

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION MONTH**

**2022**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, on December 30, 1822, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law titled An Act to Prevent the Destruction of Oysters, and for Other Purposes, in the State that restricted oyster harvest gear and prohibited the export of North Carolina oysters to other states; and

**WHEREAS**, this, the first statewide law governing marine fisheries, was the beginning of state marine fisheries management in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous subsequent laws passed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, eventually leading to the establishment of what is now the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, these two entities attempt to manage and protect one of North Carolina's most valuable natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, roughly 2,000 commercial fishermen ply their trade in North Carolina coastal waters, selling to nearly 700 fish dealers, who supply fish markets, seafood restaurants, and grocers with blue crab, shrimp, flounder, oysters, and other delicacies; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 1.5 million recreational anglers cast their lines in North Carolina coastal waters each year, supporting a for-hire fleet of more than 1,000 vessels, 19 ocean fishing piers, and countless bait and tackle shops; and

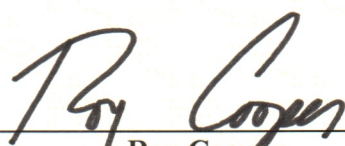
**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of coastal fishing in North Carolina tops \$4.5 billion each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries uses science-based stewardship to manage these fisheries with a goal of ensuring sustainable marine and estuarine fisheries and habitats for the benefit and health of the people of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries is recognized as one of the leading fisheries management agencies in the nation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim December, 2022, as "**MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.