



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

JOHN G. BATHERSON  
*Acting Director*

**SF-4-2021**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: 2020-2021 OYSTER MECHANICAL HARVEST CLOSURE**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-2-2021, dated January 11, 2021, and closes mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.**

John G. Batherson, Acting Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **sunrise, Monday, February 15, 2021**, the following restrictions shall apply to the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom:

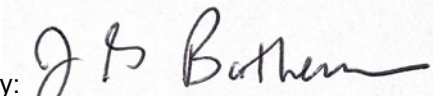
I. **MECHANICAL HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:**

**It is unlawful to harvest oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom.**

II. **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority N.C. General Statutes 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 03K .0201.
- B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority.
- C. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0111 requires a permit for the use of mechanical gear on private bottom (shellfish lease, or franchise). Permits are available, at no cost, from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
- D. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 defines mechanical methods for oyster harvest.
- E. 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.
- F. The intent of this proclamation is to close the commercial harvest of oyster by mechanical methods from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.
- G. 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 [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- H. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-2-2021, dated January 11, 2021, and closes the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John G. Batherson, Acting Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

February 12, 2021  
1:05 P.M.