



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MARY PENNY KELLEY  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-50-2024**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: ATLANTIC CROAKER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – CLOSURE**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-59-2023, dated December 1, 2023. This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters effective 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2024. The fishery will re-open on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.**

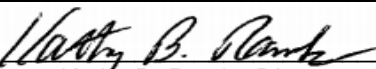
Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Monday, December 16, 2024**, the following restrictions will apply to the Atlantic croaker commercial fishery:

#### **I. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:**

- A. It shall be unlawful to take Atlantic croaker in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2024, until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2025.
- B. It shall be unlawful for dealers to purchase Atlantic croaker from commercial fishing operations after 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2024 until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2025.

#### **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 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 allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker. Refer to Addendum III for more information:  
[https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5e5d83c8AtlCroakerAddendumIII\\_Feb2020.pdf](https://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/5e5d83c8AtlCroakerAddendumIII_Feb2020.pdf)
- 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 or 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- F. **This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters effective 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2024. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., on January 1, 2025.**

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

December 5, 2024  
11:30 A.M.