apply:

28 (1) the season for taking and possessing striped bass and striped bass hybrids is April 1 through April
29 30.

30 (2) the daily creel limit for striped bass and striped bass hybrids is one fish in aggregate.

31 (3) it is unlawful to possess a striped bass or striped bass hybrid less than 18 inches or between 22 and
32 27 inches in length.

33 In the inland waters tributary to the Tar-Pamlico River and Neuse River downstream of these lines, the season for
34 taking and possessing striped bass and striped bass hybrids is closed year-round.

35 ~~(h)(j)~~ In the inland fishing waters of the Tar, Pungo, Neuse, Pungo and Cape Fear rivers and their tributaries extending
36 upstream to the first impoundment of the main course on the river or its tributaries, in other inland fishing waters east

of Interstate 95 not specified in Paragraphs (h), (j), and (k) of this Rule, and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, the season for taking and possessing striped bass is closed year-round.

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

~~(k)~~(l) In designated inland and joint fishing waters of Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Currituck Sound, Alligator River, Scuppernong River, and their tributaries, excluding the Roanoke River and Cashie River and their tributaries, the striped bass fishing season, size limits, and creel limits are the same as those established by rules or proclamations of the Marine Fisheries Commission in adjacent coastal fishing waters.

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

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;
Eff. November 1, 2013;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020;
Temporary Amendment Eff. November 30, 2021;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2022;
Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023.

EXHIBIT I-1

December 4, 2025



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10A .1601 License Fees Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

The proposed rule amendments increase fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications the Wildlife Resources Commission issues and administers, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (3.4%) since the last fee increase, rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of 113- 270.1B. The proposed fee increase will help the agency address funding issues related to increased operating costs exacerbated by inflation, increased demand for agency services, legislative salary increases, and stagnant state appropriations.

15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES

1 15A NCAC 10A .1601 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES**

4 (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-
5 270.1B(e).

6 (b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as
7 set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:

- 8 (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$42.00.~~ \$44.00.
9 (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~
10 \$15.00.
11 (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~
12 \$15.00.

13 (c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:

- 14 (1) Annual Sportsman License - ~~\$63.00.~~ \$66.00.
15 (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$252.00.~~ \$261.00.
16 (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$441.00.~~ \$456.00.
17 (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.
18 (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$1,511.00.~~ \$1,563.00.
19 (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
20 (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
21 (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.

22 (d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:

- 23 (1) Resident State Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
24 (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
25 (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - ~~\$27.00.~~ \$28.00.
26 (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$47.00.~~ \$49.00.
27 (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:
28 (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
29 (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
30 (6) Falconry Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.

31 (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-
32 270.3:

- 33 (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - ~~\$17.00.~~ \$18.00.
34 (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - ~~\$284.00.~~ \$294.00.
35 (3) Bear Management Stamp - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
36 (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
37 (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.

- (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
- (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (6) Game Land License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (7) Falconry License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - ~~\$17.00.~~ \$18.00.
- (9) Resident American Alligator License - ~~\$297.00.~~ \$308.00.
- (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - ~~\$594.00.~~ \$615.00.
- (11) Resident Elk License - ~~\$594.00.~~ \$615.00.
- (12) Nonresident Elk License - ~~\$1,188.00.~~ \$1,229.00.
- (f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.4:
- (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$189.00.~~ \$196.00.
- (g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:
- (1) Resident State Trapping License - ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.
- (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - ~~\$357.00.~~ \$370.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - ~~\$158.00.~~ \$164.00.
- (h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:
- (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$54.00.~~ \$56.00.
- (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
- (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$12.00.
- (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$28.00.~~ \$29.00.
- (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
- (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Three-Day Fishing License - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$11.00.
- (i) The following shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:
- (1) Resident Special Device License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
- (2) Nonresident Special Device License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.
- (j) The non-refundable fees fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall be ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (k) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.5:

- 1 (1) Captivity License for Holding - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 2 (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 3 (l) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S.
- 4 113-273:
- 5 (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$76.00.~~ \$79.00.
- 6 (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$378.00.~~ \$391.00.
- 7 (3) Fur-dealer Station License - ~~\$152.00.~~ \$158.00.
- 8 (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
- 9 (5) Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 10 (6) Game Bird Propagation License - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 11 (7) Furbearer Propagation License - ~~\$33.00.~~ \$35.00.
- 12 (8) Taxidermy License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 13 (9) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - ~~\$6.00.~~ \$7.00.
- 14 (10) Wildlife Control Agent License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- 15 (11) Wildlife Control Technician Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 16 (12) Alligator Control Agent Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- 17 (m) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:
- 18 (1) Possession Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 19 (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 20 (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 21 (4) Endangered Species Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 22 (5) Field Trial Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- 23 (n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:
- 24 (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$82.00.~~ \$85.00.
- 25 (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$49.00.~~ \$51.00.
- 26 (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
- 27 (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$347.00.~~
- 28 \$359.00.
- 29 (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00.~~
- 30 \$587.00.
- 31 (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 32 ~~\$851.00.~~ \$880.00.
- 33 (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 34 ~~\$1,952.00.~~ \$2,019.00.
- 35 (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License -
- 36 ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.

1 (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
2 License - ~~\$139.00~~, \$144.00.

3 (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing
4 License - ~~\$139.00~~, \$144.00.

5 (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00~~, \$587.00.

6 (o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in
7 G.S. 113-174.2:

8 (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00~~, \$20.00.

9 (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$38.00~~, \$40.00.

10 (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$8.00~~, \$9.00.

11 (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00~~, \$15.00.

12 (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$126.00~~, \$131.00.

13 (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$189.00~~, \$196.00.

14 (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$315.00~~, \$326.00.

15 (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$630.00~~, \$652.00.

16 (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00~~, \$20.00.

17 (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00~~, \$15.00.

18 (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00~~, \$15.00.

19
20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);*
21 *Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2020;*
22 *Eff. July 1, 2020;*
23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2024; May 1, 2022.*

EXHIBIT I-2

December 4, 2025



REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LICENSE FEE RULES

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES
15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

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Impact Summary: State Government: Yes
Local Government: Unlikely
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Impact: Yes

Authority: G.S. 113-270.1B; 113-134; 113-264

I. Executive Summary

The proposed rule amendments increase fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission or NCWRC) issues and administers, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since the last fee adjustment, rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of 113- 270.1B. Many of these fees were last increased on July 1, 2024.

This adjustment will help address growing funding challenges driven by inflation, legislative salary increases, and stagnant state appropriations. On average, 25% of the agency's annual revenue comes from hunting, fishing, trapping, and activity licenses and permits. Since the last fee increase,

operating costs have risen, and the agency faces limited options to offset these growing expenses. Without additional revenue, NCWRC may struggle to balance its budget and sustain critical conservation and public access programs.

The inflation-based fee increase is proposed to go into effect July 1, 2026 and is anticipated to generate up to an additional \$1.86 million in revenue to the State annually.¹ Of this additional revenue, approximately \$1.52 million per year is estimated for the NCWRC and an estimated \$344,000 will go to the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). Of the NCWRC's share, approximately \$1.10 million will support the operating budget and approximately \$450,000 will be allocated to the Endowment Fund.

Over the five-year period from FY 2027 to FY 2031, the proposed fee increases are projected to generate as much as \$7.66 million in net present value revenue (2025 dollars), helping close revenue gaps and sustain essential NCWRC services and infrastructure. Average projected revenues for NCWRC (including all sources) are estimated at \$151 million over this period, compared to average projected expenditures of \$157 million, underscoring the need for this fee increase.

License purchasers will bear costs ranging from \$1 to \$41 for annual licenses and \$1 to \$67 for lifetime licenses (details in Appendix B). The revenue generated will directly benefit the State by providing critical, stable funding for the NCWRC. This revenue supports vital programs that conserve wildlife, maintain public lands, enhance recreational opportunities, enforce regulations, and provide educational outreach. Ultimately, it sustains hunting and fishing, a key economic driver in North Carolina, while supporting the NCWRC's mission to protect these resources.

No measurable local government impacts are anticipated unless participation declines notably. Such a drop could reduce tourism-driven revenues, but declines are not expected. Any impact would likely be dispersed statewide and difficult to attribute directly to the modest fee increase.

These fee increases represent a modest cost to license holders that are far outweighed by the benefits of sustained agency services and recreational access. Stable funding is essential for the NCWRC to continue delivering conservation programs, infrastructure maintenance, enforcement, and education - ensuring that North Carolinians can enjoy wildlife-associated recreation now and in the future.

II. Background

The NCWRC is tasked with conserving and sustaining the State's fish and wildlife resources and their habitats through research, scientific management, wise use, and public input. The Commission is also the regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of North Carolina's hunting, fishing, trapping, and boating laws.

¹ Three-year average in 2025 dollars, based on projected license sales data from 2027 – 2029.

Historically, all fees for licenses issued and administered by the Commission were established in statute. However, in accordance with G.S. 113-270.1B(e), the Commission adopted rules to establish fees for all licenses, permits, stamps and certifications it issues and administers, except those specified in G.S. 113-173, in 2019 (effective January 1, 2020). The Commission also has the ability, via G.S. 113-270.1B(e), to increase these fees by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rounded up to the next whole dollar, since the last fee change as needed. The last fee increase occurred in July 2024 and adjusted the fees for most licenses under G.S. 113.270 by 18%.

The Commission is funded by a combination of receipts, federal grants, and general fund appropriations. The agency sells 89 licenses, permits, and privileges for activities associated with hunting, fishing, trapping, and regulated activities. Of those, 68 generate revenue exclusively for the NCWRC, 10 generate revenue for the NCWRC and DMF, and 11 generate revenue exclusively for the DMF.

The NCWRC license receipt revenue is directed into one of two funds depending on the item purchased. Annual license revenue is deposited into the agency's operating fund. Lifetime license revenue is directed to the agency's Wildlife Endowment Fund. While the Wildlife Endowment Fund is often regarded as a fallback measure for the agency, it is important to note the Commission is limited in the use of funds in this account ([G.S.143-250.1](#)). The Commission has the authority to use a portion of the investment income earned annually on this fund for "furthering the conservation of wildlife resources and the efficient operation of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission in accomplishing the purposes of the agency as set forth in G.S. 143-239." However, use for personnel and recurring operational costs would not serve the purpose for which the Wildlife Endowment Fund was established. Thus, the agency is forced to find other sources of income which do not negatively impact the present level of support being provided to the public.

This regulatory impact analysis examines and summarizes the costs and benefits associated with supporting the continued resource management activities of the NCWRC through increasing fees to fund work associated with these activities as authorized by G.S. 113-270.1B(e).

III. Statement of Need

As of FY 2025, the Commission has an operational budget, based on a historical 5-year average, of approximately \$100 million per year. The agency has approximately 700 full-time employees, including biologists, technicians, wildlife law enforcement officers, conservation educators, public information officers, customer service representatives, information technologists, and administrative professionals. Due to the rising costs of employee salaries, associated benefits, and the general inflation of goods and services, expenses associated with agency operation and the recruitment and retention of employees have and will continue to increase. Because most NCWRC funding comes from federal grants and license receipts, the agency has limited options for pacing with inflation and rising costs.

The following is a general breakdown of average agency revenue sources for the past 5 fiscal years:

Federal funds:	33%
License receipts:	25%
Vessel receipts:	14%
Appropriations:	14%
Other receipts:	14%

The agency is responsible for funding a portion of annual legislative salary increases. Fiscal year 2023-24 saw 4% legislative increase for all employees, with an additional 2% for sworn law enforcement personnel. Fiscal year 2024-25 saw 3% for all state employees, with an additional 3% for sworn law enforcement. Total agency receipt-supported (i.e. no legislative funding) for the biennium was more than \$2.3M for all state employees, with an additional \$370K for sworn law enforcement officers. The State Legislature has not passed the FY26 budget; however, past legislative increases have been between less than 1% and 5.5%. We can estimate the financial impact of a hypothetical 2% legislative increase based on current salary and fringe expenditures. A legislative increase of 2% is a realistic scenario based on recent increases and would increase our salary and fringe expenditures by \$1.3M, which is approximately the same amount of revenue generated by the proposed fee increase.

Additionally, the agency's operational costs have increased over the past several years largely due to inflation. Management of the state's fish and wildlife populations and regulating use of the resources and boating throughout the State requires the agency to purchase and maintain a fleet vehicles, agricultural equipment, specialized commercial trucks, boats, and trailers. While these items are purchased over time, repairs and replacement of equipment and vehicles substantially increase operating costs. Although retail fuel prices for operating the agency's vehicles and equipment have decreased by nearly 12% from October 2023 to September 2025,² this drop does not offset the higher costs of other necessary materials and services. Overall operating expenses remain high despite temporary relief in fuel prices.

Providing access to the public waters of North Carolina is another key responsibility of the NCWRC. As such, the agency builds and maintains public access infrastructure, including public fishing and boating access areas. The Commission currently provides 250 public fishing areas and 250 boating access areas across the state. Ensuring that these resources remain open and safe for public use requires significant investment in construction materials and equipment, the costs of which have risen sharply since the agency's last fee adjustment took effect on July 1, 2024. Note that the 2024 fee adjustment did not account for additional cost increases between October 2023 and June 2024. For example, the price of lumber in August 2025 was about 7% higher than in October 2023.³

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: Gasoline (All Types) in U.S. City Average [CUSR0000SETB01], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUSR0000SETB01>, November 18, 2025.

