



AGENDA
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
October 1, 2026, 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 Reid Smith*

INVOCATION – *Commissioner John Alexander*

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*

NOTICE OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – Receive notice from House Speaker Destin Hall of the appointment of Zachary C. Benfield for term ending June 30, 2027 – *Margo Minkler (EXHIBIT A)*

RECEIVE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEW OF 2026 STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTEREST FOR PROSPECTIVE COMMISSIONER ZACHARY C. BENFIELD – Pursuant to NCGS §138A-15(c), any actual or potential conflict of interest by a public servant sitting on a board and cited by the Ethics Commission under NCGS 138A-24(e) is required to be read into the minutes of the applicable board. Read into the Minutes relevant portions of the evaluations by the N.C. Ethics Commission of the 2026 Statement of Economic Interest for Zachary C. Benfield, House Speaker Destin Hall Appointee – *Margo Minkler*

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW COMMISSIONER – Administer the Oath of Office to House Speaker Appointee Zachary C. Benfield – *Honorable Judge J. Carlton Cole, Superior Court of North Carolina*

APPROVAL OF JULY 30, 2026 MEETING MINUTES – Take action on the July 30, 2026 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit. **(EXHIBIT B)**

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 C)**

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Ad hoc Game Land Use Committee – July 30, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Vice Chair*

Ad hoc Game Land Use Committee – September 29, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Vice Chair*

Boating Safety Committee – September 30, 2026 – *J. C. Cole, Chair*

Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee – September 30, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Chair*

Migratory Birds & Waterfowl Committee – September 30, 2026 – *John Coley, Chair*

Fisheries Committee – September 30, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Vice Chair*

Land Acquisitions & Property Committee – September 30, 2026 – *Tom Berry, Chair*

Habitat Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – September 30, 2026 – *Brad Stanback, Chair*

Committee of the Whole – September 30, 2026 – *Mark Craig, Chair*

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – NCWRC Special Response Team – *Captain Shawn Martin & Lieutenant Michael King, Law Enforcement Division*

LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS

Phase II Land Acquisition – Consider final approval to proceed with acquisition of the following property – *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Rhodes Pond Depot Relocation – Harnett County **(EXHIBIT D-1)**
- Honeycutt Tract – Ashe County **(EXHIBIT D-2)**

Other Property Matters – Consider approval of the following other property matter - *Ben Solomon*

- Snows Cut BAA Lease Renewal – New Hanover County **(EXHIBIT E)**

WATER SAFETY RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties (Lake Wylie) – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0333. Review and consider approval of fiscal note. – *Will Casola, Policy Analyst* **(EXHIBITS F-1, F-2)**

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing for proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 – *Will Casola* **(EXHIBIT G)**

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern – Consider request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing for the proposed repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .0351 – *Will Casola* **(EXHIBIT H)**

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text 15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend – Consider

request to publish Notice of Text with an open comment period and public hearing for the proposed repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .0344 – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBIT I**)

Temporary Rulemaking Adoption – 10F .0303 Beaufort County – Review public comments and consider request to adopt temporary amendments to 10F .0303 – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS J-1, J-2**)

RULEMAKING

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Inland Fisheries Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to Inland Fisheries rules – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS K-1, K-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Wildlife Management Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to Wildlife Management rules – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS L-1, L-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Land and Water Access Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to Land and Water Access rules – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS M-1, M-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Wildlife Education Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to shooting range rules – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS N-1, N-2**)

Permanent Rulemaking Adoption – 2027-2028 Annual Cycle Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species Rules – Review public comments and consider request to adopt amendments to 15A NCAC 10I .0102 – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBITS O-1, O-2**)

Emergency Adoption and Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10A .1503 Negligently Feeding or Attracting Bears – Consider request to adopt an emergency rule and notice proposed temporary rule text with an open comment period and public hearing to prohibit negligently feeding or attracting bears in Buncombe County. – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBIT P**)

Temporary Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10D .0249 Mayo Lake Game Land in Person County – Consider request to notice proposed rule text with an open comment period and public hearing for temporary amendments to 10D .0249 – *Will Casola* (**EXHIBIT Q**)

COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN – *Chairman Craig*

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – *Executive Director Briggs*

ADJOURN



Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives

DESTIN HALL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

September 1, 2026

Mr. Zachary C. Benfield
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Benfield:

Pursuant to the authority granted in the North Carolina General Statute 143-241, I am pleased to appoint you to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John Stone on the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. In accordance with General Statute 138A-22 your appointment is subject to the State Ethics Commission evaluating your Statement of Economic Interest. Pending this evaluation, your appointment will become effective immediately and will expire on June 30, 2027.

Enclosed is a copy of Senate Bill 1092 which was recently ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly. This bill contains your appointment.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity. I am confident you will have much to offer to North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and will be effective and diligent in your service to our State.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

Destin Hall
Speaker of the House

DH/jg
Enclosure—SB 1092

CC: Governor Josh Stein
Lieutenant Governor Rachel Hunt
The Honorable Phil Berger
The Honorable Elaine Marshall
James White, House Principal Clerk
Sarah Holland, Senate Principal Clerk

Paul Y. Coble, Legislative Services Officer
Kara McCraw, Legislative Analysis
Office of the State Controller
State Library
Legislative Library
State Ethics Commission

EXHIBIT B



MINUTES

July 30, 2026

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Raleigh, North Carolina

Chairman Mark Craig called the July 30, 2026, 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 Mike Alford gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Margo Minkler, Commission Liaison, called the roll. Ray Clifton, John Stone, Hayden Rogers, and Reid Smith were absent.

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

Mark Craig	Tommy Fonville	Steve Windham	J.C. Cole	John Coley
Landon Zimmer	Tom Berry	Monty Crump	Mike Alford	
David Hoyle	Brad Stanback	John Alexander	Joe Budd	
Wes Seegars	Jim Ruffin	Tom Haislip	Justin Boyd	

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY

Chairman Craig advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as mandated in NCGS §138A-15. Vice Chairman Zimmer recused himself from discussion and action on **EXHIBITS E-7, F-3, and J**.

MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2026, MEETING

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Landon Zimmer, the Minutes of the June 18, 2026, meeting were approved as presented in **EXHIBIT A**.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

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

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Finance, Audit & Compliance Committee – July 29, 2026 – *Monty Crump, Chair*, reported that the Finance, Audit, & Compliance Committee met on July 29, 2026. Revisions to the fiscal year 2027 Internal Audit Charter were presented. The Committee voted to approve the Charter. An update was then provided on engagements, as well as on administrative operations including the SAMM. A comparison of the current and prior fiscal years was presented, highlighting the revenue and expenditure activity in both the general fund and capital improvement funds with commentary for any variances greater than one million dollars. Attention was focused on the makeup of the Agency's fund balance, noting the distinction between restricted and unrestricted funds. An update was also presented on the current fund balance and asset allocation of the Agency's Endowment Fund. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Boating Safety Committee – July 29, 2026 – *J. C. Cole, Chair*, reported that the Boating Safety Committee met on July 29, 2026 and began with consideration of emergency and temporary rulemaking for 10F .0303 in Beaufort County. The Committee then reviewed the permanent rulemaking Notice of Text for 10F .0354 in Pitt County. Both items were endorsed and will be presented as exhibits. The committee then received an overview of the upcoming review and readoption process for Local Water Safety Regulations. There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.

Land Acquisitions & Property Committee – July 29, 2026 – *Tom Berry, Chair*, reported that the Land Acquisition and Property Committee met on July 29, 2026. The Committee approved six Phase I land acquisition proposals and reviewed seven Phase II proposals. The Committee reviewed the Perquimans Boating Access Area easement request from Renewable Green Inc. Recently obtained information indicated that they intend to sell the 5-acre property. The Committee tabled the easement request and approved a Phase I proposal for staff to explore acquisition of the property. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the TED Renewables easement in Bertie County contingent on a reversion should TED Renewables cease solar power generation.

**NCWRC Meeting
July 30, 2026
Minutes**

The Committee also suggested including in the reversion clause a minimum energy output and removal of any equipment from the game land at their expense. The Committee endorsed the DOT easement request in Polk County at Green River Game Land. Lastly the Committee reviewed the request to amend the Holly Shelter Game Land Articles of Dedication for the peatland restoration project. There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.

Habitat, Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – July 29, 2026 – Brad Stanback, Chair, reported that the Habitat, Nongame & Endangered Species Committee met on July 29, 2026. First, the Committee received information on the 2026 Quay Award, including the criteria and procedure used to select the recipient.

Motion out of the Habitat, Nongame & Endangered Species Committee – On a motion by Brad Stanback and a second by John Alexander, the Commission approved a motion to award Dr. Theodore Simons as the 2026 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award recipient.

Next, staff presented information on gopher frog conservation using habitat management, surveys, and head-starting. The Committee reviewed information on a proposed Sensitive Habitat Zone to protect important wetland and upland habitat within Sandhills Game Land. As part of this designation process, a public input meeting will be held, and a recommendation will be made to the Commission for final approval. The Committee then reviewed and approved an augmentation plan for the Longsolid Mussel for the Little and French Broad rivers. Finally, staff gave an update on Magnificent Ramshorn reintroduction efforts. Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Big Game Committee – July 29, 2026 – David Hoyle, Chair, reported that the Big Game Committee met on July 29, 2026. First, staff presented on CWD in the Southeast, sharing lessons learned by other states, the results of a large study from Arkansas, and challenges faced by all states in the southeast. Next, staff presented the status of the Black Bear Management Plan update. The Committee received highlights from the Public Survey and the Hunter Survey regarding attitudes, opinions, and desires for black bear management. The process continues to be on pace to have the draft plan completed in December. The Committee then received a recommendation regarding the selection of the nonprofit entity to administer the auction for one Elk Permit to be issued for the 2027 hunting season.

Motion out of the Big Game Committee – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by J. C. Cole, the Commission approved a motion pursuant to SL 2026-43, to select the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as the nonprofit wildlife conservation organization to conduct an auction for one Elk Permit for the 2027 hunting season and direct the executive director to work with them to ensure the auction is successful and meets the requirements of the law.

Finally, the Committee discussed allowing deer hunting with dogs during the Saturday of the Youth Deer Hunting Days on the Sandhills Game Land.

Motion out of the Big Game Committee – On a motion by David Hoyle and a second by Steve Windham, the Commission approved a motion directing the executive director to write and issue

NCWRC Meeting
July 30, 2026
Minutes

a blanket permit to allow youth under the age of 16 and the accompanying properly licensed adults assisting them to hunt deer on the Saturday of the Youth Deer Hunting Days with dogs on the Sandhills Game Land.

The conditions of the permit shall at a minimum include that youth are the only ones authorized to take deer with a firearm and that an individual convicted of a wildlife or trespass violation while hunting under this permit shall not be eligible to receive a permit for hunting deer with dogs the season following conviction. Having no further business, the committee adjourned.

Wild Turkey Committee – July 29, 2026 – *Steve Windham, Chair*, reported that the Wild Turkey Committee met on July 29, 2026 to hear updates on several topics. Once again, the state experienced a record turkey harvest in 2026. Staff also gave a presentation on the recently completed Wild Turkey Hunter Survey. The Commission had never formally surveyed turkey hunters and the information gained provides significant insight regarding turkey hunters and turkey hunting in general. The Committee received information such as how often and when hunters turkey hunt, when are they most successful, their level of satisfaction of their turkey hunting and the Commission, and even how far their average shots were. Information from this survey will be very informative as the Commission continues to advance its wild turkey management in the future. Having no further business, the committee was adjourned.

Executive Committee – July 29, 2026 – *Mark Craig, Chair*, reported that the Executive Committee met on July 29, 2026, and adjourned into a closed session after opening the meeting to consult with Agency counsel to preserve attorney-client privilege on ongoing litigation under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and to review Executive Director's 2025-2026 performance evaluation under NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). After returning to open session, the meeting was adjourned.

Committee of the Whole – July 29, 2026 – *Mark Craig, Chair*, reported that the Committee of the Whole met on July 29, 2026, and began with review of the proposed 2027 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule. The Committee next received a presentation on a proposed archery zone for the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land. The Committee then received the summary of comments for rulemaking for 10D .0211 related to the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land. The Committee also reviewed the permanent rulemaking notice of text for the Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species rules. A memorial request for Doug Howell was presented. Updates on the Setzer State Fish Hatchery, Armstrong State Fish Hatchery, and trout stocking activities were also provided. There being no further business, the Committee adjourned.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Coastal Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments – *Nick Shaver, Coastal Ecoregion Supervisor*, gave a presentation highlighting the impoundments in the coastal region that are managed specifically for waterfowl. This included an overview of which game lands have impoundments, how different impoundments are managed, and which are hunted by permit only. He also highlighted four major impoundment renovation projects that will be primarily funded through a large NAWCA grant and funds allocated from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. A detailed description of the newly created permit hunt at Willow Point (Gull Rock Game Land) was given along with a report of the inaugural season.

Memorial Request – On a motion by Monty Crump and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the memorial request for former staff member Doug Howell presented in **EXHIBIT C** by *Brad Howard, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

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

2027 Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Schedule – On a motion by John Coley and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the proposed 2027 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting schedule presented in **EXHIBIT D** by *Kyle Briggs, Executive Director*

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 second by Mike Alford, the Commission approved the acquisitions of the following properties presented in **EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, and E-6** by *Ben Solomon, Land and Water Access Division Assistant Chief and Land Acquisition Manager*

- Jones Tract – Bladen County (**EXHIBIT E-1**)
- Thoroughfare Island – Currituck County (**EXHIBIT E-2**)
- Low Tract – Yancey County (**EXHIBIT E-3**)
- Mile 106 – Macon County (**EXHIBIT E-4**)
- Mason Branch – Cherokee County (**EXHIBIT E-5**)
- Queen Bog – Wilkes County (**EXHIBIT E-6**)

With Vice Chairman Landon Zimmer recused, on a motion by Brad Stanback and second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the acquisition of the Friedberg Marsh property in Forsyth County presented in **EXHIBIT E-7** by *Ben Solomon*

- Friedberg Marsh – Forsyth County (**EXHIBIT E-7**)

EXHIBITS E-1, E-2, E-3, E-4, E-5, E-6, and E-7 are incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

Other Property Matters

On a motion by David Hoyle and second by Mike Alford, the Commission tabled the Perquimans County easement request presented in **EXHIBIT F-1** by *Ben Solomon*

NCWRC Meeting
July 30, 2026
Minutes

On a motion by Tom Berry and second by David Hoyle, the Commission approved the Bertie County easement request presented in **EXHIBIT F-2** by *Ben Solomon*

With Vice Chairman Landon Zimmer recused, on a motion by Joe Budd and second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the Henderson County easement request presented in **EXHIBIT F-3** by *Ben Solomon*

On a motion by Wes Seegars and second by Tom Berry, the Commission approved the Pender County Holly Shelter Game Land Articles of Dedication presented in **EXHIBIT F-4** by *Ben Solomon*

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

Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land – On a motion by Steve Windham and second by Tom Haislip, the Commission approved the proposed archery zone at Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land presented in **EXHIBIT G** by *Daron Barnes, Land and Water Access Division Chief*

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

RULEMAKING

Petition for Rulemaking – 10D .0211 Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land – On a motion by Mark Craig and second by John Alexander, the Commission reviewed public comments presented in **EXHIBIT H-1** and did not adopt the amendments to 10D .0211 presented in **EXHIBIT H-2** by *Will Casola, Policy Analyst*

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

Permanent Rule Notice of Text – Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species Rules – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by Monty Crump, the Commission approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for the proposed amendments to 15A NCAC 10I .0103-.0105 presented in **EXHIBIT I-1** and approved fiscal note for proposed rules presented in **EXHIBIT I-2** by *Will Casola*

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

Emergency & Temporary Rulemaking – 10F .0303 Beaufort County – With Vice Chairman Landon Zimmer recused, on a motion by Tom Haislip and second by David Hoyle, the Commission adopted an emergency rule and concurrently approved publishing Notice of Text in the *NC Register* with an open comment period and a public hearing for the proposed temporary rule to expand the no-wake zone in the waters of Blounts Creek as part of N.C. Department of Transportation's bridge replacement project presented in **EXHIBIT J** by *Will Casola*

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

Permanent Rulemaking Notice of Text – 10F .0354 Pitt County – On a motion by Landon Zimmer and second by John Alexander, 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 presented in **EXHIBIT K** by *Will Casola*

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

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Chairman Craig expressed appreciation to the staff and committee members, noting that the substantial work occurs well before the meeting and thanking everyone for their time and effort. Noting that the Commission will not meet again for several months, he remarked that this is an exciting time of year as we look forward to the upcoming hunting seasons. He encouraged all commissioners, staff, and members of the public to take youth hunting and help introduce the next generation to the outdoors.

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Executive Director Briggs recognized staff for their efforts in advancing the Willow Point initiative, noting its importance in expanding opportunities for individuals who might not otherwise have access. He thanked the commissioners for their continued support and guidance. He also acknowledged the recent passing of former Commissioner Mike Johnson and retired Captain William “Billy” Holland, emphasizing that the loss of members of the Agency’s wildlife family is always deeply felt. Lastly, he reminded commissioners of the grand opening of the Law Enforcement History Museum on September 11.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the WRC meeting was adjourned at 9:57 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

M. 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 AUGUST 31, 2026

	FY 2026 General Fund	FY 2026 Capital Improvement Fund
REVENUES		
Federal funds	\$ 5,620,675.68	\$ 24,750.00
Local funds	\$ 391.23	\$ -
Investment earnings	\$ 69,706.31	\$ -
Sales and services	\$ 1,570,008.75	\$ -
Rental and lease of property	\$ 24,500.00	\$ -
Fees, licenses and fines	\$ 6,174,995.54	\$ -
Contributions, gifts and grants	\$ 278,330.43	\$ 259,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 141,257.33	\$ 116.04
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Sale of capital assets	\$ 67,494.14	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Insurance recoveries	\$ -	\$ -
Other Financing Sources - Transfers in	\$ 12,588,052.75	\$ 8,126,100.00
Other Financing Sources - Appropriations	\$ 4,246,982.00	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 30,782,394.16	\$ 8,409,966.04
EXPENDITURES		
Personal services	\$ 7,815,697.60	\$ -
Employee benefits	\$ 3,884,058.61	\$ -
Contracted personal services	\$ 1,774,568.51	\$ 76,565.80
Supplies and materials	\$ 2,355,233.68	\$ 8,910.20
Purchases for Resale	\$ 66,324.18	\$ -
Travel	\$ 29,222.06	\$ -
Communication	\$ 134,861.23	\$ -
Utilities	\$ 78,548.26	\$ -
Data processing services	\$ 94,709.28	\$ -
Other services	\$ 671,995.35	\$ (20,362.20)
Principal Retirement	\$ 2,543.00	\$ -
Interest and Fees	\$ 457.00	\$ -
Claims and benefits	\$ 282,428.83	\$ -
Other fixed charges	\$ 23,410.32	\$ -
Capital outlay	\$ 1,713,313.32	\$ 5,069,916.74
Grants, state aid and subsidies	\$ 1,157,193.29	\$ -
Insurance and bonding	\$ 355,777.00	\$ -
Other expenditures	\$ 474,071.89	\$ -
Reimbursements	\$ (97,804.80)	\$ -
Unclassified/invalid accounts	\$ (19.60)	\$ -
Other Financing (Uses) - Transfers out	\$ 9,385,845.30	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 30,202,434.31	\$ 5,135,030.54
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ 579,959.85	\$ 3,274,935.50
FUND BALANCE - JULY 1, 2026	\$ 21,979,505.85	\$ 738,017.37
FUND BALANCE - AUGUST 31, 2026	\$ 22,559,465.70	\$ 4,012,952.87

UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

\$925,382.02

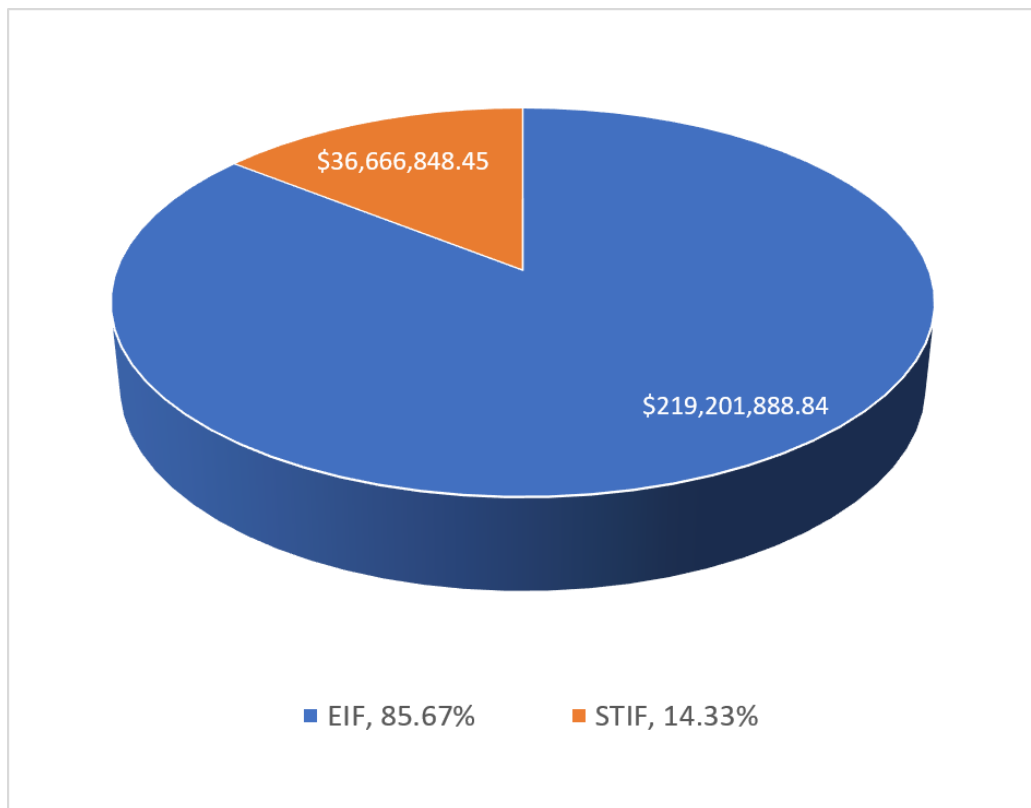
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE

\$21,634,083.68

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION ENDOWMENT PORTFOLIO

Fund Balance*: Aug 31, 2026: \$255,868,737.29

ASSET ALLOCATION



*based on financial institutions' data and does not include time-lag entries.

2026 August						
			ANI	ANI		
Status:		Principal	Nonexpendable	Expendable	Total	
	Adult	\$ 100,847,501.20		\$ 90,318,011.10	\$ 191,165,512.30	
	Magazine	\$ 1,573,477.50		\$ 1,705,279.08	\$ 3,278,756.58	
	Contributions	\$ 973,305.52		\$ 4,496,641.15	\$ 5,469,946.67	
	Diversity	\$ 1,536,039.86		\$ 346,994.82	\$ 1,883,034.68	
	Infant	\$ 24,778,469.00	\$ 20,902,417.66		\$ 45,680,886.66	
	Youth	\$ 3,414,929.00	\$ 2,103,448.77		\$ 5,518,377.77	
					\$ 252,996,514.66	
	Total	\$ 133,123,722.08	\$ 23,005,866.43	\$ 96,866,926.15	\$ 252,996,514.66	
					\$ -	
				Total from detail area >>	\$ 252,996,514.66	
					\$ -	

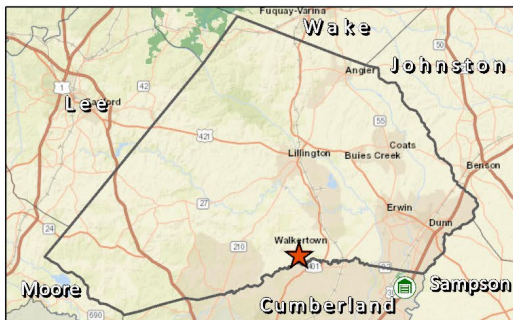
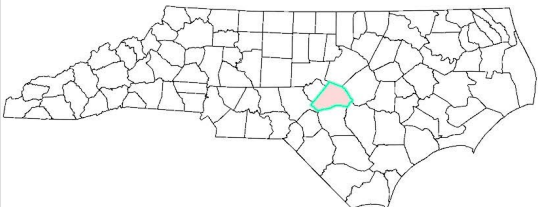
**Total above includes deposits-in-transit & time-lag entries.

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

Setzer Hatchery Renovation	\$19,001,400.00
Other Capital Projects	\$ 7,127,258.00
Other Agency Priorities	\$ 7,166,850.55
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$ 2,191,444.00</u>

Remaining Available Expendable Income	\$61,379,973.60
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New NCWRC Rhodes Pond Depot
Linden, Harnett County
4.99 Acres



Rhodes Pond Depot Relocation (Exhibit D-1)

Acquisition Plan

- Appraisal: \$450,000.00

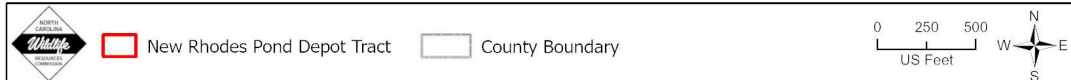
State Capital Infrastructure Fund	\$450,000.00
Total	\$450,000.00

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$0.00

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



Honeycutt Tract
Ashe County
0.445 Acres



Honeycutt Tract (Exhibit D-2)

Acquisition Plan

- Donation from landowner

Five-Year Stewardship/Revenue Estimates

Total Stewardship Costs Estimate: \$1,200.00

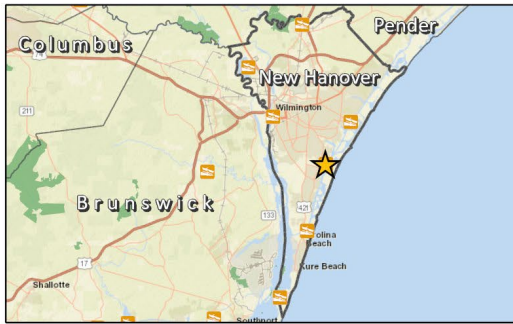
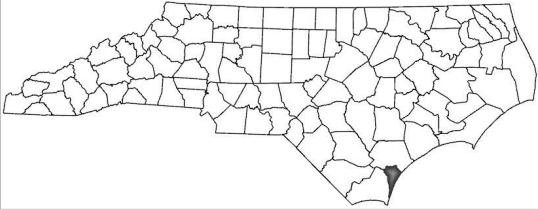
- Survey and boundary marking

Total Revenue Estimate: \$0.00

Staff recommend Phase II approval



**Snows Cut BAA Lease Renewal
New Hanover County
~4 Acres**



Snows Cut BAA Lease Renewal – New Hanover County (Exhibit E)

- Request to renew a lease with Army Corps of Engineers
- Snows Cut Boating Access Area in New Hanover County
- Lease area is approximately 4 acres
- Lease term will be for 25 years
- The consideration for this lease is WRC operation and maintenance of the boating access area.



EXHIBIT F-1

October 1, 2026



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

The proposed amendments to 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties add a new no-wake zone at Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, explicitly list bridges and boating access areas previously covered by blanket rule language, correct municipal boundary issues, and improve conciseness and consistency in rule language. Coordinates and addresses are added where appropriate to improve transparency with the regulated community.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission, on behalf of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, submitted a no-wake zone application for a new no-wake zone in the immediate vicinity of the marina. A Wildlife Law Enforcement investigation found sufficient evidence for the establishment of the no-wake zone, including fuel docks and a narrow channel.

Lake Wylie Marine Commission has agreed to place and maintain approved no-wake zone markers in the approved areas near the Morningstar Marina if the amendment is adopted.

15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

1 15A NCAC 10F .0333 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES**

4 (a) ~~Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to~~ No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the
5 following waters of Lake Wylie and the Catawba River in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties:

6 (1) ~~McDowell Park. The~~ the waters of the coves adjoining McDowell Park and the Southwest Nature
7 ~~Preserve. Preserve in Mecklenburg County~~ shore to shore, east of the mouth of the cove at a line
8 from a point on the south shore at 35.10272 N, 81.03026 W to a point on the north shore at 35.10556
9 N, ~~81.02964 W; 80.02964 W;~~

10 (2) ~~Gaston County Wildlife Club Cove. The~~ the waters of the cove west of the Gaston County Wildlife
11 Club on South Point ~~Road. Road in Belmont,~~ shore to shore, north of a line at the mouth of the cove
12 from a point on the east shore at 35.15628 N, 81.01427 W to a point on the west shore at 35.15628
13 N, 81.01615 W;

14 (3) ~~Buster Boyd Bridge. The~~ the waters from a point 250 feet east of the Buster Boyd Bridge on N.C.
15 Highway 49 ~~in Mecklenburg County~~ at 35.10187 N, 81.03913 W to a point 150 feet west of the
16 Buster Boyd Bridge at 35.10165 N, 81.04070 W;

17 (4) ~~N.C. Highway 27 Bridge. The~~ the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 yards north of the N.C.
18 Highway 27 bridge ~~in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties~~ at 35.29849 N, 81.00346 W to a point 190
19 yards south of the N.C. Highway 27 bridge at 35.29635 N, 81.00424 W;

20 (5) ~~Brown's Cove. The area~~ the waters beginning at the mouth of Brown's ~~Cove, Cove in Mecklenburg~~
21 ~~County~~ shore to shore, at from a point at 35.16453 N, 81.00474 W, west to a point at 35.16480 N,
22 81.00309 W;

23 (6) ~~Paradise Point Cove. The~~ the waters of Paradise Point ~~Cove, shore to shore, Cove in Gaston County~~
24 between Paradise Circle and Lake Front Drive, west of a line from a point on the south shore at
25 35.18853 N, 81.04036 W to a point on the north shore at 35.18991 N, 81.04136 W;

26 (7) ~~Withers Cove. The~~ the waters of Withers ~~Cove, Cove in Mecklenburg County,~~ shore to shore,
27 southeast of a line beginning ~~at a line~~ north of the Mecklenburg Charlotte Fire Department and
28 Police Department Boathouse from a point on the west shore at 35.14632 N, 81.00383 W to a point
29 on the east shore at 35.14713 N, 81.00173 W, and ending at a point 50 feet southeast of the Withers
30 Bridge on S.R. 1116, otherwise known as Shopton Road, at 35.14576 N, 81.00187 W;

31 (8) the waters of the Catawba River, shore to shore, beginning at a line from a point on the west shore
32 of the Catawba River at 35.27481 N, 81.0138 W, east to a point on the east shore of the Catawba
33 River at 35.27423 N, 81.01111 W, extending south to the following two lines:

34 (A) a line, shore to shore, west of Sadler Island from a point on the west shore at 35.27079 N,
35 81.01525 W, east to a point on the west side of Sadler Island 35.27051 N, 81.01396 W;
36 and

- (B) a line, shore to shore, east of Sadler Island from a point on the south shore of Sadler Island at 35.26635 N, 81.01432 W, south to a point on the east shore at 35.26494 N, 81.01368 W.
- ~~(8) Sadler Island. The waters shore to shore beginning at a line from a point on the west shore of Lake Wylie in Gaston County at 35.27481 N, 81.0138 W east to a point on the east shore of the Lake in Mecklenburg County at 35.27423 N, 81.01111 W, extending south on the Lake west of Sadler Island to a line from a point on the west shore of the Lake in Gaston County at 35.27079 N, 81.01525 W, east to a point on the west side of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County at 35.27051 N, 81.01396 W, and the waters shore to shore east of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County from a point at 35.27441 N, 81.01185 W, south-southwest to a line from a point on the south shore of Sadler Island at 35.26635 N, 81.01432 W, south to a point on the Lake shore at 35.26494 N, 81.01368 W;~~
- ~~(9) Other Bridges. The waters within 50 feet of a bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wylie that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in this Paragraph;~~
- (9) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet northwest of the N.C. Highway 279 bridge, otherwise known as South New Hope Road, at 35.15156 N, 81.05830 W, to a point 50 feet southeast of the N.C. Highway 279 bridge at 35.15137 N, 81.05788 W;
- ~~(10) Yachtsman on Lake Wylie Community. The the waters within 50 yards of the community piers near the terminus of Waterside Drive, Drive in Mecklenburg County, and northward to include the waters east of the island that is west of Point Lookout Road, ending at a line from a point on the northern end of the island at 35.12226 N, 81.03306 W, east to a point on the shore at 35.12253 N, 81.03190 W;~~
- ~~(11) Brown's Cove. The the waters of Brown's Cove, shore to shore Cove in Mecklenburg County, beginning at a line from a point on the east shore at 35.16892 N, 80.99702 W to a point on the west shore at 35.16948 N, 80.99783 W, northeast to a line from a point on the south shore at 35.16913 N, 80.99556 W to a point on the north shore at 35.17043 N, 80.99684 W;~~
- (12) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet northwest of the N.C. Highway 237 bridge, otherwise known as Armstrong Road, at 35.16690 N, 81.03833 W, to a point 50 feet southeast of the N.C. Highway 237 bridge at 35.16678 N, 81.03788 W;
- (13) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the railroad trestle crossing the Catawba River, at 35.23584 N, 81.01082 W, to a point 50 feet south of the trestle at 35.23549 N, 81.01094 W;
- (14) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the U.S. Highway 29/74 bridge, otherwise known as Wilkinson Boulevard, at 35.24595 N, 81.00907 W, to a point 50 feet south of the U.S. Highway 29/74 bridge at 35.24559 N, 81.00923 W;
- (15) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the Interstate 85 bridge, otherwise known as Cameron Morrison Bridge, at 35.25812 N, 81.01399 W, to a point 50 feet south of the Interstate 85 bridge at 35.25745 N, 81.01373 W;

(16) the waters shore to shore, beginning at a line 55 yards north of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, 220 Commodore Court, Belmont, from a point on the west shore at 35.16203 N, 81.03606 W, to a point on east shore at 35.16278 N, 81.03259 W, south to a line 100 yard south of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, from a point on the west shore at 35.15988 N, 81.03548 W, to a point on the east shore at 35.15986 N, 81.03232 W;

~~(12) South Point Boating Access Area. The waters within 50 yards of the South Point Boating Access Area in Gaston County, 199 Boat Launch Road in Belmont; and~~

~~(13)(17) the waters within 50 yards of the docks at Joyner's Marina, 16310 York Road, Charlotte, Road in Charlotte, and including and the cove southeast of the docks to a point on the shore at 35.10084 N, 81.03610 W; and~~

(18) the waters within 50 yards of the South Point Boating Access Area, 199 Boat Launch Road, Belmont.

