



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-1-2024

PROCLAMATION

RE: GILL NET RESTRICTIONS - JOINT FISHING WATERS – MAINTAINS WEEKEND GILL NET RESTRICTIONS

This proclamation supersedes proclamation M-3-2014 dated February 3, 2014. It maintains weekend closures for gill nets in all Joint Fishing Waters with exceptions for portions of the Albemarle and Currituck sounds, in accordance with the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces effective **12:01 A.M., Monday, January 1, 2024**, the following will apply to gill nets in Joint Fishing Waters:

I. AREA RESTRICTIONS

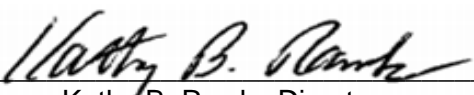
It is unlawful to use gill nets in Joint Fishing Waters from **12:01 A.M. on Saturday to 12:01 A.M. on Monday each week except:**

- A. **Albemarle Sound** - north and west of a line beginning at a point 35° 58.5887'N - 75° 51.7080' W near the east shore at the entrance to East Lake; running northeasterly to a point 36° 04.8280'N - 75° 47.4050'W near Point Harbor; and
- B. **Currituck Sound** - north of the Highway 158 Wright Memorial Bridge beginning at a point on the western shore at 36° 04.8280'N - 75° 47.4050'W; running easterly along the south side of the bridge to a point on the east shore at 36° 05.5770'N - 75° 44.5850'W.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 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 03J .0103.
- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to manage fishing effort in accordance with the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.
- D. **All other existing gill net 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#currentprocs> to refer to those M-type proclamations for gill net regulations that may be effective in the areas covered by this proclamation.
- E. Joint fishing waters are managed jointly by the Marine Fisheries Commission and the Wildlife Resources Commission. Maps showing boundary lines can be found on the DMF website at: [Interactive Map for Current Rules | NC DEQ](#).

- F. Proclamation [M-15-2023](#) dated August 16, 2023 requires holders of a Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL), Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License (RSCFL), or Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL) who deploy gill nets in Internal Coastal Fishing Waters and Joint Fishing Waters with an exception for run-around, strike, drop or drift gill nets, to possess a valid Estuarine Gill Net Permit issued by the Division of Marine Fisheries.
- G. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0113 specifies that it is unlawful for any licensee under Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes to refuse to allow the Fisheries Director or their agents to obtain biological data, harvest information, or other statistical data necessary or useful to the conservation and management of marine and estuarine resources from fish in the licensee's possession. The Division of Marine Fisheries has implemented an Estuarine Gill Net Permit and an observer program as an inspection procedure to obtain such data.
- H. The Division of Marine Fisheries has received Federal Incidental Take Permits (ITP) for certain threatened or endangered sea turtles, and endangered Atlantic sturgeon. These ITPs allow the legal continuation of the inshore anchored gill net fisheries in North Carolina, subject to permit conditions. The ITP conditions are designed to avoid, minimize and mitigate interactions with these species. Permit conditions require the division to provide 7-10 percent observer coverage in the large mesh anchored gill net fishery and 1-2 percent observer coverage in the small mesh anchored gill net fishery in Internal Coastal Waters. **If the required coverage is not maintained, large and small mesh anchored gill nets could be prohibited in all Internal Coastal Fishing Waters and Joint Fishing Waters.**
- I. In accordance with N.C. General Statute 113-221(f) and 113-221.1(c), all persons who may be affected by rules and proclamations issued by the Fisheries Director are under a duty to keep themselves informed of current rules and proclamations. Multiple rules and proclamations regulating a fishery, species, gear, etc. may be in effect concurrently.
- J. 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.
- K. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation M-3-2014 dated February 3, 2014. It maintains weekend closures for gill nets in all Joint Fishing Waters with exceptions for portions of the Albemarle and Currituck sounds, in accordance with the N. C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.**

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

December 15, 2023
10:15 A.M.