



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
& NATURAL RESOURCES**

Classifications and Water Quality Standards
Assigned to Waters of the

Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin

Reprint from North Carolina
Administrative Code:
15A NCAC 2B .0309

Last Amended:
November 1, 2007



**Environmental Management Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina**

15A NCAC 02B SECTION .0300 - ASSIGNMENT OF STREAM CLASSIFICATIONS

.0301 CLASSIFICATIONS: GENERAL

(a) Schedule of Classifications. The classifications assigned to the waters of the State of North Carolina are set forth in the schedules of classifications and water quality standards assigned to the waters of the river basins of North Carolina, 15A NCAC 2B .0302 to .0317. These classifications are based upon the existing or contemplated best usage of the various streams and segments of streams in the basin, as determined through studies and evaluations and the holding of public hearings for consideration of the classifications proposed.

(b) Stream Names. The names of the streams listed in the schedules of assigned classifications were taken as far as possible from United States Geological Survey topographic maps. Where topographic maps were unavailable, U.S. Corps of Engineers maps, U.S. Department of Agriculture soil maps, and North Carolina highway maps were used for the selection of stream names.

(c) Classifications. The classifications assigned to the waters of North Carolina are denoted by the letters WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV, WS-V, B, C, SA, SB, and SC in the column headed “class.” A brief explanation of the “best usage” for which the waters in each class must be protected is given as follows:

Fresh Waters:

- Class WS-I: waters protected as water supplies which are in natural and undeveloped watersheds; in public ownership; point source discharges of treated wastewater are permitted pursuant to Rules .0104 and .0211 of this Subchapter; local programs to control nonpoint source and stormwater discharge of pollution are required; suitable for all Class C uses;
- Class WS-II: waters protected as water supplies which are generally in predominantly undeveloped watersheds; point source discharges of treated wastewater are permitted pursuant to Rules .0104 and .0211 of this Subchapter; local programs to control nonpoint source and stormwater discharge of pollution are required; suitable for all Class C uses;
- Class WS-III: waters protected as water supplies which are generally in low to moderately developed watersheds; point source discharges of treated wastewater are permitted pursuant to Rules .0104 and .0211 of this Subchapter; local programs to control nonpoint source and stormwater discharge of pollution are required; suitable for all Class C uses;
- Class WS-IV: waters protected as water supplies which are generally in moderately to highly developed watersheds; point source discharges of treated wastewater are permitted pursuant to Rules .0104 and .0211 of this Subchapter; local programs to control nonpoint source and stormwater discharge of pollution are required; suitable for all Class C uses;
- Class WS-V: waters protected as water supplies which are generally upstream and draining to Class WS-IV waters or waters previously used for drinking water supply purposes or waters used by industry to supply their employees, but not municipalities or counties, with a raw drinking water supply source, although this type of use is not restricted to a WS-V classification; no categorical restrictions on watershed development or treated wastewater discharges are required, however, the Commission or its designee may apply appropriate management requirements as deemed necessary for the protection of downstream receiving waters (15A NCAC 2B .0203); suitable for all Class C uses;
- Class B: primary recreation and any other usage specified by the “C” classification;
- Class C: aquatic life propagation and survival, fishing, wildlife, secondary recreation, and agriculture.

Tidal Salt Waters:

- Class SA: shellfishing for market purposes and any other usage specified by the “SB” and “SC” classification;
- Class SB: primary recreation and any other usage specified by the “SC” classification;
- Class SC: aquatic life propagation and survival, fishing, wildlife, and secondary recreation.

Supplemental Classifications:

- Trout Waters: Suitable for natural trout propagation and maintenance of stocked trout;
- Swamp Waters: Waters which have low velocities and other natural characteristics which are different from adjacent streams;
- NSW: Nutrient Sensitive Waters which require limitations on nutrient inputs;
- HQW: High Quality Waters which are waters that are rated as excellent based on biological and physical/chemical characteristics through division monitoring or special studies, native and special native trout waters (waters and their tributaries) designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, primary nursery areas (PNA) designated by the Marine Fisheries Commission and other functional nursery areas designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, critical habitat areas designated by

the Wildlife Resources Commission or the Department of Agriculture, all water supply watersheds which are either classified as WS-I or WS-II or those for which a formal petition for reclassification as WS-I or WS-II has been received from the appropriate local government and accepted by the Division of Environmental Management and all Class SA waters.

ORW: Outstanding Resource Waters which are unique and special waters of exceptional state or national recreational or ecological significance which require special protection to maintain existing uses.

FWS: Future Water Supply Waters which are waters intended for future drinking water supply purposes.

(d) Water Quality Standards. The water quality standards applicable to each classification assigned are those established in 15A NCAC 2B .0200, Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to the Surface Waters of North Carolina, as adopted by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

(e) Index Number.

(1) Reading the Index Number. The index number appearing in the column so designated is an identification number assigned to each stream or segment of a stream, indicating the specific tributary progression between the main stem stream and the tributary stream.

(2) Cross-Referencing the Index Number. The inclusion of the index number in the schedule is to provide a cross reference between the classification schedules and an alphabetic list of streams.