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index by Commodity: Lumber and Wood Products: Lumber [WPS081],

Providing access to public land, specifically the two-plus million acres of game lands in the state, is also under the NCWRC's purview. While not every area requires the same infrastructure, providing parking lots, access roads, gates, blinds, and impoundments requires significant resources. This type of construction also requires materials and agricultural equipment, the price of which is continually increasing. From October 2023 to August 2025, the average price of construction sand and gravel has increased over 13%.⁴

The projected NCWRC revenue from the proposed fee increase will help the NCWRC fund salary needs associated with legislative increases, maintaining pay plans and compensation packages that attract and retain employees, and mitigate inflation on equipment and materials needed to accomplish the agency's mission.

Table 1: Expenses by category for the last 3 fiscal years

Category	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Net Change
Salary & Fringe	\$58,588,601	\$60,641,760	\$65,892,690	12.5%
Vehicles	\$1,781,428	\$1,703,599	\$1,399,430	(21.4%)
Agricultural Equipment	\$1,242,360	\$1,329,276	\$990,349	(20.3%)
Boats	\$2,098,130	\$1,918,963	\$1,837,832	(12.4%)
Fuel	\$1,501,975	\$1,303,963	\$1,062,070	(29.3%)
Lumber/Construction Materials	\$2,860,925	\$2,673,562	\$2,303,707	(19.5%)
Other	\$35,614,257	\$43,086,030	\$47,562,963	33.5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$103,687,676	\$112,657,153	\$121,049,041	16.7%
Average Annual Increase in Expenditures				\$8,680,682 or 8.05%

NOTES (Table 1):

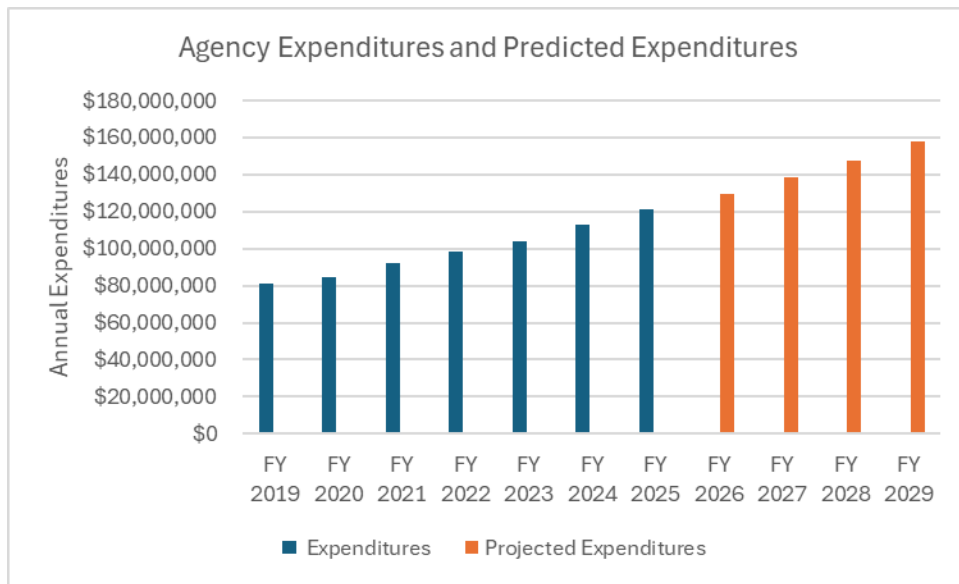
- The slight expenditure decreases in most categories reflect budgetary adjustments to offset higher salary & fringe costs, rather than a true reduction in the underlying costs of goods and services. To align total expenditures with available funds, spending in other categories were reduced to balance the budget. This adjustment has affected several areas of the Commission's operations, requiring a careful review of resource allocations.*
- The year-over-year increase in salary and fringe for FY2025, which was greater than the increase observed between FY2023 and FY2024, reflects the impact of filling 16 newly created law enforcement positions.*

The proposed fee increases are necessary for the NCWRC to fund anticipated legislative salary increases and keep up with inflation-driven operating costs. With projected license sales, these increases will provide approximately \$1.52 million annually, allowing the Commission to retain needed staff for program management and infrastructure maintenance, and to address operating expenditures, which have grown by about \$8.6 million per year in recent years.

retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WPS081>, November 18, 2025.

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Producer Price Index by Commodity: Nonmetallic Mineral Products: Construction Sand, Gravel and Crushed Stone [WPS1321], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WPS1321>, November 18, 2025.

Figure 1: Agency expenditure projections based on a 7-year (FY2019-2025) annual average (6.87%/year).



IV. Anticipated Impacts

CPI-U calculation

The CPI-U for this proposed fee increase, 3.4%, was calculated using the seasonally adjusted total increase in the CPI-U from July 2024 through September 2025. The CPI-U was applied to all license types. The 3.4% increase applied to these items ranges from \$1 to \$41 on annual licenses and from \$1 to \$67 on lifetime licenses. The complete list of licenses and associated fees increased by the CPI-U can be found in Appendix B.

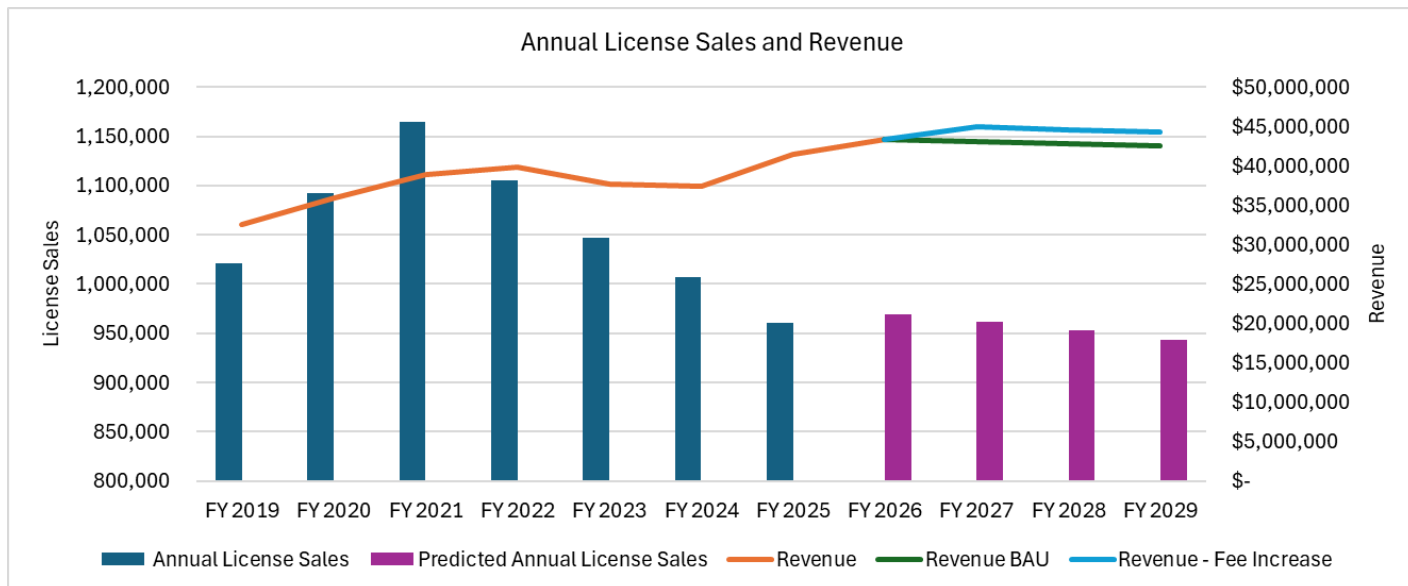
Impact -- State Agencies

As a conservative measure, the projected sales of all licenses through FY 2029 were calculated via an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model for non-stationary series with periodic variation, of annual sales from FY 2015 to FY 2025. To measure the impact of COVID on license sales, we performed a statistical analyses of annual license sales from FY 2015 to 2022 and found that while total sales in 2021 were higher than the previous years, it was not a significant outlier year for overall sales for the time-series, which suggests this sample frame will follow typical sales trends. Where longitudinal sales figures were not available, average sales were estimated from the FY 2025 sales data.

Including the proposed fee increases, the total annual average projected license revenue to the State (WRC and DMF) is anticipated to be approximately \$44M for FY 2026 through FY 2029 (Figure 2). The graph illustrates historical and projected trends in annual license sales and related revenue for WRC and DMF. Annual license sales peaked in FY 2021 and have declined since, with projections showing continued stabilization at a lower level through FY 2029. Despite declining sales, total annual revenue is expected to remain steady at approximately \$44

million between FY 2026 and FY 2029, reflecting the anticipated impact of the proposed license fee increases. In other words, the fee adjustments are projected to offset the anticipated reduction in participation, helping to ensure more stable funding for agency operations and the services it provides over the forecast period.

Figure 2: Total license revenue projection



Of the 89 affected licenses in the proposed fee increase, 68 are NCWRC licenses, 10 are NCWRC/ DMF licenses, and 11 are DMF licenses. Based on projected sales for FY 2027 through FY 2029, an annual average of \$35.17M of the anticipated total license revenue will go to the NCWRC and \$9.44M will go to the DMF. This equates to an annual average increase in revenue of \$1.52M to the NCWRC and \$344,000 to the DMF. We estimated the Net Present Value (NPV) of this revenue over three- and five-year projections horizon using a 7% discount rate and 2025 dollars. In total, between FY 2027 and FY 2029, the proposed fee increases are projected to increase revenue to NCWRC by approximately \$4.57M (\$3.99M NPV) and to DMF by approximately \$1.03M (\$903,000 NPV; Table 2).

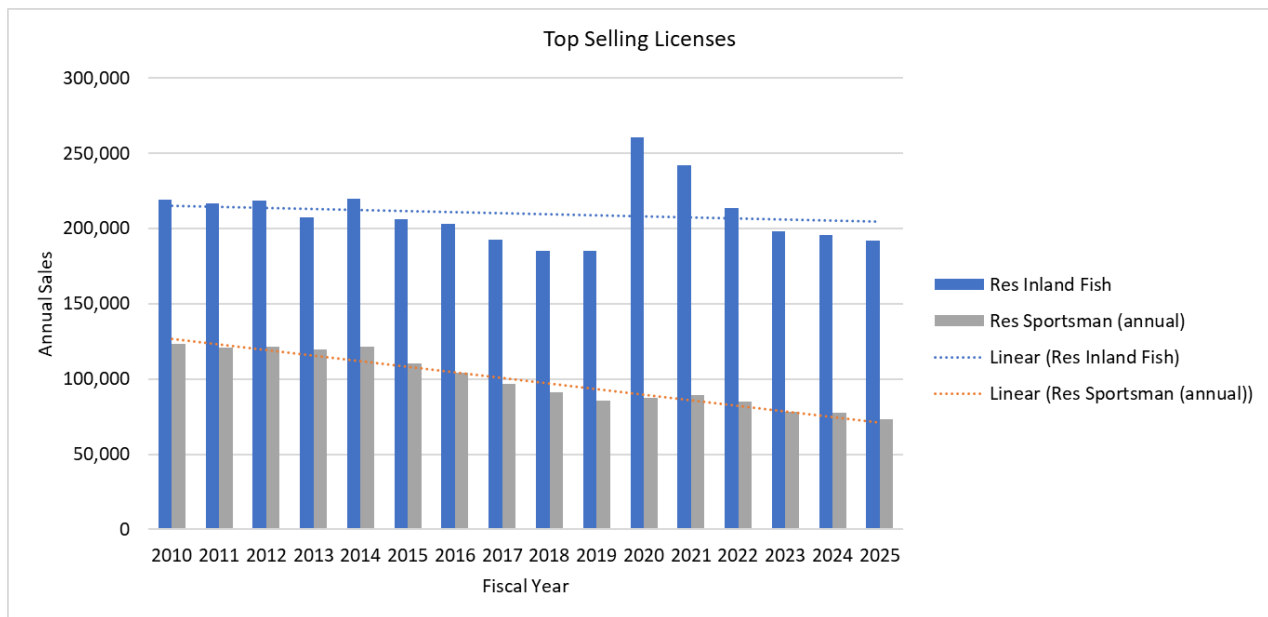
Table 2: Change in revenue over BAU

	Business-as-Usual			3.4% Fee Increase		
	NCWRC License Revenue	DMF License Revenue	Total State Revenue	NCWRC License Revenue	DMF License Revenue	Total State Revenue
2027	\$ 33,824,560	\$ 9,204,731	\$ 43,029,291	\$35,358,468	\$9,543,615	\$44,902,084
2028	\$ 33,651,373	\$ 9,098,772	\$ 42,750,145	\$35,175,426	\$9,442,955	\$44,618,382
2029	\$ 33,476,061	\$ 8,992,645	\$ 42,468,706	\$34,990,145	\$9,342,115	\$44,332,261
3-Year Average	\$33,650,665	\$9,098,716	\$ 42,749,380	\$35,174,680	\$9,442,895	\$44,617,575
Average Annual Δ in Revenue				\$1,524,015	\$344,179	\$1,868,195
3-Year Total Revenue Change Due to Proposed Fee Increase				\$4,572,047 <i>\$3,999,498 NPV</i>	\$1,032,538 <i>\$903,235 NPV</i>	\$5,604,585 <i>\$4,902,734 NPV</i>
5-Year Total Revenue Change Due to Proposed Fee Increase				\$7,620,078 <i>\$6,248,764 NPV</i>	\$1,720,897 <i>\$1,411,203 NPV</i>	\$9,340,975 <i>\$7,659,968 NPV</i>

*NOTE: Numbers in *italics* represent Net Present Value at 7% discount rate in 2025\$.