~~(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)(b) Restricted Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall allow it to enter the waters of the swimming restricted area with swim beach at the South Point Access Area in Gaston County, at 199 Boat Launch Road, Belmont, Road in Belmont, north of the markers rope in the cove east of the South Point Boating Access Area.~~

~~(d)(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies are the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule: The following shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing this rule:~~

(1) the Lake Wylie Marine Commission for the ~~regulated~~ areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(1) through (17) of this Rule; (11), and (13);

(2) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the ~~regulated~~ area designated in Subparagraph (a)(18) of this Rule; and (a)(12); and

(3) Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for the restricted area designated in Paragraph (b) of this Rule. (c).

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

Eff. July 1, 1980;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; June 1, 1985; June 1, 1984; March 1, 1983;

Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998;

Temporary Amendment Eff. February 4, 2000;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; June 1, 2004; July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2015;

Amended Eff. October 1, 2015;

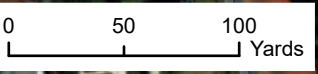
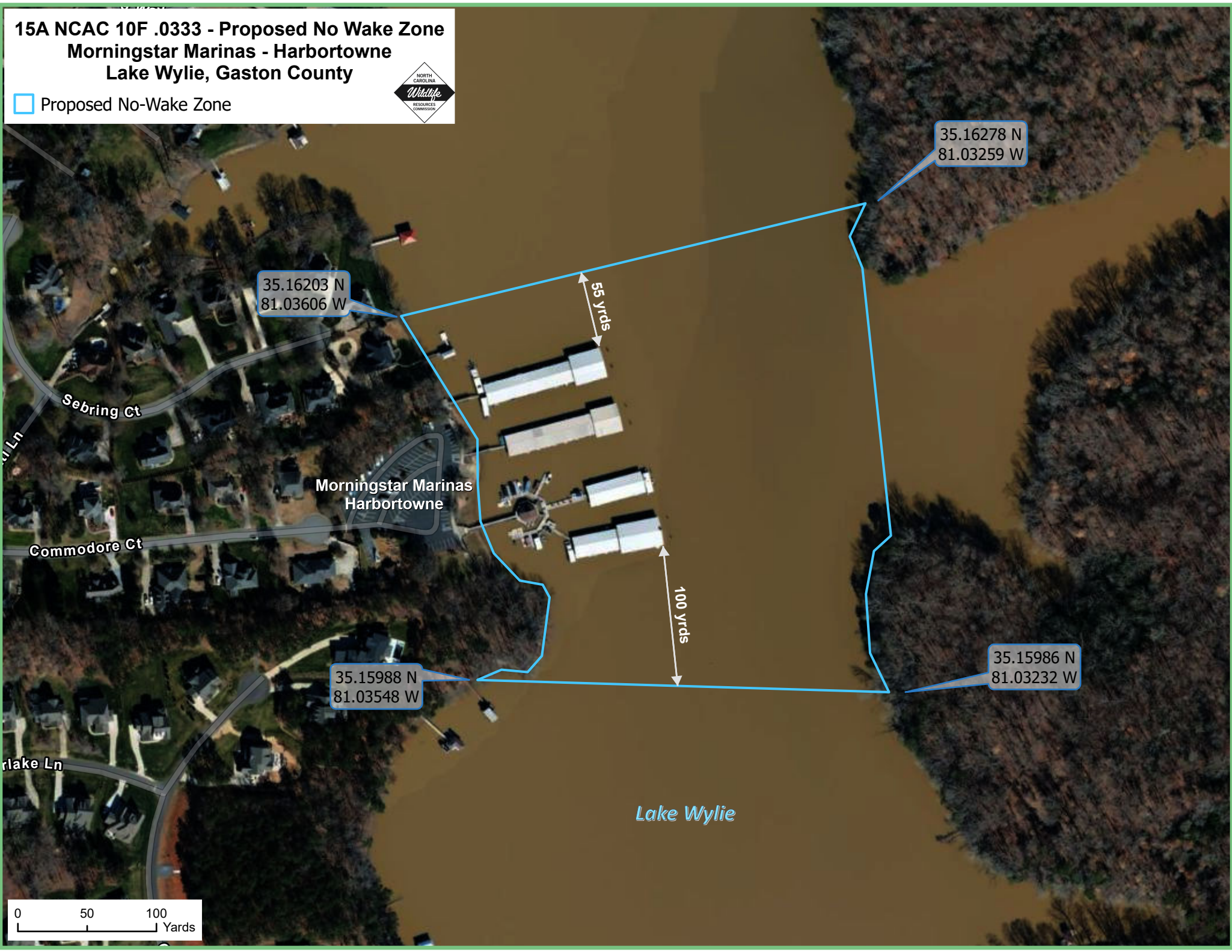
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2018;

1 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2025; January 1, 2024; June 1, 2023; June 1, 2022; May 1, 2019.*
2

15A NCAC 10F .0333 - Proposed No Wake Zone
Morningstar Marinas - Harbortowne
Lake Wylie, Gaston County



Proposed No-Wake Zone





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: Lake Wylie Marine Commission Date: July 14 2026
Contact Name: Raymond Webber Exc Dir
Mailing Address: 10735 David Taylor Dr, Suite 230 Phone: 803-7306159
Charlotte, NC 28262 Email: jaarwebber@aol.com

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: Lake Wylie, Gaston Co, South Fork,

Popular Name (if any): Morningstar Marina, fna Harbortowne Marina

Describe Proposed Regulated Area – No-Wake Zone, Swim Area, Other:

In the Mid Channel of South Fork of the Catawba River on Lake Wylie from 50 yrd north/northeast

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:

Fueling docks, obstructed vision, public access, congested area with high traffic

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**
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717
- nowakezonecoordinator@ncwildlife.org

Signature Ray W. Leifer

Date July 14 2026



Date: July 14, 2026

As has been the practice of the Lake Wylie Marine Commission's and as required by 15A N.C. Admin. Code 10F .0333 subchapter (d) Placement and Maintenance of Markers, let this document affirm Lake Wylie Marine Commission's intention to purchase as required by and maintain said No-Wake-Markers the Lake Wylie Marine Commission or its designee (TowBoat USA Lake Wylie) agrees to purchase and place markers that conform to U.S. Aids to Navigation (USATONS) standards to implement a Rule.

Specifically, if approved by North Carolina Wildlife, the Lake Wylie Marine Commission will place and maintain approved No-Wake-Zone markers and maintain them in the approved areas near the Morningstar Marina on the South Fork in Lake Wylie.

This measure was approved at our April 2026 meeting. These minutes are attached under Item 6 – No Wake Buoy Request on page 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Webber", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Ray Webber

Executive Director

Lake Wylie Marine Commission



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Form 1: No-Wake Zone Request

- Name of organization/entity: Gaston County
- Primary contact information: Brad Mills 704-413-0856
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lake Wylie, Gaston County
 - Location: Morningstar Marina, 220 Commodore Ct, Belmont
 - Popular name of area, if any: N/A
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 300ft Widest Point: 420ft
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
Fuel pump, vessel sewage pump-out, and docking slips.

No Wake Zone Request

No Wake Zone Request Form and Requested No Wake Zone of Contact*



Marina

Marina Description

This is a recently renovated fuel dock. The fuel dock is located on a floating dock structure, and the Marina is unable to install a permanent structure due to a contract with Duke Energy. No wake-zone buoys placed the furthest South and North of the marina will mitigate hazards to boaters and the fuel dock. Those buoys will be 50 yards from the marina. Additionally, there will need to be two no wake-zones buoys on the opposite side of the marina's banks that run perpendicular to make the channel in that area a no-wake zone.

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

YES ☐

NO ☒

When describing the marina, please describe the structure in terms of the structure type, location, and any other relevant information. Please describe the structure type, location, and any other relevant information.







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.



EXHIBIT F-2

October 1, 2026



Fiscal Note for No-Wake Zone Rule Amendments

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties
15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend
15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County
15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern

Agency Contact: William Casola
Policy Analyst
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1751 Varsity Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
(919) 707-0125
william.casola@ncwildlife.gov

Fiscal Impact: State Government: No
Local Government: Yes
Private Impact: Yes
Substantial Economic Impact: No

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

The proposed amendments add two new no-wake zones based on recently submitted applications from subdivisions of the State and continue the WRC's process of reviewing and amending no-wake zone rules to improve clarity and consistency and ensure all no-wake zones are explicitly defined in Subchapter 10F. Many no-wake zones, especially those on rivers, cross county lines and this process will ensure that the no-wake zone is listed in all applicable rules.

15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties

Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0333 Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties add a new no-wake zone at Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, explicitly list bridges and boating access areas previously covered by blanket rule language, correct municipal boundary issues, and improve conciseness and consistency in rule language. Coordinates and addresses are added where appropriate to improve transparency with the regulated community.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission, on behalf of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, submitted a no-wake zone application to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for a new no-wake zone in the immediate vicinity of the marina. Wildlife Law Enforcement conducted an investigation which found sufficient evidence for the establishment of the no-wake zone, including fuel docks and a narrow channel.

Lake Wylie Marine Commission has agreed to place and maintain approved no-wake zone markers in the approved areas near the Morningstar Marina on the South Fork of Lake Wylie if the amendment is adopted.

Fiscal Impact

State & Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated State impact. The new no-wake zone will be enforced as part of the regular duties of Wildlife Law Enforcement.

The Lake Wylie Marine Commission (LWMC) will place between four and six buoys to mark the no-wake zone. The LWMC can purchase buoys on the open market or through the WRC at a cost of \$166.75 for 9-inch NWZ buoys and \$442.75 for 14-inch NWZ buoys, plus tethering supplies (~ \$50-\$100 per buoy) which vary based on water depth and flow. The LWMC is expected to incur a cost of between approximately \$900 for four 9-inch buoys and \$3,000 for six 14-inch buoys. The LWMC has a contractor who manages buoys and will deploy and maintain these as part of their regular duties. The LWMC receives funding from Gaston, Mecklenburg, and York (SC) counties.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve rule clarity for the regulated community and help protect boaters who refuel and/or store their vessels at the Harbortowne marina. By requiring reduced speeds near the marina, the amendments should improve boating traffic safety and reduce the risk of collisions. Because the waters near the marina are narrow, include fuel docks, and are heavily trafficked, these safety benefits are likely to be realized, though they cannot be quantified.

15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend

15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend is proposed for repeal. The two no-wake zones listed in the current rule will be moved to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County. The Town of River Bend is fully located within Craven County; therefore, it is unnecessary and confusing to have a separate rule just for this single municipality. By combining all the no-wake zones in Craven County into the Craven County rule, we make it easier for boaters to reference the full list of no-wake zones in their area. All no-wake zones in the current Town of River Bend rule will be retained in the Craven County rule.

Fiscal Impact

State & Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated State or local government impacts.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve rule clarity for the regulated community.

15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County

Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County add a new no-wake zone in the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the waters known as the "Rock Quarry," add no-wake zones currently listed in 10F .0344 Town of River Bend and 10F .0351 New Bern, correct municipal boundary issues, and improve conciseness and consistency in rule language. Coordinates and addresses are added where appropriate to improve transparency with the regulated community.

The City of New Bern, on behalf of residents, submitted a no-wake zone application to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for a new no-wake zone in the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the "Rock Quarry". Wildlife Law Enforcement conducted an investigation which found sufficient evidence for the establishment of the no-wake zone, including a narrow channel and obstructed views.

The City of New Bern has agreed to place and maintain approved no-wake zone markers in the canal if the amendment is adopted.

Fiscal Impact

State & Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated State impact. The new no-wake zone will be enforced as part of the regular duties of Wildlife Law Enforcement.

The City of New Bern will place two buoys to mark the no-wake zone. The City can purchase buoys on the open market or through the WRC at a cost of \$166.75 for 9-inch NWZ buoys and \$442.75 for 14-inch NWZ buoys, plus tethering supplies (~ \$50-\$100 per buoy) which vary

based on water depth and flow. The City is expected to incur a cost of between approximately \$450 for two 9-inch buoys and \$1,000 for two 14-inch buoys. The City may incur additional costs if it contracts to place the buoys or the City may ask the WRC for assistance in buoy placement. The City may incur future costs based on the need for buoy maintenance or replacement; however, we cannot estimate these costs.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve rule clarity for the regulated community and help protect boaters who traverse the narrow canal between Brice Creek and the Rock Quarry. By requiring reduced speeds in the canal, the amendments should improve boating traffic safety and reduce the risk of collisions. Because the canal is narrow with obstructed sight lines, these safety benefits are likely to be realized, though they cannot be quantified.

15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern

15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern is proposed for repeal. The single no-wake zones listed in the current rule will be moved to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County. The City of New Bern is fully located within Craven County; therefore, it is unnecessary and confusing to have a separate rule just for this single municipality. By combining all the no-wake zones in Craven County into the Craven County rule, we make it easier for boaters to reference the full list of no-wake zones in their area. The no-wake zone in the current New Bern rule will be retained in the Craven County rule.

Fiscal Impact

State & Local Impact

The proposed amendments have no anticipated State or local government impacts.

Private Impact

The proposed amendments improve rule clarity for the regulated community.

15A NCAC 10F .0333 - Proposed No Wake Zone
Morningstar Marinas - Harbortowne
Lake Wylie, Gaston County

Proposed No-Wake Zone





Created by NCWRC, August 2025

1 15A NCAC 10F .0333 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0333 MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES**

4 (a) ~~Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to~~ No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the
5 following waters of Lake Wylie and the Catawba River in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties:

- 6 (1) ~~McDowell Park. The~~ the waters of the coves adjoining McDowell Park and the Southwest Nature
7 ~~Preserve. Preserve in Mecklenburg County~~ shore to shore, east of the mouth of the cove at a line
8 from a point on the south shore at 35.10272 N, 81.03026 W to a point on the north shore at 35.10556
9 N, ~~81.02964 W; 80.02964 W;~~
- 10 (2) ~~Gaston County Wildlife Club Cove. The~~ the waters of the cove west of the Gaston County Wildlife
11 Club on South Point ~~Road. Road in Belmont,~~ shore to shore, north of a line at the mouth of the cove
12 from a point on the east shore at 35.15628 N, 81.01427 W to a point on the west shore at 35.15628
13 N, 81.01615 W;
- 14 (3) ~~Buster Boyd Bridge. The~~ the waters from a point 250 feet east of the Buster Boyd Bridge on N.C.
15 Highway 49 ~~in Mecklenburg County~~ at 35.10187 N, 81.03913 W to a point 150 feet west of the
16 Buster Boyd Bridge at 35.10165 N, 81.04070 W;
- 17 (4) ~~N.C. Highway 27 Bridge. The~~ the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 yards north of the N.C.
18 Highway 27 bridge ~~in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties~~ at 35.29849 N, 81.00346 W to a point 190
19 yards south of the N.C. Highway 27 bridge at 35.29635 N, 81.00424 W;
- 20 (5) ~~Brown's Cove. The area~~ the waters beginning at the mouth of Brown's ~~Cove. Cove in Mecklenburg~~
21 ~~County~~ shore to shore, ~~at~~ from a point at 35.16453 N, 81.00474 W, west to a point at 35.16480 N,
22 81.00309 W;
- 23 (6) ~~Paradise Point Cove. The~~ the waters of Paradise Point ~~Cove, shore to shore, Cove in Gaston County~~
24 between Paradise Circle and Lake Front Drive, west of a line from a point on the south shore at
25 35.18853 N, 81.04036 W to a point on the north shore at 35.18991 N, 81.04136 W;
- 26 (7) ~~Withers Cove. The~~ the waters of Withers ~~Cove. Cove in Mecklenburg County,~~ shore to shore,
27 southeast of a line beginning ~~at a line~~ north of the Mecklenburg Charlotte Fire Department and
28 Police Department Boathouse from a point on the west shore at 35.14632 N, 81.00383 W to a point
29 on the east shore at 35.14713 N, 81.00173 W, and ending at a point 50 feet southeast of the Withers
30 Bridge on S.R. 1116, otherwise known as Shopton Road, at 35.14576 N, 81.00187 W;
- 31 (8) the waters of the Catawba River, shore to shore, beginning at a line from a point on the west shore
32 of the Catawba River at 35.27481 N, 81.0138 W, east to a point on the east shore of the Catawba
33 River at 35.27423 N, 81.01111 W, extending south to the following two lines:
- 34 (A) a line, shore to shore, west of Sadler Island from a point on the west shore at 35.27079 N,
35 81.01525 W, east to a point on the west side of Sadler Island 35.27051 N, 81.01396 W;
36 and

- (B) a line, shore to shore, east of Sadler Island from a point on the south shore of Sadler Island at 35.26635 N, 81.01432 W, south to a point on the east shore at 35.26494 N, 81.01368 W.
- ~~(8) Sadler Island. The waters shore to shore beginning at a line from a point on the west shore of Lake Wylie in Gaston County at 35.27481 N, 81.0138 W east to a point on the east shore of the Lake in Mecklenburg County at 35.27423 N, 81.01111 W, extending south on the Lake west of Sadler Island to a line from a point on the west shore of the Lake in Gaston County at 35.27079 N, 81.01525 W, east to a point on the west side of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County at 35.27051 N, 81.01396 W, and the waters shore to shore east of Sadler Island in Mecklenburg County from a point at 35.27441 N, 81.01185 W, south-southwest to a line from a point on the south shore of Sadler Island at 35.26635 N, 81.01432 W, south to a point on the Lake shore at 35.26494 N, 81.01368 W;~~
- ~~(9) Other Bridges. The waters within 50 feet of a bridge in North Carolina that crosses the waters of Lake Wylie that is not otherwise specifically mentioned in this Paragraph;~~
- (9) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet northwest of the N.C. Highway 279 bridge, otherwise known as South New Hope Road, at 35.15156 N, 81.05830 W, to a point 50 feet southeast of the N.C. Highway 279 bridge at 35.15137 N, 81.05788 W;
- ~~(10) Yachtsman on Lake Wylie Community. The the waters within 50 yards of the community piers near the terminus of Waterside Drive, Drive in Mecklenburg County, and northward to include the waters east of the island that is west of Point Lookout Road, ending at a line from a point on the northern end of the island at 35.12226 N, 81.03306 W, east to a point on the shore at 35.12253 N, 81.03190 W;~~
- ~~(11) Brown's Cove. The the waters of Brown's Cove, shore to shore Cove in Mecklenburg County, beginning at a line from a point on the east shore at 35.16892 N, 80.99702 W to a point on the west shore at 35.16948 N, 80.99783 W, northeast to a line from a point on the south shore at 35.16913 N, 80.99556 W to a point on the north shore at 35.17043 N, 80.99684 W;~~
- (12) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet northwest of the N.C. Highway 237 bridge, otherwise known as Armstrong Road, at 35.16690 N, 81.03833 W, to a point 50 feet southeast of the N.C. Highway 237 bridge at 35.16678 N, 81.03788 W;
- (13) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the railroad trestle crossing the Catawba River, at 35.23584 N, 81.01082 W, to a point 50 feet south of the trestle at 35.23549 N, 81.01094 W;
- (14) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the U.S. Highway 29/74 bridge, otherwise known as Wilkinson Boulevard, at 35.24595 N, 81.00907 W, to a point 50 feet south of the U.S. Highway 29/74 bridge at 35.24559 N, 81.00923 W;
- (15) the waters shore to shore, from a point 50 feet north of the Interstate 85 bridge, otherwise known as Cameron Morrison Bridge, at 35.25812 N, 81.01399 W, to a point 50 feet south of the Interstate 85 bridge at 35.25745 N, 81.01373 W;

(16) the waters shore to shore, beginning at a line 55 yards north of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, 220 Commodore Court, Belmont, from a point on the west shore at 35.16203 N, 81.03606 W, to a point on east shore at 35.16278 N, 81.03259 W, south to a line 100 yard south of Morningstar Marinas Harbortowne, from a point on the west shore at 35.15988 N, 81.03548 W, to a point on the east shore at 35.15986 N, 81.03232 W;

~~(12) South Point Boating Access Area. The waters within 50 yards of the South Point Boating Access Area in Gaston County, 199 Boat Launch Road in Belmont; and~~

~~(13)(17) the waters within 50 yards of the docks at Joyner's Marina, 16310 York Road, Charlotte, Road in Charlotte, and including and the cove southeast of the docks to a point on the shore at 35.10084 N, 81.03610 W; W; and~~

(18) the waters within 50 yards of the South Point Boating Access Area, 199 Boat Launch Road, Belmont.

~~(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)(b) Restricted Area. No person operating or responsible for the operation of a vessel shall allow it to enter the waters of the swimming restricted area with swim beach at the Southpoint South Point Access Area in Gaston County, at 199 Boat Launch Road, Belmont, Road in Belmont, north of the markers rope in the cove east of the South Point Boating Access Area.~~

~~(d)(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The following agencies are the designated agencies for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule: The following shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing this rule:~~

(1) the Lake Wylie Marine Commission for the ~~regulated~~ areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(1) through (17) of this Rule; (11), and (13);

(2) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the ~~regulated~~ area designated in Subparagraph (a)(18) of this Rule; and (a)(12); and

(3) Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for the restricted area designated in Paragraph (b) of this Rule. (c).

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

Eff. July 1, 1980;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; June 1, 1985; June 1, 1984; March 1, 1983;

Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 1998;

Amended Eff. July 1, 1998;

Temporary Amendment Eff. February 4, 2000;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; June 1, 2004; July 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2015;

Amended Eff. October 1, 2015;

Readopted Eff. October 1, 2018;

1 15A NCAC 10F .0344 is proposed for repeal as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0344 TOWN OF RIVER BEND**

4 ~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the following waters located in the Town of River Bend in Craven~~
5 ~~County:~~

6 ~~(1) the waters of Plantation Canal shore to shore, beginning at its entrance from the Trent River at a line~~
7 ~~from a point on the northeast shore at 35.07226 N, 77.13303 W, to a point on the south shore at~~
8 ~~35.07187 N, 77.13335 W, and including the waters of the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin;~~
9 ~~and~~

10 ~~(2) the waters of Island Lake shore to shore, and its access waters off of the Trent River beginning at~~
11 ~~points at 35.06508 N, 77.13600 W and at 35.06653 N, 77.13716 W.~~

12 ~~(b) Speed limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed within any of the regulated areas~~
13 ~~described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

14 ~~(c) Placement of Markers. The Town Council of the Town of River Bend shall be the designated agency for placement~~
15 ~~of markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States~~
16 ~~Army Corps of Engineers.~~

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

19 *Eff. June 1, 1983;*

20 *Amended Eff. December 1, 1985;*

21 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
22 *6, 2016;*

23 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2018.*

1 15A NCAC 10F .0347 is proposed for amendment as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY**

4 (a) ~~Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to~~ No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the
5 following waters in Craven County:

6 (1) ~~New Bern:~~

7 (A) ~~the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina, north~~
8 ~~of a the waters of Northwest Creek, shore to shore, beginning at a line from a point on the~~
9 east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106
10 W, ~~north to south~~ of a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06903
11 N, 76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N, 76.97225 W, and northeast to
12 ~~include all the~~ waters, shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour
13 otherwise known as Spring Creek;

14 (B)(2) the waters of Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River
15 west of a point at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;

16 (C)(3) the waters within 50 yards of the Spring Garden Boating Access Area on the Neuse River,
17 585 NW Craven Middle School Road, New Bern;

18 (D)(4) the waters within 50 yards of Cool Springs Boating Access Area on Swift Creek, 1065
19 Cool Springs Road, New Bern;

20 (E)(5) the waters within 50 yards of Brices Creek Boating Access Area on Brice Creek, 953
21 Perrytown Road, New Bern; ~~and~~

22 (F)(6) ~~the portion of Brice Creek~~ the waters of Brice Creek, shore to shore, beginning 50 yards
23 north of the Brices Creek Bridge on Brices Creek Road, shore to shore, at 35.06913 N,
24 77.06806 W, south-southwest around Merchant's Grocery, ~~docking facilities,~~ the fuel dock,
25 and ~~a the~~ public boat ramp, then southeastward, south of the peninsula and sharp curve on
26 the east side of Brice Creek to a line from a point on the west shore at 35.06587 N, 77.07078
27 W to a point on the east shore at 35.06638 N, 77.06893 W; ~~W.~~

28 (2) ~~Havelock:~~

29 (A)(7) the waters of the triangular area ~~in the waters~~ at the end of the Temples Point ~~Bishops~~
30 Marina main pier located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the
31 Neuse River, between a point 300 feet west east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W,
32 ~~and~~ a point 300 feet east west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet
33 south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;

34 (B)(8) the waters ~~the portion~~ of Southwest Prong Slocum Creek, shore to shore beginning at east
35 ~~of~~ a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89122 N 76.92302 W to a point on the south
36 shore at 34.89102 N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, ~~shore to shore~~ to a line from a

- point on the north shore at 34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W;
- ~~(C)(9)~~ the waters within 50 yards of the Slocum Creek Boating Access Area on Slocum Creek, 99 U.S. Highway 70 W, Havelock; ~~and~~
- ~~(D)(10)~~ the waters within 50 yards of the ~~Hancock Creek~~ Percy Berry Boating Access Area on Hancock Creek, 1100 Cahoogue Creek Road, Havelock; ~~Havelock~~.
- ~~(3)(11)~~ ~~Trent Woods~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on the Trent River at 4005 Trent Pines Drive, Trent Woods; ~~Woods~~.
- ~~(4)(12)~~ ~~Bridgeton~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Bridgeton Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 880 Wildlife Road, New Bern; ~~Bridgeton~~.
- ~~(5)(13)~~ ~~Grifton~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Maple Cypress Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 360 Maple Cypress Road, Grifton; ~~Grifton~~.
- ~~(6)(14)~~ ~~Vanceboro~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Cow Pen Landing Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 1199 Cow Pen Landing Road, Vanceboro; ~~Vanceboro~~.
- (15) the waters within 50 yards of the Lees Landing Boating Access Area on Upper Broad Creek, 3337 Lee Landing Road, New Bern;
- (16) the waters of Plantation Canal, shore to shore, beginning at its entrance from the Trent River at a line from a point on the northeast shore at 35.07226 N, 77.13303 W, to a point on the south shore at 35.07187 N, 77.13335 W, including the waters of the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin;
- (17) the waters of Island Lake, shore to shore, and its access waters off of the Trent River terminating at a point at 35.06508 N, 77.13600 W and at a point at 35.06653 N, 77.13716 W;
- (18) the waters shore to shore between the Trent River Railroad Bridge and the Trent River Bridge on East Front Street; and
- (19) the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the waters known as the Rock Quarry, shore to shore, northeast of a point at 35.06743 N, 77.05857 W, and southwest of a point at 35.06760 N, 77.05802 W.
- ~~(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)(b) Placement of Markers.~~ The following shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing this rule:
- (1) ~~the Board of Commissioners of Craven County for the areas designated in shall be the designated agency for placement in regulated areas indicated in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), and (F), Part (a)(2)(A); and Subparagraph (a)(3) Subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), (6), (7), and (11) of this Rule;~~
- (2) ~~the City of Havelock for the area designated in shall be the designated agency for placement in the regulated area indicated in Part (a)(2)(B) Subparagraph (a)(8) of this Rule; and~~
- (3) the Town of River Bend for the areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(16) and (17) of this Rule;
- (4) the City of New Bern for the area designated in Subparagraph (a)(18) and (19) of this Rule; and

1 ~~(3)(5)~~ the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the areas designated in ~~shall be the~~
2 ~~designated agency for placement and maintenance of markers in the regulated areas in Parts~~
3 ~~(a)(1)(C), (D), and (E), Parts (a)(2)(C) and (D), and Subparagraphs (a)(4) through (6)~~ Subparagraphs
4 ~~(a)(3) through (5), (9), (10), and (12) through (15)~~ of this Rule.

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

6 *Eff. August 1, 1984;*

7 *Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; October 1, 1989; June 1, 1989;*

8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;*

9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2016; July 1, 1998;*

10 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
11 *6, 2016;*

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

1 15A NCAC 10F .0351 is proposed for repeal as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0351 NEW BERN**

4 ~~(a) Regulated Area. This Rule shall apply to that part of the Trent River that is located within the city limits of New~~
5 ~~Bern in Craven County.~~

6 ~~(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed on the Trent River between the Trent~~
7 ~~River Railroad Bridge and the Trent River Bridge on East Front Street.~~

8 ~~(c) Placement of Markers. The Board of Alderman of the City of New Bern shall be the designated agency for~~
9 ~~placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the~~
10 ~~United States Army Corps of Engineers.~~

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

13 *Eff. October 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. October 1, 2018.*
17

EXHIBIT G

October 1, 2026



Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

The proposed amendments to 10F .0347 Craven County add a new no-wake zone in the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the waters known as the Rock Quarry, add no-wake zones currently listed in 10F .0344 Town of River Bend and 10F .0351 New Bern, correct municipal boundary issues, and improve conciseness and consistency in rule language. Coordinates and addresses are added where appropriate to improve transparency with the regulated community.

The City of New Bern, on behalf of residents, submitted a no-wake zone application to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission for a new no-wake zone in the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the “Rock Quarry”. A Wildlife Law Enforcement investigation found sufficient evidence for the establishment of the no-wake zone, including a narrow channel and obstructed views.

The City of New Bern has agreed to place and maintain approved no-wake zone markers in the canal if the amendment is adopted.

15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY

1 15A NCAC 10F .0347 is proposed for amendment as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10F .0347 CRAVEN COUNTY**

4 (a) ~~Regulated Areas. This Rule applies to~~ No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed within the
5 following waters in Craven County:

6 (1) ~~New Bern:~~

7 (A) ~~the portion of Northwest Creek from the entrance buoys at Northwest Creek Marina, north~~
8 ~~of a the waters of Northwest Creek, shore to shore, beginning at a line from a point on the~~
9 east shore at 35.06357 N, 76.96934 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06343 N, 76.97106
10 W, ~~north to south~~ of a line from a point on the east shore of Northwest Creek at 35.06903
11 N, 76.97030 W to a point on the west shore at 35.06779 N, 76.97225 W, ~~and~~ northeast to
12 ~~include all the~~ waters, shore to shore, of the bulkheaded area of Fairfield Harbour
13 otherwise known as Spring Creek;

14 (B)(2) ~~the waters of~~ Olde Towne Lake, shore to shore from its intersection with the Trent River
15 west of a point at 35.08098 N, 77.05833 W;

16 (C)(3) ~~the waters~~ within 50 yards of the Spring Garden Boating Access Area on ~~the~~ Neuse River,
17 585 NW Craven Middle School Road, New Bern;

18 (D)(4) ~~the waters~~ within 50 yards of Cool Springs Boating Access Area on Swift Creek, 1065
19 Cool Springs Road, New Bern;

20 (E)(5) ~~the waters~~ within 50 yards of Brices Creek Boating Access Area on Brice Creek, 953
21 Perrytown Road, New Bern; ~~and~~

22 (F)(6) ~~the portion of Brice Creek~~ the waters of Brice Creek, shore to shore, beginning 50 yards
23 north of the Brices Creek Bridge on Brices Creek Road, shore to shore, at 35.06913 N,
24 77.06806 W, south-southwest around Merchant's Grocery, docking facilities, the fuel dock,
25 and a the public boat ramp, then southeastward, south of the peninsula and sharp curve on
26 the east side of Brice Creek to a line from a point on the west shore at 35.06587 N, 77.07078
27 W to a point on the east shore at 35.06638 N, 77.06893 W; W.

