



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

SH-2-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: CRAB TRAWLING AND TAKING SHRIMP WITH NETS – ATLANTIC OCEAN AND SOUTHERN REGION

This proclamation supersedes SH-8-2022, dated August 29, 2022. This proclamation specifically describes areas open to the taking of blue crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets in the southern coastal region from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-South Carolina border in Coastal Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina 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 south of Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-South Carolina 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. SPECIAL SECONDARY NURSERY AREAS SEASONAL OPENING

It is unlawful to take crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets except from 12:01 A.M. on September 1 until 11:59 P.M. on November 30 in the areas described below. See Section V. Q. for further restrictions on taking shrimp on weekends.

- A. **New River - from the N.C. Highway 172 Bridge upstream to a line running from Grey Point 34° 37.5833' N - 77° 22.3833' W, to a point on the east shore at 34° 37 .1333'N - 77° 21.6333' W. That area west of a line beginning at a point near Stones Landing 34° 36.2043' N - 77° 26.3166' W, then following the danger area line for the Stone's Bay Rifle Range to a point on the east shore, 34° 37.0579' N - 77° 26.1124' W. All tributaries downstream of Grey Point will remain closed. See Section V. R. for further gear restrictions upstream of the Highway 172 Bridge over the New River. (Map 3)**
- B. **Intracoastal Waterway from Marker 17 to the Highway 210 Bridge at North Topsail – main channel only. (Map 3)**
- C. **Intracoastal Waterway from Marker 49 south to the site of the “old” Highway 50 Bridge at Surf City – IWW channel and 100 feet on either side (waterbodies are in both Pender and Onslow Counties). (Map 4)**

II. MEANS AND METHODS

- A. It is unlawful to take crabs with trawls except in areas and during the times specified in Sections I and IV.
- 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 and during times specified in Sections I and IV.;
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 and Proclamation [M-10-2007](#);
 6. Fyke nets in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0111.

See Section V. General Information H., I., K., N., P., and Q. below for further restrictions on taking shrimp with nets and Section V. General Information O. below for further restrictions on taking crabs with trawls.

III. **RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It is unlawful to sell shrimp except for shrimp taken from areas and during times specified in Sections I and IV.
- 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 and during times specified in Sections I and IV.

IV. **AREAS OPEN YEAR-ROUND**

The areas described below are open year-round to the taking of crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets. 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 crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets except as noted in Section V. N.

A. **Carteret/Onslow County**

1. **Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) from the Bogue Inlet to Marker 45 at Swansboro** – main channel only outside of the Bogue Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 1**)
2. **Intracoastal Waterway from Marker 45 at Swansboro to Marker 63 south of Browns Inlet** – as shown on the attached maps. (**Maps 1 and 2**)
3. **West Channel (Island Channel)** - main channel only from Buoy 47A to IWW Marker 45B. (**Map 1**)
4. **White Oak River** – south of a line beginning at a point 34° 43.3425'N – 77° 07.2209'W on the west side of the river; running northerly to a point 34° 43.6445'N – 77° 07.3177'W above Cahoon Slough; running easterly to a point 34° 43.5588'N – 77° 06.6206'W at Hancock Point. (**Map 1**)
5. **Queens Creek** - from the IWW to NC1509 Bridge. (**Maps 1 and 2**)
6. **Bear Creek** - from the IWW to Willis Landing. (**Map 2**)
7. **West Channel** - main channel only from Marker 48 to the Bogue Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 1**)
8. **Banks Channel** - main channel only from the Bogue Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary to the Bear Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Maps 1 and 2**)
9. **Saunders Creek (Sanders Creek)** - main channel only from Marker 55 to the Bear Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 2**)
10. **Bear Creek** - from the IWW to the Bear Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 2**)

