

General Information *Inland, Joint and Coastal Fishing Waters.* Both the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Division of Marine Fisheries have licensing, management and regulatory authority in certain waters along the coast of North Carolina. These waters are designated as inland, joint and coastal waters. The Wildlife Resources Commission has jurisdiction in inland waters, and the Division of Marine Fisheries has jurisdiction (except that pertaining to inland game fishes) in coastal waters. Both agencies have licensing and regulatory authority in joint waters.

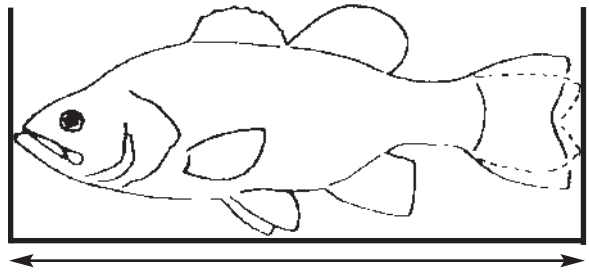
The boundaries between inland, joint and coastal fishing waters are prominently marked with metal signs posted adjacent to the affected waters. Lists of these waters, with their boundaries indicated, are available from the Wildlife Resources Commission, 1721 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1721 (www.ncwildlife.org; see Fishing—Publications—Coastal, Joint and Inland Fishing Waters Designations in N.C.), or from the Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 (www.ncdmf.net; see Quick Links—Maps to Download).

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR JOINT FISHING WATERS

- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids less than 18 inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids between 22 and 27 inches in length in the joint waters of the Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids May through September in the joint waters of the Central-Southern and Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Areas.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids in the joint waters of the Cape Fear River.
- It is unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit of striped bass or striped bass hybrids, in combination, per person per day, regardless of the number of management areas fished.
- It is unlawful to possess striped bass or striped bass hybrids that are not in agreement with size and creel limits of the waters being fished, regardless of other management areas that may have been fished that day.
- It is unlawful to net fish for striped bass or their hybrids in joint waters except as authorized by rules of the Marine Fisheries Commission.
- It is unlawful to use seines, gill nets or trawl nets in the Lake Mattamuskeet canals.
- It is unlawful to use any net, net stakes, or electrical fishing device within 800 feet downstream of the dam at Lock No. 1 on the Cape Fear River.
- It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American or hickory shad in aggregate, per person per day, taken by hook-and-line.

Otherwise, in joint fishing waters, commercial fishing and licensing—including commercial trotlines—are subject to the coastal fishing laws and regulations; inland game fish and hook-and-line licensing—exclusive of commercial trotlines—are subject to the inland fishing laws and regulations.

How to Measure Inland Game Fish The harvest of several game fishes is regulated by length limits. Fish length is determined by measuring along a straight line (in other words, not along the curvature of the body) the distance from the tip of the closed mouth to the tip of the compressed caudal (tail) fin.



INLAND GAME FISH

- The following fishes are designated as inland game fish:
- Black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted)
 - Crappie (white and black)
 - Sunfish
 - Bluegill
 - Redbreast sunfish (robin)
 - Redear sunfish (shellcracker)
 - Pumpkinseed
 - Warmouth
 - Green sunfish
 - Roanoke bass
 - Rock bass
 - Flier
 - All other species of the family *Centrarchidae*
 - Mountain trout (including but not limited to brook, brown and rainbow trout)
 - Kokanee salmon
 - Walleye
 - Sauger
 - Pickerel, chain (jack) and redbfin
 - Muskellunge
 - White bass
 - Bodie bass (striped bass x white bass)
 - Striped bass, in inland waters
 - Shad, American and hickory, in inland waters
 - White perch, in inland waters
 - Yellow perch, in inland waters
 - All other species of perch and pickerel
 - Spotted sea trout, in inland waters
 - Flounder, in inland waters
 - Red drum (channel bass, red fish and puppy drum), in inland waters

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR INLAND GAME FISH

Purchase and Sale

- The purchase and sale of inland game fish are unlawful, except from and by licensed commercial trout ponds and fish propagators.

Spawning Areas

- Fishing is prohibited from Feb. 15 through April 15 in the Linville River from the mouth, as marked at Lake James, upstream to the N.C. 126 bridge.

Manner of Taking

- Inland game fish may be taken only with a hook and line.
- Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on a hook and line.
- It is unlawful to snag fish by pulling or jerking a device equipped with one or more hooks through the water for the purpose of impaling fish.
- American and hickory shad may be taken with bow nets from March 1 through April 30.

- In the inland waters of the Roanoke River upstream of the U.S. 258 bridge, only a single barbless hook or a lure with a single barbless hook may be used from April 1 to June 30. "Barbless" means that the hook either does not have a barb or that the barb is bent down.

Using Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks

- Trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks may be fished under any license that authorizes basic fishing privileges.
- It is unlawful to use live bait with trotlines, set-hooks or jug-hooks.
- Trotlines (a line with multiple hooks) must be set parallel to the nearest shore in all public waters, where their use is authorized.
- Each trotline, set-hook and jug-hook shall have attached the name and address of the user legibly inscribed.
- Each trotline shall be conspicuously marked at each end, and each set-hook shall be conspicuously marked at one end with a prominent flag or floating object.
- Metal cans and glass containers cannot be used as markers.

BASS IDENTIFICATION CHART	MORONE IDENTIFICATION CHART
<p>Longest spine over twice as long as shortest spine</p> <p>Deep notch between fins</p> <p>Upper jaw extends beyond eye</p> <p>No scales at base of fin</p> <p>Horizontal band</p> <p>No scales at base of fin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Largemouth Bass <i>Found statewide</i></p>	<p>Stripes often faint</p> <p>One patch of teeth on tongue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">White Bass</p>
<p>Longest spine less than twice the length of shortest spine</p> <p>Shallow notch between fins</p> <p>Upper jaw extends to back of eye</p> <p>Scales at base of fin</p> <p>One patch of teeth on tongue</p> <p>Horizontal streaks</p> <p>Horizontal band</p> <p>Scales at base of fin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spotted Bass <i>Found in the mountains, foothills and Little River in Harnett County</i></p>	<p>Stripes distinct and usually continuous</p> <p>Two patches of teeth on tongue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Striped Bass</p>
<p>Longest spine less than twice the length of shortest spine</p> <p>Shallow notch between fins</p> <p>Upper jaw doesn't extend beyond back of eye</p> <p>Scales at base of fin</p> <p>Vertical bars</p> <p>Scales at base of fin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Smallmouth Bass <i>Found in the mountains and foothills</i></p>	<p>Stripes distinct and usually broken</p> <p>Two patches of teeth on tongue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bodie Bass <i>(striped bass hybrid)</i></p>

- The number of jug-hooks that may be fished is limited to 70 per boat.
- Trotlines, throwlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks must be fished daily, and all fish must be removed daily.
- Untended trotlines, set-hooks and jug-hooks, as evidenced by the absence of bait, may be removed from the water by wildlife enforcement officers.

Exceptions

- No trotlines or set-hooks may be used in the impounded waters of Sandhills Game Land, in designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, or in Cheoah Lake.
- In Lake Waccamaw it is unlawful to use trotlines or set-hooks from May 1–Sept. 30.

State Fish Hatcheries

- It is unlawful to fish at any time in the waters or on the property of any state fish hatchery, including Bones Creek from the Lake Rim Dam to the U.S. 401 Bypass (Raeford Road) with the following exception:
 - McKinney Lake Reservoir at McKinney Lake State Fish Hatchery.

Seasons

- There are no closed seasons on inland game fishes with the following exceptions:
1. In designated Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters, where the season for all fishes is closed and fishing is prohibited from March 1–April 2, 2010. This closed season for fishing does not apply to power supply lakes or municipal water supply lakes.

REGULATIONS FOR WARMWATER GAME FISH

State waters are classified as: inland, joint and coastal (see “General Information” on page 16). These state waters are collectively referred to as public fishing waters. Certain fishes, including largemouth bass, crappie and mountain trout are designated inland

game fish and under the jurisdiction of the Wildlife Resources Commission in all public waters; whereas, some species, including striped bass, white and yellow perch, flounder and red drum, are designated as inland game fish only in inland waters (see list on page 16).

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT*
Black bass (including largemouth, smallmouth and spotted) - Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam - Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam - Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam - Lake Raleigh (Wake Co.) - Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam - Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam - Cape Fear River - Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam - Lumber River, including Drowning Creek - All other public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.) - South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam - Yadkin-Pee Dee River from Idols Dam to the South Carolina state line, including High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Reservoir, Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties), Lake Tillery and Blewett Falls Lake. - Randleman Reservoir (Randolph and Guilford counties) - Lake Luke Marion (Moore Co.) - Reedy Creek Park lakes (Mecklenburg Co.) - Lake Rim (Cumberland Co.) - Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.)	14-inch minimum	5 in combination
- B. Everett Jordan Reservoir - Falls of the Neuse Reservoir (Wake, Durham and Granville counties) to Lake Michie Dam on Flat River and to the mouth of Cub Creek on Eno River - Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties) - Cane Creek Lake (Union Co.)	14-inch minimum <u>Dec. 1–March 31:</u> No bass may be possessed.	5 in combination <u>Dec. 1–March 31:</u> No bass may be possessed.
- Lake Thom-A-Lex (Davidson Co.) - Shearon Harris Reservoir	16-inch minimum	5 in combination
- Lake Phelps	18-inch minimum	5 in combination
- New River (Alleghany Co. portion downstream of Fields Dam in Grayson Co., Va.)	14-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 14 inches and no fish between 16 -20 inches may be possessed	5 in combination, including only 2 less than 14 inches
- Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and waters in and west of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Polk counties	14-inch minimum and no fish between 16 -20 inches may be possessed	5 in combination
- City- or county-owned lakes under Wildlife Resources Commission management	No minimum size for smallmouth bass, and no smallmouth between 14-20 inches may be possessed.	5 in combination, including only 1 smallmouth bass greater than 20 inches
- All other public fishing waters	12-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 12 inches	5 in combination, including only 2 less than 12 inches
	As posted	As posted
	Largemouth: 14-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 14 inches Smallmouth & spotted bass: 12-inch minimum, except that 2 may be less than 12 inches	5 in combination, including only 2 largemouth less than 14 inches and 2 smallmouth or spotted bass less than 12 inches

*Please note: “In combination” means the total number for all species combined.

