



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-18-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: STRIPED BASS – ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA – COMMERCIAL SEASON CLOSE

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-16-2023, dated February 28, 2023. It closes the harvest of striped bass taken for commercial purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area at 11:59 P.M. on Friday, March 17, 2023, due to the spring 2023 commercial quota allocation being reached.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **11:59 P.M., Friday, March 17, 2023, THE HARVEST OF STRIPED BASS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES IN THE ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA WILL CLOSE.** The following provisions shall apply:

I. **AREA DESCRIPTION**

Albemarle Sound Management Area as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0201 (a).

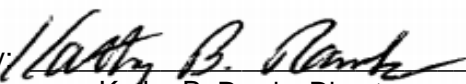
II. **COMMERCIAL SEASON CLOSURE**

No person may take, possess, transport, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass from the area defined in Section I. Dealers will have until two weeks after closing of the season to sell, offer for sale, transport, or have in possession unfrozen striped bass taken in this fishery.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52; and the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, 03M .0202, and 03O .0500 *et seq.*
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority per N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. 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.
- D. It is unlawful for a dealer to possess, buy, sell or offer for sale striped bass taken from the Albemarle Sound Management Area without holding a valid **2022/2023 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT** validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. Dealers shall abide by all conditions which appear on the permit as well as the general provisions which appear in N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 3O .0500 *et seq.*
- E. Striped bass lawfully sold to a permitted dealer may be resold to a non-permitted wholesale or retail market provided the initial permitted dealer records their dealer identification number on each bill of lading or receipts involved in the shipment of

- striped bass. Any individual or corporation who holds a current finfish dealer license must obtain a STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area in order to sell any striped bass personally harvested.
- F. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the commercial harvest of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area **within the 25,608 pound annual harvest quota established by Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.**
 - G. Holders of Recreational Commercial Gear Licenses or hook-and-line fishermen shall follow the size, creel, and season limits of the recreational fishery for striped bass.
 - H. All striped bass taken during the season closures and all undersize striped bass shall be immediately returned to the water where taken, regardless of the condition of the fish.
 - I. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201, it is unlawful for a dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the Albemarle Sound Management Area without having a N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries issued Albemarle Sound Management Area striped bass tag affixed through the mouth and gill cover. In case of striped bass imported from other states, a similar tag that is issued for striped bass in the state of origin shall be affixed.
 - J. **Dealers with a Striped Bass Dealer Permit for Quota Monitoring** shall contact the Division of Marine Fisheries Elizabeth City office 252-264-3911 and speak to Charlton Godwin to obtain harvest tags. **Tags shall be picked up from a Division of Marine Fisheries office.**
 - K. **For gill net requirements in the Albemarle Sound Management Area, see the most recent M-type proclamations specific to the area.**
 - L. Contact the 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>.
 - M. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-16-2023, dated February 28, 2023. It closes the harvest of striped bass taken for commercial purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area at 11:59 P.M. on Friday, March 17, 2023, due to the spring 2023 commercial quota allocation being reached.**

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

March 15, 2023
2:00 P.M.