



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-31-2022**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: BLUEFISH – RECREATIONAL – Coastal Fishing Waters**

**This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-1-2020 dated January 28, 2020. This proclamation removes the reference to the suspension of rule 15A NCAC 03M. 0511 which was repealed on April 1, 2022 and maintains the regulations in proclamation FF-1-2020. This proclamation maintains the harvest limits for the recreational bluefish fishery.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Sunday, May 1, 2022**, the following restrictions will apply to the **recreational bluefish fishery in Coastal Fishing Waters**:

I. **PRIVATE HARVEST LIMIT (All persons not engaged on a For-Hire vessel)**

It is unlawful to possess more than **three (3) bluefish per person per day** taken for recreational purposes.

II. **FOR-HIRE HARVEST LIMIT (While engaged on a For-Hire vessel as defined by G.S. 113-174)**

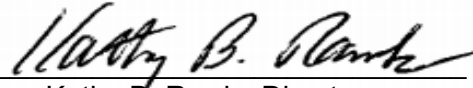
It is unlawful to possess more than **five (5) bluefish per person per day** taken in a for hire operation.

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; 113-182.1; 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 Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan
- D. It is unlawful under N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03O .0112 to operate a For-Hire vessel unless the vessel operator possesses either the For-Hire Blanket Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) for the vessel or a Division of Marine Fisheries For-Hire Fishing Permit for the vessel as provided in 15A NCAC 03O .0503(k).
- 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. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website

at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).

- G. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-1-2020 dated January 28, 2020. This proclamation removes the reference to the suspension of rule 15A NCAC 03M. 0511 which was repealed on April 1, 2022 and maintains the regulations in proclamation FF-1-2020. This proclamation maintains the harvest limits for the recreational bluefish fishery.**

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

April 28, 2022  
9:47 A.M.