



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**RS-3-2024**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- BACK SOUND – EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

#### **This proclamation establishes a closure to all fishing gear and the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary located in the Straits.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M, February 3, 2024**, in the area described below, **the following restrictions apply:**

#### **I. AREA DESCRIPTION**

##### **CARTERET COUNTY**

The area is located in the Straits near the mainland side of the Harkers Island bridge. The total area is 1.111 acres in size and is delineated by poles and signs as shown on the attached map. The location of the sites and their poles are as follows:

Corner 1	34° 43.4495'N	76° 34.8327'W
Corner 2	34° 43.4308'N	76° 34.7643'W
Corner 3	34° 43.4089'N	76° 34.7688'W
Corner 4	34° 43.4217'N	76° 34.8284'W

#### **II. RESTRICTIONS**

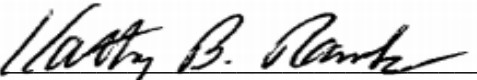
- A. It is unlawful to use fishing gear in the area described in Section I.
- B. It is unlawful to take shellfish in the area described in Section I.

#### **III. 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; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52; and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03I .0109.
- 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. This area will be used by East Carolina University to conduct research to look at marine community function under different environmental conditions and response to changes as climate fluctuates.
- D. Contact N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557; 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit our website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- 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. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109, any closure or restriction in the Research Sanctuary shall be for no more than one year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Fisheries Director.
- G. **This proclamation establishes a closure to all fishing gear and the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary located in the Straits.**

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

Jan. 31, 2024  
1:45 P.M.