



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-55-2023

PROCLAMATION

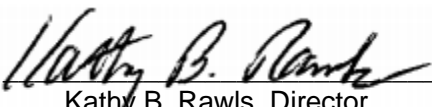
RE: FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL PURPOSES - INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS AND ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS. MAINTAINS CLOSURE FOR INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-50-2023, dated October 23, 2023. It maintains the closure for harvest of flounder taken for commercial purposes from Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2023. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 11:00 A.M. Wednesday November 1, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the taking of flounder for **commercial purposes in Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters and Atlantic Ocean Waters (Section III. ONLY)**:

- I. **AREA DESCRIPTION**
All Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters
- II. **HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**
 - A. It is unlawful to possess, sell or offer for sale flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in I., except for the dealers provision in II. C.
 - B. It is unlawful to purchase flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in I.
 - C. Dealers may sell, offer for sale, transport, or have in possession flounder taken prior to this closure.
- III. **ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS**
It is unlawful to possess flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the Atlantic Ocean if taken by any other method than trawl and in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.
- IV. **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 commercial flounder fishery in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. Amendment 3 implements a total allowable landings (TAL) of 372,646 pounds for the 2023 commercial fishery that is divided into different sub-allocations based on gear category and management area combinations. For mobile gears, the northern TAL is 123,879 lb. and the southern TAL is 62,309 lb. For the pound nets, the northern TAL is 39,700 lb., the central TAL is 121,756 lb., and the southern TAL is 25,002 lb.
- D. **In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0505 (a)(3) it is unlawful to fail to render a flounder pound net set inoperable during the closed flounder season.**
- E. See additional regulations on flounder from the Atlantic Ocean in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.
- F. For additional restrictions on gill nets please refer to gill net proclamations issued for specific management areas.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-50-2023, dated October 23, 2023. It maintains the closure for harvest of flounder taken for commercial purposes from Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2023. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.**

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

November 1, 2023
9:30 A.M.