2. In undesignated waters where it is unlawful to possess trout caught during the closed season (March 1–April 2, 2010).
3. On the Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, where federal regulations apply.
4. On the MacKay Island National Wildlife Refuge, where federal regulations apply and specified waters are closed to access between Oct. 15 and March 15.
5. On the Roanoke River, where the striped bass season, except if changed by proclamation of the Executive Director, Wildlife Resources Commission, extends from March 1–April 30 from the Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to the mouth of the river at the Albemarle Sound.
6. In Sutton Lake, where possession of largemouth bass is prohibited from Dec. 1–March 31.

Possession of Game Fish

- It is unlawful to take, in any one day, more than the daily creel limit of any inland game fish having a specified creel limit.
- It is unlawful, while fishing, to change the appearance of fish subject to size limits or daily creel limits or remove the head and/or tail from fish that are regulated by a size limit so that they may not be measured and/or identified.
- It is unlawful to possess fish whose size, creel or season restrictions are not in compliance with the regulations on the waters being fished.
- It is unlawful to possess more than the daily creel limit while fishing, boating or afield; or to possess at any place more than three days' creel limit.
- It is unlawful to destroy unnecessarily any inland game fish taken from public fishing waters.

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Striped bass and Bodie bass (Inland impoundments and tributaries)		
- John H. Kerr Reservoir - Dan River in Caswell Co., N.C., downstream of Danville, Va.	<u>Oct. 1–May 31:</u> 26-inch minimum. <u>June 1–Sept. 30:</u> no minimum size limit	<u>Oct. 1–May 31:</u> 2 in combination <u>June 1–Sept. 30:</u> 4 in combination
- Cape Fear River upstream of Buckhorn Dam and the Deep and Haw rivers to the first impoundment - Lake Gaston - Roanoke Rapids Reservoir - B. Everett Jordan Reservoir - Lake Norman	20-inch minimum	4 in combination
- Other impounded inland waters and their tributaries	<u>Oct. 1–May 31:</u> 16-inch minimum. <u>June 1–Sept. 30:</u> no minimum size limit	4 in combination
Striped bass and Bodie bass (Coastal rivers and impoundments)		
Roanoke River Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke, Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries) - Roanoke Rapids Dam downstream to mouth of the river at Albemarle Sound	Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed by proclamation): 18-inch minimum, no fish between 22-27 inches	Season - March 1–April 30 (unless closed by proclamation): 2 in combination including only 1 greater than 27 inches
Albemarle Sound Striped Bass Management Area (including Roanoke Sound, Croatan Sound, Albemarle Sound, Currituck Sound, Chowan, Yeopim, Perquimans, Little, Pasquotank, North, Alligator and Scuppernong rivers and their tributaries)	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area , inland and joint waters including: - Tar-Pamlico River and tributaries from Rocky Mount Mill Dam downstream to N & S Railroad Bridge at Washington - Neuse River and tributaries from Milburnie Dam downstream to Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern - Pungo River - All other unlisted inland and joint waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries, except Cape Fear River and tributaries	Season - Oct. 1 – April 30 18-inch minimum and no fish between 22-27 inches	Season- Oct. 1 – April 30 2 in combination
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area , coastal waters including: - Tar-Pamlico River downstream of the N & S Railroad Bridge at Washington including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters - Neuse River downstream of Southern Railroad Bridge at New Bern, including Pamlico Sound and tributaries designated as coastal waters - All other unlisted coastal waters	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries	Established by Division of Marine Fisheries
Central-Southern Striped Bass Management Area , inland, joint and coastal waters of: - Cape Fear River and tributaries downstream of Buckhorn Dam - Pee Dee River and tributaries downstream of Blewett Falls Dam - Lake Mattamuskeet	No striped bass may be taken or possessed 18-inch minimum	No striped bass may be taken or possessed 3 in combination

LOCATION	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Sunfish (except black bass and crappie) In the following waters and their tributaries: - Roanoke River downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam - Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam - Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam - Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam - Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam - Cape Fear River - Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam - Lumber River, including Drowning Creek - All other public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.) - All other public fishing waters	No minimum size limit None	30 in combination, including no more than 12 redbreast sunfish None
Crappie (black and white) In the following waters and their tributaries: - Tar River downstream of Tar River Reservoir Dam - Neuse River downstream of Falls Lake Dam - Haw River downstream of Jordan Lake Dam - Deep River downstream of Lockville Dam - Cape Fear River - Waccamaw River downstream of Lake Waccamaw Dam - Lumber River, including Drowning Creek - All other public waters east of Interstate 95, except Tar River Reservoir (Nash Co.) and Sutton Lake (New Hanover Co.) - South Yadkin River downstream of Cooleemee Dam - Yadkin-Pee Dee River from Idols Dam to the South Carolina state line, including High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Reservoir, Badin Lake, Falls Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties) Lake Tillery, and Blewett Falls Lake - Lake Norman, Lake Hyco, Lake Ramseur, and Cane Creek Lake - All public waters west of Interstate 77 - B. Everett Jordan Reservoir - Roanoke River (downstream of Roanoke Rapids Dam), Cashie, Middle and Eastmost rivers and their tributaries - Buckhorn Reservoir (Wilson and Nash counties) - All other public fishing waters	8-inch minimum 10-inch minimum None None	20 in combination 20 in combination 20 in combination None
White bass - All public fishing waters	None	25
American and Hickory shad - Roanoke River upstream of U.S. 258 bridge near Scotland Neck - All other public fishing waters	None None	10 in combination, including no more than 1 American shad 10 in combination
Spotted sea trout -Inland waters	12-inch minimum	10
Flounder - Inland waters	14-inch minimum	8
Red drum - Inland waters	18-inch minimum and 27-inch maximum	1
Walleye - Lake James and tributaries - Linville River upstream from N.C. 126 bridge - All other public fishing waters	15-inch minimum None None	8 4 8
Muskellunge - French Broad River between Wilson Road bridge (SR 1540) at Pisgah Forest and the U.S. 64 bridge near Etowah - All other public fishing waters	46-inch minimum 30-inch minimum	1 2
Sauger - All public fishing waters	15-inch minimum	8
Kokanee salmon - All public fishing waters	None	7
All other warmwater game fishes - All public fishing waters	None	None

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

LOCATION/SEASON	SIZE LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT	LURES/BAIT RESTRICTIONS*
HATCHERY-SUPPORTED TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010 7 a.m. Apr. 3, 2010 – June 30, 2010 –All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	None	7	None
March 1, 2009 – Apr. 2, 2010 **No fishing allowed –All hatchery-supported waters not listed below	**	None	**
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Nantahala River and tributaries (excluding impoundments) upstream of Nantahala Lake –Linville River and tributaries within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area –Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None
WILD TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	7 inches	4	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
WILD TROUT NATURAL BAIT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010	7 inches	4	Artificial lures or natural bait with a single hook. No live fish allowed as bait.
DELAYED-HARVEST TROUT WATERS			
Oct. 1, 2009 – June 4, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
July 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2009 June 5, 2010 – June 30, 2010 (Note: youth only fishing from 6 a.m. until noon on June 5, 2010)	None	7	None
CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial lures with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
CATCH-AND-RELEASE ARTIFICIAL FLIES ONLY WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 **No trout may be taken or possessed	**	None	Artificial flies with a single hook. Natural bait may not be possessed.
SPECIAL REGULATION TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Catawba River from Muddy Creek to Morganton water intake dam	Only one fish may be more than 14 inches long	7	None
UNDESIGNATED TROUT WATERS			
July 1, 2009 – Feb. 28, 2010 7 a.m. Apr. 3, 2010 – June 30, 2010	None	7	None
March 1, 2010 – Apr. 2, 2010 **Fishing allowed, but no trout may be taken or possessed, except in waters listed below	**	None	None
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 –Power supply lakes and municipal water supply lakes	None	7	None

*See page 22 for a definition of artificial lures and natural bait

REGULATIONS FOR MOUNTAIN TROUT

Brook, brown and rainbow trout require cold, clean water and are therefore generally restricted to mountain streams and lakes. Those mountain waters that support trout and are open to public fishing are designated as “Public Mountain Trout Waters” by the Wildlife Resources Commission and are managed for public trout fishing. A significant amount of trout fishing opportunities in western North Carolina are located on private property. These landowners have generously allowed for public access for fishing. Please respect their property. Your cooperation is needed to protect fishing opportunities for future generations. The Commission conspicuously marks Designated Public Mountain Trout

Waters with regulation signs that indicate locations for public access. When anglers encounter “posted against trespass” signs along these designated sections on private lands, they should respect the property owner’s rights and chose another location along that stream to fish. Maps of trout water and their classifications may be viewed at www.ncwildlife.org under the link for *regulations – fishing – mountain trout*.

Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are classified for management purposes as either “Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters” or “Wild Trout Waters.” Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters must be stocked periodically with trout to sustain angling. Wild Trout

Please note: For the convenience of the reader, major regulation changes appear in RED.

Waters are high-quality waters that sustain trout populations by natural reproduction. Some Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are specially regulated to meet specific management objectives. These are further classified as follows:

- “Catch and Release/Artificial Lures Only,”
- “Catch and Release/Artificial Flies Only,”
- “Wild Trout/Natural Bait,”
- “Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters,”
- or “Special Regulation Trout Waters.”
- Some of these public trout waters are also classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and are identified on page 26.