11. **Muddy Creek** - main channel only, from Bear Creek to Saunders Creek. (**Map 2**)
12. **Shacklefoot Channel** - from Marker 59 to the Bear Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110, including the area known locally as the "Horseshoe." (**Map 2**)
13. **Uniflite Boat Basin** - dredged portion only, from IWW near Marker 55 to the upstream end of the dredged portion. (**Map 2**)
14. **Browns Inlet area** - main channels only, from Markers 61 and 63 to the Brown's Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 2**)
15. **Intracoastal Waterway from Marker 63 south of Browns Inlet to Marker 17 north of the Highway 210 Bridge** – main channel only (**Maps 2 and 3**).
16. **New River** - the area downstream from the Highway 172 Bridge bounded on the north by a line beginning at a point 34° 34.9392' N – 77° 23.9004' W near Pollocks Point; running southeasterly to a point 34° 34.2552' N – 77° 21.6588' W on Wilkins Bluff; running southwesterly to a point 34° 33.9660' N – 77° 21.9054' W at navigation channel Marker 17; and bounded on the south by a line beginning at a point 34° 34.6824' N – 77° 23.9604' W on the Highway 172 Bridge fender; running easterly to a point 34° 34.6572' N – 77° 23.7822' W on Ferry Point; running southeasterly to a point 34° 34.1430' N – 77° 23.1120' W on Poverty Point; running southeasterly to a point 34° 33.6900' N – 77° 22.5144' W on Hall Point; running northeasterly to a point 34° 33.9660' N – 77° 21.9054' W at navigation channel Marker 17. (**Map 3**)
17. **New River: Intracoastal Waterway** - From the navigation channel Marker 17 to the IWW Marker 72A, only within 60 feet width of the marked and maintained navigation channel. (**Map 3**)
18. **New River Inlet** - From Marker 72A to New River Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 **except** all tributaries **will remain closed**. (**Map 3**)

B. Pender County

1. **Intracoastal Waterway from the site of the "old" Highway 50 Bridge at Surf City to Marker 105 at Green Channel** – main channel only. The area southwest of the site of the "old" Highway 50 Bridge is bounded on the north by a line beginning at a point 34° 25.899' N – 77° 32.999' W, running southerly to a point at 34° 25.838' N – 77° 32.947' W. (**Maps 4 and 5**) **Except from:**
 - a. **Sloop Point Area of the IWW from the site of the "old" Highway 50 Bridge at Surf City to Marker 93** - the IWW marked channel to 100 feet either side. All bays, creeks, and tributaries including dredged canals **will remain closed**. (**Map 4**)
 - b. **IWW from Marker 78 near Edens Landing to Sloop Point** - an additional 100 feet on the northern side of the IWW from Marker 78 near Edens Landing to a point 34°24.7864' N – 77°35.5833' W at Sloop Point. All bays, creeks, and tributaries including dredged canals will remain closed. (**Map 4**)
2. **Topsail Sound** - from Marker 86 to the New Topsail Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 **except** all bays, creeks, and tributaries including dredged canals **will remain closed**. (**Map 4**)
3. **Marker 98 Channel (Howards Channel)** - main channel only, from Marker 98 to the New Topsail Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 5**)
4. **Green Channel** - main channel only, from Marker 105 to the Rich Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A

NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 5**)

5. **Nixon Channel** - main channel only, from the IWW to the Rich Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 5**)
6. **Butler Creek (Utleys Channel)** - main channel only, from the IWW north of Marker 112 to Nixon Channel. (**Map 5**)
7. **The area west of the Intracoastal Waterway Channel from Marker 93 near Sloop Point to Marker 105 at Green Channel** - the IWW channel except all bays, creeks, and tributaries, including dredged canals **will remain closed**. (**Maps 4 and 5**)

C. **New Hanover County**

1. **Intracoastal Waterway from the Wrightsville Beach drawbridge to Marker 163 at Snows Cut** – main channel only except from Marker 139 to Marker 146 which is closed. (**Maps 5 & 6**)
2. **Mason Channel from the Intracoastal Waterway opposite the mouth of Pages Creek to the Mason Inlet** - main channel only outside of the Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 5**)
3. **Stokley Cut (Old Moores Inlet Channel)** - from the IWW near Marker 125 to Old Moore Inlet, including the dredged basin **except** all tributaries to the channel and the basin **will remain closed**. (**Map 5**)
4. **Lee's Cut (Spring Landing Channel)** - from the IWW to US 74 Bridge at Banks Channel, including the area known locally as "The Lagoon" **except** all tributaries to the channel and lagoon **will remain closed**. (**Map 5**)
5. **Banks Channel** - from US 74 Bridge to the Masonboro Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 **except** all tributaries to the channel and lagoon **will remain closed**. (**Map 5**)
6. **Mott Channel** - from the IWW near Marker 127 to Banks Channel, including the area known locally as the "The Borrow Pit" or "The Everett Hole" located adjacent to Mott Channel from Marker 22 to near Marker 26. (**Map 5**)

