



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**SH-1-2023**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: CRAB TRAWLING AND TAKING SHRIMP WITH NETS – ATLANTIC OCEAN AND CENTRAL AND NORTHERN REGIONS**

**This proclamation supersedes proclamation SH-5-2022, dated May 11, 2022. This proclamation specifically describes areas open to the taking of blue crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets in the central and northern coastal regions from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-Virginia border in Coastal Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the N.C. Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2023**, all Coastal Fishing Waters north of Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-Virginia border will close to crab trawling and the taking of shrimp with nets (**excluding recreational cast nets**) except as specified below. **In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 03L .0102 it is unlawful to take shrimp by any method from 9:00 P.M. on Friday through 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, except in the Atlantic Ocean; with the use of fixed and channel nets, hand seines, shrimp pots, or cast nets; or for a holder of a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0503.**

#### **I. MEANS AND METHODS**

- A. It is unlawful to take crabs with trawls except in areas specified in Section III.
- B. It is unlawful to take shrimp with nets except:
  - 1. Shrimp and crab trawls, seines, and cast nets (commercial cast nets only) in areas specified in Section III.;
  - 2. Cast nets used for recreational purposes in all Coastal Fishing Waters;
  - 3. Pound nets permitted in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0502;
  - 4. Pound nets authorized for use in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0302;
  - 5. Channel nets in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0106;
  - 6. Fyke nets in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0111.

**See Section IV, General Information D., E., F., G., I., N., P., and Q. below for further restrictions on taking shrimp with nets.**

#### **II. RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It is unlawful to sell shrimp except for shrimp taken from areas specified in Section III.
- B. It is unlawful to possess commercial quantities of other species or commercial gear while using a cast net to take shrimp except from areas specified in Section III.

### III. **AREAS**

All primary, permanent secondary, and special secondary nursery areas and trawl nets prohibited areas in the waterbodies listed below are closed to the taking of shrimp with seines and cast nets except as noted in Section IV. N. below and, for special secondary nursery areas, until the areas are opened to trawling in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03N .0105.

- A. **ATLANTIC OCEAN** – except the Crab Spawning Sanctuaries described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Maps 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11**)
- B. **ROANOKE SOUND/CROATAN SOUND AREA:**
1. Shallowbag Bay – east of the special secondary nursery area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0105 (1) (a). (**Map 1**)
  2. Broad Creek – south of the primary nursery area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0103 (1)(b). (**Map 1**)
  3. Kitty Hawk Bay – north of the special secondary nursery area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0105 (1)(b). (**Map 1**)
  4. Buzzard Bay - south of the special secondary nursery area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0105 (1)(b). (**Map 1**)
- C. **PAMLICO SOUND AREA:**
1. Eastern Pamlico Sound – northerly and westerly of the trawl nets prohibited area described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0106 and outside of the Crab Spawning Sanctuaries described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 for the Pamlico Sound area. (**Maps 1, 5, 7, 8 & 9**)
  2. Western Pamlico Sound – outside of the primary and permanent secondary nursery areas and trawl nets prohibited areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0103, .0104, and .0106 for the Pamlico Sound area. (**Maps 1, 2, 3 & 4**)
  3. West Bay – north of a line beginning at a point 35° 02.0500' N - 76° 26.1000' W on the west shore; running east through Markers “J”, “A”, and “5” to a point 35° 02.1000' N - 76° 21.8666 W. on the east shore. (**Maps 6 & 7**)
- D. **PUNGO RIVER AREA** – south of the shrimp trawl prohibited area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0114 (1). (**Map 2**)
- E. **PAMLICO RIVER AREA** - east of the shrimp trawl prohibited area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0114 (2), outside of the primary, and permanent secondary nursery areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0103, .0104, and .0105 in the Pamlico and Pungo rivers area **and as described below**. (**Map 2**)
1. Goose Creek – north of the trawl nets prohibited line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0106 (3). (**Map 2**)
- F. **BAY RIVER AREA** – outside of the primary and permanent secondary nursery areas and trawl nets prohibited areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0103, .0104, and .0106 for the Bay River area. (**Map 6**)
- G. **NEUSE RIVER AREA** – east of the shrimp trawl prohibited area line described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0114 (3), outside of the primary, permanent secondary, and special secondary nursery areas and trawl nets prohibited areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0103, .0104, .0105 and .0106 for the Neuse River area **and as described below in South River**. (**Map 6**)
1. Big Creek – northeast of a line beginning at a point 34° 57.3600' N - 76° 34.9510' W; running southerly to a point 34° 56.9590' N - 76° 34.7800' W. (**Map 6**)
  2. Southwest Creek – east of a line beginning at a point 34° 55.2340' N - 76° 32.9500' W; running southerly to a point 34° 55.0330' N - 76° 32.8750' W. (**Map 6**)