The largest annual NCWRC revenue increases are expected from the sale of the *Resident State Inland Fishing* license and *Annual Sportsman License*. While the fee increases per license are relatively insignificant, \$2 and \$3 respectively, the number of these licenses sold is expected to cumulatively comprise an average of approximately \$10 million in revenue annually (\$6,147,000/year + \$4,329,000/year = \$10,476,000/year), approximately \$347,000 more than under the business-as-usual scenario. Another substantial portion of revenue historically comes from the sale of the inter-agency *Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing* license. The proposed fee increase of \$3/year on this license has the potential to increase inter-agency revenue by an average of approximately \$95,000 annually over BAU, which contributes approximately \$73,000 annually to the NCWRC.

Figure 3: Trends in top selling licenses over the past 15 years.



Impact – Private Individuals

The costs associated with the proposed CPI-U fee increases would be borne by individual licensees. However, because the increases for most license types are relatively small, the agency does not anticipate significant adverse impacts on license sales or the overall economic contributions of license holders.

Recent analysis of WRC license fee changes found that following the 2020 increase, total license sales rose -- though this trend is most likely attributable to increased outdoor activity participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, rather than a price effect. In contrast, after the larger 2024 fee increase, license sales declined overall, and some buyers shifted to less expensive license types. Economic theory predicts that higher prices will suppress demand, and realized license revenues after 2024 were only 60% of the amount projected, suggesting at least some price sensitivity.

Research on hunting license demand in general confirms it is relatively price inelastic.⁵ Studies estimate that participation changes very little in response to higher fees. For example, a typical finding is that a 10% increase in license price leads to only about a 1.8% decrease in resident sales and a 0.7% decrease for nonresident sales (elasticities of -0.18 and -0.07, respectively).⁶ These findings suggest that fee increases usually result in only modest reductions in participation, allowing revenue to increase even if sales fall slightly. This means increases in fee levels generally result in a smaller proportional drop in participation, allowing agency revenue to rise even as sales decline modestly. However, the shortfall in expected revenue after the 2024 fee increase shows there are limits to this effect and highlights the importance of considering other

⁵ Poudyal, N.C., Cho, S., & Bowker, J.M. (2008). Demand for Resident Hunting in the Southeastern United States. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 13, 158 - 174. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10871200801922965>

⁶ Pang, A. (2024). Evaluating the demand for and price elasticity of state hunting licenses in the United States using panel data. *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*, 30(3), 257–269. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10871209.2024.2363311>

factors that influence license sales, including demographic, economic, and environmental variables -- such as major events like Hurricane Helene -- which can also play a substantial role in annual outcomes.

A notable gap in the research literature is the lack of studies evaluating the optimal frequency or timing of fee increases with respect to stabilizing participation and license sales. No research was identified that systematically analyzed whether gradual, regular fee adjustments or more substantial, infrequent changes are preferable for maintaining sales, consumer satisfaction, or agency revenue. This uncertainty highlights the need for further investigation into how temporal patterns in price changes may affect both buyer behavior and long-term program funding.

Additionally, recent analysis reveals significant heterogeneity in how fee increases affect different participant groups. Distributional effects are apparent across user types; for example, charter fishing participants were less affected by fee increases compared to shore-based fishers, indicating that the economic impact of license adjustments may fall more heavily on certain segments of the angling population.⁷ These findings suggest that impacts of fee policies are not uniform across all license holders.

Observed trends in North Carolina suggest that small, more frequent fee increases appear preferable to large, infrequent adjustments for sustaining participation and minimizing disruption among license holders. While demand for licenses remains relatively inelastic, allowing revenues to increase with modest price hikes, unpredictable external factors can still affect annual outcomes. Accordingly, fiscal projections should account for both the benefits of gradual fee adjustments and the uncertainty introduced by changing demographics, economic conditions, and major events.

Lastly, minor edits to the Commercial Use Permit rule (10H .1801) unrelated to permit fees require license holders to remit quarterly, rather than every other month, and to submit a certificate of insurance as part of their application. This change reduces the administrative burden on licenses and ensures they are in compliance with the existing liability insurance requirements found in 15A NCAC 10H .1802 and 10H .1803.

Impact – Local Government

No measurable local government impacts are anticipated unless participation declines notably. Such a drop could reduce tourism-driven revenues, but declines are not expected, and any impact would likely be dispersed statewide and difficult to attribute directly to the modest fee increase.

⁷ Hwa Nyeon Kim, W. Douglass Shaw and Richard T. Woodward (2007). The Distributional Impacts of Recreational Fees: A Discrete Choice Model with Incomplete Data. *Land Economics*, 83 (4) 561-574; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3368/le.83.4.561>

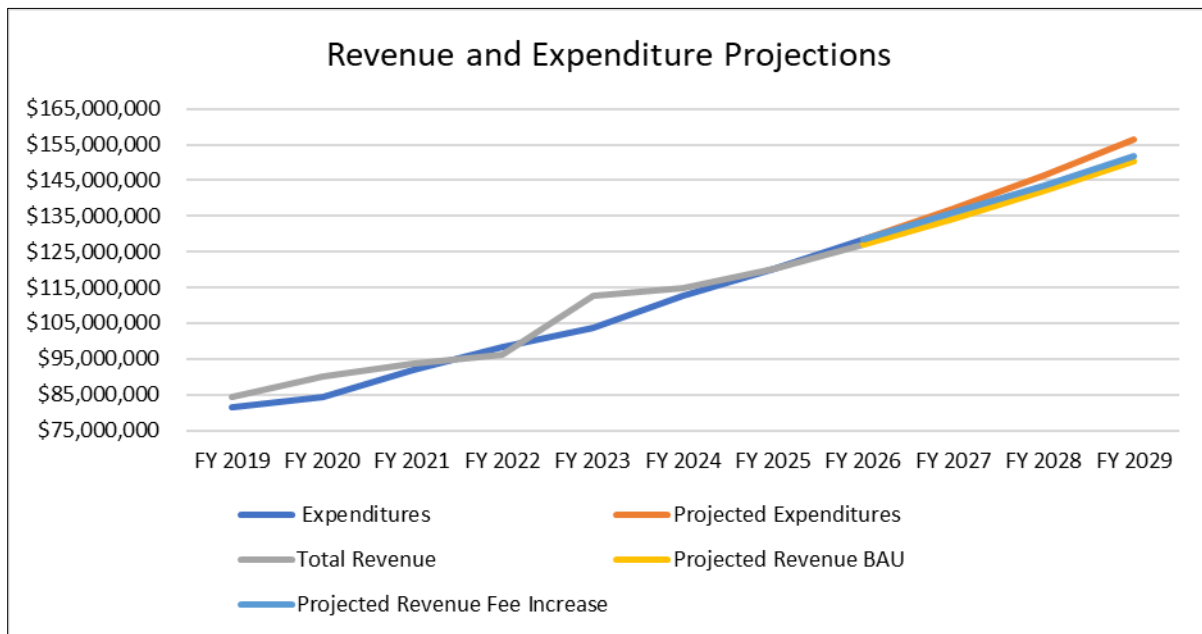
V. Looking Ahead

It is important for the Commission to consider future revenue and expenditure amounts when making significant changes to license fees. Presently, the Commission collects revenue in excess of expenditures; however, a gap may emerge as soon as FY26 if additional funding is not secured. Figure 4 shows projected revenue and expenditures through FY29 using moving averages from FY19 to FY25. The inconsistency in revenue in FY23 is due to a one-time appropriation in S.L. 2021-180 which allocated \$7,200,000 for the "removal of high hazard dams in the mountain region of the State."

There is significant uncertainty in the projections as economic, environmental, demographic, and social influences often impact how much, and on what, the Commission spends, and how much revenue is generated. Growth in expenditures, as shown in Figure 4, is predicted to be about 6.87% annually and growth in revenue is predicted to be about 6.21% annually. These projections assume inflation remains higher than historical levels, no change in state appropriations, consistent federal funding through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, and no change in consumer behavior. Adding to the complexity of these projections is how the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts allocate funds to states, which is based on the amount of excise tax collected from the sale of guns, ammunition, and fishing equipment, and the number of licenses sold within each state. The US Fish and Wildlife Service does not publish predicted allocations for these funds.

In addition to adjusting license prices, the Commission is exploring other options to generate revenue, including traditional approaches such as recruiting, retaining, and reactivating (R3) participants in hunting and fishing, but also through novel approaches that will promote long-term financial sustainability for the agency.

Figure 4: Annual agency revenue and expenditure



VI. Alternatives

Before proposing fee adjustments, the agency implemented a range of cost-saving measures. This included purchasing in bulk, using optional state contracts for discounted supplies, and performing regular reviews of purchases and services such as cell phones and software, to ensure under-utilized accounts are deactivated. Additionally, purchases of costly items like agricultural equipment and vehicles have been deferred beyond the typical replacement schedule and machinery has been serviced to extend usable life beyond the recommended replacement cycle(s). While these efforts temporarily mitigated inflationary pressures, they are not a long-term solution given continued increases in costs and essential infrastructure needs.

The agency considered several alternatives to the proposed license fee increases:

- Maintaining fees at current levels (“no increase”) -- essentially the same as deferring a fee change. This would most likely require a significantly larger fee increase in the future to address growing deficits and meet statutory obligations.
- Implementing an unrounded CPI-U increase, which would generate less revenue and introduce fractional fees unfamiliar to customers.
- Applying the CPI-U increase rounded to the next whole dollar amount for selected licenses, which lacked a consistent rationale and would exacerbate future revenue shortfalls.

After review, the Commission rejected the "no increase" option due to its projected negative impact on agency finances. Both alternative CPI-U approaches were also rejected because they would yield lower annual revenues and could confuse consumers or create administrative inconsistency. Evidence from recent trends and best practices indicates that smaller, more frequent fee increases are preferable to large, infrequent hikes, as they help preserve participation rates and stabilize sales and agency revenue over time. Smaller, phased fee increases are less likely to disrupt participation because they are easier for license holders to absorb and to plan for financially. Incremental adjustments provide customers with time to adapt to changing costs, minimizing “sticker shock” and the risk of sudden decreases in sales that are more likely to result from large, infrequent hikes. These regular, predictable changes help maintain customer satisfaction and prevent individuals from abandoning activities due to unexpected cost barriers.

Table 3: Average annual revenue increase based on fee increase alternatives.

Alternative Scenario	WRC Revenue Increase	DMF Revenue Increase	Annual Revenue Increase to State	Difference from Round-up increase
No Increase	\$0	\$0	\$0	~ \$(1,868,000)
CPI-U Un-rounded	~ \$1,129,000	~ \$185,000	~ \$1,314,000	~ \$(554,000)
CPI-U Rounded-up	~ \$1,524,000	~ \$344,000	~ \$1,868,000	\$0

VII. Uncertainties and Assumptions

Future Legislative Increases and Inflation

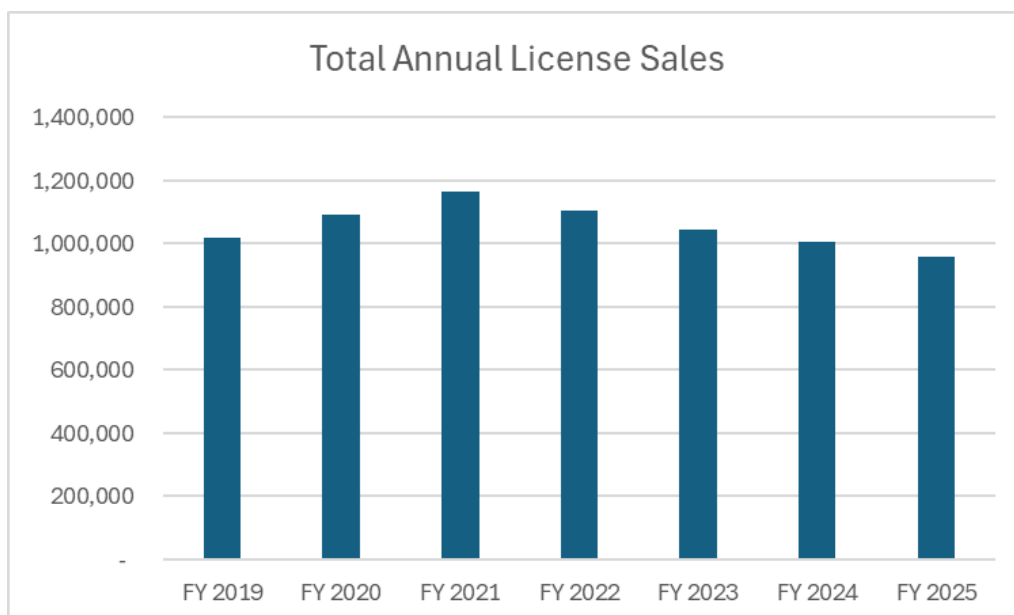
Between 2005 and 2025, the average annual legislative salary increase was 2%, while the average annual inflation rate, based on the Consumer Price Index, was 2.52%. Although future increases are uncertain, the agency assumes similar rates going forward. Should increases exceed these assumptions, the NCWRC may need to consider additional fee adjustments sooner, as allowed by statute. Conversely, if increases are lower, the interval between fee changes may lengthen. The agency will continuously monitor legislative salary adjustments and inflation impacts on expenditures to assist the Commission in future fee-setting decisions.

