

M-34-2015

PROCLAMATION

RE: FLOUNDER POUND NET SET- ESCAPE PANEL REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Monday, February 1, 2016**, the following restrictions will apply to **flounder pound net sets in Internal Coastal Waters**:

I. **SUSPENSION OF A PORTION OF N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION RULE 15A NCAC 03J .0501**

(e)(2)

The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0501 is suspended:

Section (e)(2), which reads:

(e) Escape Panels:

- (2) It is unlawful to use flounder pound net sets without four unobstructed escape panels in each pound. The escape panels shall be fastened to the bottom and corner ropes on each wall on the side and back of the pound opposite the heart. The escape panels shall be a minimum mesh size of five and one-half inches, hung on the diamond, and shall be at least six meshes high and eight meshes long.

II. **ESCAPE PANEL REQUIREMENTS**

It is unlawful to use flounder pound net sets without four unobstructed escape panels in each pound. The escape panels shall be fastened to the bottom and corner ropes on each wall on the side and back of the pound opposite the heart. The escape panels shall be a minimum mesh size 5 ¾ inches, hung on the diamond, and shall be at least six meshes high and eight meshes long.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52; and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03J .0501.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority pursuant N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. This intent of this proclamation is to implement minimum mesh size requirements for the flounder pound net escape panels in accordance with Supplement A to Amendment 1 of the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. General Statute 113-221.1(c) All persons who may be affected by proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director are under a duty to keep themselves informed of current proclamations.
- E. Contact N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <http://ncmarinefisheries.net/>.
- F. **This proclamation implements a 5 ¾ inch escape panel requirement for flounder pound nets in accordance with Supplement A to Amendment 1 of the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.**

BY: _____

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES