



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

PT-3-2020

PROCLAMATION

RE: POTS OPEN – ATLANTIC OCEAN AND INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS WEST AND SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 58 BRIDGE

This proclamation describes areas open to crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in the Atlantic Ocean and Internal Coastal Waters from west and south of the Highway 58 Bridge to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line. This proclamation will expire at midnight, November 30, 2020, unless superseded by another proclamation.

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Friday, May 1, 2020 until midnight, Monday, November 30, 2020**, the following will apply to crab, eel, fish and shrimp pots:

POTS MAY BE SET IN THE AREAS DESCRIBED BELOW:

- I. ATLANTIC OCEAN – Statewide
- II. Designated nursery areas in all Internal Coastal Waters west and south of the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle which are listed in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0103.
- III. **All Internal Coastal Waters west and south of the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle which are closed by N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule or Division of Marine Fisheries proclamation for crab trawling and taking shrimp with nets.**
- IV. All Shellfish Management Areas which have been designated by proclamation.
- V. CARTERET COUNTY/ONSLow COUNTY
 - A. That area between the Highway 58 Bridge and the Bogue Inlet Channel. (Map 1)
 - B. That area in White Oak River upstream from the Highway 24 Bridge at Swansboro. (Map 1)
- VI. ONSLow COUNTY
 - A. West Channel - Island Channel - from Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) Buoy #47A to IWW #45C. (Map 1)
 - B. West Channel - from IWW Marker #48 to Bogue Inlet. (Map 1)
 - C. Queens Creek - (Map 2)
 - D. Banks Channel - (behind Hammock Beach State Park) from Bogue Inlet to Bear Inlet. (Map 2)
 - E. Fosters Bay - (Map 2)
 - F. Saunders Creek - from IWW Marker #55 to Bear Inlet. (Map 2)

- G. Bear Creek - (Map 2)
- H. Muddy Creek - from Bear Creek to Saunders Creek. (Map 2)
- I. New River - upstream of the Highway 172 Bridge. (Map 3)
- J. New River - Hall's Point Bay as shown on attached map. (Map 3)

VII. **PENDER COUNTY**

- A. That area 100 feet on either side of the IWW Channel from the Surf City Bridge to IWW Marker #49 at Morris Landing. (Map 4)
- B. Topsail Sound - from IWW Marker #86 to Topsail Inlet. (Map 4)
- C. Marker #98 Channel - from IWW Flasher #98 to New Topsail Inlet. (Map 4)
- D. Green Channel - from IWW Marker #105 to Rich's Inlet. (Map 5)
- E. Nixon Channel - from the IWW to Rich's Inlet. (Map 5)
- F. Butler Creek (Utley's Channel) - from the IWW north of Marker #112 to Nixon Channel. (Map 5)
- G. That area west of the IWW Channel from Marker #93 near Sloop Point to Marker #105 at Green's Channel, from the IWW Channel to the marsh line bordering the IWW. (Map 4)

VIII. **NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

- A. Mason Channel - from the IWW opposite the mouth of Page's Creek to Mason Inlet. (Map 5)
- B. Banks Channel - from the Highway #74 Bridge to Masonboro Inlet. (Map 5)
- C. Stokley's Cut (Old Moore Inlet Channel) - from the IWW near Marker #125 to Old Moore Inlet, including the dredged basin. (Map 5)
- D. Lee Cut (Spring Landing Channel) - from the IWW to Highway 74 Bridge at Banks Channel, including the area known locally as "The Lagoon." (Map 5)
- E. Motts Channel - from the IWW near Marker #127 to Banks channel, including the area known locally as "The Borrow Pit" or "The Everett Hole," located adjacent to Motts Channel from Marker #22 to near Marker #26. (Map 5)
- F. Cape Fear River - all waters south of a line beginning at a point on the west shore 34° 04.6040' N – 77° 56.4780' W; running easterly to a point on the east shore 34° 04.7920' N – 77° 55.4740' W. (Map 6)
- G. Carolina Beach Boat Basin - from IWW Marker #161 to the municipal clocks. (Map 6)


IX. **BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

- A. Elizabeth River - including Lower Dutchman Creek from the IWW to the Cape Fear River. (Map 6)
- B. Eastern Channel - Montgomery Slough - from the IWW Marker #36 to Lockwoods Folly Inlet. (Map 7)
- C. Shalotte River Inlet - from the IWW Marker #75 to the Atlantic Ocean. (Map 7)
- D. Jinks Creek - from the IWW to Tubbs Inlet. (Map 8)
- E. Bonaparte Creek - from the IWW Marker #111 to Little River Inlet. (Map 8)

X. **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, 03J .0301, and 03K .0103.
- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the pot fishery in the Atlantic Ocean and the Internal Coastal Waters of the state from the Highway 58 bridge west and south to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301(b), it is unlawful to use pots in any navigation channel maintained and marked by State or Federal agencies.
- E. **Hatched areas on the attached maps indicate areas open to potting by Items V. through IX. of this proclamation. The maps may not reflect all areas closed to shrimp and crab trawling noted in Item III. of this proclamation and may be open to pots. Go to the latest proclamation for areas in Internal Coastal Waters west and south of Highway 58 Bridge closed to shrimp and crab trawling, for additional information on those areas <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations-current#shrimpcrab>.**
- F. In accordance with Amendment 3 to the North Carolina Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, crab spawning sanctuaries have been established in Bogue, Bear, Browns, New River, Topsail, Rich, Mason, Masonboro, Carolina Beach, Cape Fear River, Shallotte, Lockwoods Folly and Tubbs inlets with a March 1 through October 31 closure to pots. Maps have been adjusted to account for the spawning sanctuaries, see Proclamation [M-7-2020](#), for boundary details of the crab spawning sanctuaries.
- G. 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.
- H. Contact 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 our website at <http://ncmarinefisheries.net>.
- I. **This proclamation describes areas open to crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in the Atlantic Ocean and Internal Coastal Waters from west and south of the Highway 58 Bridge to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line. This proclamation will expire at midnight, November 30, 2020, unless superseded by another proclamation.**

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

April 22, 2020
11:44 A.M.