Fishing in Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters

- Fishing is limited to hook and line only.
- An **artificial lure** is defined as a fishing lure that neither contains nor has been treated with any substance that attracts fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- **Natural bait** is defined as any living or dead organism (plant or animal), or parts thereof, or prepared substances designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.
- It is unlawful to take fish bait or bait fish from designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to possess natural bait while fishing Wild Trout and Catch-and-Release waters, unless those waters are also specifically classified for use of natural bait.
- Dropper flies may be used when fishing any Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- It is unlawful to fish with more than one line per person, except on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs.
- There is no closed season for fishing on power reservoirs and city water supply reservoirs designated as trout waters.
- Non-trout species may be harvested from Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters during the catch-and-release only trout season under applicable size and creel limits.
- It is unlawful to place hatchery-reared fish into a Wild Trout Water or move wild fish from one stream to another on game lands without prior written authorization.
- Information and regulations about trout fishing on game lands are listed on pages 26–27.

Trout Fishing in Undesignated Waters Some waters that are not Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters (as identified above) contain mountain trout. When fishing in these undesignated waters, the trout fishing regulations are the same as for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters except that the trout fishing license is not required to fish undesignated waters, and there is no closed season for fishing. However, trout may not be possessed or retained in the creel when fishing undesignated waters during the closed season for Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters.

Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters There are approximately 1,100 miles of Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters in North Carolina. In hatchery-supported waters there is no size limit or bait restriction, and the creel limit is seven trout per day. Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters are marked with green-and-white signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

The following waters are classified as Hatchery-Supported Trout Waters (**streams that are underlined are stocked with catchable-size trout at frequent intervals during the months of March through August**):

Alleghany County

- Little River (Whitehead to McCann Dam)
- Crab Creek
- Brush Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
- Big Pine Creek

- Laurel Branch
- Glade Creek
- Bledsoe Creek
- Piney Fork
- Meadow Fork
- Pine Swamp Creek
- Prathers Creek
- Cranberry Creek

Ashe County

- North Fork New River (Watauga Co. line to Sharp Dam)
- Big Horse Creek (Mud Creek at S.R. 1363 to confluence with North Fork New River)
- Buffalo Creek (headwaters to junction of N.C. 194-88 and S.R. 1131)
- Big Laurel Creek
- Three Top Creek (except game land portion)
- Cranberry Creek (Alleghany Co. line to South Fork New River)
- Nathans Creek
- Peak Creek (headwaters to Trout Lake, except Blue Ridge Parkway waters)
- Roan Creek
- Beaver Creek
- Pine Swamp Creek (all forks)
- Old Fields Creek
- Mill Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Avery County

- North Toe River (headwaters to Mitchell Co. line (except where posted against trespassing)
- Squirrel Creek
- Elk River (S.R. 1305 crossing immediately upstream of Big Falls to the Tennessee state line)
- Boyde Coffey Lake
- Linville River (Land Harbor line [below dam] to the Blue Ridge Parkway boundary line, except where posted against trespassing)
- Milltimber Creek

Buncombe County

- Ivy Creek (Ivy River) (Dillingham Creek to U.S. 19-23 bridge)
- Dillingham Creek (Corner Rock Creek to Ivy Creek)
- Stony Creek
- Mineral Creek
- Corner Rock Creek
- Reems Creek (Sugar Camp Fork to U.S. 19-23 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Swannanoa River (S.R. 2702 bridge near Ridgecrest to Wood Avenue bridge [intersection of N.C. 81 and U.S. 74A in Asheville], except where posted against trespassing)
- Bent Creek (headwaters to N.C. Arboretum boundary line)
- Cane Creek (headwaters to S.R. 3138 bridge)
- Lake Powhatan

Burke County

- Henry Fork (lower South Mountains State Park line downstream to S.R. 1919 at Ivy Creek)
- Carroll Creek (game lands above S.R. 1405)
- Linville River (portion within Linville Gorge Wilderness Area, (LGWA), including tributaries, and portion below Lake James powerhouse from upstream bridge on S.R. 1223 to Muddy Creek) (Note there is no closed season within LGWA.)

Caldwell County

- Wilson Creek (Phillips Branch to Brown Mountain Beach Dam, except where posted against trespassing)
- Thorps Creek (falls to N.C. 90 bridge)
- Boone Fork Pond

Buffalo Creek (mouth of Joe's Creek to McCloud Branch)
 Joes Creek (first falls upstream of S.R. 1574 to confluence with Buffalo Creek)

Cherokee County

Shuler Creek (Joe Brown Hwy. (S.R. 1325) bridge to Tennessee line)
 Davis Creek (confluence of Bald and Dockery creeks to Hanging Dog Creek)
 Valley River (headwaters to U.S. 19 business bridge in Murphy)
 Hyatt Creek
 Junaluska Creek (Ashturn Creek to Valley River)

Clay County

Fires Creek (first bridge above the lower game land line on U.S. Forest Service Road 442 to S.R. 1300)
 Tusquitee Creek (headwaters to lower S.R. 1300 bridge)
Buck Creek (game land portion downstream of U.S. 64 bridge)

Graham County

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)
 Yellow Creek
 Santeetlah Creek (Johns Branch to mouth, including portions of tributaries on game lands, excluding Johns Branch and Little Santeetlah Creek)
 West Buffalo Creek
 Mountain Creek (game lands boundary to S.R. 1138 bridge)
 Sawyer Creek
 Big Snowbird Creek (old railroad junction to S.R. 1127 bridge including portions of tributaries on game lands)
 Long Creek (portion not on game lands)
 Tulula Creek (headwaters to lower bridge on S.R. 1275)
 Franks Creek
 Cheoah Reservoir
 Stecoah Creek
 Panther Creek

Haywood County

Pigeon River (Stamey Cove Branch to upstream U.S. 19-23 bridge)
 Cold Springs Creek
 Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to Pigeon River, except where posted against trespass)
 West Fork Pigeon River (the triple-arch bridge on N.C. 215 to Queen Creek, including portions on game lands, except Middle Prong)
 Richland Creek (Russ Avenue (U.S. 276) bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge)

Henderson County

(Rocky) Broad River (1/2 mile north of Bat Cave to Rutherford Co. line)
 Green River—upper (mouth of Joe Creek to mouth of Bobs Creek)
 Green River—lower (Lake Summit Dam to I-26 bridge)
 (Big) Hungry River
 Little Hungry River
 Cane Creek (S.R. 1551 bridge to U.S. 25 bridge)
 Clear Creek (S.R. 1591 bridge at Jack Mountain Lane to **S.R. 1582**)

Jackson County

Tuckasegee River—upper (confluence with West Fork Tuckasegee River to N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field)
 Tuckasegee River—lower (Dillsboro Dam to S.R. 1534 bridge at Wilmot)
 Scott Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Dark Ridge Creek (Jones Creek to Scott Creek)
 Savannah Creek (headwaters to Bradley's packing house on N.C. 116)
 Green's Creek (Green's Creek Baptist Church on S.R. 1730 to Savannah Creek)

Cullowhee Creek (Tilley Creek to Tuckasegee River)
 Balsam Lake
 Bear Creek Lake
 Wolf Creek Lake
 Tanasee Creek Lake

Macon County

Nantahala River (Nantahala Dam to Whiteoak Creek and Nantahala hydropower discharge canal to Swain County line)
 Queens Creek Lake
 Burningtown Creek
 Cullasaja River (Sequoyah Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near junction of S.R. 1672, excluding the game land portions of Buck Creek and Turtle Pond Creek)
 Ellijay Creek (except where posted against trespassing)
 Cliffside Lake
 Cartoogechaye Creek (U.S. 64 bridge to Little Tennessee River)

Madison County

Shut-in Creek
 Spring Creek (junction of N.C. 209 and N.C. 63 to lower U.S. Forest Service boundary line)
 Little Creek
 Meadow Fork Creek (except Little Creek)
 Roaring Fork
 Max Patch Pond
 Big Laurel Creek (Mars Hill watershed boundary to the S.R. 1318 [Big Laurel Road] bridge downstream of Bearpen Branch)
 Spillcorn Creek (entire stream, excluding tributaries)
 Shelton Laurel Creek (confluence of Big Creek and Mill Creek to N.C. 208 bridge at Belva)
 Mill Creek (headwaters to confluence with Big Creek)
 Big Pine Creek (S.R. 1151 bridge to French Broad River)
 Puncheon Fork (Hampton Creek to Big Laurel Creek)
 Little Ivy Creek (confluence of Middle Fork and Paint Fork at Beech Glen to confluence with Ivy Creek at Forks of Ivy)

McDowell County

Catawba River (Catawba Falls Campground to Old Fort Recreation Park)
 Little Buck Creek (game land portion)
 North Fork Catawba River (headwaters to North Cove School at S.R. 1569 bridge)
 Armstrong Creek (Cato Holler lower line downstream to Greenlee upper line)
 Mill Creek (upper railroad bridge to U.S. 70 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

Mitchell County

Big Rock Creek (headwaters to N.C. 226 bridge at S.R. 1307 intersection)
 Little Rock Creek (Green Creek bridge to Big Rock Creek, except where posted against trespassing)
 Cane Creek (S.R. 1219 to N.C. 226 bridge)
 Grassy Creek (East Fork Grassy Creek to mouth)
 East Fork Grassy Creek
 North Toe River (Avery Co. line to S.R. 1121 bridge)

Polk County

North Pacolet River (Pacolet Falls to N.C. 108 bridge)
 Fork Creek (Fork Creek Church on S.R. 1100 to North Pacolet River)
 Big Fall Creek—upper (portion above water supply reservoir)
 Big Fall Creek—lower (portion below water supply reservoir)
 Green River (Mouth of Cove Creek to **the natural gas pipeline crossing**)

Rutherford County

(Rocky) Broad River (Henderson Co. line to U.S. 64/74 bridge, except where posted against trespassing)

Stokes County

Dan River (Virginia state line downstream to a point 200 yards below the end of S.R. 1421)

Surry County

Pauls Creek (Virginia state line to 0.3 miles below S.R. 1625 bridge)

Fisher River (Cooper Creek) (Virginia state line to Interstate 77 bridge)

Little Fisher River (Virginia state line to N.C. 89 bridge)

Ararat River (S.R. 1727 bridge downstream to the N.C. 103 bridge)

Swain County

Calderwood Reservoir (Cheoah Dam to Tennessee state line)

Cheoah Reservoir

Deep Creek (Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary line to Tuckasegee River)