(f) Classification Date. The classification date indicates the date on which enforcement of the provisions of Section 143-215.1 of the General Statutes of North Carolina became effective with reference to the classification assigned to the various streams in North Carolina.

(g) Reference. Copies of the schedules of classifications adopted and assigned to the waters of the various river basins may be obtained at no charge by writing to:

Director
Division of Environmental Management
Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources
Post Office Box 29535
Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0535

(h) Places where the schedules may be inspected:

Division of State Library
Archives - State Library Building
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina.

(i) Unnamed Streams.

(1) Any stream which is not named in the schedule of stream classifications carries the same classification as that assigned to the stream segment to which it is tributary except:

(A) unnamed streams specifically described in the schedule of classifications; or

(B) unnamed freshwaters tributary to tidal saltwaters will be classified "C"; or

(C) after November 1, 1986, any newly created areas of tidal saltwater which are connected to Class SA waters by approved dredging projects will be classified "SC" unless case-by-case reclassification proceedings are conducted.

(2) The following river basins have different policies for unnamed streams entering other states or for specific areas of the basin:

Hiwassee River Basin (Rule .0302); Little Tennessee River Basin and Savannah River Drainage Area (Rule .0303); French Broad River Basin (Rule .0304); Watauga River Basin (Rule .0305); Broad River Basin (Rule .0306); New River Basin (Rule .0307); Catawba River Basin (Rule .0308); Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin (Rule .0309); Lumber River Basin (Rule .0310); Roanoke River Basin (Rule .0313); Tar-Pamlico River Basin (Rule .0316); Pasquotank River Basin (Rule .0317).

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. August 1, 1995; August 3, 1992; August 1, 1990; October 1, 19

15A NCAC 02B .0309 YADKIN-PEE DEE RIVER BASIN

(a) The Yadkin-Pee Dee River Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards may be inspected at the following places:

- (1) the Internet at <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/csu/>; and
- (2) the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources:
 - (A) Mooresville Regional Office
610 East Center Avenue, Suite 301
Mooresville, North Carolina
 - (B) Winston-Salem Regional Office
585 Waughtown Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
 - (C) Fayetteville Regional Office
System Building
225 Green Street
Suite 714
Fayetteville, North Carolina
 - (D) Asheville Regional Office
2090 US Highway 70
Swannanoa, North Carolina
 - (E) Division of Water Quality
Central Office
512 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina.

(b) Unnamed Streams. Such streams entering Virginia are classified "C," and such streams entering South Carolina are classified "C".

(c) The Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards was amended effective:

- (1) February 12, 1979;
- (2) March 1, 1983;
- (3) August 1, 1985;
- (4) February 1, 1986;
- (5) October 1, 1988;
- (6) March 1, 1989;
- (7) January 1, 1990;
- (8) August 1, 1990;
- (9) January 1, 1992;
- (10) April 1, 1992;
- (11) August 3, 1992;
- (12) December 1, 1992;
- (13) April 1, 1993;
- (14) September 1, 1994;
- (15) August 1, 1995;
- (16) August 1, 1998;
- (17) April 1, 1999;
- (18) July 1, 2006;
- (19) September 1, 2006;
- (20) November 1, 2007.

(d) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standard for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin has been amended effective October 1, 1988 as follows:

- (1) Mitchell River [Index No. 12-62-(1)] from source to mouth of Christian Creek (North Fork Mitchell River) including all tributaries has been reclassified from Class B Tr to Class B Tr ORW.
- (2) Mitchell River [Index No. 12-62-(7)] from mouth of Christian Creek (North Fork Mitchell River) to Surry County SR 1315 including all tributaries has been classified from Class C Tr to C Tr ORW, except Christian Creek and Robertson Creek which will be reclassified from Class B Tr to Class B Tr ORW.
- (3) Mitchell River [Index No. 12-62-(12)] from Surry County SR 1315 to mouth of South Fork Mitchell River including all tributaries from Class C to Class C ORW.

(e) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin was amended effective March 1, 1989 as follows:

- (1) Elk Creek [Index Nos. 12-24-(1) and 12-24-(10)] and all tributary waters were reclassified from Class B-trout, Class C-trout and Class B to Class B-trout ORW, Class C-trout ORW and Class B ORW.

(f) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin was amended effective January 1, 1990 as follows: Barnes Creek (Index No. 13-2-18) was reclassified from Class C to Class C ORW.

(g) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin has been amended effective January 1, 1992 as follows:

- (1) Little River [Index Nos. 13-25-(10) and 13-25-(19)] from Suggs Creek to Densons Creek has been reclassified from Classes WS-III and C to Classes WS-III HQW and C HQW.
- (2) Densons Creek [Index No. 13-25-20-(1)] from its source to Troy's Water Supply Intake including all tributaries has been reclassified from Class WS-III to Class WS-III HQW.
- (3) Bridgers Creek (Index No. 13-25-24) from its source to the Little River has been reclassified from Class C to Class C HQW.

(h) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin was amended effective April 1, 1992 with the reclassification of the North Prong South Fork Mitchell River from Class C to Class C Trout.

