



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

RS-1-2020

PROCLAMATION

RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- MASONBORO SOUND- UNC-WILMINGTON

This proclamation establishes a closure to shellfishing and all fishing gear, with the exception of crab pots, in a Research Sanctuary in six locations in Masonboro Sound.

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Friday, March 13, 2020 through 11:59 P.M., Saturday, October 31, 2020**, in the areas described below, the following restrictions apply:

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

The southeast side of the Intracoastal Waterway across from Marker 138 and east of the Channel Haven in Masonboro Sound. The total area of all sites is approximately 0.5 acres in size and delineated by pilings and signs as shown on the attached map. The location of the pilings for each site are as follows:

Site 1 (0.078 acres)	Piling 1	34° 09.023' N	77° 50.943' W
	Piling 2	34° 09.016' N	77° 50.938' W
	Piling 3	34° 09.010' N	77° 50.950' W
	Piling 4	34° 09.016' N	77° 50.956' W
Site 2 (0.080 acres):	Piling 1	34° 08.997' N	77° 50.897' W
	Piling 2	34° 08.992' N	77° 50.891' W
	Piling 3	34° 08.983' N	77° 50.903' W
	Piling 4	34° 08.988' N	77° 50.909' W
Site 3 (0.080 acres):	Piling 1	34° 08.982' N	77° 51.047' W
	Piling 2	34° 08.977' N	77° 51.041' W
	Piling 3	34° 08.968' N	77° 51.051' W
	Piling 4	34° 08.973' N	77° 51.058' W
Site 4 (0.077 acres):	Piling 1	34° 08.893' N	77° 51.074' W
	Piling 2	34° 08.889' N	77° 51.067' W
	Piling 3	34° 08.879' N	77° 51.076' W
	Piling 4	34° 08.883' N	77° 51.083' W
Site 5 (0.081 acres):	Piling 1	34° 08.908' N	77° 51.216' W
	Piling 2	34° 08.901' N	77° 51.211' W
	Piling 3	34° 08.894' N	77° 51.223' W
	Piling 4	34° 08.900' N	77° 51.228' W


Site 6 (0.080 acres):	Piling 1	34° 08.838' N	77° 51.163' W
	Piling 2	34° 08.833' N	77° 51.156' W
	Piling 3	34° 08.824' N	77° 51.165' W
	Piling 4	34° 08.829' N	77° 51.173' W

II. **RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It is unlawful to use fishing gear with the exception of crab pots in the area described in I.
- B. It is unlawful to take shellfish in the area described in I.

III. **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 03I .0109.
- B. It is unlawful to violate 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. This area will be used by UNC-Wilmington to study the indirect effects of an invasive seaweed on the production of an estuarine shell fishery.
- D. 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 www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109 (a) (2), any closure or restriction in the Research Sanctuary shall be for no more than one year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Fisheries Director.
- G. **This proclamation establishes a closure to shellfishing and to all fishing gear, with the exception of crab pots, in a Research Sanctuary in six locations in Masonboro Sound.**

By: 

 Stephen W. Murphey, Director
 DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

March 10, 2020
3:42 P.M.