Future License Sales and Participants' Sensitivity to Proposed Fee Increases

Predicting future license sales is challenging due to many uncertain and uncontrollable factors. This analysis relies on actual sales data since 2015, though data for several newer licenses is limited. Without research isolating economic, environmental, demographic, and social influences, it's difficult to precisely determine how much fee increases alone will affect sales compared to what would occur otherwise.

Nonetheless, FY 2025 data suggests a continued decline in sales, following the post-pandemic surge in 2021 driven by increased outdoor recreation during COVID-19 (Figure 5). The impact of proposed fee increases is complex and influenced by various external factors beyond typical economic analysis. While it is reasonable to expect that the proposed fee increases will not cause a significant drop in licenses sold, there remains some risk that participants may be more price sensitive than anticipated. If so, revenues could fall below projections, whether due to fewer licenses sold or users opting for less costly licenses, both of which would reduce agency revenue.

Figure 5: Annual number of licenses purchased before and after the fee increases in 2020 and 2024



Appendix A: Proposed Rule Text

SECTION .1600 - WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION FEES

15A NCAC 10A .1601 LICENSE FEES

- (a) License fees established by the Commission in this Rule shall be subject to the requirements of G.S. 113-270.1B(e).
- (b) The following fees shall apply to combination hunting and inland fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1C:
- (1) Resident Annual Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$42.00.~~ \$44.00.
 - (2) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
 - (3) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combination Hunting and Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (c) The following fees shall apply to sportsman licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.1D:
- (1) Annual Sportsman License - ~~\$63.00.~~ \$66.00.
 - (2) Infant Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$252.00.~~ \$261.00.
 - (3) Youth Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$441.00.~~ \$456.00.
 - (4) Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.
 - (5) Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$1,511.00.~~ \$1,563.00.
 - (6) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
 - (7) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
 - (8) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
- (d) The following fees shall apply to hunting licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.2:
- (1) Resident State Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
 - (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
 - (3) Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License - ~~\$27.00.~~ \$28.00.
 - (4) Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License - ~~\$47.00.~~ \$49.00.
 - (5) Nonresident State Hunting Licenses:
 - (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
 - (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
 - (6) Falconry Hunting License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- (e) The following fees shall apply to special activity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.3:
- (1) Resident Big Game Hunting License - ~~\$17.00.~~ \$18.00.
 - (2) Nonresident Bear Hunting License - ~~\$284.00.~~ \$294.00.
 - (3) Bear Management Stamp - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
 - (4) Nonresident Big Game Hunting License:
 - (A) Season License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
 - (B) Ten-Day License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
 - (5) Bonus Antlerless Deer License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
 - (6) Game Land License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
 - (7) Falconry License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.

- (8) Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License - ~~\$17.00.~~ \$18.00.
- (9) Resident American Alligator License - ~~\$297.00.~~ \$308.00.
- (10) Nonresident American Alligator License - ~~\$594.00.~~ \$615.00.
- (11) Resident Elk License - ~~\$594.00.~~ \$615.00.
- (12) Nonresident Elk License - ~~\$1,188.00.~~ \$1,229.00.

(f) The following fees shall apply to hunting and fishing guide licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.4:

- (1) Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (2) Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License - ~~\$189.00.~~ \$196.00.

(g) The following fees shall apply to trapping licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-270.5:

- (1) Resident State Trapping License - ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.
- (2) Resident Lifetime Trapping License - ~~\$357.00.~~ \$370.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Trapping License - ~~\$158.00.~~ \$164.00.

(h) The following fees shall apply to hook-and-line licenses in inland and joint fishing waters issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-271:

- (1) Resident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- (2) Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
- (3) Nonresident State Inland Fishing License - ~~\$54.00.~~ \$56.00.
- (4) Short-Term Inland Fishing License:
 - (A) Resident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$11.00.~~ \$12.00.
 - (B) Nonresident 10-day Inland Fishing License - ~~\$28.00.~~ \$29.00.
- (5) Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (6) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (7) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (8) Special Landholder and Guest Fishing License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.
- (9) Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Three-Day Fishing License - ~~\$10.00.~~ \$11.00.

(i) The following shall apply to special device licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.2:

- (1) Resident Special Device License - ~~\$95.00.~~ \$99.00.
- (2) Nonresident Special Device License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.

(j) The non-refundable ~~fees~~ fee for a collection license issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.4 shall be ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.

(k) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to captivity licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-272.5:

- (1) Captivity License for Holding - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- (2) Captivity License for Rehabilitation - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.

(l) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to dealer licenses issued by the Commission as set forth in G.S. 113-273:

- (1) Resident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$76.00.~~ \$79.00.
- (2) Nonresident Fur-dealer License - ~~\$378.00.~~ \$391.00.
- (3) Fur-dealer Station License - ~~\$152.00.~~ \$158.00.

- (4) Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License - ~~\$119.00.~~ \$124.00.
- (5) Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- (6) Game Bird Propagation License - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (7) Furbearer Propagation License - ~~\$33.00.~~ \$35.00.
- (8) Taxidermy License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- (9) Taxidermy Cervid Certification - ~~\$6.00.~~ \$7.00.
- (10) Wildlife Control Agent License - ~~\$60.00.~~ \$63.00.
- (11) Wildlife Control Technician Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.
- (12) Alligator Control Agent Certification - ~~\$30.00.~~ \$32.00.

(m) The following non-refundable fees shall apply to permits issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-274:

- (1) Possession Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (2) Exportation or Importation Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (3) Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (4) Endangered Species Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.
- (5) Field Trial Permit - ~~\$12.00.~~ \$13.00.

(n) Unified hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-351:

- (1) Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$82.00.~~ \$85.00.
- (2) Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$49.00.~~ \$51.00.
- (3) Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses:
 - (A) Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$347.00.~~ \$359.00.
 - (B) Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00.~~ \$587.00.
 - (C) Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$851.00.~~ \$880.00.
 - (D) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$1,952.00.~~ \$2,019.00.
 - (E) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.
 - (F) Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$139.00.~~ \$144.00.
 - (G) Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$139.00.~~ \$144.00.
- (4) Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$567.00.~~ \$587.00.

(o) The following fees shall apply to Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses issued by the Commission, as set forth in G.S. 113-174.2:

- (1) Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (2) Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$38.00.~~ \$40.00.
- (3) Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$8.00.~~ \$9.00.
- (4) Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (5) Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$126.00.~~ \$131.00.

- (6) Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$189.00.~~ \$196.00.
- (7) Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$315.00.~~ \$326.00.
- (8) Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$630.00.~~ \$652.00.
- (9) Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$19.00.~~ \$20.00.
- (10) Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.
- (11) Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License - ~~\$14.00.~~ \$15.00.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-270.1B(e);
Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2020;
Eff. July 1, 2020;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2024; May 1, 2022.*

SECTION .1800 – COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY PERMITTING

15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

- (a) The rules in this Section apply to commercial permits issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (b) The use of Wildlife Resources Commission property, as defined by G.S. 113-129, by an individual or business for profit or benefit is unlawful, unless the individual or business using the property for an unlicensed activity first obtains a commercial permit as provided by this Rule.
- (c) The following definitions shall apply to all rules in this Section:
- (1) "Benefit" means the exchange of money, goods, services, or the growth or promotion of a business or organization.
 - (2) "Commercial activity" means an unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use equipment and that takes individuals or groups to Commission property for participation in the unlicensed activity, the purpose of which is financial gain or benefit of the commercial business.
 - (3) "Commercial business" means any individual or business using Commission property for financial gain or benefit.
 - (4) "Commercial permit" means either a commercial use permit or event permit for otherwise unlicensed activities.
 - (5) "Commission property" means Wildlife Resources Commission property as defined in G.S. 113-129(18).
 - (6) "Commercial use" means the use of Commission property for financial gain or benefit.
 - (7) "Commercial use permit" means a permit that allows for the commercial use of Wildlife Resources Commission property.
 - (8) "Event" means an organized gathering of more than 10 people on Commission property where money is exchanged for participation in an unlicensed activity.
 - (9) "Event permit" means a permit that allows for the use of Commission property for a one-time event.
 - (10) "Unlicensed activity" means any outdoor activity that the Commission does not regulate through a Commission-issued license or permit.
- (d) Application for a commercial permit shall be made online at www.ncwildlife.org or at Commission headquarters located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Information required from the applicant shall include:
- (1) the applicant's name, address, telephone number;
 - (2) name of business, company, or organization;
 - (3) type of commercial activity or event;
 - (4) dates of activity or event;
 - (5) locations of commercial activity or event; and
 - (6) certificate of insurance; and
 - ~~(6)~~(7) for event permits, the number of individuals anticipated to partake in the event.
- (e) The fee for a commercial use permit shall be one hundred and six dollars (\$104.00). ~~(\$100.00)~~. The fee for an event permit shall be based on the number individuals participating in the event, including event participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. The event permit fee schedule is as follows:
- (1) ten to 100 individuals - ~~\$50;~~ \$52;

- (2) one hundred and one to 250 individuals - ~~\$100;~~ \$104;
- (3) two hundred and fifty-one to 500 individuals - ~~\$150;~~ \$156;
- (4) five hundred and one to 1000 individuals - ~~\$200;~~ \$207; and
- (5) over 1000 individuals - ~~\$250-~~ \$259.

- (f) In addition to the commercial permit fee, a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) per individual participating in the permitted activity on Commission property shall be required and remitted to the Commission no more than 30 days after the event for which the permit was acquired or every ~~quarter~~ other month during the year for which the commercial use permit is valid.
- (g) Unless authorized by the Commission, commercial permit holders and their patrons shall not block access or prevent others from entering or exiting any Commission property.
- (h) Commercial permits are non-transferable between individuals, businesses, or companies and a separate permit is required for each commercial activity or event.
- (i) The Commission may deny permits or issue permit requirements for use of its property based on the time of year, holidays, safety concerns, biological impacts, compatibility of requested activity with intended use of an area or property, failure to adhere to the conditions set forth in these Rules and Commission planned or sponsored events.
- (j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit, a commercial use permit shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the same year. An event permit shall be valid for the duration of the event and expires at its conclusion.
- (k) Records of commercial activities shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request and during normal operating hours.
- (l) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a permit holder's commercial permit, if the permit holder violates any rules set forth by the Commission in this Subchapter or any conditions of the permit.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264;
Eff. January 1, 2025.*

Appendix B: Proposed Fee Increases By License Type

Statutory Reference	License Type	Current Fee	3.4% Increase	Proposed Fee (round up)	\$ Increase	% Increase
WRC Annual Licenses						
<u>113-270.1C (b) (1)</u>	Resident Annual Combination Hunting & Inland Fishing License	\$42.00	\$43.43	\$44.00	\$2.00	4.8%
<u>113-270.1D (a)</u>	Annual Sportsman License	\$63.00	\$65.14	\$66.00	\$3.00	4.8%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (1)</u>	Resident State Hunting License	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (4)</u>	Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting License	\$27.00	\$27.92	\$28.00	\$1.00	3.7%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (5)</u>	Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting License	\$47.00	\$48.60	\$49.00	\$2.00	4.3%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (6) (a)</u>	Nonresident State Hunting - Season License	\$119.00	\$123.05	\$124.00	\$5.00	4.2%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (6) (b)</u>	Nonresident State Hunting - Ten-Day License	\$95.00	\$98.23	\$99.00	\$4.00	4.2%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (7)</u>	Falconry Hunting License	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (1)</u>	Resident Big Game Hunting License	\$17.00	\$17.58	\$18.00	\$1.00	5.9%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (1a)</u>	Nonresident Bear Hunting License	\$284.00	\$293.66	\$294.00	\$10.00	3.5%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (1b)</u>	Bear Management Stamp	\$14.00	\$14.48	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (2) (a)</u>	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - Season License	\$119.00	\$123.05	\$124.00	\$5.00	4.2%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (2) (b)</u>	Nonresident Big Game Hunting - Ten-Day License	\$95.00	\$98.23	\$99.00	\$4.00	4.2%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (2a)</u>	Bonus Antlerless Deer License	\$14.00	\$14.48	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (3)</u>	Game Land License	\$19.00	\$19.65	\$20.00	\$1.00	5.3%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (4)</u>	Falconry License	\$14.00	\$14.48	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (5)</u>	Migratory Waterfowl Hunting License	\$17.00	\$17.58	\$18.00	\$1.00	5.9%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (6)</u>	Resident American Alligator License	\$297.00	\$307.10	\$308.00	\$11.00	3.7%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (7)</u>	Nonresident American Alligator License	\$594.00	\$614.20	\$615.00	\$21.00	3.5%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (8)</u>	Resident Elk License	\$594.00	\$614.20	\$615.00	\$21.00	3.5%
<u>113-270.3 (b) (9)</u>	Nonresident Elk License	\$1,188.00	\$1,228.39	\$1,229.00	\$41.00	3.5%
<u>113-270.5 (b) (1)</u>	Resident State Trapping License	\$38.00	\$39.29	\$40.00	\$2.00	5.3%
<u>113-270.5 (b) (3)</u>	Nonresident State Trapping License	\$158.00	\$163.37	\$164.00	\$6.00	3.8%
<u>113-271 (d) (2)</u>	Resident State Inland Fishing License	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%
<u>113-271 (d) (5)</u>	Nonresident State Inland Fishing License	\$54.00	\$55.84	\$56.00	\$2.00	3.7%
<u>113-271 (d) (6) (a)</u>	Short-Term Resident Inland Fishing - 10-Day License	\$11.00	\$11.37	\$12.00	\$1.00	9.1%
<u>113-271 (d) (6) (b)</u>	Short-Term Nonresident Inland Fishing - 10-Day License	\$28.00	\$28.95	\$29.00	\$1.00	3.6%
<u>113-271 (d) (9)</u>	Special Landholder & Guest Fishing License	\$126.00	\$130.28	\$131.00	\$5.00	4.0%
<u>113-272 (e)</u>	Mountain Heritage Trout Waters 3-Day Fishing License	\$10.00	\$10.34	\$11.00	\$1.00	10.0%

