



## **AGENDA**

### **N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**June 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

**1751 Varsity Drive**

**NCWRC Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

**This meeting is being recorded as a public record and is audio streaming live at [www.ncwildlife.org](http://www.ncwildlife.org). As a courtesy to others please turn off all cell phones and pagers during the meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman *David Hoyle, Jr.*

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION** - *Commissioner John Coley*

### **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

**MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY** - North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e) mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. *Chairman David Hoyle, Jr.*

**APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2013 MINUTES** - Take action on the May 17, 2013 Wildlife Resources Commission meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members **(EXHIBIT A)**

**APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2013 EMERGENCY TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES** – Take action on the May 21, 2013 emergency telephonic meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members **(EXHIBIT B)**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Financial Status Report** - Receive a financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund - *Tommy Clark, Budget Officer (EXHIBIT C)*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fisheries Committee Report** – *Wes Seegars, Chairman*

**Big Game Committee Report** – *John Litton Clark, Chairman*

**Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Report** – *Durwood Laughinghouse, Chairman*

**Land Use and Access Committee Report** – *Jim Cogdell, Chairman*

**Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee Report** – *Berkley Skinner, Chairman*

**Boating Safety Committee Report** – *Joe Barker, Chairman*

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2013 LAWRENCE G. DIEDRICK AWARDS** – Present the Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Awards in the Individual and Organization categories – *Dr. David Cobb, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

**Break for Photographs**

**AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – Aquatic Species Conservation and the Use of eDNA Technology**  
– *Lori Williams, Division of Wildlife Management*

## **DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**Wildlife Management Update** – Receive an update on the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management – *Dr. David Cobb, Wildlife Management Division Chief*

**Approval of North Carolina Resident Canada Goose Management Plan** – Consider the staff recommendation to approve the North Carolina Resident Canada Goose Management Plan presented to the Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee on May 16, 2013 and June 19, 2013 – *David Cobb (EXHIBIT D)*

**Approval of A Proactive Approach to Setting Canada Goose Hunting Seasons in the Northeast Hunt Unit – A Proposal** – Consider adoption of *A Proactive Approach to Setting Canada Goose Hunting Seasons in the Northeast Hunt Unit – A Proposal* presented to the Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee on May 16, 2013 and June 19, 2013 – *David Cobb (EXHIBIT E)*

## **DIVISION OF INLAND FISHERIES**

**Fisheries, Wildlife Education and Outreach Update** - Receive an update on activities of the Division of Inland Fisheries - *Bob Curry, Inland Fisheries Division Chief*

**NC Trout Resources Management Plan** – Consider staff recommendation to adopt the *North Carolina Trout Resources Management Plan* - *Bob Curry (EXHIBIT F)*

## **PROPERTY MATTER**

**Surplus Property** - Consider staff recommendation to sever by sale or demolition, three 20-year old, factory built residential structures to make room for new dwellings for residential staff at the Watha State Fish Hatchery, Pender County - *Isaac Harrold (EXHIBIT G)*

**RULEMAKING**

**No Wake Zone Amendment and Technical Changes - Perquimans County** – Consider adoption of an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0355(a)(1)(B), requested by the Town of Hertford, to modify and enlarge a no wake zone along the Hertford waterfront. Incorporate technical changes in the rule that correct the name of the body of water in which (a)(2)(A) and (a)(2)(B) are located to Yeopim Creek – *Norman Young, Rulemaking Coordinator (EXHIBIT H)*

**No Wake Zone Amendment and Technical Changes - Beaufort County** – Consider adoption of amendments to 15A NCAC 10F .0303(a)(2) and (a)(5), requested by the Wildlife Resources Commission, to modify the size of two no wake zones in Blounts Creek. Incorporate technical changes into the rule that clarify descriptions of no wake zones in Broad Creek ((a)(1) and in Tranters Creek (a)(6) by using latitude and longitude – *Norman Young (EXHIBIT I)*

**COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN** – *David W. Hoyle, Jr.*

**COMMENTS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – *Gordon Myers*

**ADJOURN**

# EXHIBIT A

June 20, 2013



## MINUTES

May 17, 2013

### **N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting Hampton Inn and Suites, Pine Knoll Shores, NC**

The May 17, 2013 meeting of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission was called to order by *Commission Chairman* David W. Hoyle, Jr. at 9:01 a.m. in the meeting room of the Hampton Inn and Suites at Pine Knoll Shores, NC.

Tom Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Mitch St. Clair gave the invocation.

#### **MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY AND WELCOME**

Chairman Hoyle advised the Commission of the mandatory ethics inquiry as presented in the agenda.

Chairman Hoyle then welcomed the Commissioners and visitors present. Absent from the meeting were Nat Harris, John Coley, and Dell Murphy.

#### **COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE**

Ray White  
Wes Seegars  
Durwood Laughinghouse  
David Hoyle, Jr.  
Garry Spence  
Berkley Skinner

Tom Berry  
Mark Craig  
Jim Cogdell  
Dalton Ruffin  
Ray Clifton

Hayden Rogers  
John Litton Clark  
Mitch St. Clair  
Joe Barker  
Richard Edwards

#### **VISITORS**

John Barbour – State Property Office  
Beth Govanni – NC Division of Marine Fisheries

## MINUTES

Commissioner Wes Seegars made a motion to approve the March 14, 2013 Wildlife Resources Commission Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dalton Ruffin and carried. **The Minutes**, titled **Exhibit A**, are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## CORRECTION TO JANUARY 17, 2013 MINUTES

The Commission received into the minutes of the January 17, 2013 WRC meeting the addition of Nat Harris' name to the Commissioner attendance list. **Revised January 17, 2013 Minutes**, titled **Exhibit B**, is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## ADMINISTRATION

Tommy Clark, *Budget Officer*, gave the financial status report on the Wildlife Operating Fund and Wildlife Endowment Fund as of April 30, 2013. The Operating Fund balance was \$22,168,120.52. The Endowment Fund balance was \$97,018,536.40. **Exhibit C** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Habitat, Nongame and Endangered Species Committee Meeting Report

Durwood Laughinghouse, *Chair*, reported that the HNGES Committee met on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at Soundside Hall at the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. On a motion by Durwood Laughinghouse and second by Dalton Ruffin the HNGES Committee brought forth the nomination by the Nongame Wildlife Advisory Committee of Eddie Bridges to receive the 2013 Thomas L. Quay Wildlife Diversity Award. The Commission unanimously approved the nomination. Mr. Bridges will be presented the award at the July meeting of the WRC.

### Fisheries Committee Report

Wes Seegars, *Chair*, reported on the May 16 meeting of the Fisheries Committee at the NC Aquarium. Seegars noted appreciation for the outstanding updates by staff about coastal, piedmont, and mountain fisheries programs and challenges. Seegars stated particular concerns about the striped bass assessment that showed very low harvests in the Roanoke River and Albemarle Sound, and concerns about the spread of hydrilla, an invasive aquatic weed, in some of the piedmont waterways. Seegars stated that the committee received a progress report on the revision of the Trout Management Plan that was adopted in 1989.

### **Joint Marine Resources/CRFL Committee Report**

Ray White, *Chair*, reported that he, Joe Barker and Mitch St. Clair, members of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) Committee; their counterparts on the committee from the Division of Marine Fisheries, along with Gordon Myers, Bob Curry, and staff, met by teleconference on May 8, 2013. Among the projects are funding for one fourth-year grant, one three-year grant, nine second-year grants, and a 2013 proposal for the Town of Vandemere to put in a boat ramp. The NCWRC will work with the Town on clear covenants and report back to the joint CRFL Committee by June 30. The joint committee also approved minor changes to the CRFL Strategic Plan.

### **Boating Safety Committee Report**

Joe Barker, *Chair*, announced that the Boating Safety Committee met at the NC Aquarium on May 16, 2013. Barker said that the committee received an overview from Colonel Dale Caveny, *Enforcement Division Chief*, about **Exhibits F-1 and F-2** pertaining to rulemaking to amend 15A NCAC 10F .0201 (safety equipment) to increase clarity and provide for additional exceptions pertaining to personal flotation devices. Barker stated that Colonel Caveny stated that the Enforcement Division is working with IT to establish a database where boating warning tickets will be entered to be pulled up by officers patrolling the waters.

### **Land Use and Access Committee Report**

Jim Cogdell, *Chair*, reported that the Land Use and Access Committee met on May 16, 2013 at the NC Aquarium. Isaac Harrold, *Public Lands Section Manager*, reviewed six Phase I proposed land acquisition plans for consideration by the entire WRC. Harrold reviewed a proposed reallocation of property by donation in Brunswick County adjacent to the Sunset Beach Fishing and Boating Access Area; an easement and right of way request in Wilkes County; archery-only zone request on a portion of Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover County; and consideration of agreements with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service to fund and/or manage shooting range facilities on the Nantahala and Uwharrie National Forests and game lands. The committee will recommend that the Commission adopt **Exhibits I – M** as presented in the committee meeting.

### **Small Game Committee Report**

Mitch St. Clair, *Chair*, reported that the Small Game Committee met on May 16, 2013 at the NC Aquarium. The committee selected recipients of the 2013 Lawrence G. Diedrick Small Game Award in the individual and organization categories. The Diedrick Awards will be presented at the June meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

### Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee Report

Berkley Skinner, *Chair*, reported that the Migratory Birds, Waterfowl Committee met at the NC Aquarium on May 16, 2013. Joe Fuller, *Migratory Game Bird Coordinator*, gave a presentation to the committee about a management plan for the resident goose population. The Resident Goose Management Plan will be considered by the entire Commission at a later meeting. Skinner reported that a flexible framework for establishing goose seasons is under consideration in the Northeast, where surveys have indicated that about forty percent of the Canada geese in the Northeast Hunt Unit are migratory birds. Also presented at the committee meeting was establishment of a preference point system for unsuccessful tundra swan permit applicants. Skinner stated that the tundra swan permit point system will be considered by the Commission at the June meeting.

### DIVISION OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Dr. David Cobb, *Wildlife Management Division Chief*, gave an update about the activities of the Division of Wildlife Management. Cobb announced that each Commissioner has a copy of the Upland Gazette. CDs provided to each Commissioner contain documents and newsletters of interest including the final deer harvest for 2012 – 2013; 2012 bear harvest; and a document about the eastern hellbender (salamander). Cobb stated that the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Herd Certification Program has been approved by the USDA. Revisions to the Wildlife Action Plan are ongoing. Cobb announced that the first swallowtail kite nest has been found in North Carolina. The harvest of 18,406 turkeys this year is a 28 percent increase over last year. Twelve percent of the turkeys were harvested during Youth Week. Cobb reported that environmental DNA is being used to survey for hellbenders and mudpuppies in likely habitats. Dr. Cobb was asked to provide a spotlight about e DNA at a future Commission meeting.

### PROCLAMATION – 2013 SAFE BOATING WEEK

Chairman Hoyle read the Proclamation by Governor Pat McCrory designating the week of May 18 – 24, 2013 as “Safe Boating Week” in North Carolina. The Proclamation, **Exhibit D**, was received into the minutes and is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### PROCLAMATION – SUMMER OF 2013 IN NORTH CAROLINA – “ON THE ROAD, ON THE WATER, DON’T DRINK AND DRIVE”

Chairman Hoyle read the Proclamation by Governor Pat McCrory for summer of 2013, reminding everyone in North Carolina “On the Road, On the Water, Don’t Drink and Drive.” The Proclamation, **Exhibit E**, was received into the minutes and is incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Agency Spotlight – Wildlife Enforcement Officers and Conflict Resolution**

*Master Officers* Brent Ward and Kim Knight of the Enforcement Division presented a spotlight about issues requiring conflict resolution with varied groups of constituents. They mentioned some customer service issues that have arisen at Boating Access Areas because of the number of users at the access areas. Officer Ward discussed the improvements that have been made to the boating access areas by Engineering Services. New construction and renovations provide more user parking and boat slips, and create opportunities for persons with disabilities to be able to enjoy the water. Enforcement officers encourage boaters to prepare for launching while still on shore, allowing for less backup at the access areas. Courtesy boat checks educate boaters and gain compliance with safety regulations. Homeowner and hunter conflicts are expedited through the knowledge and responsiveness of telecom specialists, who handle many calls 24 hours a day. Their customer service to callers and information provided to Enforcement is helpful to the officers before they respond to the calls. Other conflicts handled by the Enforcement Division include homeowner and wildlife conflicts that have increased as the landscape becomes more populated by humans and wildlife habitats disappear. Educating the public about removing wildlife attractants and working with damage control agents are important tools for handling these conflicts. Officers receive complaints about conflicts between landowners and dog hunters. Increased patrols and education of hunters and property owners about the Landowner Protection Act, the use of purple paint on trees to mark private property, and educating about the requirement for written permission to be carried for hunting on private property are helpful tools. Officers Ward and Knight stated that everyone in the Enforcement Division takes ownership of conflict resolution.

### **Rulemaking to Amend 15A NCAC 10F .0201 (Safety Equipment)**

On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Berkley Skinner, the Commission adopted the staff recommendation presented in **Exhibit F-1** to amend 15A NCAC 10F .0201 to increase its clarity pertaining to boating safety equipment and to provide for additional exceptions pertaining to required use of personal flotation devices. **Exhibit F-1** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **Approval of Fiscal Note – Safety Equipment Rule**

Upon a motion by Joe Barker and second by Tom Berry the Commission approved the associated fiscal note required for rulemaking to amend 15A NCAC 10F .0201, presented in **Exhibit F-2** by Colonel Dale Caveny. **Exhibit F-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## DIVISION OF INLAND FISHERIES

### Inland Fisheries Update

Bob Curry, *Inland Fisheries Division Chief*, presented an update about the activities of the Inland Fisheries Division. Curry announced that National Fishing and Boating Week is June 1 – 9, 2013. A variety of activities are planned state-wide. Neuse Sport Shop and North Carolina Trout Unlimited are again sponsoring drawings for hunting and fishing licenses to be awarded to participants at the youth events. Curry thanked fisheries staff members for their work on the Fisheries Committee meeting.

### Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan

Bob Curry presented in **Exhibit G** a recommendation from the Fisheries Committee that the Commission approve Amendment 1 to the NC Estuarine Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan that was adopted by the NC Marine Fisheries Commission at their February 28, 2013 meeting. The final Fisheries Management Plan includes language recommended by the NCWRC at their November 2011 meeting: *“to remain vigilant in collecting catch and harvest data necessary to evaluate the effects of the Oregon Inlet Area fishery on the Albemarle Sound-Roanoke River striped bass stock.”* Wes Seegars made a motion to approve Amendment 1. The motion was seconded by Berkley Skinner and carried. **Exhibit G** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### Rulemaking – Administrative Changes for Open Seasons, Creel and Size Limits

On a motion by Ray White and second by Wes Seegars, the Commission approved the staff recommendation presented by Bob Curry in **Exhibit H-1** to notice for public comment proposed administrative changes to 15A NCAC 10C .0305 to apply only to black bass, and to adopt 15 new rules (10C .0306 through 15A NCAC 10C .0320); one rule for each game fish species. **Exhibit H-1** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### Fiscal Note – Open Seasons, Creel and Size Limits Rule

Bob Curry presented **Exhibit H-2**, the fiscal analysis review that is required for proposed rulemaking pertaining to open seasons: creel and size limits. There is no significant cost to the State since each of the rules represents a non-substantial modification to an existing rule or adoption of a new rule with the same regulatory impact as in the current rule. Wes Seegars made a motion to approve the fiscal note analysis. The motion was seconded by Joe Barker and carried. **Exhibit H-2** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

## **LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROPERTY MATTERS**

### **Adoption of Phase I Land Acquisitions**

Isaac Harrold, *Public Lands Section Manager*, presented **Exhibits I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4, I-5, and I-6**, a request for authorization to work with the State Property Office and funding partners to develop acquisition for the following Phase I projects:

- Birkhead Tract-Randolph County **(I-1)**
- Humpback Mountain Tract-Avery/McDowell counties **(I-2)**
- James Sisters Tracts-Richmond County **(I-3)**
- Nealey Fishing Creek Tract-Nash County **(I-4)**
- North Toe River Tract-Yancey County **(I-5)**
- Turnagain Bay Wooten Tract-Carteret County **(I-6)**

On a motion by Joe Barker and second by Mitch St. Clair the Commission voted to authorize staff to work on the Phase I projects. **Exhibits I-1 through I-6** are hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **Reallocation – Brunswick County**

Isaac Harrold presented **Exhibit J**, a proposed transfer of property by donation from the NC Department of Transportation, adjacent to the Sunset Beach Fishing and Boating Access Area in Brunswick County, to develop additional parking at the access area. Berkley Skinner made a motion to approve the reallocation. The motion was seconded by Garry Spence and carried. **Exhibit J, Reallocation of NCDOT Property – Brunswick County**, is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **Right of Way and Easement Request – Wilkes County**

On a motion by Mitch St. Clair and second by Dalton Ruffin, the Commission approved a request from the NC Department of Transportation for a right of way and public utility easement across a portion of Mulberry Mill Bog Wildlife Conservation area in Wilkes County. **Exhibit K, Right of Way and Easement Request – Wilkes County** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **Archery Only Zone Designation – New Hanover County**

Isaac Harrold presented **Exhibit L**, a request to pursue an archery-only designation for a portion of Sutton Lake Game Land in New Hanover County to mitigate safety hazards near the Sutton Steam Plant caused by hunting with firearms. The motion to approve was made by Tom Berry, seconded by Dalton Ruffin, and carried. **Exhibit L** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **Shooting Range Agreements, National Forests**

Isaac Harrold presented in **Exhibit M** a proposal to authorize the WRC to enter into agreements with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service to manage and/or fund improvements to shooting range facilities on the Nantahala and Uwharrie National Forests. The first agreement would provide funds of \$20,000.00 for non-salary and safety improvements to the Moss Knob Shooting Range on the Nantahala National Forest in Jackson County. Similar agreements would be executed for improvements to the Dirty John Shooting Range on Nantahala Game Land in Macon County, estimated to cost \$15,000.00; and more significant funding to the Flintlock Shooting Range on Uwharrie Game Land in Montgomery County. The Flintlock Shooting Range has been closed since 2010 as a result of safety concerns following incidents of projectiles escaping the range. Site reconfiguration and improvements are estimated to cost \$248,000. The WRC will provide an 11-month temporary position to staff the Flintlock Range and the USDA Forest Service will reimburse that expense. Garry Spence made a motion to authorize staff to enter into agreements presented in Exhibit M. The motion was seconded by Hayden Rogers and carried. **Exhibit M** is hereby incorporated into the official record of this meeting.

### **VOTE TO ADD JUNE MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

Chairman Hoyle announced that some Commissioners have requested an official meeting of the Wildlife Resources Commission in June, rather than committee meetings only, so that official actions may be taken. Commissioner Berkley Skinner made a motion that a WRC meeting be held on Thursday, June 20 with committee meetings on June 19, 2013. That motion was seconded by Mitch St. Clair and carried. The meetings will be held at headquarters in Raleigh.

### **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. thanked the Enforcement Division for the agency spotlight. He thanked Commissioner Wes Seegars and his wife Jacque for hosting the group at a gathering in Morehead City.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, updated the Commission about wildlife-related bills under consideration at the General Assembly. Myers stated that Senate Bill 689 (trapping) is in the House. Enclosures would be required for some traps. Statewide trapping of coyotes year round will require agency rulemaking. Under the bill the coyote must be killed in the trap. Any incidental fox sale would result in a fine. Myers said that Senate Bill 58 (dredging bill) has been amended. A boat registration fee of \$25.00 would be required for a vessel less than 26 feet long. A vessel more than 26 feet long would carry a \$50.00 registration fee. The increase in titling fees will go to the dredging fund. The amendment removes the exemption for federal or commercial vessels. One-sixth of one percent of the gasoline fund will be allocated to the dredging fund. The Hunter Apprentice bill passed. The Wildlife Penalties bill decriminalizes some offenses and makes them infractions; however, fines will increase for poaching. The unlawful take of elk will result in a \$2500.00 fine. Myers said that the budget will come out soon with little time to make changes. Chairman Hoyle stated that it may be necessary for some Commissioners to come to Raleigh to meet with legislators about some of the wildlife-related bills.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

All exhibits are incorporated into the official record of this meeting by reference and are filed with the minutes.

June 20, 2013

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David W. Hoyle, Jr., Chairman

Date

June 20, 2013

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Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

# EXHIBIT B

June 20, 2013



**MINUTES  
EMERGENCY TELEPHONIC MEETING  
N.C. WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
May 21, 2013, 3:00 p.m.  
Commission Room 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1751 Varsity Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27606**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Pursuant to §143-318.12(b)(3): For an emergency meeting, only business connected with the emergency may be considered at a meeting for which such notice has been given. *Chairman* David Hoyle, Jr. called the emergency telephonic meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Hoyle stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss Senate Bill 402 – proposed budget cuts and the implications for the operations, programs, infrastructure, and personnel of the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Chairman Hoyle announced that the meeting was being audio-streamed live on the WRC website.

**ROLL CALL** – Betsy Haywood, *Executive Officer*, called the roll. Nat Harris, Hayden Rogers, and Garry Spence were not present on the teleconference call.

## **COMMISSION ATTENDANCE**

David Hoyle, Jr.	John Litton Clark	Ray Clifton
Ray White	Jim Cogdell	John Coley
Joe Barker	Mark Craig	Durwood Laughinghouse
Tom Berry	Richard Edwards	Dell Murphy
Dalton Ruffin	Wes Seegars	Berkley Skinner
Mitch St. Clair		

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Gordon Myers, *Executive Director*, announced that proposed budget changes are in the appropriations committee today. Myers stated that the proposed reduction in the General Fund is a 49 percent decrease to the Wildlife Resources Commission, a reduction from 18.4 million dollars to 9.4 million dollars. Myers stated that this perhaps is the most Wildlife-unfriendly budget ever proposed by the General Assembly. The agency already has incurred a 25 percent reduction in operating budget since 2008. This budget would have profound effects on staffing, services and infrastructure.

Myers stated that an amendment was just passed that struck proposed changes that would have repealed the prohibition against spending principal from the Wildlife Endowment Fund. Had this amendment not passed, the WRC immediately would have lost three million dollars in federal funds. Additionally the agency risks the loss of federal funds due to the loss of state funds used to match those funds.

One hundred twenty infrastructure projects are pending across the state. Director Myers has directed Erik Christofferson, *Engineering Services Division Chief*, to place these projects on hold pending potential loss of funding. He encouraged Commissioners to reach out to conservation partners and Legislators and let them know about the scope of projects and infrastructure that could be affected by such a massive loss in funding to the agency.

Chairman Hoyle suggested reaching out to the Sportsmen’s Caucus members and Legislators in the Senate and House to remind them of programs that will be impacted by such cuts. Chairman Hoyle suggested coordinating a day at the Legislature, possibly with two groups of Commissioners to meet with members.

**ACTION**

On a motion by Dalton Ruffin and second by Joe Barker the Commission directed Director Myers to write a letter from the Commission as a body to the General Assembly, expressing concern with the proposed budget cuts and asking for a reinstatement of the agency’s full appropriation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman David Hoyle, Jr. adjourned the telephonic meeting at 4:00 pm.

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David W. Hoyle, Jr., Chairman

Date

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Gordon Myers, Executive Director

Date

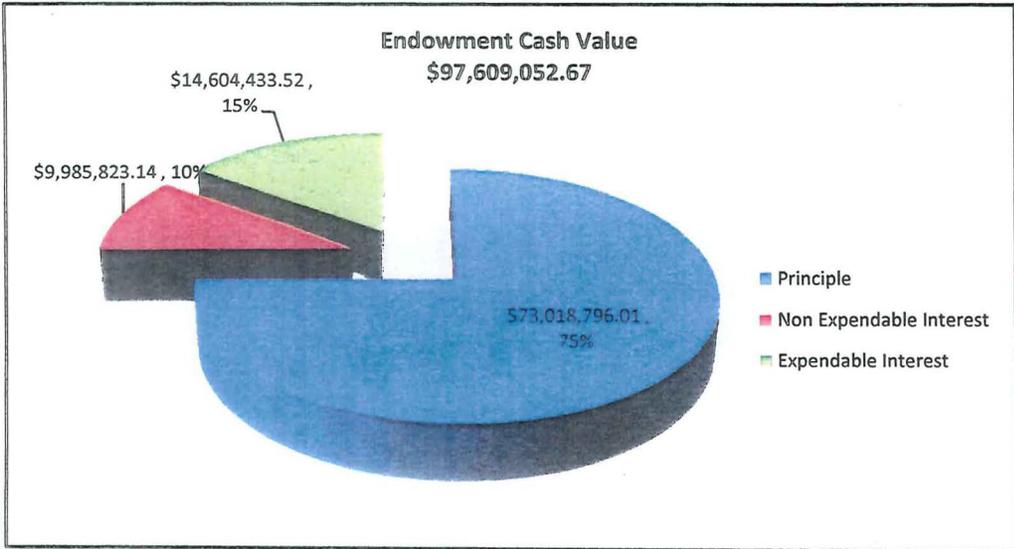
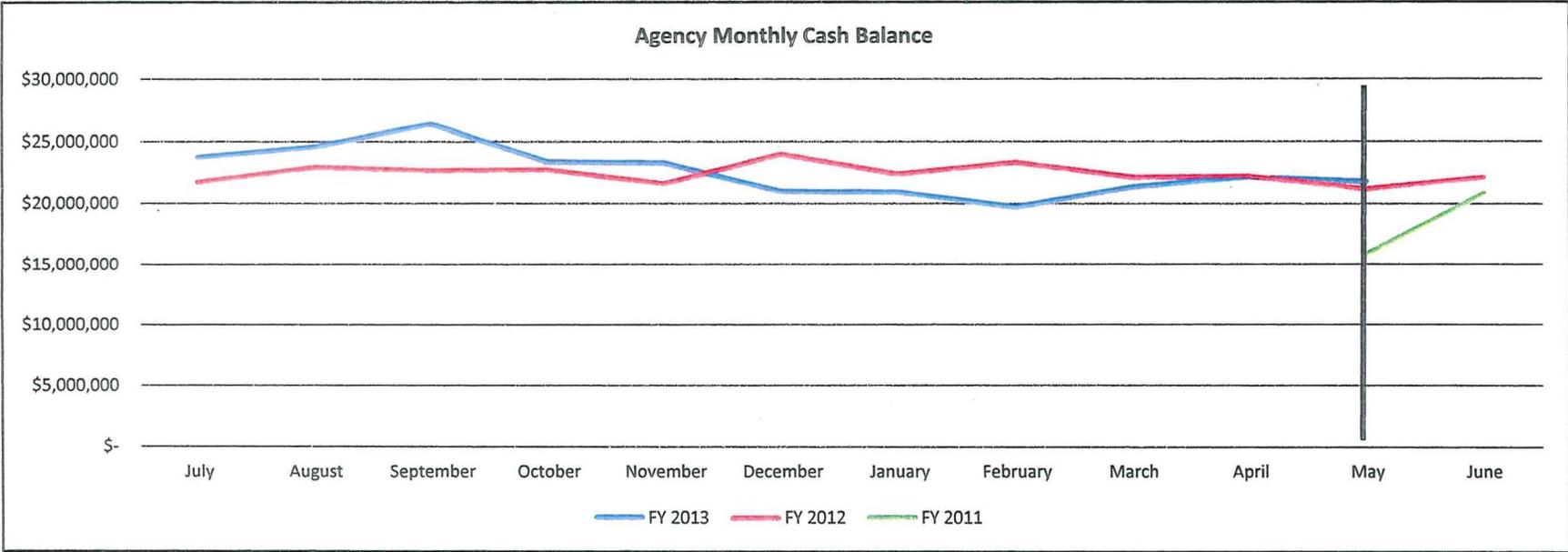
**NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Summary and Analysis of Agency Operating Cash Balance - Code 14350, 24350, 24351 and 24352**

