



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**M-12-2022(RESCINDED)**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: RESCINDED – REVISED CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARY BOUNDARIES FOR DRUM INLET AND BARDEN INLET, DESIGNATION OF CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARIES, AND GEAR AND CRAB HARVEST RESTRICTIONS WITHIN CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARIES**

**Proclamation M-12-2022 is rescinded effective 12:01 A.M., Friday, May 5, 2023 in order to delineate crab spawning sanctuaries and implement gear and crab harvest restrictions within the crab spawning sanctuaries in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03L .0205(a) and 03R .0110. Requirements have not changed as all requirements are now in permanent rules and not implemented by Proclamation.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 P.M., Friday, May 5, 2023, the following restrictions implemented by Proclamation M-12-2022 applied to the harvest of blue crab and allowed gears in the Crab Spawning Sanctuaries are rescinded:**

#### **I. SUSPENSION OF PORTIONS OF N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION RULES 15A NCAC 03R .0110.**

**The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 is suspended:**

Sections (4) and (5) which read:

- (4) In the Drum Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 52.81101' N - 76° 17.1780' W; running northwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 53.7347' N - 76° 18.0439' W; running southwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 50.8286' N - 76° 21.2515' W; running southeasterly to a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 50.1496' N – 76° 20.3924' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western side of Drum Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Core Banks 34° 50.0049' N - 76° 20.3741' W; running southeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 49.4995' N – 76° 19.8407' W; running northeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 52.2167' N - 76° 16.7476' W; running northwesterly to a point on the ocean shore of Core Banks 34° 52.6147' N - 76° 17.0705' W; running southwesterly toward and around the eastern side of Drum Inlet, then in a northeasterly direction along the Core Sound shore of Core Sound to the point of beginning;
- (5) In the Bardens Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Core Banks near the southern side of Hogpen Bay 34° 40.7047' N - 76° 29.6108' W; running westerly to a point near Marker "35" at 34° 40.7071' N - 76° 31.5922' W; running southwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 38.9974' N - 76° 32.4858' W; running

southeasterly around the eastern end of Shackleford Banks and then northwesterly along the ocean shoreline to a point on shore 34° 38.5608' N – 76° 32.6863' W; running southwesterly through Buoy "4" to Buoy "2" at the end of the Cape Lookout Jetty 34° 37.1272' N – 76° 33.7381' W; running southeasterly to the base of the Cape Lookout Jetty 34° 36.7836' N – 76° 33.1569' W; running northerly to the end of Power Squadron Spit, around Lookout Bight and northerly up Core Banks to the point of beginning.

## II. AREA DESCRIPTIONS ([See Maps](#))

The following areas are designated as Crab Spawning Sanctuaries:

- A. Ophelia Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 51.7718' N - 76° 18.5093' W; running northwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 52.3431' N - 76° 19.1661' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "27" in Core Sound 34° 50.6411' N - 76° 22.0094' W; running southwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 49.0120' N - 76° 23.0288' W; running southeasterly to a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 48.6143' N - 76° 22.3033' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western side of Ophelia Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline southwesterly to a point on Core Banks 34° 48.9349' N - 76° 21.4582' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Core Banks 34° 51.6790' N - 76° 18.3829' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline toward and around the eastern side of Ophelia Inlet, then northeasterly along the Core Sound shore of Core Banks to the point of beginning (Map 1).
- B. Barden Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 40.7131' N – 76° 28.9495' W; running northwesterly to a point on Harkers Island 34° 41.0674' N – 76° 31.5834' W; running southwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 39.5418' N - 76° 34.0451' W; following the shoreline in southeasterly direction around the northern side of Barden Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline northwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 38.7748' N - 76° 32.8463' W; running southwesterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 38.2938' N - 76° 33.5130' W; running southerly to a point near Buoy "2" at the end of the Cape Lookout Jetty in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 37.1253' N - 76° 33.7446' W; running southeasterly to a point on Cape Lookout 34° 36.7229' N - 76° 33.0514' W; running northerly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline toward and around the southern side of Barden Inlet to a point on Cape Lookout 34° 36.5492' N - 76° 32.2416' W, then running northeasterly along the Core Sound shore of Core Banks to the point of beginning (Map 2).
- C. Beaufort Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Back Sound side of Shackleford Banks 34° 41.0017' N - 76° 37.7538' W; running northerly to a point on Carrot Island 34° 42.3553' N - 76° 37.1124' W; running westerly along the shoreline to a point on Carrot Island 34° 42.6291' N - 76° 38.6608' W; running westerly to a point on Town Marsh 34° 42.6394' N - 76° 38.7442' W; running westerly along the shoreline to a point on Town Marsh 34° 42.7915' N - 76° 40.2489' W; running westerly to a point on Bird Shoal 34° 42.7694' N - 76° 40.4764' W; running northerly to a point on Pivers Island 34° 42.9294' N - 76° 40.4301' W; running northerly along the shoreline to a point on Pivers Island 34° 43.1892' N - 76° 40.3873' W; running northerly to a point on Radio Island 34° 43.2344' N - 76° 40.4099' W; running along the shoreline to a point on Radio Island 34° 43.2770' N - 76° 41.2422' W; running along the south side of the Highway 70 Bridge over the Newport River to a point near the Morehead

