



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-27-2024

PROCLAMATION

RE: MULLET – RECREATIONAL - COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS INCLUDING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-41-2023 dated October 4, 2023. This proclamation establishes the creel limits for the recreational mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., June 24, 2024**, the following restrictions will apply to the mullet recreational fisheries in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters:

I. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES

A. **The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0502 is suspended:**

Section (a) which reads:

(a) It shall be unlawful to possess more than 200 mullet per person per day for recreational purposes.

II. PRIVATE HARVEST AND VESSEL LIMIT (All vessels not engaged in a For-Hire Vessel Operation)

A. It shall be unlawful to possess more than **one hundred (100) mullet per person per day** for recreational purposes (See II. B. for private vessel limits).

B. It shall be unlawful to possess for recreational purposes more than **four hundred (400) mullet per vessel per day** if more than four (4) people are on board.

III. FOR-HIRE HARVEST AND VESSEL LIMIT (While engaged in a For-Hire Vessel Operation as defined by G.S. 113-174)

A. It shall be unlawful to possess more than **four hundred (400) mullet per vessel per day** or 100 per person per day, if fewer than four (4) people are on board.

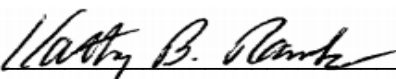
B. For Hire Vessel Operations may possess, in advance of a for-hire trip, a bag limit for the number of anglers they are licensed to carry up to the **four hundred (400) mullet per vessel per day** maximum.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-136; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-174; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03M .0502.

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. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the recreational mullet fishery in accordance with Amendment 2 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0120 it shall be unlawful to possess or transport through State coastal fishing waters any species of fish that is subject to State season, size, or harvest restrictions, regardless of whether the species was taken in State or federal waters, unless all fish taken are in compliance with the restrictions for the waterbody or area being fished. If State season, size, or harvest restrictions differ from comparable restrictions pursuant to a fishery management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or if there are no corresponding federal regulations, the State restrictions shall apply during such periods of possession or transportation.
- 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. General Statute 113-221 (f), all persons who may be affected by rules adopted by the Marine Fisheries Commission are under a duty to keep themselves informed of the current rules. The NCWRC may have regulations for fishing waters designated as "Inland" regarding this species. Visit www.ncwrc.org for current size and creel limits in "Inland" Fishing waters.
- G. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 or 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- H. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-41-2023 dated October 4, 2023. This proclamation establishes the creel limits for the recreational mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Amendment 2 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan.**

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

June 20, 2024
2:00 P.M.