



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

SF-3-2024

PROCLAMATION

RE: SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREAS – MOUTH OF NEUSE RIVER AND BRANT ISLAND SHOAL, PAMLICO SOUND

This proclamation sets boundaries for two Oyster Sanctuaries designated as Shellfish Management Areas with gear and shellfish harvest restrictions.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., April 8, 2024**, the following areas are designated Shellfish Management Areas.

I. **AREAS**

PAMLICO COUNTY

A. **Maw Point Oyster Sanctuary (Map 1):** The area is located near the mouth of the Neuse River, 1.04 nautical miles to the south of Maw Point. The total area is 126.66 acres in size and is delineated by buoys. The locations of the buoys are as follows:

Buoy	35° 08.1700' N	76° 32.1820' W
Buoy	35° 08.1530' N	76° 31.6150' W
Buoy	35° 07.8320' N	76° 31.6290' W
Buoy	35° 07.8480' N	76° 32.1960' W

CARTERET COUNTY

B. **Brant Island Oyster Sanctuary (Map 2):** The area is located south of Brant Island Shoal, 1.03 nautical miles southeast of the Brant Island Slue light #1. The total area is approximately 99.26 acres in size and is delineated by buoys. The locations of the buoys are as follows:

Buoy	35° 09.8000' N	76° 22.2610' W
Buoy	35° 09.7900' N	76° 21.5990' W
Buoy	35° 09.5740' N	76° 21.6020' W
Buoy	35° 09.5840' N	76° 22.2640' W

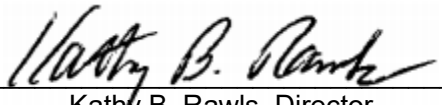
II. **RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It shall be unlawful to use trawl nets, long haul seines, or swipe nets in the areas described in Section I.
- B. It shall be unlawful to take shellfish in the areas described in Section I.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of 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 03K .0103.

- B. 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.
- C. It is unlawful to violate provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority per N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- D. The intent of this proclamation is to designate shellfish management areas otherwise termed sanctuaries, after substrate is strategically deployed and monitored to protect areas from certain gears or activities to facilitate increased oyster larvae production and brood-stock development. Sanctuary locations are selected based on salinity gradient, bottom type, tidal flow, wave action, prevailing wind, historic oyster data, and input from stakeholders to maximize success and longevity of each reef.
- E. The Division of Marine Fisheries shall place buoys or pilings to identify the boundaries of the referenced area, which will be considered the actual oyster sanctuary. Unauthorized removal or relocation of any buoy or piling shall not change the oyster sanctuary, nor shall any such unauthorized removal or relocation or the absence of any buoy affect the applicability of any proclamation pertaining to the boundary of the oyster sanctuary. Where there is conflict between buoys, and boundaries described in this proclamation and map, boundary descriptions in the proclamation shall prevail.
- F. 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 the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- G. **This proclamation sets boundaries for two Oyster Sanctuaries designated as Shellfish Management Areas with gear and shellfish harvest restrictions.**

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

April 5, 2024
2:00 P.M.