28 (2) ~~Havelock:~~

29 (A)(7) ~~the waters of~~ the triangular area ~~in the waters~~ at the end of the Temples Point Bishops
30 Marina main pier located at the confluence of Clubfoot and Mitchell Creeks off of the
31 Neuse River, between a point 300 feet west east of the pier at 34.90619 N, 76.76490 W,
32 and a point 300 feet east west of the pier at 34.90610 N, 76.76262 W, and a point 150 feet
33 south of the pier at 34.90571 N, 76.76377 W;

34 (B)(8) ~~the waters the portion of~~ Southwest Prong Slocum Creek, shore to shore beginning at east
35 of a line from a point on the north shore at 34.89122 N 76.92302 W to a point on the south
36 shore at 34.89102 N, 76.92304 W and extending northeast, shore to shore to a line from a

- point on the north shore at 34.89370 N, 76.92109 W to a point on the southeast shore at 34.89358 N, 76.92089 W;
- ~~(C)(9)~~ the waters within 50 yards of the Slocum Creek Boating Access Area on Slocum Creek, 99 U.S. Highway 70 W, Havelock; ~~and~~
- ~~(D)(10)~~ the waters within 50 yards of the ~~Hancock Creek~~ Percy Berry Boating Access Area on Hancock Creek, 1100 Cahoogue Creek Road, Havelock; ~~Havelock~~.
- ~~(3)(11)~~ ~~Trent Woods~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the fuel dock at Eastern Carolina Yacht Club on the Trent River at 4005 Trent Pines Drive, Trent Woods; ~~Woods~~.
- ~~(4)(12)~~ ~~Bridgeton~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Bridgeton Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 880 Wildlife Road, New Bern; ~~Bridgeton~~.
- ~~(5)(13)~~ ~~Grifton~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Maple Cypress Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 360 Maple Cypress Road, Grifton; ~~Grifton~~.
- ~~(6)(14)~~ ~~Vanceboro~~. The the waters within 50 yards of the Cow Pen Landing Boating Access Area on the Neuse River, 1199 Cow Pen Landing Road, Vanceboro; ~~Vanceboro~~.
- (15) the waters within 50 yards of the Lees Landing Boating Access Area on Upper Broad Creek, 3337 Lee Landing Road, New Bern;
- (16) the waters of Plantation Canal, shore to shore, beginning at its entrance from the Trent River at a line from a point on the northeast shore at 35.07226 N, 77.13303 W, to a point on the south shore at 35.07187 N, 77.13335 W, including the waters of the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin;
- (17) the waters of Island Lake, shore to shore, and its access waters off of the Trent River terminating at a point at 35.06508 N, 77.13600 W and at a point at 35.06653 N, 77.13716 W;
- (18) the waters shore to shore between the Trent River Railroad Bridge and the Trent River Bridge on East Front Street; and
- (19) the waters of the canal between Brice Creek and the waters known as the Rock Quarry, shore to shore, northeast of a point at 35.06743 N, 77.05857 W, and southwest of a point at 35.06760 N, 77.05802 W.
- ~~(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)(b) Placement of Markers.~~ The following shall be the designated agencies for placement of markers implementing this rule:
- (1) ~~the Board of Commissioners of Craven County for the areas designated in shall be the designated agency for placement in regulated areas indicated in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), and (F), Part (a)(2)(A); and Subparagraph (a)(3)~~ Subparagraphs (a)(1), (2), (6), (7), and (11) of this Rule;
- (2) the City of Havelock ~~for the area designated in shall be the designated agency for placement in the regulated area indicated in Part (a)(2)(B)~~ Subparagraph (a)(8) of this Rule; and
- (3) the Town of River Bend for the areas designated in Subparagraphs (a)(16) and (17) of this Rule;
- (4) the City of New Bern for the area designated in Subparagraph (a)(18) and (19) of this Rule; and

1 ~~(3)(5)~~ the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for the areas designated in ~~shall be the~~
2 ~~designated agency for placement and maintenance of markers in the regulated areas in Parts~~
3 ~~(a)(1)(C), (D), and (E), Parts (a)(2)(C) and (D), and Subparagraphs (a)(4) through (6)~~ Subparagraphs
4 (a)(3) through (5), (9), (10), and (12) through (15) of this Rule.

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

6 *Eff. August 1, 1984;*

7 *Amended Eff. December 1, 1990; October 1, 1989; June 1, 1989;*

8 *Temporary Amendment Eff. April 1, 1998;*

9 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2016; July 1, 1998;*

10 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
11 *6, 2016;*

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

15A NCAC 10F .0347 - Requested No Wake Zone
Town of New Bern
Canal off of Brices Creek, Craven County

 Requested No-Wake Zone



0 50 100
Yards



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

1. Governmental Unit: Lake Wylie Marine Commission Date: July 14 2026
Contact Name: Raymond Webber Exc Dir
Mailing Address: 10735 David Taylor Dr, Suite 230 Phone: 803-7306159
Charlotte, NC 28262 Email: jaarwebber@aol.com

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: Lake Wylie, Gaston Co, South Fork,

Popular Name (if any): Morningstar Marina, fna Harbortowne Marina

Describe Proposed Regulated Area – No-Wake Zone, Swim Area, Other:

In the Mid Channel of South Fork of the Catawba River on Lake Wylie from 50 yrd north/northeast

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:

Fueling docks, obstructed vision, public access, congested area with high traffic

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**
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717
- nowakezonecoordinator@ncwildlife.org

Signature _____

Date July 14 2026

Aldermen

James "Trey" Ferguson, III
Sharon C. Bryant
Robert V. Aster
Elainia S. White
Barbara J. Best
Dana E. Outlaw



300 Pollock Street, P.O. Box 1129
New Bern, NC 28563-1129
(252) 636-4000

Jeffrey T. Odham
Mayor
Foster Hughes
City Manager
Brenda E. Blanco
City Clerk
Kimberly A. Ostrom
Director of Finance

September 14, 2026

No Wake Zone Coordinator
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of New Bern is applying for a No-Wake-Zone for the Brices Creek Quarry.

A call for a Public Hearing for a No-Wake-Zone was approved by the Board of Aldermen on August 11, 2026. The advertisement and agenda for the August 11th meeting are attached. The Public Hearing was held on September 8, 2026. The Resolution requesting a No-Wake-Zone is also attached.

If the request for a No-Wake-Zone is approved, the City of New Bern agrees to purchase and place markers that conform to US Aids to Navigation (USATONS) standards to implement a Rule.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at (hughesf@newbernnc.gov) or by phone at 252-639-2704.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Foster Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Foster Hughes, ICMA-CM
City Manager

RESOLUTION

THAT WHEREAS, under the authority of North Carolina General Statute §75A-15, any subdivision of the State of North Carolina may at any time, after public notice, make formal application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to safe and reasonable operation of vessels on any water within its territorial limits; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Bern has given public notice of its intention to make formal application to the Wildlife Resources Commission for special rules and regulations with reference to the safe and reasonable operation of vessels on a section of Brices Creek within the territorial limits of the City of New Bern.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NEW BERN:

Section 1. That in accordance with North Carolina General Statute §75A-15, the Board of Aldermen of the City of New Bern requests the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to promulgate special rules and regulations with reference to the same and reasonable operation of vessels on a portion of the waters of Brices Creek located in New Bern, North Carolina, the pertinent substance of which proposed regulations is as follows:

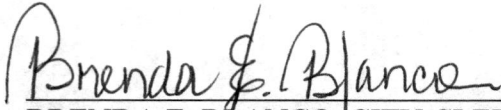
To establish a "No Wake Zone" to ensure the safe and reasonable operation of vessels along a portion of Brices Creek identified as follows: Beginning at a point on the eastern side of Brices Creek, said point being the southwesternmost corner of the real property owned by Stillwater Harbour Yacht Owners Association (Parcel No. 7-103-A-00G), being more particularly described in the deed recorded in Deed Book 3230 at Page 258 in the Craven County Registry, and running thence from said point of beginning in a eastwardly direction along and with the southern line of such property approximately 180 feet to a point, being the southeasternmost corner of said property.

Section 2. That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to sign all documents and applications necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey T. Odham", written over a horizontal line.

JEFFREY T. ODHAM, MAYOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda E. Blanco", written over a horizontal line.

BRENDA E. BLANCO, CITY CLERK



North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Form 1: No-Wake Zone Request

- Name of organization/entity: Gaston County
- Primary contact information: Brad Mills 704-413-0856
- Location of requested no-wake zone:
 - Body of water and County: Lake Wylie, Gaston County
 - Location: Morningstar Marina, 220 Commodore Ct, Belmont
 - Popular name of area, if any: N/A
 - Width of No-Wake Zone: Narrowest Point: 300ft Widest Point: 420ft
 - Brief Description of area (example: bridge overpass, obstructed views, Intracoastal Waterway; etc.)
Fuel pump, vessel sewage pump-out, and docking slips.

No Wake Zone Request

Signature of Requester and Date of Contact*



Marina

Marina Development when new construction is required

This is a recently renovated fuel dock. The fuel dock is located on a floating dock structure, and the Marina is unable to install a permanent structure due to a contract with Duke Energy. No wake-zone buoys placed the furthest South and North of the marina will mitigate hazards to boaters and the fuel dock. Those buoys will be 50 yards from the marina. Additionally, there will need to be two no wake-zones buoys on the opposite side of the marina's banks that run perpendicular to make the channel in that area a no-wake zone.

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

YES ☐

NO ☐

When development is required, the developer must ensure that the proposed development is in compliance with the applicable regulations. The developer must also ensure that the proposed development is in compliance with the applicable regulations. The developer must also ensure that the proposed development is in compliance with the applicable regulations.



Map of North Carolina with a box highlighting the study area in the western part of the state.

Map of North Carolina with a box highlighting the study area in the western part of the state.

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: Morningstar Marina

☐ 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: Charlotte, NC 28262

Number of Docks: _____

☐ OTHER (list and describe)

Map of North Carolina with a box highlighting the study area in the western part of the state.

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

☐ OBSTRUCTIONS (Identify) N/A

Can obstructions be removed? ☐ YES ☐ NO

☒ NARROW CHANNEL (give approximate width) 480 feet

☐ SHALLOW WATER (give average depth) N/A





EXHIBIT H

October 1, 2026



Proposed Repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .00351 New Bern Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

15A NCAC 10F .0351 New Bern is proposed for repeal. The single no-wake zones listed in the current rule will be moved to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County. The City of New Bern is fully located within Craven County; therefore, it is unnecessary and confusing to have a separate rule just for this single municipality. By combining all the no-wake zones in Craven County into the Craven County rule, we make it easier for boaters to reference the full list of no-wake zones in their area.

The no-wake zone in the current New Bern rule will be retained in the Craven County rule.

15A NCAC 10F .0351 NEW BERN

1 15A NCAC 10F .0351 is proposed for repeal as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0351 NEW BERN**

4 ~~(a) Regulated Area. This Rule shall apply to that part of the Trent River that is located within the city limits of New~~
5 ~~Bern in Craven County.~~

6 ~~(b) Speed Limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed on the Trent River between the Trent~~
7 ~~River Railroad Bridge and the Trent River Bridge on East Front Street.~~

8 ~~(c) Placement of Markers. The Board of Alderman of the City of New Bern shall be the designated agency for~~
9 ~~placement of the markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the~~
10 ~~United States Army Corps of Engineers.~~

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

13 *Eff. October 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. October 1, 2018.*

EXHIBIT I

October 1, 2026



Proposed Repeal of 15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

15A NCAC 10F .0344 Town of River Bend is proposed for repeal. The two no-wake zones listed in the current rule will be moved to 15A NCAC 10F .0347 Craven County. The Town of River Bend is fully located within Craven County; therefore, it is unnecessary and confusing to have a separate rule just for this single municipality. By combining all the no-wake zones in Craven County into the Craven County rule, we make it easier for boaters to reference the full list of no-wake zones in their area.

All no-wake zones in the current Town of River Bend rule will be retained in the Craven County rule.

15A NCAC 10F .0344 TOWN OF RIVER BEND

1 15A NCAC 10F .0344 is proposed for repeal as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0344 TOWN OF RIVER BEND**

4 ~~(a) Regulated Areas. This Rule shall apply to the following waters located in the Town of River Bend in Craven~~
5 ~~County:~~

6 ~~(1) the waters of Plantation Canal shore to shore, beginning at its entrance from the Trent River at a line~~
7 ~~from a point on the northeast shore at 35.07226 N, 77.13303 W, to a point on the south shore at~~
8 ~~35.07187 N, 77.13335 W, and including the waters of the River Bend Yacht Club Marina Basin;~~
9 ~~and~~

10 ~~(2) the waters of Island Lake shore to shore, and its access waters off of the Trent River beginning at~~
11 ~~points at 35.06508 N, 77.13600 W and at 35.06653 N, 77.13716 W.~~

12 ~~(b) Speed limit. No person shall operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed within any of the regulated areas~~
13 ~~described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.~~

14 ~~(c) Placement of Markers. The Town Council of the Town of River Bend shall be the designated agency for placement~~
15 ~~of markers implementing this Rule, subject to the approval of the United States Coast Guard and the United States~~
16 ~~Army Corps of Engineers.~~

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

19 *Eff. June 1, 1983;*

20 *Amended Eff. December 1, 1985;*

21 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
22 *6, 2016;*

23 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2018.*

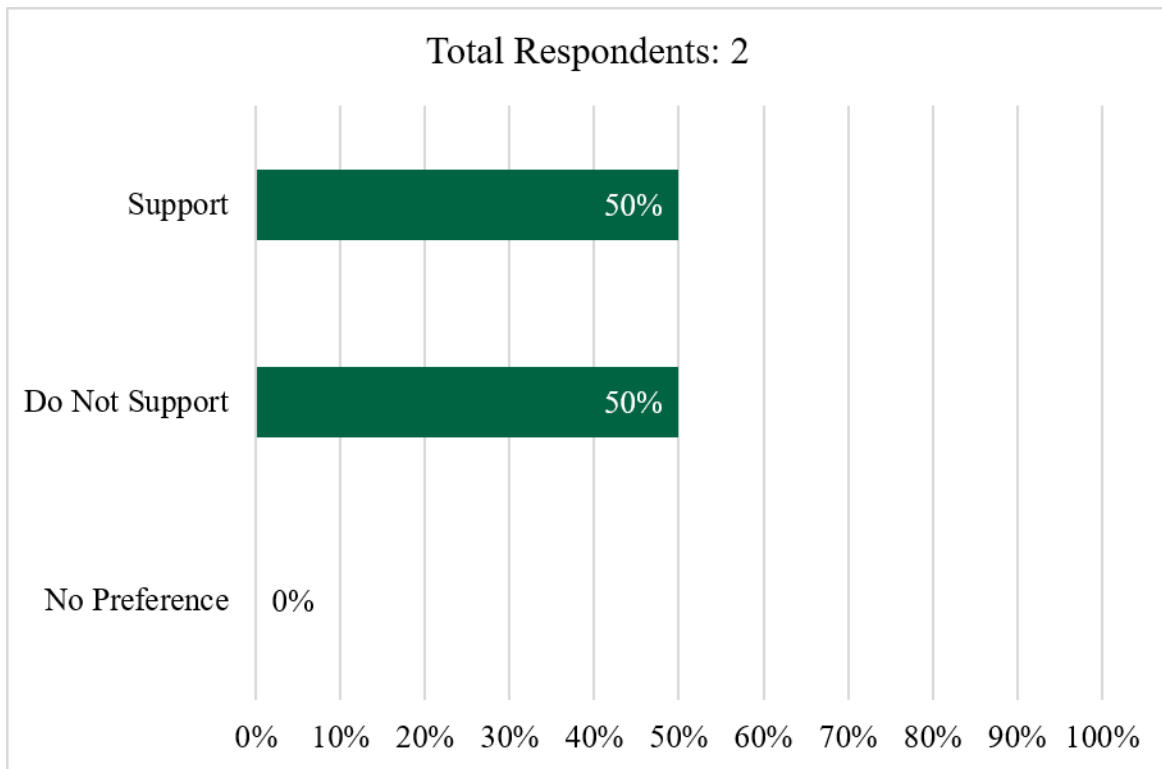
EXHIBIT J-1

October 1, 2026



Summary of Public Comments on 15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County

One public hearing was held on September 3, 2026, with no attendees.



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	0	0	0	0	1
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	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

EXHIBIT J-2

October 1, 2026



Temporary Amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0303 Beaufort County Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

The amendments to 10F .0303 expand the no-wake zone in the waters of Blount Creek in Beaufort County, 140 yards south-southeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge on Mouth of the Creek Road.

The NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has contracted for the replacement and realignment of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge. The new permanent bridge, along with a temporary construction bridge, will be built just south of the current bridge. Once complete, the existing bridge will be demolished.

In-water work on the replacement bridge began on July 1, 2026, and involves pile driving operations where personnel will be rigging, standing, and setting piles in the hammer leads on a floating work platform, all of which are difficult and dangerous tasks, but even more so on an oscillating platform.

Vessels moving under and around the bridge above no-wake speed endanger the safety of operators on the work platforms. Platform stability is critical to ensure that operators are not thrown from the platform, thrown into moving equipment, or crushed under falling equipment. A stable platform is critical to ensure operator safety.

Additionally, NCDOT inspection staff will be on the water conducting structural checks and vessels moving above no-wake speed may negatively affect their assessment, or worst case, send them overboard. Both the contractor and NCDOT are required under permit to not disturb the bottom of the waterway, engineering controls and field staff can only plan for foreseeable events (tide, storms, etc.), not for the variable wake that any given boat can cast.

The Board of Commissioners of Beaufort County is the designated agency for this no-wake zone; however, NCDOT and their contractor will be responsible for placing regulatory markers under this temporary rule. An identical emergency rule was adopted at the July Commission meeting and went into effect August 10, 2026. A permanent amendment to this no-wake zone is expected to be implemented once the existing bridge is demolished.

15A NCAC 10F .0303 BEAUFORT COUNTY

1 15A NCAC 10F .0303 is amended under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10F .0303 BEAUFORT COUNTY**

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

5 (1) Aurora.

6 (A) the waters within 50 yards of Smith Creek Boating Access Area on Smith Creek, 3484 NC
7 Highway 33 E; and

8 (B) the waters within 50 yards of Aurora Boating Access Area on South Creek, 1 Main Street.

9 (2) Belhaven.

10 (A) the waters within 50 yards of Belhaven Boating Access Area on Pantego Creek, 135 West
11 Water Street; and

12 (B) the waters within 50 yards of Wrights Creek Boating Access Area on Pungo Creek, 1922
13 Wilkins Road.

14 (3) Chocowinity.

15 (A) the portion of Blounts Creek north of a line ~~35~~ 175 yards south-southeast of the Mouth of
16 the Creek Bridge from a point on the east shore at 35.43187 N, 76.96823 W ~~35.43333 N,~~
17 ~~76.96985 W~~ to a point on the west shore at 35.43212 N, 76.97193 W ~~35.43267 N, 76.97196~~
18 ~~W~~ and south of a line 350 yards north-northeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge from a
19 point on the east shore at 35.43553 N, 76.96962 W to a point on the west shore at 35.43679
20 N, 76.97011 W;

21 (B) the canals at the eastern end of the peninsula between Chocowinity Bay and the Pamlico
22 River at Fork Point and Whichard Beach, beginning at the canal entrance off Chocowinity
23 Bay at a point a 35.50296 N, 77.03043 W and beginning at the canal entrance off the
24 Pamlico River at a point at 35.50340 N, 77.02364 W; and

25 (C) Blounts Creek south of a line 100 yards north of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area
26 at 350 Crisp Landing Road, from a point on the east shore at 35.40846 N, 76.96091 W to
27 a point on the west shore at 35.40834 N, 76.96355 W, and north of a line 100 yards south
28 of Cotton Patch Landing, from a point on the east shore at 35.40211 N, 76.96573 W to a
29 point on the west shore at 35.40231 N, 76.96702 W.

30 (4) Washington.

31 (A) the portion of Broad Creek south of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.49472 N,
32 76.95693 W to a point on the west shore at 35.49477 N, 76.96014 W and north of a line
33 from a point on the east shore at 35.48894 N, 76.95052 W to a point on the west shore at
34 35.48660 N, 76.95879 W;

35 (B) the waters within 50 yards of Masons Landing Boating Access Area on Tranters Creek,
36 625 Clarks Neck Road; and

1 (C) the waters within 50 yards of Havens Garden Boating Access Area on Runyon Creek, 1053
2 East Main Street.

3 (5) the navigable portion of Nevil Creek extending upstream from its mouth at the Pamlico River;

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

6 (c) Placement of Markers.

7 (1) the Board of Commissioners of Beaufort County shall be the designated agency implementing the
8 portion of Parts (a)(3)(C) south of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area; and Parts (a)(2)(A) and
9 (B), (a)(3)(A) and (B), and (a)(5) of this Rule;

10 (2) the City of Washington shall be the designated agency implementing Parts (a)(4)(A) through
11 (a)(4)(C) of this Rule; and

12 (3) the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall be the designated agency implementing
13 the portion of Part (a)(3)(C), the waters of Blounts Creek shore to shore from 100 yards north of the
14 Blounts Creek Boating Access Area to 100 yards south of the Boating Access Area; and Parts
15 (a)(1)(A) and (B) of this Rule.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 75A-3; 75A-15;*

18 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

19 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2013; September 1, 2010; June 1, 1998; April 1, 1997; June 1, 1989;*
20 *March 1, 1987; April 1, 1986; March 4, 1979;*

21 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
22 *6, 2016;*

23 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2026; May 1, 2019; October 1, 2018; November 1, ~~2017~~, 2017;*

24 *Emergency Amendment Effective August 10, ~~2026~~, 2026;*

25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 10, 2026.*
26

EXHIBIT K-1

October 1, 2026



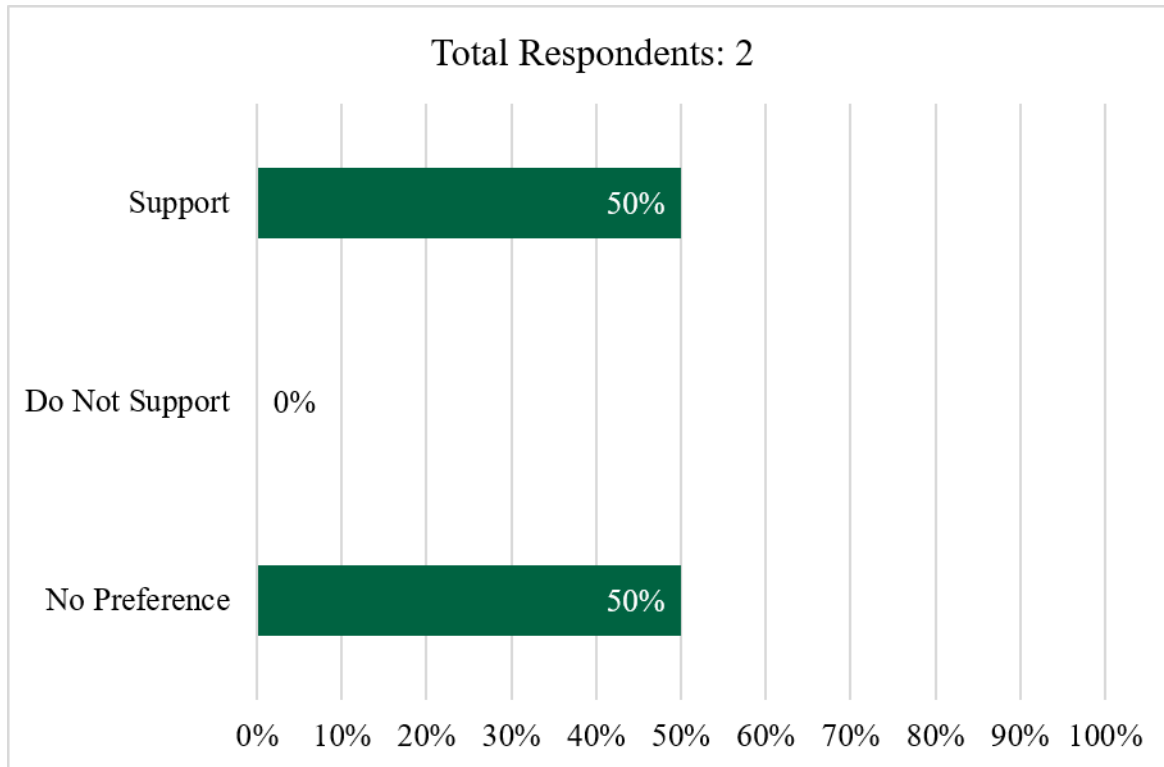
Summary of Public Comments on Amendments to Inland Fisheries Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle

Public hearings were held on August 20th & 25th, 2026, with a combined attendance of 9 people.

F1. Largemouth Bass – Lake Holt

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

Remove the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass less than or equal to 14 inches and create a creel limit of 5 fish per day for Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches at Lake Holt.

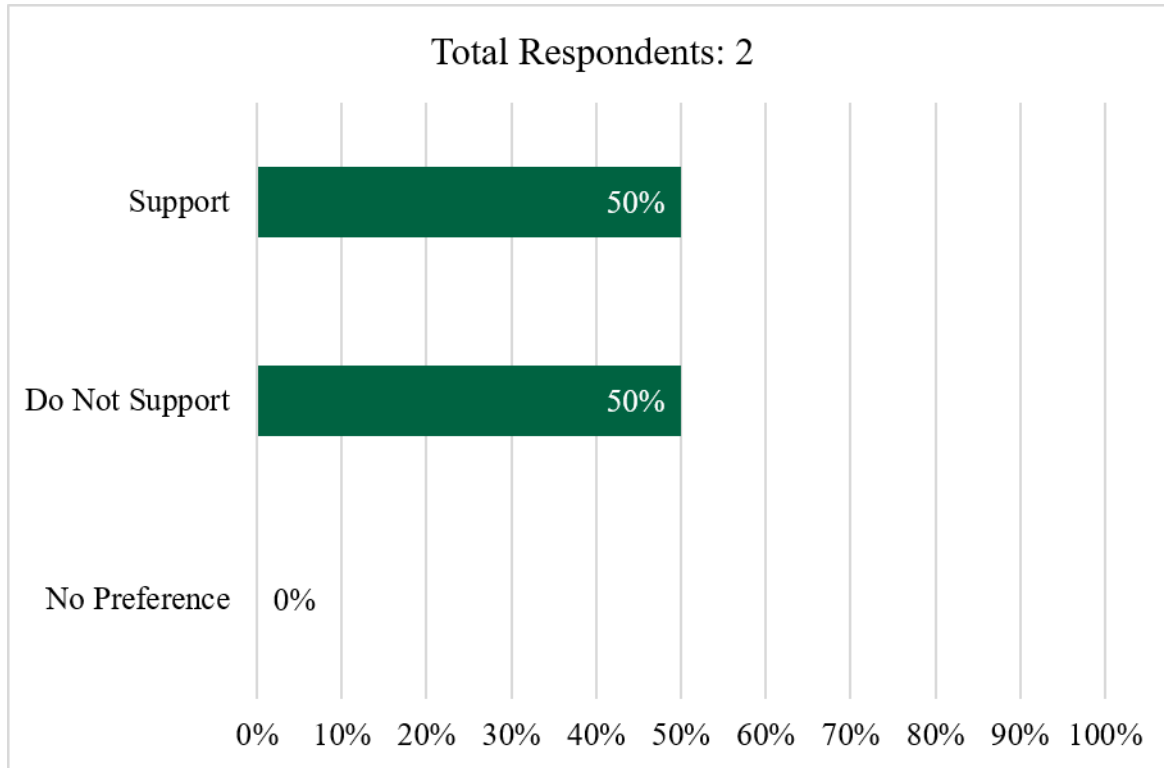


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

F2. Largemouth Bass – Cane Creek (Union Co.)

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass in Cane Creek. The statewide size restriction will apply where there is no minimum size limit but only two bass may be less than 14 inches.

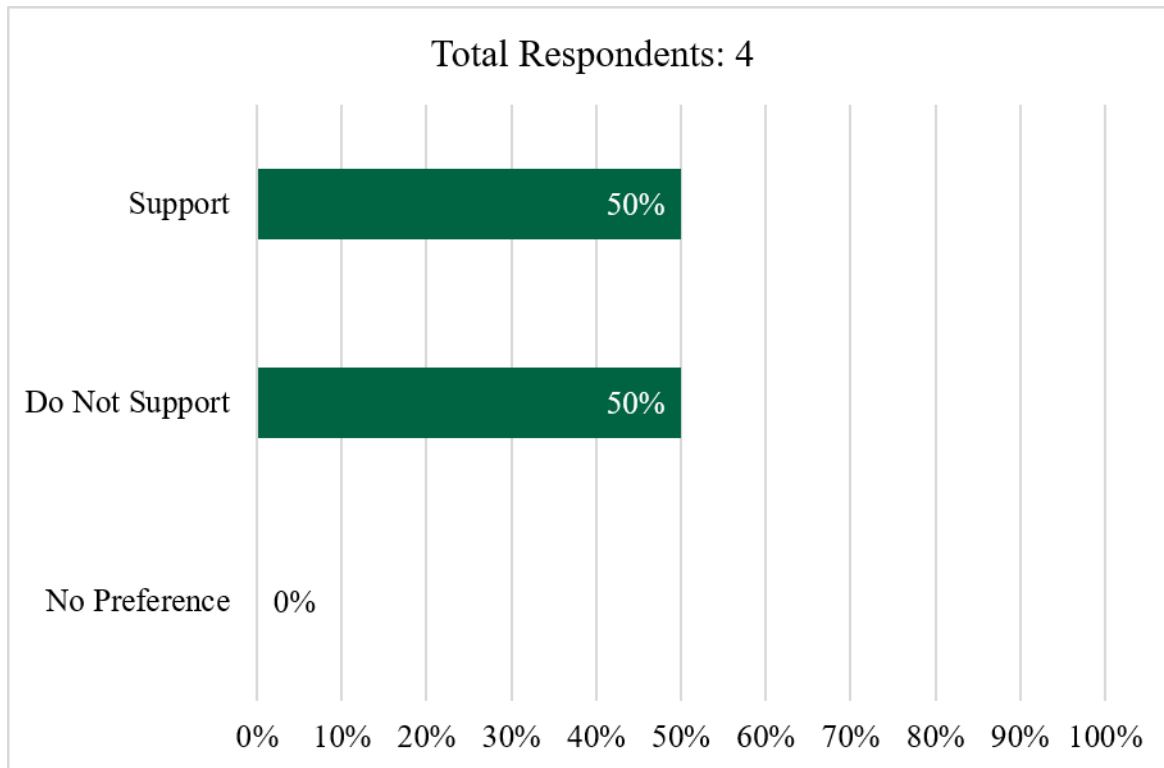


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2

F3. Striped Bass & Hybrids – Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

Establish a Striped Bass harvest season from April 1 to April 30 in the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River and its tributaries and the Neuse River and its tributaries. The daily creel limit will be one fish in aggregate and possession of striped bass or striped bass hybrids less than 18 inches or between 22 and 27 inches in length will be unlawful.

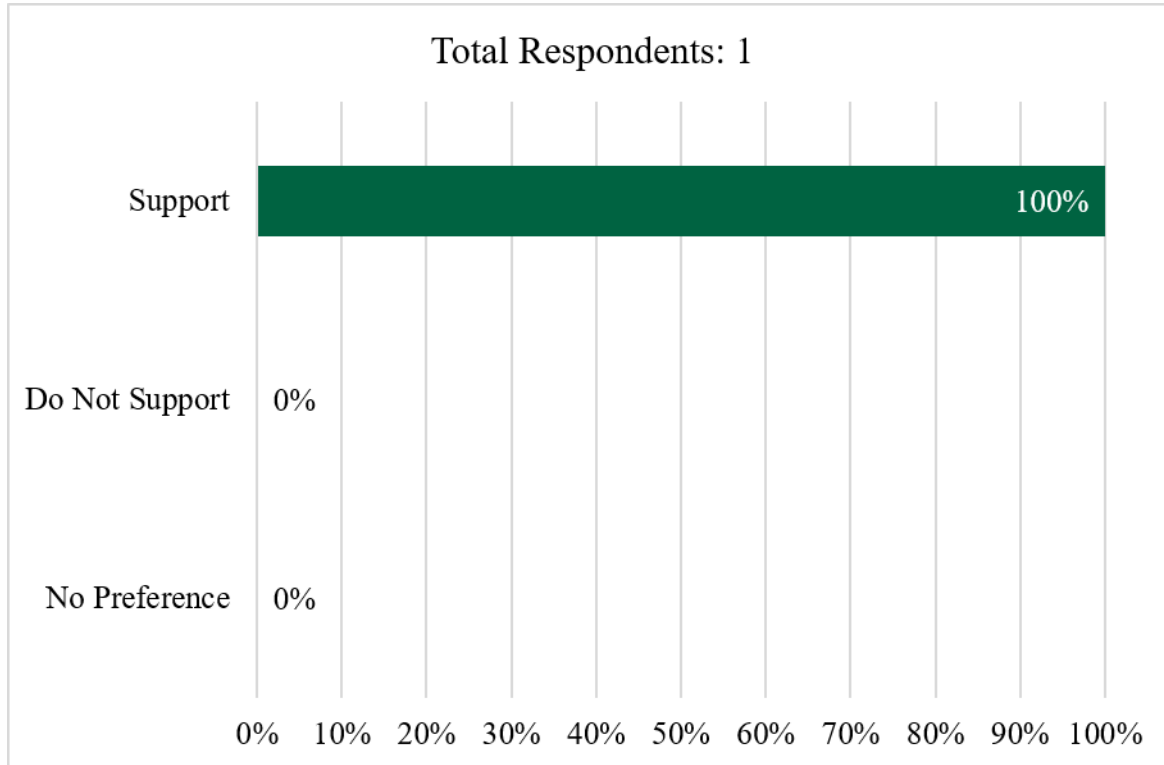


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

F4. Striped Bass & Hybrids – Lake Townsend

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

Increase the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids in Lake Townsend from 16 inches to 20 inches.

