

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 Management Section

Center Number: 21412E & 2141E

***** Position Information *****

Proposed Classification: Wildlife Info./Ed. Specialist Fisheries Biologist-III **Proposed Salary Grade:** 67704 70

Salary Range: \$30,451-49,79930,451--\$49,799XXXX XXXX2360,882451--439,484799

Proposed Effective Date: MayJanuary 1, 2004 0711 / 01 / 03 04?

Number of Positions: 31

	<u>Center Authorized Budget</u>	<u>Current Request</u>
Total Budget	\$ 5,617,628	\$ 15730,60001149,397. 00 \$ 43,484 49,799XXXX
Receipts	5,617,628	\$ 49,799 17503,600001149,397.00 43,484XXXX
Appropriation	\$ — 0.00	\$ — 150,00073,6010.00 0

Funding Source(s): (60%) State Wildlife Grant (2 positions) & Sport Fish Restoration Program -- 75% Federal, Wildlife Fund - 2525% Wildlife Fund -- Urban Public Fishing Opportunities (F-65); (40%) Wildlife Fund
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 publicoperating and managingintaining- the Fayetteville Fishing Outreach Center. 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 developing educational outreach materials and programs for the Fayetteville Fishing Outreach Center center and statewide to provide information regardingpromote fishing opportunities and aquatic conservation. Review ofConduct inter and intra agency reviews of major construction environmental documents, permit applications, and special projects.
- Responsible for coordinating and scheduling, operating, and maintaining the Commission's mobile aquarium on a statewide basis.
- Designing displays and exhibits that explain Inland Fisheries Programs and plan presentations that compliment aquarium appearancesResponsible for supervising two permanent mobile aquarium staff and part-time employees. of a biological surveys and/or other data collection to obtain aquatic population data and conduct statistical analysis if needed.
- Responsible for scheduling Division participation in outreach events on a statewide basisTransport 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 records.
- Responsible for developing relationships with schools, civic organizations, businesses, and other groups to develop new educational opportunities and programs. 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.

Planned major improvements at the Fayetteville Fishing Outreach Center will greatly increase public outreacheducational opportunities and the proposed Fishing Outreach Coordinator will direct these new activities. One part-time employee currently works

at the facility and 2 recently full authorized full-time positions will also be stationed there. ~~have y been~~ This proposed position will develop aquatic outreach programs utilizing the facility and existing ponds and coordinate use of the facility with schools, public and non-government organizations (NGOs), and other groups, including Cumberland County Parks and Recreation, Ducks Unlimited, 4-H, and scouting groups ~~the Boy Scouts~~. The coordinator will research program topics in coordination with Commission staff and prepare and conduct outreach ~~educational~~ presentations at the Fayetteville Fishing Outreach Center ~~center~~ to inform the public about ~~promote~~ Commission programs, fisheries research and management, and aquatic conservation. The Commission's mobile aquarium will be stationed at the Fayetteville Fishing Outreach Center ~~fishing center~~ and is exhibited statewide. The coordinator will be responsible for coordinating ~~operating and maintaining~~ the mobile aquarium and will schedule its use in conjunction with Division staff, the general public, private organizations, and other agencies. - 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 staff. 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

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Agency Head Signature

____Chief Fiscal Officer_____
Title

State Budget Officer Signature