



ROY COOPER
Governor

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI
Secretary

JOHN G. BATHERSON
Acting Director

FF-24-2021

PROCLAMATION

RE: ATLANTIC CROAKER – HOOK AND LINE OR FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES – CREEL LIMITS

This proclamation establishes the creel limits for the hook and line and recreational Atlantic croaker fishery. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/Sciaenid Management Board Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker.

John G. Batherson, Acting Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Thursday, April 15, 2021**, the following restrictions will apply to the Atlantic croaker hook and line and recreational fishery:

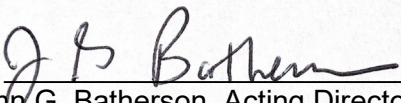
I. **HOOK AND LINE AND RECREATIONAL POSSESSION LIMIT:**

- A. It is unlawful to possess more than fifty (50) Atlantic croaker per person per day by hook and line or for recreational purposes.

II. **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 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate 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. All Atlantic croaker over the daily harvest limit shall be immediately returned to the waters where taken, regardless of the condition of the fish.
- D. Atlantic croaker are subject to 15A NCAC 03M. 0101 that states it is unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing to have this species without having head and tail attached.
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission/Sciaenid Management Board Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker. Refer to Addendum III for more information: https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5e5d83c8AtlCroakerAddendumIII_Feb2020.pdf
- F. 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.

- G. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 or 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- H. **This proclamation establishes the creel limit for the hook and line and recreational Atlantic croaker fishery at fifty (50) Atlantic croaker per person per day.**

By: 
John G. Batherson, Acting Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

March 30, 2021
2:21 P.M.