



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY  
*Director*

**FF-2-2021**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: SHAD-COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES**

**This proclamation sets the 2021 season and harvest restrictions for the taking of American shad and hickory shad for commercial and recreational purposes in Coastal and Joint Fishing waters.**

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021** the following restrictions will apply to the taking of American shad and hickory shad for commercial and recreational purposes:

#### **I. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES**

##### **A. The following portions of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0519 is suspended:**

Paragraphs (a) and (b) which read:

- (a) It is unlawful to take American shad and hickory shad by any method except hook-and-line from April 15 through December 31.
- (b) It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American shad or hickory shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.

##### **B. The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03Q .0107 is suspended:**

Paragraph (4) which reads:

- (4) Shad: It is unlawful to possess more than 10 American shad or hickory shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line.

#### **II. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS-COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES**

##### **A. ALBEMARLE, CROATAN, ROANOKE, AND CURRITUCK SOUNDS AND TRIBUTARIES**

1. It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Wednesday, March 3, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, March 24, 2021.
2. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
3. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) American shad or hickory shad in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes and only one (1) of the ten (10) may be an American shad.
4. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

##### **B. BAY AND NEUSE RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES**

1. It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Monday, February 15, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

2. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
3. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) American shad or hickory shad in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes and only one (1) of the ten (10) may be an American shad.
4. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

**C. PAMLICO SOUND, PAMLICO AND PUNGO RIVERS AND TRIBUTARIES**

1. It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Monday, February 15, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
2. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
3. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) American shad or hickory shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.
4. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

**D. CAPE FEAR RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**

1. It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Saturday, February 20, 2021 and after midnight Sunday, April 11, 2021.
2. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
3. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) American shad or hickory shad in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes and only five (5) of the ten (10) may be an American shad.
4. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

**E. ALL OTHER INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS**

1. It is unlawful to possess American shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M. Monday, February 15, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
2. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
3. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) American shad or hickory shad, in the aggregate, per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.
4. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.


**F. ATLANTIC OCEAN**

1. It is unlawful to possess hickory shad for commercial purposes prior to 12:01 A.M., Friday, January 1, 2021 and after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.
2. It is unlawful to possess more than ten (10) hickory shad per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.
3. It is unlawful to possess American shad or hickory shad for recreational purposes by any method except hook-and-line after midnight, Wednesday, April 14, 2021.

**III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-134; 113-181; 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 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0519(c), it is unlawful to possess American shad taken from the Atlantic Ocean.

- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to implement the provisions of the N.C. American Shad Sustainable Fishery Plan as part of Amendment 3 to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring.
- F. Proclamation M-3-2014, dated February 3, 2014 prohibits the setting of gill nets in the Joint Fishing Waters of the state from midnight on Friday to midnight on Sunday each week. Portions of Albemarle and Currituck sounds are exempt from that provision.
- 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 <http://ncmarinefisheries.net/>.
- H. All Management Units South of Management Unit A remain closed to the use of gill nets with a stretched mesh length of 4 inches through 6 ½ inches (except for gears described in M-20-2020 section III). The use of all gill nets is prohibited upstream of the ferry lines from the Bayview Ferry to Aurora Ferry on the Pamlico River and the Minnesott Beach Ferry to Cherry Branch Ferry on the Neuse River (refer to M-6-2019 for more information) <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamation-m-06-2019>. All other existing gill net rules and proclamation remain in effect.
- I. **This proclamation sets the 2021 season and harvest restrictions for the taking of American shad and hickory shad for commercial and recreational purposes in Coastal and Joint Fishing waters.**

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

December 10, 2020  
10:00 A.M.