



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

FF-43-2023

## PROCLAMATION

### RE: BLUEFISH – COMMERCIAL – IMPLEMENTS 500-POUND POSSESSION LIMIT

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-24-2023, dated May 23, 2023. It establishes a 500-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2023, whichever occurs first.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., October 9, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the **commercial bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters**:

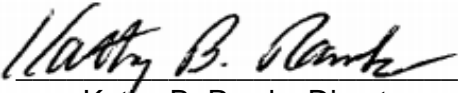
#### I. HARVEST LIMIT AND PERIOD

- A. It is unlawful for an individual or commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of persons, license holders, or vessels involved, to possess, sell, or offer for sale more than **500 pounds of bluefish per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.**
- B. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2023, whichever occurs first.

#### 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 the provisions of any proclamation issued by the 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 modify the commercial bluefish harvest limit to assure that the quota allocated to North Carolina in the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan is not exceeded.
- 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; phone 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.

- F. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-24-2023, dated May 23, 2023. It establishes a 500-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2023, whichever occurs first.**

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

October 5, 2023  
2:15 P.M.