<u>113-272.2 (c) (1a)</u>	Resident Special Device License	\$95.00	\$98.23	\$99.00	\$4.00	4.2%	
<u>113-272.2 (c) (2a)</u>	Nonresident Special Device License	\$630.00	\$651.42	\$652.00	\$22.00	3.5%	
<u>113-270.4(b)(1)</u>	Resident Hunting and Fishing Guide License	\$19.00	\$19.65	\$20.00	\$1.00	5.3%	
<u>113-270.4(b)(2)</u>	Nonresident Hunting and Fishing Guide License	\$189.00	\$195.43	\$196.00	\$7.00	3.7%	
<u>113-272.4(c)</u>	Collection License (Consists of Wildlife Collection & Scientific Fish Collection Licenses)	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
<u>113-272.5(b)</u>	Captivity License for Holding License	\$60.00	\$62.04	\$63.00	\$3.00	5.0%	
<u>113-272.5(b)</u>	Captivity License for Rehabilitation License	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
<u>113-273(f)(1)</u>	Resident Fur-Dealer License	\$76.00	\$78.58	\$79.00	\$3.00	3.9%	
<u>113-273 (f)(2)</u>	Nonresident Fur-Dealer License	\$378.00	\$390.85	\$391.00	\$13.00	3.4%	
<u>113-273 (f)(3)</u>	Fur-dealer Station License	\$152.00	\$157.17	\$158.00	\$6.00	3.9%	
<u>113-273(g)</u>	Controlled Hunting Preserve Operator License	\$119.00	\$123.05	\$124.00	\$5.00	4.2%	
<u>113-273(g)</u>	Controlled Hunting Preserve Rabbit Operator License	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%	
<u>113-273(h)</u>	Game Bird Propagation License	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
<u>113-273(i)</u>	Furbearer Propagation License	\$33.00	\$34.12	\$35.00	\$2.00	6.1%	
<u>113-273(k)</u>	Taxidermy License	\$60.00	\$62.04	\$63.00	\$3.00	5.0%	
<u>113-273(k)</u>	Taxidermy Cervid Certification	\$6.00	\$6.20	\$7.00	\$1.00	16.7%	
<u>113-273(l)</u>	Wildlife Control Agent	\$60.00	\$62.04	\$63.00	\$3.00	5.0%	
<u>113-273(l)</u>	Wildlife Control Technician Certification	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%	
<u>113-273(m)</u>	Alligator Control Agent Certification	\$30.00	\$31.02	\$32.00	\$2.00	6.7%	
113-274(1c)	Possession Permit (Consists of Reptile & Amphibian Possession, Wildlife Possession and Salvage, and Restricted Species Permits)	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
113-274(3)	Exportation or Importation Permit	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
113-274(3a)	Trophy Wildlife Sale Permit	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
113-274(3d)	Endangered Species Permit	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
113-274(3e)	Field Trial Permit	\$12.00	\$12.41	\$13.00	\$1.00	8.3%	
113-264	Commercial Activity Permit	\$100.00	\$103.40	\$104.00	\$4.00	4.0%	
113-264	Commercial Event Permit	10-100 Individuals	\$50.00	\$51.70	\$52.00	\$2.00	4.0%
		101-250 Individuals	\$100.00	\$103.40	\$104.00	\$4.00	4.0%
		251-500 Individuals	\$150.00	\$155.10	\$156.00	\$6.00	4.0%
		501-1000 Individuals	\$200.00	\$206.80	\$207.00	\$7.00	3.5%
		1001+ Individuals	\$250.00	\$258.50	\$259.00	\$9.00	3.6%
WRC Lifetime Licenses							
<u>113-270.1C (b) (5)</u> <u>113-270.1C (b) (6)</u>	Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Combo Hunting & Inland Fishing License	\$14.00	\$14.84	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%	
<u>113-270.1D (b) (1)</u>	Infant Lifetime Sportsman License	\$252.00	\$267.12	\$268.00	\$16.00	6.3%	

<u>113-270.1D (b) (2)</u>	Youth Lifetime Sportsman License	\$441.00	\$467.46	\$468.00	\$27.00	6.1%
<u>113-270.1D (b) (3)</u>	Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman License	\$630.00	\$667.80	\$668.00	\$38.00	6.0%
<u>113-270.1D (b) (4)</u>	Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman License	\$1,511.00	\$1,601.66	\$1,602.00	\$91.00	6.0%
<u>113-270.1D (b) (5)</u>	Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman License	\$19.00	\$20.14	\$21.00	\$2.00	10.5%
<u>113-270.1D (b) (7)</u> <u>113-270.1D (b) (8)</u>	Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman License	\$126.00	\$133.56	\$134.00	\$8.00	6.3%
<u>113-270.2 (c) (2)</u>	Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting License	\$315.00	\$333.90	\$334.00	\$19.00	6.0%
<u>113-271 (d) (3)</u>	Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing License	\$315.00	\$333.90	\$334.00	\$19.00	6.0%
<u>113-271 (d) (6a)</u>	Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing License	\$19.00	\$20.14	\$21.00	\$2.00	10.5%
<u>113-271 (d) (6b)</u> <u>113-271 (d) (6c)</u>	Resident Disabled Veteran & Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing License	\$14.00	\$14.84	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-270.5 (b) (1a)</u>	Resident Lifetime Trapping License	\$357.00	\$378.42	\$379.00	\$22.00	6.2%
<u>113-270.1D (b) (3)</u>	Resident Age 50 & Older Sportsman (Discount not a license)	\$315.00	\$334.00	\$334.00	\$19.00	6.0%
Unified and CRFL Licenses						
<u>113-351 (c) (1)</u>	Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$82.00	\$86.92	\$87.00	\$5.00	6.1%
<u>113-351 (c) (2)</u>	Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$49.00	\$51.94	\$52.00	\$3.00	6.1%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (a)</u>	Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$347.00	\$367.82	\$368.00	\$21.00	6.1%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (b)</u>	Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$567.00	\$601.02	\$602.00	\$35.00	6.2%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (c)</u>	Resident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$851.00	\$902.06	\$903.00	\$52.00	6.1%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (d)</u>	Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$1,952.00	\$2,069.12	\$2,070.00	\$118.00	6.0%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (e)</u>	Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$38.00	\$40.28	\$41.00	\$3.00	7.9%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (f)</u>	Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$139.00	\$147.34	\$148.00	\$9.00	6.5%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (g)</u>	Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$139.00	\$147.34	\$148.00	\$9.00	6.5%
<u>113-351 (c) (4) (a)</u>	Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$567.00	\$601.02	\$602.00	\$35.00	6.2%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (1)</u>	Annual Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$19.00	\$20.14	\$21.00	\$2.00	10.5%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (1a)</u>	Annual Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$38.00	\$40.28	\$41.00	\$3.00	7.9%

<u>113-174.2 (c) (4)</u>	Ten-Day Resident Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$8.00	\$8.48	\$9.00	\$1.00	12.5%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (4a)</u>	Ten-Day Nonresident Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$14.00	\$14.84	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) €</u>	Infant Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$126.00	\$133.56	\$134.00	\$8.00	6.3%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (f)</u>	Youth Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$189.00	\$200.34	\$201.00	\$12.00	6.3%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (g)</u>	Resident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License f(1)	\$315.00	\$333.90	\$334.00	\$19.00	6.0%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (h)</u>	Nonresident Adult Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$630.00	\$667.80	\$668.00	\$38.00	6.0%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (i)</u>	Resident Age 70 Lifetime Coastal Recreational Fishing License	\$19.00	\$20.14	\$21.00	\$2.00	10.5%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (j)</u>	Resident Disabled Veteran Coastal Recreational Fishing License m(1)	\$14.00	\$14.84	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-174.2 (c) (6) (k)</u>	Resident Totally Disabled Coastal Recreational Fishing License m(1)	\$14.00	\$14.84	\$15.00	\$1.00	7.1%
<u>113-351 (c) (3) (c)</u>	Resident Age 50 & Older Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing License (Discount not a license)	\$425.50	\$451.50	\$451.50	\$26.00	6.1%

EXHIBIT J

December 4, 2025



Proposed Amendments to Commercial Activity Permitting 15A NCAC 10H .1801 General Requirements and Fees Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at Public Hearings

The proposed rule amendments increase fees for all commercial activity permits the Wildlife Resources Commission issues and administers, by the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (3.4%) since the last fee increase, rounded up to the next whole dollar, as allowed by Paragraph (e) of 113- 270.1B. The proposed fee increase will help the agency address funding issues related to increased operating costs exacerbated by inflation, increased demand for agency services, legislative salary increases, and stagnant state appropriations. Additionally, amendments require license holders to remit quarterly, rather than every other month, and to submit a certificate of insurance as part of their application.

15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

1 15A NCAC 10H .1801 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10H .1801 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FEES**

4 (a) The rules in this Section apply to commercial permits issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

5 (b) The use of Wildlife Resources Commission property, as defined by G.S. 113-129, by an individual or business
6 for profit or benefit is unlawful, unless the individual or business using the property for an unlicensed activity first
7 obtains a commercial permit as provided by this Rule.

8 (c) The following definitions shall apply to all rules in this Section:

9 (1) "Benefit" means the exchange of money, goods, services, or the growth or promotion of a business
10 or organization.

11 (2) "Commercial activity" means an unlicensed activity for which individuals pay to participate or use
12 equipment and that takes individuals or groups to Commission property for participation in the
13 unlicensed activity, the purpose of which is financial gain or benefit of the commercial business.

14 (3) "Commercial business" means any individual or business using Commission property for financial
15 gain or benefit.

16 (4) "Commercial permit" means either a commercial use permit or event permit for otherwise
17 unlicensed activities.

18 (5) "Commission property" means Wildlife Resources Commission property as defined in G.S. 113-
19 129(18).

20 (6) "Commercial use" means the use of Commission property for financial gain or benefit.

21 (7) "Commercial use permit" means a permit that allows for the commercial use of Wildlife Resources
22 Commission property.

23 (8) "Event" means an organized gathering of more than 10 people on Commission property where
24 money is exchanged for participation in an unlicensed activity.

25 (9) "Event permit" means a permit that allows for the use of Commission property for a one-time event.

26 (10) "Unlicensed activity" means any outdoor activity that the Commission does not regulate through a
27 Commission-issued license or permit.

28 (d) Application for a commercial permit shall be made online at www.ncwildlife.org or at Commission headquarters
29 located at 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606-2576. Information required from the applicant shall include:

30 (1) the applicant's name, address, telephone number;

31 (2) name of business, company, or organization;

32 (3) type of commercial activity or event;

33 (4) dates of activity or event;

34 (5) locations of commercial activity or event; and

35 (6) certificate of insurance; and

36 ~~(6)~~(7) for event permits, the number of individuals anticipated to partake in the event.

(e) The fee for a commercial use permit shall be one hundred ~~and six~~ dollars ~~(\$104.00).~~ ~~(\$100.00).~~ The fee for an event permit shall be based on the number individuals participating in the event, including event participants, volunteers, staff, and spectators. The event permit fee schedule is as follows:

- (1) ten to 100 individuals - ~~\$50;~~ \$52;
- (2) one hundred and one to 250 individuals - ~~\$100;~~ \$104;
- (3) two hundred and fifty-one to 500 individuals - ~~\$150;~~ \$156;
- (4) five hundred and one to 1000 individuals - ~~\$200;~~ \$207; and
- (5) over 1000 individuals - ~~\$250.~~ \$259.

(f) In addition to the commercial permit fee, a fee of three dollars (\$3.00) per individual participating in the permitted activity on Commission property shall be required and remitted to the Commission no more than 30 days after the event for which the permit was acquired or every quarter ~~other month~~ during the year for which the commercial use permit is valid.

(g) Unless authorized by the Commission, commercial permit holders and their patrons shall not block access or prevent others from entering or exiting any Commission property.

(h) Commercial permits are non-transferable between individuals, businesses, or companies and a separate permit is required for each commercial activity or event.

(i) The Commission may deny permits or issue permit requirements for use of its property based on the time of year, holidays, safety concerns, biological impacts, compatibility of requested activity with intended use of an area or property, failure to adhere to the conditions set forth in these Rules and Commission planned or sponsored events.