D. **Brunswick County**

1. **Cape Fear River** - all waters south of a line beginning at a point 34° 04.6040' N – 77° 56.4780' W on the west shore; running easterly to a point 34° 04.7920' N – 77° 55.4740' W on the east shore **except** those areas south of a line beginning at a point 34° 01.5780' N – 77° 56.0010' W on the south side of the Spoil Island at the intersection of the IWW and the Cape Fear River Ship Channel, running easterly to a point 34° 01.7230' N – 77° 55.0101' W on the east shore of the Cape Fear River including those areas south of the area opened and east of the IWW known as "Dow Chemical Bay" and "Radar Dome Bay", **will remain closed**. (**Maps 6 and 7**)
2. **Elizabeth River** - main channel only, including Lower Dutchman Creek from the IWW to the Cape Fear River Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 **except** all tributaries of Elizabeth River and Dutchman Creek, that portion of Elizabeth River west of the Marker 7, and that portion of Dutchman Creek north of the IWW **will remain closed**. (**Map 7**)
3. **Intracoastal Waterway Channel** - IWW channel only, from Marker 1 near Southport to Sunset Beach Bridge. (**Maps 7, 8, 9, & 10**)
4. **Eastern Channel (Montgomery Slough)** - main channel only, from Blue Water Point Marina to the Lockwood Folly Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 including the channel from Marker 36 to Blue Water Point Marina. (**Map 9**)

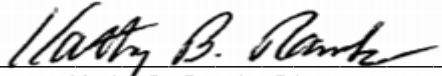
5. **Lockwood Folly River Inlet Channel** - from the IWW to the Lockwood Folly River Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 9**)
 6. **Shalotte River Inlet** - from the Marker 75 to the Shalotte River Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 9**)
 7. **Jinks Creek**– from the IWW to the Tubbs Inlet Crab Spawning Sanctuary described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Map 10**)
 8. **Bonaparte Creek** - main channel only from the Marker 111 to Little River Inlet. (**Map 10**)
- E. **Atlantic Ocean** – except the Crab Spawning Sanctuaries described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110. (**Maps 1-10**)

V. **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; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries 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://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/rules-proclamations-and-size-and-bag-limits/fisheries-management-proclamations> to refer to those SH-type proclamations for shrimp/crab trawl regulations that may be effective in the areas covered by this proclamation.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0103 Shellfish Management Areas which have been designated by proclamation are closed to the use of trawl nets, long haul seines, and swipe nets.
- E. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0211 it is unlawful to use any bottom disturbing fishing gear on any shellfish lease or franchise unless it has been duly authorized by the Fisheries Director. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0204 (f), the Division has no duty to protect any shellfish bottom lease, franchise, or water column lease not marked in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0204 (a).
- F. **Hatched areas on the attached maps indicate those areas closed to shrimp and crab trawling, seines, and cast nets except as specified in Sections I. and V. N.**
- G. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15 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.
- H. 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.
- I. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03L .0103 (c) which describes the areas where it is unlawful to use trawls with a combined headrope length greater than 90 feet.
- J. 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 crabs incidental to commercial shrimp trawling provided that the weight of the crabs shall not exceed 50 percent of the total weight of the combined crab and shrimp catch; or 300 pounds, whichever is greater.
- K. Proclamation [SH-2-2022](#) dated March 16, 2022, describes gear configuration requirements in areas where combined headrope lengths 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% of equal weight of combined catch, but no more than 100 pounds.
- L. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03J .0205(a) and 15A NCAC 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 certain times of the year.
- 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](#) dated May 11, 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 trawls.**
- P. **N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0104 and 03L .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. **In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0208(a) and (b) it is unlawful to use trawl nets except skimmer trawls upstream of the Highway 172 Bridge over the New River and it is unlawful to use skimmer trawls upstream of the Highway 172 Bridge over New River during the hours from 9:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m.**
- 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. 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.
- U. The intent of this proclamation is to close waters from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-South Carolina border to crab trawling and the taking of shrimp with nets except those areas described in this proclamation and to implement management strategies consistent with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.
- V. **This proclamation supersedes SH-8-2022, dated August 29, 2022. This proclamation specifically describes areas open to the taking of blue crabs with trawls and shrimp with nets in the southern coastal region from Marker 45 near Bogue Inlet to the North Carolina-South Carolina border in Coastal Fishing Waters**

including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.

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

May 11, 2023
3:30 P.M.