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FISHING

At Nags Head Woods Preserve



For More Fishing Information:

FRESHWATER FISHING

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Division of
Inland Fisheries • (919) 707-0220

nwildlife.org • (919)707-0010

Report Wildlife Violations • 1-800-662-7137

SALTWATER FISHING

NC Department of Marine Fisheries • 1-800-682-2632
portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/home

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Nags Head Woods Preserve:

facebook: facebook.com/nagsheadwoods

Instagram: #nagsheadwoods

By choosing to fish at Nags Head Woods Preserve, I

(please print your name)

am agreeing to abide by the fishing rules and regulations set forth by The Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Preserve, the NC Wildlife Resources Council, and NC Department of Marine Fisheries.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

This permit must be signed, dated and carried on your person.

The Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Preserve offers opportunities for both freshwater and saltwater fishing.

*"Everyone should believe in something.
I believe I'll go fishing."*

— HENRY DAVID THOREAU

NAGS HEAD WOODS PRESERVE FISHING REGULATIONS

Fishing in the Preserve is catch and release only in our freshwater ponds.

Fishing is allowed only on the designated fishing platform.

No boats, canoes, kayaks or other watercraft are allowed in the ponds.

No swimming or wading in ponds.

Be aware: Water Moccasins live in Nags Head Woods ponds. If you see a snake, leave it alone. Most of snakebites occur when a person is trying to kill or handle a snake.

NC WRC FRESHWATER FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Those 16 years and older must obtain an NC fishing license.

Inland game fish may be taken only with a hook and line.

Landing nets may be used to land fishes caught on a hook and line.

Size limits must be observed.

NC WRC regulations can be found online at www.ncwildlife.org.

NC DMF SALTWATER FISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Those 16 years and older must obtain a Coastal Recreation Fishing License.

Fishers are responsible for knowing and abiding by season and size limits. These may vary from year to year and can be found at: portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits.

Where to fish

Freshwater fishing is allowed on both the Discovery (#4) and ADA (#6) trails.*

Saltwater fishing is allowed in the Roanoke Sound at the end of the Roanoke (#5) Trail.*

*see trail map

Freshwater game fish at Nags Head Woods

Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)

During the summer months, Largemouth Bass are most active in shallow waters in the morning and evening and prefer locations with lots of structure such as submerged vegetation, brush piles, and docks. During the hotter parts of the day they may move to deeper waters. In the winter they may become more active when the air temperature remains warm for several days in a row and heats the water temperature to above 50F.

The world record Largemouth Bass weighed 22 lbs. and 4 oz.



Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Commonly referred to as “bream” or “brim,” the bluegill is the most common of the sunfishes. They tend to swim in schools and occupy shoreline habitats between 1-20 feet deep and are usually located near some type of shelter such as docks or submerged vegetation.



Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)

Pumpkinseed are one of North Carolina’s smallest and most brilliantly colored sunfishes. Preferring shallow waters with submerged vegetation, pumpkinseed can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions including acidic swamps and brackish estuarine habitats.



Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)

Crappie are also known as “speckled perch” and are most active early in the morning and will congregate in areas with submerged vegetation or other cover. Care must be taken when setting the hook or landing the fish because its soft papery mouth tears easily.



Fish illustrations © DUANE RAVER