



Thanks to bear hunters voluntarily participating in our bear cooperator program, NCWRC gets data from approximately 50% of bears harvested in North Carolina. Information from all bears helps the NCWRC monitor the status of our bear population, which is an important aspect of our bear management program.



Bear hunters participating in the cooperator program can have their bear weighed by NCWRC staff (based on staff availability) and find out the age of their harvested bear by submitting the upper premolar teeth.

To find out more about participating in the bear cooperator program, contact your district biologist or call 919-707-0050.

Or visit our website at: ncwildlife.org/bearcooperator

Top ten male bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2020.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	1998	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	880	10.75
2	2014	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	784	9.75
3	2014	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	782	9.75
4	2012	WASHINGTON	Coastal	DG	Male	780	6.75
4	2013	CRAVEN	Coastal	DG	Male	780	8.75
5	2009	HYDE	Coastal	ST	Male	760	6.75
5	2019	BEAUFORT	Coastal	DG	Male	760	7.75
6	2016	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	757	8.75
7	2007	DARE	Coastal	ST	Male	752	7.75
8	2001	GATES	Coastal	DG	Male	742	9.75
9	2001	BEAUFORT	Coastal	DG	Male	740	13.75
10	2012	HYDE	Coastal	DG	Male	735	11.75
10	2014	TYRRELL	Coastal	DG	Male	735	7.75

Table 2. Number of harvested bears weighing over 500 lbs. in North Carolina, 1969-2020.

Weight				
Category	Total bears	Mountains	Coast	Piedmont
> 500 lbs.	1,353	63	1,287	3
> 600 lbs.	337	8	328	1
> 700 lbs.	30	0	30	0
> 800 lbs.	1	0	1	0



NCWRC staff and hunters weighing a bear in eastern North Carolina.

****See next page for top 10 female bear weights****



Top ten female bear weights recorded by NCWRC during the bear hunting seasons in North Carolina, 1969-2020.

Rank	Year	County	BMU	Type of Hunt	Sex	Weight	Age
1	2015	Martin	Coastal	S	DG	520	18.75
2	2017	Sampson	Coastal	R	DG	517	13.75
3	2017	Hyde	Coastal	R	ST	482	6.75
4	2020	Edgecombe	Coastal	R	DG	471	8.75
5	2010	Chowan	Coastal	S	DG	450	13.75
5	2010	Hyde	Coastal	S	DG	450	3.75
6	2007	Hyde	Coastal	R	ST	445	9.75
7	2018	Washington	Coastal	R	DG	440	13.75
8	2013	Caldwell	Mountains	R	DG	438	5.75
8	2019	Pitt	Coastal	R	ST	438	11.75
9	2016	Hyde	Coastal	U	ST	429	12.75
10	2013	Tyrrell	Coastal	R	ST	425	4.75



NCWRC staff weighing a 445 lbs. female bear taken by a female hunter in Hyde County in 2007.