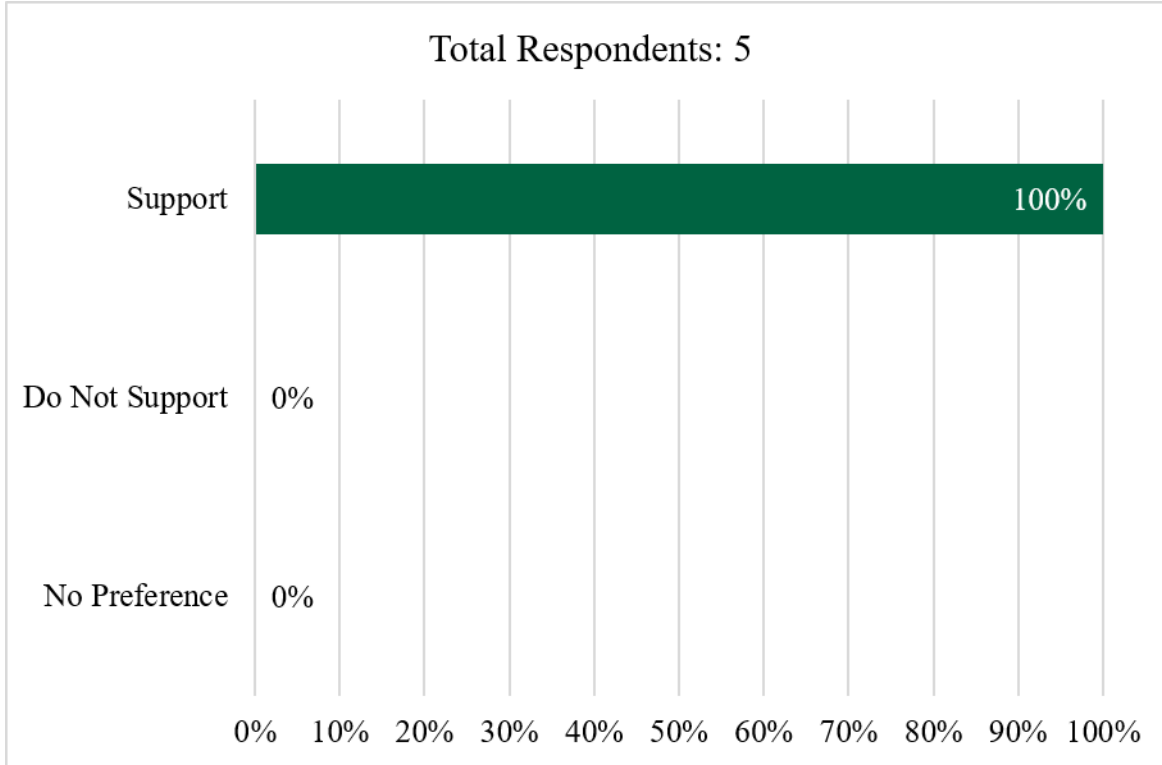


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

F5. Bluefish – Creel Limit

15A NCAC 10C .0414 BLUEFISH

Increase the daily creel limit from 3 fish to 5 fish.

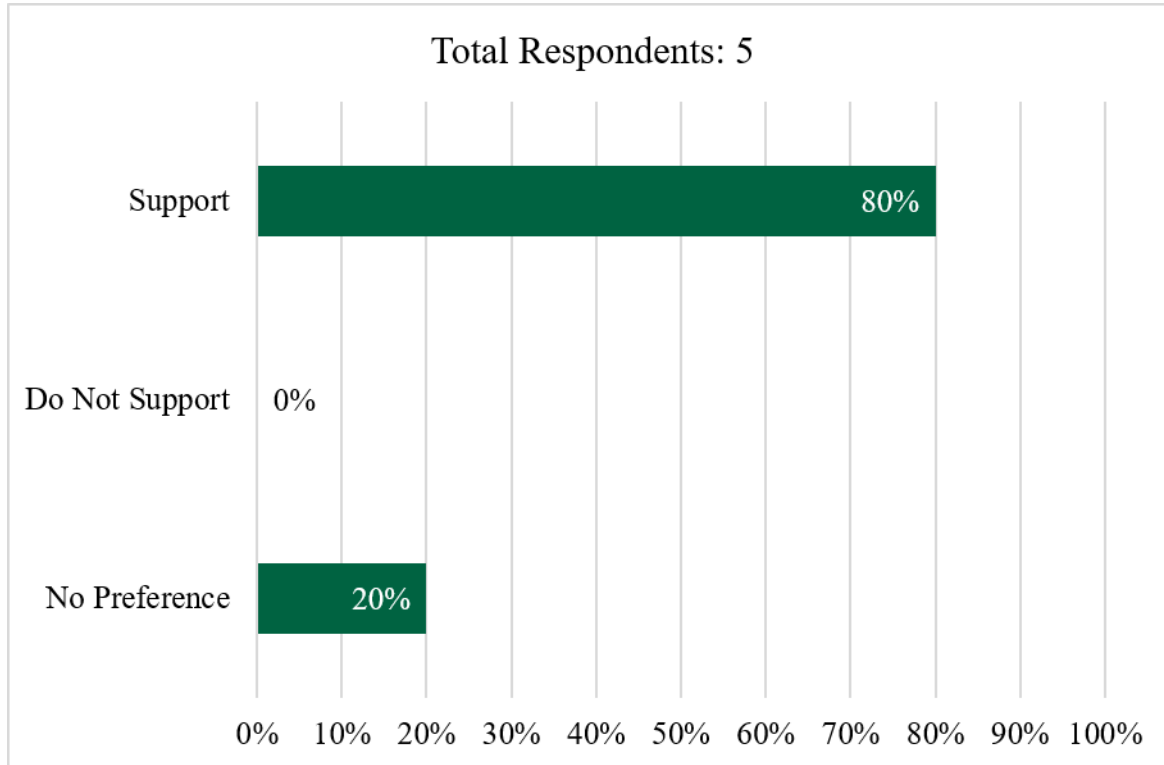


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5

F6. Sheepshead – Size and Creel Limit

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD

Reduce the daily creel limit from 10 fish to 5 fish and increase the minimum size from 10 inches to 14 inches.



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

EXHIBIT K-2

October 1, 2026



Amendments to Inland Fisheries Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

F1. Largemouth Bass – Lake Holt

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

EXPLANATION

Remove the daily creel limit for Largemouth Bass less than or equal to 14 inches and create a creel limit of 5 fish per day for Largemouth Bass greater than 14 inches at Lake Holt.

JUSTIFICATION

Largemouth Bass are overpopulated at Lake Holt and the population has shown stunted growth rates. Harvest of smaller fish will allow for increased growth in the Largemouth Bass remaining in the lake.

F2. Largemouth Bass – Cane Creek (Union Co.)

15A NCAC 10C .0305 LARGEMOUTH BASS

EXPLANATION

Remove the 16-inch minimum size limit for Largemouth Bass in Cane Creek. The statewide size restriction will apply where there is no minimum size limit but only two bass may be less than 14 inches.

JUSTIFICATION

The minimum size limit in the creek has led to smaller sized Largemouth Bass and decreased catch rates of legal-size fish. The smaller fish need to be removed from the population to allow for increased growth in the fish remaining in the creek.

F3. Striped Bass & Hybrids – Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

EXPLANATION

Establish a Striped Bass harvest season from April 1 to April 30 in the inland waters of the Tar-Pamlico River and its tributaries and the Neuse River and its tributaries. The daily creel limit will be one fish in aggregate and possession of striped bass or striped bass hybrids less than 18 inches or between 22 and 27 inches in length will be unlawful.

JUSTIFICATION

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

*NOTE: This proposed permanent rule mirrors and will replace the current temporary rule.

F4. Striped Bass & Hybrids – Lake Townsend

15A NCAC 10C .0314 STRIPED BASS

EXPLANATION

Increase the minimum size limit for Striped Bass and its hybrids in Lake Townsend from 16 inches to 20 inches.

JUSTIFICATION

Striped Bass are no longer being stocked in Lake Townsend and management for the species has stopped because striped bass survival has been poor for many years even with stocking efforts. This lake will be managed with statewide size and creel limits.

F5. Bluefish – Creel Limit

15A NCAC 10C .0414 BLUEFISH

EXPLANATION

Increase the daily creel limit from 3 fish to 5 fish.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposed change follows the recommendations outlined by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for recreational bluefish harvest.

The [2025 management track assessment](#) for bluefish concluded that overfishing was not occurring, and while the stock was not overfished, it has not yet fully rebuilt to the target

reference point. Spawning stock biomass was estimated to be about 89% of the biomass target. The stock is projected to be rebuilt in 2025. The Council and Board adopted an updated commercial quota and recreational harvest limit that represent an increase of approximately 50% for the commercial quota and 40% for the recreational harvest limit. Recreational limits were modified with the recreational bag limit increasing from 3 fish to 5 fish.

F6. Sheepshead – Size and Creel Limit

15A NCAC 10C .0425 SHEEPSHEAD

EXPLANATION

Reduce the daily creel limit from 10 fish to 5 fish and increase the minimum size from 10 inches to 14 inches.

JUSTIFICATION

The Division of Marine Fisheries issued a proclamation modifying sheepshead size and creel limits for recreational and commercial harvest in joint and coastal fishing waters. The proposed change decreases the daily creel limit from 10 fish to 5 fish and increases the minimum size from 10 inches to 14 inches in Inland Fishing Waters and Joint Fishing Waters (hook-and-line) to be consistent with the DMF proclamation.

[DMF Sheepshead Management Issue Paper](#): Due to increases in fishing pressure, particularly on juvenile fish, and a decline in older fish observed in recent years, the Division implemented management changes in March 2026 for sheepshead.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0305 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 203 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, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2024; March 15, 2023; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0314 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 213 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

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.
Temporary Amendment Eff. March 6, ~~2026~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

1 15A NCAC 10C .0414 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 214 as follows:

2
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.

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. March 6, ~~2026~~, 2026;*

13 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10C .0425 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 214 as follows:

2
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~~ 2026;*

13 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.*

EXHIBIT L-1

October 1, 2026



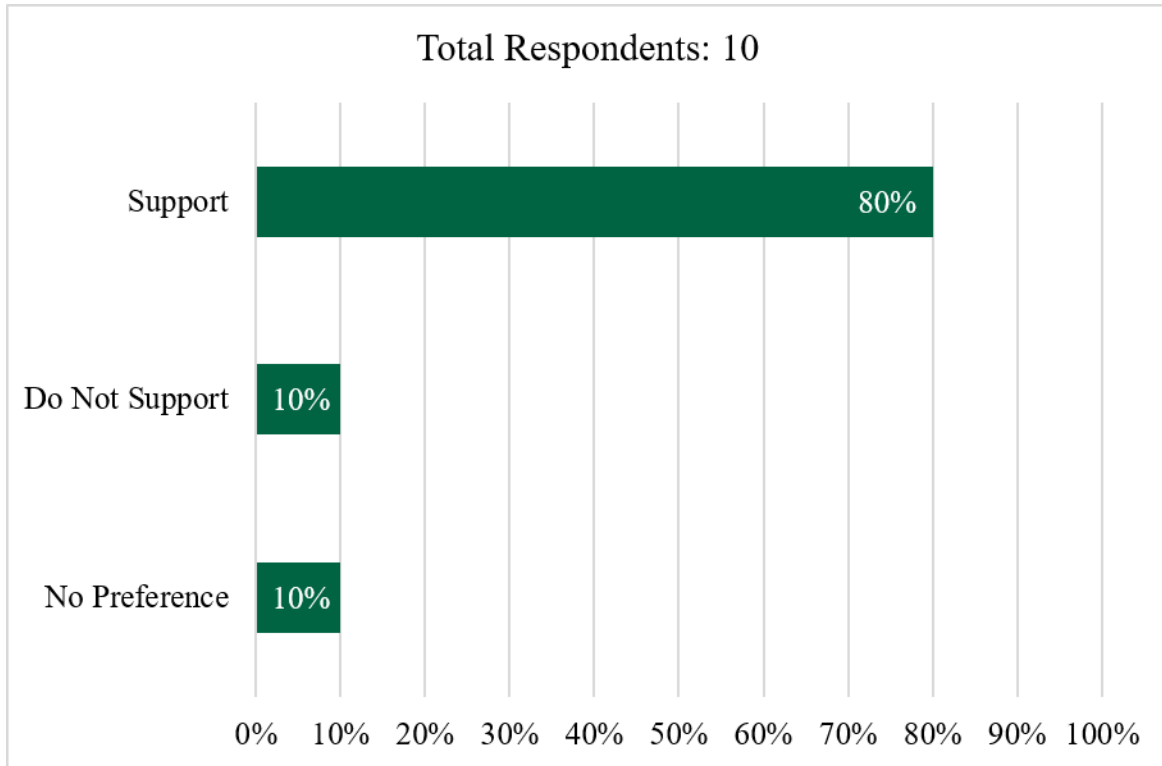
Summary of Public Comments on Amendments to Wildlife Management Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle

Public hearings were held on August 20th & 25th, 2026, with a combined attendance of 9 people.

W1. Wildlife Collectors – Possession Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS

Specify that a person may not possess more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species (which would limit them to 4 TOTAL native reptiles in their possession), without a license.

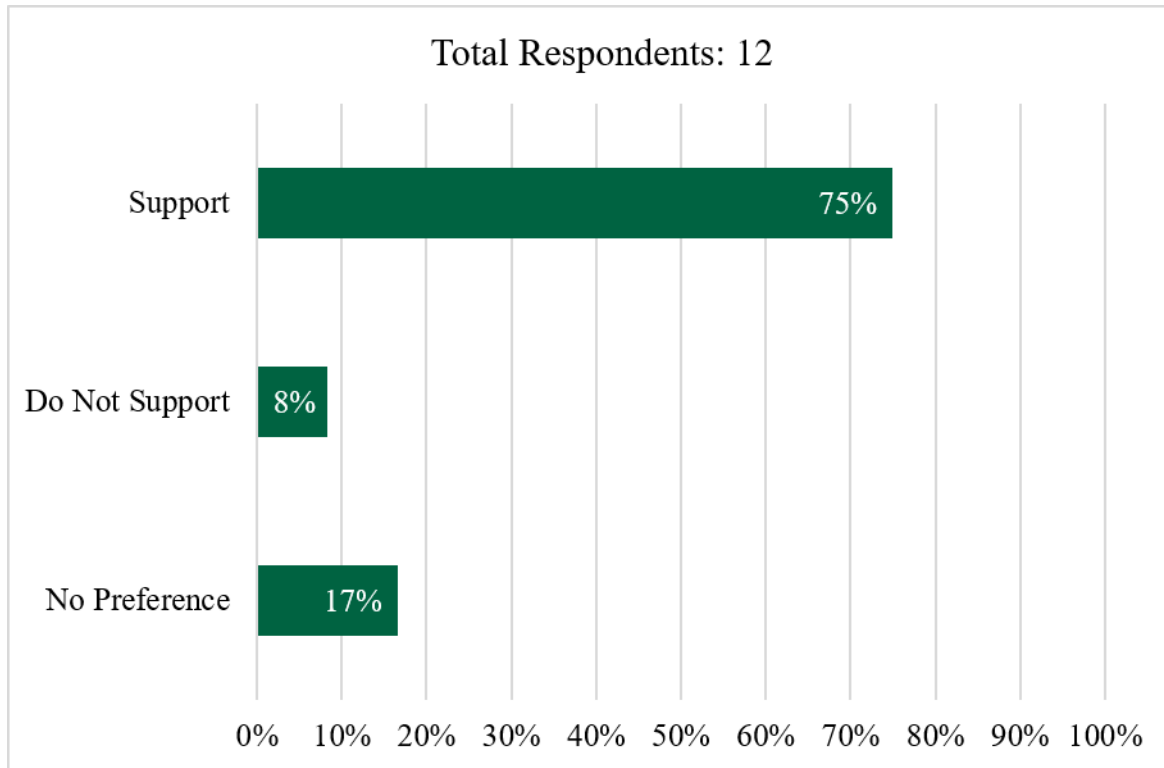


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	8
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	1	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	10

W2. White-Tailed Deer – Urban Season

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

Modify the Urban Season for deer so municipalities do not have to annually opt into the season. Municipalities only need to enroll once and they will remain in the program until they contact the agency to opt out. Additionally, municipalities would not be required to submit a map.

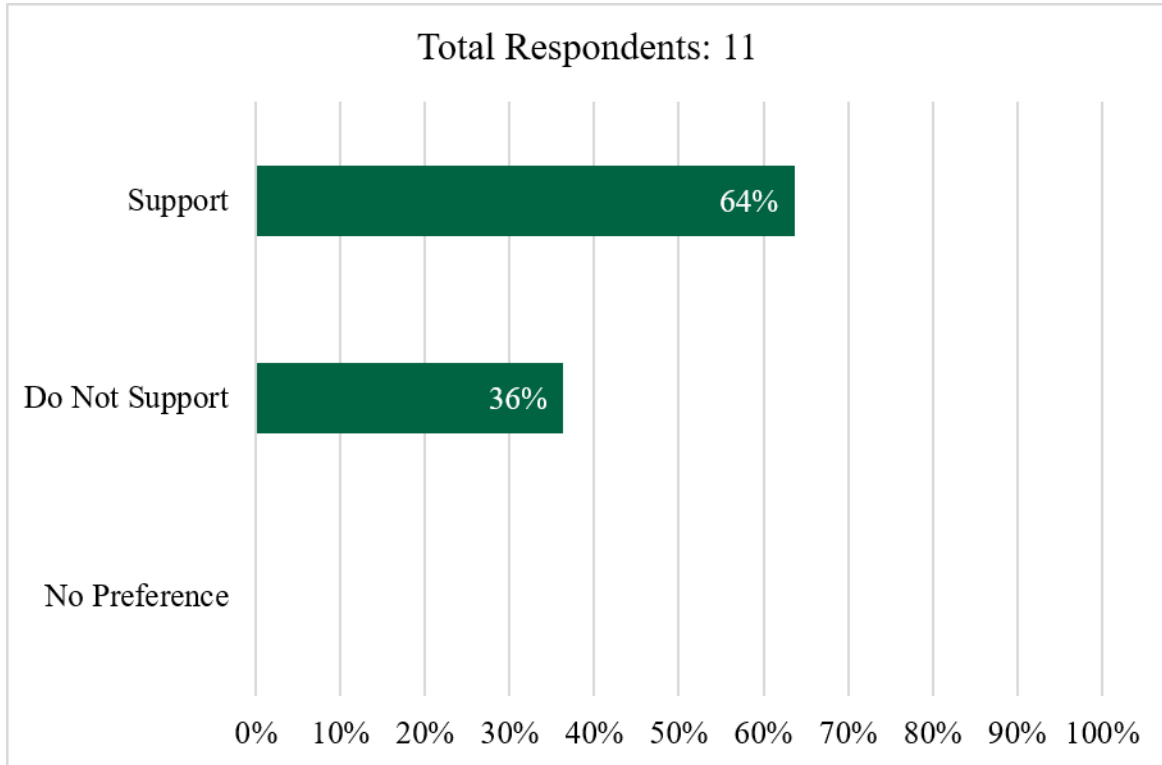


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	0	9
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	12

W3. Raccoon – Bag Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

Remove the daily bag limit for raccoon by means of hunting.

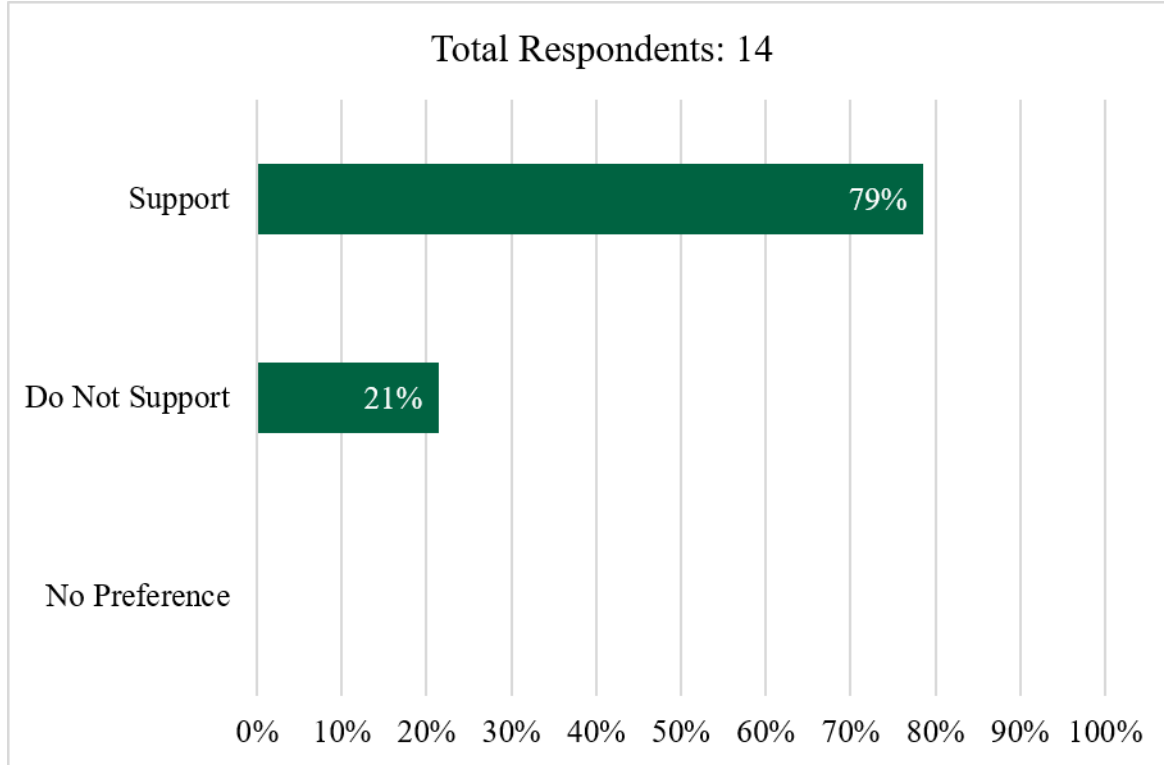


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	7
Do Not Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	11

W4. Squirrels – Season

15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

Open the fall gray and red squirrel season on the Saturday on or nearest October 1st.

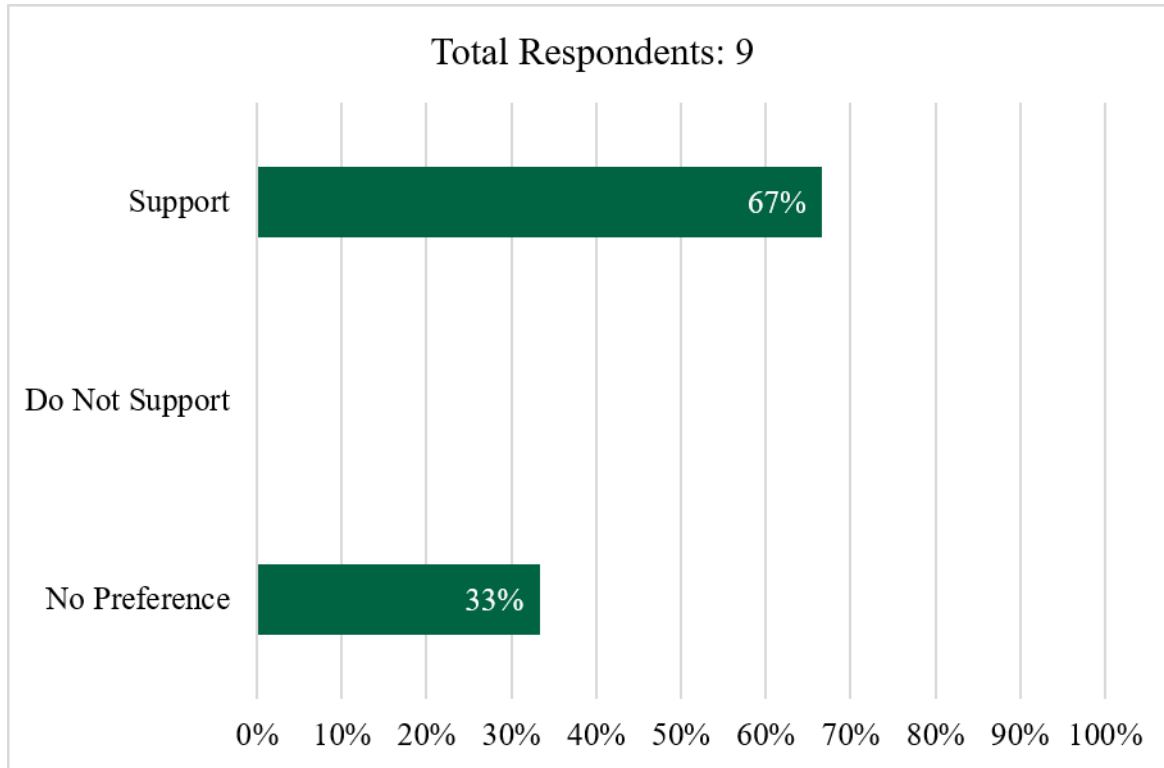


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	11
Do Not Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	0	0	14

W5. Red and Gray Foxes – Season and Bag Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)

Clarify that there are daily and season bag limits to the firearm fox season established by G.S. 113-291.4A. Match fox seasons established in state law (i.e., former G.S. 113-111 as specified by G.S. 113-133.1). Remove language from rule that creates an archery season on foxes east of I-77.



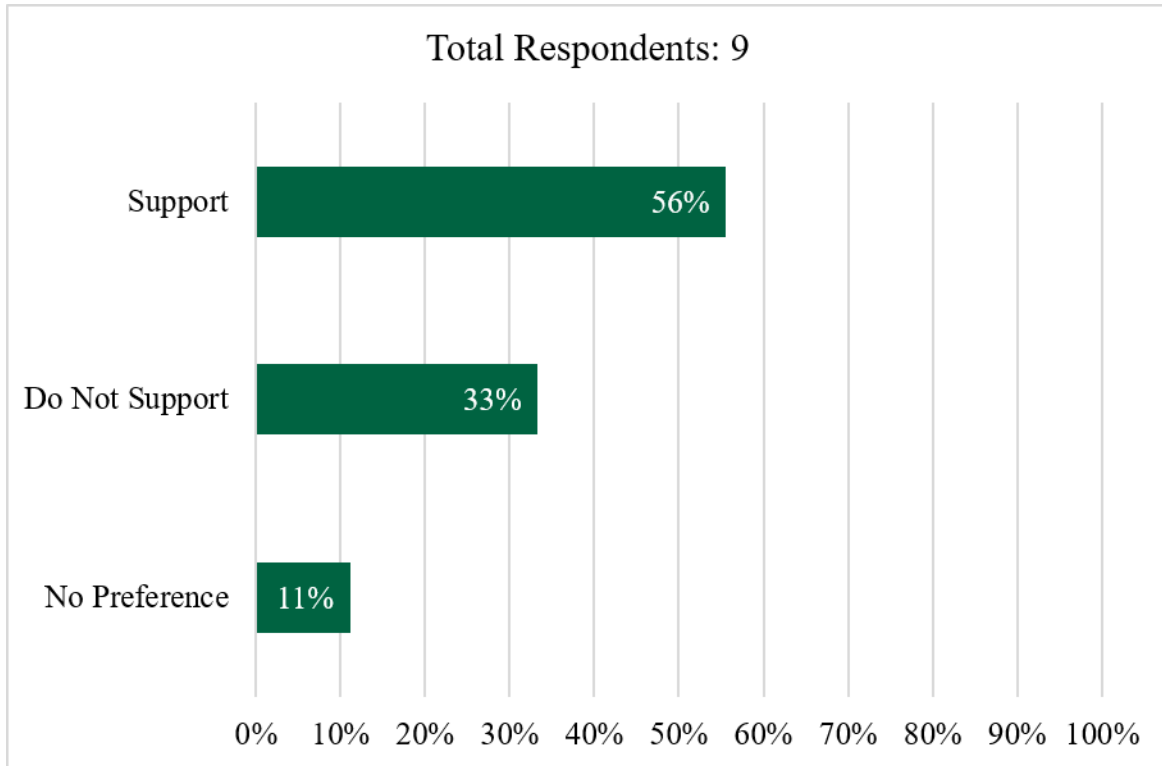
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Total	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	9

W6. Coyote & Feral Swine – Artificial Light

15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE

15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE

Prohibit shining of artificial light from a public road or public road right of way in search of coyotes or feral swine from any motorized conveyance while in possession of a weapon.



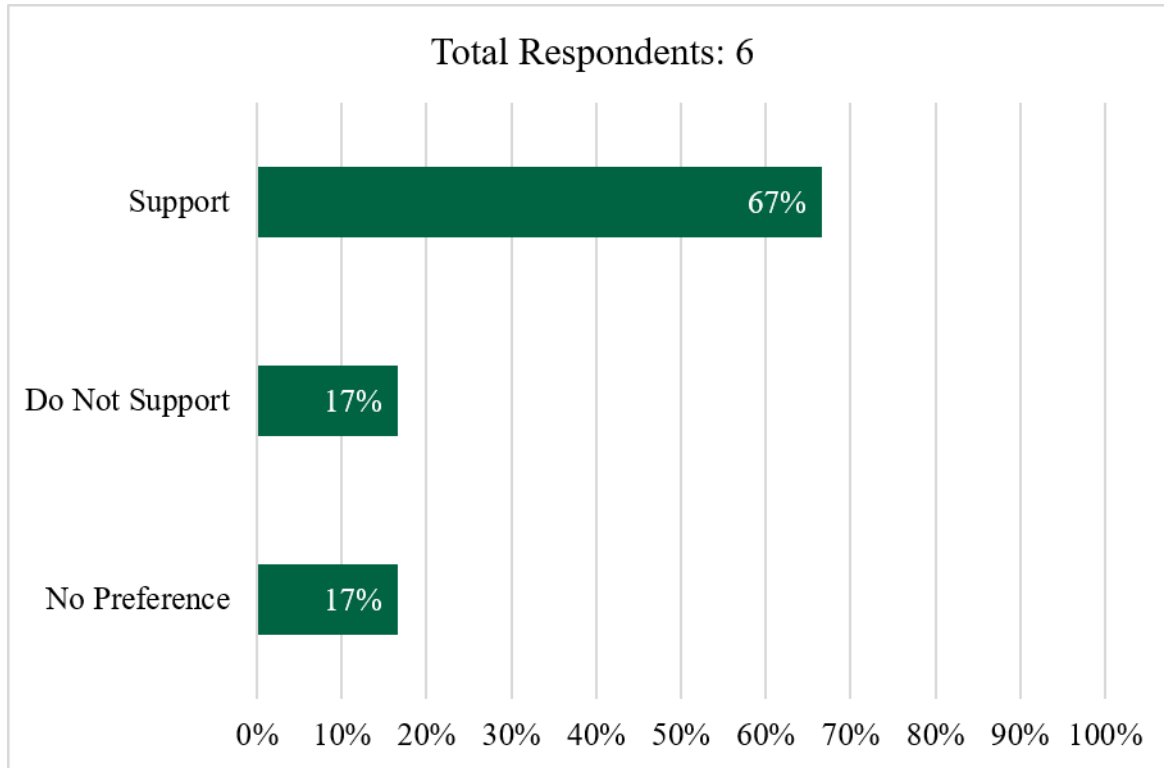
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	9

W7. Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas – Sampson County

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS

Add Sampson County to the CWD Management Area Rule and remove it from the White-Tailed Deer Rule.

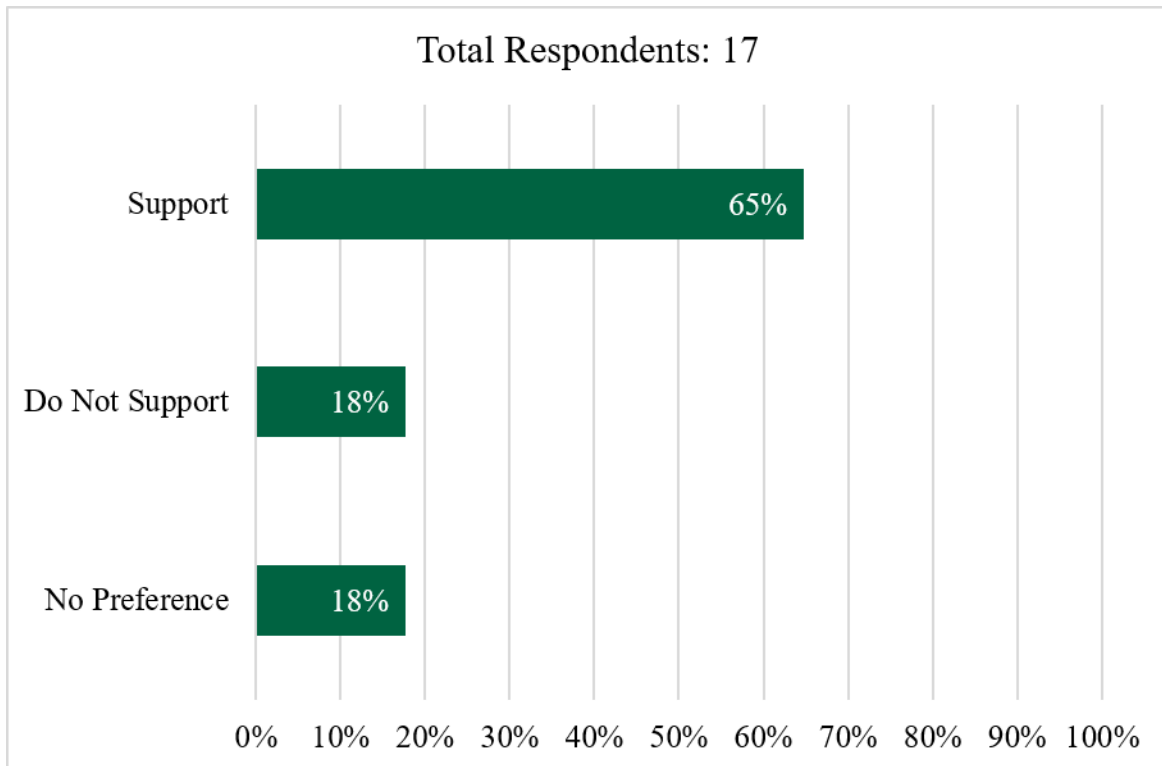


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	6

W8. Designated Bear Management Areas – Running Dogs

15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS

Change the dates of the restriction on dogs running unleashed on Designated Bear Management Areas. This change will ensure permitted bear hunters can legally hunt with dogs on these areas beginning on the season start date for the Mountain Bear Management Unit (i.e., Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9th; applies to game lands and private land).

