



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

JOHN NICHOLSON  
*Interim Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-39-2021**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: FLOUNDER – RECREATIONAL PURPOSES- INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS AND ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS- 2021 RECREATIONAL SEASON, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-10-2020, dated March 5, 2020. It opens the recreational flounder fishery and sets the dates, creel and size limits for the 2021 season.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Wednesday, September 1, 2021**, the following restrictions will apply to the taking of flounder for **recreational purposes in Internal Coastal Waters and Atlantic Ocean Waters:**

#### **I. RECREATIONAL SEASON**

It is unlawful to possess flounder for recreational purposes except from 12:01 A.M. on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 until 11:59 P.M. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

#### **II. RECREATIONAL SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS**

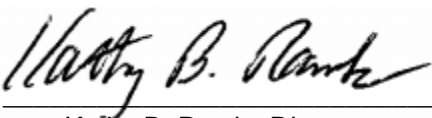
- A. It is unlawful to possess flounder less than 15 inches total length.
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) flounder per person per day or eight (8) flounder per person if the trip occurs on more than one calendar day.
- C. It is unlawful to possess more than one (1) daily creel limit per person while engaged in fishing or aboard a vessel.

#### **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103; 03M .0503 and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the recreational flounder fishery in accordance with Amendment 2 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0120 it shall be unlawful to possess or transport through State coastal fishing waters any species of fish that is subject to State season, size, or harvest restrictions, regardless whether the species was taken in State or federal waters, unless all fish taken are in compliance with the restrictions for the waterbody or area being fished. If State season, size, or harvest restrictions differ from comparable restrictions pursuant to a fishery management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or if

there are no corresponding federal regulations, the State restrictions shall apply during such periods of possession or transportation.

- E. In accordance with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Inland Fishing Regulations 15A NCAC 10C .0307, seasons, size and creel limits for spotted sea trout, flounder, and red drum, taken in Inland Waters are the same as those recreational limits established by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in adjacent joint and coastal fishing waters.
- 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 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 FF-10-2020, dated March 5, 2020. It opens the recreational flounder fishery and sets the dates, creel and size limits for the 2021 season. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 2 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.**

By:   
Kathy B. Rawls, Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

June 28, 2021  
4:09 P.M.