



TUCK TALES

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission District 9 Regulations Review Meeting to be held January 18 at SCC in Sylva

Hunting, Fishing Proposals to Get Public Review

RALEIGH, N.C. (Dec. 5, 2005) —

A prohibition on river herring and restrictions on importing parts of deer and related animals are among several proposed changes to the state's fishing and hunting rules.

How to participate...

Comments must be received by February 1, 2006.

- Attend a public hearing
- [Submit comments online](#)
- Send written comments:

NCWRC
1701 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701
(Please include your full name and address.)

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will hold its annual series of public hearings across the state in January, asking for public comments on an array of proposed changes to hunting, fishing and trapping regulations. After hearing public comments, the 19 members of the state Wildlife Resources Commission will meet in March and vote whether to adopt the revised rules. [Click here for a complete list and explanation of the 20 fishing and 35 hunting proposals](#) (pdf -opens to new window).

Some of the proposals apply only to a single county, a single public game land or even to a single body of water. Others would affect hunting and fishing on a broader scale.

The proposed ban on importing certain deer, elk and moose parts from other states is intended to protect North Carolina animals from chronic

wasting disease. The fatal neurological disease has afflicted deer and elk in 12 states and two Canadian provinces. It has not been detected in North Carolina. The restrictions would allow the following deer, elk or moose parts to enter the state if the items are properly labeled:

- meat that is cut and wrapped;
- quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached;
- meat that has been boned out;
- hides with no head, meat or other tissue attached;
- cleaned skull plates with no meat or other tissue attached;
- antlers;
- cleaned teeth;
- finished taxidermy products.

The proposed ban on fishing for alewife and blueback herring, which are collectively known as river herring, would prohibit taking or possessing the fish in coastal rivers and their tributaries up to the first dam. Coastal stocks of river herring are severely depleted, and restrictions are necessary to promote their recovery. Other proposed hunting and fishing rules changes include:

- opening spring turkey season each year on April 10, or on April 9 when the 10th falls on Sunday;
- allowing harvest of "male or bearded" turkeys during the spring gobbler season, making it legal to harvest beardless males and bearded hens;
- raising the minimum

length limit for flounder in inland waters from 13 inches to 14 inches;

- allowing coyotes, which have increased in area and population within North Carolina, to be hunted at night using red or amber lights outside deer season.

[Full text of the proposed regulations changes can be found here](#) (pdf - opens to new window).

Submit your comments in person at the public hearings or in writing to 1701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1701. You also can submit comments online.



Next Meeting

The Tuckaseegee Chapter of trout Unlimited will hold its next regular monthly membership meeting on Tuesday, January 3, at 6:30 PM at the United Community Bank located on Highway 107 south in Sylva. The meeting room is at the rear of the building.

The Tuckaseegee Chapter is made up of members from Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

Trout Unlimited Praises Colorado Senators for Opposing Firesale of Public Lands

Senators Allard (R-CO) and Salazar (D-CO) Lead Effort to Remove Mining Provisions from Budget Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Trout Unlimited thanked Colorado Sens. Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar for their leadership in opposing provisions of the recently passed House Reconciliation Bill that would allow for the sale of public lands for \$1,000 per acre.

“Concerns about the implications of this provision have been raised by public interest groups and private property groups,” Allard said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues to update the 1872 mining law, but I do not believe the provi-



sion under consideration by the conference committee is the way to achieve this needed reform of the law.”

Salazar agreed, saying, “Part of what makes Colorado special is its natural heritage that includes outdoor recreation. To degrade those opportunities with this unprecedented assault on our public lands is something about which every Coloradan should be concerned.”

The mining provisions in the Reconciliation Bill would reverse 30 years of Congressional direction that na-

tional forests, parks, refuges, and wilderness areas remain in public hands. In recent weeks, the Colorado Municipal League, Colorado Counties Inc., six western governors, three former chiefs of the Forest Service, the former BLM director for Nevada, and 19 professors of mining law have called for the removal of these provisions. Trout Unlimited joined a dozen fish and wildlife organizations in sending a letter to members of Congress opposing the sale of public lands to mining companies and other development interests (letter is available at www.tu.org).