	May-12		
<b>Cash Balance July 1</b>		<b>\$ 20,845,004.99</b>	
<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2011-2012 Authorized Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>% of</b>
Appropriations	\$ 18,438,511.00	\$ 17,087,566.00	92.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,438,511.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,087,566.00</b>	<b>92.67%</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
License Receipts		\$ 15,023,501.25	
Vessel Receipts		4,924,995.00	
Federal Funds		16,840,648.35	
Magazine Subscriptions		299,106.16	
Professional Services		1,941,593.63	
Agency Reimbursements		3,966,718.69	
Other Receipts		2,981,117.31	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 45,977,680.39</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>			
2100 Administration	\$ 8,316,122.00	\$ 7,040,063.36	
2120 Enforcement	21,767,737.00	18,970,595.38	
2130 Education	4,467,142.00	3,334,794.07	
2140 Inland Fisheries	9,809,115.00	9,166,723.63	
2150 Management	16,966,804.00	14,449,815.96	
2160 Engineering Services	8,326,587.00	7,725,469.02	
2170 W/Life Fund Receipts	2,403,582.00	1,983,351.35	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 72,057,089.00</b>	<b>\$ 62,670,812.77</b>	<b>86.97%</b>
<b>Cash Balance May 31</b>		<b>\$ 21,239,438.61</b>	

	May-13		
<b>Cash Balance July 1</b>		<b>\$ 22,177,706.67</b>	
<b>Appropriations</b>	<b>2012-2013 Authorized Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>% of</b>
Appropriations	\$ 18,476,588.00	\$ 16,523,242.00	89.43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18,476,588.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,523,242.00</b>	<b>89.43%</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
License Receipts	\$ 16,045,079.00	\$ 14,761,516.00	
Vessel Receipts	5,827,498.00	5,040,595.00	
Federal Funds	18,535,279.00	17,748,223.74	
Magazine Subscriptions	240,478.00	334,398.83	
Professional Services	4,607,249.00	3,648,501.80	
Agency Reimbursements	3,012,617.00	3,040,405.96	
Other Receipts	4,762,673.00	2,006,730.76	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,030,873.00</b>	<b>\$ 46,580,372.09</b>	<b>87.84%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
2100 Administration	\$ 8,472,198.00	\$ 7,327,828.58	
2120 Enforcement	21,129,229.00	19,809,711.47	
2130 Education	4,095,793.00	3,072,718.48	
2140 Inland Fisheries	11,845,996.00	9,430,441.52	
2150 Management	11,032,328.00	9,746,337.21	
2160 Engineering Services	14,127,880.00	11,123,693.16	
2170 W/Life Fund Receipts	3,188,385.00	2,974,137.26	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 73,891,809.00</b>	<b>\$ 63,484,867.68</b>	<b>85.92%</b>
<b>Cash Balance May 31</b>		<b>\$ 21,796,453.08</b>	

**EXHIBIT C**  
**June 20, 2013**



### Endowment Fund April, 2013

Revenues	\$ 213,619.20
Return on Investment	\$ 376,897.07
Book Value	\$ 97,609,052.67
Market Value	\$ 107,648,564.35

# EXHIBIT D

June 20, 2013

## North Carolina

### Resident Canada Goose Management Plan





**Division of Wildlife Management**

**Prepared by:**

**Joe Fuller, Migratory Game Bird Coordinator**

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**May, 2013**

**NORTH CAROLINA  
RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**NORTH CAROLINA  
RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Resident Canada geese present a unique management challenge. Unlike various populations of migrant Canada geese that spend only a portion of their life cycle in North Carolina and tend to inhabit more rural areas; resident geese can be found statewide, are essentially non-migratory and inhabit rural, suburban and urban environments. Resident geese cause a variety of nuisance problems ranging from defecation on lawns to agricultural depredation. Non-lethal techniques to address nuisance issues are not always effective and when so, simply push offending geese to neighboring areas. Further, lethal control is controversial and often not feasible in urban/suburban locales. While resident geese cause a variety of nuisance and damage problems statewide, they also provide a valuable resource for the citizens of North Carolina. Many people undoubtedly enjoy the viewing resident Canada geese as many flocks are relatively tame and permit relatively close contact. Further, sport hunting of resident Canada geese is very popular statewide. Federal harvest estimates indicate that over the last 5 years, approximately 40,000 Canada geese are harvested each year in North Carolina with 15,000 hunters participating. The majority of this harvest is comprised of resident geese.

Resident Canada geese are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and ultimate management authority resides with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has the ability to implement specific management actions that may be available and provide an overall framework for management of resident geese within the state. Herein, we provide a summary of the current status of resident Canada geese in North Carolina, summarize their positive and negative aspects, and provide a coordinated approach to management.

The overall management goal with respect to resident Canada geese in North Carolina is to:

**Manage resident Canada geese in North Carolina to achieve an optimal balance between their positive aesthetic values, sport hunting opportunities, and conflicts arising from nuisance and depredating geese.**

Achieving this goal will be difficult; however, the Plan recommends a number of strategies that may be implemented to do so. Adequate monitoring of this population is critical. Currently, the NCWRC has no population estimate or any other metric used to track population trends.

Effective management of resident Canada geese in North Carolina is dependent on our ability to track trends in this population over time.

## **NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS**

#### **History**

Resident Canada geese found in North Carolina today are distinctly different from those that historically nested in the Atlantic Flyway. During pre-colonial times the original stocks were primarily *Branta canadensis canadensis* (Delacour 1954). The present-day resident goose population was introduced after the original stocks were extirpated and is now comprised of various subspecies or races of Canada geese, including *B. c. maxima*, *B. c. moffitti*, *B. c. interior*, *B. c. canadensis*, and possibly other subspecies (Dill and Lee 1970, Pottie and Heusmann 1979, Benson et al. 1982). The first resident geese in North Carolina were likely established by private individuals or waterfowl hunting clubs releasing captive flocks of domesticated or semi-domesticated geese after it became illegal to hunt using live decoys in 1935. In 1983, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) began a Canada goose stocking program to augment declining migrant goose numbers. Approximately 4,600 nuisance geese from Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ontario, Canada were captured, transported and released in North Carolina, primarily in the Coastal Plain. These geese did not migrate, becoming year-long residents. The stocking program ended in 1988 and Resident Canada goose flocks have increased dramatically since that time.

#### **Current Status**

Resident Canada geese are now found statewide. It is believed that most resident geese located in the Coastal Plain are descendants from NCWRC stocked birds, while most resident geese in the remaining portions of the state are derived primarily from geese that moved into North Carolina after being stocked in the neighboring states of Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia. We are unaware of any statewide population estimate for resident Canada geese prior to the goose stocking program in the 1980's. However, it is suspected that prior to the stocking program there were less than 1,000 resident geese statewide.

There have been 3 attempts to estimate the size of the state's resident goose flock since the 1980's. These estimates are based solely on observations by field personnel (primarily NCWRC District Biologists), rather than a standardized ground or aerial survey (Appendix 1). Based only upon these estimates, the resident goose population increased from approximately 5,600 in 1986 to over 96,000 in 1998. After 1986, most increases appear to be in the Piedmont and western portions of the state, while growth appears to have somewhat stabilized over that time in the Coastal Plain. Presently there are an estimated 102,000 resident geese statewide.

## **POSITIVE VALUES AND USES**

### **Aesthetic Values**

Historically, Canada geese have been a symbol of northern wilderness and migrating flocks the harbingers of the changing seasons. Prior to the early 1960's, when wintering Canada goose numbers in North Carolina began to significantly decline, many of our coastal areas were known as "the goose hunting capital of the world". Canada geese are also well represented in the state's rich decoy art and culture, dating back to the market hunting days in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Unlike migrant Canada geese, resident geese may now provide distinctly different aesthetic benefits, and are valued by many people for the aesthetic and recreational opportunities the birds provide, particularly for young, elderly, and amateur bird watchers and naturalists. This may be especially true in areas that are not frequented by significant numbers of migrant geese, adding wildlife diversity to those areas. Despite growing numbers of conflicts associated with resident Canada geese, particularly in urban and suburban areas of the state, most people likely enjoy seeing or hearing some birds, and would not want the population eliminated.

In a 1993 survey of people from 10 metropolitan areas across the U.S., approximately 26% of respondents said they wanted more geese, 54% wanted no change in numbers, and 19% wanted fewer geese in their neighborhood (Conover 1997). At the time of the survey, problems were not so widespread that most residents viewed Canada geese as pests, although support for population reduction went beyond the 5% of respondents who had experienced a problem with them in the previous year. In a public attitude survey about geese in a Long Island, NY community, 78% of respondents said they enjoyed the presence of resident Canada geese, even

though half of those were concerned about problems the birds may cause. Only 11% said they did not enjoy geese and regarded them entirely as nuisances (Loker 1996).

Long-term management of migratory geese in North Carolina and the Atlantic Flyway could be seriously impacted if resident geese become so abundant that all Canada geese become devalued and perceived primarily as pests.

### Sport Hunting and Harvest

Resident geese have become an important part of the sport harvest of Canada geese in North Carolina, supplementing or replacing the migrant goose harvest in some areas of the state, and providing the only Canada goose harvest in other regions. The harvest of resident geese has increased sharply as the population has grown and regulations were modified to provide more hunting opportunity for these birds (Figure 1).

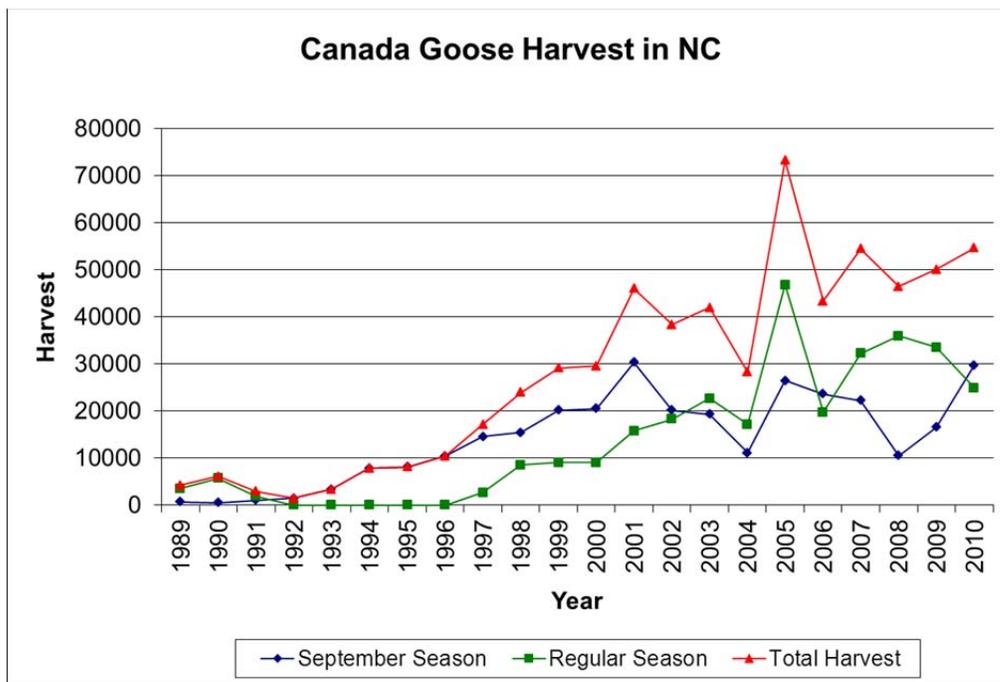


Figure 1. Canada goose harvest in North Carolina, 1989-2010

Prior to 1987, harvest regulations did not differentiate between resident and migrant goose populations. Since then, criteria have been developed to allow special hunting seasons to increase harvest of resident Canada geese at times and places that would not adversely affect

migrant goose populations (Appendix 2). In 1989, a special September Canada goose season was established in North Carolina to reduce damage associated with resident Canada geese and to maintain as much recreation and harvest opportunity as possible (Appendix 3). Since 1999, this special September season has, on average, accounted for approximately one-half of the statewide Canada goose harvest. Based upon statewide hunter harvest and participation surveys conducted by NCWRC biologists, the number of active goose hunters has increased from approximately 5,000 in 1989 to 10,000 in 2010.

During the regular (i.e., fall/winter) season, hunting occurs in specified zones that explicitly consider the presence of the various populations of geese in geographic areas (Appendix 2). Currently, much of the state is classified as a Resident Population (RP) hunt zone, and season length and bag limits are the maximum allowed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) frameworks. There is little opportunity to increase sport hunting opportunities in this area. The Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) and Northeast (NE) hunt zones have been identified as containing migrant geese and accordingly, harvest regulations are more restrictive than the RP zone. Currently, the total season length and bag limit of the SJBP zone is similar to the RP zone, but the season must close prior to when the majority of SJBP geese are available for harvest (December 31). The NE hunt zone is located in all or portions of 13 northeastern counties and includes the area that historically contained large numbers of Atlantic Population (AP) migrant geese. AP geese have declined significantly over time in North Carolina and until recently the NE hunt zone was closed to all fall/winter goose hunting. As a consequence, hunting seasons targeting resident Canada geese may be considered unduly restrictive in this area.