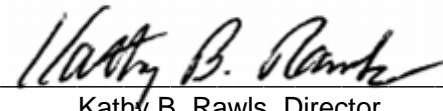
3. Eastman Creek – west of a line beginning at a point 34° 56.1230' N - 76° 32.4350' W; running southerly to a point 34° 55.9240' N – 76 32.4230' W. (**Map 6**)
- H. **CORE SOUND, BACK SOUND AND THE STRAITS** – outside of the primary and special secondary nursery areas, trawl nets prohibited areas and Crab Spawning Sanctuaries described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0110, .0103, .0105, and .0106 for these areas **and as described below.** (**Maps 7 & 11**)
1. Rumley Bay - southeast of a line beginning at a point 34° 55.7696' N – 76° 17.7016' W; running northeasterly to a point 34° 56.2526' N – 76° 17.1788' W. (**Map 7**)
  2. Thorofare Bay - Barry Bay - southeast of a line beginning at a point 34° 55.4277' N – 76° 17.8596' W, on Lookout Point, running southwesterly to a point 34° 54.3790' N – 76° 18.8565' W on Hall Point. (**Map 7**)
  3. Oyster Creek – southeast of a line beginning at a point 34° 48.7982' N - 76° 26.9741' W; running northeasterly near Beacon “2” to a point 34° 48.9701' N - 76° 26.6299' W on Fishing Point. (**Map 11**)
- I. **BEAUFORT INLET AREA** – outside of the primary, permanent secondary and special secondary nursery areas described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03R .0103, .0104,.0105 for the North and Newport River areas and .0106 for the Newport River and the Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 **and as described below.** (**Map 11**)
1. Wading Creek – west of a line beginning at a point 34° 45.0110' N - 76° 39.4690' W; running southerly to a point 34° 44.8850' W – 76° 39.4690' W. (**Map 11**)
  2. Gable Creek – northwest of a line beginning at a point 34° 44.2840' N - 76° 39.9180' W; running northeasterly to a point 34° 44.5672' N - 76° 39.6105' W. (**Map 11**)
- J. **BOGUE SOUND AREA** - Intracoastal Waterway main channel only from Marker 45 at Swansboro east to the Beaufort Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 10 & 11**)
- 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 Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, 03L .0101, .0201, and .0202.
  - B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority.
  - C. **All other existing shrimp/crab trawl rules and proclamations remain in effect.** See <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/rules-proclamations-and-size-and-bag-limits/fisheries-management-proclamations#currentprocs> to refer to those SH-type proclamations for shrimp/crab trawl regulations that may be effective in the areas covered by this proclamation.
  - D. Proclamation [SH-1-2022](#) dated March 16, 2022, describes gear configuration requirements in areas where combined headrope lengths up to 220 feet in shrimp trawls are allowed. Proclamation [SH-2-2022](#) dated March 16, 2022, describes gear configuration requirements in areas where combined headrope length up to 90 feet in shrimp trawls are allowed. Proclamation [SH-3-2022](#) dated March 16 2022, describes gear configuration requirements in the Atlantic Ocean. Proclamation [FF-55-2012](#) dated November 9, 2012 limits the amount of weakfish bycatch that can be taken with shrimp or crab trawls to 50 percent of equal weight of combined catch, but no more than 100 pounds.