(i) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River was amended effective August 3, 1992 with the reclassification of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS-I, WS-II or WS-III). These waters were reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as defined in the revised water supply protection rules, (15A NCAC 2B .0100, .0200 and .0300) which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams with primary classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage to water supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate primary classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for water supply purposes.

(j) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin has been amended effective December 1, 1992 as follows:

- (1) Pike Creek (Index No. 12-46-1-2) was reclassified from Class C Tr to Class C Tr HQW;
- (2) Basin Creek (Index No. 12-46-2-2) was reclassified from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW;
- (3) Bullhead Creek (Index No. 12-46-4-2) was reclassified from Class C Tr to Class C Tr ORW;
- (4) Rich Mountain Creek (Index No. 12-46-4-2-2) was reclassified from Class Tr to Class C Tr ORW; and
- (5) Widows Creek (Index No. 12-46-4-4) was reclassified from Class C Tr HQW to Class C Tr ORW.

(k) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin has been amended effective September 1, 1994 as follows:

- (1) Lanes Creek [Index Nos. 13-17-40-(1) and 13-17-40-(10.5)] from its source to the Marshville water supply dam including tributaries was reclassified from Classes WS-II and WS-II CA to Class WS-V.
- (2) The South Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-108-(9.7) and 12-108-(15.5)] from Iredell County SR 1892 to a point 0.7 mile upstream of the mouth of Hunting Creek including associated tributaries was reclassified from Classes WS-V, C and WS-IV to Classes WS-V, WS-IV, C and WS-IV CA.
- (3) The Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-(53) and 12-(71)] from a point 0.3 mile upstream of the mouth of Elkin Creek (River) to the Town of King water supply intake including associated tributaries was reclassified from Classes C and WS-IV to Classes WS-IV and WS-IV CA.
- (4) The Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-(80.5), 12-(81.5) and 12-(84.5)] from the Town of King water supply intake to the Davie County water supply intake reclassified from Classes C, B, WS-IV and WS-V to Classes WS-IV, WS-IV B and WS-IV CA.

(l) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin has been amended effective August 1, 1995 as follows: Bear Creek [Index Nos. 12-108-18-(3), 12-108-18-(3.3)], Little Bear Creek (Index No. 12-108-18-2), and Blue Branch (Index No. 12-108-18-2-1) were reclassified from WS-II and WS-II CA (Critical Area) to C and WS-IV.

(m) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin was amended effective August 1, 1998 with the revision to the primary classification for portions of the Yadkin River [Index No. 12-(45)] from Class WS-IV to WS-V, Yadkin River [Index No. 12-(67.5)] from Class WS-IV to Class C, Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-(93.5) and 12-(98.5)] from Class WS-IV to Class WS-V, South Yadkin River [Index No. 12-108-(12.5)] from Class WS-IV to Class WS-V, and South Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-108-(19.5) and 12-108-(22)] from Class WS-IV to Class C.

(n) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin was amended effective April 1, 1999 with the reclassification of a portion of the Yadkin River [Index No. 12-(80.5)] from WS-IV CA to WS-IV. A portion of the Yadkin River 0.5 mile upstream of Bashavia Creek was reclassified from WS-IV to WS-IV CA. Bashavia Creek [Index Nos. 12-81-(0.5) and 12-81-(2)] was reclassified from WS-IV and WS-IV CA to Class C. Tributaries to Bashavia Creek were also reclassified to Class C. Portions of the Yadkin River [Index Nos. 12-(25.5) and 12-(27)] were reclassified from WS-IV to Class C and from WS-IV & B to Class B. Tributaries were reclassified from Class WS-IV to Class C. Supplemental classifications were not changed.

(o) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin was amended effective July 1, 2006 with the reclassification of a portion of the Uwharrie River. More specifically, Index No. 13-2-(25), Index No. 13-2-(17.5), and a portion of Index No. 13-2-(1.5) was reclassified from Class WS-IV CA, WS-IV, and C, to Class WS-IV B CA, WS-IV B, and B, respectively.

(p) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin was amended effective September 1, 2006 with the reclassification of a segment of the Yadkin River [portion of Index No. 12-(53)] from a point 0.3 mile upstream of the Town of Elkin proposed water supply intake to the Town of Elkin proposed water supply intake from C to WS-IV CA. The Town of Elkin proposed water supply intake is to be placed on the Yadkin River at a point directly above the mouth of Elkin Creek.

(q) The Schedule of Classifications and Water Quality Standards for the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin was amended effective November 1, 2007 with the reclassifications as listed below, and the North Carolina Division of Water Quality maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of these UWLs.

- (1) Black Ankle Bog near Suggs Creek [Index No. 13-25-12] was reclassified to Class WL UWL as defined in 15A NCAC 02B .0101.
- (2) Pilot Mountain Floodplain Pool near Horne Creek [Index No. 12-75] was reclassified to Class WL UWL as defined in 15A NCAC 02B .0101.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);
Eff. February 1, 1976;
Amended Eff. November 1, 2007; September 1, 2006; July 1, 2006; April 1, 1999; August 1, 1998; August 1, 1995; September 1, 1994; April 1, 1993; December 1, 1992.*