



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY  
*Director*

**FF-37-2020**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: KING MACKEREL - RECREATIONAL – INCREASED POSSESSION LIMIT THROUGH MARCH 16, 2021**

**This proclamation increases the recreational king mackerel possession limit to four (4) per person per day until 11:59 P.M. March 16, 2021. After which time the recreational king mackerel possession limit will be three (3) per person per day in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0301. This possession limit increase was implemented to address economic losses to the recreational fishing communities and industries. Please see the following NOAA Fishery Bulletin for more information:**

**<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/temporary-increase-vermilion-snapper-commercial-trip-limit-south-atlantic-and-atlantic>**

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 12:01 A.M., September 17, 2020 through 11:59 P.M. March 16, 2021**, the following restrictions will apply to the king mackerel recreational fishery:

I. **SUSPENSION OF A PORTION OF N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION RULE 15A NCAC 03M .0301 (b)(2) and (3)(A)(B)**

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M. 0301 **portion** that reads as follows **is suspended**:

(b) King mackerel:

- (2) It is unlawful to possess more than three king mackerel per person per day taken for recreational purposes.
- (3) It is unlawful to possess more than three king mackerel per person per day in the Atlantic Ocean:
  - (A) by hook and line except for persons holding a valid National Marine Fisheries Service King Mackerel Commercial Vessel Permit; or
  - (B) between three miles and 200 miles from the State's mean low water mark in a commercial fishing operation except for persons holding a valid National Marine Fisheries Service King Mackerel Commercial Vessel Permit.

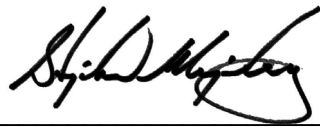
II. **RECREATIONAL POSSESSION LIMIT**

- A. **It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) king mackerel per person per day taken for recreational purposes.**
- B. **It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) king mackerel per person per day in the Atlantic Ocean:**
  1. **by hook and line except for persons holding a valid National Marine Fisheries Service King Mackerel Commercial Vessel Permit; or**

- 2. **between three miles and 200 miles from the State's mean low water mark in a commercial fishing operation except for persons holding a valid National Marine Fisheries Service King Mackerel Commercial Vessel Permit.**
- C. **Effective at 11:59 P.M. March 16, 2021, this proclamation will expire and all suspended portions of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0301 (b)(2)(3) and (A)(B) listed in Section I. will be in effect.**

IV. **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, 03M .0301 and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. Fishermen are encouraged to return all king mackerel not meeting harvest requirements to the water in a manner that ensures that highest likelihood of survival.
- D. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the recreational fishery for king mackerel in Coastal Fishing Waters consistent with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Coastal Migratory Pelagic (Mackerel) Fishery Management Plan.
- E. **The unsuspended provisions of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0301 remain in effect.**
- F. Contact the 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 [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- G. In accordance with N.C.G.S. 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.
- H. **This proclamation increases the recreational king mackerel possession limit to four (4) per person per day until 11:59 P.M. March 16, 2021. After which time the recreational king mackerel possession limit will be three (3) per person per day in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0301. This possession limit increase was implemented to address economic losses to the recreational fishing communities and industries. Please see the following NOAA Fishery Bulletin for more information: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/temporary-increase-vermilion-snapper-commercial-trip-limit-south-atlantic-and-atlantic>.**

By:   
Stephen W. Murphey, Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

September 17, 2020  
3:49 P.M.