Connelly Creek

Alarka Creek (game lands boundary to mouth)

Nantahala River (Macon Co. line to existing Fontana Lake water level)

Transylvania County

French Broad River (junction of west and north forks to U.S. 276 bridge)

Davidson River (Avery Creek to lower U.S. Forest Service boundary line)

Middle Fork French Broad River

West Fork French Broad River (S.R. 1312 and S.R. 1309 intersection to junction of west and north forks)

Watauga County

North Fork New River (from confluence with Maine and Mine branches to Ashe Co. line)

Maine Branch (headwaters to North Fork New River)

Meat Camp Creek

Norris Fork Creek

Howard Creek (downstream from lower falls)

Middle Fork New River (Lake Chetola dam to South Fork New River)

Stony Fork (headwaters to Wilkes Co. line)

Elk Creek (headwaters to gravel pit on S.R. 1508, except where posted against trespassing)

Beech Creek

Buckeye Creek Reservoir

Coffee Lake

Laurel Creek

Cove Creek (S.R. 1233 bridge at Zionville to S.R. 1233 bridge at Amantha)

Dutch Creek (second bridge on S.R. 1134 to mouth)

Beaverdam Creek (confluence of Beaverdam Creek and Little Beaverdam Creek to an unnamed tributary adjacent to the intersection of S.R. 1201 and S.R. 1203)

Wilkes County

East Prong Roaring River (lower state park boundary to Brewer's Mill on S.R. 1943)

Middle Prong Roaring River (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1736)

Pike Creek Pond

Bell Branch Pond

Boundary Line Pond

Pike Creek

Cub Creek (0.5 miles upstream of S.R. 2460 bridge to S.R. 1001 bridge)

Middle Fork Reddies River (Clear Prong)(headwaters to bridge on S.R. 1580)

South Fork Reddies River (headwaters to confluence with Middle Fork Reddies River)

North Fork Reddies River (Vannoy Creek) (headwaters to Union School bridge on S.R. 1559)

Darnell Creek (North Prong Reddies River) (downstream ford on S.R. 1569 to confluence with North Fork Reddies River)

South Prong Lewis Fork (headwaters to Lewis Fork Baptist Church)

Fall Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Yancey County

Cane River (Bee Branch [S.R. 1110] to Bowlens Creek)

Bald Mountain Creek (except where posted against trespassing)

Price Creek (junction of S.R. 1120 and S.R. 1121 to Indian Creek)

South Toe River (Clear Creek to lower boundary line of Yancey Co. recreation park, except where posted against trespassing)

Wild Trout Waters

In all Wild Trout Waters, the minimum length limit is seven inches and the creel limit is four trout per day. Only artificial lures with one single hook may be used. All designated trout waters located on game lands are Wild Trout Waters unless classified and posted otherwise. The following streams are also classified as Wild Trout Waters and are marked with blue-and-gold signs, which are posted conspicuously along the watercourses:

Alleghany County

Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Stone Mountain Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Avery County

Birchfield Creek

Cow Camp Creek

Cranberry Creek (headwaters to U.S. 19E/N.C. 194 bridge)

Gragg Prong

Horse Creek

Jones Creek

Kentucky Creek

North Harper Creek

Plumtree Creek

Roaring Creek

Rockhouse Creek

South Harper Creek

Webb Prong

Burke County

All waters located on South Mountains State Park except the main stream of Jacob Fork between the mouth of Shinnny Creek and the lower park boundary and Henry Fork and its tributaries. Nettle Branch (game land portion)

Caldwell County

Buffalo Creek (Watauga Co. line to Long Ridge Branch including tributaries on game lands)

Joels Creek (Watauga Co. line to first falls upstream of the end of S.R. 1574)

Rockhouse Creek

Graham County

Little Buffalo Creek

South Fork Squally Creek

Squally Creek

Henderson County

Green River (I-26 bridge to Henderson/Polk Co. line)

Jackson County

Gage Creek

North Fork Scott Creek

- Tanasee Creek
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)
- Wolf Creek (except Balsam Lake)

Mitchell County

- Green Creek (headwaters to Green Creek bridge, except where posted against trespassing)
- Little Rock Creek (above Green Creek, including all tributaries, except where posted against trespassing)
- Wiles Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

Polk County

- Green River (Henderson/Polk Co. line to Fishtop Falls Access Area)

Transylvania County

- All waters located on Gorges State Park
- Whitewater River (downstream from Silver Run Creek to South Carolina state line)

Watauga County

- Dutch Creek (headwaters to second bridge on S.R. 1134)
- Howards Creek (headwaters to lower falls)
- Watauga River (Avery Co. line to steel bridge at Riverside Farm Road)

Winkler Creek (lower bridge on S.R. 1549 to confluence with South Fork New River)

Wilkes County

- Big Sandy Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Garden Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)
- Widow Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Yancey County

- Cattail Creek (bridge at Mountain Farm Community Road to N.C. 197 bridge)
- Lickskillet Creek
- Middle Creek (game land boundary to mouth)

OTHER REGULATED TROUT WATERS

Certain Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters are managed under very restrictive regulations to meet specific management objectives. These waters are marked with signs that are posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

Catch-and-Release/Artificial Lures Only Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures having one single hook, and all fish must be released. No fish may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with purple-and-gold signs.

Ashe County

- Big Horse Creek (Virginia state line to Mud Creek at S.R. 1363, excluding tributaries)
- Unnamed tributary of Three Top Creek (game land portion)

Avery County

- Wilson Creek (game land portion)

Buncombe County

- Carter Creek (game land portion)

Burke County

- Henry Fork (portion on South Mountains State Park)

Jackson County

- Tuckasegee River (above the Clark property)
- Flat Creek

McDowell County

- Newberry Creek (game land portion)

Watauga County

- Dugger Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office

- on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)
- Laurel Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)

Wilkes County

- Dugger Creek (portions on Laurelmore development, including tributaries. Anglers must check in at Laurelmore security office on Triplett Rd. prior to fishing)
- Harris Creek (portion on Stone Mountain State Park)

Yancey County

- Upper Creek
- Lower Creek

Catch-and-Release/Artificial Flies Only Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished only with artificial flies having one single hook. No fish may be harvested or possessed while fishing these streams. These streams are marked with red-and-gold signs.

Avery County

- Elk River (portion on Lees-McRae College property, excluding the millpond)
- Lost Cove Creek (game land portion, excluding Gragg Prong and Rockhouse Creek)

Transylvania County

- Davidson River (headwaters to Avery Creek, excluding Avery Creek, Looking Glass Creek and Grogan Creek)

Yancey County

- South Toe River (portion from the concrete bridge above Black Mountain Campground downstream to game land boundary, excluding Camp Creek and Big Lost Cove Creek)

Delayed-Harvest Trout Waters The following trout waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, may be fished only with artificial lures with one single hook. No natural bait may be possessed, and no trout may be harvested or possessed while fishing these waters between Oct. 1, 2009 and 30 minutes after sunset on June 4, 2010. These waters are closed to fishing between 30 minutes after sunset on June 4 and 6 a.m. on June 5. At 6 a.m. on June 5, 2010, these waters open to fishing for youths under 16 years old under Hatchery-Supported regulations—no bait restriction, no minimum length limit and seven-trout-per-day creel limit. At 12 p.m. on June 5, 2010, these waters open for all anglers under Hatchery-Supported regulations. These waters are marked with black-and-white signs.

Ashe County

- Trout Lake
- Helton Creek (Virginia state line to New River)

Burke County

- Jacob Fork (Shinny Creek to lower South Mountains State Park boundary)

Caldwell County

Wilson Creek (Lost Cove Creek to Phillips Branch)

Haywood County

- West Fork Pigeon River (Queen Creek to the first game land boundary upstream of Lake Logan)

Henderson County

- North Fork Mills River (game land portion below the Hendersonville watershed dam)

Jackson County

- Tuckasegee River (N.C. 107 bridge at Love Field to the Dillsboro dam)

Macon County

- Nantahala River (Whiteoak Creek to Nantahala hydropower discharge canal)

Madison County

Big Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge to the U.S. 25-70 bridge)
Shelton Laurel Creek (N.C. 208 bridge at Belva to the confluence with Big Laurel Creek)

McDowell County

Curtis Creek (game land portion downstream of the U.S. Forest Service boundary at Deep Branch)
Mill Creek (U.S. 70 bridge to I-40 bridge)

Mitchell County

Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to N.C. 80 bridge)
North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge)

Polk County

Green River (Fishtop Falls Access Area to the confluence with Cove Creek)

Surry County

Mitchell River (0.6 mile upstream of the end of S.R. 1333 to the S.R. 1330 bridge below Kapps Mill Dam)

Transylvania County

East Fork French Broad River (Gladly Fork to French Broad River)
Little River (confluence of Lake Dense to 100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls)

Watauga County

Watauga River (adjacent to intersection of S.R. 1557 and S.R. 1558 to N.C. 105 bridge and S.R. 1114 bridge to N.C. 194 bridge at Valle Crucis)

Wilkes County

East Prong Roaring River (mouth of Bullhead Creek downstream to Stone Mountain State Park boundary line)
Stone Mountain Creek (from falls at Alleghany Co. line to confluence with East Prong Roaring River and Bullhead Creek)
Reddies River (Town of North Wilkesboro water intake dam to confluence with Yadkin River)

Wild Trout: Natural Bait Waters The following trout waters and their tributaries, except as noted, may be fished with artificial lures or natural bait, except live fish. Lures and natural baits are restricted to one single hook. The minimum length limit is seven inches, and the daily creel limit is four trout. These streams are marked with brown-and-gold signs.