City Port 34° 43.2419' N - 76° 41.7067' W; running southerly along the shore to a point near the Morehead City Port 34° 42.9560' N - 76° 41.6986' W; running southwesterly to a point on Goat Island 34° 42.7185' N - 76° 41.9145' W; running southeasterly along the shoreline to a point on Goat Island 34° 42.2031' N - 76° 41.3923' W; running southwesterly to a point on shore near Fort Macon State Park 34° 42.1709' N - 76° 41.3693' W; following the shoreline in a southwesterly direction around the western shoreline of Beaufort Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Bogue Banks 34° 41.6480' N - 76° 42.0986' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running easterly then southeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 40.6129' N - 76° 38.1521' W; running northwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern side of Beaufort Inlet, then running easterly along the Back Sound shore of Shackleford Banks to the point of beginning (Map 3).

- D. Bogue Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Bogue Banks 34° 39.1828' N - 77° 05.8503' W; running northerly to a point 34° 40.1526' N - 77° 05.6346' W; running northerly to a point 34° 40.2531' N - 77° 05.6385' W; running westerly to a point 34° 40.2550' N - 77° 05.9450' W; running southerly to a point 34° 40.1732' N - 77° 05.9616' W; running southerly to a point 34° 39.9629' N - 77° 06.1038' W; running southerly to a point 34° 39.5209' N - 77° 06.4042; running southwesterly to a point 34° 39.0599' N - 77° 07.3287' W; running southerly to a point on Bear Island 34° 38.3856' N - 77° 07.2373; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Bogue Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Bear Island 34° 37.5607' N - 77° 09.5752' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Bogue Banks 34° 38.7491' N - 77° 05.2548' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern side of Bogue Inlet to a point 34° 38.7686' N - 77° 06.0596' W; running northerly to a point 34° 38.9900' N - 77° 06.1269' W, then running northeasterly to the point of beginning (Map 4).
- E. Bear Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Bear Island 34° 37.7852' N - 77° 09.7128' W; running northerly to a point 34° 37.8817' N - 77° 09.7698' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 37.6695' N - 77° 10.4134' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 37.8105' N - 77° 10.5849' W; running southwesterly to a point on Saunders Island 34° 37.4531' N - 77° 11.0624' W; running southeasterly to a point on Browns Island 34° 37.2216' N - 77° 10.8461' W; following the shoreline in northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Bear Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Browns Island 34° 36.1188' N - 77° 13.0193' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Bear Island 34° 37.5607' N - 77° 09.5752' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of Bear Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 5).
- F. Browns Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Browns Island 34° 35.8978' N - 77° 13.8409' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 36.0015' N - 77° 13.9606' W; running westerly to a point 34° 35.9360' N - 77° 14.1340' W; running southerly to a point 34° 35.6631' N - 77° 14.1270' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Browns Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point 34° 33.7692' N - 77° 16.8043' W; extending 100 yards

- seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Browns Island 34° 36.1188' N - 77° 13.0193' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of Browns Inlet, then northerly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 6)
- G. New River Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on shore on the south side of Wards Channel 34° 32.2064' N - 77° 19.8404' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 33.1386' N - 77° 20.8902' W; running westerly to a point 34° 33.1097' N - 77° 21.1013' W; running southeasterly to a point 34° 32.3473' N - 77° 20.6013' W; running southwesterly to a point on Topsail Island 34° 32.1096' N - 77° 20.8447' W; following the shore line in a southerly direction around the western shoreline of New River Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point 34° 31.3352' N - 77° 21.1694' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point 34° 33.7692' N - 77° 16.8043' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of New River Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 7).
- H. Topsail Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Topsail Island 34° 21.9619' N - 77° 37.8381' W; running northwesterly to a point in Topsail Sound 34° 22.1071' N - 77° 37.9944' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "5" 34° 21.7185' N - 77° 38.3499' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "3" 34° 21.5798' N - 77° 38.5928' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "1" 34° 21.1055' N - 77° 39.1749' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 21.2065' N - 77° 39.6127' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 20.7450' N - 77° 40.3682' W; running southerly to a point 34° 20.3011' N - 77° 40.3728' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Topsail Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 20.0228' N - 77° 40.4332' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Topsail Island 34° 20.8762' N - 77° 38.9403' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Topsail Inlet, then northeasterly along the Topsail Sound shore of Topsail Island to the point of beginning (Map 8).
- I. Rich Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 18.1292' N - 77° 42.6492' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 18.2851' N - 77° 42.9352' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 18.0190' N - 77° 43.2798' W; running southerly to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 17.5649' N - 77° 43.1649' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Rich Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 17.2243' N - 77° 43.2491' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 18.1251' N - 77° 42.4352' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Rich Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 9).
- J. Mason Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 14.9536' N - 77° 45.9567' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 15.0409' N - 77° 46.1766' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 14.8657' N - 77° 46.4044' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 14.7256' N - 77° 46.5348' W; running southerly to a



point on Shell Island 34° 14.2036' N - 77° 46.5189' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the southern shoreline of Mason Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Shell Island 34° 14.1375' N - 77° 46.4263' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 14.8474' N - 77° 45.7857' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Mason Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 10).

- K. Masonboro Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Wrightsville Beach 34° 11.3446' N - 77° 48.7458' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.4604' N - 77° 49.0510' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5164' N - 77° 49.2368' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5255' N - 77° 49.2652' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5700' N - 77° 49.4425' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 11.3553' N - 77° 49.5924' W; running easterly to a point 34° 11.3737' N - 77° 49.4628' W; running easterly to a point 34° 11.3737' N - 77° 49.4345' W; following the shoreline southeasterly to a point 34° 11.2551' N - 77° 49.2287' W; running southerly to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 10.8451' N - 77° 49.0242' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Masonboro Inlet through a point at the base of the jetty 34° 10.8814' N - 77° 48.7074' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 10.5221' N - 77° 49.1658' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline and the Atlantic Ocean side of the jetties from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and returning to shore parallel to a point 34° 11.5753' N - 77° 48.3061' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline through a point at the base of the jetty 34° 11.2076' N - 77° 48.5555' W, around the northern shoreline of Masonboro Inlet then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 11).
- L. Carolina Beach Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Masonboro Island 34° 04.8168' N - 77° 52.8796' W; running southerly to a point 34° 04.4997' N - 77° 53.0080' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction to a point 34° 04.5022' N - 77° 52.7982' W; running easterly to a point on Pleasure Island 34° 04.5102' N - 77° 52.7340' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Carolina Beach Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Pleasure Island 34° 04.3505' N - 77° 52.5048' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 05.2151' N - 77° 52.1472' W; running southeasterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Carolina Beach Inlet, then westerly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 12).
- M. Cape Fear River Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Bald Head Island 33° 52.7072' N - 78° 00.0449' W; running northeasterly to a point 33° 53.6135' N - 77° 59.2549' W; running northerly to a point 33° 54.4086' N - 77° 59.0330' W; running northerly to a point 33° 54.8399' N - 77° 58.9115' W; running westerly to a point at Southport 33° 54.9503' N - 78° 01.3581' W; running southerly to a point on Fort Caswell 33° 53.7948' N - 78° 01.0782' W; following the shoreline in a southerly direction around the western shoreline of Cape Fear River Inlet then westerly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Caswell Beach 33° 53.4293' N - 78° 01.7604' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running southerly to point near Buoy