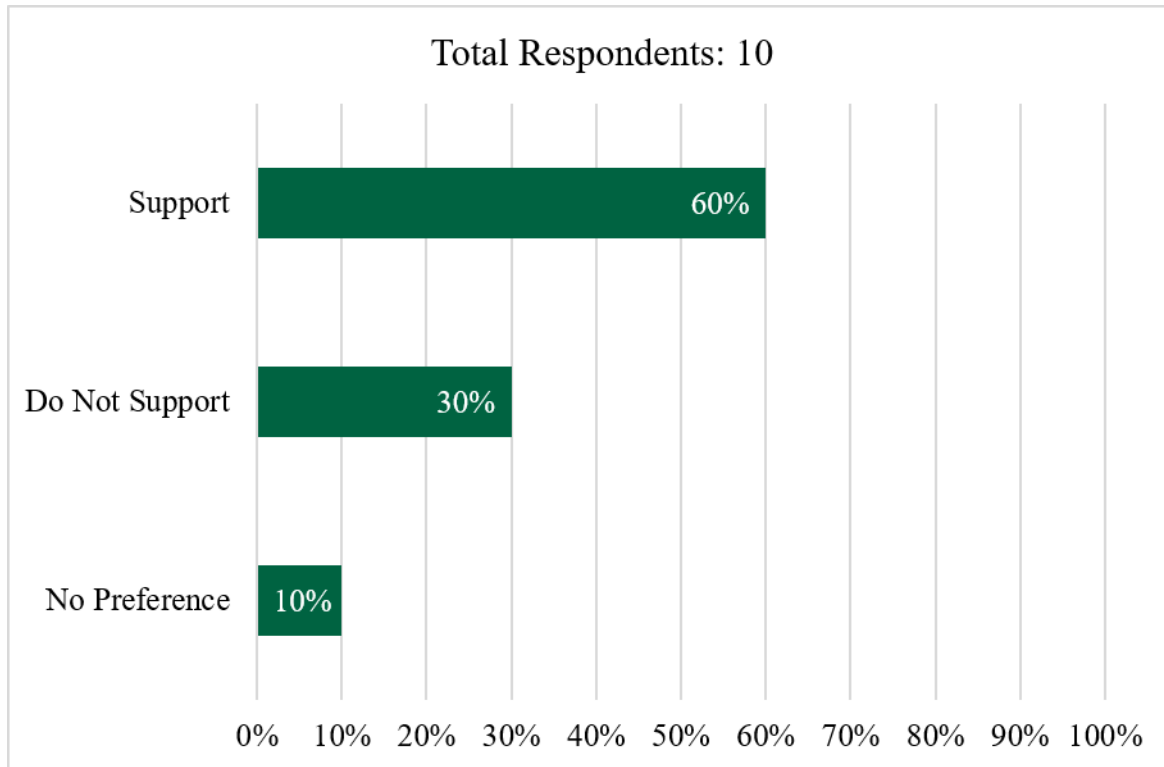


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	11
Do Not Support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
No Preference	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total	1	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	17

W9. Taking Raptors – Species and Dates

15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS

Change the dates that nestling raptors may be taken from the wild from May 1 - June 30 to January 1 - July 31 and allow American Kestrels and Great Horned Owls nestlings to be taken.



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

EXHIBIT L-2

October 1, 2026



Amendments to Wildlife Management Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

W1. Wildlife Collectors – Possession Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS

EXPLANATION

Specify that a person may not possess more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species (which would limit them to 4 TOTAL native reptiles in their possession), without a license.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposed change improves clarity and reduces uncertainty regarding the number of reptiles allowed to be possessed without a Wildlife Collection License. Previously the Rule could either be interpreted as four reptiles in aggregate or four reptiles of any one species with an undefined number of reptiles in total. The change clarifies that only a total of four reptiles, regardless of species, may be possessed without a license.

W2. White-Tailed Deer – Urban Season

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

EXPLANATION

Modify the Urban Season for deer so municipalities do not have to annually opt into the season. Municipalities only need to enroll once and they will remain in the program until they contact the agency to opt out. Additionally, municipalities would not be required to submit a map.

JUSTIFICATION

Each year, municipalities must re-enroll to be included in the Urban Season. This process puts an administrative burden on participating municipalities and agency staff.

W3. Raccoon – Bag Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

EXPLANATION

Remove the daily bag limit for raccoon by means of hunting.

JUSTIFICATION

There is no biological reason for a daily bag limit on raccoons.

W4. Squirrels – Season

15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS

EXPLANATION

Open the fall gray and red squirrel season on the Saturday on or nearest October 1st.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposed change adds approximately two weeks to the fall gray and red squirrel season fulfilling constituent requests for an earlier opening of fall Squirrel season. This change more closely aligns the NC season with surrounding states.

W5. Red and Gray Foxes – Season and Bag Limit

15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)

EXPLANATION

Clarify that there are daily and season bag limits to the firearm fox season established by G.S. 113-291.4A. Match fox seasons established in state law (i.e., former G.S. 113-111 as specified by G.S. 113-133.1). Remove language from rule that creates an archery season on foxes east of I-77.

JUSTIFICATION

When the rule was readopted in 2022, the language was amended in a way that made the bag limit unclear. The origin of the archery season east of I-77 is unknown, but the Commission does not have the authority to establish such a season. The proposed changes align the rule to the applicable statutes.

W6. Coyote & Feral Swine – Artificial Light

15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE

15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE

EXPLANATION

Prohibit shining of artificial light from a public road or public road right of way in search of coyotes or feral swine from any motorized conveyance while in possession of a weapon.

JUSTIFICATION

This proposed change removes a loophole for night deer hunters claiming to hunt coyote or feral swine while shining a light from a vehicle on the highway into a field or woods while in possession of a weapon capable of killing a deer.

W7. Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas – Sampson County

15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER

15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT AREAS

EXPLANATION

Add Sampson County to the CWD Management Area Rule and remove it from the White-Tailed Deer Rule.

JUSTIFICATION

Sampson County was a CWD surveillance area but now has confirmed positive cases of the disease. Moving the county into the CWD Management Area Rule advances the agency's efforts to slow the spread of the disease.

W8. Designated Bear Management Areas – Running Dogs

15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS

EXPLANATION

Change the dates of the restriction on dogs running unleashed on Designated Bear Management Areas. This change will ensure permitted bear hunters can legally hunt with dogs on these areas beginning on the season start date for the Mountain Bear Management Unit (i.e., Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9th; applies to game lands and private land).

JUSTIFICATION

This proposed change corrects an error in the rule that prohibits the running of dogs off leash on Designated Bear Management Areas at the start of the hunting season in the Mountain Bear

Management Unit. Current restrictions were applicable to the previous opening day but did not get adjusted when opening day was moved earlier.

W9. Taking Raptors – Species and Dates

15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS

EXPLANATION

Change the dates that nestling raptors may be taken from the wild from May 1 - June 30 to January 1 - July 31 and allow American Kestrels and Great Horned Owls nestlings to be taken.

JUSTIFICATION

Different species of raptors used in falconry have varied nesting times and desired development stages prior to their removal from the wild. Because of this, the current rule, which allows take of raptors from the wild from May 1 – June 30 excludes take of some species. Modifying the dates will expand species available for falconry to include Great Horned Owls and American Kestrels.

1 15A NCAC 10B .0119 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 199 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0119 WILDLIFE COLLECTORS**

4 (a) ~~A Wildlife Collection License~~ License may be issued to ~~a qualified individuals~~ individual to take any species of
5 wildlife resources for the following purposes:

- 6 (1) scientific collection;
7 (2) educational collection; or
8 (3) snapping turtle collection.

9 (b) The following definitions shall apply to this Rule:

- 10 (1) "Scientific Collection" shall mean collection for the purpose of conducting scientific research or
11 survey.
12 (2) "Educational Collection" means collection for the purpose of providing instruction, training, or
13 information to the public.
14 (3) "Snapping Turtle Collection" means collection of snapping turtles from the family Chelydridae for
15 sale pursuant to 15A NCAC 10H .1301.
16 (4) "Personal Use" means collection and holding, using as bait, or personal consumption of reptiles or
17 amphibians.

18 (c) The Commission shall consider the following qualifications when issuing a license:

- 19 (1) prior research or educational experience in the same or similar field;
20 (2) work with or for an educational institution;
21 (3) type of study requested of license (permanent or catch and release);
22 (4) current state and quantity of species requested;
23 (5) collection methodology proposed; and
24 (6) disposition of collection.

25 (d) Individuals collecting and holding reptiles or amphibians for personal use shall not be required to obtain a Wildlife
26 Collection License so long as the following conditions are met:

- 27 (1) no more than 4 individuals of any combination of native reptile species or 24 individuals of any
28 combination of amphibian species per person;
29 (2) collected reptiles and amphibians shall not be bought or sold; and
30 (3) no endangered, threatened, or special concern species shall be collected and retained.

31 (e) Endangered, threatened, and special concern species ~~may~~ shall not be taken or collected except under an
32 endangered species permit unless there is an open season for the species. If an open season exists for the species, then
33 the appropriate hunting, fishing, or trapping license serves as the authorization for take.

34 (f) ~~Wildlife Collection licenses may be issued to any individual,~~ Take under a Wildlife Collection License may be
35 authorized so long as the take is not deemed harmful to the efficient conservation of the species to be collected or to
36 other wildlife species that may be dependent thereon.

(g) Individuals ~~interested in obtaining a Wildlife Collection License~~ shall apply for a Wildlife Collection License by sending an application to 1701 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by completing and submitting an application online at ncwildlife.gov, ~~www.ncwildlife.org~~. The application shall include:

- (1) name, address, date of birth, email, and driver's license number; and
- (2) species information.
- (3) Additional information required for scientific and educational collection shall include:
 - (A) organizational affiliation, if any; and
 - (B) full documentation of research or educational proposal(s) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval, if applicable.

(h) Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be used in lieu of ~~any other~~ a hunting or trapping license required by law and shall authorize possession and transportation of ~~the~~ wildlife incidental to the authorized taking. It shall not authorize the taking, possession, or transportation of any species of wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, or any other federal act to prohibit or restrict the possession and transportation of wildlife resources.

(i) Wildlife Collection Licenses for snapping turtle collection shall only be available to North Carolina residents. The following conditions shall apply:

- (1) no more than 10 snapping turtles per person per day;
- (2) no more than 100 snapping turtles per person per calendar year;
- (3) turtles shall have a minimum curved carapace length of 13 inches; and
- (4) no more than 15 trapping devices per license. Devices shall be:
 - (A) labeled with a waterproof tag that shows the licensee's name, WRC Customer Number, or Wildlife Collection License number;
 - (B) hoop traps or other trap style that allows for the unharmed release of any nontarget species or snapping turtles less than 13 inches; and
 - (C) checked daily per 15A NCAC 10B .0110.

(j) Unless a more limited duration is designated on the license, Wildlife Collection Licenses shall be valid from January 1 through December 31 of the applicable year.

(k) Licensed individuals shall submit the following information to the Wildlife Resources Commission within 15 days of license expiration depending on the species taken:

- (1) the numbers of each species taken under the license and the use or disposition thereof;
- (2) dates and location of the taking; and
- (3) sex, size, weight, condition, or approximate age of each specimen taken as specified on the license.

(l) ~~A Wildlife Collections~~ Collection License shall not be transferable either by license holder or by site of a facility.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-272.4;

Eff. January 1, 1981;

1 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2017; January 1, 2013; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; April 1, 2001; February*
2 *1, 1994; November 1, 1990; September 1, 1989;*
3 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*
4 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0203 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 210 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0203 WHITE-TAILED DEER**

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

5 (1) Deer With Visible Antlers. Deer with antlers or spikes, spikes protruding through the skin, as
6 distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by ~~skin or velvet,~~ skin, may be taken during the
7 following seasons, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC
8 10D .0200.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (2) Antlered or Antlerless Deer. Except on Game Lands, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the open seasons and in the counties and portions of counties listed in Parts (A) through ~~(G)~~ (E) of this Subparagraph.
- (A) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through January 1 in the parts of Camden, Gates, and Pasquotank counties known as the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Hyde, Tyrrell, and Washington counties known as the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; in the parts of Anson and Richmond counties known as the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge; and in the parts of Currituck County known as the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge.
- (B) The open antlered or antlerless deer hunting dates established by the military commands at the military installations listed in this Paragraph, from Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1 in the part of Brunswick County known as the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, in the part of Craven County known and marked as Cherry Point Marine Base, in the part of Onslow County known and marked as the Camp Lejeune Marine Base, on Fort ~~Liberty~~ Bragg Military Reservation, and on Camp Mackall Military Reservation.
- (C) The first open Saturday of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in Cherokee, Clay, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, and Transylvania counties.
- (D) The first open day of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the first Saturday thereafter in Buncombe, Henderson, ~~Madison~~, and McDowell counties, except in the areas described in Subparts ~~(a)(2)(G)(i)~~ (a)(2)(E)(i) and (ii) of this Rule.
- ~~(E) — The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the second Saturday thereafter in Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Mitchell, and Yancey counties.~~
- ~~(F) — The first open day of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule through the fourth Saturday thereafter in Cleveland, Polk, and Rutherford counties.~~
- ~~(G)~~ (E) Open days of the season for Deer With Visible Antlers described in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule in and east of ~~Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes, Alexander, Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston~~ Avery, Burke, Rutherford, and Polk counties and in Madison, Mitchell, and Yancey counties, and the following parts of counties:
- (i) The part of Buncombe County east of N.C. 191, south of the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers, west of U.S. 25, and north of N.C. 280; and
- (ii) The part of Henderson County east of N.C. 191 and north and west of N.C. 280.
- (b) Open Archery Seasons for hunting deer:

- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, deer may be taken with archery equipment from Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule, including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs may not be used for hunting deer during the Archery Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer may be used during the Archery Season.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Archery Season specified by Part ~~(b)(1)(4)~~ (b)(1) of this Rule.
- (c) Open Blackpowder Firearms Seasons for hunting deer:
- (1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph, deer may be taken only with blackpowder firearms and archery equipment from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the open season for Deer with Visible Antlers described in Parts (a)(1)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter including on game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.
- (2) Restrictions
- (A) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during Blackpowder Firearms Season in a county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(D), ~~(E), (F), or (G)~~ (E) of this Rule that has one or more open days within the All Lawful Weapons Season to legally harvest antlerless deer.
- (B) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken during the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season thru the first Friday thereafter in any county or county part set forth in Part (a)(2)(C) of this Rule.
- (C) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the second open Saturday of the Blackpowder Firearms Season in any county or county part not set forth in Subparagraph (a)(2) of this Rule.
- (D) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Blackpowder Firearms Season, except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).
- (3) As used in this Rule, "blackpowder firearms" means any firearm, including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system, manufactured before 1899, that cannot use fixed ammunition; any replica of this type of firearm if the replica is not designed

or redesigned for using rimfire or conventional centerfire fixed ammunition; and any muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or muzzle-loading or cylinder-loading handgun that is designed to use blackpowder, blackpowder substitute, or any other propellant loaded through the muzzle, cylinder, or breech and that cannot use fixed ammunition.

(d) Open Urban Season for hunting deer:

(1) Authorization. Subject to the restrictions set out in Subparagraph (3) of this Paragraph and the bag limits set out in Paragraph ~~(e)~~ (f) of this Rule, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment in participating cities in the State, as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2), from the second Saturday following January 1 through the sixth Sunday thereafter. Deer shall not be taken on game lands within a city boundary.

(2) Participation. Cities that intend to participate in the Urban Season shall send a letter to ~~that effect no later than April 1 of the year prior to the start of the Urban Season to~~ the Executive Director or ~~their~~ his or her designee at 1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. ~~27699-1700. 27699-1700, no later than April 1 of the year prior to initial participation. Cities shall also submit a map of the city's boundaries within which the Urban Season shall apply. Cities may withdraw from participation in the Urban Season by sending written notice to the Commission no later than April 1 of the year prior to their withdrawal. [Commission.]~~

(3) Restrictions:

(A) In the areas of the State where the Commission regulates the use of dogs as provided in G.S. 113-291.5, dogs shall not be used for hunting deer during the Urban Season except a single dog on a leash may be used to retrieve a dead or wounded deer in accordance with G.S. 113-291.1(k).

(B) Only archery equipment of the types authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 for taking deer shall be used during the Urban Season.

(e) Open Youth Days for hunting deer. Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken with all lawful weapons by individuals under 16 years of age during the following days:

(1) The fourth Saturday in September and the Sunday immediately thereafter in all counties; and

(2) Thanksgiving Day and the Friday immediately thereafter in the counties listed in Part (a)(1)(D) of this Rule.

(f) Bag limits. The possession and season limit is six deer, two that may be deer with visible antlers and four that may be antlerless deer. Antlerless deer include males with knobs or buttons covered by skin ~~or velvet~~ as distinguished from antlers or spikes. spikes protruding through the skin. A hunter may obtain multiple Bonus Antlerless Deer Harvest Report Cards from the Wildlife Resources Commission or any Wildlife Service Agent to allow the harvest of two additional antlerless deer per card for deer harvested during the season described in Paragraph (d) of this Rule within the boundaries of participating municipalities, except on State-owned game lands. Antlerless deer harvested and reported on the bonus antlerless harvest report card shall not count as part of the possession and season limit.

(g) Deer Management Assistance Program. The bag limits described in Paragraph (f) of this Rule do not apply to deer harvested in areas covered in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) as described in G.S. 113-291.2(e) for those individuals using Commission-issued DMAP tags and reporting harvest as described on the DMAP license. Season bag limits shall be set by the number of DMAP tags issued and in the hunters' possession. All deer harvested under this program, regardless of the date of harvest, shall be tagged with DMAP tags and reported as instructed on the DMAP license. The hunter does not have to validate the Big Game Harvest Report Card provided with the hunting license for deer tagged with the DMAP tags. Any deer harvested on lands enrolled in the DMAP and not tagged with DMAP tags may only be harvested during the regularly established deer seasons subject to the restrictions of those seasons, including bag limits, and reported using the big game harvest report card or the bonus antlerless harvest report card.

(h) Seasons for counties identified as Chronic Wasting Disease Management Areas shall be as specified in Rule .0502 of this Subchapter.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3; 113-276.1; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.5;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1997; July 1, 1996, July 1, 1995; December 1, 1994; July 1, 1994; July 1, 1993;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (Approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);
Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016;
August 1, 2015; August 1, 2014; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; July 10, 2010;
June 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; June 1, 2005;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2022;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2026; June 1, 2025; August 1, 2024; August 1, 2023.
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 7, ~~2026~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027

1 15A NCAC 10B .0205 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0205 RACCOON AND OPOSSUM**

4 (a) The open season for taking raccoon and opossum is from sunrise Monday on or nearest October 15 through the
5 last day of February.

6 (b) Bag Limits:

7 (1) There is no bag limit for raccoon. ~~The daily bag limit for raccoon is three and there are no season~~
8 ~~and no possession limits.~~

9 (2) There is no ~~restriction on bag limit limits~~ for opossum.

10 (c) Axes or saws shall not be carried when raccoon or opossum hunting.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

13 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

14 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

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

16 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; July 1, 2000;*

17 *Readopted Eff. August 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*

18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0206 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0206 SQUIRRELS**

4 (a) The open season for gray and red squirrels is the ~~Saturday~~ Monday on or ~~nearest~~ closest to October ~~1~~ 15 through
5 the last day of February. Gray squirrels may also be taken by hunting on the Monday following the closing of the open
6 season for wild turkey in 15A NCAC 10B .0209(a) through the second Monday thereafter.

7 (b) The daily bag limit for gray and red squirrels is eight in aggregate and there are no season or possession limits.

8 (c) The open season for fox squirrels is the Monday on or nearest October 15 through January 31.

9 (d) The daily bag limit for fox squirrels is one; the possession limit is two; and the season limit is 10.

10
11 *History Note Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2;*

12 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2022; August 1, 2013; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1,*
14 *2006; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1987; July 1, 1986; July 1, 1985;*

15 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2019;*

16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2022.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0212 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 200 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0212 FOXES (GRAY AND RED)**

4 (a) Unless otherwise specified in a local act of the General Assembly, foxes may be taken year-round using firearms
5 and archery equipment in the following counties:

6 (1) Ashe

7 (2) Catawba

8 (3) Haywood

9 (4) Perquimans

10 (5) Wilkes

11 (6) Yadkin

12 ~~(a)(b) Foxes may be taken with weapons~~ The open season for taking foxes using firearms, archery equipment, and or
13 traps is the first Saturday in January through the fourth Saturday in January in the following counties:

14 ~~(1)~~ Caswell;

15 ~~(2)~~(1) Clay;

16 ~~(3)~~(2) Graham;

17 ~~(4)~~(3) Henderson;

18 ~~(5)~~(4) Macon; and

19 ~~(6)~~(5) Tyrell.

20 ~~(b)(c) The open season for taking foxes with firearms, archery equipment and traps in counties listed in G.S. 113-~~
21 291.4B(c) are as specified in Rule 10B .0303(a) of this Subchapter.

22 ~~(c)(d) The open~~ season for pursuing or taking foxes with dogs on Bladen Lakes State Forest Game Land is August 2
23 through February 14.

24 ~~(e) (c) Foxes may be taken the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1~~ The open season for taking foxes
25 using firearms archery equipment is the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through January 1 in all areas of the State
26 east of Interstate Highway 77, unless otherwise specified in local act of the General Assembly. 77 and in Mitchell
27 County.

28 ~~(d) (f) For areas of open season~~ seasons detailed in Paragraphs (a) through (e) (b), (d), and (e) of this Rule, and areas
29 detailed in G.S. 113-291.4A(a), excluding the counties listed in 113-291.4B(c), Rule, the daily bag limit is two; two
30 and the season limit is 10.

32 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-131.1; 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.4; 113-291.4A; 113-291.4B*

33 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

34 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1987; December 1, 1985;*

35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 1, 1989;*

36 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1994; May 1, 1990;*

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

1 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; May 1, 2009; July 1, 2000;*
2 *Readopted Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*
3 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0219 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 201 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10B .0219 COYOTE**

4 (a) When taking coyotes, the following shall apply:

5 (1) There is no closed season for taking coyotes.

6 (2) There is no bag limit.

7 ~~(2)(3)~~ Coyotes may be taken on private lands anytime during the day or night.

8 ~~(3)(4)~~ Coyotes may be taken on public lands without a permit from the hours of one-half hour before
9 sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

10 ~~(4)(5)~~ Coyotes may be taken on public lands with a permit from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour
11 before sunrise.

12 ~~(5)(6)~~ Hunters may use electronic calls. ~~calls and artificial lights to take coyotes.~~

13 (7) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take coyotes, except from a motorized conveyance from a
14 public road or public road right of way while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as
15 defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116.

16 (b) In the counties of Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Tyrell, and Washington, the following shall apply:

17 (1) Coyote hunting on public lands is prohibited, except that coyotes may be taken on State-owned
18 game lands by the holder of a permit for a specific special hunt opportunity for coyotes authorized
19 by G.S 113-264(d).

20 (2) Any special hunt for coyotes pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d) shall only allow hunting from the hours
21 of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

22 (3) Contests or competition coyote hunts on public lands are prohibited.

23 (4) If, within a calendar year, two or more red wolves are shot by one or more hunters with a valid
24 special hunt permit for coyotes on State game lands within the five counties identified in this
25 Paragraph, all special hunts for coyotes on State game lands within those five counties shall be
26 suspended for one calendar year.

27 (5) Coyotes may be taken on private lands by permit only, and any take shall be reported within 24
28 hours to the by phone at 919-707-0040 or online at www.ncwildlife.gov. ~~www.newildlife.org~~.

29 (6) There is no closed season for taking coyotes on private lands. Coyotes may be taken on private lands
30 from hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset only.

31 (7) Coyote hunting permits are in addition to hunting licenses. Individuals exempted from license
32 requirements under the provisions specified in G.S. 113-276 shall acquire the coyote hunting permits
33 to hunt coyotes in the counties specified in this Paragraph. Coyote hunting permits are valid for one
34 calendar year and are subject to annual renewal. These permits are non-transferable. Permit holders
35 shall submit their harvest reports in order to be eligible for permit renewal.

36
37 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

1 *Eff. July 1, 1993;*

2 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2011;*

3 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2012;*

4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2014 and shall remain in effect until amendments expire as*
5 *specified in G.S. 150B-21.1(d) or the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North*
6 *Carolina's court order number 2:13-CV-60-BOs signed on May 13, 2014 is rescinded, whichever*
7 *date is earlier. The court order is available at www.ncwildlife.org;*

8 *Amended Eff. July 26, 2013;*

9 *Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;*

10 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2016;*

11 *Readopted Eff. February 1, ~~2022~~ 2022;*

12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0223 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 201 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0223 FERAL SWINE**

4 (a) There is no closed season for taking feral swine on private lands anytime during the day or night.

5 (b) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from the hours of one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after
6 sunset during an open season for game animals or game birds using the legal manners of take allowed during those
7 season, except that dogs may not be used to hunt feral swine on game lands that do not allow the use of dogs for
8 hunting white-tailed deer or black bear. Where lawful, the hunting of feral swine with dogs is allowed during the
9 applicable deer or bear season unless otherwise specified in the Rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

10 (c) Feral swine may be taken on game lands from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise by permit
11 only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ncwildlife.gov, ~~newildlife.org~~, by phone, or in
12 person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will be based on achieving
13 population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available feral swine permits to
14 applicants selected at random by computer. Permits shall be non-transferrable. All applicable laws and rules regarding
15 the taking of feral swine shall apply.

16 (d) There are no bag limits on feral swine.

17 (e) Hunters may use electronic calls to take feral swine, ~~artificial lights and electronic calls~~.

18 (f) Hunters may shine artificial lights to take feral swine, except from a motorized conveyance from [form] a public
19 road or public road right of way while in possession of a firearm or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B
20 .0116.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-291; 113-291.1; 113-291.2;*

23 *Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 2011;*

24 *Eff. February 1, 2012;*

25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2012;*

26 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2015; March 21, 2013;*

27 *Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;*

28 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10B .0502 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 212 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10B .0502 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE AREAS DEFINED MANAGEMENT**
4 **AREAS**

5 (a) The following counties are Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Areas:

6 (1) Cumberland;

7 (2) Forsyth;

8 (3) Sampson;

9 ~~(3)~~(4) Stokes;

10 ~~(4)~~(5) Surry;

11 ~~(5)~~(6) Wilkes; and

12 ~~(6)~~(7) Yadkin.

13 (b) Prohibitions specified in Rule .0503 of this Subchapter apply to the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this
14 Rule.

15 (c) Open seasons for hunting deer are as follows:

16 (1) Special Early Season. Deer with antlers or spikes, [spikes protruding through the skin,] as
17 distinguished from knobs or buttons covered by skin, may be taken on the fourth Saturday in
18 August and the Sunday immediately following with a lawful weapon, including on game lands
19 unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

20 (2) All Lawful Weapons.

21 (A) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Yadkin
22 counties two Saturdays before Thanksgiving Day through January 1, including on game
23 lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

24 (B) Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken in Cumberland County and Sampson County
25 the Saturday on or nearest October 15 through January 1, including on game lands
26 unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

27 (3) Archery Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment as authorized
28 in 15A NCAC 10B .0116 on the Saturday on or nearest September 10 through the day immediately
29 preceding the first open day of the Blackpowder Firearms Season described in Subparagraph
30 (c)(4) of this Rule.

31 (4) Blackpowder Firearms Seasons. Antlered or Antlerless deer may be taken with archery equipment
32 as authorized in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, and blackpowder firearms as defined in 15A NCAC 10B
33 .0203(c)(3), from two Saturdays preceding the first day of the All Lawful Weapons Season
34 described in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule through the second Friday thereafter, including on
35 game lands unless otherwise specified in the rules of 15A NCAC 10D .0200.

36 (d) Seasons, bag limits, and programs specified in paragraphs (d) through (g) of Rule 10B .0203 of this Subchapter
37 shall apply in the counties identified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

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History Note:

Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-306;
Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2022;
Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 2023;
Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. April 12, 2024;
Eff. August 1, 2026;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 7, ~~2026~~ 2026;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0106 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 204 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0106 DESIGNATED BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS**

4 (a) Bear may be taken on posted designated bear management areas specified in Paragraph (c) of this Rule ~~during the~~
5 ~~open season~~ by permit only. Individuals may apply for permits on or after July 1 online at ~~ncwildlife.org,~~
6 ncwildlife.gov, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The number of permits issued annually will
7 be based on achieving population management objectives of the Commission. The Commission shall issue available
8 bear management area permits to applicants selected at random by computer. Permits ~~are shall be~~ non-transferrable.
9 All applicable laws and rules regarding the taking of bear shall apply.

10 (b) The following shall be posted designated bear management areas:

11 Bachelor Bay designated bear management area – Bertie and Washington counties
12 Columbus County designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
13 Croatan designated bear management area – Carteret, Craven, and Jones counties
14 Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
15 Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
16 Fires Creek designated bear management area – Clay County
17 Flat Top designated bear management area – Mitchell and Yancey counties
18 Green Swamp designated bear management area – Brunswick County
19 Gull Rock designated bear management area – Hyde County
20 Harmon Den designated bear management area – Haywood County
21 Juniper Creek designated bear management area – Brunswick and Columbus counties
22 Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties
23 North River designated bear management area – Camden and Currituck counties
24 Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County
25 Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania
26 Pungo River designated bear management area – Hyde County
27 Rich Mountain designated bear management area – Madison County
28 Sherwood designated bear management area – Haywood County
29 Suggs Mill Pond designated bear management area – Bladen and Cumberland counties
30 Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County
31 Thurmond Chatham designated bear management area – Allegheny and Wilkes counties
32 Wayah designated bear management area – Macon County

33 (c) It shall be lawful to take bear on the following designated management areas when authorized by permit issued
34 by the Commission in accordance with G.S. 113-264(d):

35 Daniel Boone designated bear management area – Avery, Burke, and Caldwell counties
36 Dare designated bear management area – Dare and Hyde counties
37 Mt. Mitchell designated bear management area – McDowell and Yancey counties

1 Panthertown – Bonas Defeat designated bear management area – Jackson County

2 Pisgah designated bear management area – Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson and Transylvania

3 Standing Indian designated bear management area – Macon County

4 (d) Feral Swine shall not be taken with the use of dogs on designated bear management areas.

5 (e) Dogs shall not be trained or allowed to run unleashed ~~between March 1 and the Monday on or nearest October 15~~
6 on designated bear management areas located in and west of the counties and parts of counties described in 15A
7 NCAC 10B .0109 ~~15A NCAC 10B .0109~~, except from the Saturday on or immediately prior to October 9 through the
8 last day of February.

9
10 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.1; 113-291.2; 113-291.7; 113-305;*

11 *Eff. August 1, 2019;*

12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; March 15, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10H .0810 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 219 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 10H .0810 TAKING RAPTORS**

4 (a) No raptor shall be taken from the wild in this State except by an individual holding a current falconry license as
5 defined in Rule .0801 of this Section, or a falconry permit or license from the individual's state of residence if the
6 individual is a non-resident of North Carolina. Falconers may only take species of raptors from the wild that are
7 authorized under their level of permit or license. If a falconer captures an unauthorized species of raptor or other bird,
8 he or she must release that bird immediately upon capture.

9 (b) All levels of licensees may take up to two raptors from the wild annually, subject to the conditions and restrictions
10 set forth in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(2). Apprentices may keep ~~only~~ one bird at a time.

11 (c) Apprentices may take ~~any species of raptor~~ raptors from the wild except for those species specified in 50 CFR
12 21.82(c)(2)(i)(E).

13 (d) ~~Any~~ A raptor native to this State may be taken from the wild subject to the restrictions on species and license level
14 as follows:

15 (1) ~~Only persons~~ An individual holding General or Master level falconry licenses may take nestlings.
16 Nestlings may ~~only~~ be taken from January 1 ~~May 1~~ through July 31, ~~June 30~~. No more than two
17 nestlings may be taken by the same licensee. At least one nestling shall be left in the nest or aerie.

18 (2) First year (passage) birds may be taken from August 1 through the last day of February, except that
19 marked raptors may be retrapped at any time.

20 ~~(3) American kestrels (Falco sparverius) and great horned owls (Bubo Virginianus) may only be taken~~
21 ~~when over one year old. Only General and Master falconers may take this age class in accordance~~
22 ~~with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(i). The time period for taking is from August 1 through the last day of~~
23 ~~February.~~

24 ~~(4)(3)~~ Only General and Master falconers may take a federally threatened species and the falconer shall
25 follow the restrictions in 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(ix).

26 ~~(5)(4)~~ A falconer shall obtain a North Carolina endangered species permit before taking ~~any~~ raptors listed
27 in 15A NCAC 10I .0103, 15A NCAC 10I .0104, or 15A NCAC 10I .0105. Furthermore, a falconer
28 shall possess a special hunt permit to take a passage peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus tundrius).

29 (e) Traps shall be designed to prevent injury to the raptor. ~~All traps~~ Traps, except box-type ~~traps~~ traps, shall be
30 attended and visible to the trapper ~~at all times~~ when in use. Box-type traps ~~must~~ shall be checked every 24 hours.
31 Traps ~~must~~ shall be ~~of~~ one of the following types:

32 (1) Leg noose snare traps, the nooses of which shall be tied to prevent the noose from locking when
33 under pressure. The trapper shall use a drag weight based on the species being trapped.

34 (2) Nets that collapse on and enclose around the raptor.

35 (3) Box-type traps with automatic closing entry doors or funnels.

36 (f) Licensees may recapture their own birds, banded birds, captive-bred birds, or birds wearing falconry equipment.
37 Disposition of these birds shall be in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv) through (v). ~~their own birds or any birds~~

1 ~~wearing falconry equipment at any time. Disposition of banded birds, captive bred birds, and birds wearing falconry~~
2 ~~equipment is as allowed in accordance with 50 CFR 21.82(e)(3)(iv) (v).~~

3 (g) Licensees shall keep their license on their person when trapping raptors.

