



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

RS-4-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK – QUEENS CREEK

This proclamation establishes a closure to the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary area along the shoreline at Hammocks Beach State Park in Queens Creek.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., July 20, 2023**, in the area described below, **the following restrictions apply:**

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

CARTERET COUNTY

In Queens Creek along the shoreline of Hammocks Beach State Park. The area is approximately 0.5 acres in size and is delineated by poles and signs as shown on the attached map. The location of the markings are as follows:

Pole 1	34° 40.1888' N	77° 8.7250' W
Pole 2	34° 40.1825' N	77° 8.6453' W
Pole 3	34° 40.1807' N	77° 8.7262' W
Pole 4	34° 40.1729' N	77° 8.6854' W
Pole 5	34° 40.1725' N	77° 8.6441' W

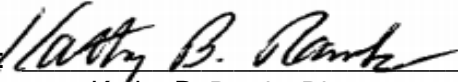
II. RESTRICTIONS

It is unlawful to take shellfish in the area described in Section I.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 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 03I .0109.
- B. It is unlawful to violate 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. This area will be used by East Carolina University researchers to study the microbial community associated with marsh grass (*Spartina alterniflora*) growth and survival of marsh plantings.
- D. 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 our website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109 (a) (2), any closure or restriction in the Research Sanctuary shall be for no more than one year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Fisheries Director.
- G. **This proclamation establishes a closure to the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary area along the shoreline at Hammocks Beach State Park Queens Creek.**

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

July 18, 2023
9:30 A.M.