“Public opposition to these provisions is growing louder every day,” said Brian O’Donnell, director of TU’s Public Lands Initiative. “In Colorado, public lands provide the best habitat for fish and wildlife, and access for sportsmen who wish to fish, hunt, and camp with their families and friends. That habitat and access could be compromised as a result of the land grab in the House Reconciliation Bill, which puts 24 million acres of Colorado public lands at risk.”

“Senators Allard and Salazar deserve a lot of credit for standing up for the people who depend on access to public lands to fish and hunt,” said Sharon Lance, a member of TU’s Board of Trustees and former Chair of the TU Colorado Council. “Allowing our lands to be sold to mining companies, and other development interests is bad for fish and wildlife and bad for sportsmen,” she said. Trout Unlimited is North America’s leading coldwater fisheries conservation organization, with more than 150,000 members dedicated

to the protection and restoration of trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.

General Assembly Passes Historic Funding for N.C. Clean Water Projects

RALEIGH – The \$17.2 billion state budget approved last week by the North Carolina General Assembly in-

cludes \$100 million for the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, marking the first time CWMTF has received its full level of funding. “The Senate, House of Representatives and the Governor are to be commended for their commitment to water quality



and a clean and safe environment,” said Bill Holman, executive director of CWMTF. “We especially appreciate Senator Marc Basnight and his team and their efforts in support of North Carolina’s water quality. This new budget will go a long way toward protecting our water resources and making sure North Carolina has a healthy environment and economy.”

CWMTF received \$62 million in the last year’s state budget.

The new state spending plan comes days after CWMTF’s board of trustees met in Charlotte to set priorities for funding grant requests submitted on December 1, 2005. Contingent upon receiving the full appropriation of \$100 million, CWMTF trustees approved just over \$44.6 million for water quality projects across the state. Included in that action was approval of six projects that not only will protect water quality but the state’s military bases from encroachment from development.

The CWMTF was established in 1996 to help finance projects that enhance or restore degraded waters, protect unpolluted waters, and/or contribute toward a network of riparian buffers and greenways for environmental, educational, and recreational benefits. CWMTF estimates that more than \$10.5 billion is needed to protect and restore water quality in North Carolina.

The 21-member, independent, CWMTF Board of Trustees has full responsibility over the allocation of money from the fund.

Trout Arrive in Fayetteville

Fisheries Technician Kevin Gabels holds one of the 750 rainbow trout that he delivered to the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (Dec. 15, 2005) — Christmas came early this year for Fayetteville-area trout anglers when 1,000 trout were delivered yesterday to the John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center next to Lake Rim Park in Cumberland County. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission coordinates this winter trout-fishing opportunity annually from December through March, when cold weather makes conditions suitable for trout to live in Fayetteville ponds. Kevin Gabel, a fish hatchery technician with the Commission, hauled the trout from the Bobby Setzer State Fish Hatchery in Brevard. Members of a local chapter of Trout

length and a half-pound each, allow fishing education center staff to host fly-fishing clinics for anglers interested in battling trout but not battling traffic. "Some of North Carolina's trout streams are a seven-hour drive away from Fayetteville," said Kris Smith, director of the fishing education center. "But winter



weather allows us to bring trout to the people — at least through the end of March." The Commission's fly-fishing clinics are co-sponsored by Fayetteville-Cumberland County Parks and Recreation. Scheduled dates are: Jan. 14, Jan. 28,

March 4, starting at 9 a.m. A fifth fly-fishing clinic on March 25 is reserved for Boy Scouts working to fulfill fishing merit badge requirements. Clinics are limited to the first 30 people, and a \$5 pre-registration fee is required. Interested anglers should contact Fayetteville-Cumberland County Parks and Recreation at Lake Rim, (910) 424-6134. For more information on fishing in inland, public fishing waters, contact the Commission at (919) 707-0220 or visit the fishing section on the Commission's Web site, www.ncwildlife.org.

Tuck Tales is published six times per year by Tuckasegee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a nonprofit organization, for its members and supporters. Edited by Craig Forrest. Please address comments to *Tuck Tales*, P. O. Box 3196, Cullowhee, NC 28723. E-mail: craigforrest@sleepyhollowstudio.com. The Tuckasegee Chapter has a web presence at: <http://www.smokyonthefly.com/tucktu/>

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Special thanks to Chapter Member Steve Gray for having his company print and fold our newsletter!

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NEWSLETTER OF THE TUCKASEIGEE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
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