



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-31-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: FLOUNDER – RECREATIONAL - INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS AND ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-44-2022, dated August 26, 2022. This proclamation sets the 2023 recreational flounder fishery season, creel, and size limits and prohibits the harvest of flounder using recreational commercial gear in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 12:01 A.M., Friday, September 15, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the taking of flounder for **recreational purposes in Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters and Atlantic Ocean Waters:**

I. **SEASON**

It is unlawful to possess flounder for recreational purposes except from 12:01 A.M. on Friday, September 15, 2023, until 11:59 P.M. on Friday, September 29, 2023.

II. **SIZE, POSSESSION, AND GEAR LIMITS**

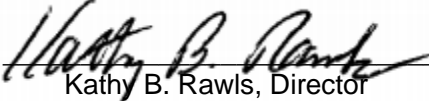
- A. It is unlawful to possess flounder less than 15 inches total length.
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than one (1) flounder per person per day.
- C. It is unlawful to possess more than one daily creel limit per person while engaged in fishing or aboard a vessel.
- D. It is unlawful to harvest flounder with a Recreational Commercial Gear License.

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 Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103; 03M .0503 and 03M .0512.
- 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 Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the recreational flounder fishery in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0120 it shall be unlawful to possess or transport through State Coastal Fishing Waters any species of fish that is subject to State season, size, or harvest restrictions, regardless whether the species was taken in State or federal waters, unless all fish taken are in compliance with the restrictions for the waterbody or area being fished. If State season, size, or harvest restrictions differ from comparable restrictions pursuant to a fishery management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or

pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or if there are no corresponding federal regulations, the State restrictions shall apply during such periods of possession or transportation.

- E. In accordance with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Inland Fishing Regulations 15A NCAC 10C .0307, the season for taking and possessing flounder is September 1 through September 14 and the daily creel limit for flounder is four fish in Inland Waters.
- F. 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.
- 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 www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- H. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-44-2022, dated August 26, 2022. This proclamation sets the 2023 recreational flounder fishery season, creel, and size limits and prohibits the harvest of flounder using recreational commercial gear in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.**

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

August 31, 2023
2:15 P.M.