



◻ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ◻

Gordon Myers, Executive Director

To: Members of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Commission Assistant, and the Fiscal Research Division

From: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Date: September 3, 2019

Subject: Request for Consultation on Fee Increase for Hunting, Fishing, Trapping, and Activities Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

Pursuant to [G.S. 12-3.1](#), the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is requesting consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and Fiscal Research Division regarding the proposed increase to fees for hunting, fishing, trapping, and activity licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications issued and administered by the WRC.

As revised by House Bill 597, § 113-270.1B (e). License required to hunt, fish, or trap; fees set by Commission.

The Wildlife Resources Commission shall adopt rules to establish fees for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications issued and administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Commission, except those specified in G.S. 113-173. No rule may increase a fee in excess of the total increase in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, rounded up to the next whole dollar, over the period of time since the last fee change.

Background:

The WRC is funded by the sale of licenses, vessel titles and registrations, federal grants, general fund appropriations, and other receipts. The agency operates under a sound funding model to meet resource and constituent needs and support current and future programs. Funds generated from license sales make up 24% of agency revenue. These funds and others are used to administer agency programs focused not only on species management and habitat maintenance, but on enforcement, education, and public access. There are also a number of licenses issued and administer by WRC that are either shared with or owned by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). These include the Unified Fishing Licenses and Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses (CRFL). Thirty-five WRC licenses, 10 joint licenses, and 11 DMF licenses are proposed for CPI-U increase as detailed in the attached table.

The Commission has been granted the authority via [G.S. 113-270.1B\(e\)](#) to establish and increase the fees in rule for all licenses, permits, stamps, and certifications it issues and administers, with the exception of those specified in G.S. 113-173, by the average increase of the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) since the last fee increase, and to round up those CPI-U increases to the next whole dollar. Transferring all fees to rule will allow the Commission to efficiently and effectively keep up with inflation.

Explanation:

Several fees associated with licenses, permits, stamps and certifications that the Commission issues and administers were increased in House Bill 597. The WRC proposes increasing fees for the remaining items by the total increase in the CPI-U, rounded up to the next whole dollar, since the last fee increase (August 1, 2014). This 6% increase will range from \$1.00 to \$30.00 on annual fees and from \$1.00 to \$93.00 on lifetime licenses. This increase is expected to generate approximately \$858,814 annually for WRC and \$515,263 annually for DMF.¹

¹ Estimates based on the moving average of annual sales from 2015 – 2018.

Fees Proposed for CIP-U Increase in Rule

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase
Annual Sportsman	\$50.00	\$53.00	\$3.00
Controlled Hunting Preserve Hunting	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$2.00
Resident Annual Comprehensive Hunting	\$36.00	\$39.00	\$3.00
Resident Big Game Hunting	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$1.00
Nonresident Bear Hunting	\$225.00	\$239.00	\$14.00
Bear Management Stamp	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Bonus Antlerless Deer	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Game Land	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Falconry	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Migratory Waterfowl Hunting	\$13.00	\$14.00	\$1.00
Resident State Trapping	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$2.00
Nonresident State Trapping	\$125.00	\$133.00	\$8.00
Special Landholder & Guest Fishing	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase
Resident Special Device	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$5.00
Nonresident Special Device	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00
Hunting and Fishing Guide License - Resident	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Hunting and Fishing Guide License - Nonresident	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$9.00
Fur Dealer - Resident	\$60.00	\$64.00	\$4.00
Fur Dealer - Nonresident	\$300.00	\$318.00	\$18.00
Fur Dealer Station	\$120.00	\$128.00	\$8.00
Furbearer Propagation	\$25.00	\$27.00	\$2.00
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Combo Hunting and Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Combo Hunting and Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Infant Lifetime Sportsman	\$200.00	\$212.00	\$12.00
Youth Lifetime Sportsman	\$350.00	\$371.00	\$21.00
Adult Resident Lifetime Sportsman	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase
Nonresident Lifetime Sportsman	\$1,200.00	\$1,272.00	\$72.00
Age 70 Resident Lifetime Sportsman	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Sportsman	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Sportsman	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00
Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Hunting	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00
Lifetime Resident Comprehensive Inland Fishing	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00
Age 70 Resident Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Inland Fishing	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase
Annual Resident Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$65.00	\$69.00	\$4.00
Annual Resident Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$40.00	\$43.00	\$3.00
Infant Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$275.00	\$292.00	\$17.00
Youth Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$450.00	\$477.00	\$27.00
Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$675.00	\$716.00	\$41.00
Nonresident Adult Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$1,550.00	\$1,643.00	\$93.00
Resident Age 70 Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$2.00
Resident Disabled Veteran Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$110.00	\$117.00	\$7.00
Resident Totally Disabled Lifetime Unified Sportsman/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$110.00	\$117.00	\$7.00
Resident Lifetime Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing	\$450.00	\$477.00	\$27.00

License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Fee Increase
Annual Resident CRFL	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Annual Nonresident CRFL	\$30.00	\$32.00	\$2.00
Ten-Day Resident CRFL	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00
Ten-Day Nonresident CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Infant Lifetime CRFL	\$100.00	\$106.00	\$6.00
Youth Lifetime CFRL	\$150.00	\$159.00	\$9.00
Resident Adult Lifetime CRFL	\$250.00	\$265.00	\$15.00
Nonresident Adult Lifetime CFRL	\$500.00	\$530.00	\$30.00
Resident Age 70 Lifetime CRFL	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
Resident Disabled Veteran CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00
Resident Totally Disabled CRFL	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$1.00