



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

FF-12-2020

PROCLAMATION

RE: STRIPED BASS – ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA – RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL

This proclamation supersedes FF-9-2020 dated March 4, 2020. It decreases the daily landing limit for the harvest of striped bass taken for commercial purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area at 12:01 A.M. on Thursday, March 14, 2020.

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M. on Saturday, March 14, 2020**, the following provisions shall apply to the harvest of **STRIPED BASS TAKEN IN RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA.** The following provisions shall apply:

I. **AREA DESCRIPTION**

Albemarle Sound Management Area as defined in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0201(a).

II. **RECREATIONAL SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS, SEASON, MEANS AND METHODS**

- A. It is unlawful to possess striped bass less than 18 inches in total length.
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than two (2) striped bass taken in any one day by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes from the Albemarle Sound Management Area.
- C. It is unlawful to possess striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area for recreational purposes except when taken by hook-and-line or with recreational commercial gear.
- D. It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or purchase striped bass taken by hook-and-line or with recreational commercial gear for recreational purposes.
- E. **The recreational season for striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area shall close by proclamation when the harvest allocation is reached or at 11:59 P.M. on Thursday, April 30, 2020, whichever occurs first.**

III. **COMMERCIAL SIZE AND DAILY LANDING LIMITS, SEASON, MEANS AND METHODS**


- A. It is unlawful to possess, sell, offer for sale, or purchase striped bass less than 18 inches in total length.
- B. It is unlawful for an individual or commercial fishing operation regardless of the number of persons or vessels involved, to possess, land, sell or offer for sale striped bass, unless taken in conjunction with other finfish species. Striped bass will be limited to 50% by weight, of the combined daily harvest, **not to exceed 20 fish per day, per Standard Commercial Fishing License (SCFL) holder. The daily harvest limit of 20 striped bass shall not be exceeded, regardless of where taken from Internal Waters, unless the fish are taken in accordance with III. C. below.**

- C. It is unlawful for any operation consisting of more than one SCFL holder to be in possession of more than two daily harvest limits. A SCFL holder shall accompany each single harvest limit until the time of sale to a dealer possessing a valid 2019/2020 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area.
- D. The SCFL holder(s) shall accompany and transport each single harvest limit and the other finfish species together until the striped bass are sold to a dealer possessing a valid 2019/2020 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area.
- E. Striped bass taken from areas opened by this proclamation may be sold only to and purchased by a dealer possessing a current 2019/2020 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area.
- F. It is unlawful to purchase more than the daily commercial harvest limit of striped bass per day from a SCFL holder.
- G. **It is unlawful to sell, offer for sale or purchase striped bass taken by hook-and-line. The striped bass season for commercial fishing operations in the Albemarle Sound Management Area will close by proclamation when the harvest allocation is reached or at 11:59 P.M. on Thursday, April 30, 2020.** Dealers will have until two weeks after the closing of the season to sell, offer for sale, transport, or have in possession unfrozen striped bass taken in this fishery.

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, 03M .0202, and 03O .0500 et seq.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his 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. For gill net requirements in the Albemarle Sound Management Area, see the most recent M-type proclamations specific to the area.
- E. **The intent of this proclamation is to allow the recreational and commercial harvest of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area within the annual harvest quota established by the November 2014 Revision to Amendment 1 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.**
- F. It is unlawful for a dealer to possess, buy, sell or offer for sale striped bass taken from the Albemarle Sound Management Area without holding a valid 2019/2020 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. Dealers shall abide by all conditions which appear on the permit as well as the general provisions which appear in N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 3O .0500 et seq.
- G. Striped bass lawfully sold to a permitted dealer may be resold to a non-permitted wholesale or retail market provided the initial permitted dealer records their dealer identification number on each bill of lading or receipts involved in the shipment of striped bass. Any individual or corporation who holds a - shall obtain a 2019/2020 STRIPED BASS DEALER PERMIT validated for the Albemarle Sound Management Area in order to sell any striped bass personally harvested.

- H. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201 defines striped bass as striped bass and its hybrids.
- I. Recreational seasons for striped bass in the Roanoke River Management Area, which is designated as the Roanoke River and its joint and inland tributaries, including the Eastmost, Middle and Cashie rivers, up to the Roanoke Rapids dam, is under the management jurisdiction of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and is exempt from this proclamation.
- J. Holders of Recreational Commercial Gear Licenses or hook-and-line fishermen shall follow the size, creel, and season limits of the recreational fishery for striped bass.
- K. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0202 states that all striped bass that do not meet the minimum size limit specified by proclamation shall immediately be returned to the waters from which taken regardless of condition.
- L. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201, it is unlawful for a dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the Albemarle Sound Management Area without having a N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries issued Albemarle Sound Management Area striped bass tag affixed through the mouth and gill cover. In case of striped bass imported from other states, a similar tag that is issued for striped bass in the state of origin shall be affixed.
- M. **Dealers with a Striped Bass Dealer Permit for Quota Monitoring shall contact the Division of Marine Fisheries Elizabeth City office 252-264-3911 and speak to Kimberly Hewitt to obtain harvest tags. Tags shall be picked up from a Division of Marine Fisheries office.**
- N. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <http://ncmarinefisheries.net>.
- O. **This proclamation supersedes FF-9-2020 dated March 4, 2020. It decreases the daily landing limit for the harvest of striped bass taken for commercial purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area at 12:01 A.M. on Thursday, March 14, 2020. The harvest season for striped bass taken for recreational purposes remains open. The recreational and commercial harvest seasons shall close by proclamation when the harvest allocation is reached or at 11:59 P.M. on Thursday, April 30, 2020, whichever occurs first.**

By: 
Stephen W. Murphey, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

March 12, 2020
2:05 P.M.