## **DAMAGE AND CONFLICTS**

### **Administrative Responsibility**

Resident Canada geese in North Carolina are involved or implicated in a variety of damage or conflict situations. These situations may be classified as damage to property, agriculture, natural resources, and conflicts with public health and safety (Conover and Chasko 1985). Damage and conflicts occur statewide but are most numerous in urban and suburban

areas where large numbers of geese congregate at parks, corporate lawns, private residences, public swimming areas, marinas and wastewater treatment facilities. Economic loss (real or perceived) attributed to resident Canada geese has not been quantified in North Carolina but likely varies considerably depending on the site and situation (i.e., crop damage vs. lawns, etc.), number of geese involved, and tolerance of property owners. Irrespective of future resident goose population trends, conflicts in the state are likely to increase over time due to increasing human populations.

The NCWRC and U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) are the two principal agencies responsible for resident Canada goose management in North Carolina. Working within federal guidelines and with partners in the Atlantic Flyway, the NCWRC is responsible for establishing hunting seasons and providing an overall framework on how resident Canada geese will be managed within the state. Through a Memorandum of Understanding, USDA-WS assumes the primary responsibility for responding to requests for wildlife damage assistance involving migratory birds (including resident Canada geese). Typically, when requested, NCWRC staff provides technical guidance to private and public property owners when dealing with nuisance goose issues. However, depending upon severity of the situation and type of damage reported (ranging from excessive droppings to aircraft safety) NCWRC staff may refer requests for assistance directly to USDA-WS. Although some variation may exist between regions or districts, NCWRC staff are typically not involved with actually implementing specific damage abatement techniques such as habitat modification, hazing, or lethal control measures. The NCWRC does not uniformly record technical guidance contacts solely attributed to nuisance Canada goose issues. However, USDA-WS does routinely log phone calls and other contacts relating to Canada geese in North Carolina. From 2004 through 2008, USDA-WS has recorded 694 contacts regarding nuisance goose concerns. The majority of these contacts are related to resident geese.

With the exception of situations covered by the federal Agricultural Depredation Order, permits for all lethal take must be obtained from the USFWS-Region 4. Additional opportunities exist that would allow the NCWRC to issue lethal take (i.e., depredation) permits, under certain circumstances allowed by the USFWS; however, to date the NCWRC has not accepted the authority to do so. Both the NCWRC and USDA-WS may refer landowners to the USFWS for

permits and USDA-WS may facilitate permit issuance from the USFWS for cooperating landowners.

## **Property Damage**

The most common complaints attributed to resident Canada geese are property damage concerns. In 2004, USDA-WS made 191 contacts regarding property damage (70% of all contacts for Canada geese). Most property damage concerns likely center on excessive accumulations of goose feces on lawns and walkways at private residences, businesses, golf courses, and public areas such as parks and athletic fields. Property damage for excessive feces involves damage to lawns, cleanup costs, and loss of property for intended purposes. The other most common form of property damage involves excessive grazing of lawns and turf areas. This type of damage also reduces aesthetics, can be costly to repair, and causes soil erosion.

Property owners experiencing these types of damages generally may deal with the situation either by attempting to disperse geese through repeated harassment or making sites less attractive to geese through habitat modifications. Permits for lethal take may be obtained from the USFWS, but obtaining permits can be difficult and property owners must be able to demonstrate economic loss from goose activities. Lethal take permits are generally not granted for simple “nuisance” issues related to excessive goose droppings. Lethal take of Canada geese is not possible in many areas where property damage occurs due to the urban and suburban location and associated local firearms ordinances. Removal of geese in urban and suburban areas usually requires trapping and offsite euthanasia.

## **Damage to Natural Resources**

Aside from typical property damage concerns, in some cases resident geese may impact natural resources. Goose feces may contribute substantial amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen into wetlands causing aquatic macrophyte growth and algae blooms followed by accelerated eutrophication through nutrient loading (Harris et al. 1981, Manny et al. 1994). Congregations of geese can reduce vegetative cover through feeding and trampling resulting in erosion and sedimentation in wetlands. Herbivory by overabundant resident geese was the cause for decline

in abundant stands of wild rice in Maryland (Haramis & Kearns 2007). In North Carolina, we are aware of two instances where geese have been implicated or known to cause natural resource concerns. At Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, several hundred resident geese were removed and euthanized by USDA-WS due to excessive foraging on submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) during the growing season. The loss of SAV's made these food resources unavailable to migrating and wintering waterfowl. In addition, Merchant's Millpond State Park in Gates County has expressed concerns that overabundant resident geese may be causing excessive nutrient loading, detrimental to the natural resources at this location.

### **Damage to Agriculture**

In 2004, 14% of Canada goose related projects conducted in North Carolina by USDA-WS involved agricultural concerns. Grazing of pasture and grain crops can reduce crop yields and livestock forage and can increase costs of agricultural production due to crop replanting. Damage to specific crops can include, among others, corn, soybeans, winter wheat, peanuts and a variety of vegetable crops. A recent survey conducted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture indicated that 3% and 8% of farms statewide reported damage by geese to soybeans and wheat respectively (2010). As with any property owner, agricultural producers are allowed to legally harass geese from problem areas. Additionally, they may lethally take Canada geese in depredation situations under the federal Agricultural Depredation Order from May 1 to August 31 (see page 13). Outside of this time period, producers can request a depredation permit from the USFWS to lethally take a specified number of geese. Fees for this permit range from \$50 to \$100.

### **Human Health & Safety**

Concerns for human health and safety include increased risks of disease transmission from fecal accumulations, bird-aircraft strikes, and aggressive behavior. The potential for human illness from excessive accumulations of feces and/or associated contaminated water is a common concern in many areas, especially public use areas and those frequented by children. A number of potential human pathogens have been isolated from Canada goose feces and include, among

others, *Cryptosporidium*, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Chlamydia* and *Giardia* (Graczyk et al. 1998, U.S. Geologic Survey 2000). Many of these pathogens cause respiratory or intestinal disorders; however, source of infection or causal agent is not easily diagnosed. Further, the potential for transmission of disease or parasites to humans exists, but has not been well documented (Graczyk et al. 1998). Fecal coliform bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) are considered a normal inhabitant of many species, including Canada geese (Hussong et al. 1979). Concern over *E. coli* contamination, particularly when reported as high fecal coliform counts in recreational waters, is typically related more to its presence in feces and index of potential presence of more serious pathogens such as *Salmonella*, rather than concern over inherent *E. coli* pathogenicity (USGS 2000). However one *E. coli* serotype, O157:H7, is one of four groups of *E. coli* capable of producing illness. In North Carolina, public swimming advisories are routinely issued along with occasional closures each year due to elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria. In many instances, resident waterfowl (including Canada geese) are implicated (J.D. Potts, N.C. Division of Environmental Health, personal communication).

The presence of Canada geese on and around airports creates a significant threat to aviation and human safety. Due to their large body size, flocking characteristics, and abundance and behavior near airports, Canada geese are considered a very hazardous species and have a hazard ranking score exceeded only by deer and vultures (Cleary and Dolbeer 2005). The most recent and well know case involved the forced landing of an Airbus A320 in the Hudson River, NY in January 2009. From 1990-2008, Canada geese were involved in at least 1,181 strikes with civil aircraft in the United States (Dolbeer et al. 2009). Twenty-nine strikes involving Canada geese have occurred in North Carolina during the same time period (Federal Aviation Administration National Wildlife Strike Database 2009). Additionally, Canada goose-aircraft strikes accounted for 17% of reported monetary losses resulting from wildlife strikes to civil aircraft in the U.S. (Dolbeer et al. 2009).

Resident Canada geese pose localized but serious public safety problems during the nesting season when they aggressively defend a nest, nest site, and/or goslings. Aggressive geese may attack children, the elderly, clients, employees, students, and others, and have caused human injuries in the form of falls and bites. Slipping hazards may be caused by a build-up of feces on docks, walkways etc. Geese nesting near roadways create traffic hazards when they

cross the roadway or defend a nest site from cars and pedestrians, potentially resulting in accidents and human injuries.

## **PROGRAMS TO REDUCE DAMAGE AND CONFLICTS**

### **Technical Guidance – Non-lethal Methods**

Both the NCWRC and USDA-WS provide technical guidance to property owners to address nuisance resident Canada goose concerns. There are a variety of techniques available including: habitat modification, modification of human behavior, physical exclusion/deterrents, and hazing. Depending upon site location, severity of the issue, and consistent application of recommendations, non-lethal techniques can be very effective in many situations. Successful non-lethal techniques may move geese from areas of initial conflict, but relocated geese many times simply shift their offending behavior to another location.

### **Lethal Programs**

#### Nest and Egg Depredation Order

Since 2007, landowners in North Carolina may register within a nationwide system administered by the USFWS to conduct resident Canada goose nest and egg destruction activities on their property. No state or federal permits or fees are required to participate; however, registration is through a web-based system only. Prior to the current nest and egg registration system, landowners had to obtain a permit for this activity from USFWS. During the first two years of the current program, registrants in North Carolina reported the destruction of 1,625 nests. The nest destruction program serves dual purposes in that it provides a means to reduce population size or at least slow/stop population increases while providing a method to disperse nuisance nesting geese at specific sites.

#### Agricultural Depredation Order

This federal depredation order authorizes state wildlife agencies to allow landowners actively engaged in commercial agriculture to conduct lethal control to depredating Canada

geese between May 1 and August 31, and destroy nests and eggs from March 1 through June 30. As a condition of state participation, annual reports summarizing the control activities are required. The NCWRC implemented this Depredation Order for the first time in spring 2011. During this first year, 10 landowners participated in the Depredation Order with 18 geese reported taken.

#### Public Health Control Order

This order authorizes state wildlife agencies to conduct control activities for resident Canada goose posing a direct threat to human health. A direct threat to human health is defined as one where a federal, state or local public health agency recommends removal of Canada geese they determine to pose a specific, immediate human health threat by creating conditions conducive to the transmission of human or zoonotic pathogens. Management and control activities involving the take of resident Canada geese may occur between April 1 and August 31. The destruction of resident Canada goose nest and eggs may take place between March 1 and June 30. Annual reporting is required. To date, the NCWRC has not participated in this program.

#### Special Resident Canada Goose Permit

This special federal permit is available only to state wildlife agencies. After obtaining the permit, state agencies or their designees may undertake lethal control activities when resident Canada geese are causing damage or posing a threat to health and human safety. Lethal control may be applied in agricultural and public health situations along with the control of geese in more generalized depredation scenarios. Control activities may take place from March 11 through August 31. A resident goose population estimate is required along with a requested annual take (i.e., number of geese to be taken). Permits may be issued for up to a 5 year period; however, annual reporting is required. To date, the NCWRC has not participated in this program.

#### USDA-WS Trap and Euthanize Program

Since the early 2000's, USDA-WS has implemented a capture and euthanize program across the state to directly reduce goose numbers at specific sites. For a fee, private and public

property owners may contract with USDA-WS for this service. Since 2003, over 2000 geese have been removed. This program is particularly useful in areas where human safety is of the utmost concern, where sport hunting opportunities are limited, or where discharge of firearms is prohibited.

### Sport Hunting

Sport hunting as a tool to reduce local populations should be recommended when local laws allow. Currently, North Carolina has very liberal Canada goose hunting regulations throughout much of the state. However, sport hunting likely has little impact on those groups of Canada geese that spend the majority of their time in urbanized settings. Although hunting has the potential to reduce local and statewide populations of geese, it is not an effective tool to alleviate situations within urban/suburban areas or specific nuisance situations that occur outside of the hunting season.

### Managed Take Program

The Managed Take Program is allowed to states for the expressed purpose of stabilizing and reducing resident Canada goose populations. It allows for a “managed take” of geese from August 1 through August 31. Unplugged guns and electronic calls are allowed. In addition, shooting hours may be extended until ½ after sunset and there is no daily bag limit restriction. The Managed Take Program can only be implemented after a state has demonstrated that other management activities have failed to control populations. An annual breeding population estimate is required. Further, states must maintain records including estimates of participation and total number of geese shot. To date, the NCWRC has not participated in this program.

## **BARRIERS TO OPTMAL MANAGEMENT**

### **Public Perception**

As mentioned previously, public perceptions of Canada geese vary widely. Further, surveys of the North Carolina general public regarding their view of resident Canada geese and management strategies to alleviate damage and conflicts are lacking. Many people likely view

Canada geese as a highly valued species, but individual tolerance for goose behavior differs (Smith et al. 1999). The tolerance of resident Canada geese and opinions on how to control damage and conflicts can result in polarized views within neighborhoods and between adjacent property owners.

### **Rural vs. Urban-Suburban Resident Canada Geese**

Along with differing opinions of goose management, the physical location of geese presents management challenges. There are limited means by which to manage resident geese in urban-suburban areas. Due to firearm discharge ordinances, sport hunting cannot be implemented in many urban-suburban areas and likewise, other methods of lethal control may be difficult to implement due to public opposition. The lack of methods to greatly reduce survival of urban-suburban geese increases the likelihood that populations of resident Canada geese in these environments will increase unabated over time. Conversely, resident Canada geese inhabiting rural portions of the state can be routinely subjected to sport harvest. Also, other methods of lethal control and hazing by pyrotechnics are likely more acceptable and can be implemented more easily in rural landscapes. Balkcom (2010) recently calculated survival rates of 0.958 and 0.682 for urban and rural resident Canada geese, respectively, in Georgia. The main reason for the difference in survival rates between the two cohorts was due to the relative absence of hunting mortality at the urban study site. Survival rate estimates of urban and rural Canada geese in North Carolina are lacking, but likely reflect a similar relationship. It is unknown what, if any, impact current harvest regulations have on geese located in rural areas of the state. However, liberalization of hunting season lengths, bag limits and additional hunting methods including unplugged guns, electronic calls and extended shooting hours may have little impact on urban geese (Balkcom 2010, Coluccy et al. 2004).

### **Presence of Migrant Canada Goose Populations**

Because they cannot be readily distinguished by field observation, management of resident Canada geese is complicated by the presence of migrant populations of Canada geese. Three populations of migrant Canada geese can be found in portions of North Carolina during

the fall and winter and include the SJB, AP, and North Atlantic Population. Due to differences in their life history, migrant geese are generally less productive and have lower annual survival rates. Because of these differences, the impacts to migrant populations from various management actions directed toward resident Canada geese must be considered.

