



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-13-2024

PROCLAMATION

RE: CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARY - GEAR AND HARVEST RESTRICTIONS – TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES

This proclamation prohibits the use of trawls year-round within all Crab Spawning Sanctuaries 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., June 20, 2024**, the following restrictions shall apply to the use of trawls in the Crab Spawning Sanctuaries as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0110 (1)(2)(3):

I. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES

A. **The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03L .0205 is suspended, Section (a) which reads:**

(a) It shall be unlawful to set or use trawls, pots, or mechanical methods for shellfish or take crabs with the use of commercial fishing equipment in crab spawning sanctuaries:

1. from March 1 through August 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110(1); and
2. from March 1 through October 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110(2).

II. HARVEST AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

A. It shall be unlawful to set or use pots, or mechanical methods for shellfish or take crabs with the use of commercial fishing equipment in crab spawning sanctuaries:

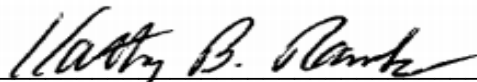
1. from March 1 through August 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110(1); and
2. from March 1 through October 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110(2).

B. **It shall be unlawful to use trawls in crab spawning sanctuaries as described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110.**

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C. General Statutes 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, and 03L .0201 and .0205.

- B. It is unlawful to violate the 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. Commercial fishing equipment is defined in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101(3)(c).
- D. The intent of this proclamation is to manage trawls in accordance with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.
- 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. Contact the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <http://ncmarinefisheries.net>
- G. **This proclamation prohibits the use of trawls year-round within all Crab Spawning Sanctuaries in accordance with Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.**

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

June 20, 2024
3:45 P.M.