



ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-10-2023

PROCLAMATION

RE: STRIPED BASS – RECREATIONAL – ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA – SEASON OPEN

This proclamation opens the harvest of striped bass taken for recreational purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area. The recreational harvest season shall close by proclamation when the spring harvest allocation is reached or by this proclamation at 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, April 30, 2023, whichever occurs first.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Sunday, January 1, 2023**, the harvest of striped bass taken for **RECREATIONAL PURPOSES IN THE ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA WILL OPEN** and 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. **SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS**

- A. **It is unlawful to possess striped bass less than 18 inches or greater than 25 inches in total length.**
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than one (1) striped bass per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes from the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

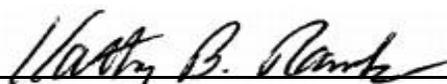
III. **SEASON, MEANS, AND METHODS**

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. **The recreational season for striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area shall close by proclamation when the spring harvest allocation is reached or by this proclamation at 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, April 30, 2023, whichever occurs first.**

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 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 03M .0202.

- 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 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. **Recreational Commercial Gear License gill net restrictions are found in M-proclamations issued for this area.**
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to allow the recreational harvest of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area within the size limits and 12,804-pound annual total allowable landings for the Albemarle Sound Management Area recreational fishery established by Amendment 2 to the North Carolina Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan.
- F. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0201 defines striped bass as striped bass and its hybrids.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. Commercial fishing equipment authorized by the Recreational Commercial Gear License is not considered commercial fishing equipment in the striped bass fishery and it is unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or purchase striped bass taken by this method in accordance with N.C.G.S. 113-173.
- J. 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.
- K. 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 <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- L. **This proclamation opens the harvest of striped bass taken for recreational purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area. The recreational harvest season shall close by proclamation when the spring harvest allocation is reached or by this proclamation at 11:59 P.M. on Sunday, April 30, 2023, whichever occurs first.**

By: 

Kathy B. Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

December 19, 2022
12:45 P.M.