

## FISHING AND HUNTING ON FORT BRAGG

Fishing and Hunting on Fort Bragg is open to the general public and is managed through the Fort Bragg Wildlife Branch located at Bldg. OT-9034, McKeller's Road and can be reached at (910) 432-5427. Open to the public Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Please check out their website (<https://bragg.isportsman.net/>) and read the FAQ's about fishing and hunting on Fort Bragg. For both fishing and hunting, you must follow all NC laws and guidelines as well as the guidelines set by Fort Bragg.

Any fishing or hunting on Fort Bragg lands or waters requires a Fort Bragg Permit, in addition to state licenses. Moneys from these permits are used exclusively for fish and wildlife management programs. Examples include lake stocking and management, as well as maintenance of crops in over 1,200 wildlife openings.

The general public is allowed to hunt on Fort Bragg, but you must follow the guidelines outlined through their website, attend and complete the State of North Carolina Hunter safety course as well as attend and complete the Fort Bragg Hunter Orientation, which is offered Wednesday-Saturday 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. This orientation is free. Once you take this orientation, you will be given the information on the public hunting lands on Fort Bragg.

Fishing locations on Fort Bragg are divided into three different categories: Managed, Intensively Managed and Intensively Managed Catfish lakes.

**Managed Lakes:** These lakes are not enhanced by special management practices like fertilizing and liming; mainly due to their size and/or high water exchange rates. Fish populations are respectable in these lakes but are usually sustained at natural levels. These lakes are not normally given any supplemental stockings. The species compositions of these lakes are usually what one would expect to find in a "wild" impoundment.

**Intensively Managed Lakes:** Special Management practices are utilized on these lakes to increase carrying capacity for each impoundment. From spring to fall, all of the lakes within this category (except McFayden) are fertilized to maintain an algae bloom. They are limed periodically. Liming increases the rate of decomposition of organic material and stimulates the release of nutrients from sediments which helps the algae bloom. Liming also improves water quality by raising the pH and buffering the daily pH fluctuation. Minnows may not be used for bait in any intensively managed lake.

**Intensively Managed Catfish Lakes:** These lakes are managed strictly for Channel Catfish. These lakes are stocked every year at high stocking rates (usually ~500 12-16" fish per acre). Other fish species besides Channel Catfish are present in these lakes, but they are not desired; primarily because they compete with Catfish for food as well as predate any Catfish that may hatch during the year. \*\*Andrews Church Lake is currently out of service due to issues with the dam.\*\*

No boat motor size restriction on Big Muddy, MacArthur and Mott Lakes. All others have a maximum of 25 horsepower restrictions.

Fishing along the Little River, along the northern boundary of Fort Bragg is allowed. The Little River contains Bass, Redbreast Sunfish, Bluegill and Catfish. Caution should be used when fishing due to heavy currents, dams sandbars, and deep water. Fishing within 100 meters of any dam, water plant or sewage treatment plant on the Little River is prohibited.

In order to get the exact locations of each lake, you must first check-in with the Fort Bragg Wildlife Branch office.