Cherokee County

Tellico River (Fain Ford to Tennessee state line, excluding tributaries)
Bald Creek (game land portions)
Dockery Creek (game land portions)

Graham County

Deep Creek
Long Creek (game land portion)

Haywood County

Hemphill Creek
Hurricane Creek (including portions of tributaries on game lands)

Jackson County

Buff Creek (uppermost crossing on S.R. 1457 to Scott Creek)
Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
Lower Fowler Creek (game land portion)
Scotsman Creek (game land portion)
Shoal Creek (Glenville Reservoir pipeline to mouth)
West Fork Tuckasegee River (Shoal Creek to existing water level of Little Glenville Lake)

Macon County

Chattooga River (S.R. 1100 bridge to South Carolina state line)
Jarrett Creek (game land portion)
Kimsey Creek
Overflow Creek (game land portion)
Park Creek

Tellico Creek (game land portion)
Turtle Pond Creek (game land portion)

Madison County

Big Creek (headwaters to the lower game land boundary, including tributaries)

Transylvania County

North Fork French Broad River (game land portions downstream of S.R. 1326)
Thompson River (S.R. 1152 to South Carolina state line, except where posted against trespassing)

Special Regulation Trout Waters The following portions of Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, excluding tributaries except as noted, are subject to the following special regulations. These streams are marked with white-and-red signs.

Burke County

Catawba River (Muddy Creek to City of Morganton water intake dam). The creel limit is seven trout per day; only one of which may be greater than 14 inches. No bait restrictions. No closed season.

Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Some Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters running through or adjacent to certain cities or towns may be further classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters. In lieu of special trout fishing license requirements, resident or non-resident anglers may fish in these waters with a valid Mountain Heritage Trout Waters Three-day license. This license is \$5 for both residents and non-residents and can be purchased online at www.ncwildlife.org or by calling 1-888-248-6834, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. The following waters are classified as Mountain Heritage Trout Waters and listed by county, Mountain Heritage City name and regulation type. The boundaries for Mountain Heritage Trout Waters are marked with signs posted conspicuously along the watercourses.

Avery County

Newland
North Toe River (Watauga St. bridge to Roby Shomaker Wetlands and Family Recreation Park) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

Haywood County

Maggie Valley
Jonathan Creek (upstream S.R. 1302 bridge to S.R. 1389 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]
Waynesville
Richland Creek (Russ Avenue bridge to U.S. 23-74 bridge) [Hatchery-Supported regulations apply]

Mitchell County

Bakersville
Cane Creek (N.C. 226 bridge to Baker Lane bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]
Spruce Pine
North Toe River (U.S. 19E bridge to N.C. 226 bridge) [Delayed-Harvest regulations apply]

Fishing on Game Lands

- A game lands license is not required to fish in any waters on game lands.
- All game lands are open to public fishing with the following exceptions:
 - Restocked ponds when posted against fishing.
 - Grogan Creek in Transylvania County, which serves as a fish hatchery and water supply.
 - Hunting Creek Swamp Waterfowl Refuge in Davie County.
 - Private ponds where fishing may be prohibited by property owners.
- In all game lands ponds, forked-tail catfish may be taken only

by hook and line, and the daily creel limit is six catfish for all species combined.

- The use of special fishing devices, including crab pots, is prohibited in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow (except crossbows) from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Blue crabs may be taken recreationally from designated waterfowl impoundments on game lands with hand-held lines with single baits and a collapsible crab trap with a maximum opening of 18 inches. The limit is 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point).

Trout Fishing on Game Lands

- Fishing hours in any trout waters located on game lands or in any Wild Trout Waters are from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the Nantahala River downstream from the Swain County line and in the sections of Green River in Polk County located on Green River Game Land from the mouth of Cove Creek downstream to **the natural gas pipeline crossing**, where night fishing is allowed.

All waters on the game lands listed below are designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and are classified as Wild Trout Waters, except as noted:

- Three Top Mountain Game Land in Ashe Co.
- Nantahala National Forest Game Land in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Transylvania counties, except Cheoah River downstream of Santeetlah Reservoir and Cherokee Lake.
- Pisgah National Forest Game Land in Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Transylvania and Yancey counties, except Grogan Creek, North Fork Catawba River downstream of the mouth of Armstrong Creek, Big Laurel Creek downstream from the U.S. 25-70 bridge to the French Broad River, Mill Ridge Pond, Nolichucky River, and Pigeon River downstream of Waterville Reservoir to the Tennessee state line.
- Dupont State Forest Game Land in Henderson and Transylvania counties, except Little River from **100 yards downstream of Hooker Falls** downstream to the Dupont State Forest boundary, Lake Imaging, Lake Dense, Lake Alfred, Lake Julia, and Fawn Lake.
- Thurmond Chatham Game Land in Wilkes Co.
- Toxaway Game Land in Transylvania Co.
- South Mountains Game Land in Cleveland and Rutherford counties.
- Cold Mountain Game Land in Haywood Co., except West Fork Pigeon River below Lake Logan.
- **Green River Game Land in Henderson and Polk counties, excluding Green River downstream of the natural pipeline crossing.**

Blue Ridge Parkway The National Park Service establishes fishing regulations for parkway waters. Several ponds and streams on the Blue Ridge Parkway offer trout, smallmouth bass or bream fishing opportunities. Trout fishing regulations on parkway waters are displayed on signs located near fishing access points. Questions regarding fishing on parkway waters should be directed to the Blue Ridge Parkway using the contact information below.

A valid North Carolina or Virginia fishing license is required for all persons age 16 or older fishing on parkway waters. Either state's license is valid on all parkway waters. Special trout licenses are not required.

For specific fishing information in Blue Ridge Parkway waters, contact: Blue Ridge Parkway, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Telephone: (828) 271-4779, Ext. 245.

DuPont State Forest Night fishing is prohibited from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise in all waters on the DuPont State Forest Game Land.

North Carolina State Parks South Mountains State Park in Burke County, Stone Mountain State Park in Wilkes and Alleghany counties and Gorges State Park in Transylvania County offer many miles of trout fishing waters. As established by the Wildlife Resources Commission for other trout streams, a valid trout license and a valid North Carolina inland fishing license are requirements in state park inland streams. A game lands license is not required. A special catch-and-release stream is located in Stone Mountain State Park with additional regulations. The possession of any type of firearms, explosives, bows and arrows, or alcoholic beverages within state parks is unlawful. Park entrance gates are opened and closed daily according to the following schedule:

November, December, January, February	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
March, October	8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
April, May, September	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
June, July, August	8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the following park offices:

- South Mountains State Park** (828) 433-4772
- Stone Mountain State Park** (336) 957-8185
- Gorges State Park** (828) 966-9099

NONGAME FISH

Any fish not classified as a game fish is considered a nongame fish when found in inland fishing waters and includes shellfish and crustaceans.

Sale of Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish caught on hook and line or by grabbling may be sold without restriction, except as follows:
- When nongame fish are taken for the purpose of sale by means other than hook and line or by grabbling, a special fishing device license is required (see “Special Fishing Devices,” page 29).
- Bowfin taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold.
- Blueback herring and alewife taken by any method in inland waters may not be sold, except for those fish less than six inches in length that are taken from Kerr Reservoir (Granville, Vance, and Warren counties).

Manner of Taking Nongame Fish

- Nongame fish may be taken by hook and line or by grabbling; no fish may be taken by snagging. Special devices may be used to take nongame fish with proper licenses (see “Collecting Nongame Fish for Bait,” page 28 and “Special Fishing Devices,” page 29).
- Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow in waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with bow and arrow under any license that authorizes basic hunting or inland fishing privileges subject to “Miscellaneous Prohibitions” (see page 32).
- It is unlawful to fish with a crossbow, except for disabled persons possessing a valid crossbow hunting permit.
- For special rules governing trotlines, see “Using Trotlines, Set-hooks and Jug-hooks” (page 17).

- Crab pots and baited long lines are special fishing devices that may not be used in inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. Exception: Persons owning property adjacent to the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries may set two crab pots attached to their property and a special device license is not required.

Hook-and-Line Regulations for Nongame Fish

- * Season: Year-round
- * Minimum size limit: None
- * Daily creel limit: None

The following exceptions apply:

- The daily creel limit on channel, white and blue catfish (forked-tail catfish) is six fish in the following waters:

Oka T. Hester Pond	CG Hill Memorial Park Pond
Lake Luke Marion	Winston Pond*
Shelley Lake	San-Lee Park Ponds
Freedom Park Pond*	Lake Toisnot
Lake Rim*	Bur-Mill Park Ponds
Cedarock Pond	Kernersville Lake
Indian Lake	Apex Community Lake
Frank Liske Park Pond	McAlpine Lake
Kinston Neuseway Park Pond	Big Elkin Creek
River Park North Pond	Lake Tomahawk
Simpkins Pond	Ellerbe Community Lake
Lake Michael	Park Road Pond
Harris Lake County Park Ponds	Etheridge Pond*
Newbold Pond*	Anderson Community Park Pond
Hornet's Nest Pond	Hagan Stone Park Ponds
Hamlet City Lake	Bond Park Lake
Reedy Creek Park Ponds	Salisbury Community Lake
Bass Lake (Wake Co.)	Lake Julian
Squirrel Park Pond	Rabbit Shuffle Pond
Indian Camp Pond	Albermarle City Lake
High Rock Pond	Lake Devin
Laughter Pond	Hinson Lake

Tumbling Rock Reservoir

All game lands ponds

***Use of gasoline engines to power boats is prohibited.**

- In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- The minimum size limit for American eel is six inches, and the possession limit is 50 fish.
- Blue crabs taken by hook and line from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands must have a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point). The daily limit is 50 crabs per person or 100 per vessel per day.
- No person shall take or possess herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length from the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment of the main course on the river (listed below), the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and in all other inland fishing waters east of Interstate 95.
 - Roanoke River – Roanoke Rapids Dam
 - Tar River – Rocky Mount Mill Dam
 - Neuse River – Milburnie Dam
 - Cape Fear River – Buckhorn Dam
 - Waccamaw River – Lake Waccamaw Dam
 - Pee-Dee River – Blewett Falls Dam

- Grass carp may not be possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, **Lake Wylie**, Lake Gaston and Roanoke Rapids Reservoir, except that **one** fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.
- In designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, the season shall be the same as the trout-fishing season.
- Information and regulations about fishing on game lands are listed on pages 26–27.

