

**Office of State Budget and Management**  
**Establish New, Receipt-Supported Positions**  
(G.S. 143-34.1)

**Agency:** NC Wildlife Resources Commission

**Division:** Division of Inland Fisheries

**Budget Code:** 24350

**Center Title:** Division of Inland Fisheries -- Aquatic OutreachHabitat Conservation SectionFisheries Research Section

**Center Number:** 21412E & 2141E

**\*\*\* Position Information \*\*\***

**Proposed Classification:** Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist III **Proposed Salary Grade:** 6770 70

**Salary Range:** \$30,451 - \$49,799XXX XXX2360,882451 - 439,484799

**Proposed Effective Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Number of Positions:** 31

	<u>Center Authorized Budget</u>	<u>Current Request</u>
Total Budget	\$ - <u>5,186,602.00</u>	\$ <u>15730,60001149,397.00</u> \$ <u>43,484</u> <u>49,799XXXX</u>
Receipts	<u>5,186,602.00</u> -	\$ <u>49,799</u> <u>17503,600001149,397.00</u> <u>43,484XXXX</u>
Appropriation	\$ - <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0</u> <u>150,00073,6010.00</u>

**Funding Source(s):** (650%) State Wildlife Grant (2 positions) & Sport Fish Restoration Program - 75% Federal-, 25% Wildlife Fund; (2550%) Wildlife Fund - Urban Public Fishing Opportunities (F-65); (40%) Wildlife FundDominion Generation FERC Hydropower Relicensing Settlement Funds  
Sport Fish Restoration Fund (1 position)  
75% Federal, 25% Wildlife Fund

**Justification for Position (including description of duties and responsibilities):** \_\_\_\_\_

- Responsible for coordinating the appearance of the mobile aquarium and serving as the liaison for WRC with the publicfisheries research funded by Dominion Generation and state and federal agencies through the 2003 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower relicensing settlement agreement (40-year license). Identification ofIdentify research needs for the regional management of aquatic resources.
- Market Fish Division Programs for purposes of acquainting the public with North Carolina's fish populations and habitatsResponsible for identifying anadromous fisheries research needs and conducting and coordinating surveys and projects within the Coastal Region to attain WRC management goals and objectives.Review ofConduct inter and intra agency reviews of major construction environmental documents, permit applications, and special projects.
- Liaison with NC Division of Marine Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for the management of anadromous and diadromous fisheries.
- Designing displays and exhibits that explain Inland Fisheries Programs and plan presentations that compliment aquarium appearancesCoordinate the collection of data on anadromous fisheries (striped bass, American and hickory shad) mandated by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Sampling and data reporting are coordinated with NC Division of Marine Fisheries of a biological surveys and/or other data collection to obtain aquatic population data and conduct statistical analysis if needed.
- Provide technical guidance to Transport the mobile aquarium across the state and oversee aquarium's operation and maintenance including its life support systems.Preparation of written reports detailing the assessment of the potential project impacts and outlining recommendations according to agency guidelines.
- Prepare an annual report summarizing aquarium appearances and attendance recordsnon-fisheries agencies (US Army Corps of Engineers, NC Division of Water Quality, NC Department of Transportation) on major water use and development projects.Conducting interagency coordination and serving as a liaison for the NCWRC to coordinate interests of NCWRC with other state and federal agencies and project proponents.

- Supervise the work of the Fishery Technician III assigned to the mobile aquarium and other fishery staff working with the aquariumerve as a project leader or co-project leader on various research and survey projects including literature searches, surveys of other state programs, and/or field investigations.

Due to increased demands for aquarium appearances and staffing problems to meet these requests, it has become necessary to hire a crew to transport the mobile aquarium across North Carolina. The hiring of a permanent crew to staff the aquarium will significantly reduce current complex transportation logistics and provide personnel who are intimately familiar with the unit's life supports systems and how they should be maintained and can easily trouble shoot problems that may arise. Centrally locating this staff and the mobile aquarium will facilitate easier access across the state and improve the Division's outreach efforts specifically for the mountain region. The positions work responsibilities can no longer be completed by existing staffThe management of migratory fish species that use both inland waters and coastal waters is under the jurisdiction of a number of state and federal agencies including NC Division of Marine Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Increasing federal management of theses species requires WRC to conduct mandated sampling and reporting on species that utilize inland waters for spawning and nursery areas. The recent FERC settlement with Dominion Energy requires WRC to coordinate major aspects of diadromous fisheries restoration in Roanoke River. .Due to recent division expansions and upcoming hydropower relicensing projects, these additional positions are essential in order to be capable to fulfill the objectives of the Habitat Conservation Section. One position will add to our hydropower relicensing program due to upcoming project negotiations in addition to existing projects. This position will be responsible for developing guidelines, leading in the development of agency policy and coordinating agency involvement in all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower license renewals. The second position, which will add to our technical guidance program, which routinely will reviews Triangle area construction projects and attends statewide related permitting, environmental, and policy issue meetings. In addition, this position will conduct literature reviews and suggest on-site research needs. The third position will add to the game fish research and survey program. The employee who previously occupied this position was promoted to the research and survey program supervisor position in order to provide a statewide approach to division research efforts. With this promotion, the piedmont region of the state was left without a game fish research coordinator. The re-establishment of this position is badly needed to provide support for management and stocking related issues and several other public concerns.

## Statutory Reference for Request

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is charged by General Statute 113-132 with the management, regulation, protection, and conservation of wildlife resources, and inland fisheries in North Carolina. The habitat conservation program allows the Commission to protect, enhance, and restore fisheries habitat and aquatic resources, which results in increased recreational opportunities for sport fishermen and protection for listed species. Land and water disturbing activities such as channelization, riparian area clearing, flow alteration, poor forestry and agricultural practices, hydropower projects, and land development have acted in concert to degrade the environment of sport and nongame aquatic resources. The purpose of the Aquatic Outreach Program is to develop and establish a program to provide more fishing opportunities in urban locations, particularly for the young, elderly, and physically challenged; and to increase public awareness of and participation in recreational fishing.

Tommy Clark  
Presentation to be made by  
Chief Fiscal Officer  
Title

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Agency Head Signature  
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State Budget Officer Signature