



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-7-2022

PROCLAMATION

RE: SPINY LOBSTER - COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL

This proclamation establishes harvest limits for spiny lobster in N. C. Coastal Fishing Waters.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, April 2, 2022**, the following provisions shall apply to spiny lobster in N. C. Coastal Fishing Waters.

I. PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- A. It is unlawful to sell or offer for sale spiny lobster specified in 50 CFR Part §622.400 unless a Federal vessel permit is issued to the harvesting vessel and shall be on board.
- B. It is unlawful to purchase spiny lobster taken from waters under the jurisdiction of North Carolina or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council without a valid Federal Gulf and South Atlantic Dealer Permit.

II. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful to possess an egg bearing spiny lobster or a spiny lobster from which eggs have been stripped, scrubbed or removed.
- B. It is unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or land detached spiny lobster tails.

III. GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful to take spiny lobster with a gaff hook, spear or other device. Possession of a speared, pierced or punctured Spiny Lobster is *prima facie* evidence that prohibited gear was used.
- B. It is unlawful to take spiny lobster in a directed fishery by the use of a net or trawl.
- C. It is unlawful to take spiny lobster with the use of poisons or explosives.
- D. It is unlawful to possess spiny lobster while also possessing dynamite or similar explosive aboard the vessel.
- E. It is unlawful to take spiny lobster with the use of pots or traps.

IV. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT

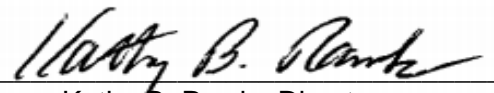
It is unlawful to possess spiny lobster with a carapace length less than 3 inches.

V. QUANTITY

It is unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or land more than two spiny lobsters per person per trip.

VI. **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 03L .0302.
- 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 Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to allow harvest of spiny lobster in compliance with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Regulatory Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic.
- D. Poisons include chlorine, bleach, and similar substances, which are used to flush a spiny lobster out of rocks or coral.
- 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 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.
- G. **This proclamation establishes harvest limits for spiny lobster in N. C. Coastal Fishing Waters.**

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

April 1, 2022
1:43 P.M.