



Fisheries Research Fact Sheet

Mountain Trout Fishing: Trout Angler Opinion Survey

April 2017



Photo by: Thomas Harvey

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) routinely collects socioeconomic data to better understand angler preferences and expectations for mountain trout fisheries management. In 2014, the most recent survey of North Carolina resident and nonresident trout anglers was conducted.

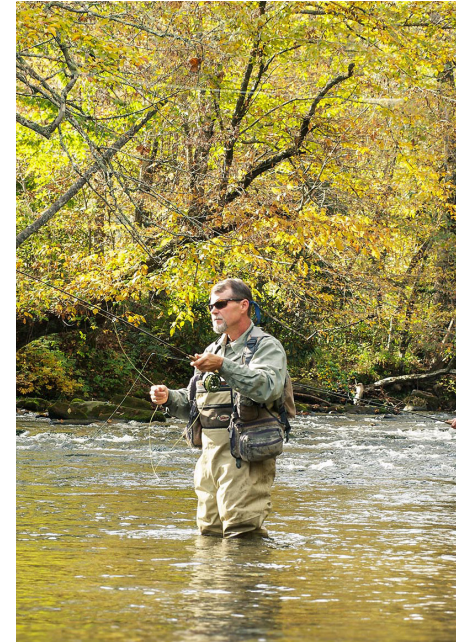
Methods:

- Individuals were randomly selected from all anglers licensed to fish the Commission's Public Mountain Trout Waters in 2014
- 2,113 anglers were surveyed (1,727 resident and 386 nonresident)

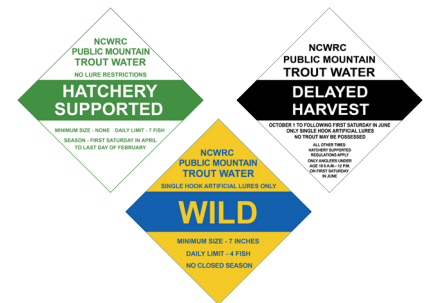
Results:

- An estimated 149,000 anglers fished for trout in 2014 (approximately 18.5% of freshwater anglers)
- Trout anglers traveled an average of 86 miles each way on trips
- Top counties of residence for trout anglers were Wake, Buncombe, and Mecklenburg
- Of the seven regulation classifications, the most commonly fished were Hatchery Supported, Delayed Harvest, and Wild trout waters
- Fifty-one percent of anglers fished within one week of the opening day of Hatchery Supported Trout Waters (the first Saturday in April)
- Public access to Public Mountain Trout Waters remains a priority for anglers (63% of anglers indicated the factor most important to their decision on where to go trout fishing was finding access on public lands)
- Spending time with family and friends was a significant, motivating factor as to why new trout anglers fished
- Majority of respondents utilized the Commission's internet resources to gain information about trout fishing
- 76% of anglers expressed satisfaction with their trout fishing in North Carolina in 2014

Thanks to this study, the Commission has contemporary information from a representative sample of trout anglers that can be incorporated with historic socioeconomic data. These data assist with the planning and assessment of management actions, enhance outreach and communication efforts, and identify and meet angler expectations for fishing opportunities through time.



76% of anglers expressed satisfaction with their trout fishing in North Carolina in 2014. (Photo by: Melissa McGaw)



Of the seven regulation classifications of Public Mountain Trout Waters, the most commonly fished were Hatchery Supported, Delayed Harvest, and Wild trout waters

For more information, visit:
www.ncwildlife.org/trout

