



N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule Suspensions



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
| Kathy Rawls | May 14, 2020



N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Rule Suspensions

- In accordance with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries resource management policy on temporary rule suspension, the commission will vote on any new rule suspensions that have occurred since the last meeting of the commission.
- The DMF Director, via proclamation, has suspended six commission rules since the Nov. 2019 meeting
- Rule suspensions the commission previously approved are found in the rule suspension memo



03M.0511 Bluefish

- Suspension for an indefinite period
- Allows the division to reduce bluefish creel limits in compliance with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan to reduce recreational harvest of bluefish.
- Implemented in Proclamation FF-1-2020, effective Feb.1, 2020.



03J.0103 (h) Gill Nets, Seines, Identification, Restrictions

- Suspension for an indefinite period
- Allows the division to implement year around small mesh gill net attendance requirements in certain areas of the Tar, Pamlico and Neuse River systems.
- Action was taken as part of a department initiative to review existing small mesh gill net rules to limit yardage and address attendance requirements in certain “hot spot” areas of the state.
- Implemented in Proclamation M-4-2020, effective April 20, 2020.



03R .0110 (4),(5) Crab Spawning Sanctuaries

- Suspension for an indefinite period
- Allows the division to revise the boundaries for the Drum Inlet and Barden Inlet crab spawning sanctuaries in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.
- Implemented in Proclamation M-7-2020, effective May 1, 2020.



03L .0201 (a),(b) Crab Harvest Restrictions, 03L .0203 (a) Crab Dredging and 03J .0301 (g),(h) Pots

- Suspension for an indefinite period
- Allows the division to implement requirements for the blue crab fishery in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan.
- Implemented in Proclamation M-8-2020, effective May 1, 2020.



MFC will vote to approve continued suspension of the following rules/portions:

- 03M .0511 Bluefish
- 03J .0103 (h) Gill Nets, Seines, Identification, Restrictions
- 03R .0110 (4),(5) Crab Spawning Sanctuaries
- 03L .0201 (a),(b) Crab Harvest Restrictions
- 03L .0203 (a) Crab Dredging
- 03J .0301 (g),(h) Pots

