



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

MICHAEL S. REGAN  
*Secretary*

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY  
*Director*

**SF-1-2020**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: 2019-2020 OYSTER MECHANICAL HARVEST CLOSURE**

**This proclamation supersedes proclamation SF-8-2019, dated December 6, 2019. It closes the commercial harvest of oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.**

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **sunrise Monday, January 6, 2020**, the following restrictions will apply to the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom:


#### **I. MECHANICAL HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

It is **unlawful to harvest oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom.**

#### **II. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority N.C. General Statutes 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 03K .0201.
- B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority.
- C. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 defines mechanical methods for oyster harvest.
- D. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0207 exempts permitted aquaculture operations from bag and size limit restrictions.
- E. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0209 prohibits the taking of oysters and clams and the use of mechanical methods for oyster or clam harvest in oyster sanctuaries designated in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0117.
- F. 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.
- G. The intent of this proclamation is to close the commercial harvest of oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.
- 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 the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).

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

January 3, 2020  
10:42 A.M.