



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-55-2022

PROCLAMATION

RE: FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL PURPOSES - INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS AND ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS – CLOSES INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-54-2022, dated October 19, 2022. It closes harvest of flounder taken for commercial purposes from Internal Coastal Waters. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2022. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 6:00 P.M. Friday October 28, 2022**, the following restrictions will apply to the taking of flounder for **commercial purposes in Internal Coastal Waters and Atlantic Ocean Waters (Section III. ONLY):**

I. **AREA DESCRIPTION**

All Internal Coastal Waters

II. **HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It is unlawful to possess, sell or offer for sale flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in I., except for the dealers provision in II. C.
- B. It is unlawful to purchase flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in I.
- C. Dealers may sell, offer for sale, transport, or have in possession flounder taken prior to this closure.

III. **ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS**

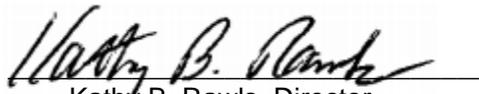
It is unlawful to possess flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the Atlantic Ocean if taken by any other method than trawl and in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-134.1; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113.182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, and 03J .0505, 03M .0503, and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. Amendment 3 implements a total allowable landings (TAL) of 372,646 pounds for the 2022 commercial fishery.

- D. **In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0505 (a)(3) it is unlawful to fail to render a flounder pound net set inoperable during the closed flounder season.**
- E. See additional regulations on flounder from the Atlantic Ocean in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.
- F. For additional restrictions on gill nets please refer to M-type gill net proclamations issued for specific management areas.
- 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 the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- I. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-54-2022, dated October 19, 2022. It closes harvest of flounder taken for commercial purposes from Internal Coastal Waters. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2022. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 3 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.**

By:



Kathy B. Rawls, Director

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

October 26, 2022
2:00 P.M.