



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-23-2024**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: BLUEFISH – COMMERCIAL – IMPLEMENTS 400-POUND POSSESSION LIMIT**

**This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-13-2024, dated February 22, 2024. It establishes a 400-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2024, whichever occurs first.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., May 23, 2024**, the following restrictions will apply to the **commercial bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters**:

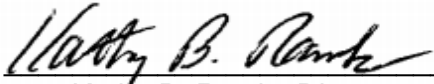
#### **I. HARVEST LIMIT AND PERIOD**

- A. It shall be unlawful for an individual or commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of persons, license holders, or vessels involved, to possess, sell, or offer for sale more than **400 pounds of bluefish per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.**
- B. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2024, whichever occurs first.

#### **II. 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 and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to modify the commercial bluefish harvest limit to assure that the quota allocated to North Carolina in the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan is not exceeded.
- D. 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.
- E. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; phone 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.

- F. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-13-2024, dated February 22, 2024. It establishes a 400-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2024, whichever occurs first.**

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

May 21, 2024  
10:45 A.M.