



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

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

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

Top ten male bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2025.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	1998	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	880	10.75
2	2014	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	784	9.75
3	2014	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	782	9.75
4	2012	WASHINGTON	Coastal	DG	Male	780	6.75
4	2013	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	780	8.75
4	2023	BEAUFORT	Coastal	ST	Male	780	6.75
5	2009	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	760	6.75
5	2019	BEAUFORT	Coastal	DG	Male	760	7.75
6	2016	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	757	8.75
7	2007	DARE	Coastal	ST	Male	752	7.75
8	2025	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	745	Pending
9	2025	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	743.4	Pending
10	2001	GATES	Coastal	DG	Male	742	9.75

Table 2. Number of harvested bears weighing over 500 lbs. in North Carolina, 1969-2025.

Weight				
Category	Total bears	Mountains	Coast	Piedmont
500-599 lbs	2,010	96	1,909	5
600-699 lbs	540	16	523	1
700-799 lbs	43	0	43	0
> 800 lbs.	1	0	1	0



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

See next page for top 10 female bear weights



Top ten female bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2025.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	2015	Martin	Coastal	DG	Female	520	18.75
2	2017	Sampson	Coastal	DG	Female	517	13.75
3	2017	Hyde	Coastal	ST	Female	482	6.75
4	2025	Hertford	Coastal	DG	Female	480	Pending
5	2020	Edgecombe	Coastal	DG	Female	471	8.75
6	2025	Buncombe	Mountains	ST	Female	453	Pending
7	2010	Chowan	Coastal	DG	Female	450	13.75
7	2010	Hyde	Coastal	DG	Female	450	3.75
8	2007	Hyde	Coastal	ST	Female	445	9.75
9	2018	Washington	Coastal	DG	Female	440	13.75
9	2024	Duplin	Coastal	ST	Female	440	3.75
10	2013	Caldwell	Mountains	DG	Female	438	5.75
10	2019	Pitt	Coastal	ST	Female	438	11.75



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