4 (h) Raptors injured due to falconry trapping ~~efforts~~ shall be treated humanely and in accordance with ~~50~~ 50 CFR
5 21.82(e)(5).

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-270.3(b)(4); 50 C.F.R. 21.29;*

8 *Eff. September 1, 1979;*

9 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2012; July 1, 1998;*

10 *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. December*
11 *6, 2016;*

12 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; June 1, 2022; February 1, 2018.*

EXHIBIT M-1

October 1, 2026



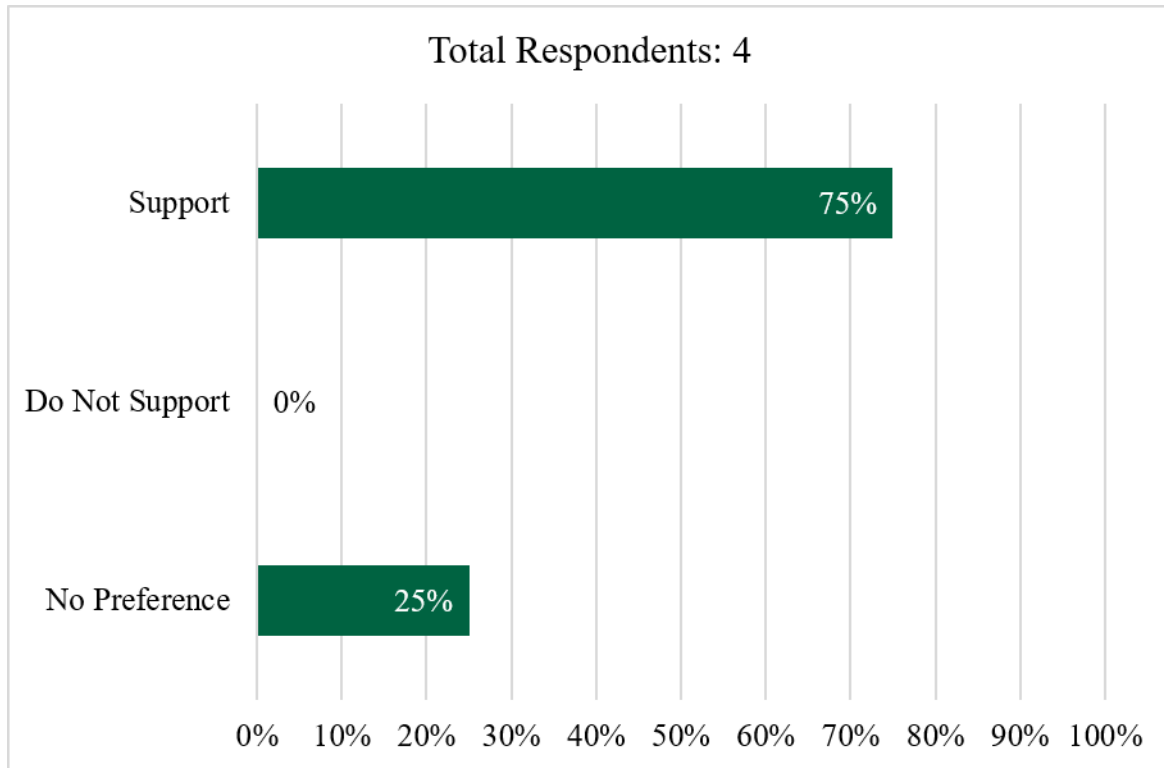
Summary of Public Comments on Amendments to Land and Water Access Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle

Public hearings were held on August 20th & 25th, 2026, with a combined attendance of 9 people.

G1. General Regulations Regarding Hunting on Game Lands – Vegetation Protection

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

Prohibit attaching nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation on game lands.

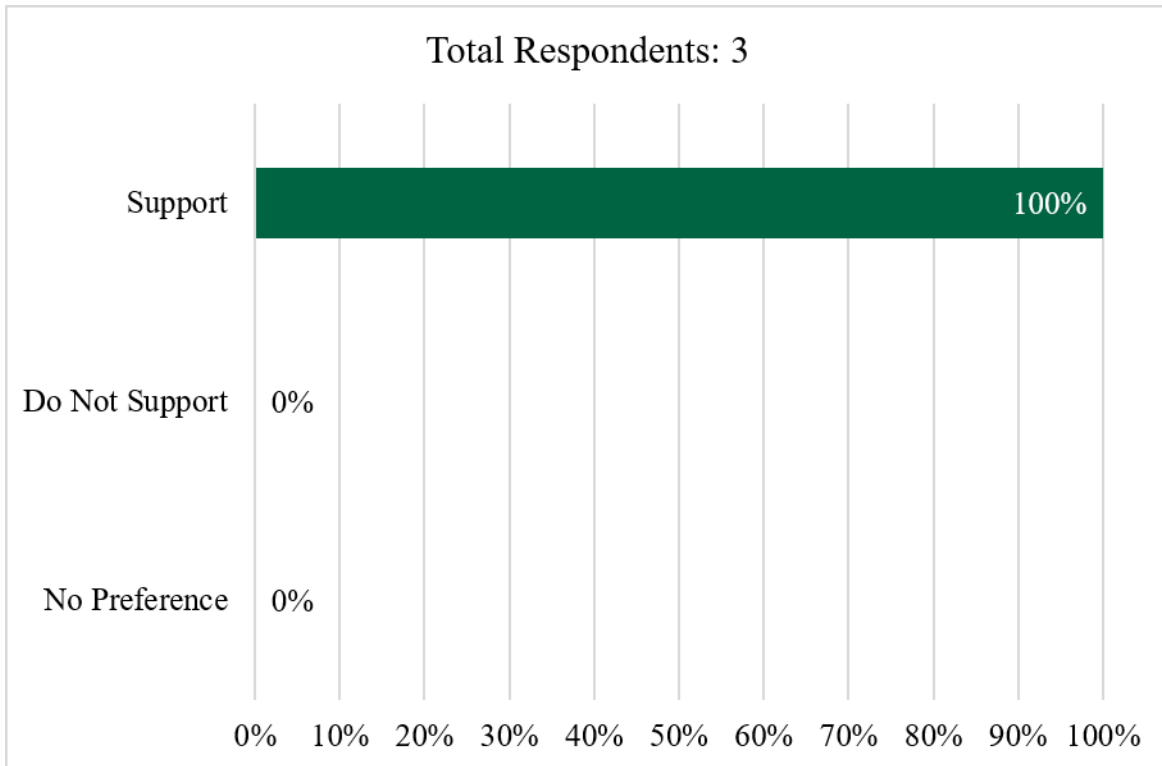


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4

G2. General Regulations Regarding Hunting on Game Lands – Impairing Substances

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

Change the statutory reference in 15A NCAC 10D .0103 (a) (1) from G.S. 20-4.01 (48b) to G.S. 20-4.01 (14a) so that hunting on game lands is prohibited while using or under any level of influence of an impairing substance.

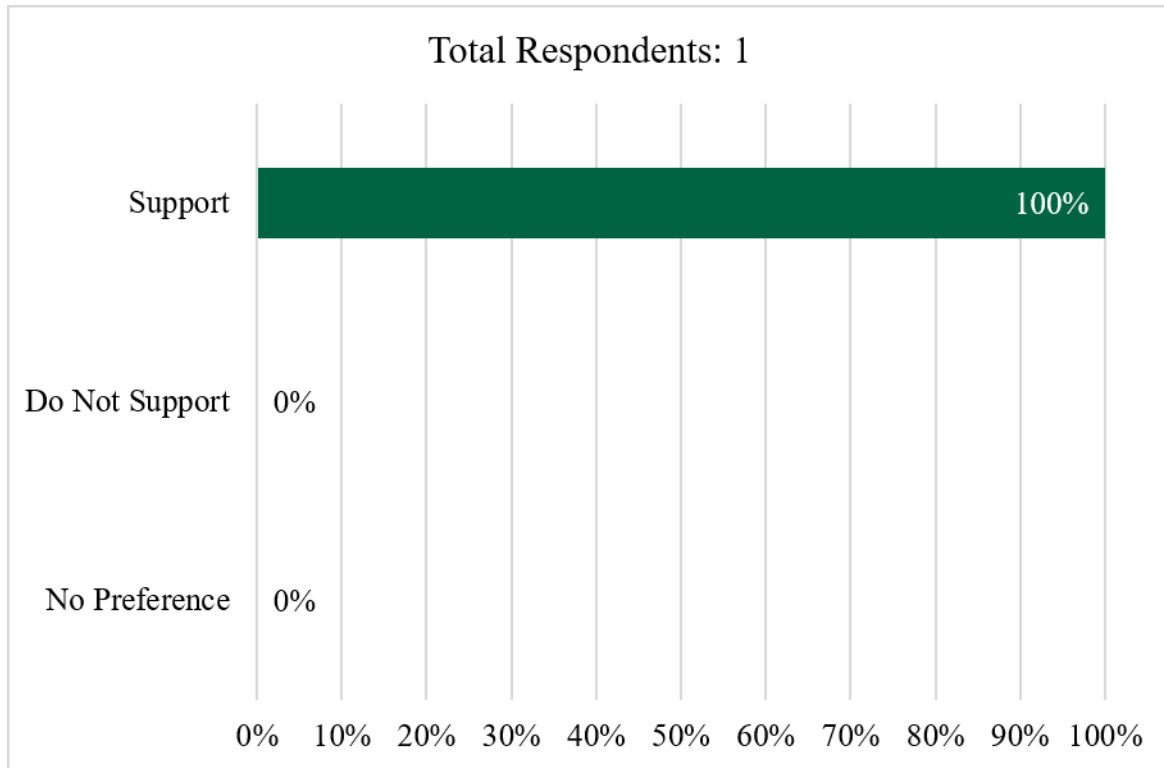


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3

G3. Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land – New Light Beach

15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

Restrict use of New Light Beach on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Lands to hunting, fishing, and trapping.

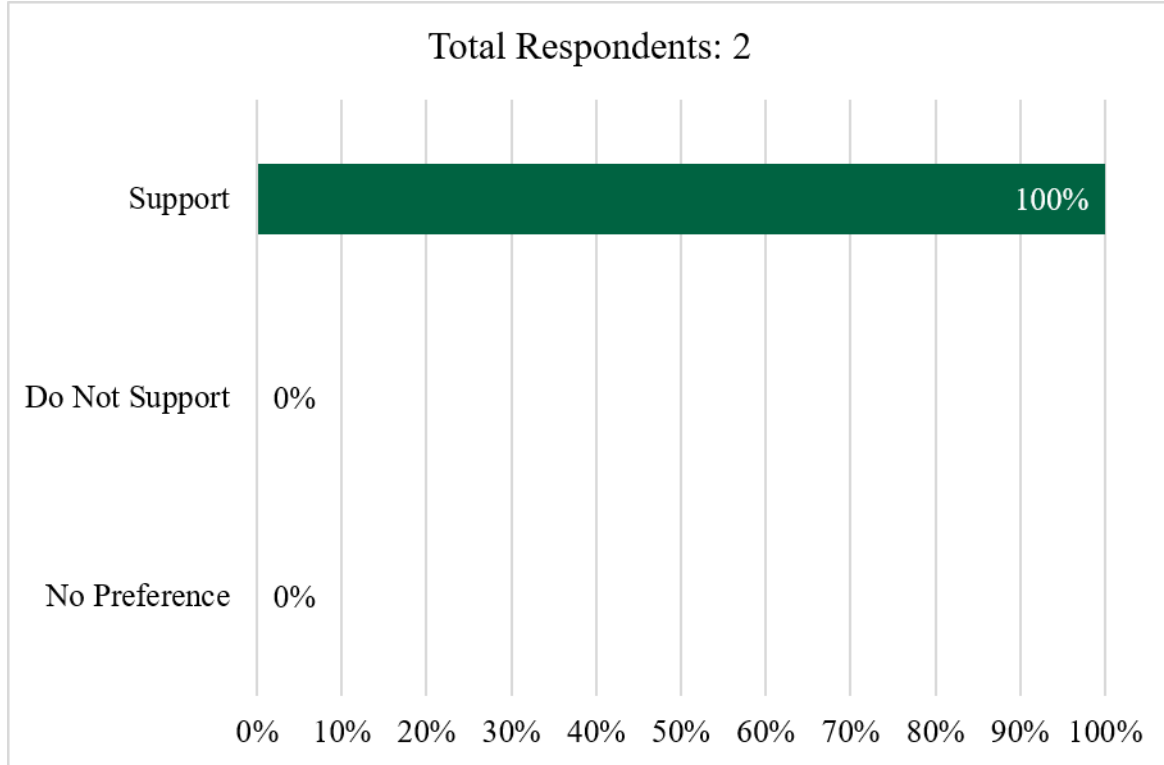


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

G4. Johns River Game Land – Permit Only

15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

Restrict non-hunting recreational use of Johns River Game Land during hunting season.

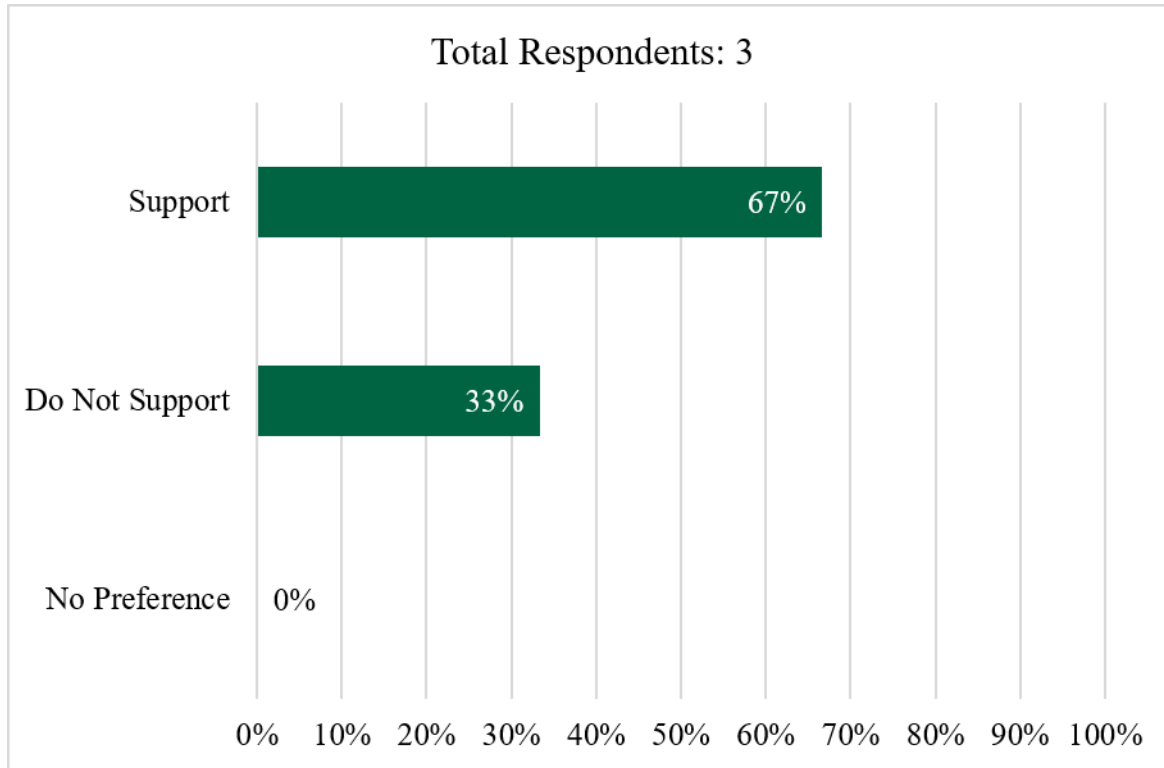


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

G5. Nantahala Game Land – Antlerless Deer Season

15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES

Remove the antlerless deer season on Nantahala Game Land in Transylvania County and specify that Nantahala Game Land does not have an antlerless deer season.

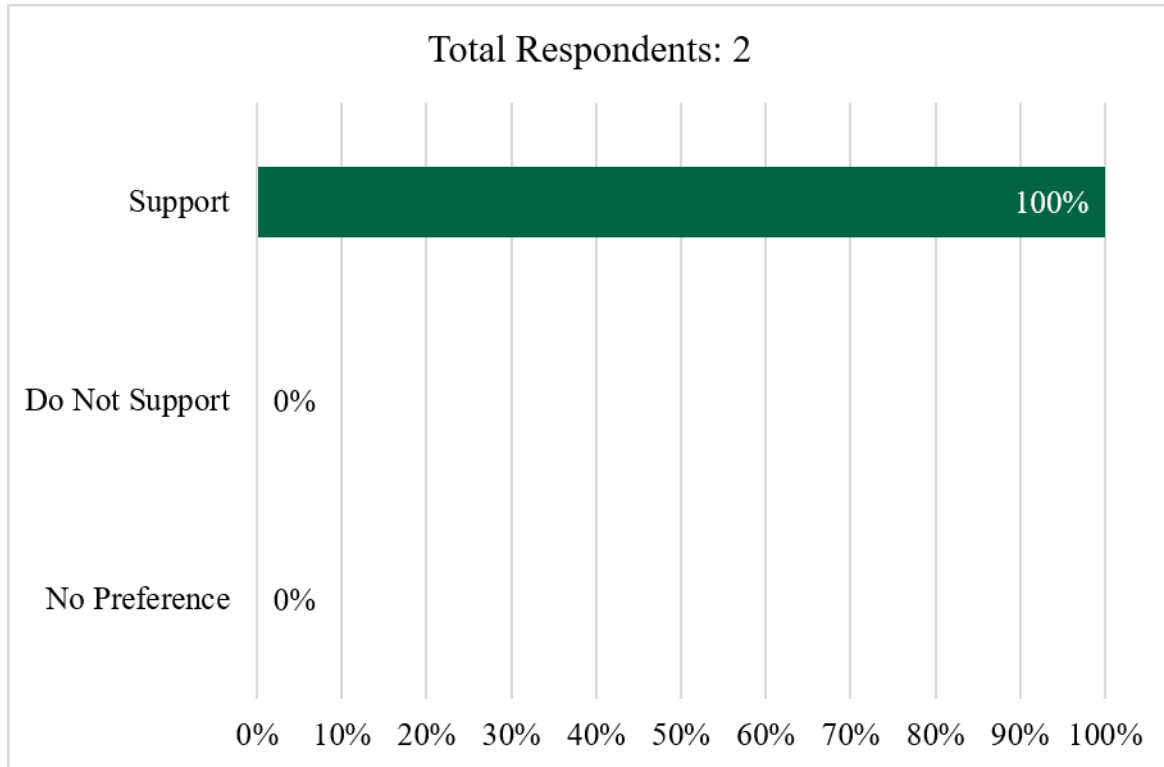


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3

G6. Northwest River Marsh Game Land – Target Shooting

15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

Prohibit target shooting on the Northwest River Marsh Game Land.

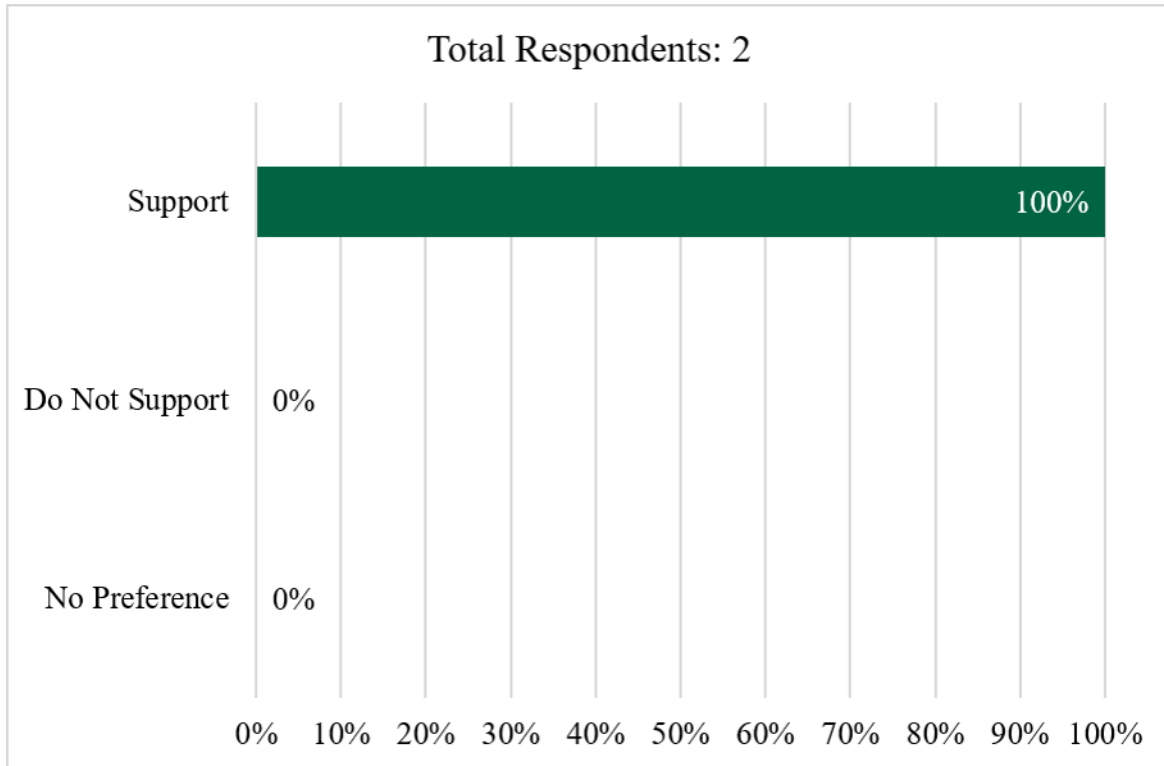


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

G7. Pisgah Game Land – Horseback Riding and Target Shooting

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

Prohibit horseback riding and target shooting on the Roaring Creek and Lutz tracts.

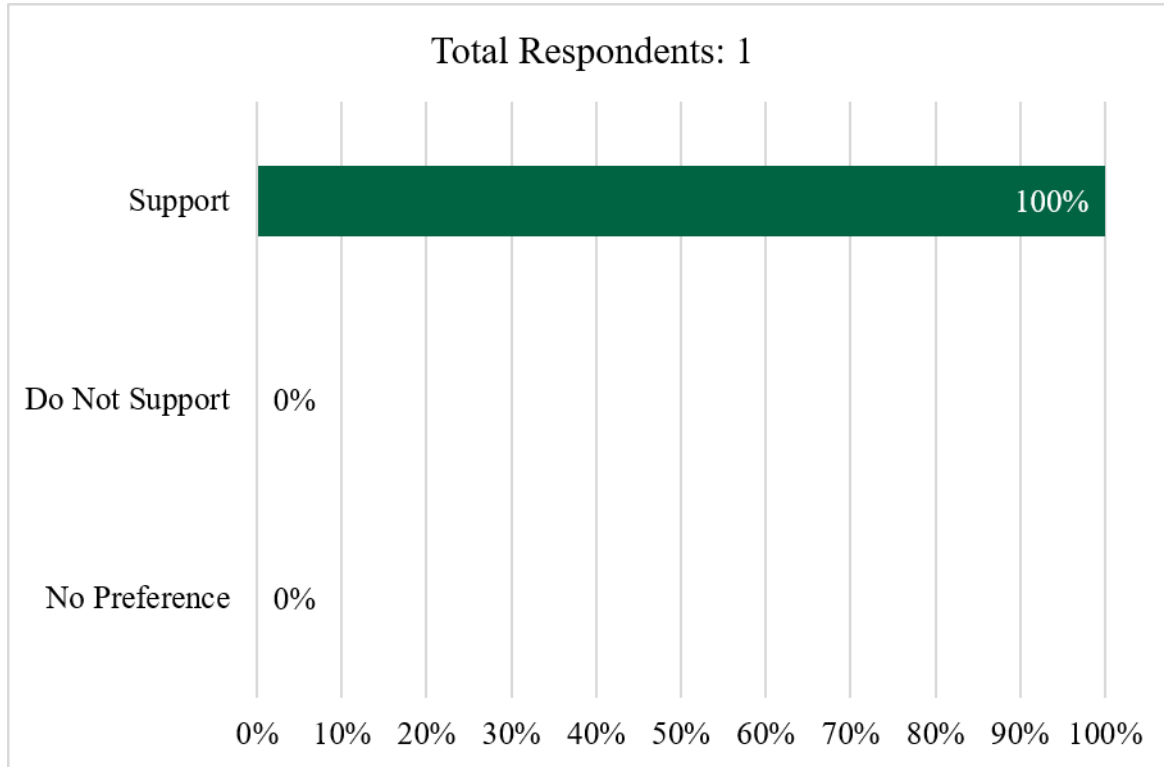


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

G8. Tillery Game Land – Quail and Woodcock

15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY

Make quail and woodcock hunting at Tillery Game Land by permit only.

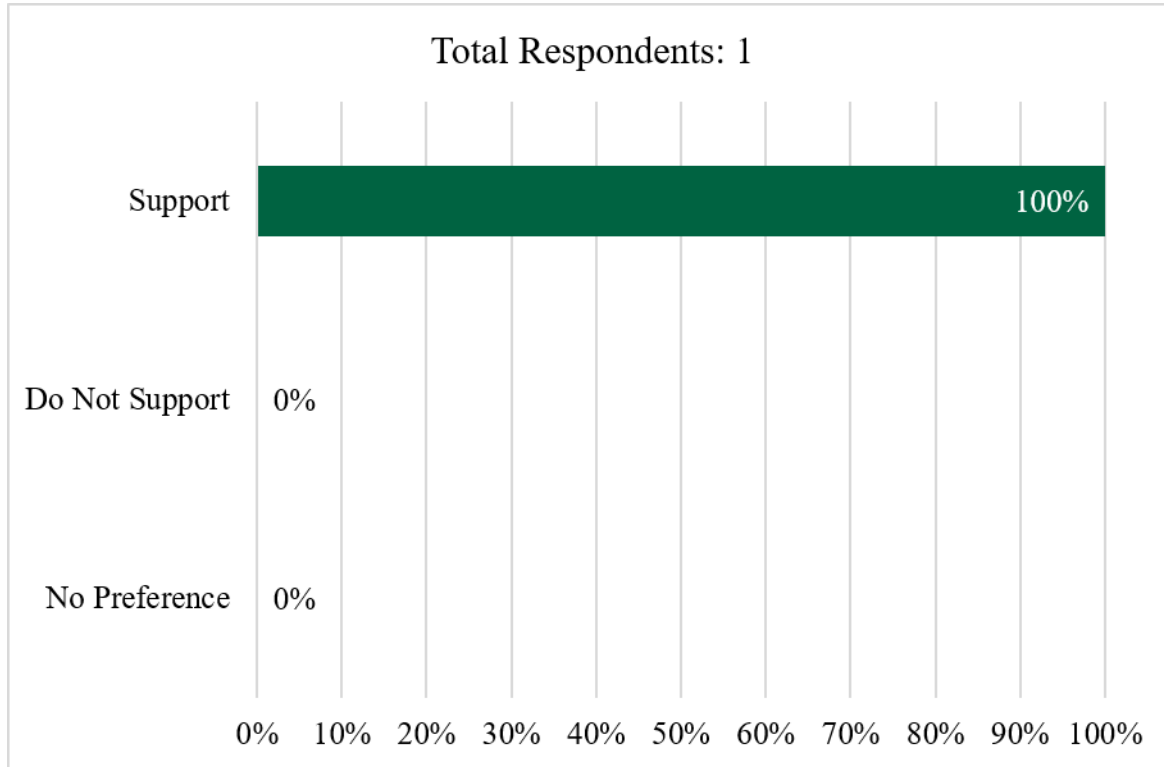


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

G9. White Oak River Game Land – Waterfowl Impoundment

15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

Make all hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment at White Oak River Game Land permit only.

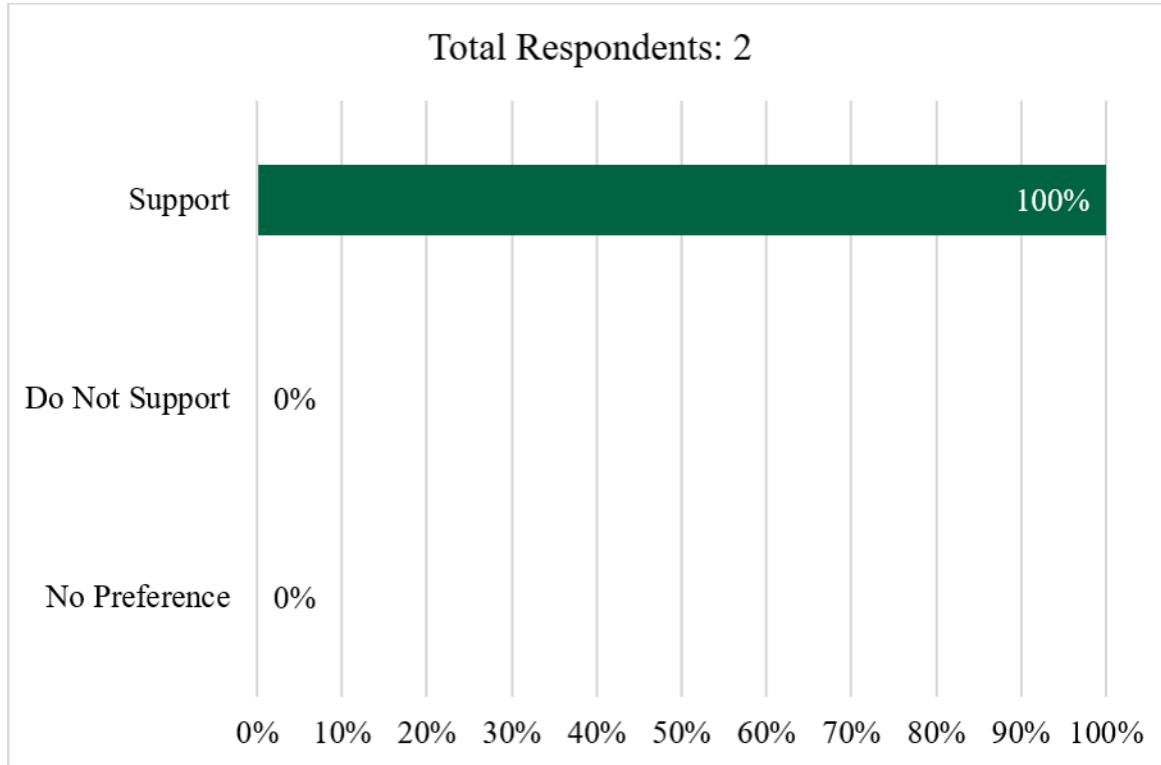


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

G10. Big Swamp Game Land – Establishment

15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

Establish the Big Swamp tract as a game land.

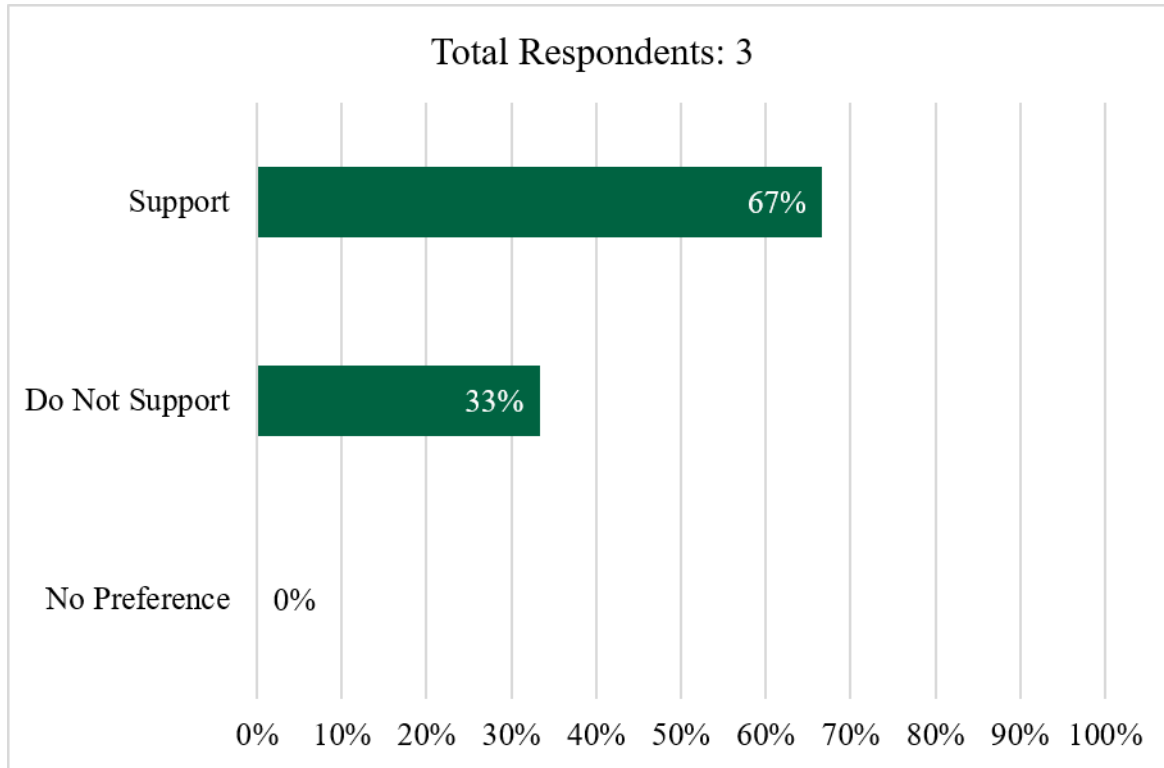


District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2

G11. Bear Hunting on Game Lands – Sunday Take

15A NCAC 10D .0200 - USE OF GAME LANDS

Change “Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday” to “Bear shall not be taken on Sunday” in 14 game land rules.



