



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-36-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: MULLET – COMMERCIAL - COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS INCLUDING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN – CLOSURE

This proclamation closes the commercial mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Supplement A of Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan. The fishery will re-open on January 1, 2024.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., November 7, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the mullet commercial fisheries in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters:

I. AREAS

- A. **Northern Region**: All N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean of the state north and east of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/Virginia state line.
- B. **Southern Region**: All N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean of the State south and west of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.

II. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

- A. In the Northern Region as described in Section I. A. it is unlawful to possess, sell, or offer for sale mullet in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M. November 7, 2023. The season reopens at 12:01 A.M. January 1, 2024.
- B. In the Southern Region as described in Section I. B. it is unlawful to possess, sell, or offer for sale mullet in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M. November 10, 2023. The season reopens at 12:01 A.M. January 1, 2024.

III. DEALER RESTRICTIONS

- A. In the Northern Region as described in Section I. A. it is unlawful for dealers to purchase mullet from a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M. November 7, 2023.
- B. In the Southern region as described in Section I. B. it is unlawful for dealers to purchase mullet from a commercial fishing operation taken from the Southern Region after 12:01 A.M. November 10, 2023.
- C. It is unlawful to possess, sell, offer for sale mullet taken from N.C. commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M. November 18, 2023. Dealers will have until this

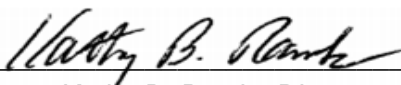
date to dispose of mullet purchased prior to the closure. The season reopens at 12:01 A.M. January 1, 2024.

IV. **TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION**

Commercial fishing operations shall be exempt from the transportation requirement set out in 15A NCAC 03I .0120 when transporting mullet in waterbodies that are closed to harvest. Commercial fishing operations are not exempt when in possession of mullet and fishing in a closed area.

V. **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-136; 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 .0502.
- 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 manage the commercial mullet fishery in accordance with Supplement A to Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan.
- 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 mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Supplement A of Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan. The fishery will re-open on January 1, 2024.**

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

September 21, 2023
1:30 P.M.