- E. **N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03L .0103 (c) describes the areas in which it is unlawful to take shrimp with trawls with a combined headrope length greater than 90 feet (mouths of the Neuse and Pamlico rivers, all of Bay River, Croatan Sound area and south of Pamlico Sound).**
- F. **N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 03L .0103 (d) describes areas in which it is unlawful to take shrimp with trawls with a combined headrope length greater than 220 feet (lower mouth areas of the Neuse and Pamlico rivers and Pamlico Sound).**
- G. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0303 (f) it is unlawful to possess more than 96 quarts (heads on) or 60 quarts (heads off) of shrimp if more than one person aboard a vessel possesses a valid Recreational Commercial Gear License and recreational commercial fishing equipment as defined in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0302(a) is used.
- H. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03L .0205(a) and 03R .0110, describes gear and harvest restrictions and boundaries for Crab Spawning Sanctuaries in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N.C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan and Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan. Crab Spawning Sanctuaries are closed to trawling at certain times of the year.
- I. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0104(b)(6) trawls are prohibited in designated pot areas opened to the use of pots by Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301(a)(2) and bound by the shoreline to the depth of six feet as described in Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107(a)(5), (a)(6), (a)(7), (a)(8), and (a)(9) from June 1 through November 30.
- J. **Hatched areas on the attached maps indicate those areas closed to shrimp and crab trawling, seines and cast nets except as specified in and Section IV. N.**
- K. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0121 the Division of Marine Fisheries will mark the areas to be opened with signs insofar as may be practical. No unauthorized removal or relocation of any such sign shall have the effect of changing the area opened, nor shall any such unauthorized removal or relocation or the absence of any sign affect the applicability of this proclamation. Where there is conflict between signs and boundary descriptions, boundary descriptions shall prevail.
- L. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0104 (f) it is unlawful to use shrimp trawls for the taking of blue crabs in internal waters, except that it shall be permissible to take or possess blue crab incidental to commercial shrimp trawling provided the total weight of blue crabs shall not exceed 50 percent of the total weight of the combined blue crab and shrimp catch; or 300 pounds, whichever is greater.
- M. Taking shrimp with pots is not governed by this proclamation. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301 shrimp pots may be used to take shrimp.
- N. Proclamation [SH-4-2022](#) limits the recreational harvest of shrimp with cast nets to 48 quarts, heads on, or 30 quarts, heads off, per person per day or if a vessel is used, per vessel per day in all Coastal Fishing Waters.
- O. **N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03J .0104 and 03L .0202 place further restrictions on areas, gear, seasons, and time for the taking of crabs with nets.**
- P. **N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03J .0104 and 03L .0102 and .0103 place further restrictions on areas, gear, seasons, and time for the taking of shrimp with nets.**
- Q. **In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 03L .0102 it is unlawful to take shrimp by any method from 9:00 P.M. on Friday through 5:00**

**P.M. on Sunday, except in the Atlantic Ocean; with the use of fixed and channel nets, hand seines, shrimp pots, or cast nets; or for a holder of a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0503.**

- R. 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](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- S. 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.
- T. The intent of this proclamation is to close waters from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-Virginia border to crab trawling and the taking of shrimp with nets except those areas described in this proclamation and to implement management strategies in accordance with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.
- U. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation SH-5-2022, dated May 11, 2022. This proclamation specifically describes areas open to the taking of blue crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets in the central and northern coastal regions from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-Virginia border in Coastal Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_



Kathy B. Rawls, Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

May 11, 2023  
3:00 P.M.