"12" 33° 51.8213' N - 78° 01.0179' W; running southeasterly to a point 33° 51.1999' N - 78° 00.0632' W; running northeasterly to a point on Bald Head Island 33° 51.3488' N - 77° 59.9222' W; running northwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Cape Fear River Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 13).

- N. Lockwoods Folly Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Oak Island 33° 54.9392' N - 78° 13.6711' W; running northerly to a point on Sheep Island 33° 55.0837' N - 78° 13.6753' W; following the shoreline northwesterly to a point on Sheep Island 33° 55.2263' N - 78° 13.9395' W; running westerly to a point on Holden Beach 33° 55.1794' N - 78° 14.3132' W; following the shoreline in a southwesterly direction around the western shore of Lockwoods Folly Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Holden Beach 33° 54.8695' N - 78° 14.6180' W; running southerly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 33° 54.6076' N - 78° 14.6026' W; running easterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 33° 54.5564' N - 78° 14.0529' W; running northerly to a point on Oak Island 33° 54.8853' N - 78° 14.0041' W; running northwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Lockwoods Folly Inlet, then easterly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 14).
- O. Shallotte Inlet Area. Beginning at a point near Monks Island 33° 54.5773' N - 78° 22.8077' W; running southwesterly to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 54.2436' N - 78° 23.2758' W; following the shoreline in a southerly direction around the western shore of Shallotte Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 53.8151' N - 78° 23.7753' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running easterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Big Beach 33° 54.1103' N - 78° 21.9540' W; running westerly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Shallotte Inlet, then northerly along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 15).
- P. Tubbs Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Jinks Creek shore of Ocean Isle Beach 33° 52.5844' N - 78° 28.6583' W; running northerly to a point 33° 52.7734' N - 78° 28.7428' W; running southwesterly to a point 33° 52.6815' N - 78° 29.0080' W; running southwesterly to a point on the Eastern Channel shore of Sunset Beach 33° 52.3878' N - 78° 29.1301' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the western shore of Tubbs Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Sunset Beach 33° 52.3250' N - 78° 29.1865' W; extending 100 yards seaward of the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 52.5676' N - 78° 28.4027' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Tubbs Inlet then in a northerly direction along the shore to the point of beginning (Map 16).

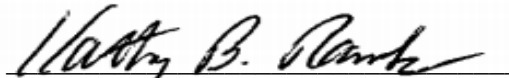
### III. BLUE CRAB HARVEST AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- A. For the areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 (1)(2)(3) and in Section II, it is unlawful to use trawls at any time.
- B. For areas described in **Section II. A and B** from March 1 through August 31:
- It is unlawful to set or use pots and mechanical methods for oysters or clams.
  - It is unlawful to take crabs with the use of commercial fishing equipment.
- C. For areas described in **Section II. C through P** from March 1 through October 31:
- It is unlawful to set or use pots and mechanical methods for oysters or clams.
  - It is unlawful to take crabs with the use of commercial fishing equipment.

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C. General Statutes 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, 03L .0205, and 03R .0110.
- 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 Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. Commercial fishing equipment is defined in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101(3)(c).
- D. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the blue crab fishery in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03L .0205(a) and 03R .0110.
- E. 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.
- F. Contact the North Carolina 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>
- G. **Proclamation M-12-2022 is rescinded effective 12:01 A.M., Friday, May 5, 2023 in order to delineate crab spawning sanctuaries and implement gear and crab harvest restrictions within the crab spawning sanctuaries in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03L .0205(a) and 03R .0110. Requirements have not changed as all requirements are now in permanent rules and not implemented by Proclamation.**

BY:



Kathy B. Rawls, Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

May 2, 2023  
3:45 P.M.