



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

M-3-2024

PROCLAMATION

RE: HORSESHOE CRABS – COMMERCIAL

This proclamation supersedes proclamation M-1-2023, dated December 16, 2022. It opens the season to the commercial harvest of horseshoe crabs from 12:01 A.M. Monday, January 1, 2024 through 11:59 P.M. Tuesday, April 30, 2024 and establishes a daily harvest limit of 50 horseshoe crabs per commercial fishing operation.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that the commercial harvest of horseshoe crabs **WILL OPEN** effective **12:01 A.M. Monday, January 1, 2024** and the following restrictions will apply

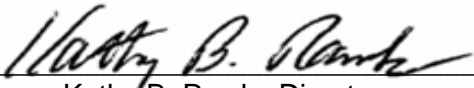
I. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

- A. During the period beginning at 12:01 A.M. Monday, January 1, 2024 and ending at 11:59 P.M. Tuesday, April 30, 2024 it is unlawful to take or possess more than 50 horseshoe crabs per commercial fishing operation per day, regardless of the number of persons or vessels involved.
- B. Effective at 12:01 A.M. Wednesday, May 1, 2024 it is unlawful to possess horseshoe crabs taken in a commercial fishing operation.

II. 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; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and NC Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 15A NCAC 03L .0207.
- B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority.
- C. 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.
- D. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab. North Carolina is operating under a state quota and these trip limits and harvest periods are meant to constrain the harvest of horseshoe crabs to the quota.
- E. 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.

- F. This proclamation supersedes proclamation M-1-2023, dated December 16, 2022. It opens the season to the commercial harvest of horseshoe crabs from 12:01 A.M. Monday, January 1, 2024 through 11:59 P.M. Tuesday, April 30, 2024 and establishes a daily harvest limit of 50 horseshoe crabs commercial per fishing operation.

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

December 18, 2023
2:30 P.M.