



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-20-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: GILL NETS - ATLANTIC OCEAN – CARTERET COUNTY

This proclamation sets restrictions for the gill net fishery in the specific Atlantic Ocean areas of Carteret County off Bogue Banks.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Sunday, October 15, 2023, the following restrictions shall apply to the gill net fishery off Bogue Banks:**

I. AREA

- A. Gill net requirements in this proclamation apply only in the Atlantic Ocean off Bogue Banks within 250 yards of the ocean beach from the western boundary of Fort Macon State Park, **west** to Bogue Inlet.
- B. **Northern Region**: All N.C. Coastal 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.
- C. **Southern Region**: All N.C. Coastal 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. SEASON

- A. In the Northern Region net restrictions shall apply from 12:01 A.M., Sunday, October 15, 2023 through 11:59 P.M., Monday, November 6, 2023 unless ended earlier by proclamation.
- B. In the Southern Region gill net restrictions shall apply from 12:01 A.M., Sunday, October 15, 2023 through 11:59 P.M., Thursday, November 9, 2023 unless ended earlier by proclamation.

III. NET RESTRICTIONS

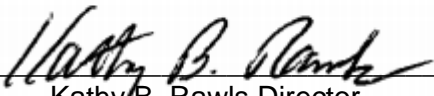
- A. It is unlawful for a gill net to be set within a zone measuring 660 yards east of a deployed stop net as measured from where the stop net connects to shore and 250 yards south of the mean high-water mark as measured along the adjacent 660-yard dimension (**see Section IV. C. and Section IV. D. below for restrictions on gill nets with a stretched mesh length less than or equal to five inches and for marking requirements for prohibited gill net zone**).
- B. It is unlawful to use or set gill nets within 250 yards of an ocean fishing pier.

- C. The unauthorized removal or absence of marking buoys shall not serve to open the 660 by 250-yard zone east of the deployed stop net.

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113.170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, and 03J .0103.
- B. It is unlawful to violate provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. **Proclamation [M-8-2019](#) prohibits the setting of gill nets with a stretched mesh length less than or equal to five inches in the Atlantic Ocean within 100 yards seaward of the shoreline at any tide and the COLREGS demarcation lines; from the North Carolina-Virginia border to the North Carolina-South Carolina border.**
- D. See Proclamation [M-19-2023](#) Section III. G. and Section III. H. for stop net crew marking requirements for prohibited gill net zones.
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to implement an agreement reached between stop net and gill net fishermen to address user conflicts in the described area(s) during the peak fall fishing season.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. **This proclamation sets restrictions for the gill net fishery in the specific Atlantic Ocean areas of Carteret County off Bogue Banks.**

By: _____


Kathy B. Rawls Director

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

October 2, 2023
12:30 P.M.