Taking Nongame Fish, Crustaceans, and Mollusks for Bait or Personal Consumption

- Nongame fishes, crustaceans (crayfish and blue crabs), and mollusks taken for bait or personal consumption may not be sold.
 - Nongame fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks may be taken for bait or personal consumption only with the equipment listed below, and an appropriate inland fishing license is required. (See Regulations for Taking and Sale of Nongame Fish on pages 27–28 and other nongame regulations on page 36 for more information).
 1. A dip net not greater than six feet across.
 2. A seine not greater than 12 feet in length with a bar mesh measure of not more than 1/4 inch.

Exception: In Lake Waccamaw any length seine may be used to collect bait fishes.

 3. A cast net.
 4. Minnow traps under immediate control and attendance of the operator and not exceeding 12 inches in diameter, with funnel openings not exceeding 1 inch in diameter.
 5. Hand-held lines with single baits attached to each.
 6. A collapsible crab trap with the largest opening not greater than 18 inches and which, by design, collapses at all times when in the water, except when being retrieved or lowered to the bottom.
 - The daily creel limit is 200 nongame fish, crayfish, and mollusks, in combination, subject to the following restrictions:
 1. No more than 50 eels, none of which may be less than six inches in length
 2. No herring (alewife and blueback) greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed from the inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first impoundment dam on the main course of the rivers (listed above), the Lumber River including Drowning Creek, and all other public waters east of Interstate 95.
 3. No more than 50 crabs per person per day or 100 per vessel per day with a minimum carapace width of five inches (point to point) from inland fishing waters or in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands.
 4. In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
 - Any fish taken for bait purposes are included in the daily possession limit for that species (where such a limit is specified).
 - Nongame fish may not be taken for bait from Bear Creek and Rocky River, Chatham County; Fork Creek, Randolph County; Deep River below Coleridge Dam, Randolph County; and those portions of Deep River in Moore, Chatham and Lee counties.
 - Game fish incidentally taken with nets or traps, while capturing bait, must not be harmed and must be released immediately.
- Taking Freshwater Mussels**
- Freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), may only be taken from impounded waters, except mussels shall not be taken in Lake Waccamaw and in University Lake (Orange County).
 - The daily possession limit for freshwater mussels, including the Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*), is 200.

Special Fishing Devices

- Special fishing devices, which may be licensed for the taking of nongame fishes, include the following: bow and arrow (except crossbows), seines, cast nets, gill nets, dip nets, bow nets, reels, gigs, spear guns, baskets, fish pots, eel pots, traps (excluding crab traps and automobile tires), and hand-crank electrofishers where authorized by local law.
- Special fishing devices may only be used in waters having designated seasons. See list (by county) under “Seasons and Waters” on pages 29–32.
- A noncommercial special device license is valid when no more than three special devices, regardless of type, are used.
- A commercial special device license is required when four or more special devices, regardless of type, are used.
- Hand-crank electrofishers are any manually operated device capable of generating a low-voltage electrical current, not to exceed 300 volts, for the taking of catfish.

Term and Use of Special Device Licenses

- The license is valid during a license year (12 months from date of purchase).
- Each user of a special device must have his own license in possession, except that a bow net or dip net may be used by another person who has the owner’s license in his possession.
- Only the principal owner or operator must be licensed when drag seines are used at inland beaches to take mullet.
- Nongame fishes may be taken with bow and arrow under any license that authorizes basic hunting or fishing privileges.

Netting Restrictions

- Except as specified below, stationary nets must not exceed 100 yards in length and must be spaced at least 50 yards apart.
- “Attendance” requires that a fisherman be within 100 yards of his net at all times.
- Stationary nets must run parallel to the nearest shoreline.
- Anchored, fixed or drift gill nets must be marked at each end with two separate yellow buoys, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material no less than five inches in their smallest dimension. Buoys on each of the nets shall be marked (by engraving buoys or attaching engraved metal or plastic tags) with one of the following: owner’s N.C. vessel registration number, owner’s U.S. vessel documentation name or owner’s last name and initials.
- No wires or ropes associated with a special fishing device may extend across any navigable watercourse.

Fish-Trap Restrictions

- A fish trap may be no more than 60 inches in length and no more than 30 inches in depth or width.
- No lead nets, wing nets or other devices may be attached to the trap nor used within 25 feet of the trap.
- Such devices, when set and left unattended, shall be affixed with a card or tag furnished by the license-holder and upon which his name and address shall be legibly inscribed.
- Each pot must be marked by attaching a floating buoy, which shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material and no less than five inches in diameter and no less than five inches in length. Buoys may be of any color except yellow. The owner shall always be identified on the attached buoy by using engraved buoys or by engraved metal or plastic tags attached to the buoy. Such identification shall include one of the following: owner’s N.C. vessel registration number, owner’s U.S. vessel documentation name, or owner’s last name and initials.

Exception: An angler with a valid inland fishing license may use up to two eel pots to take eels for bait without a special fishing device license.

Seasons and Waters

- There is no open season for sturgeon. Any sturgeon caught must be immediately released.
- No river herring greater than six inches in length may be taken or possessed from inland fishing waters of coastal rivers and their tributaries, up to the first impoundment of the main course of the river (listed on page 28), the Lumber River, including Drowning Creek, and all other public waters east of Interstate 95.
- In Lake Norman and Badin Lake the daily creel limit for blue catfish greater than 32 inches in length is one.
- No special fishing devices, including crab pots, may be used in designated waterfowl impoundments located on game lands. **Exception:** Nongame fish may be taken year-round with bow and arrow from waterfowl impoundments located entirely on game lands and in all inland fishing waters other than the impounded waters on the Sandhills Game Land, designated Public Mountain Trout Waters, or waters subject to Miscellaneous Prohibitions (see pages 32–33).
- Seasons and waters, in which use of special devices other than bow and arrow is authorized, are indicated by the following counties:
 - Alamance:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Alamance Creek below N.C. 49 bridge and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
 - Alexander:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lake Hickory and Lookout Shoals Reservoir.
 - Alleghany:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
 - Anson:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls Dam. July 1 – August 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle.
 - Ash:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in New River (both forks), except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
 - Beaufort:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Pungo River and in the Tar-Pamlico River above Norfolk and Southern Railroad bridge; and with gigs in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters.
 - Bertie:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Broad Creek (tributary of Roanoke River). March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
 - Bladen:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black River; July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Cape Fear River between Locks and Dams 1 and 3 and Black River (local law), except that hand-crank electrofishing is prohibited within 800 feet downstream and 400 yards upstream of Lock and Dam 1; 400 yards downstream and upstream of Lock and Dam 2; and 400 yards downstream of Lock and Dam 3.
 - Brunswick:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Alligator Creek, Hoods Creek, Indian Creek, Orton Creek below Orton Pond, Rices Creek, Sturgeon Creek and Town Creek.
 - Buncombe:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
 - Burke:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Johns River and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
 - Cabarrus:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.

- Caldwell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Camden:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Carteret:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except South River and the tributaries of the White Oak River.
- Caswell:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Moons Creek. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Hyco Reservoir.
- Catawba:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Catawba River below Lookout Dam. July 1 – June 30 with traps, spear guns and gigs in all public waters.
- Chatham:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in the Cape Fear River, Haw River, Deep River and Rocky River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Cape Fear River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.
- Cherokee:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Chowan:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Clay:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Cleveland:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.
- Columbus:** Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters, except Lake Waccamaw and its tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Livingston Creek. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Waccamaw and Lumber rivers (local law).
- Craven:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the main run of the Trent and Neuse rivers. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Pitch Kettle, Grindle, Slocum (downstream from the U.S. 70 bridge), Spring and Hancock creeks and their tributaries; and with seines in the Neuse River.
- Currituck:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Tulls Creek and Northwest River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Dare:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Mashoes Creek, Milltail Creek, East Lake and South Lake. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Davidson:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters; and with traps in all public waters except Leonard's Creek, Abbott's Creek below Lake Thom-A-Lex Dam and the Abbott's Creek arm of High Rock Lake upstream from the N.C. 8 bridge.
- Davie:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters. July 1 – Aug. 31 for taking only carp and suckers with seines in Dutchman's Creek from U.S. 601 to Yadkin River and in Hunting Creek from S.R. 1338 to South Yadkin River.
- Duplin:** Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge. March 1-April 30 with bow nets in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River downstream from a point one mile above Serecta Bridge.
- Durham:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Neuse River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Edgecombe:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all public waters.
- Forsyth:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.
- Franklin:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Parrish, Laurel Mill, Jackson, Clifton, Moore's and Perry's ponds, and in the Franklinton city ponds.
- Gaston:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with gigs, traps and spear guns in all public waters.
- Gates:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Graham:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).
- Granville:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Neuse River and the Tar River below U.S. 158 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
- Greene:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets and reels in Contentnea Creek.
- Guilford:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River, Deep River below Jamestown Dam and Reedy Fork Creek below U.S. 29 bridge. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Halifax:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Beech Swamp, Clarks Canal, Conoconnara Swamp, Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam, Kehukee Swamp, Looking Glass Gut, Quankey Creek and White's Mill Pond Run. April 1 – June 15 in Fishing Creek on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, shad and herring may be taken with skim or gill nets having a bar mesh of not less than 1.5 inch (local law).
- Harnett:** Jan. 1 – May 31 with gigs in Cape Fear River and tributaries. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Cape Fear River.
- Haywood:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Lake Junaluska and designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Henderson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Hertford:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Wiccacon Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Hyde:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Iredell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters; and with spear guns in Lookout Shoals Reservoir and Lake Norman.
- Jackson:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Johnston:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Black Creek, Little River, Middle Creek, Mill Creek, Neuse River and Swift Creek.
- Jones:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in the Trent River below U.S. 17 bridge and White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except the tributaries to White Oak River.
- Lee:** Dec. 1 – April 15 with dip and gill nets in Cape Fear River and Deep River (local law). July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Cape Fear River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Deep River; and with gigs in all public waters.
- Lenoir:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River below U.S. 70 bridge at Kinston. March 1-April 30 with bow nets in Neuse River and Contentnea Creek upstream from N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton; and with seines in Neuse River.