The degree to which increasing numbers of resident Canada geese compete for food resources with migrants is unknown but is not thought to be a problem at this time. The presence of resident geese does confound interpretation of winter surveys that seek to provide long-term trends in migrant goose numbers. Estimates of harvest for either residents or migrants are also compromised by the occurrence of both during the hunting season, making it difficult to evaluate the effects of hunting regulations on each group. The co-existence of 4 separate populations of Canada geese (including residents) makes a unified approach to statewide goose management impossible, and difficult to explain to the general public. For many citizens, their only contact is with resident geese and many are likely not aware that migrant geese even occur in our state. Further, many people believe that our large resident population of Canada geese is a result of migrant geese that simply stopped migrating back to their northern breeding grounds. Studies conducted within the Atlantic Flyway have demonstrated that this has not occurred.

## MANAGEMENT GOAL

The significantly varying issues surrounding resident Canada geese makes constructing a simple, straight-forward management goal and strategies that can be applied on a statewide basis difficult. Reaching an optimal balance between competing objectives will be difficult to achieve and highlights the difficult nature of managing this important resource. To reduce nuisance resident Canada goose complaints and alleviate damage concerns, NCWRC must fully promote and be an active participant in strategies necessary to reduce goose numbers, especially in urban-suburban areas where sport harvest has little impact. However at the same time, NCWRC must be mindful that reduced populations of resident Canada geese in some areas may be unacceptable to a core group of the goose hunting community. The NCWRC should engage goose hunters and other stakeholders to ascertain their opinions and desires regarding future goose hunting opportunities and whether a reduction in current goose numbers is desired or warranted. Considering the wide range of issues, our goal is to:

**“Manage resident Canada geese in North Carolina to achieve an optimal balance between their positive aesthetic values, sport hunting opportunities, and conflicts arising from nuisance and depredating geese.”**

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**Maintain current goose hunting opportunities, hunter participation and success, and positive aspects of geese in non-hunted areas through the plan period.**

#### Strategy 1.1

Monitor goose harvests and hunter trends. An important part of evaluating whether goose hunting success can be maintained at current levels is through monitoring season-wide and September goose harvests, goose hunter numbers and days afield, and estimates of goose harvested/hunter. Many of these estimates are available through the Harvest Information Program (HIP) and through the NCWRC’s Hunter Harvest Survey.

### Strategy 1.2

Monitor trends in population size as one means to evaluate whether goose hunting opportunities are being maintained and determine the relationship that an increasing or declining population has with goose harvest and hunter statistics.

### Strategy 1.3

Implement an annual or specific time period “avid” goose hunter survey. Harvest surveys of “avid” goose hunters will provide valuable insight into long-term hunting success and hunting effort and may be the best indicator of whether hunting opportunities and success is being maintained.

### Strategy 1.4

In conjunction with Strategy 3.3, determine the aesthetic and other qualitative values of resident Canada geese and how best to balance social and biological carrying capacity while considering the desires of hunters and nonhunters.

## **OBJECTIVE 2**

**Alleviate conflicts and damage attributed to nuisance and/or depredating Canada geese to the greatest extent possible.**

### Strategy 2.1

Promote goose egg addling and nest destruction programs as allowed through the national registration system. Since 2007, this national registration system has been available to landowners statewide. Working with USDA-WS, the NCWRC should provide printed materials regarding the program, promote the program on the agencies website and within other media, stress the program to agency staff as solutions to conflicts and damage, and promote this opportunity to various groups and agencies such as Cooperative Extension Service and Homeowner Associations of North Carolina.

### Strategy 2.2

Update any existing literature regarding allowable and effective techniques to reduce conflicts and damage attributed to nuisance and/or depredating Canada geese and promote their usage and distribution to local and city governments and other like interests. Both the NCWRC and USDA-WS have printed materials that describe various nuisance goose management techniques. Materials should be updated and promoted, with a commitment to providing the information through targeted mailings to affected groups and individuals.

### Strategy 2.3

Continue to allow trap and euthanize programs conducted by USDA –WS and promote the program in urbanized settings. While controversial, the trap and euthanize program can be very effective in efficiently removing problem geese and should be promoted in those areas where sport hunting and discharge of firearms is not permitted.

### Strategy 2.4

Convene a group of NCWRC field biologists and administrators to fully evaluate the costs/benefits of obtaining the “Special Resident Canada Goose Permit”. Request this special permit if deemed feasible and appropriate.

### Strategy 2.5

Continue to utilize the Agricultural Depredation Order and consider promoting this option in some fashion to the farming community. Participation in this Depredation Order will become unnecessary if the NCWRC obtains the Special Resident Canada Goose Permit from the USFWS (Strategy 1.4 above).

## **OBJECTIVE 3**

**Conduct research and surveys necessary to fully evaluate management goals and objectives.**

### Strategy 3.1

Initiate a university led research project designed to evaluate several possible survey techniques that may be used to estimate the size of the state’s resident goose population.

Potential techniques may range from direct estimates based on visual surveys of geese or indirect estimates based on a combination of banding/recovery data and harvest data. Optimally, population estimates that can reliably separate the proportion of geese located in urban and rural environments are desired.

### Strategy 3.2

Based on results from research, implement a statewide population survey and conduct a survey at least once every three years. Currently the NCWRC has no reliable population estimate for resident Canada geese in North Carolina. The only estimates available for North Carolina are those generated by NCWRC district biologists (see Appendix 1), which are inadequate for proper management of this population. Without reliable estimates of population size, the management objectives and strategies described above cannot be fully evaluated. Before implementation, various methodologies for obtaining reliable population estimates should be thoroughly evaluated considering monetary costs, manpower needs, and biases associated with various techniques.

### Strategy 3.3

Conduct opinion surveys of goose hunters and other citizens regarding goose management issues. For example, do goose hunters believe that current regulations are too liberal or too conservative and do they desire that resident goose populations be reduced, kept stable, or allowed to increase? Does this vary regionally? How might hunter opinions differ from citizens that have experienced goose damage issues? Opinions from affected groups will help further refine future resident goose management objectives and strategies and will help evaluate objectives described in this plan.

### Strategy 3.4

Identify, quantify and delineate areas of North Carolina where geese cannot be hunted due to urban environments that legally preclude hunting and where hunting is not practical due to housing and land ownership patterns.

### Strategy 3.5

Work with the Atlantic Flyway Technical Section to develop resident Canada goose research projects and participate in research that has implications for range-wide population modeling and management.

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Appendix 1. Resident goose population estimates by county and Wildlife Commission district.

	<b>1986</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>District 1</b>			
Bertie	225	400	300
Camden	0	75	250
Chowan	84	500	500
Currituck	272	900	700
Dare	15	600	650
Gates	0	300	200
Hertford	385	1200	250
Hyde	180	1200	800
Martin	125	300	200
Pasquotank	0	100	450
Perquimans	0	400	550
Tyrrell	0	50	300
Washington	0	400	400
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>1286</b>	<b>6425</b>	<b>5550</b>
<b>District 2</b>			
Beaufort	0	575	575
Carteret	116	200	200
Craven	100	700	700
Duplin	0	500	500
Greene	0	250	250
Jones	200	500	500
Lenoir	50	1000	1000
New Hanover	10	200	200
Onslow	0	430	430
Pamlico	0	200	200
Pender	67	250	250
Pitt	0	275	275
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>5080</b>	<b>5080</b>
<b>District 3</b>			
Edgecombe	23	800	1200
Franklin	40	1000	400
Halifax	90	500	1000
Johnston	60	1500	1800
Nash	0	1200	1500
Northampton	240	1200	1800
Vance	40	500	700
Wake	200	2500	4500
Warren	0	400	900
Wayne	0	800	1100
Wilson	12	1200	1500
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>11600</b>	<b>16400</b>

Appendix 1 (continued). Resident goose population estimates by county and Wildlife Commission district.

	<b>1986</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>District 4</b>			
Bladen	100	300	324
Brunswick	0	200	232
Columbus	20	500	456
Cumberland	50	800	770
Harnett	60	600	502
Hoke	0	200	377
Robeson	20	200	339
Sampson	174	1000	694
Scotland	0	200	234
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>3928</b>
<b>District 5</b>			
Alamance	200	1500	2500
Caswell	0	1000	1750
Chatham	0	1000	2000
Durham	500	2000	3500
Granville	0	1250	2100
Guilford	200	3000	6000
Lee	0	750	1100
Orange	0	2000	4000
Person	0	1000	1750
Randolph	0	1250	2500
Rockingham	0	1250	3750
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>16000</b>	<b>30950</b>
<b>District 6</b>			
Anson	0	400	200
Cabarrus	500	2000	400
Davidson	500	2000	375
Mecklenburg	150	6000	700
Montgomery	0	400	175
Moore	50	1500	650
Richmond	0	600	275
Rowan	0	1500	425
Stanly	0	1500	300
Union	30	1200	400
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>17100</b>	<b>3900</b>

Appendix 1 (continued). Resident goose population estimates by county and Wildlife Commission district.

	<b>1986</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>District 7</b>			
Alexander	0	800	570
Alleghany	0	300	405
Ashe	0	300	1923
Davie	100	3800	1288
Forsyth	0	5000	2293
Iredell	0	4500	3679
Stokes	0	1500	2215
Surry	0	1500	2441
Watauga	0	0	322
Wilkes	80	3000	1073
Yadkin	0	4000	1699
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>24700</b>	<b>17908</b>
<b>District 8</b>			
Avery	0	300	250
Burke	0	300	1500
Caldwell	0	400	750
Catawba	0	3000	3000
Cleveland	20	300	1000
Gaston	25	4000	2000
Lincoln	0	2000	2500
Mcdowell	0	150	750
Mitchell	0	50	250
Rutherford	0	100	750
Yancey	0	50	400
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10650</b>	<b>13150</b>
<b>District 9</b>			
Buncombe	0	300	1000
Cherokee	0	100	1000
Clay	0	400	1000
Graham	0	0	200
Haywood	0	0	100
Henderson	0	150	500
Jackson	0	0	100
Macon	0	0	1000
Madison	0	0	100
Polk	0	0	100
Swain	0	0	200
Transylvania	0	0	100
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>5400</b>
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>5313</b>	<b>96505</b>	<b>102266</b>

Appendix 2. Canada goose seasons and bag limits in North Carolina during the regular waterfowl season, 1987-2009.

Table 1. Canada goose seasons and bag limits (in parentheses) during the regular waterfowl season, 1987-1996.

Year	Hunting Zone	
	East of I-95	West of I-95
1987-88	December 31-January 16 (1)	Closed
1988-89	January 21-31 (1)	Closed
1989-90	January 22-31 (1)	Closed
1990-91	January 21-31 (1)	Closed
1991-92	January 20-31 (1)	Closed
1992-93	Closed	Closed
1993-94	Closed	Closed
1994-95	Closed	Closed
1995-96	Closed	Closed
1996-97	Closed	Closed

Appendix 2 (continued). Canada goose seasons and bag limits in North Carolina during the regular waterfowl season, 1987-2009.

Table 2. Canada goose seasons and bag limits (in parentheses) during the regular waterfowl season, 1997-2001.

Year	Hunting Zone	
	Northeast Hunt Zone	Rest of State
1997-98	Closed <sup>1</sup>	October 1-November 15 (2)
1998-99	Closed <sup>1</sup>	October 1-November 15 (2)
1999-00	Closed <sup>1</sup>	October 1-November 15 (2)
2000-01	Closed <sup>1</sup>	October 2-November 15 (2)
2001-02	Closed <sup>2</sup>	November 3-December 31 (2)

<sup>1</sup>Northeast Hunt Zone includes Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

<sup>2</sup>Northeast Hunt Zone includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington counties and that portion of Northampton county that is both north of US 158 and east of NC 35, and that portion of Bertie county east of NC 45 and that portion which is both west of US 17 and east of US 13.

Appendix 2 (continued). Canada goose seasons and bag limits in North Carolina during the regular waterfowl season, 1987-2009.

Table 3. Canada goose seasons and bag limits (in parentheses) during the regular waterfowl season, 2002-2009.

Year	Hunt Zone <sup>1</sup>		
	Northeast Hunt Zone	Southern James Bay Hunt Zone	Resident Hunt Zone
2002-03	Closed	Oct. 12-16 Nov.16-Dec. 31 (2)	Nov. 9-30 Dec. 14-Jan. 25 (5)
2003-04	Closed	Oct. 13-25 Nov.15-Dec. 31 (2)	Nov. 8-29 Dec. 13-Jan. 24 (5)
2004-05	Closed	Oct. 6-16 Nov.6-Dec. 31 (2)	Nov. 13-Dec 4 Dec. 18-Jan. 29 (5)
2005-06	Jan. 14-31 <sup>2</sup> (1\season)	Oct. 5-15 Nov.12-Dec. 31 (2)	Oct. 5-8; Nov. 12-Dec. 3; Dec. 17-Jan. 28 (5)
2006-07	Dec. 25-Jan. 27 <sup>3</sup> (1\season)	Oct. 4-14 Nov.11-Dec. 30 (2)	Nov. 11-Dec 2 Dec. 16-Jan. 27 (5)
2007-08	Dec. 24-Jan. 26 <sup>3</sup> (1\season)	Oct. 3-27 Nov.10-Dec. 31 (2)	Oct. 3-27; Nov. 10-Dec. 1; Dec. 15-Jan. 26 (5)
2008-09	Dec. 22-Jan. 24 <sup>3</sup> (1\season)	Oct. 1-25 Nov.8-Dec. 31 (5)	Oct. 1-11; Nov. 8-Dec. 29; Dec. 13-Feb. 7 (5)
2009-10	Jan. 23-Jan. 30 <sup>4</sup> (1)	Oct. 7-Nov. 7 Nov.14-Dec. 31 (5)	Oct. 7-17; Nov. 14-Dec. 5; Dec. 19-Feb. 6 (5)
2010-11	Jan. 22-Jan. 29 <sup>4</sup> (1)	Oct. 6-Nov. 6 Nov.13-Dec. 31 (5)	Oct. 6-16; Nov. 13-Dec. 4; Dec. 18-Feb. 5 (5)
2011-12	Jan. 21-Jan. 28 <sup>4</sup> (1)	Oct. 5-Nov. 4 Nov.12-Dec. 31 (5)	Oct. 5-15; Nov. 12-Dec. 3; Dec. 17-Feb. 4 (5)

<sup>1</sup>See Appendix 2, Figures 1-3 for counties included in the Northeast, Southern James Bay, and Resident Hunt Zones.

