



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-59-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: ATLANTIC CROAKER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – CLOSURE

This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters. The fishery will re-open on Monday, January 1, 2024. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, December 16, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the Atlantic croaker commercial fishery:

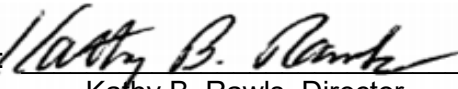
I. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:

- A. It is unlawful to take Atlantic croaker in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M., Saturday, December 16, 2023, until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., Monday, January 1, 2024.
- B. It is unlawful for dealers to purchase Atlantic croaker from commercial fishing operations after 12:01 A.M. Saturday, December 16, 2023, until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., Monday, January 1, 2024.

II. 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 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 North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 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
- 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. 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.

- F. **This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters starting 12:01 A.M., on December 16, 2023. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., on January 1, 2024.**

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

December 1, 2023
11:00 A.M.