



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-10-2022

PROCLAMATION

RE: FINFISH – AQUACULTURE OPERATIONS EXEMPTIONS

This proclamation supersedes proclamations FF-55-2009 (dated October 12, 2009) and FF-73-2009 (dated December 21, 2009). It establishes exemptions for aquaculture operations cultivating finfish approved by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries by means of the Aquaculture Operation Permit issued by the division. It allows Aquaculture Operation Permit holders to possess, sell, purchase, or transport approved finfish species in compliance with all conditions of the permit including record-keeping requirements designed to track the movement of finfish as an aquaculture product from its source to the consumer.

Kathy Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., January 14, 2022**, the following restrictions will apply to all aquaculture operations cultivating finfish that have been approved by the division:

I. SPECIES, SEASON, AND SIZE LIMIT EXEMPTION

- A. All species of finfish to be used in aquaculture operations shall be approved by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.
- B. Possession and sale of finfish by an aquaculture operation and purchase and possession of finfish from an aquaculture operation shall be exempt from season and size limit restrictions.
- C. It is unlawful to possess, sell, purchase, or transport such finfish unless they are in compliance with all conditions of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Aquaculture Operation Permit including approved forms of documentation and labeling requirements.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C. General Statutes 106-758; 113-129; 113-132; 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-169.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 143B-289.51; 143B-289.52; and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103; 03I .0101; 03M .0512; 03O .0502; 03O .0503.
- 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. 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0502, it is unlawful to operate under a permit except in areas, at times, and under conditions specified on the permit. The Aquaculture Operation Permit Condition Form is given to the permit holder when it is issued.
- E. Contact Jacob Boyd or Col. Carter Witten at N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 (252)-726-6827 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit our website at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/>.
- F. **This proclamation supersedes proclamations FF-55-2009 (dated October 12, 2009) and FF-73-2009 (dated December 21, 2009). It establishes exemptions for aquaculture operations cultivating finfish approved by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries by means of the Aquaculture Operation Permit issued by the division. It allows Aquaculture Operation Permit holders to possess, sell, purchase, or transport approved finfish species in compliance with all conditions of the permit including record-keeping requirements designed to track the movement of finfish as an aquaculture product from its source to the consumer.**

BY: 
Kathy Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES, DEQ

January 11, 2022
1:50 P.M.