<sup>2</sup>Permit-only season; 500 permits issued.

<sup>3</sup>Permit-only season; 1,000 permits issued.

<sup>4</sup>Permit-only season; Unlimited participation.



Figure 2. Regular season Canada goose hunt zones, 2005-06.

## North Carolina Goose Zones (2005-06)

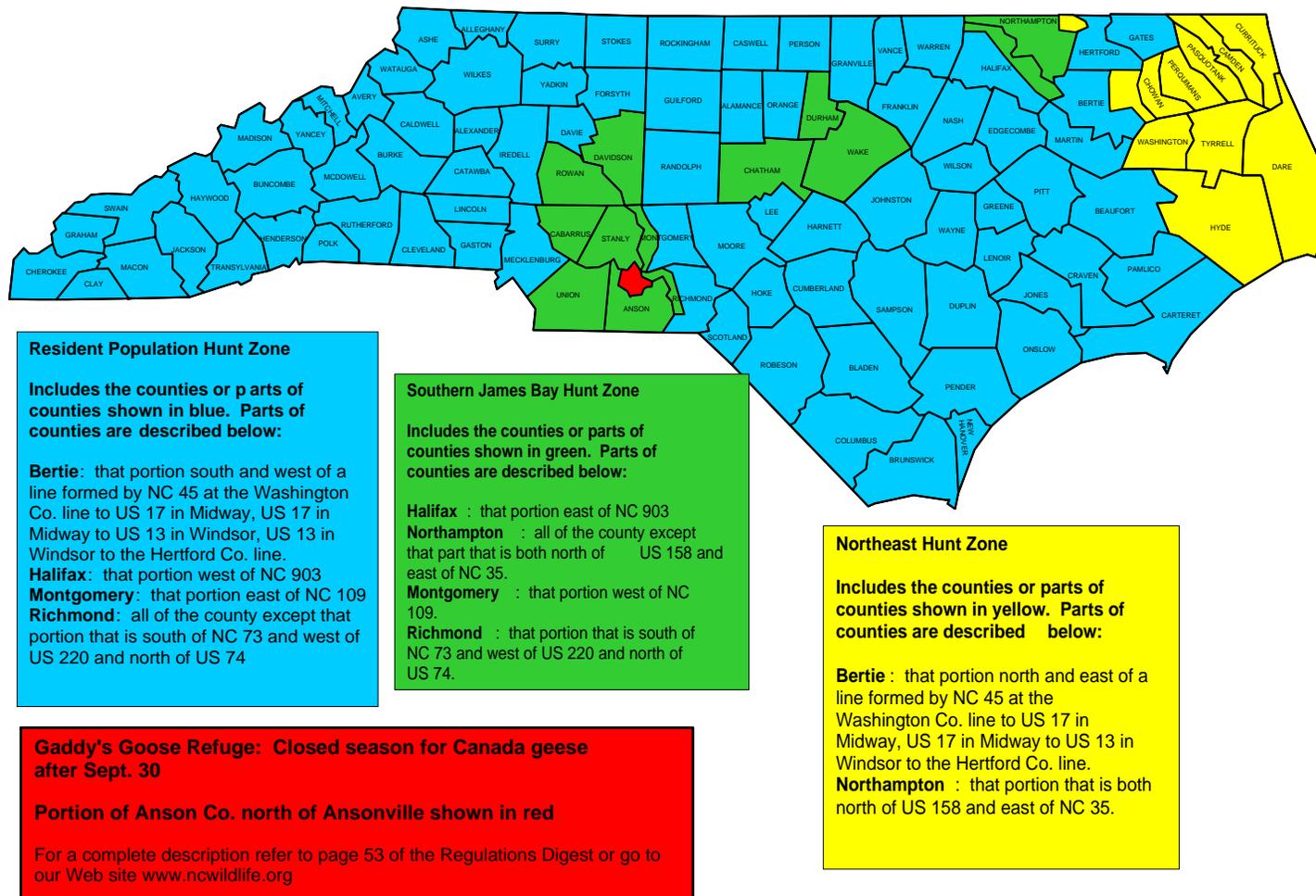
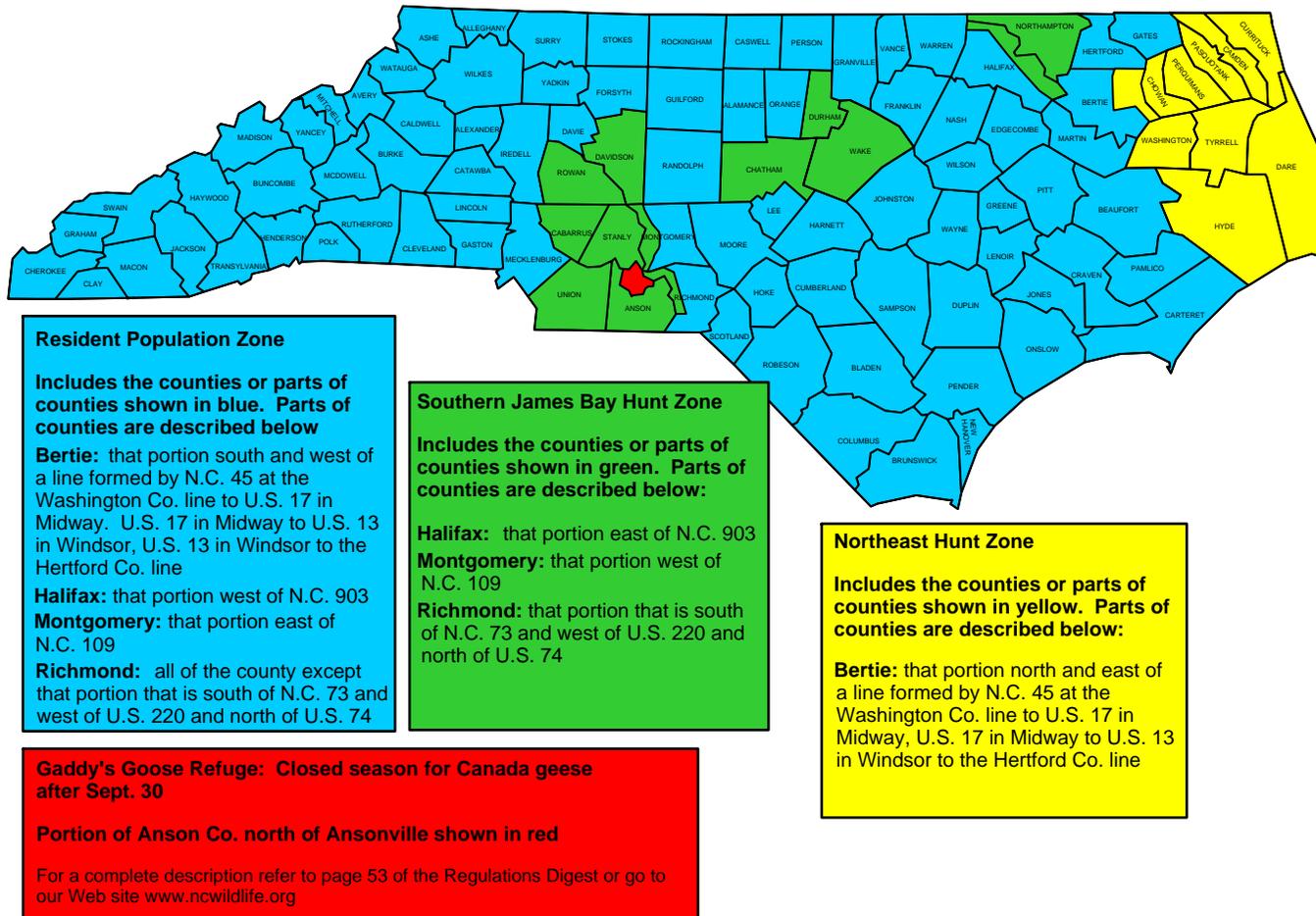


Figure 3. Regular season Canada goose hunt zones, 2007-10.

### North Carolina Goose Zones (2007-10)



Appendix 3. Seasons and bag limits in North Carolina during the special September Canada goose season, 1989-2009.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Season Dates (Bag Limit)</b>	<b>Hunting Zone</b>
1989-90 <sup>1</sup>	September 1-9 (2)	West of I-95 only
1990-91 <sup>1</sup>	September 4-10 (2)	West of I-95 only
1991-92 <sup>1</sup>	September 3-10 (2)	West of I-95 only
1992-93 <sup>1</sup>	September 8-10 (2)	West of I-95 only
1993-94 <sup>1</sup>	September 16-30 (3)	West of I-95 only
1994-95 <sup>1</sup>	September 16-30 (3)	Statewide, except in certain counties <sup>2</sup>
1995-96 <sup>1</sup>	September 6-20 (3); September 16-30 (3)	In northeast counties <sup>3</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
1996-97 <sup>1</sup>	September 3-20 (3); September 3-30 (3)	In northeast counties <sup>4</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
1997-98	September 2-20 (3); September 2-30 (3)	In northeast counties <sup>4</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
1998-99	September 1-20 (3); September 8-30 (3)	In northeast counties <sup>4</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
1999-00	September 1-20 (5); September 7-30 (5)	In northeast counties <sup>5</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
2000-01	September 1-20 (5); September 5-30 (5)	In northeast counties <sup>5</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
2001-02	September 1-20 (5) <sup>6</sup> ; September 4-29 (5)	In northeast counties <sup>5</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
2002-03	September 2-20 (5) <sup>6</sup> ; September 3-29 (5)	In northeast counties <sup>5</sup> ; Statewide, except in northeast counties
2003-04	September 1-30 (5) <sup>6</sup>	Statewide

Appendix 3 (continued). Seasons and bag limits in North Carolina during the special September Canada goose season, 1989-2009.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Season Dates (Bag Limit)</b>	<b>Hunting Zone</b>
2004-05	September 1-30 (5) <sup>6</sup>	Statewide
2005-06	September 1-30 (5) <sup>7</sup>	Statewide
2006-07	September 1-30 (8) <sup>7</sup>	Statewide
2007-08	September 1-30 (8) <sup>7</sup>	Statewide
2008-09	September 1-30 (8) <sup>7</sup>	Statewide
2009-10	September 1-30 (15)	Statewide
2010-11	September 1-30 (15)	Statewide
2011-12	September 1-30 (15)	Statewide

<sup>1</sup>All hunters were required to obtain a free, special permit to hunt Canada geese during September.

<sup>2</sup>Hunt area expanded statewide except for the counties of Bertie, Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Northampton (east of I-95), Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

<sup>3</sup>Northeast counties included Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

<sup>4</sup>Northeast counties included Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.

<sup>5</sup>Northeast counties included Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington plus the addition of Currituck and Hyde counties.

<sup>6</sup>Except in Dare and Currituck counties, where the bag limit is 2.

<sup>7</sup>Except in the area of Dare county that includes Roanoke Island, 1,000 yards around Roanoke Island, and 1,000 yards both north and south of the Hwy. 64 causeway between Roanoke Island and Bodie Island, where the bag limit is 2.

# EXHIBIT E

June 20, 2013



## A Proactive Approach to Setting Canada Goose Hunting Seasons in the Northeast Hunt Unit – A Proposal

**Background:** Since the 1960s, numbers of Canada geese wintering in northeast North Carolina has declined greatly (Figure 1). Since 1996, estimates of migrant geese have ranged from approximately 5,000 to 13,000 (Figure 2). The long-term decline necessitated a closed season in 1992 and late season hunting remained closed in northeast North Carolina until 2005. An experimental, permit only season was granted from 2005 – 2009. Since 2009, North Carolina has been allowed an “operational” 7-day season with a 1 goose/day bag limit (7/1 season). As a means to estimate harvest in this relatively short season, the NCWRC requires all hunters participating to obtain a \$5 point of sale permit.

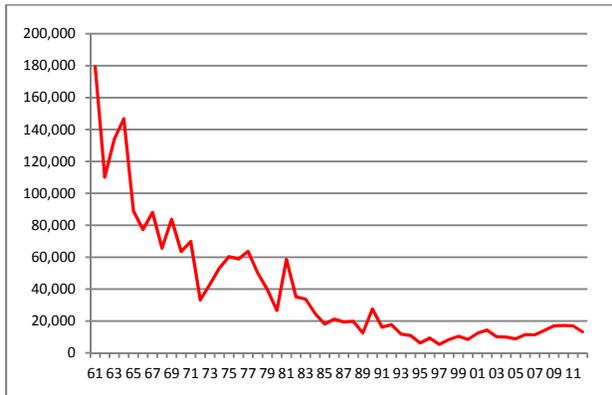


Figure 1. Number of Canada geese in the NE Hunt Unit, 1961- 2013.