(j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the permit, a commercial use permit shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the same year. An event permit shall be valid for the duration of the event and expires at its conclusion.

(k) Records of commercial activities shall be available for inspection by representatives of the Commission upon request and during normal operating hours.

(l) The Executive Director of the Commission or his or her designee may warn, cite, or revoke a permit holder's commercial permit, if the permit holder violates any rules set forth by the Commission in this Subchapter or any conditions of the permit.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264;
Eff. January 1, 2025.*

EXHIBIT K-1

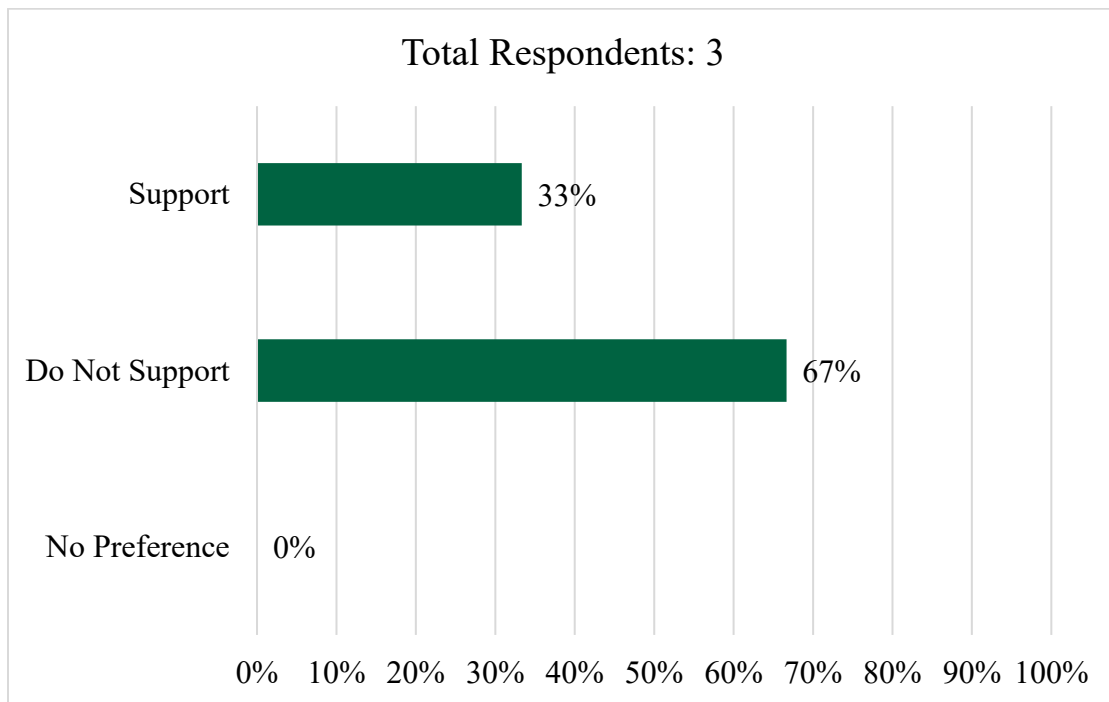
December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Paynes Branch Game Land 15A NCAC 10D .0295

One public hearing was held on September 23, 2025, with no attendees.

15A NCAC 10D .0295 PAYNES BRANCH GAME LAND



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

EXHIBIT K-2

December 4, 2025



Adoption of 15A NCAC 10D .0295 Paynes Branch Game Land Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

The rule will establish Paynes Branch Game Land. The Commission, in partnership with The Conservation Fund, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation, acquired 209 acres of property on either side of Paynes Branch stream in Northern Forsyth and Southern Stokes counties. At 209 acres, this would be a relatively small game land, however the property is located in a region of the State where few public hunting opportunities currently exist. Adding this property to the Game Land Program as a three day per week area will provide recreational opportunities for hunters, trappers, wildlife viewers, and other outdoor recreationists. Additionally, this rule will establish requirements related to deer seasons and prohibit horseback riding and target shooting.

15A NCAC 10D .0295 PAYNES BRANCH GAME LAND

1 **15A NCAC 10D .0295 PAYNES BRANCH GAME LAND IN FORSYTH AND STOKES COUNTIES**

2 Paynes Branch Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 3 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for
4 Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Wednesday thereafter.
5 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
6 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.

EXHIBIT L-1

December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Wildlife Service Agent Rules 15A NCAC 10G .0400

One public hearing was held on September 24, 2025, with no attendees.

No comments were received during the public comment period between August 15, 2025, and October 14, 2025.

EXHIBIT L-2

December 4, 2025



Periodic Rules Review
Adoptions, Amendments, and Repeals to 15A NCAC 10G .0400
Wildlife Service Agent Rules
Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

Changes to Rules within 15A NCAC 10G .0400 provide minor updates to the program framework for Wildlife Service Agents. Highlights include updates to language throughout for improved clarity and conciseness, updates to wildlife service agent terms and conditions, and updates to the information and conditions required for application. These Rules are required to be readopted by December 31, 2025.

15A NCAC 10G .0401 PURPOSE OF WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENTS
15A NCAC 10G .0402 APPOINTMENT OF WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENTS
15A NCAC 10G .0403 WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENT AGREEMENT
15A NCAC 10G .0405 WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS
15A NCAC 10G .0406 APPOINTMENT TERMINATION

1 **SECTION .0400 - WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENTS**

2

3 **15A NCAC 10G .0401 PURPOSE OF WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENTS**

4 ~~Wildlife Service Agents are official license and vessel agents of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission~~
5 ~~(Commission) who are appointed by the agency and thereby authorized to issue hunting, fishing and other licenses,~~
6 ~~permits, applications, vessel transactions, and other items authorized by the Commission pursuant to a Wildlife Service~~
7 ~~Agent Agreement in accordance with Rule .0403 of this Section.~~

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1;*

10 *Eff. April 1, 1997;*

11 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2007.*

1 **15A NCAC 10G .0402 APPOINTMENT OF WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENTS**

2 (a) Wildlife Service Agents are official license and vessel agents of the Commission who are authorized to issue
3 hunting, fishing and other licenses, permits, applications, vessel registrations, and items pursuant to G.S. 113-270.1,
4 the Wildlife Service Agent Agreement and the Rules of this Section.

5 ~~(b) Any~~ An individual authorized to act on behalf of a business operating from a fixed location in North Carolina may
6 apply to the Commission for appointment as a Wildlife Service Agent by completing an application provided by the
7 Commission. Agent by completing the Wildlife Service Agent application available at ncwildlife.gov. Information
8 required from the applicant shall include:

9 (1) business name, physical address, email, county, phone number, agent type, description of services,
10 and operational dates and hours; and

11 (2) business owner name, address, date of birth, driver's license number, and length of business
12 ownership.

13 ~~(b) Application. Applications for Wildlife Service Agent appointment shall contain the business name, address,~~
14 ~~county agent contact information, bank account information, business hours, and any other information requested by~~
15 ~~the Commission that is reasonably necessary to determine the fitness of the applicant to serve as a Wildlife Service~~
16 ~~Agent.~~

17 ~~(d)(c) Qualifications and Requirements. Applicants~~ Business owners shall meet the following requirements to
18 qualifications in order to be appointed qualify as a Wildlife Service Agent. Agent unless otherwise approved by the
19 Executive Director or his or her designee to maintain adequate service to the public in a geographic area:

20 (1) ~~Businesses shall operate from a fixed location in North Carolina and shall sell a minimum of one~~
21 ~~thousand dollars (\$1,000) in transaction sales annually. This minimum requirement may be waived~~
22 ~~by the Executive Director if he finds the applicant's services necessary to maintain adequate agent~~
23 ~~services to the public in that geographic area.~~

24 ~~(2)(1)~~ An applicant shall have a minimum of one year's experience in operating the business for which the
25 application is made or other equivalent business experience or training. experience; In those cases
26 ~~where other equivalent business experience or training is accepted in lieu of the minimum one year's~~
27 ~~experience, the applicant shall submit financial statements of the business so that the solvency of~~
28 ~~the business can be judged.~~

29 ~~(3)(2)~~ Applicants shall provide a bank account for the purpose of transferring net proceeds from all
30 Wildlife Service Agent transactions to the Commission's account in the State Treasury every week
31 ~~via an electronic transfer of funds. Commission; and~~

32 (3) no criminal convictions for financial crimes within the five years prior to application.

33 ~~(d) The qualifications as provided by Paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Rule shall be met prior to appointment. Failure~~
34 ~~to comply with the qualifications and requirements as provided by Paragraph (c) of this Rule, throughout the term of~~
35 ~~the appointment, may result in termination of the agent appointment. All agents are subject to monitoring of their~~
36 ~~performance by the Customer Support Section of the Commission.~~

37 ~~(d) Upon approval of the application by the Commission, Wildlife Service Agents shall:~~

- 1 (1) have a computer, printer and internet access at their business location;
- 2 (2) provide a voided check or withdrawal slip for the bank account to be used to transfer funds to the
- 3 Commission;
- 4 (3) complete online training provided by the Commission or a contracted third-party vendor; and
- 5 (4) sign and submit the Wildlife Service Agent Agreement.
- 6 (e) Wildlife Service Agent Agreements and appointments are non-transferable and valid only for the owner and
- 7 business named on the executed agreement.

8

9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1;*

10 *Eff. April 1, 1997;*

11 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2011; May 1, 2007; July 1, 1998.*

1 **15A NCAC 10G .0403 WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENT AGREEMENT**

2 ~~Each Wildlife Service Agent shall execute an Agreement with the Commission and shall comply with all rules and~~
3 ~~statutes related to the sale of licenses and the registration of vessels. All terms and conditions shall be set forth in the~~
4 ~~Agreement at the time of execution. The business shall operate as a public convenience and shall serve the public in~~
5 ~~an efficient and helpful manner with all reasonable requests for assistance related to the duties of a Wildlife Service~~
6 ~~Agent whenever open for business. The agent shall be informed and knowledgeable of the laws and rules governing~~
7 ~~requirements for licenses and vessel transactions and stay abreast of changes in these requirements so that the agent~~
8 ~~can provide accurate and reliable information and instruction to persons who seek assistance in these matters. The~~
9 ~~appointment as a Wildlife Service Agent and the Agreement under which the appointment is made are singularly valid~~
10 ~~for the person named thereon who is authorized to act on behalf of the business and applies only to the business and~~
11 ~~location named and is non transferable.~~

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1;*

14 *Eff. April 1, 1997;*

15 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2011; June 1, 2007; July 1, 1998.*

1 **15A NCAC 10G .0405 WILDLIFE SERVICE AGENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

2 (a) A Wildlife Service Agent's Agent shall comply with the following appointment and service is subject to the
3 following terms and conditions:

4 ~~(1) Public Service. Wildlife Service Agents shall serve all persons~~ individuals seeking assistance with
5 matters related to the duties of a Wildlife Service Agent. Agent during regular business hours.

6 ~~(2)(1) Training. New Wildlife Service Agents shall attend a training session at a location specified by the~~
7 ~~Commission prior to activation of agent status and prior to receiving any equipment or supplies from~~
8 ~~the Commission. Transfer funds and records to the Commission as specified in the Wildlife Service~~
9 ~~Agent Agreement;~~

10 ~~(3) Activation of Agent Status. Upon completion of training and receipt of equipment and supplies,~~
11 ~~Wildlife Service Agents shall have their equipment set up and ready for operation 10 days after the~~
12 ~~date they receive the equipment and supplies.~~

13 ~~(4)(2) Application. Each Wildlife Service Agent shall notify the Commission of any changes to the~~
14 ~~original application for appointment such as business name, address, agent contact information,~~
15 ~~bank account information, business hours and other information related to agent appointment, within~~
16 ~~five business days of it's the change.~~

17 ~~(5)(3) Business Change of Ownership, Location, or Management. If the ownership of the business,~~
18 ~~location or management changes, then the Agreement becomes null and void. Written provide~~
19 ~~written notice of any a change in business ownership, location, or management shall be sent to the~~
20 ~~Commission at least 10 business days prior to the change along with an application for a new~~
21 ~~Wildlife Service Agreement, if desired, pursuant to the rules in this Section. desired.~~

22 ~~(6)(4) Maintain five thousand dollars (\$5,000) in Agent transaction sales at the business location annually.~~
23 ~~Cancellation. A Wildlife Service Agent may cancel the Agreement at any time by sending written~~
24 ~~notice to the Commission. The Commission shall instruct resigning agents on the procedures for~~
25 ~~returning all equipment and supplies and to settle their account. Upon resignation of appointment~~
26 ~~as a Wildlife Service Agent, the former agent must return all consigned equipment and supplies to~~
27 ~~the Commission and settle the agent financial account within 10 days of the resignation letter's date.~~

28 (b) A Wildlife Service Agent may cancel the Agreement by sending written notice to the Commission. Consigned
29 equipment and supplies shall be returned to the Commission and the financial account shall be settled within 10
30 business days of the date of resignation letter receipt.

