

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION
ALLIGATOR MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*For more information about alligator management options,
please contact NCWRC staff at (919) 707-4087 or alligators@ncwildlife.org.*

Public Education and Outreach Materials and Programs

Informational Documents Available Online and in Print

The following informational documents are available online at www.ncwildlife.org/alligator:

1. [North Carolina Wildlife Profile: American Alligator](#)
2. [Coexist with Alligators](#)

Limited copies of these documents can be printed and mailed upon request.

Signage

Posting signs next to shorelines can inform residents and tourists that feeding alligators is illegal. To aid law enforcement, NCWRC recommends that the sign include the statute that prohibits feeding alligators ([N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-291.11](#)). Local governments can request a sign from NCWRC that can be used as a template.

Alligator Education Programs

NCWRC's Wildlife Education Division can help develop an alligator education program that is specific to the needs of a locality. NCWRC staff will work with the local government to schedule a public information session for citizens that features a presentation by NCWRC staff. Topics can include:

- Biology of alligators and their role in the natural environment
- Alligator Aware: How to stay safe in areas where alligators live
- Habitat management recommendations and alligator exclusion techniques

Nuisance Alligator Response

NC Wildlife Helpline: 1-866-318-2401

Biologists are available, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to answer calls from citizens with concerns about wildlife, including alligators. They can also be reached by email: hwi@ncwildlife.org. The biologists can provide callers with technical guidance and information about wildlife behavior to help resolve an issue. If they think the issue may require a site visit, they can provide the caller with contact information for the District Biologist in their area.

District Biologists

Each District Biologist covers an area that includes several counties. The District Biologists who cover coastal North Carolina are listed in the table below with their contact information and the counties they cover.

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District	Counties	Name	Contact
1	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	Chris Turner	(252) 221-9961 office (252) 333-5028 cell chris.turner@ncwildlife.org
2	Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Pitt	Chris Kent	(252) 617-0019 cell christopher.kent@ncwildlife.org
4	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland	John Henry Harrelson	(910) 874-2725 cell john.harrelson@ncwildlife.org
Coastal Operations Supervisor		Jon Shaw	(910) 324-3710 cell jonathan.shaw@ncwildlife.org

District Biologists provide information to public and private landholders, including local governments, and can conduct site visits if needed. If a District Biologist determines that an alligator needs to be relocated, they may issue a depredation permit to the landholder with an Alligator Control Agent (ACA) listed as a second party on the permit. Note that an alligator can only be captured, handled, relocated, or euthanized by NCWRC staff or an authorized ACA or Jurisdictional Alligator Handler (JAH). In addition to completing NCWRC-led training and other program-specific requirements, all ACAs and JAHs are required to obtain Endangered Species Permits each year. ACAs and JAHs shall not euthanize an alligator unless prior approval has been granted by NCWRC personnel, and authorization for euthanasia will only be granted if the alligator is suffering from severe injury and survival is unlikely.

Private Alligator Control Agents

An ACA is a type of Wildlife Control Agent who has an additional certification and Endangered Species Permit that specifically allows them to capture, handle, and/or relocate alligators at the discretion of NCWRC staff. These individuals often work for private wildlife removal companies and charge fees to the landholders for their services. Fee amounts are not regulated by NCWRC. Note that ACAs can only capture, handle, and relocate an alligator for which a depredation permit has been issued by NCWRC staff, unless it is an emergency situation and verbal authorization has been provided by NCWRC staff.

Jurisdictional Alligator Handlers

JAHs are individuals who are employed by federal, state, or local governments (typically law enforcement or animal control officers) and who have an NCWRC-issued Endangered Species Permit that specifically allows them to capture, handle, and/or relocate alligators within their local jurisdiction. Although they are not required to obtain depredation permits from NCWRC, they are only authorized to

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capture, handle, and relocate alligators in situations that meet certain criteria set by NCWRC and cannot charge fees for their services or operate outside the jurisdiction listed on their Endangered Species Permit, unless situation-specific permission has been granted by NCWRC staff. All local government employees who handle alligators under the Endangered Species Permit must attend classroom and field-based training led by NCWRC staff and adhere to all other requirements set in the *JAH Program Guidelines*, including those that pertain to approved equipment for capture and transport, trapping and trap monitoring, *Alligator Data Collection Protocol* adherence and data submission, approved release sites, and alligator care during capture, handling, transport, and release. Supervisors of law enforcement or animal control officers employed by local governments who are interested in becoming JAHs should contact NCWRC staff at alligators@ncwildlife.org or (919) 707-4087 for more information. Also, JAH Program documents can be downloaded from www.ncwildlife.org/alligator under the Management tab.

Local Population Reduction Hunts

The above-mentioned management options are sufficient to address most situations where an alligator is causing a problem, such as a food-conditioned alligator or an alligator blocking traffic. However, resolution of some incidents requires considerable effort. Targeted take of alligators to reduce numbers in areas with frequent alligator conflicts may be more economically and efficiently accomplished by licensed sportsmen and women. Individual sportsmen and women are willing to remove alligators while bearing their own costs out-of-pocket because they realize a personal benefit from taking the alligator.

At their February 2018 meeting, the NCWRC adopted a [rule to allow limited take of American alligators \(H6\)](#). In accordance with the [Alligator Management Plan](#), a local population reduction hunt may be requested by a city (as defined by [NCGS § 160A-1\(2\)](#) and hereinafter referred to as municipality) or county on behalf of unincorporated populated areas within Alligator Management Unit 1 (Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Hyde, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, and Pender counties). NCWRC will then work cooperatively with the local government to assess alligator numbers, define areas of public safety concern, and identify areas where alligator take could be conducted safely by hunters. If advisable to promote public safety, the Director may issue an appropriate number of permits to accomplish the desired take of alligators. NCWRC will retain decision-making authority on the number of take permits issued.

It is recommended that municipalities or counties considering an alligator population reduction hunt first contact NCWRC staff for guidance on the planning process and other alligator management options that

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are available. Applications must be submitted by April 1st if a hunt is desired within the same year. This deadline allows sufficient time for surveys, planning, application review, and decision-making.

Submission of Request for Population Reduction Hunt

A municipality or county that desires to reduce the local alligator population can submit a request to NCWRC for an alligator population reduction hunt (hereafter, hunt). This request shall include:

- The Alligator Population Reduction Hunt application, signed and dated by an authorized municipality or county representative.
- A detailed description of the reason(s) for requesting a hunt.
- A map that contains boundaries of:
 1. The municipality or specified unincorporated area within the county.
 2. All desired locations (hereafter, hunt areas) in which the municipality desires the hunt to take place.
 3. All property parcels within hunt areas. Names of landholders must also be identified for each parcel on the map.
 4. Public water boundaries within hunt areas.
 5. Properties within the hunt areas that can be used to access public waters for alligator hunting.
- Any restrictions in addition to those listed in the rule regarding the alligator hunting season and manner of take ([15A NCAC 10B .0224](#)) that the local government desires for the hunt.

Site Visits by NCWRC Staff

Local government representatives will meet on-site with NCWRC staff to become familiar with the proposed hunt areas. NCWRC will conduct subsequent site visits to survey the alligator population and determine the number of alligator hunt permits to issue.

Alligator Hunt Permit Allocation

NCWRC will announce on their website, in a news release, and by email to Wildlife Update subscribers when applications for permits will be accepted from licensed hunters. Permits will be awarded by lottery. NCWRC staff is not responsible for obtaining access to properties for hunting activities by permittees.

The Municipality / County Application for an Alligator Population Reduction Hunt can be downloaded from NCWRC's website at www.ncwildlife.org/alligator under the Management tab.