- Lincoln:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters.
July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters.
- McDowell:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters and Lake James. Fishing by use of an unattended float is prohibited on Lake James (local law).
- Macon:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Madison:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Martin:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Mecklenburg:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Freedom Park Pond and Hornet's Nest pond.
- Montgomery:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except in Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- Moore:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Deep River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land; and with traps in Deep River and its tributaries.
- Nash:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Tar River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Tar River below Harris' Landing and Fishing Creek below the Fishing Creek Mill Dam.
- New Hanover:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Sutton (Catfish) Lake.
- Northampton:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Gaston and Roanoke Rapids reservoirs and the Roanoke River above the U.S. 301 bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Occaneechee Creek, Old River Landing Gut and Vaughns Creek below Watsons Mill.
- Onslow:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in White Oak River below U.S. 17 bridge. Aug. 1 – March 31 with eel pots in the main run of New River between U.S. 17 bridge and the mouth of Hawkins Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the main run of New River and White Oak River, and in Grant's Creek.
- Orange:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Pamlico:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Dawson Creek.
- Pasquotank:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters, except Dawson Creek. March 1-April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Pender:** Dec. 1 – June 5 with seines in the main run of the Northeast Cape Fear River. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Northeast Cape Fear River, Long Creek, Moore's Creek approximately one mile upstream to New Moon Fishing Camp and Black River. July 1 – March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River (local law).
- Perquimans:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in all inland waters. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Person:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Hyco Creek and Mayo Creek. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Pitt:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Neuse River and in Tar River below the mouth of Hardee Creek east of Greenville. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, except Grindle Creek, and Contentnea Creek between N.C. 118 bridge at Grifton and the Neuse River. March 1 – April 30 with seines in Tar River.
- Polk:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Randolph:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Deep River above the Coleridge Dam and in Uwharrie River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters.
- Richmond:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River from Blewett Falls Dam downstream to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad trestle. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except lakes located on the Sandhills Game Land. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls
- Robeson:** Dec. 1 – March 1 with gigs in all inland public waters.
- Rockingham:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Dan River and Haw River. July 1 – June 30 with traps in Dan River; and with gigs in all public waters.
- Rowan:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- Rutherford:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps, gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Sampson:** March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Big Coharrie Creek, Black River and Six Runs Creek. July 1-March 1 with hand-crank electrofishers in Black River downstream of N.C. 1105 bridge (local law).
- Stanly:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters, except Pee Dee River between Tillery Dam and Rocky River. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- Stokes:** July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters; and traps may not be used in Belews Creek Reservoir.
- Surry:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters; and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.
- Swain:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters. Special devices are not permitted on Santeetlah Lake, Fontana Lake, Cheoah Reservoir and Calderwood Reservoir (local law).
- Transylvania:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.
- Tyrrell:** July 1 – June 30 with traps in Scuppernong River and Alligator Creek. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.
- Union:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in all running public waters. July 1 – June 30 with traps and gigs in all public waters.
- Vance:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in the Tar River. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Rolands, Faulkners, Southerlands and Weldon ponds, City Lake, and Kerr Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.
- Wake:** July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Sunset, Benson, Wheeler, Raleigh and Johnson lakes. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in the Neuse River below Milburnie Dam, and Swift Creek below Lake Benson Dam.
- Warren:** July 1 – Aug. 31 with seines in Fishing Creek, Shocco Creek and Walker Creek, excluding Duck and Hammes Mill ponds. July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, except Duck and Hammes Mill ponds, Kerr Reservoir and Gaston Reservoir. July 1 – June 30 with dip and cast nets in Kerr Reservoir.

Washington: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in all inland public waters, excluding Lake Phelps, the drainage canals that connect Lake Phelps and Scuppernong River, public lakes, ponds and other impounded waters.

Wayne: March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Little River, Mill Creek and Neuse River.

Wilkes: July 1 – June 30 with traps in Yadkin River below W. Kerr Scott Reservoir; and with gigs and spear guns in all public waters, except Designated Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Wilson: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in Contentnea Creek (except Buckhorn Reservoir), including unnamed tributaries between Flowers Mill and S.R. 1163 (Deans) bridge. March 1 – April 30 with bow nets in Contentnea Creek below U.S. 301 bridge and in Toisnot Swamp downstream from the Lake Toisnot Dam.

Yadkin: July 1 – June 30 with gigs in all public waters, and with traps in the main stem of Yadkin River.

MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITIONS

Possession of Certain Fishes

- It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess or sell any live individuals of piranha, “walking catfish” (*Clarias batrachus*), snake-

- head fish (from the Family *Channidae*, formerly *Ophiocephalidae*), white amur or “grass carp” (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*), swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*), red shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*), tubenose goby (*Proterorhinus marmoratus*), ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernuus*), Japanese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina japonica*), Chinese mystery snail (*Cipantopaludina chinensis malleata*), red-rim melania (*Melanoides tuberculatus*), virile crayfish (*Orconectes (Gremicambarus) virilis*), or rusty crayfish (*Orconectes (Procericambarus) rusticus*), or **zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)** or to stock any of them in the public or private waters of North Carolina, except that certified triploid grass carp may be bought, possessed and stocked with a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- It is unlawful to take or possess any state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, including sturgeon from the inland waters of North Carolina.
- It is unlawful to possess eels less than six inches in length.
- It is unlawful to possess, transport or release live alewife or blueback herring in the Little Tennessee River and the Catawba River, upstream of Lake Rhodhiss, and their tributaries and impoundments.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Elevated levels of some pollutants may be found in certain fish caught by the public or sold commercially in the United States.

For more information, see www.epi.state.nc.us and click on “Fish Consumption Advisories.”

The following table lists the current fish consumption advisories for North Carolina inland fishing waters:

Body of Water	Advisory	Pollutant
STATEWIDE	Women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under age 15: no more than 2 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury and no consumption of fish HIGH in mercury. All other people: no more than 4 meals per week of fish LOW in mercury and only 1 meal per week of fish HIGH in mercury. (The names of fishes containing high and low levels of mercury are available from N.C. Dept. Health and Human Services at (919) 707-5912 or www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/fish/safefish.html)	<u>Mercury</u>
Albemarle Sound from Bull Bay to Harvey Point west to the mouths of the Roanoke and Chowan rivers (Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Roanoke River from U.S. Hwy. 17 bridge near Williamston to the mouth of Albemarle Sound (Martin, Bertie and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Welch Creek (Martin, Beaufort and Washington counties)	Carp and catfish. No consumption by women of childbearing age or children. No more than one meal per month for others.	<u>Dioxins</u>
Brier Creek Reservoir (Wake County), Brier Creek –downstream of Brier Creek Reservoir, and Little Brier Creek and tributaries downstream of Brier Creek Parkway	All fish. No consumption.	<u>PCBs</u>
Lake Crabtree (Wake County)	Carp and catfish. No consumption. No more than one meal per month for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Crabtree Creek (Wake County) above and below Lake Crabtree to Neuse River	Carp, catfish and largemouth bass. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Neuse River (Wake County) downstream of Crabtree Creek to Auburn-Knightdale Road	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month.	<u>PCBs</u>
Walnut Creek (Wake County) and Rocky Branch tributary just upstream of confluence with Neuse River	Carp and catfish. No more than one meal per month and no more than one meal per week for all other fish.	<u>PCBs</u>
Santeetlah Lake and Fontana Lake (Graham and Swain counties)	Walleye. No consumption by women of child bearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>Mercury</u>
Badin Lake (Stanly and Montgomery counties)	Catfish and largemouth bass. No consumption by women of child bearing age or children under 15. No more than one meal per week for all other people.	<u>PCBs</u>

- It is unlawful to stock fish into public fishing waters without a permit from the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Grass carp may not be possessed on Lake James, Lookout Shoals Lake, Lake Norman, Mountain Island Reservoir, **Lake Wylie**, Gaston and Roanoke Rapids reservoirs, except that **one** fish per day may be taken by bow and arrow.

FISHING ACCESS AREA REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- Use any public fishing area for purposes other than fishing, except where facilities are provided and approved uses are posted. All other uses—including swimming, sunbathing on piers or decks, possessing loaded firearms, launching or mooring jet skis or boats, skiing, building fires, operating concessions or other activities not directly associated with fishing—are prohibited.
- Use gasoline motors on Lake Rim in Cumberland County, and on Newbold and Etheridge ponds in Edgecombe County.

BOATING ACCESS AREA REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to:

- Leave any vehicle, trailer, boat or other obstruction where it will impede the use of the ramp by others.
- Park any vehicles, trailer or boat anywhere on the area when the parking zone is fully occupied. This does not prohibit legal use of the ramp.
- Use the area for swimming, camping, operating concessions or for any use other than the launching and recovery of boats and parking of vehicles and boat trailers, except where facilities for a particular use are provided.
- Operate any vessel within 50 yards of the ramp at a speed greater than “No Wake” speed.
- Possess loaded firearms on the access area.
- Operate a vehicle on any boat access area in a manner so as to endanger life or property.
- Deposit any debris or refuse anywhere on the grounds of the area.
- Fail to obey any instruction or signs regulating use of the access area.
- Conduct a fishing tournament weigh-in without first obtaining a letter of authorization from the Division of Engineering Services by calling (919) 707-0150. This permit must be available for inspection by wildlife enforcement officers during the tournament.
- Park in a handicapped space without displaying a handicapped plate or sign.

HYDROELECTRIC STATION SAFETY ZONES

- A 100-foot safety zone extends both upstream and downstream of the following hydroelectric stations. Only fishing and boating are authorized within the safety zone, subject to the following restrictions:
- All boaters within the safety zone are required to wear approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation devices.
- Any anglers within the safety zone that enter the water are required to wear an approved U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device.

- No vessel may anchor within this zone or tie off to any part of the hydroelectric station structure.