31 ~~(b) Suspension. The Commission shall temporarily suspend any Wildlife Service Agent appointment for:~~

32 ~~(1) Failure to deposit sufficient funds one or two times to cover the electronic transfer of funds each~~
33 ~~week.~~

34 ~~(2) Failure to operate as a public convenience as specified in the Agreement one or two times.~~

35 ~~(3) Failure to provide proper and correct information one or two times about wildlife transactions and~~
36 ~~related issues to customers as documented by customer complaints or agency inspections.~~

1 ~~(4) — Failure to submit or return all required documentation for transactions as outlined in the Agreement~~
2 ~~one or two times.~~

3 Temporary suspension is effective immediately upon communication of that fact to the Wildlife Service Agent. Such
4 communication shall state the grounds for temporary suspension and that the agent may request a hearing within 5
5 working days if he contests the grounds for temporary suspension. If the initial notification is not in writing, it shall
6 be followed by written notice of temporary suspension containing the same information. If the Commission
7 determines it is necessary to protect State property, an employee of the Commission may enter the premises and
8 impound all property and supplies issued or entitled to by the Commission such as equipment, moneys, record books,
9 reports, license forms, other documents and materials pertinent to the agent being suspended. The Commission must
10 make the impounded property, or copies of it, available to the agent during the period of temporary suspension. If a
11 hearing is requested, it shall be before the Executive Director or his designee and shall be held at a location specified
12 by the Executive Director.

13 Temporary suspension remains in effect until the hearing. A temporary suspension may not last longer than 30 days,
14 but additional suspensions may be imposed if, at the end of the suspension period, the agent has not corrected the
15 deficiency or deficiencies that resulted in the suspension. A Wildlife Service Agent may at any time after a hearing
16 appeal his suspension to the Commission. A new suspension shall comply with the provisions of this Paragraph.

17 ~~(c) Termination. The Commission shall terminate any Wildlife Service Agent appointment for any of the deficiencies~~
18 ~~listed below unless it determines that such deficiency may be corrected, is not likely to be repeated during the term of~~
19 ~~the current agreement, and not maintaining the Agent Agreement will result in insufficient Commission services to~~
20 ~~the public in the area served by the Agent. Deficiencies that may result in termination include:~~

21 ~~(1) — Failure to comply with the terms and conditions as outlined in the wildlife service agreement.~~

22 ~~(2) — Failure to deposit sufficient funds three or more times to cover the electronic transfer of funds each~~
23 ~~week.~~

24 ~~(3) — Failure to meet the minimum transaction sales requirement of one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~
25 ~~annually.~~

26 ~~(4) — Failure to operate as a public convenience as specified in the Agreement three or more times.~~

27 ~~(5) — Failure to provide proper and correct information three or more times about wildlife transactions~~
28 ~~and related issues to customers as documented by customer complaints or agency inspections.~~

29 ~~(6) — Failure to submit or return all required documentation for transactions as outlined in the Agreement~~
30 ~~three or more times.~~

31 Notice of termination of the appointment may be sent to the Wildlife Service Agent in lieu of or in addition to
32 temporary suspension. The notice must state the grounds for termination of the appointment and the agent's right to
33 a hearing if he has not previously been afforded one. If the appointment is to be terminated, the notice must state the
34 effective date and hour of termination. If the agent has not been previously afforded a hearing, the agent is entitled to
35 a hearing within 14 days before the Executive Director or his designee to be held at a location specified by the
36 Executive Director. If the Executive Director upholds the decision to terminate the appointment, an agent may appeal

1 his termination to the Commission. Pending the hearing and any appeal from it, the termination is held in abeyance,
2 but no transaction may be made once the agent's termination effective date and time have passed.

3 Upon termination of appointment as a Wildlife Service Agent, the former agent must return all consigned equipment
4 and supplies to the Commission and settle the agent financial account within 10 days of the date of receiving written
5 notice from the Commission. Employees of the Commission may conduct inspections and audits when terminating an
6 agent.

7 The Executive Director or his designee holding any hearing under this Paragraph must keep a written record of
8 evidence considered and findings made. Upon appeal to the Commission, the Commission Chairman or another
9 presiding officer must cause such a written record of evidence and findings to be made and kept.

10 No person denied appointment or whose appointment was terminated under this Paragraph may apply again for an
11 appointment as a Wildlife Service Agent for two years. Upon application, the Commission may not grant the
12 appointment as a Wildlife Service Agent unless the applicant produces evidence, convincing to the Commission, that
13 he meets all standards and qualifications and will comply with all requirements of statutes and rules pertaining to
14 Wildlife Service Agents.

15 (d)(c) Use of customer identifying information. Customer identifying information for customers of the Commission
16 is protected by G.S. 143-254.5. A Wildlife Service Agents Agent shall not use or disclose any customer identifying
17 information specified in G.S. 143-254.5 to any third party without written authorization of from the Commission.
18 Wildlife Service Agents shall not use such customer identifying information for any purpose other than the processing
19 of Commission transactions requested by the customer. Failure to abide by provisions in this Paragraph is grounds for
20 termination of the agency.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1;*

23 *Eff. June 1, 2007;*

24 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2011.*

1 **15A NCAC 10G .0406 APPOINTMENT TERMINATION**

2
3 (a) The Commission may audit Wildlife Service Agent transactions. Agents shall comply with Commission requests
4 for records and information within 10 business days of the request.

5 (b) The Commission may suspend or terminate Wildlife Service Agent appointment for violation of provisions of G.S.
6 113-270.1, the rules of this Section, or the Wildlife Service Agent Agreement. The determination of whether to
7 suspend or revoke appointment shall be based on the severity and frequency of the violation, and may include failure
8 to:

9 (1) operate as a public convenience as specified in the Agreement;

10 (2) provide correct information about wildlife transactions to customers as documented by customer
11 complaints or agency inspections;

12 (3) submit or return required documentation for transactions;

13 (4) comply with the terms and conditions specified in Rule .0405 of this Section;

14 (5) deposit sufficient funds to cover electronic transfers; and

15 (6) meet the five thousand dollar (\$5,000) annual Agent transaction requirement.

16 (c) Upon termination of appointment, a Wildlife Service Agent shall return consigned equipment and supplies to the
17 Commission and settle the agent financial account within 10 business days of receipt of written of termination notice
18 from the Commission.

19 (d) Individuals denied appointment or whose appointment is terminated shall not reapply for appointment for two
20 years.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.1;*

EXHIBIT M-1

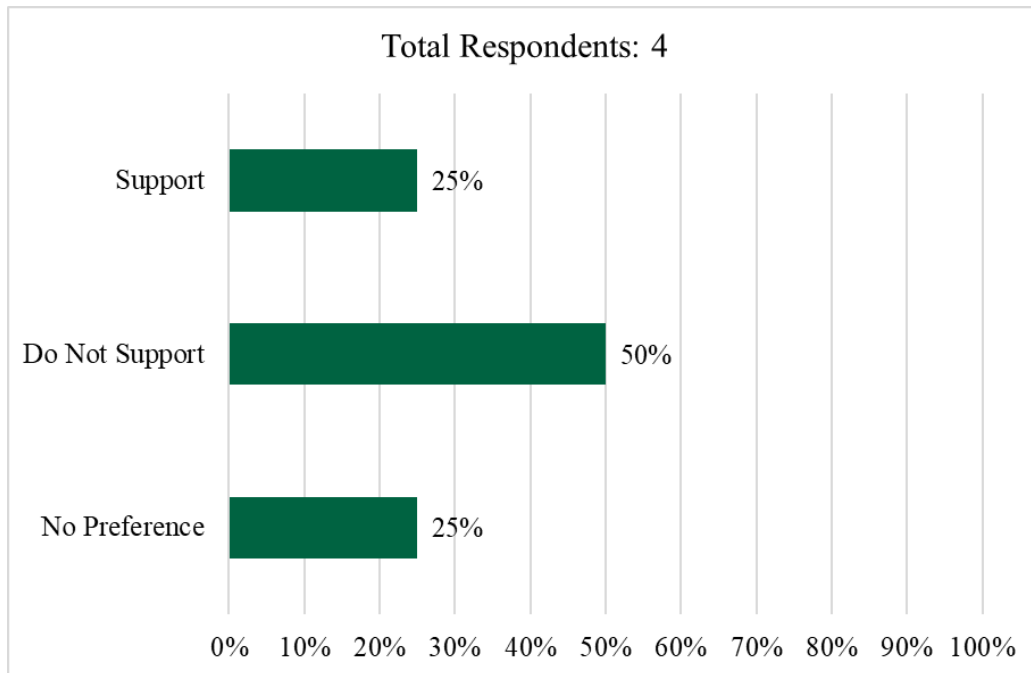
December 4, 2025



Summary of Public Comments on Furbearer Propagation Rules 15A NCAC 10H .1100

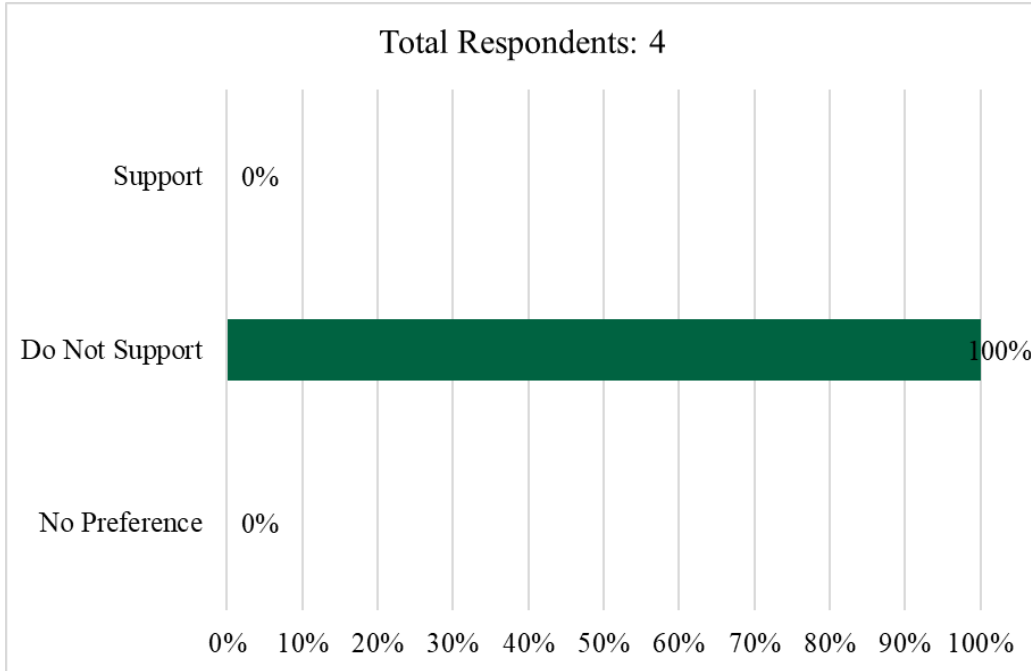
One public hearing was held on October 2, 2025, with six attendees.

15A NCAC 10H .1101 FURBEARER PROPAGATION LICENSE



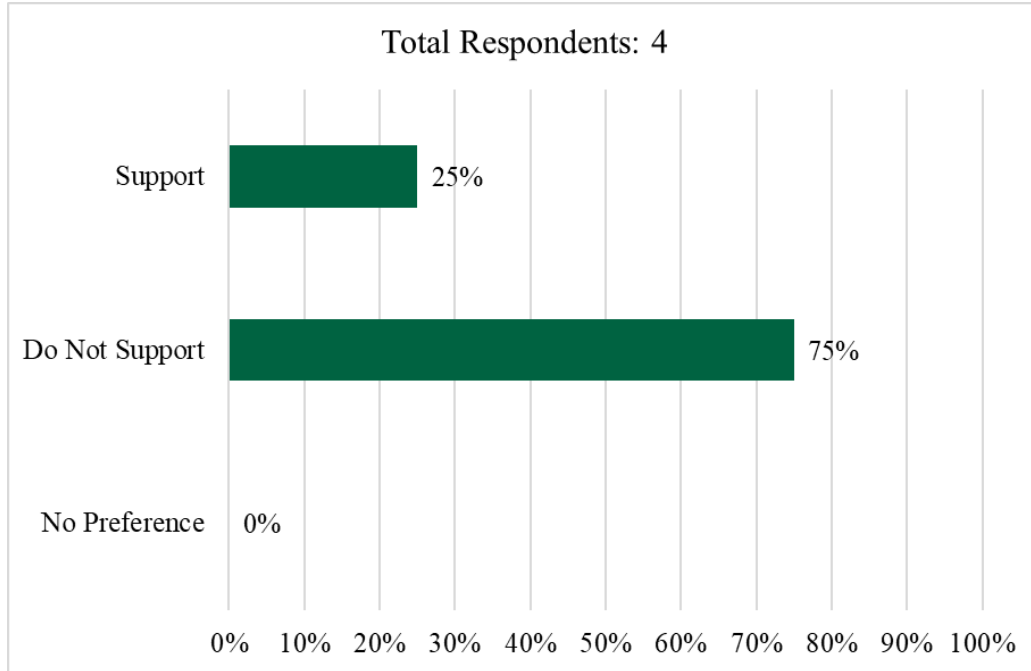
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
No Preference	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4

15A NCAC 10H .1104 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CAGING AND CARE



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

15A NCAC 10H .1107 RECORDS AND INSPECTIONS



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

EXHIBIT M-2

December 4, 2025



Amendments to 15A NCAC 10H .1100 Furbearer Propagation Rules Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

The amendments to Rules within 15A NCAC 10H .1100 provide updates to the program framework for Furbearer Propagation in North Carolina. Highlights include updates to language throughout for improved clarity, updates to caging standards for mink and fox based on Fur Commission USA and U.S. Fox Shipper's Council recommendations, updates to biosecurity and human safety standards, clarity on reporting requirements, and additional requirements for licenses holders working with rabies species that are consistent with requirements for captivity license holders.