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

EXHIBIT M-2

October 1, 2026



Amendments to Land and Water Access Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

G1. General Regulations Regarding Hunting on Game Lands – Vegetation Protection

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

EXPLANATION

Prohibit attaching nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation on game lands.

JUSTIFICATION

Game land users are more frequently attaching items like stand location markers and business marketing signs to vegetation and game lands kiosks. Most of these signs or markers are never retrieved - those that are often leave behind the fasteners in trees. This prohibition would not apply to mounting hardware for game cameras, lag screw steps, or portable stands that are removed after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the vegetation.

G2. General Regulations Regarding Hunting on Game Lands – Impairing Substances

15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS

EXPLANATION

Change the statutory reference in 15A NCAC 10D .0103 (a) (1) from G.S. 20-4.01 (48b) to G.S. 20-4.01 (14a) so that hunting on game lands is prohibited while using or under any level of influence of an impairing substance.

JUSTIFICATION

G.S. 20-4.01(48b) defines an impairing substance as “Under the Influence of an Impairing Substance. – The state of a person having his physical or mental faculties, or both, appreciably impaired by an impairing substance.” G.S. 20-4.01(14a) more inclusively defines an impairing substance as, " Impairing Substance. – Alcohol, controlled substance under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, any other drug or psychoactive substance capable of impairing a person's physical or mental faculties, or any combination of these substances.” The updated reference does not require the individual to be appreciably impaired, they only must have consumed alcohol, controlled substance under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, any other drug or psychoactive substance capable of impairing a person's physical or mental faculties, or any combination of these substances to be in violation. This prevents individuals from hunting on game lands after immediately consuming alcohol or other impairing substances. This change could be considered a “zero-tolerance” policy as it does not distinguish between for those who have consumed ANY amount of alcohol or impairing substance and those who are noticeably impaired.

This proposed rule change is to prevent game land users from actively consuming alcohol or drugs while hunting.

G3. Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Land – New Light Beach

15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND WAKE COUNTIES

EXPLANATION

Restrict use of New Light Beach on the Butner-Falls of Neuse Game Lands to hunting, fishing, and trapping.

JUSTIFICATION

The New Light Beach portion of Buter-Falls of Neuse Game Land is frequently used by the public for large social gatherings that result in trash, litter, and habitat damage. These gatherings restrict the ability of hunters, anglers, and trappers to use the property.

G4. Johns River Game Land – Permit Only

15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY

EXPLANATION

Restrict non-hunting recreational use of Johns River Game Land during hunting season.

JUSTIFICATION

Johns River Game Land is a permit-only, 6,480-acre property in Burke County. It is located just north of Morganton and experiences significant non-hunting recreational use. During hunting season, these other uses have caused conflicts, safety concerns and wildlife disturbances during our permitted hunts, including disabled and youth hunts. Restricting use of the game land to permit hunting only during hunting season will improve the quality of the hunts.

G5. Nantahala Game Land – Antlerless Deer Season

15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON, MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES

EXPLANATION

Remove the antlerless deer season on Nantahala Game Land in Transylvania County and specify that Nantahala Game Land does not have an antlerless deer season.

JUSTIFICATION

Historically, Nantahala Game Land has not had an antlerless deer season; however, changes to the western deer seasons and lack of specificity in the Nantahala Game Land rule have unintentionally created a one-day antlerless season necessitating that we specify that Nantahala Game Land does not have an antlerless deer season.

G6. Northwest River Marsh Game Land – Target Shooting

15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

EXPLANATION

Prohibit target shooting on the Northwest River Marsh Game Land.

JUSTIFICATION

This proposal originated from constituent concerns about safety, littering, trash accumulation, and disturbance of wildlife due to the number of target shooters using this game land.

G7. Pisgah Game Land – Horseback Riding and Target Shooting

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

EXPLANATION

Prohibit horseback riding and target shooting on the Roaring Creek and Lutz tracts.

JUSTIFICATION

Currently there is little to no horseback riding on these tracts; however, neither tract has purpose-built trails or infrastructure for horseback riding. The soil on this game land is highly erodible, and horseback riding would result in habitat damage.

Target shooting has a negative impact on game lands, including but not limited to trash and spent shells being left behind, damage to trees and introduction of lead to the environment. The proposed changes to the game land rule will make regulations on all state-owned tracts of Pisgah Game Land consistent.

G8. Tillery Game Land – Quail and Woodcock

15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY

EXPLANATION

Make quail and woodcock hunting at Tillery Game Land by permit only.

JUSTIFICATION

As identified in the 2025 NC Wildlife Action Plan, Bobwhite Quail are a species of greatest conservation need and American Woodcock are a priority species with a knowledge gap. Habitat management work at Tillery has led to more early successional habitat, and a positive quail response. Staff have observed a significant increase in hunting pressure on this 7 days a week game land, leading to some concern for these species.

A point-of-sale (non-quota) permit will allow staff to collect useful information from hunters to assist in making data-driven management decisions on quail and woodcock hunting at the game land.

G9. White Oak River Game Land – Waterfowl Impoundments

15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY

EXPLANATION

Make all hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundments at White Oak River Game Land permit only.

JUSTIFICATION

Confusion exists about the need for permits at the posted impoundments during the early teal season. By removing some of the rule language and adding a permit requirement for the impoundment during this season, confusion should be reduced. This change will make language consistent on the Huggins and Morton tracts of this game land.

G10. Big Swamp Game Land – Establishment

15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY

EXPLANATION

Establish the Big Swamp tract as a game land.

JUSTIFICATION

The Big Swamp tract is a new 2,519-acre acquisition that is ready to be designated as a game land. This will be a Three days per week area with no deer or bear hunting with dogs allowed.

G11. Bear Hunting on Game Lands – Sunday Take

15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRANCH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0213 CAPE FEAR RIVER WETLANDS GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0214 CARTERET COUNTY GAME LAND IN CARTERET COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0221 CROATAN GAME LAND IN CARTERET, CRAVEN, AND JONES COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0222 CURRITUCK BANKS GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0246 LIGHT GROUND POCOSIN GAME LAND IN PAMLICO COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0254 NEW LAKE GAME LAND IN HYDE AND TYRRELL COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES

15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY

15A NCAC 10D .0279 SUGGS SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES

EXPLANATION

Change “Bear shall not be harvested on Sunday” to “Bear shall not be taken on Sunday” in 14 game land rules.

JUSTIFICATION

The current rule language makes enforcement of restrictions on Sunday bear hunting only possible once a hunter has harvested a bear. “Take” is statutorily defined as “All operations

during, immediately preparatory, and immediately subsequent to an attempt, whether successful or not, to capture, kill, pursue, hunt, or otherwise harm or reduce to possession any fisheries resource or wildlife resource”. Using “take” will allow for more proactive enforcement in situations where someone is bear hunting but has not yet harvested an animal.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0103 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 202 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0103 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING HUNTING ON GAME LANDS**

4 (a) The following shall be prohibited on game lands:

- 5 (1) hunting on a designated game land while under the influence of an impairing substance, as defined
6 by G.S. 20-4.01(14a); 20-4.01(48b);
7 (2) failing to comply with restrictions enacted by the National Park Service regarding the use of the
8 Blue Ridge Parkway where it adjoins game lands;
9 (3) parking a vehicle on game lands in a manner that blocks traffic or gates, or prevents vehicles from
10 using a roadway; and
11 (4) affixing nails, screws, bolts, or applying paint to vegetation. This prohibition does not apply to
12 mounting hardware for game cameras, lag screw steps, or portable stands that are removed after use
13 with no metal remaining in or attached to the vegetation; and [vegetation.]
14 (5) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform whose construction violates Subparagraph (4) of this
15 Rule.
16 ~~(4) erecting or occupying a tree stand or platform attached by nails, screws, bolts, or to a tree on a game~~
17 ~~land to hunt. This prohibition does not apply to lag screw steps or portable stands that are removed~~
18 ~~after use with no metal remaining in or attached to the tree.~~

19 (b) Unless allowed by permit, hunting on game lands shall be during the open season for game animals and game
20 birds.

21 (c) Individual game lands or parts of game lands may be closed to hunting or limited to specific dates by this
22 Subchapter.

23 (d) Persons shall hunt with weapons lawful for the open game animal or game bird seasons.

24 (e) On managed waterfowl impoundments, persons shall:

- 25 (1) not enter the posted impoundment areas earlier than 4:00 a.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
26 (2) not hunt after 1:00 p.m. on the permitted hunting dates;
27 (3) not set decoys out prior to 4:00 a.m.;
28 (4) remove decoys by 3:00 p.m. daily; and
29 (5) not operate a vessel or vehicle powered by an internal combustion engine.

30 (f) On Sundays, the following shall be prohibited:

- 31 (1) hunting with a firearm between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.;
32 (2) the use of a firearm to take deer that are run or chased by dogs;
33 (3) hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a place of religious worship, as defined by G.S. 14-
34 54.1(b), or an accessory structure thereof; and
35 (4) hunting migratory game birds.

36 (g) On designated Youth Waterfowl Days, the following shall apply:

- 37 (1) hunting on managed waterfowl impoundments shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset;

- (2) Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule; and
- (3) youth may hunt on a game land and on an impoundment without a special hunt permit, including permit-only areas, except where prohibited in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (h) On designated Veterans and Military Waterfowl Days, veterans, as defined in 38 USC 101, and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty other than for training, with valid credentials may hunt on game lands and impoundments not designated as permit-only areas from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Subparagraphs (e)(1), (e)(3), and (e)(5) of this Rule shall apply.
- (i) On waterfowl impoundments that have a posted "Scouting-only Zone," trapping during the trapping season and waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days are the activities allowed on the portion of the impoundment outside of the posted "Scouting-only Zone."
- (j) Definitions:
- (1) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Dove Only Area" refers to a Game Land on which doves may be taken and dove hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Days within the federally-announced season.
- (2) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Three Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Veterans Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and New Year's Days, except for game lands in this Rule that specifically allow hunting on Tuesdays, Thursday, and Fridays. Hunting is not allowed on Christmas Day, Veterans Day, and New Year's Day when these holidays fall on Sunday. Falconry may also be practiced on Sundays. These "open days" also apply to antlerless deer hunting seasons listed for each game land. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, until 7:00 a.m. on Thursdays, and until midnight on Saturdays.
- (3) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Six Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken on the open days of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the open seasons. Falconry may be practiced on Sundays.
- (4) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Seven Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open season on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- (5) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Four Days per Week Area" refers to a Game Land on which game may be taken during the open seasons and hunting is limited to Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Raccoon and opossum hunting may continue until 7:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, 7:00 a.m. on Fridays, and 7:00 a.m. on Mondays.
- (6) For purposes of this Subchapter, "Permit" means a written authorization from the Commission required for take or other activities listed on the permit during open seasons, if applicable, in a specified area and subject to annual limitations imposed by the Commission to meet wildlife, hunter,

or land management objectives, unless otherwise specified. Individuals may apply for available permits online at ncwildlife.org, by phone, or in person at a wildlife service agent location. The Commission shall issue permits to applicants selected at random by computer in accordance with G.S. 113-264. Permits shall be non-transferrable. The laws and rules regarding the species or activity shall apply.

(7) For the purposes of this Subchapter, "Either-Sex" means antlered or antlerless.

(k) Deer shall not be taken with the use of dogs on game lands in counties or parts of counties where taking deer with dogs is prohibited as described in 15A NCAC 10B .0109.

(l) On permit hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken on the hunt dates indicated on the permit. Completed applications shall be received by the Commission not later than the first day of September next preceding the dates of hunt. Permits shall be issued by random computer selection, shall be mailed to the permittees prior to the hunt, and are nontransferable. A hunter making a kill shall validate the kill and report the kill to a wildlife cooperator agent or by phone.

(m) The following game lands and refuges are closed to hunting except to individuals who have obtained a valid and current permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission:

(1) Bertie, Halifax, and Martin counties—Roanoke River Wetlands;

(2) Bertie County—Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge;

(3) Bladen County—Suggs Mill Pond Game Lands;

(4) Dare County—Dare Game Lands (Those parts of bombing range posted against hunting);

(5) Dare County—Roanoke Sound Marshes Game Lands; and

(6) Henderson and Transylvania counties—DuPont State Forest Game Lands.

(n) Access to Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County requires written permission from the Commission. Written permission may be granted when entry onto the Waterfowl Refuge shall not compromise the primary purpose for establishing the Waterfowl Refuge and the person requesting entry can demonstrate a valid need or the person is a contractor or agent of the Commission conducting official business. "Valid need" includes issues of access to private property, scientific investigations, surveys, or other access to conduct activities in the public interest.

(o) The Commission may designate special hunts for participants of the disabled sportsman program by permit. The Commission may schedule these permit hunts during the closed season. Hunt dates and species to be taken shall be identified on the permit. If the hunt has a limited weapon choice, the allowed weapons shall be stated on the permit.

(p) As used in the rules of this Subchapter, horseback riding includes all equine species.

(q) When waterfowl hunting is authorized on Christmas and New Years' Day and those days fall on Sundays, the open waterfowl hunting day shall be the following day.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;

Eff. February 1, 1976;

Temporary Amendment Eff. October 3, 1991;

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

1 *1, 1994; July 1, 1994;*
2 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 1999; July 1, 1999;*
3 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;*
4 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2002; July 1, 2001;*
5 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2002 (approved by RRC on 06/21/01 and 04/18/02);*
6 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 1, 2003;*
7 *Amended Eff. June 1, 2004 (this replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);*
8 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2018; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;*
9 *January 1, 2013; August 1, 2012; August 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May*
10 *1, 2007; October 1, 2006; August 1, 2006; May 1, 2006; February 1, 2006; June 1, 2005; October*
11 *1, 2004;*
12 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2018;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2020; August 1, 2019;*
14 *Temporary Amendment Eff. September 25, 2020;*
15 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2021;*
16 *Amended Eff. November 1, 2022; October 1, 2022; August 23, 2022;*
17 *Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;*
18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0202 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0202 ANGOLA BAY GAME LAND IN DUPLIN AND PENDER COUNTIES**

4 Angola Bay Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
8 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
11 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022.*
12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0210 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0210 BULLARD AND BRANCH HUNTING PRESERVE GAME LANDS IN ROBESON**
4 **COUNTY**

5 Bullard and Branch Hunting Preserve Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following
6 applies:

- 7 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
8 Season.
9 (2) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~; 2022;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0211 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0211 BUTNER-FALLS OF NEUSE GAME LAND IN DURHAM, GRANVILLE, AND**
4 **WAKE COUNTIES**

5 Butner-Falls of Neuse ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Six Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken the first open day of the All Lawful Weapons Season for
7 Deer With Visible Antlers through the second Friday thereafter.
- 8 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
9 (a) the opening and closing days of the waterfowl seasons;
10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
11 (c) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
12 On the posted waterfowl impoundments a special permit is required for all waterfowl
13 hunting after November 1.
- 14 (3) Horseback riding is prohibited.
- 15 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 16 (5) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only, except on those areas posted as an archery zone.
- 17 (6) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on ~~that~~ the portion west of NC 50 and south of Falls
18 Lake.
- 19 (7) The use of bicycles is restricted to designated areas, except that this restriction does not apply to
20 hunters engaged in the act of hunting during the open days of the seasons for game birds and game
21 animals. On designated bicycle riding areas, the use of bicycles is allowed from May ~~15~~ 16 through
22 August 31, and on Sundays only from September 1 through May ~~14~~ 15.
- 23 (8) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
24 ~~14~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 25 (9) Camping is allowed year-round in the designated Mountains-to-Sea Trail Camping Area and shall
26 not exceed a maximum stay of two consecutive nights. Campfires are prohibited in this camping
27 area.
- 28 (10) Entry on the New Light Beach Tract (Wake County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, and
29 trapping is prohibited.

30
31 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
32 *Eff. November 1, 2022;*
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2023.*
34

1 15A NCAC 10D .0213 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0213 CAPE FEAR RIVER WETLANDS GAME LAND IN PENDER COUNTY**

4 Cape Fear River Wetlands Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) Turkey Hunting is by permit only on ~~that portion known as~~ the Roan Island Tract.
8 (3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited on the portion ~~of the game land that is~~ west of the
9 Black River, north of Roan Island, east of Lyon Swamp Canal to Canetuck Road, and south of NC
10 210 to the Black River.
11 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.
12 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0214 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 205 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0214 CARTERET COUNTY GAME LAND IN CARTERET COUNTY**

4 Carteret County Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
7 (2) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
8 (3) Bear hunting on the Salters Creek Tract is by permit only.
9 (4) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~; 2022;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0221 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0221 CROATAN GAME LAND IN CARTERET, CRAVEN, AND JONES COUNTIES**

4 Croatan Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on the following days:
8 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
9 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
10 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 11 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl day in October through the end of all waterfowl seasons,
12 waterfowl hunting from designated Disabled Sportsmen blinds on the Catfish Lake Waterfowl
13 Impoundment is by permit only.
- 14 (4) Dove hunting is by permit only for the first two open days of dove season on posted areas. During
15 the rest of dove season, no permit is required to hunt doves.
- 16 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
19 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022.*
20 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0222 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0222 CURRITUCK BANKS GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY**

4 Currituck Banks Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Permanent waterfowl blinds in Currituck Sound on these game lands shall be hunted by permit only
6 from November 1 through the end of all waterfowl seasons.
- 7 (2) Licensed hunting guides may accompany the permitted individual or party provided the guides do
8 not use a firearm.
- 9 (3) The boundary of the game land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
- 10 (4) Dogs are allowed only for waterfowl hunting by permitted waterfowl hunters on the day of their
11 hunt.
- 12 (5) No screws, nails, or other objects penetrating the bark shall be used to attach a tree stand or blind to
13 a tree.
- 14 (6) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers season.
- 15 (7) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

18 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~; 2022;*

19 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0229 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 206 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0229 GOOSE CREEK GAME LAND IN BEAUFORT AND PAMLICO COUNTIES**

4 Goose Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
- 7 (2) Except as provided in 15A NCAC 10D .0103(e), waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments
8 shall be taken only on the following days:
- 9 (a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;
- 10 (b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and
- 11 (c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 12 (3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October, through the end of all waterfowl
13 seasons, waterfowl hunting is by permit only on the following waterfowl impoundments: Pamlico
14 Point, Campbell Creek, Hunting Creek, Spring Creek, Smith Creek, and Hobucken.
- 15 (4) On Spring Lake, Pamlico Point, and Campbell Creek Waterfowl Impoundments, all activities,
16 except waterfowl hunting on designated waterfowl hunting days and trapping during the trapping
17 season, are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone during the period November 1 through
18 March 15.
- 19 (5) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February, and March 31 through May~~
20 ~~14 in areas both designated and~~ allowed on areas posted ~~as for~~ as specified in Rule
21 .0102 of this Subchapter.
- 22 (6) Hunting and vehicular access on the Parker Farm Tract is restricted from September 1 through
23 January 1 and April 1 through May 15 to individuals that possess a valid hunting opportunity permit.
- 24 (7) Pursuing or chasing deer or bear with dogs for the purposes of training or hunting is prohibited on
25 the Beaufort County portion north of N.C. 33, except for that portion east of Smith Creek and south
26 of Campbell Creek.
- 27 (8) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ harvested on Sunday.
- 28 (9) Hunting for deer, bear, and turkey on the Bates-Bay Tract is by permit only.

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
31 *Temporary Adoption Eff. December 1, 2022;*
32 *Eff. March 15, 2023;*
33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0239 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0239 JOHNS RIVER GAME LAND IN BURKE COUNTY**

4 Johns River ~~game land~~ Game Land is hunting by permit only. The following shall apply:

5 (1) During permitted deer hunts, antlered or antlerless deer may be taken by permit holders.

6 (2) The construction of permanent hunting blinds is prohibited.

7 (3) Camping is ~~restricted to August 31 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
8 ~~14.~~ allowed on areas posted for camping as specified in Rule .0102 of this Subchapter.

9 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10 (5) During the open days of the seasons for game birds and game animals, entry is restricted to permit
11 holders. ~~the use of bicycles is restricted to hunters engaged in the act of hunting.~~

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

14 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

15 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026; August 1, 2025; August 1, 2023.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0241 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0241 JUNIPER CREEK GAME LAND IN BRUNSWICK AND COLUMBUS COUNTIES**

4 (a) Juniper Creek ~~game land~~ Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area. The following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the Deer With Visible Antlers Season.

6 (2) Camping is ~~restricted to September 1 through the last day of February and March 31 through May~~
7 ~~14 in~~ allowed on areas ~~both designated and~~ posted ~~as for~~ camping ~~areas~~. as specified in Rule .0102
8 of this Subchapter.

9 (3) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ harvested on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0246 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0246 LIGHT GROUND POCOSIN GAME LAND IN PAMLICO COUNTY**

4 Light Ground Pocosin Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

11 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0251 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0251 NANTAHALA GAME LAND IN CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, JACKSON,**
4 **MACON, AND SWAIN COUNTIES ~~SWAIN, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES~~**

5 ~~(a)~~ Nantahala Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies: ~~Area.~~

6 ~~(b)(1)~~ Antlerless deer shall not be taken during the All Lawful Weapons Season. ~~In this game land Deer~~
7 ~~of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers Season~~
8 ~~in that portion located in Transylvania County.~~

9 ~~(c)(2)~~ Dogs may be used to hunt feral swine during the open bear season established in 15A NCAC 10B
10 .0202 and from January 1 through January 31.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

13 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*

14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0254 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0254 NEW LAKE GAME LAND IN HYDE AND TYRRELL COUNTIES**

4 New Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

10 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~, 2022;*

11 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0256 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0256 NORTH RIVER GAME LAND IN CAMDEN AND CURRITUCK COUNTIES**

4 North River Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Antlered or antlerless deer may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible
6 Antlers Season.
7 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
8 (3) Hunting on the posted waterfowl impoundment is by permit only. ~~permit~~.
9 (4) All activities on the North River Game Land Waterfowl Impoundments except waterfowl hunting
10 and trapping during the trapping season are restricted to the posted Scouting-only Zone from
11 November 1 through March 15.
12 (5) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
15 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
16 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; August 1, 2024.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0257 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 207 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0257 NORTHWEST RIVER MARSH GAME LAND IN CURRITUCK COUNTY**

4 Northwest River Marsh Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.
7 (2) The boundary of the Game Land shall extend five yards from the edge of the marsh or shoreline.
8 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.
9 (4) Target shooting is prohibited.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~; 2022;*

13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0260 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0260 PISGAH GAME LAND IN AVERY, BUNCOMBE, BURKE, CALDWELL,**
4 **HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON, MCDOWELL, MITCHELL,**
5 **TRANSYLVANIA, WATAUGA, AND YANCEY COUNTIES**

6 Pisgah Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 7 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open Saturday of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
8 Season.
- 9 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke
10 County), Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell
11 County), and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell,~~
12 ~~and Mitchell counties).~~
- 13 (3) The use of bicycles shall be restricted to designated trails on the Linville River Tract (Burke
14 County). Persons engaged in the act of hunting on the Linville River Tract during any open day of
15 an applicable season for game birds or game animals shall be exempt from this restriction.
- 16 (4) Alcohol and fires are prohibited on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County).
- 17 (5) Target shooting is prohibited on the Black Bear (McDowell County), Linville River (Burke County),
18 Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and Mitchell counties), Lutz Tract (Caldwell County),
19 and Roaring Creek Tract (Avery County). ~~(and Little Tablerock Tracts (Avery, McDowell, and~~
20 ~~Mitchell counties).~~
- 21 (6) Entry on the Lutz Tract (Caldwell County) for purposes other than hunting, fishing, trapping, and
22 posted use of trails and parking areas is prohibited.

23
24 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
25 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 7, 2025;*
27 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027; January 1, 2026.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0270 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0270 SAMPSON GAME LAND IN SAMPSON COUNTY**

4 Sampson ~~Game Land~~ ~~game land~~ is a Four Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.

8 (3) Bear shall not be ~~taken~~ ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

11 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022.*

12 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0279 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0279 SUGGS SUTTON LAKE GAME LAND IN NEW HANOVER AND BRUNSWICK**
4 **COUNTIES**

5 Suggs Sutton Lake Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 6 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
7 Season through the first Friday thereafter.
8 (2) Target shooting is prohibited.
9 (3) Bear shall not be taken ~~harvested~~ on Sunday.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
12 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~; 2022;*
13 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0284 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0284 TILLERY GAME LAND IN HALIFAX COUNTY**

4 Tillery Game Land ~~game land~~ is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
7 (2) Horseback riding is prohibited.
8 (3) The use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.
9 (4) ~~Wild turkey Quail, wild turkey, and woodcock~~ hunting is by permit only.
10 (5) Target Shooting is prohibited.

11
12 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

13 *Eff. October 1, ~~2022~~. 2022;*

14 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0290 is amended as published in 41:02 NCR 208 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0290 WHITE OAK RIVER GAME LAND IN ONSLOW COUNTY**

4 White Oak River ~~Game Land~~ ~~game land~~ is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) Hunting on posted waterfowl impoundments is by permit only.

8 ~~(2) Except as provided in Item (3) of this Rule, waterfowl in posted waterfowl impoundments shall be~~
9 ~~taken only on the following days:~~

10 ~~(a) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons;~~

11 ~~(b) Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Days; and~~

12 ~~(c) Tuesdays and Saturdays of the applicable waterfowl seasons.~~

13 ~~(3) Beginning on the first open waterfowl season day in October through the end of all waterfowl~~
14 ~~seasons, a permit is required for hunting posted waterfowl impoundments.~~

15 ~~(4)~~(3) The Huggins Tract and Morton Tracts have the following restrictions:

16 (a) access on Hargett Avenue and Sloan Farm Road requires a valid Hunting Opportunity
17 Permit issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission pursuant to G.S. 113-264(d);

18 (b) hunting is by permit only; and

19 (c) the use of dogs for hunting deer is prohibited.

20 ~~(5)~~(4) Wild turkey hunting is by permit only.

21 ~~(6)~~(5) Target ~~Shooting~~ shooting is prohibited.

22
23 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

24 *Eff. November 1, 2022. 2022;*

25 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2027.*

1 15A NCAC 10D .0296 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 209 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0296 BIG SWAMP GAME LAND IN ROBESON COUNTY**

4 Big Swamp Game Land is a Three Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken on all the open days of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season.

7 (2) The use of dogs for hunting deer or bear is prohibited.

8 (3) Target shooting is prohibited.
9

10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*

11 *Eff. August 1, 2027.*

EXHIBIT N-1

October 1, 2026



Summary of Public Comments on Amendments to Wildlife Education Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle

Public hearings were held on August 20th & 25th, 2026, with a combined attendance of 9 people.

E1. Shooting Ranges – Definitions and Restrictions

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

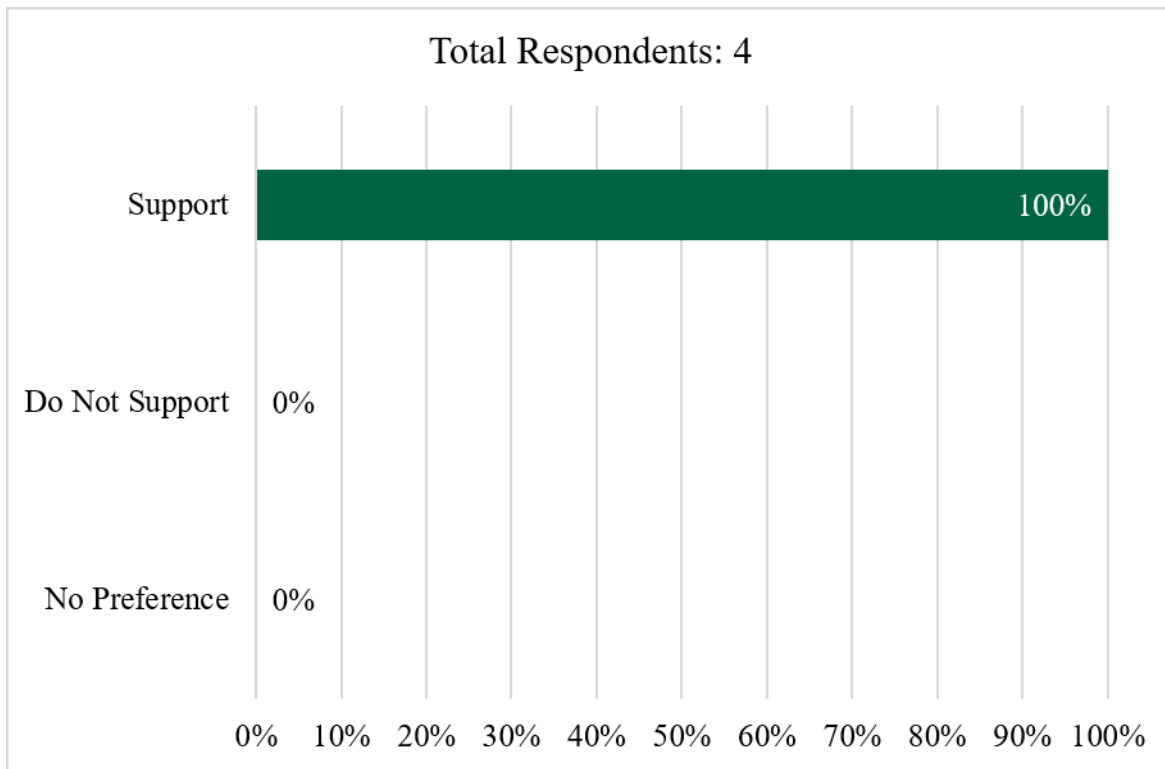
15A NCAC 10E .0201 DEFINITIONS

15A NCAC 10E .0202 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

15A NCAC 10E .0203 RANGE REQUIREMENTS

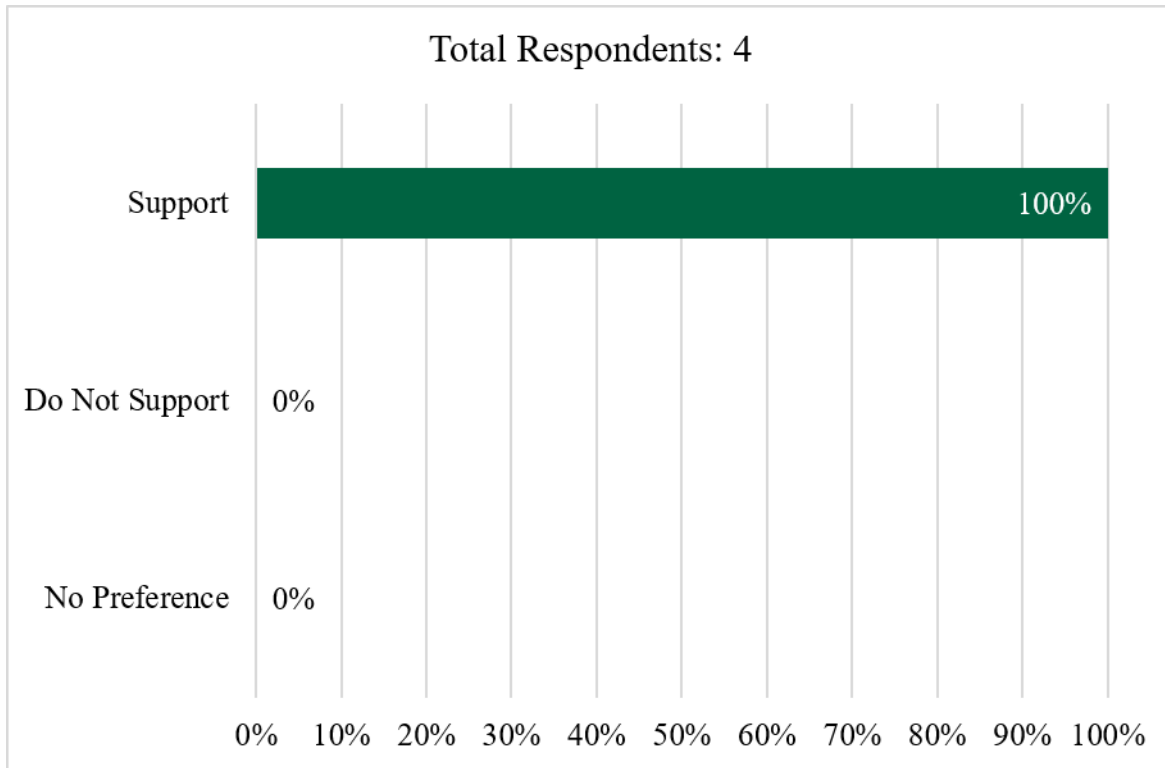
The amendments remove the shooting range rules from the Game Lands portion of the NCAC and codify specific rules for agency owned and managed shooting ranges. The amendments include general restrictions for all visitors, specific regulations for firearm handling, archery equipment standards, trap and skeet range rules, ammunition standards, target requirements, and provisions for staff to maintain a safe environment.

