

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

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

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

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

8 (c) There is no closed season, except in Jean Guite Creek and associated canals within the Town of Southern Shores
9 in Dare County and in the ponds associated with Martin Marietta Park in Craven County, where Largemouth Bass
10 shall not be taken or possessed. ~~in waters identified in Paragraph (n) of this Rule.~~

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

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

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

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

- 21 (1) Lake Raleigh in Wake County;
22 (2) Lake Sutton in New Hanover County;
23 (3) Pungo Lake in Washington and Hyde counties;
24 (4) New Lake in Hyde County; and
25 (5) Currituck, Roanoke, Croatan, Albemarle sounds, and their tributaries, including Roanoke River
26 downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam, Chowan River, Meherrin River, Yeopim River, Pasquotank
27 River, Perquimans River, Little River, Big Flatty Creek, North River, Northwest River,
28 Scuppernong River, Alligator River, including the Alligator/Pungo Canal east of the N.C. Hwy
29 264/45 bridge, and the other associated tributaries and canals in these river systems.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eff. February 1, 1976;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. April 1, 1999;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2001;

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

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

Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;

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

Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; November 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; March 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;

Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0314 is proposed for amendment 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 as otherwise specified in
5 this Rule. in waters identified in Paragraphs (d) and (g) through (l) of this Rule.

6 (b) The minimum size limit for these fish is 20 inches, except as otherwise specified in this Rule. in waters identified
7 in Paragraphs (d) through (l) of this Rule.

8 (c) There is no closed season, except as otherwise specified in this Rule. for waters identified in Paragraphs (i) through
9 (l) of this Rule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 (3) it is unlawful to possess a striped bass or striped bass hybrid less than 18 inches or between 22 and
33 27 inches in length.

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

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

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

3 ~~(j)~~(k) In the inland and joint fishing waters of the Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area, as established in
4 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and identified in 15A NCAC 10C .0110 which includes the Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and
5 Eastmost rivers and their tributaries, the open season for taking and possessing striped bass and its hybrids is March
6 1 through April 30 from the joint-coastal fishing waters boundary at Albemarle Sound upstream to Roanoke Rapids
7 Lake Dam. During the open season, the daily creel limit for striped bass and its hybrids is one fish in aggregate, and
8 the minimum size limit is 18 inches. No fish over 22 inches in length shall be possessed.

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

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

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17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*
18 *Eff. November 1, 2013;*
19 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2018; August 1, 2016; August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
20 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*
21 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020;*
22 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 30, 2021;*
23 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022;*
24 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2022;*
25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023; March 15, 2023.*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 6, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0414 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0414 BLUEFISH**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for bluefish is five, ~~three~~.

5 (b) There is no size limit.

6 (c) There is no closed season.

7 (d) Bluefish shall not be sold.

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

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

11 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*

12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 6, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0425 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD**

4 (a) The daily creel limit for sheepshead is ~~40~~ five fish.

5 (b) The minimum size limit is ~~40~~ 14 inches.

6 (c) There is no closed season.

7 (d) Sheepshead shall not be sold.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-292; 113-304; 113-305;*

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

11 *Eff. March 15, 2023.*

12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 6, 2026.*