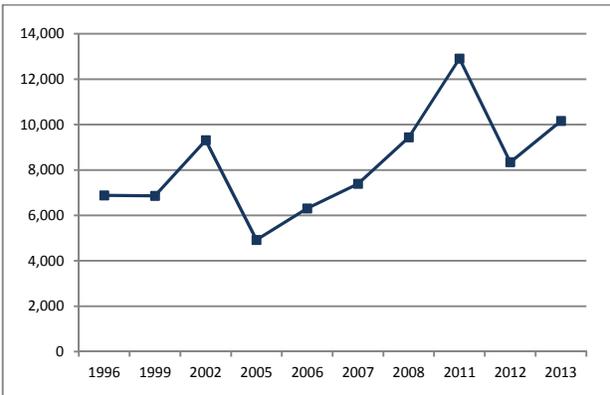


Figure 2. Number of estimated migrant geese in the NE Hunt Unit, 1996-2013

The Atlantic Flyway Council operates under the guidelines of a management plan for Atlantic Population Canada Geese. This classification includes the group of geese that migrate to the northeastern portion of North Carolina. Currently within the plan, North Carolina is allowed a 7/1 season in the Northeast (NE) Hunt Unit, but there are no guidelines to dictate when the season might be liberalized or reduced in the future. At this point, the Atlantic Flyway Migratory Game Bird Technical Section appears supportive of establishing a framework that would guide future hunting seasons in the NE Hunt Unit. Although the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is not a signatory to flyway management plans, they have indicated that they

would not oppose a reasonable increase in the number of hunting days under current population conditions in the NE Hunt Unit.

**Proposal:** We recommend that the Commission adopt guidelines that could be inserted into the current Atlantic Flyway *Atlantic Population Canada Goose Management Plan*. If formally incorporated into the flyway plan, future hunting season changes (increases or reductions) would be guided by the plan. There would be no requirement to request a season change each time we wished to do so. Annual requests to the Commission, Flyway Technical Section, Flyway Council and USFWS would not be needed.

**Details:** We propose using “break-points”, (i.e., guidelines) to establish five potential hunting season structures in the NE Hunt Unit (Table 1). The break-points are the 3-year running average of the estimated number of migrant geese that winter in the NE Hunt Unit. The estimated number of migrant geese is based on two surveys each year. The first survey is an aerial survey conducted in late September. This survey counts Canada geese within the NE Hunt Unit and we assume that all geese counted are local, resident geese. The second survey is conducted in early January and is part of the annual mid-winter waterfowl survey. This survey counts all Canada geese within the same area as the September survey and we assume that the geese counted include resident and migrant geese. By subtracting the September count of Canada geese from the January count of Canada geese, we can obtain an estimate of migrant Canada geese wintering in this area.

Table 1. Proposed Canada Goose hunting seasons in the NE Hunt Unit under varying estimates of migrant population size.

<b>Estimated # of migrant Canada geese in the NE Hunt Unit</b>	<b>Season</b>
< 3,000 estimated migrants*	Consider closing season
3,000 – 8,000 (3-year average)	7 days, 1 goose/day
8,001 – 13,000 (3-year average)	14 days, 1 goose/day
13,001 – 18,000 (3-year average)	30 days, 1 goose/day
>18,000 (3-year average)	30 days, 2 geese/day

\* The season would also be closed if the breeding pair index fall below 60K pairs. This is a flyway requirement included in the flyway plan. The current breeding pair index is 190K pairs.

Under current population conditions, we would change from a 7/1 to a 14/1 season (Figure 3). Estimates of migrant Canada geese would have to increase to 13,000 for a resulting increase to 30 hunting days. At a three-year running average of 18,000 geese, the season would change to 30/2.

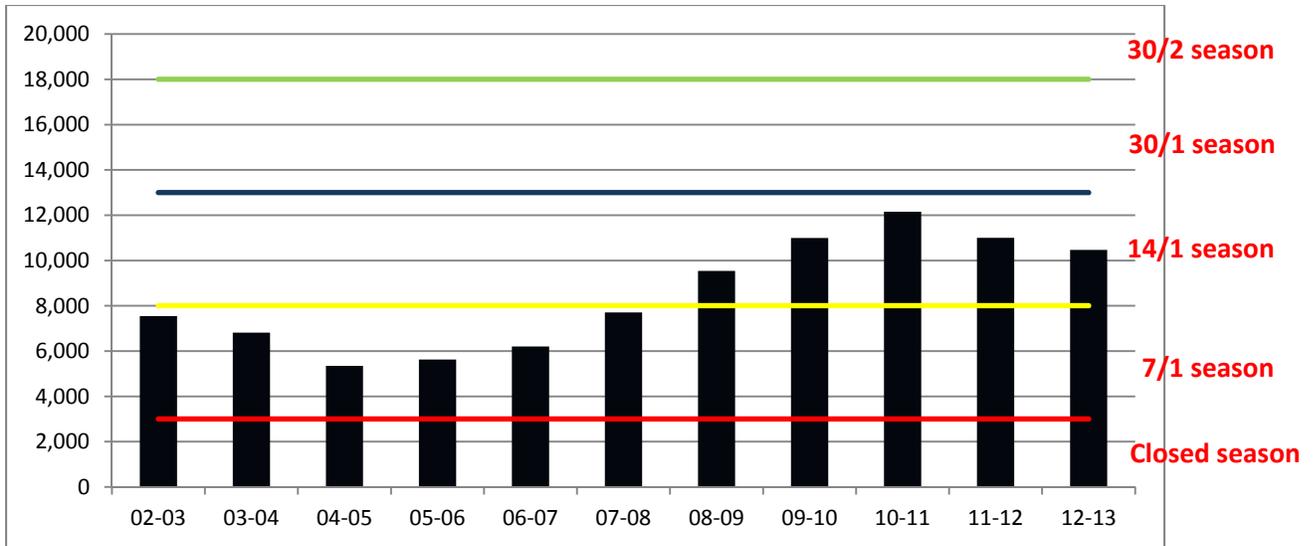


Figure 2. Comparison of past 3-year running average estimates of migrant geese in the NE Hunt Unit to proposed season structures.

From a regulatory perspective, this proposal would establish consistency and simplify the process of setting biologically sound hunting seasons for Canada geese in the NE Hunt Unit. Additionally, it would allow agency staff to proactively inform all interested stakeholders on the annual status of Canada geese in the NE Hunt Unit as it relates to established and potential hunting season frameworks.

# EXHIBIT F

June 20, 2013



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon S. Myers, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mallory Martin, Chief Deputy Director

**FROM:** Robert L. Curry, Chief, Division of Inland Fisheries

**DATE:** June 12, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Commission Action to Adopt the NC Trout Resources Management Plan

I recommend that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's Fisheries Committee approve the North Carolina Trout Resources Management Plan (Plan) and recommend the Plan to the full Commission for final adoption. The Plan was originally introduced to the Commission as a spotlight at the July 7, 2011 Commission meeting. Following an extensive input process from the public and staff, the DRAFT Plan was presented as an update at the May 2013 Fisheries Committee meeting in Pine Knoll Shores. The Fisheries Committee will review the final draft of the Plan at its meeting on June 19, 2013 in Raleigh. The Plan can be viewed at the Commission's SharePoint web portal.

The purpose of the Commission's trout management program is to use science-based decision making and biologically-sound management principles to enhance the quality and quantity of Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brown Trout populations for continued and varied trout angling opportunities. The Commission originally developed a Trout Management Plan in 1989 to guide its trout management program; this plan revision incorporates the results of biological and socioeconomic research conducted since 1989 as well as information gathered from trout angling constituents and management partners. This Plan supports the Commission's goals and objectives outlined in its Strategic Plan and will continue to serve as the guiding document for trout management in North Carolina.

The Plan highlights five critical program areas: ***Trout Management, Resource Protection and Habitat Enhancement, Research, Angler Access, and Education and Communication***. Specific goals for each program area have been developed. Successful implementation of the Plan will require the support and cooperation of individual anglers, angling organizations, and other government agencies with an interest in protecting and enhancing trout resources. Commission action to adopt the Plan will enhance our ability to effectively collaborate with our partners and ensure continued success for a high-quality trout management program.

## ***Program Areas and Goals***

### **Program Area 1. Trout Management**

Goal 1. Identify, protect, and enhance Brook Trout populations.

Goal 2. Provide diverse, high-quality trout fishing opportunities.

Goal 3. Provide a sound regulatory structure to manage Public Mountain Trout Waters.

Goal 4. Maximize the fishery potential of stocked trout resources.

### **Program Area 2. Resource Protection and Habitat Enhancement**

Goal 1. Minimize degradation and loss of trout waters and associated riparian habitat.

Goal 2. Improve trout habitat quality and quantity.

Goal 3. Manage and minimize adverse effects of invasive species.

### **Program Area 3. Research**

Goal 1. Obtain routine measurements of social and economic data regarding trout management programs.

Goal 2. Conduct biological surveys to determine the effectiveness of stocked trout and wild trout management strategies.

Goal 3. Evaluate alternative trout management practices.

### **Program Area 4. Angler Access**

Goal 1. Secure permanent public access to trout fisheries.

Goal 2. Improve angling access for trout anglers with special needs.

### **Program Area 5. Education and Communication**

Goal 1. Increase the awareness of trout fishing opportunities.

Goal 2. Maintain and enhance trout fishing information.

Goal 3. Evaluate enhancing public awareness of trout stocking events.

Goal 4. Continue to cultivate interactions with trout anglers.

# EXHIBIT G

June 20, 2013



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mallory Martin, Chief Deputy Director

**FROM:** Robert L. Curry, Chief, Division of Inland Fisheries

**DATE:** June 12, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Disposal of Old Structures – Watha State Fish Hatchery

I recommend that we dispose of three 20-year old residential structures on the Watha State Fish Hatchery. Commission action is necessary before the State Property Office can initiate action to remove state-owned property from the State Asset List. Watha State Fish Hatchery is the premier warmwater fish production facility in North Carolina. The hatchery is comprised of approximately 320 acres with 45 acres of fish production ponds. These residential structures, originally constructed around 1993, were placed at the facility to provide 24 hour oversight and emergency response for hatchery operations. A DRAFT State Property Office form PO-2, Disposition of Real Property, and photographs of the three structures are attached for your reference.

Each of the three modular structures includes +/-1,568 square foot of living space. These structures do not meet current building code requirements and they display structural deficiencies. The current value of these structures is unknown but they were originally acquired at a cost of \$51,450.00 each and have a replacement insurance value of \$80,235 each. Plans are currently underway to sell or demolish all three structures, and replace them with new structures with comparable square footage. Two of the structures will be replaced in the same locations and the third structure will be relocated to a different location. Since these structures were constructed in the early 1990's, an asbestos and lead paint inspection is not warranted. Action from the State Property Office is required before we can replace these structures.

Thank you for your assistance with this request. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

# EXHIBIT G

June 20, 2013

Form PO-2

Rev. 10/01

Original and one copy to State Property Office

## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

### DISPOSITION OF REAL PROPERTY

Institution or Agency: NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Date: June 20, 2013

The Department of Administration is requested, as provided by GS §146-28 et seq., to dispose of the real property herein described by *purchase, lease, rental, or other (specify)*. **Severance by sale or demolition.**

This disposition is recommended for the following reasons:

**Severance of these structures is necessary due to existing building deficiencies and poor conditions. Site to be redeveloped with new structures.**

Description of Property: *(Attach additional pages if needed.)*

**Three +/-1,568 sf, 20-year old modular structures, which are in poor condition and will be replaced with equivalent structures.**

**Complex #71-20, Asset #'s 14, 15 & 16**

Estimated value: unknown

Where deed is filed, if known: N/A

If deed is in the name of agency other than applicant, state the name:

Property of State of North Carolina

Rental income, if applicable, and suggested terms:

N/A

Funds from the disposal of this property are recommended for the following use:

*(Complete if Agency has a Governing Board.)*

Action recommending the above request was taken by the Governing Board of \_\_\_\_\_ and is recorded in the minutes thereof on \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

# EXHIBIT G

June 20, 2013

**Building 1**



**Building 2**



**Building 3**



# EXHIBIT H

June 20, 2013



**15A NCAC 10F .0355(a)(1)(B) Perquimans County – Town of Hertford – Amendment  
15A NCAC 10F .0355(a)(2)(A) and (a)(2)(B) Perquimans County - Technical Corrections**

The Town of Hertford in Perquimans County has made application for an amendment to 15A NCAC 10F .0355 to redefine and modify a no wake zone in the Perquimans River, shore to shore along the waterfront of the Town of Hertford. The Enforcement Division investigated and found that sufficient safety issues exist along the busy waterfront to warrant the extension of the no wake zone. The Wildlife Resources Commission approved the fiscal note analysis conducted by the Office of State Budget and Management at the March 14, 2013 meeting. Notice of Text was filed in the *North Carolina Register* with an open comment period that closed on June 16, 2013. A public hearing was held at WRC Headquarters on May 8, 2013 to receive comments. There were no attendees and no comments have been received.

Technical changes in the rule text correct descriptions of locations of existing no wake zones in (a)(2)(A) and (a)(2)(B) as being on Yeopim Creek rather than Yeopim River. They do not substantially change the rule and will be incorporated upon codification if approved.

Staff recommends adoption of the rule.

**TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0355.*

Agency obtained G.S. 150B-19.1 certification:

- OSBM certified on: *March 13, 2013*
- RRC certified on:
- Not Required

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** <http://www.ncwildlife.org/> (Click link "Public Notice & Pending Rules")

*Fiscal Note posted at: [http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf\\_files/WRC03132013.pdf](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf_files/WRC03132013.pdf)*

**Proposed Effective Date:** *September 1, 2013*

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** *May 8, 2013*

**Time:** *10:00 a.m.*

**Location:** *Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606*

**Reason for Proposed Action:** *This proposed amendment would redefine and slightly modify a currently existing no-wake zone on the Perquimans River in Perquimans County. A new (a)(1)(B) of this rule would add the Town of Hertford. This will create a slightly larger no wake zone that combines the areas in (B) and (C) and extends the no wake area to a line shore to shore approximately 475 yards southwest of the bridge. This is proposed at the request of the county. The changes to (a)(2) and (a)(3) are technical and move the descriptions of the two no wake zones near the Albemarle Plantation Marina Piers - (a)(2)A - and within the area of Beaver Cove - (a)(2)(B) - from Yeopim River to Yeopim Creek where they are more properly described as being located. WRC has verified that both locations do belong in Yeopim Creek rather than in Yeopim River and should have initially been codified there. Regardless, these proposed changes would not modify these two existing no-wake zones in any way.*

**Procedure by which a person can object to the agency on a proposed rule:** *Objections may be submitted in writing or via electronic mail during the comment period to Ms. Betsy Haywood, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701 or [betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org](mailto:betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org).*

**Comments may be submitted to:** *Ms. Betsy Haywood, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701; (919) 707-0013; email [betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org](mailto:betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org)*

**Comment period ends:** *June 14, 2013*

**Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:** If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 919-431-3000.