Catawba River:

- Bridgewater Hydroelectric Station (Paddy Creek, Linville and Catawba dams)
- Cowans Ford Hydroelectric Station
- Lookout Hydroelectric Station
- Mountain Island Hydroelectric Station
- Oxford Hydroelectric Station
- Rhodhiss Hydroelectric Station

Green River:

- Tuxedo Hydroelectric Station

Yadkin River:

- Narrows Hydroelectric Station
- High Rock Hydroelectric Station

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION

For fishing information relating to land administered by other agencies, contact the appropriate agency:

- Blue Ridge Parkway
199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803
Telephone: (828) 298-0398
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee Fish and Game Management
P.O. Box 302, Cherokee, NC 28719
Telephone: (800) 438-1601
- Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge
38 Mattamuskeet Rd., Swanquarter, NC 27885
Telephone: (252) 926-4021
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Rd.
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
Telephone: (865) 436-1200
- U.S. Forest Service Wilderness Areas
National Forests in North Carolina
160 Zillicoa St., Asheville, NC 28801
Telephone: (828) 257-4200
- Division of Marine Fisheries
P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557
Telephone: (800) 682-2632
- MacKay Island National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 39 Knotts Island, NC 27950
Telephone: (252) 429-3100

APPLYING FOR A FRESHWATER FISHING RECORD

The Wildlife Resources Commission maintains records for popular freshwater sport fishes caught by rod and reel or cane pole in state waters. State record fish must be weighed on scales certified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and verified by a Wildlife Resources Commission fisheries biologist (or biologist designated by the Commission). For an application form and other requirements, visit www.ncwildlife.org and follow the link for *Fishing Programs* under the *Fishing* topic, or call the Division of Inland Fisheries at (919) 707-0220.

NORTH CAROLINA ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

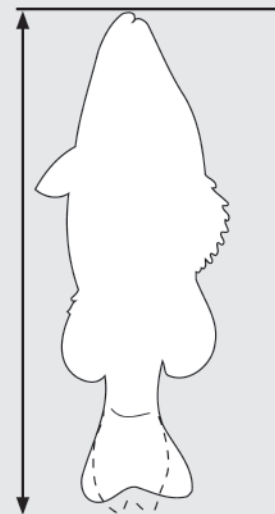
Any angler who catches a fish meeting specific size requirements can apply to have the catch recognized as a “trophy” fish through the North Carolina Angler Recognition Program, or NCARP. This program provides recognition to all anglers who catch trophy-size fish that are not large enough to qualify as state record fish. **In 2008, five new species were added to the list of 32 freshwater fishes eligible for NCARP certification — pumpkinseed sunfish, redbfin pickerel, kokanee salmon, bullhead catfish and freshwater drum.**

Youth age 15 and younger may apply for a Youth NCARP certificate. Youth NCARP certificates are available for any fish listed below and do not have to meet any minimum length and weight requirements.

North Carolina Angler Recognition Program minimum trophy fish weight or length requirements

SPECIES	WEIGHT	LENGTH	SPECIES	WEIGHT	LENGTH
Bass			Muskellunge	20 lbs.	41”
Bodie (hybrid) Bass	8 lbs.	24”	Perch		
Largemouth Bass	8 lbs.	24”	White Perch	1 lb.	12”
Smallmouth Bass	3 lbs.	19”	Yellow Perch	1 lb.	14”
Spotted Bass	2 lbs.	15”	Pickerel		
Striped Bass	10 lbs.	27”	Chain Pickerel	4 lbs.	26”
White Bass	2 lbs.	17”	Redfin Pickerel	10 oz.	12”
Bowfin	10 lbs.	22”	Shad		
Carp-Common	20 lbs.	34”	American	3 lbs.	16”
Catfish			Hickory	2 lbs.	13”
Blue	30 lbs.	41”	Sunfish		
Bullhead (any species)	2 lbs.	15”	Bluegill	1 lb.	11”
Channel	10 lbs.	30”	Flier	6 oz.	8”
Flathead	30 lbs.	41”	Green	1 lb.	9”
White	4 lbs.	21”	Pumpkinseed	14 oz.	10”
Crappie (black or white)	2 lbs.	16”	Redbreast (Robin)	1 lb.	11”
Freshwater Drum	12 lbs.	28”	Redear (Shellcracker)	1 lb.	11”
Kokanee Salmon	2 lbs.	14”	Roanoke Bass	1 lb.	11”
Longnose Gar	10 lbs.	48”	Rock Bass	1 lb.	11”
Mountain Trout			Warmouth	1 lb.	11”
Brook	2 lbs.	16”	Walleye	5 lbs.	23”
Brown	2 lbs., 8 oz.	18”			
Rainbow	2 lbs., 8 oz.	18”			

Fish should be measured to the nearest ¼ inch. Lay the fish on a flat surface. Using a measuring rule, measure from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.



NCARP Application Form



Form must be filled out completely. Please print. Hook & line only (rod & reel or cane pole)

Angler Information

Full Name _____ E-mail (optional) _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth _____ Phone number () _____ WRC # (if available) _____
Month Day Year

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Fish Information

Kind of Fish _____ Date Caught _____

Weight _____ lbs. _____ oz. OR Length _____ in.

Body of water where caught _____ County _____

Type of Water Pond Reservoir/Lake River/Stream Sound/Bay

Bait Natural Artificial Did you release the fish? Yes No Check if angler is 15 years or younger

Enclose a check or money order for \$5 payable to NCWRC-NCARP and mail to:
 N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries
 Mail Service Center 1721 Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1721

NORTH CAROLINA FRESHWATER FISHING RECORDS

<i>Species</i>	<i>Weight Lbs/Oz</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Angler's Name</i>	<i>Lure Or Bait</i>
BASS					
Bodie (SBxWB)	17/7	Lake Chatuge	3/15/96	Michael R. Hogsed	Rebel jointed plug
Roanoke	2/10.75	Fishing Creek, Nash Co.	4/27/94	Richard Elijah Evans	Spinner bait
Largemouth	15/14	Pond, Union Co.	3/29/91	William H. Wofford	Crankbait
Rock (Redeye)	1/14	Deep River	4/29/98	Robert W. Lytton	Crappie jig
Smallmouth	10/2	Hiwassee Reservoir	6/1/51	Archie Lampkin	Unknown
Spotted	6/5	Lake Norman	12/26/03	Eric M. Weir	Zoom Finesse Worm
Striped	54/2	Hiwassee Reservoir	6/7/91	Larry Kleith Verner	Minnow
White	5/14	Kerr Reservoir	3/15/86	Jim King	Bucktail
CATFISH					
Blue	89/0	Badin Lake	11/25/06	Eric Fincher	Shiner
Flathead	78/0	Cape Fear River	9/17/05	Brian Newberger	Eel
White	13/0	Lake James	5/21/90	Jerry Wayne Bentley	Nightcrawler
Channel	23/4	Rocky Mount Lake	9/1/70	E. J. Bowden	Shrimp
Brown bullhead	3/12	Buck Hall Creek	4/26/97	Gregory Dale Hughes	Nightcrawler
PERCH					
White	2/15	Falls of the Neuse Reservoir	12/16/01	Bob G. Williams Jr.	Strata Spoon
Yellow	2/9	Indiantown Creek	2/8/90	Evelyn G. Ethridge	Minnow
PICKEREL					
Chain	8/0	Gaston Reservoir	2/13/68	John H. Leonard	Minnow
Redfin	2/4	Gallberry Swamp	6/23/97	Edward C. Davis	Minnow
SHAD					
American	7/15.5	Tar River	4/10/74	R.S. Proctor	Shad dart
Hickory	4/1	Pitchkettle Creek	2/22/04	Trey Maroules	Spoon
SUNFISH					
Redear (Shellcracker)	4/15	Pond, Edgecombe Co.	5/19/08	Travis Jackson	Worm
Bluegill	4/5	Henderson County	7/27/67	Danny Case	Catawba worm
Flier	1/5	Pond	3/17/90	Douglas N. McCall	Cricketer
Green	1/14	Pond, Caswell Co.	7/27/08	Sean Vanderburg	Culprit worm
Redbreast	1/12	Big Swamp, Bladen Co.	5/29/83	Ronald Stanley	Beetle spin
Warmouth	1/13	McLeods Pond, Richmond Co.	5/7/76	Emma Sears	Minnow
Pumpkinseed	1/6	Trent River	5/21/03	John Koonce	Eel
TROUT					
Brook	7/7	Raven Fork River	5/15/80	G.L. Marshall, Jr.	Rooster tail
Brown	24/10	Nantahala River	4/17/98	Robert Lee Dyer	Rapala
Rainbow	20/3	Horsepasture River	1/28/06	Leah Johnson	Rapala
OTHER					
Bowfin	17/15	Black River	6/21/97	Gregory A. Demery Sr.	Cut bait, sunfish
Carp	48/0	Pond, Mecklenburg Co.	3/11/86	William Houston Jr.	Unknown
Crappie, black	4/15	Asheboro City Lake #4	4/27/80	Dean Dixon	Minnow
Crappie, white	3/8	Pond, Granville Co.	3/30/09	Ronnie Emory Jr.	Garland's Mini-jig
Freshwater drum	22/0	Kerr Lake	11/27/06	Daniel Stotts	Minnow
Grass carp	68/12	Summerlius Pond, Leland	6/8/98	David W. Stowell	Rebel Pop R
Longnose gar	25/0	ICW at Coinjock	1/30/09	Kelly Williams	Tube minnow
Kokanee salmon	3/1	Nantahala Lake	8/27/07	Mark Swann	Frisky Fish spoon
Muskellunge	41/8	Lake Adger	1/23/01	Richard W. Dodd	Big Mack
Muskellunge, tiger*	33/8	Lake James	4/3/88	Gary Dean Nanney	Buzzbait
Pike, northern*	11/13	Lake James	8/26/78	Keith Gilliam	Storm wiggle wart
Sauger	5/15	Lake Norman	7/25/71	David Shook	Top water Rapala
Smallmouth buffalo	88/0	Lake Wylie	11/14/93	Tony Crawford	Pack bait
Walleye	13/8	Lake Chatuge (Shooting Cr.)	8/16/86	Lamar L. Cofer	Old faithful spoon

*These fishes are no longer present in North Carolina waters.