

NCAA AUGUST 19, 2015

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

ESCAPEMENT PLANS &
TRAINING LOGS

Jeff Evans

Hatchery Manager

NCWRC/Watha Fish hatchery

From General Statute §106-761

b) Species subject to this section. The following species are exempt from special restrictions on introduction of exotic species promulgated by the Wildlife Resources Commission except to prevent disease. All other species are prohibited from propagation and production unless the applicant for the permit first obtains written permission from the NCWRC.

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| (1) Bluegill | <u>Lepomis macrochirus</u> |
| (2) Redear Sunfish | <u>Lepomis microlophus</u> |
| (3) Redbreast Sunfish | <u>Lepomis auritus</u> |
| (4) Green Sunfish | <u>Lepomis cyanellus</u> |
| (5) Any hybrids using above species of the genus | <u>Lepomis</u> |
| (6) Black Crappie | <u>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</u> |
| (7) White Crappie | <u>Pomoxis annularis</u> |
| (8) Largemouth Bass | <u>Micropterus salmoides</u>
<u>(northern strain)</u> |
| (9) Smallmouth Bass | <u>Micropterus dolomieu</u> |
| (10) White Catfish | <u>Ictalurus catus</u> |
| (11) Channel Catfish | <u>Ictalurus punctatus</u> |
| (12) Golden Shiner | <u>Notemigonus crysoleucas</u> |
| (13) Fathead Minnow | <u>Pimephales promelas</u> |
| (14) Goldfish | <u>Carassius auratus</u> |
| (15) Rainbow Trout | <u>Oncorhynchus mykiss</u> |
| (16) Brown Trout | <u>Salmo trutta</u> |
| (17) Brook Trout | <u>Salvelinus fontinalis</u> |
| (18) Common Carp | <u>Cyprinus carpio</u> |
| (19) Crayfish | <u>Procambarus species</u> |

(c) Exceptions for Species Not Listed. - The following fish species that are not listed in subsection (b) of this section may be produced and sold as if they were listed in that subsection with the following restrictions:

- (1) Hybrid striped bass. - Production, propagation, and holding facilities in the Neuse, Roanoke, or Tar/Pamlico River basins for the hybrid striped bass shall comply with additional escapement prevention measures prescribed by the Wildlife Resources Commission.
- (2) Yellow perch. - A letter of approval from the Wildlife Resources Commission is required before the yellow perch, *perca flavescens*, may be raised at a facility located west of Interstate Highway 77."

Striped Bass Hybrid Escapement Plan

**NCWRC/Watha Fish Hatchery
4945 Shiloh Rd.
Watha NC 28478**

Eggs/Fry (Intensive Culture)

All spawning, egg incubation, and fry rearing of Striped Bass hybrids (SBH) occur in the Fish production building at Watha. All cultured water is filtered primarily through 500 micron filter screening (Stainless Steel, Bronze) and secondarily by 200 micron filter socks (nylon). Filter socks are utilized for each common series of tanks or for individual tanks as necessary. Filter socks are swapped or cleaned daily or more frequently if necessary. All waste products such as siphoned eggs, dead fry, or the filter sock backwash are land applied in a dry area not subject to runoff.

Phase I Fingerling Production

SBH fry are transferred to earthen production ponds at Watha for Phase I fingerling grow out at 5 to 7 days post hatch. Water levels for individual ponds are manipulated so that NO discharge of production water occurs during the first 21 days of the culture cycle. Each production pond is equipped with a perforated aluminum screen fabricated with 1/8-inch holes. All pond discharge is filtered by the 1/8" screen.

Avian predators are discouraged from utilizing the production ponds by both lethal and non-lethal methods. SBH Production ponds are typically harvested after a 35 to 45 day culture period. Phase I fingerlings are harvested by drawing the pond water level down into an internal harvest structure and pond discharge is filtered through the 1/8" screen. After harvest is complete, the screening is left intact until the pond has an opportunity to dry thoroughly.

Phase I Fingerling holding (Intensive)

SBH fingerlings are transferred to 26 ft long raceways (volume = 1,000 gallons each) located in the Fish production building immediately after harvest for holding. The Raceways are screened with 1/8 “ perforated aluminum screens. A secondary 1/8” screen (nylon) is utilized on the water level stand pipe. Both raceways screens are cleaned daily.

Transportation of SBH fingerlings (Stocking)

All SBH fingerlings are transferred to Aluminum hauling tanks, of various sizes, for transportation/stocking. Each Tank/ Compartment is equipped with a locking lid and dump gates are secured with camlock fittings.

Employee/Staff Training

All new employees are trained in all aspects of the escapement plan. Existing staff receive refreshment training at least twice annually. All staff are trained in inspecting/repairing screens, monitoring water levels, monitoring and repairing pond erosion issues, and proper fish transportation procedures.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

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