**Fiscal impact (check all that apply).**

- State funds affected
- Environmental permitting of DOT affected
- Analysis submitted to Board of Transportation
- Local funds affected
- Date submitted to OSBM: *January 28, 2013*
- Substantial economic impact ( $\geq$ \$500,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required by G.S. 150B-21.4

**CHAPTER 10 – WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**SUBCHAPTER 10F - MOTORBOATS AND WATER SAFETY**  
**SECTION .0300 - LOCAL WATER SAFETY REGULATIONS**

**15A NCAC 10F .0355 PERQUIMANS COUNTY**

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

- (1) Perquimans River:
  - (A) The canals of Holiday ~~Island; Island subdivision;~~
  - ~~(B) The area within 50 yards of the Hertford City Boat Ramp; and~~
  - ~~(C) The area within 75 yards of the Perquimans River Bridge on U.S. 17 Business also known as the Hertford S-Shaped Bridge.~~
  - (B) Town of Hertford: that part of the Perquimans River beginning 75 yards northeast of the Perquimans River Bridge (Hertford S-shaped Bridge) parallel to the bridge, shore to shore, and ending approximately 550 yards southwest, at a line from a point on the north shore 36.19300 N, 76.46962 W to a point on the south shore 36.19150 N, 76.47099 W.
- (2) Yeopim River:
  - ~~(A) The area within 75 yards of the Albemarle Plantation Marina Piers;~~
  - ~~(B) The area of Beaver Cove as delineated by appropriate markers;~~
  - ~~(C)(A) The canal entrance between Navaho Trail and Cherokee Trail;~~
  - ~~(D)(B) The canal entrance between Cherokee Trail and Ashe Street;~~
  - ~~(E)(C) The boat ramp at Ashe and Pine Street;~~
  - ~~(F)(D) The canal entrance between Pine Street and Linden Street;~~
  - ~~(G)(E) The canal entrance and boat ramp between Willow Street and Evergreen Drive;~~
  - ~~(H)(F) The canal entrance between Sago Street and Alder Street; and~~
  - ~~(I)(G) The swimming area at the Snug Harbor Park and Beach.~~
- (3) Yeopim ~~Creek Creek:~~
  - (A) The canal entrance between Mohave Trail and Iowa Trail; ~~and~~
  - (B) The canal entrance between Iowa Trail and Shawnee ~~Trail. Trail;~~
  - (C) The area within 75 yards of the Albemarle Plantation Marina Piers; and
  - (D) The area of Beaver Cove as delineated by appropriate markers.
- (4) Little River: The entrance to the cove known as "Muddy Gut Canal," which extends from the waters known as "Deep Creek."

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

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Perquimans County is designated a suitable agency for placement and maintenance of markers implementing this Rule.

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

Perquimans River

-76.46962, 36.193

-76.47099, 36.1915

17

1110

15A NCAC 10F .0355 (a) (1) (B)  
revised  
NWZ



# EXHIBIT I

June 20, 2013



## **15A NCAC 10F .0303 – Beaufort County – Agency Proposal for Amendments and Technical Changes**

On July 12, 2012, the Wildlife Resources Commission approved proposed amendments for no wake zones in Beaufort County on Blounts Creek for submission of Notice of Text and public hearing, and technical changes within the rule.

Notice of Text was submitted in the *North Carolina Register*, with a comment period that closed on June 14, 2013. A public hearing was held at WRC Headquarters, 1751 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC on May 8, 2013 to receive public comments. No one attended and there were no comments received.

Staff recommends final adoption of this rule amendment and technical changes.

**TITLE 15A – DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

*Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the NC Wildlife Resources Commission intends to amend the rule cited as 15A NCAC 10F .0303.*

**Agency obtained G.S. 150B-19.1 certification:**

- OSBM certified on:** *June 19, 2012*
- RRC certified on:**
- Not Required**

**Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):** <http://www.ncwildlife.org/> (Click link "Public Notices & Pending Rules")

*Fiscal Note posted at: [http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf\\_files/WRC06192012\\_2.pdf](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/files/pdf_files/WRC06192012_2.pdf)*

**Proposed Effective Date:** *September 1, 2013*

**Public Hearing:**

**Date:** *May 8, 2013*

**Time:** *10:00 a.m.*

**Location:** *Wildlife Resources Commission Headquarters, Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606*

**Reason for Proposed Action:** *Subdivisions (a)(1) and (a)(6) address technical changes that convert the current descriptions of the existing "no-wake" zones (NWZ) to descriptions based on latitude and longitude. Changes will have no effect on the public as they do not change any NWZ boundary. Subdivision (a)(5) changes the NWZ described by 15 yards. This is done to conform the rule to the actual placement of the marker in the water, and is based on a survey of the site that revealed the marker was placed 15 yards inside of the currently described NWZ. Changes will have no effect on the public as they will not alter the currently marked NWZ boundary. 3. Subdivision (a)(2) creates an NWZ that is greater than the one currently authorized by the provisions of 15A NCAC 10E .0104(d). This change is needed to ensure public safety in the vicinity of a new boating access area (BAA).*

**Procedure by which a person can object to the agency on a proposed rule:** *Objections may be submitted in writing or via electronic mail during the comment period to C. Norman Young, Jr., NC Department of Justice, P.O. Box 629, Raleigh, NC 27602-0629 or [nyoung@ncdoj.gov](mailto:nyoung@ncdoj.gov).*

**Comments may be submitted to:** *Ms. Betsy Haywood, 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1701; phone (919) 707-0013; email [betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org](mailto:betsy.foard@ncwildlife.org)*

**Comment period ends:** *June 14, 2013*

**Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:** If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission after the adoption of the Rule. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or facsimile transmission. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 919-431-3000.

**Fiscal impact (check all that apply).**

- State funds affected
- Environmental permitting of DOT affected
- Analysis submitted to Board of Transportation
- Local funds affected
- Date submitted to OSBM:
- Substantial economic impact ( $\geq$ \$500,000)
- Approved by OSBM
- No fiscal note required by G.S. 150B-21.4

CHAPTER 10 – WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

SUBCHAPTER 10F - MOTORBOATS AND WATER SAFETY

SECTION .0300 - LOCAL WATER SAFETY REGULATIONS

15A NCAC 10F .0303 BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

- (1) that portion of Broad Creek ~~bounded on the north by a line running due east and west across Broad Creek through a point 1400 feet due north of Red Marker No. 6, on the south by a line running east and west across Broad Creek through the location of Red Marker No. 4, on the east and west by the high water mark on Broad Creek; south of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.49472 N, 76.95693 W to a point on the west shore at 35.49476 N, 76.96028 W and north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.48485 N, 76.95178 W to a point on the west shore at 35.48495 N, 76.95619 W;~~
- ~~(2)~~ that portion of Blounts Creek 100 yards on either side of the SR 1112 Bridge;
- ~~(3)~~(2) that portion of Blounts Creek ~~beginning 100 yards below the Old Crist Landing and extending upstream to the NC 33 bridge; south of a line 100 yards north of the Blounts Creek Boating Access Area, from a point on the east shore at 35.40846 N, 76.96091 W to a point on the west shore at 35.40834 N, 76.96355 W, and north of a line 100 yards south of Cotton Patch Landing, from a point on the east shore at 35.40211 N, 76.96573 W to a point on the west shore at 35.40231 N, 76.96702 W;~~
- ~~(4)~~(3) the waters of Battalina Creek, within the territorial limits of the Town of Belhaven;
- ~~(5)~~(4) the navigable portion of ~~Nevils~~ Nevil Creek extending upstream from its mouth at the Pamlico River; ~~and~~
- ~~(6)~~(5) that portion of Blounts Creek ~~beginning 50 yards on the south side and 300 yards on the north side of the Blounts Creek Bridge; north of a line 35 yards south-southeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge from a point on the east shore at 35.43333 N, 76.96985 W to a point on the west shore at 35.43267 N, 76.97196 W and south of a line 350 yards north-northeast of the Mouth of the Creek Bridge from a point on the east shore at 35.43553 N, 76.96962 W to a point on the west shore at 35.43645 N, 76.96998 W; and~~
- ~~(7)~~(6) that portion of Tranters Creek ~~beginning at a line, shore to shore, from a point at 35.56925 N, 77.09138 W and ending at a line, shore to shore, to a point at 35.56703 N, 77.08981 W as delineated by appropriate markers. east of a line from a point on the north shore at 35.56961 N, 77.09159 W to a point on the south shore at 35.56888 N, 77.09118 W and north of a line from a point on the east shore at 35.56714 N, 77.08941 W to a point on the west shore at 35.56689 N, 77.09029 W.~~

(b) Speed Limit. It is unlawful to operate a vessel at greater than no-wake speed in the regulated areas described in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

(c) Placement and Maintenance of Markers. The Board of Commissioners of Beaufort County and the City Council of the City of Washington are designated as suitable agencies for placement and maintenance of the markers implementing this Rule.

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



35.43645 N  
76.96998 W

35.43553 N  
76.96962 W

35.43333 N  
76.96985 W

35.43267 N  
76.97196 W

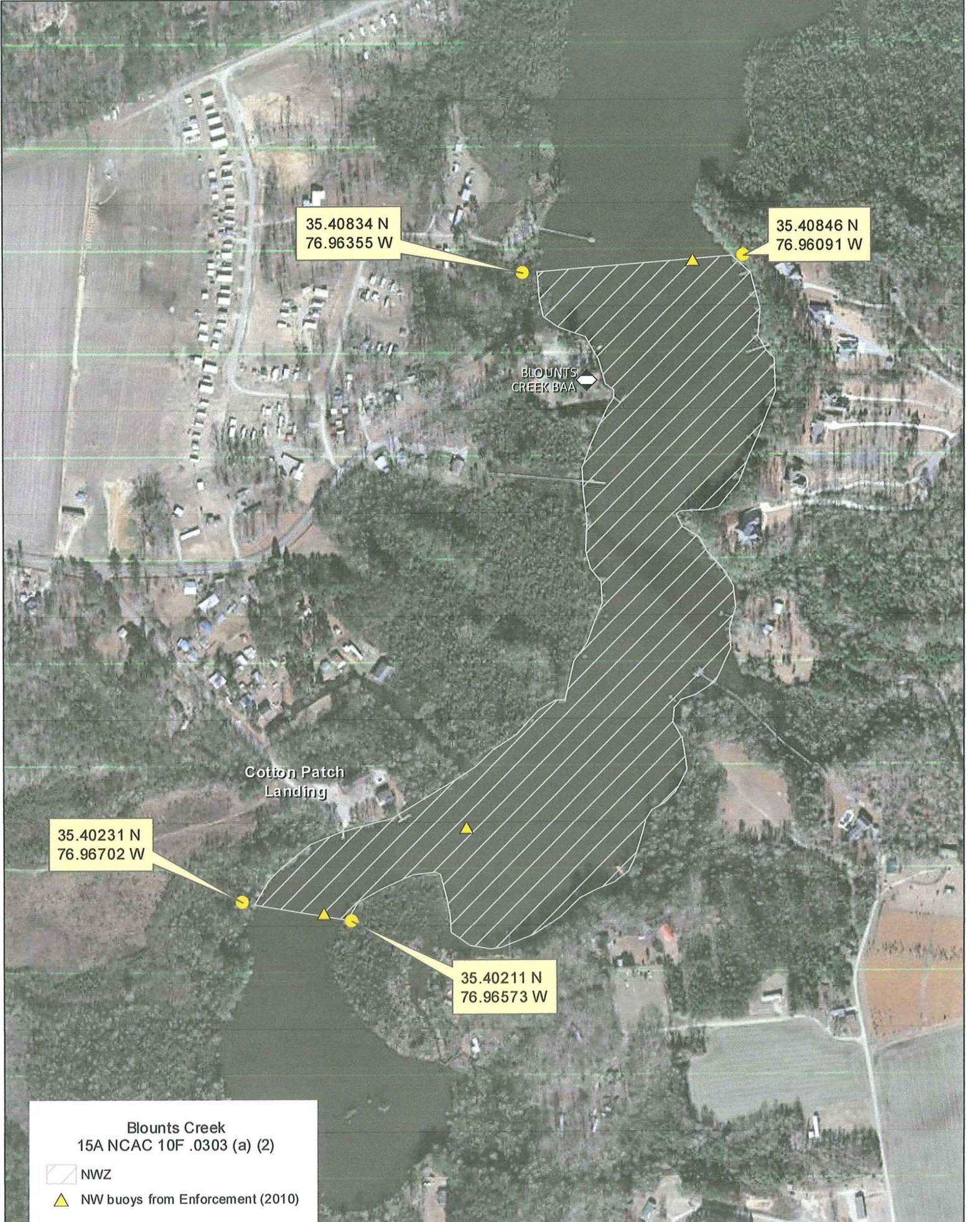
350 yards

35 yards

Blounts Creek  
15A NCAC 10F .0303 (a) (4)

NWZ

NW buoys/signs



35.40834 N  
76.96355 W

35.40846 N  
76.96091 W

BLOUNTS  
CREEK BAA

Cotton Patch  
Landing

35.40231 N  
76.96702 W

35.40211 N  
76.96573 W

**Blounts Creek**  
15A NCAC 10F .0303 (a) (2)

 NWZ

 NW buoys from Enforcement (2010)