15A NCAC 10H .1101 FURBEARER PROPAGATION LICENSE

15A NCAC 10H .1104 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CAGING AND CARE

15A NCAC 10H .1107 RECORDS AND INSPECTIONS

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(a) The furbearer propagation license shall authorize the propagation of furbearing animals and red foxes, including all color phases, for use as fur.

- (1) ~~Breed~~ breed the species of animal designated on the license; species for the production of marketable fur;
- (2) ~~Raise~~ raise live specimens for the production of marketable fur;
- (3) ~~Sell~~ sell domestically produced fur to a licensed fur dealer; and
- (4) ~~Buy~~ acquire, buy, and sell live specimens from or to a another furbearer propagation license holder, a captivity license holder, or a licensed non-resident producer of ranch-raised breeding stock. Live specimens shall not be sourced from the wild.

- (1) ~~The applicant's name;~~
- (2) ~~The applicant's residence or mailing address;~~
- (3) ~~The physical address of the propagation facility;~~
- (4) ~~The applicant's telephone number; and~~
- (5) date of birth;
- ~~(5)(6)~~ ~~The species of furbearing animal or fox to be ~~propagated~~; propagated; and~~
- (7) certification of up-to-date rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis, if applicable.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;
Eff. April 1, 1986;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December
6, 2016;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1104 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CAGING AND CARE**

2 (a) General Cage Requirements.

- 3 (1) Cages shall be constructed of non-toxic, corrosion-resistant materials sufficient to retain animals
4 without tethers or chains;
5 (2) Cages shall contain a den area large enough for all the animals in that cage to turn around and lie
6 down;
7 (3) Cages shall be housed in an area that provides protection from direct sunlight, precipitation, wind,
8 and other weather conditions;
9 (4) Cages shall minimize heat build-up and provide sufficient light to maintain the animal's circadian
10 rhythms;
11 (5) Cages shall be ventilated to sufficiently provide fresh air circulation;
12 (6) Cages shall be securely anchored and elevated two feet above ground or floor level to facilitate
13 cleaning;
14 (7) Cages shall be arranged in rows to allow for visual and physical inspection and to allow space for
15 cleaning; and
16 (8) Cages shall be surrounded by a four foot perimeter fence with a one foot below ground dig barrier
17 designed to prevent ingress and egress by domestic and wild animals. The fence shall have a top
18 electrified wire three feet above the ground and a bottom electrified wire one foot above the ground.
19 The fence shall be free from structures or vegetation.

20 ~~(b)(a) Breeder cages shall be used to hold a~~ A pair of animals held for breeding ~~and to hold the~~ or a female and her
21 litter from the time the litter is born until ~~weaning.~~ weaning shall be held in a breeder cage.

22 ~~(c)(b) Pelter cages shall only be used to hold~~ A single animals. animal or two mink may be held in a pelter cage.

23 (d) Mink.

- 24 (1) cages shall have a height of 12 inches.
25 (2) breeder cages shall be 4,300 cubic inches.
26 (3) pelter cages shall be 2,500 cubic inches for one mink, and 3,800 cubic inches for two mink.
27 (4) shall be acquired from a furbearer propagation license holder, a captivity license holder, or a licensed
28 non-resident producer of ranch-raised breeding stock that is free from Aleutian Disease, and shall
29 be tested and vaccinated for Aleutian Disease.

30 (e) Fox.

- 31 (1) cages shall have a height of 24 inches.
32 (2) breeder cages shall be 13 cubic feet.
33 (3) pelter cages shall be 16 cubic feet.

34 ~~(f)(e) The minimum dimensions of cages in~~ The following cage dimension requirements in depth (d), width (w), and
35 height (h) (h), measured in feet feet, shall be as follows depending on the species of animals being held: apply:
36
37

SPECIES	BREEDER CAGE	PELTER CAGE
	(d x w x h)	(d x w x h)
Beaver	3 x 6 x 2.5	3 x 4 x 2.5
Bobcat	3 x 6 x 2.5	3 x 4 x 2.5
Fox	5.0 x 3.0 x 3.0	2.5 x 3.0 x 3.0
Mink	2.0 x 0.8 x 1.0	2.0 x 0.5 x 1.0
Nutria	3 x 3 x 2.0	3 x 2 x 2.0
Opossum	3 x 3 x 2.0	3 x 2 x 2.0
Otter	3 x 5 x 1.5	3 x 3 x 1.5
Raccoon	3 x 4 x 2.0	3 x 2 x 2.0
Skunk	3 x 3 x 1.5	3 x 2 x 1.5
Weasel	2 x 2 x 1.5	1 x 2 x 1.5

~~(d) Each license holder shall comply with the following general cage requirements:~~

- ~~(1) cages shall be constructed of non-toxic, corrosion-resistant materials sufficient to retain animals without tethers or chains;~~
- ~~(2) cages shall have a den area large enough for all the animals in that cage to turn around and lie down;~~
- ~~(3) cages shall be housed in an area that provides protection from direct sunlight, precipitation, wind, and other weather conditions;~~
- ~~(4) cages shall be designed to minimize heat build up and provide sufficient light to maintain the animal's circadian rhythms;~~
- ~~(5) caging shall be ventilated;~~
- ~~(6) cages shall be solidly based at least two feet above ground or floor level to facilitate cleaning;~~
- ~~(7) cages shall be arranged in rows to allow visual and physical inspection of all areas and all species and to allow space for operations and cleaning; and~~
- ~~(8) a perimeter fence shall be maintained around the housing area and shall include a dig barrier designed to prevent escape and access by domestic and wild animals.~~

~~(g)(e) Each license holder shall comply with the following general care requirements:~~ General Sanitation and Food Requirements.

- ~~(1) water: clean drinking water shall be provided.~~ Clean drinking water shall be provided daily. All pools, tanks, water areas, and water containers provided for swimming, wading, or drinking shall be clean. Enclosures shall provide drainage for surface water and runoff;
- ~~(2) sanitation: water disposal and waste disposal~~ Water and waste shall be disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, State, and federal laws;

- (3) ~~food: food~~ Food shall be of a type and quantity that is appropriate for the particular species and ~~shall be provided~~ in an unspoiled and uncontaminated ~~condition. condition;~~ Food shall be stored to prevent vermin infestation and spoilage;
- (4) ~~waste: fecal~~ Fecal and food waste shall be removed daily from inside, under, and around enclosures and disposed of in a manner that prevents seepage into groundwater, noxious odors, odors or pests;
- (5) ~~ectoparasites: a program for the control of ectoparasites and vermin shall be established and maintained.~~ Effective measures shall be implemented to control ectoparasites, insects, and vermin. These measures shall be documented and provided, upon request, by a representative of the Commission. Methods to control insects shall be employed and only EPA-approved insecticides shall may be used. Biological pest control methods may be used; used where appropriate.
- (6) Acquired or purchased animals shall be quarantined for 30 days. The quarantine area shall have dedicated coveralls, boots, gloves, and footbath; and
- (7) Carcasses shall be disposed of in an incinerator, landfill, or buried 3 feet below ground and 300 feet from a waterbody. Carcasses shall be temporarily stored in a sealed container prior to final disposal.
- (h) License holders who are authorized to propagate furbearing animals that are rabies species, as defined in 10H .1401(d)(19) and red foxes, shall:
- (1) certify 12 hours of rabies or rabies species-specific training, or a combination thereof, for their initial application;
- (2) certify up-to-date rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.CDC.gov for themselves and staff members who may contact rabies species;
- (3) provide the name and contact information of a North Carolina licensed veterinarian with whom the licensee has consulted and who agrees to provide necessary medical treatment to the rabies species;
- (4) certify notification to the appropriate animal control authority and local health department prior to making application to the Commission, to inform them of their anticipated activities and location, and to coordinate future rabies testing activities;
- (5) post the following information at the license holder's facility and be provided, upon request, by an authorized representative of the Commission:
- (A) proof of immunization or titer checks for individuals who have contact with rabies species;
- (B) contact information for the veterinarian who agrees to provide medical treatment to the rabies species;
- (C) contact information for the local animal control authority and local health department; and
- (D) a written protocol for euthanasia and rabies testing.
- (6) consider rabies species to be potentially infected with the rabies virus. If a human or domestic animal has been scratched, bitten, or exposed to saliva, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spinal cord, or brain or spinal cord material from a rabies species, the license holder shall contact the local health department immediately to report the incident. License holders shall abide by requests from public

1 health department personnel, animal control, and Commission personnel regarding disposition of
2 the animal. Rabies species that have scratched or bitten a human or domestic animal or die in
3 captivity shall not be released or disposed of until the local health department investigates the
4 situation to determine if testing is necessary. Positive rabies test results shall be reported to the
5 Commission within five business days of receipt from the health department.

6 (i) Biosecurity Standards. Prior to entering the perimeter fence, all individuals shall:

7 (1) wear coveralls and boots;

8 (2) wash their hands with a disinfecting soap or use a waterless hand disinfectant; and

9 (3) use a footbath of phenolic, chlorhexidine, or quaternary ammonium disinfectants.

10 Except for license holders, all individuals shall sign an entrance log prior to entering the perimeter fence.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;*

13 *Eff. April 1, 1986;*

14 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
15 *6, 2016;*

16 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.*

1 **15A NCAC 10H .1107 RECORDS AND INSPECTIONS**

2 (a) Furbearer propagation license holders shall ~~maintain records containing~~ record the following information:

3 (1) the numbers and species of furbearing animals or foxes acquired;

4 (2) the dates and sources of acquisition;

5 (3) the numbers of animals produced by breeding

6 ~~(4)~~ and the numbers of animals raised for market; and

7 ~~(5)(4)~~ the numbers of animals or pelts sold or otherwise disposed of, sold, transferred, died, or euthanized,
8 the dates of disposition, and the identities license numbers of the recipients, if the animals were sold
9 alive. applicable.

10 (b) The records required by this Rule shall be submitted to the Commission within 15 days of license expiration and
11 shall be retained for 12 months following license expiration. one year following the end of the calendar year to which
12 they pertain. The records required pursuant to this Rule Records shall be available for inspection upon ~~at the~~ request
13 by a representative of the Commission.

14 (c) Representatives of the Commission shall be permitted to enter the premises of a license holder's ~~furbearer~~
15 ~~propagation~~ facility upon request or during the facility's business hours for inspection, enforcement, or scientific
16 purposes.

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-273;*

19 *Eff. April 1, 1986;*

20 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
21 *6, 2016;*

22 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2019.*



NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Strategic Plan 2026–2035

MISSION

To conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

VISION

Thriving wildlife resources with opportunities for all to enjoy.

PURPOSE

To develop and administer programs directed to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goal 1: Provide access and opportunity for safe and readily available participation in hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife-related activities.

- 1 • Increase public access to lands and waterways to expand opportunities for all wildlife-associated recreation.
- 2 • Maintain and expand opportunities for participation by all individuals.
- 3 • Partner with other agencies and organizations to promote and expand access and opportunities.
- 4 • Develop, promote, and enforce regulations.
- 5 • Participate in and contribute to the development of policies and systems that support safe and available access and opportunities.

Goal 2: Conserve, manage, and enhance fish and wildlife resources and their habitats to benefit the resources and the public.

- 1 • Promote and implement the NC Wildlife Action Plan.
- 2 • Use the best available science to manage fish, wildlife, and habitat resources.
- 3 • Protect habitat through land acquisition, conservation, and management.
- 4 • Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of regulations and their implementation.
- 5 • Maintain a collaborative approach to conservation that supports the mission of the agency.



Goal 3: Engage the public through programs, opportunities, and public safety functions to build advocacy and support for the agency and its mission.

- 1 • Provide a safe environment where the public can enjoy the state's resources and waterways.
- 2 • Increase awareness of the services and benefits provided by the agency for all the public.
- 3 • Amplify agency work through strategic partnerships and legislative support.
- 4 • Adapt and innovate agency services to accommodate evolving public and resource needs.

Goal 4: Maintain fiscal sustainability that meets current and evolving resource and constituent needs.

- 1 • Leverage and diversify cooperative funding programs through expanded and innovative partnerships.
- 2 • Review and revise fees and fee-based programs to accomplish the goals of the agency.
- 3 • Maintain a competitive, stable funding model that allows the agency to meet emerging needs in support of the agency mission.
- 4 • Manage the endowment fund through wise stewardship and sound investment strategies.

Goal 5: Provide and maintain a collaborative work environment where employees are valued and recognized for their achievements and contributions to the agency's mission.

- 1 • Provide transparency in decision making through internal coordination and communication.
- 2 • Promote an environment where employees feel empowered to provide input and direction in decision-making to increase buy in and agency effectiveness.
- 3 • Establish and maintain opportunities for employee recognition, development, and advancement.
- 4 • Develop adaptive employee recruitment and retention strategies to maintain a competitive and resilient workforce.
- 5 • Encourage and support Division and Office interdependency for effective and efficient operations.

