



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-15-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: PERMIT REQUIREMENT – COMMERCIAL - ESTUARINE FLOUNDER DEALER PERMIT - INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS

This proclamation supersedes M-14-2022 and clarifies the requirement that for any fish dealer to possess, purchase, sell or offer for sale flounder taken from Internal Coastal Waters during open seasons they must possess an Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permit for the applicable fisheries and harvest area.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Wednesday, August 16, 2023**, fish dealers purchasing or selling flounder during open seasons from Internal Coastal Waters must possess the following special permit:

I. ESTUARINE FLOUNDER DEALER PERMIT:

- A. It is unlawful for a fish dealer to possess, purchase, sell, or offer for sale flounder taken from Internal Coastal Waters without first obtaining an Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permit required for specific management purposes for the applicable fisheries and harvest area.
- B. Individuals purchasing flounder taken from Internal Coastal Waters from a licensed and permitted dealer are **EXEMPT** from the permit requirements in section I.A.

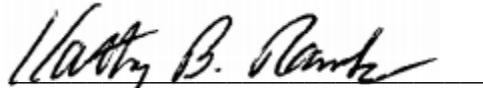
II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-169.1; 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; 03O. 0502; 03O. 0503; 03O. 506; 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 estuarine flounder fishery in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, require individuals taking marine and estuarine resources regulated by the Marine Fisheries Commission, to obtain a special permit. Amendment 3 implements a quota monitored fishery with total allowable landings for the commercial fishery that is divided into different sub-allocations based on gear category and management area combinations. For the most recent proclamation go to the NCDMF Current Proclamations page.
- D. See additional regulations on flounder from the Atlantic Ocean in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.
- E. Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permits are available at no cost from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices
- F. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0502 specifies it is unlawful

to operate under a permit except in areas, at times, and under conditions specified on the permit. The **Permit Application Certification & General Permit Conditions Form** and the **Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permit Specific Conditions Form** are given to the permit holder when the permit is issued.

- 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 <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- I. **This proclamation supersedes M-14-2022 and clarifies the requirement that for any fish dealer to possess, purchase, sell or offer for sale flounder taken from Internal Coastal Waters during open seasons they must possess an Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permit for the applicable fisheries and harvest area.**

By:



Kathy B. Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

August 16, 2023
3:00 P.M.