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE



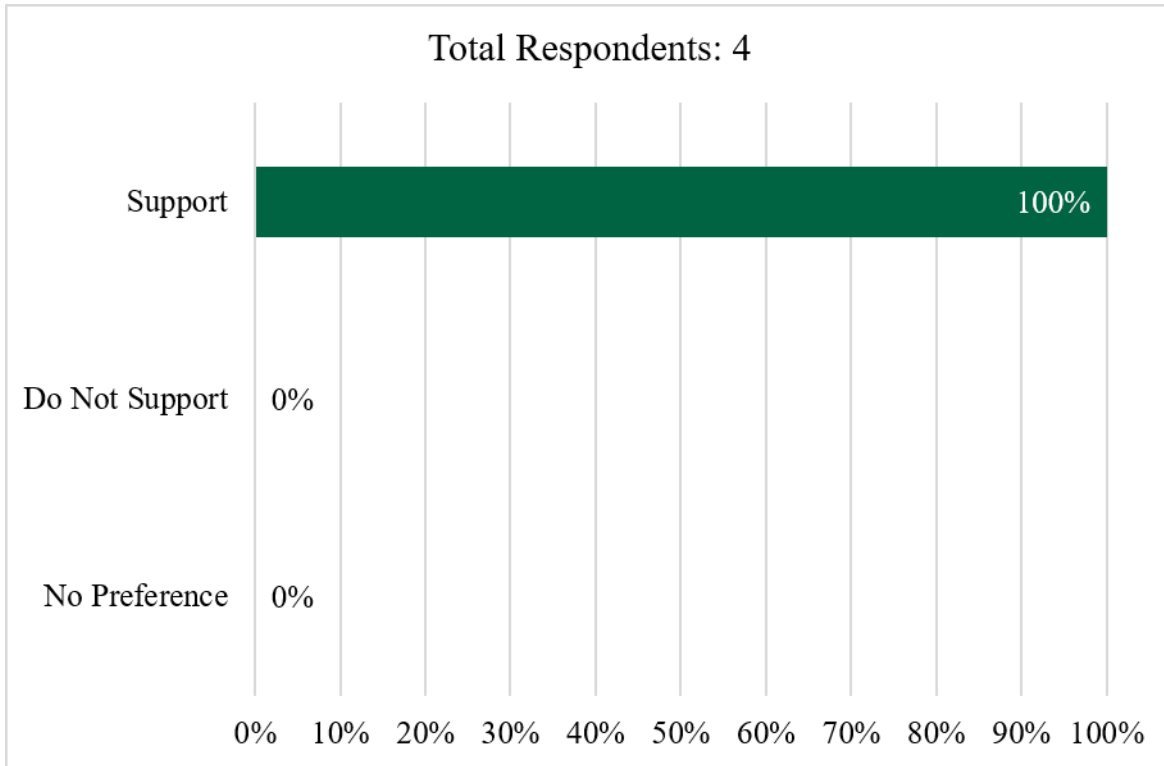
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4

15A NCAC 10E .0201 DEFINITIONS



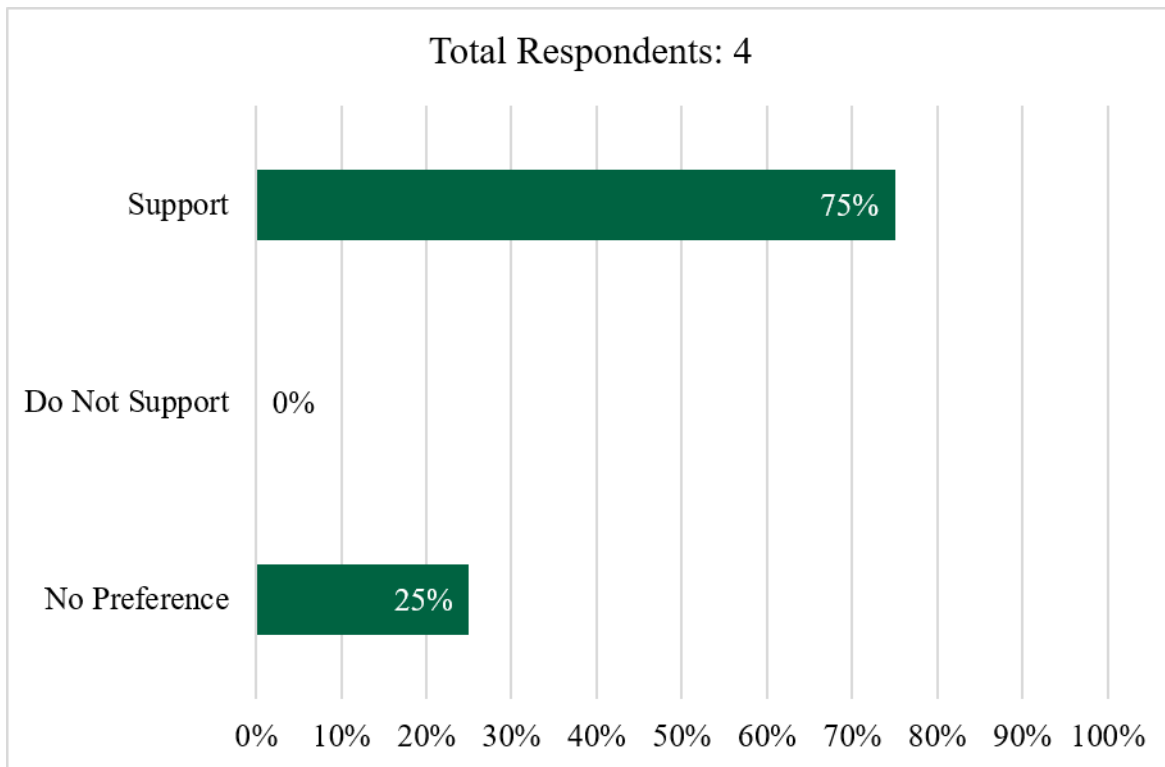
District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4

15A NCAC 10E .0202 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



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

15A NCAC 10E .0203 RANGE REQUIREMENTS



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	1	0	0	3
Do Not Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Preference	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4

EXHIBIT N-2

October 1, 2026



Amendments to Wildlife Education Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

E1. Shooting Ranges – Definitions and Restrictions

15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE

15A NCAC 10E .0201 DEFINITIONS

15A NCAC 10E .0202 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

15A NCAC 10E .0203 RANGE REQUIREMENTS

EXPLANATION

Remove the shooting range rules from the Game Lands portion of the NCAC and codify specific rules for agency owned and managed shooting ranges. The proposed rule will include general restrictions for all visitors, specific regulations for firearm handling, archery equipment standards, trap and skeet range rules, ammunition standards, target requirements, and provisions for staff to maintain a safe environment.

JUSTIFICATION

Current shooting range rules exist in the Game Lands section of the NCAC. These rules are outdated and do not address many of the issues staff are facing at the facilities, including unruly patrons and unsafe firearms handling. Codifying new rules for shooting ranges will improve range safety for both staff and the public and improve the ability of law enforcement to handle patrons who fail to comply with agency safety standards.

1 15A NCAC 10D .0102 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 214 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0102 GENERAL REGULATIONS REGARDING USE**

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

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

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

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

1 (8) Day Use Only Zone. On portions of game lands posted as "Day Use Only Zones" the use by the
2 public shall be prohibited from sunset to sunrise.

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

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

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

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

15 (1) a weapon within 150 yards of a game land building or designated game land camping area, except
16 where posted otherwise;

17 (2) a weapon within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to game lands, except on Butner-
18 Falls of Neuse and Jordan game lands; and

19 (3) a firearm within 150 yards of a residence located on or adjacent to Butner-Falls of Neuse and Jordan
20 Game Lands.

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

32 (1) the firearm is a .22 caliber pistol with a barrel not greater than seven and one-half inches in length
33 and shooting only short, long, or long rifle ammunition carried as a side arm;

34 (2) the firearm is cased or not immediately available for use;

35 (3) the firearm is used by persons participating in field trials on field trial areas; or

36 (4) the firearm is possessed in designated camping areas for defense of persons and property.

37 (e) Game Lands License: Hunting and Trapping

(1) Except as provided in Subparagraph (4) of this Paragraph, a person entering a game land to hunt, trap, run dogs, or train dogs using wildlife shall have in his or her possession a valid North Carolina hunting or trapping license.

(2) For Commission-sanctioned field trials, active participants, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0114, in a field trial using wildlife shall possess a North Carolina hunting license, except non-residents may substitute hunting licenses from their state(s) of residence.

(3) For other field trials using wildlife occurring on game lands, judges and active participants shall possess a North Carolina hunting license.

(4) Exceptions:

(A) a person under 16 years of age may hunt on game lands on the license of his parent or legal guardian;

(B) on the game lands described in Rule .0103 (j)(1) of this Section, the game lands license is required for hunting doves; other activities are subject to the control of the landowners.

(f) Field Trials and Training Dogs. An individual or organization sponsoring a field trial on the Sandhills Field Trial area shall file an application with the Commission to use the area with the facility use fee computed at the rate of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each scheduled day of the trial. The total facility use fee shall cover the period from 12:00 noon of the day preceding the first scheduled day of the trial to 10:00 a.m. of the day following the last scheduled day of the trial. The facility use fee shall be paid for all intermediate days on which trials are not run but the building or facilities are used or occupied. A fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day shall be charged to sporting, educational, or scouting groups for scheduled events utilizing the club house only. No person or group of persons or other entity shall enter or use the physical facilities located on the Sandhills Field Trial area ~~or the Laurinburg Fox Trial facility~~ without written approval from an authorized agent of the Wildlife Resources Commission, and no entry or use of a facility shall exceed the scope of or continue beyond the approved use. The Sandhills Field Trial facilities shall be used only for field trials scheduled with the approval of the Wildlife Resources Commission. No more than 20 days of field trials may be scheduled for occurrence on the Sandhills facilities during a calendar month, and no more than five days may be scheduled during a calendar week. A field trial requiring more than five days may be scheduled during one week with reduction of the maximum number of days allowable during some other week so that the monthly maximum of 20 days is not exceeded. Before October 1 of each year, the North Carolina Field Trial Association or other organization desiring use of the Sandhills facilities between the Wednesday on or nearest October 18 and the second Friday before Thanksgiving and between the first Monday following Thanksgiving and March 31 shall submit its proposed schedule of use to the Wildlife Resources Commission for consideration and approval. The use of the Sandhills Field Trial facilities by individuals for training dogs is prohibited; elsewhere on the Sandhills Game Lands dogs may be trained only on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from October 1 through April 1. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from April 1 through August 15 on game lands located west of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Dogs may not be trained or permitted to run unleashed from March 15 through June 15 on game lands located east of I-95, except when participating in field trials sanctioned by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Additionally, on game lands located

west of I-95 where special hunts are scheduled for sportsmen participating in the Disabled Sportsman Program, dogs may not be trained or allowed to run unleashed during legal big game hunting hours on the dates of the special hunts. A field trial shall be authorized when the field trial does not conflict with other planned activities on the game land or field trial facilities, and the applying organization demonstrates their experience and expertise in conducting genuine field trial activities. Entry to physical facilities, other than by field trial organizations under permit, shall be granted when they do not conflict with other planned activities previously approved by the Commission and they do not conflict with the mission of the agency.

(g) Trapping. Subject to the restrictions contained in 15A NCAC 10B .0300, trapping of furbearing animals, armadillos, coyotes, and groundhogs is permitted on game lands during the open trapping seasons for those areas, established by rule. Foxes may be trapped on game lands from October 1 through the end of February in a county with an open fox trapping season that falls between October 1 and the end of February. Foxes may not be taken by trapping on game lands in counties with a closed fox trapping season or during a fox trapping season that occurs outside the dates of October 1 through the end of February. Additionally, fox trapping is allowed on game lands in Clay, Graham, Henderson, Macon, and Tyrrell counties with a daily bag limit of two and a season bag limit of 10 from the first to the fourth Saturday in January. Trapping is prohibited:

- (1) on the J Robert Gordon Field Trial Area of Sandhills Game Land;
- (2) in posted "safety zones" located on a game land;
- (3) by the use of bait on the National Forest Lands bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway on the south, US 276 on the north and east, and NC 215 on the west;
- (4) on the DuPont State Forest Game Lands; and
- (5) from April 1 through September 31.

At a trap, trappers may use a single bait site of grain, fruit, or other foods when trapping if the food is not a processed food product as defined in G.S. 113-294(r), is less than 3 cubic inches and is covered to prevent it from being seen from above. Feathers, including those with attached skin or entire bird wings, hair with or without skin or hide, and bones that include no attached meat, organs, or viscera do not need to be covered.

(h) Vehicular Traffic. No person shall drive a motorized vehicle on a game land except on roads constructed, maintained, and opened for vehicular travel and on trails posted for vehicular travel, unless the person:

- (1) is driving in the vehicle gallery of a scheduled bird dog field trial held on the Sandhills Game Land; or
- (2) is a disabled sportsman as defined in Paragraph (l) of this Rule or holds a Disabled Access Program Permit as described in Paragraph (l) of this Rule and is abiding by the rules described in Paragraph (k).

(i) Camping.

- (1) No person shall camp on a game land except on an area posted by the landowner for camping.
- (2) On game lands owned by the State of North Carolina, where the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is the primary custodian, the maximum period of consecutive overnight camping at a designated camping area is 14 days within any 30-day period, unless otherwise specified in rules of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 ~~(p)(o)~~ No person shall attempt to obscure the sex or age of a bird or animal taken by severing the head or any other
33 part thereof, or possess a bird or animal that has been so mutilated.

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

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

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-129; 113-134; 113-264; 113-270.3; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-305; 113-306; 143-318.10;
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1993; April 1, 1992;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 11, 1993;
Amended Eff. July 1, 1998; July 1, 1996; July 1, 1995; July 1, 1994;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
Amended Eff. July 1, 2000;
Temporary Amendment Eff. August 31, 2001;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2002;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2004; (this amendment replaces the amendment approved by RRC on July 17, 2003);
Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; June 1, 2011; August 1, 2010; May 1, 2009; May 1, 2008; May 1, 2007; May 1, 2006; November 1, 2005;
Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 2014;
Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; August 1, 2022; August 1, 2021; August 1, 2020; August 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; May 1, 2015; August 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. August 1, 2023;
Amended Eff. January 1, 2027; June 1, 2025; November 1, 2023.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission requests the renaming of subchapter 15A NCAC 10E as follows:

**SUBCHAPTER 10E – ~~PUBLIC FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS AREAS~~ COMMISSION
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission requests the addition of a section title for subchapter 15A NCAC 10E as follows:

SECTION .0100 – PUBLIC FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS AREAS

15A NCAC 10E .0201 is adopted with changes as published in 41:02 NCR 217 as follows:

SECTION .0200 – SHOOTING RANGES

15A NCAC 10E .0201 DEFINITIONS

(a) The following definitions shall apply to the Rules in the Section:

- (1) “Downrange” is the area located forward of the firing line extending in the direction where firearms or archery equipment, as defined in 15A NCAC 10B .0116, may be safely aimed and discharged.
- (2) “Firing Line” is the designated area on the shooting range where individuals are authorized to fire firearms and archery equipment under supervision of the Range Safety Officer.
- (3) “Range is cold” means that live firing is prohibited and firearms and archery equipment shall not be loaded, handled, or fired.
- (4) “Range is hot” means that live firing is authorized.
- (5) “Range Safety Officer” or “RSO” is a designated Commission employee or volunteer responsible for ensuring that activities conducted on the shooting range **are** safe and compliant with established rules and procedures.
- (6) “Range Pass” is a card issued to an individual who has provided identification and attended a range safety briefing. A range pass is valid one year from issuance.
- (7) “Shooting range” or “range” means the area designed for use of firearms or archery equipment.
- (8) “Shooting range facility” or “range facility” means the shooting range and associated operational areas, including indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, backstops, berms, parking areas, offices, restrooms, and ingress and egress roadways.
- (9) “Sky drawing” is the action of pointing archery equipment into the air and drawing the string, rather than aiming the equipment downrange.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;
Eff. January 1, 2027.

1 15A NCAC 10E .0202 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 218 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10E .0202 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

4 (a) Shooting range facilities owned and managed by the Commission are for trap shooting, skeet shooting, five-stand
5 shooting, rifle shooting, pistol shooting, practice archery, and 3D archery. Non-specified use of range facilities is
6 prohibited unless approved, in writing, by the Commission.

7 (b) Individuals using shooting range facilities shall:

8 (1) adhere to posted signs and verbal Range Safety Officer (RSO) instruction;

9 (2) wear eye protection; and

10 (3) wear ear protection on the firearm firing line.

11 (c) General Restrictions. The following shall be prohibited at shooting range facilities:

12 (1) open-toed shoes;

13 (2) individuals under the influence of an impairing substance, as defined by G.S. 20-4.01(14a);

14 (3) alcohol or alcoholic beverages;

15 (4) smoking, vaping, or use of tobacco or nicotine products, except in designated smoking areas;

16 (5) eating or drinking while on the firing line;

17 (6) harassment or intimidating behavior toward staff or other guests;

18 (7) parking vehicles outside of designated parking areas; and

19 (8) animals other than service dogs.

20 (d) Prior to entering the shooting range, individuals participating in shooting sports shall complete the following steps
21 to receive a Range Pass:

22 (1) sign-in with the RSO;

23 (2) attend a safety briefing; and

24 (3) complete a range waiver by providing the following information:

25 (A) first and last name;

26 (B) age and age certification;

27 (C) ethnicity;

28 (D) gender;

29 (E) zip code;

30 (F) email address;

31 (G) shooting range facility location;

32 (H) range selection;

33 (I) NCWRC license status;

34 (J) attestation of the Risk, Release, and Indemnity Agreement; and

35 (K) electronic signature.

36 (e) Age Restrictions.

37 (1) Individuals under 18 years of age shall be accompanied by an adult when on the firing line.

1 (2) Individuals 12 years of age and younger shall have one-on-one adult supervision when on the firing
2 line.

3 (f) Violation of a provision of this Section or RSO instruction shall be grounds for removal from the range facility.

4
5 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;

6 Eff. January 1, 2027.

1 15A NCAC 10E .0203 is adopted as published in 41:02 NCR 218 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10E .0203 RANGE REQUIREMENTS**

4 **(a) Firearms.**

- 5 (1) Firearms shall not be carried into the range facility office.
- 6 (2) Firearms shall be cased during transport to and from the firing line.
- 7 (3) Firearms shall remain unloaded until on the firing line and the range is hot.
- 8 (4) Concealed carry of firearms is prohibited.
- 9 (5) Firearms shall not be loaded, handled, or fired when the range is cold.
- 10 (6) Fully automatic and automatic simulated firearms are prohibited.
- 11 (7) Firearms shall not be pointed at a person.
- 12 (8) Firearms shall be pointed downrange at all times.

13 **(b) Archery Equipment.**

- 14 (1) Arrows shall remain unnoocked until individuals are on the firing line and the range is hot.
- 15 (2) Broadhead tips are prohibited.
- 16 (3) Sky drawing is prohibited.
- 17 (4) Firearms are prohibited on the practice archery and 3D archery range.
- 18 (5) Individuals using the 3D archery range shall wear a blaze orange vest.

19 **(c) Trap and Skeet.**

- 20 (1) Shot other than size 7.5, 8, or 9 is prohibited.
- 21 (2) Muzzle velocity greater than 1300 feet per second is prohibited.
- 22 (3) The firearm's action shall be open and the firearm shall be unloaded when moving between stations.

23 **(d) Ammunition.**

- 24 (1) Individuals shall use the correct ammunition for their firearms.
- 25 (2) Individuals shall collect their spent cartridges, paper targets, trash, litter, and personal items before
- 26 leaving the shooting range.
- 27 (3) The following types of ammunition are prohibited:
- 28 (A) tracer;
- 29 (B) incendiary;
- 30 (C) armor-piercing;
- 31 (D) steel core; and
- 32 (E) other types deemed unsafe by the RSO.

33 **(e) Targets.**

- 34 (1) Individuals shall supply their own paper targets.
- 35 (2) Target stands provided by the Commission shall be used.
- 36 (3) Steel targets are prohibited, unless provided by the Commission.
- 37 (4) Glass targets are prohibited.

- 1 (5) Intentionally shooting into target stands, posts, or other permanent structures is prohibited.
- 2 (6) Shooting a firearm in a manner that would cause rifled or smoothbore projectiles to travel off the
- 3 range is prohibited.
- 4
- 5 History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-306;
- 6 Eff. January 1, 2027.

EXHIBIT O-1

October 1, 2026



Summary of Public Comments on Amendments to Endangered, Threatened, & Special Concern Species Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle

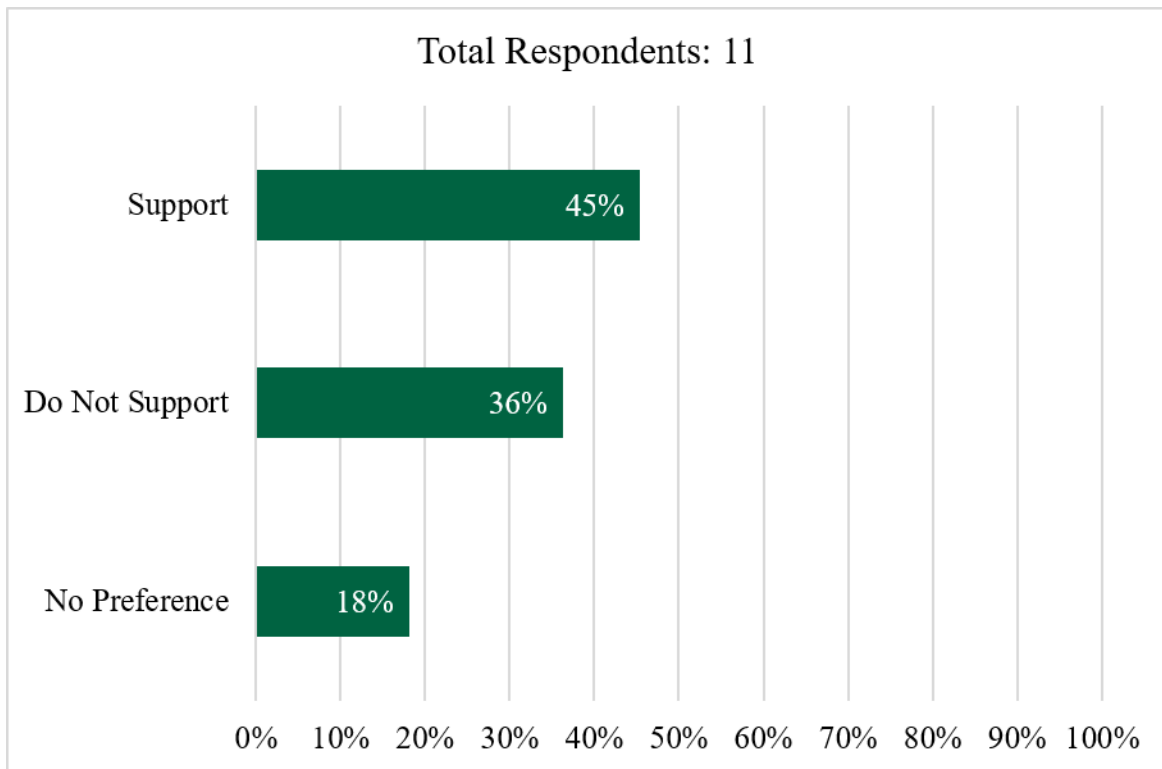
Public hearings were held on August 20th & 25th, 2026, with a combined attendance of 9 people.

ESA1. Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species– Species Parts and Transfer

15A NCAC 101.0102 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES

The amendments specify that Endangered Species Permits are required for species parts (e.g., tail clip, bodily fluids, etc.) and specify that additional permits or authorizations are required for transfer of animals or their parts.

**15A NCAC 10I .0102 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND
SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES**



District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	NC - Not Specified	Out of State	Totals
Support	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Do Not Support	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
No Preference	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Total	1	2	1	2	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	11

EXHIBIT O-2

October 1, 2026



Amendments to Endangered, Threatened, & Special Concern Species Rules for the 2027-2028 Annual Rulemaking Cycle Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption

ESA1. Endangered, Threatened & Special Concern Species– Species Parts and Transfer

*15A NCAC 101.0102 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL
CONCERN SPECIES*

EXPLANATION

Specify that Endangered Species Permits are required for species parts (e.g., tail clip, bodily fluids, etc.) and specify that additional permits or authorizations are required for transfer of animals or their parts.

JUSTIFICATION

The agency issues Endangered Species Permits for research that sometimes only requires a part of an animal. Current Rule language could be interpreted to allow unrestricted movement of species parts between individuals. The proposed change closes this loophole and allows for additional oversight and control of these animals and prevents transfer and movement to entities that are not permitted.

1 15A NCAC 10I .0102 is amended with changes as published in 41:02 NCAC 219 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10I .0102 PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND SPECIAL CONCERN**
4 **SPECIES**

5 (a) There is no open season for taking the species listed in Rules .0103, .0104, or .0105 of this Section, except for the
6 American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) as set forth in 15A NCAC 10B .0224.

7 (b) Except as provided in Paragraphs (d) and (h) of this Rule, there is no purchase, sale, or take of the species listed
8 in Rules .0103, .0104, or .0105 of this Section.

9 (c) Take of federally listed endangered and threatened fish and wildlife species requires a federal permit, as specified
10 in ~~50 C.F.R.~~ CFR Chapter 1, Subchapter B, hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and
11 additions, and a state endangered species permit, as specified in Paragraph (d) of this Rule. ~~50 C.F.R.~~ CFR Chapter 1,
12 Subchapter B is available free of charge at ~~www.ecfr.gov.~~ [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B)
13 B.

14 (d) The Executive Director or his or her designee may issue endangered species permits to take, possess, sell,
15 propagate, transport, import, export, transfer, barter, trade, or stock federally listed and State-listed state-listed
16 endangered, threatened, or special concern ~~species~~ species or their parts to:

- 17 (1) an individual or institution conducting a scientific investigation for the perpetuation, restoration, or
18 management of a species;
- 19 (2) a public or private educator or exhibitor who demonstrates that he or she has lawfully obtained the
20 specimens in his or her possession, possesses the equipment and expertise to care for the specimens,
21 and abides by applicable caging requirements for the species set forth in 15A NCAC 10H .1404;
- 22 (3) a person who lawfully possessed the species for 90 days immediately prior to the date that the
23 species was listed and who abides by applicable caging requirements for the species set forth in 15A
24 NCAC 10H .1404;
- 25 (4) a person with demonstrable depredation from a Special Concern Species, or American alligator
26 (*Alligator mississippiensis*);
- 27 (5) a licensed falconer who meets the requirements of the rules in 15A NCAC 10H .0800;
- 28 (6) a retail or wholesale establishment whose primary function is providing scientific supplies, provided
29 that:
 - 30 (A) the specimens were lawfully obtained from captive populations or wild populations outside
31 of North Carolina;
 - 32 (B) the specimens are possessed in indoor facilities; and
 - 33 (C) safeguards are provided during transportation to prevent accidental escape of the
34 specimens.
- 35 (7) state and federal government agencies, corporate research entities, and research institutions within
36 North Carolina provided that:
 - 37 (A) the specimens are possessed in indoor facilities;

- 1 (B) safeguards are provided during transportation to prevent accidental escape of the
2 specimens; and
- 3 (C) the agency's or institution's Animal Care and Use Committee has approved the research
4 protocol for the species.
- 5 (e) Additional permits or authorizations from the Commission shall be required for importation, exportation,
6 propagation, transfer, transportation, stocking, and release of endangered, threatened, or special concern species or
7 their parts. ~~species~~.
- 8 (f) An individual may apply for an endangered species permit online at www.gooutdoorsnorthcarolina.com by
9 providing the following information:
- 10 (1) name, address, phone number, and email of the applicant;
11 (2) applicant's affiliation, if applicable;
12 (3) species name and quantity;
13 (4) proposed activities;
14 (5) map with specific location of activities identified, if applicable;
15 (6) the source of the specimens and documentation of lawful acquisition;
16 (7) caging or confinement plans for specimens, if applicable;
17 (8) qualifications and explanation of experience for anyone working with the species;
18 (9) research proposal, if applicable;
19 (10) proof that federal permits have been applied for or obtained, if applicable;
20 (11) plans for care of specimens and copy of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee permit, if
21 applicable; and
22 (12) plans for final disposition of specimens.
- 23 (g) Endangered species permits shall not be transferrable by license holder or by site.
- 24 (h) The species listed in Rules .0103, .0104, and .0105 of this Section may be taken or possessed without a permit
25 when:
- 26 (1) an individual takes the species in defense of his or her own life or the lives of others, as described
27 in 15A NCAC 10B .0106.
- 28 (2) an individual has obtained a permit to take an American alligator in accordance with 15A NCAC
29 10B .0224.
- 30 (3) an individual possesses meat or other parts of American alligators that have been lawfully taken,
31 possessed, or bought in a state where there is an open season for harvesting alligators and the
32 products are marketed in packages or containers that are labeled to indicate the state in which the
33 animals were taken and the identity, address, and lawful authority of the processor or distributor.
- 34 (4) an individual is taking or harassing a red wolf (*Canis rufus*) pursuant to the conditions in 50 CFR
35 C.F.R. 17.84(c), hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions,
36 available free of charge at ~~www.ecfr.gov~~ [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-17/section-](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-17/section-17.84)
37 [17.84](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/part-17/section-17.84).

- 1 (5) an individual who meets the requirements of G.S. 113-261, who, when acting in the course of his or
2 her official duties, takes, possesses, or transports endangered, threatened, or special concern species
3 if the action is necessary to:
- 4 (A) aid a sick, injured, diseased, or orphaned specimen;
 - 5 (B) dispose of a dead specimen;
 - 6 (C) salvage a dead specimen that may be useful for scientific study; or
 - 7 (D) remove specimens that constitute a demonstrable but nonimmediate threat to human safety
8 and release the specimen unharmed, in a habitat that is suitable for survival.
- 9 (i) Take, possession, sale, propagation, transportation, importation, exportation, transfer, barter, trade, or stocking of
10 endangered, threatened, or special concern species under Paragraphs (d) and (h) of this Rule is subject to federal
11 reporting requirements, and reporting requirements of the endangered species permit.
12

13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-291.2; 113-291.3; 113-292; 113-333; 113-337;*

14 *Eff. June 11, 1977;*

15 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2013; January 1, 2012; May 1, 2009; April 1, 2003; April 1, 2001; April*
16 *1, 1997; February 1, 1994; September 1, 1989; March 1, 1981; March 17, 1978.*

17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. February 27, 2015;*

18 *Amended Eff. February 1, 2023; July 1, 2016;*

19 *Readopted Eff. October 1, ~~2024~~ 2024;*

20 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2027.*

EXHIBIT P

October 1, 2026



15A NCAC 10A .1503 Negligently Feeding or Attracting Bears Emergency Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Adoption Temporary Rule Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

The proposed rule prohibits the feeding of black bears as well as the placement of food or food products that attract black bears in Buncombe County. The prohibition does not apply to the legitimate feeding of birds, pets, or livestock, nor does it apply to the lawful placement of bait when hunting any game animal, unless any of these activities create a situation with the potential for injury or death to humans, domestic animals or property damage.

The incidental and purposeful feeding of black bears in Buncombe County has directly affected their behavior and has resulted in a significant threat to human health and safety. From 2023 through September 18, 2026, WRC staff have documented 115 incidences of bears forcing entry into homes in Buncombe County, of these, seventy-one break ins have occurred in the last 4 ½ months.

Between May 1, 2026, and September 15, 2026, the public and WRC staff have submitted 478 Human-Wildlife Interaction reports regarding black bears in Buncombe County. These include 257 reports of people feeling threatened by bears, 71 reports of bears entering homes, 30 reports of humans feeding bears, 12 reports of bears consuming pet food, and one report of a resident injured and hospitalized after a bear entered their home.

Given the significant increase in home entries over the last few months, along with an injured resident, the situation has become an emergency wildlife issue that impacts public safety in Buncombe County. The immediate regulation of feeding bears is necessary to address the source of this hazardous bear behavior.

15A NCAC 10A .1503 NEGLIGENTLY FEEDING OR ATTRACTING BEARS

1 15A NCAC 10A .1503 is adopted under emergency procedures as follows:
2

3 **15A NCAC 10A .1503 NEGLIGENTLY FEEDING OR ATTRACTING BEARS**
4

5 The feeding of black bears and the placement of food or food products that attract black bears are prohibited in
6 Buncombe County. This prohibition shall not apply to the feeding of birds, pets, or livestock, or the lawful use of bait
7 to take game animals, including the lawful placement of bait under 15A NCAC 10B .0202 (b), unless the activity
8 constitutes an attractant that is determined by the Commission to create the potential for injury or death to humans or
9 domestic animals or cause damage to property.
10

11 *History Note: Authority G.S.113-134; 113-294*

EXHIBIT Q

October 1, 2026



Proposed Temporary Amendment to Mayo Game Land Recommended by Agency Staff for Public Notice, Comment, and Presentation at a Public Hearing

The proposed amendment will remove the prohibition on the placement of docks, piers, and personal property on the shoreline or lakebed of Mayo Lake for more than 24 hours. The prohibition was originally requested in October of 2024 by the landowner, Duke Energy, to comply with their USACE permit to operate the lake and power station. In early 2026 Duke convened a small stakeholder team to discuss shoreline management at Mayo Lake and subsequently requested the WRC delay enforcement of the rule until an agreement could be reached and a modified rule could be proposed. A modified permanent replacement rule for shoreline management at Mayo Lake is expected in early 2027 prior to the expiration of this temporary rule.

15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY

1 15A NCAC 10D .0249 is proposed for amendment under temporary procedures as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 10D .0249 MAYO GAME LAND IN PERSON COUNTY**

4 Mayo Game Land is a Seven Days per Week Area, in which the following applies:

- 5 (1) Deer of either sex may be taken the first open day of the applicable Deer With Visible Antlers
6 Season through the second Friday thereafter.
- 7 (2) Waterfowl shall be taken only on:
8 (a) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays applicable waterfowl seasons;
9 (b) Christmas and New Year's Days; and
10 (c) the opening and closing days of the applicable waterfowl seasons.
- 11 (3) Target shooting is prohibited.
- 12 ~~(4) Placement of docks, piers, and personal property for more than 24 consecutive hours on the shoreline~~
13 ~~or lakebed of Mayo Lake is prohibited.~~

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-264; 113-291.2; 113-291.5; 113-296; 113-305;*
16 *Eff. October 1, 2022;*
17 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026.*
18