



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

FF-1-2020

PROCLAMATION

RE: BLUEFISH – RECREATIONAL PURPOSES – CREEL LIMITS


This proclamation establishes the creel limits for the recreational bluefish fishery.

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, February 1, 2020**, the following restrictions will apply to the **recreational bluefish fishery in Coastal Fishing Waters**:

- I. **SUSPENSION OF N.C. MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION RULE 15A NCAC 03M .0511**
N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M. 0511 that reads as follows *is suspended in its entirety*: It is unlawful to possess more than 15 bluefish per person per day for recreational purposes. Of these 15 bluefish, it is unlawful to possess more than five bluefish that are greater than 24 inches total length.
- II. **PRIVATE CREEL LIMIT (All persons not engaged on a For-Hire vessel)**
 - A. It is unlawful to possess more than **three (3) bluefish per person per day** taken for recreational purposes.
- III. **FOR-HIRE CREEL LIMIT (While engaged on a For-Hire vessel as defined by G.S 113-174)**
 - A. It is unlawful to possess more than **five (5) bluefish per person per day** taken for recreational purposes.
- IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**
 - A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 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 03M.0512.
 - B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Director under his delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
 - C. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan. The fishery management plan requires the coast wide recreational harvest of bluefish from Maine to Florida be reduced by 28.6% to prevent exceeding the 2020 recreational harvest limit.
 - D. It is unlawful under N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03O .0112 to operate a For-Hire vessel unless the vessel operator possesses either the For-Hire Blanket Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) for the vessel or a Division of Marine Fisheries For-Hire Fishing Permit for the vessel as provided in 15A NCAC 03O .0503(k).
 - 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. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- G. **This proclamation establishes the creel limits for the recreational bluefish fishery.**

By: 

Stephen W. Murphey, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

January 28, 2020
10:26 A.M.