



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-41-2023**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: RULE SUSPENSION - MULLET – RECREATIONAL - COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS INCLUDING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN – CLOSURE**

**This proclamation supersedes FF-35-2023 dated September 21, 2023. This proclamation maintains the closure of the recreational mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Supplement A of Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan. The fishery will re-open on January 1, 2024.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., November 7, 2023**, the following restrictions will apply to the mullet recreational fisheries in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters:

#### **I. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RULES**

**A. The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0502 is suspended:**

Section (a) which reads:

(a) It shall be unlawful to possess more than 200 mullet per person per day for recreational purposes.

**B. The following portion of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0101 is suspended:**

Section (1) which reads:

(1) mullet when used for bait;

#### **II. AREAS**

**A. Northern Region:** All N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean of the state north and east of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/Virginia state line.

**B. Southern Region:** All N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean of the State south and west of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.

#### **III. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

**A.** In the Northern Region as described in Section II.A. it is unlawful to possess mullet in N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters for recreational purposes from 12:01 A.M. November 7, 2023, until 11:59 P.M. December 31, 2023, except with written documentation such as a receipt or bill of lading, showing the mullet were purchased from a dealer that acquired the mullet from sources outside North Carolina.

- B. In the Southern Region as described in Section II.B. it is unlawful to possess mullet in N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters for recreational purposes from 12:01 A.M. November 10, 2023 until 11:59 P.M. December 31, 2023, except with written documentation such as a receipt or bill of lading, showing the mullet were purchased from a dealer that acquired the mullet from sources outside North Carolina.

IV. **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-136; 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 03M .0502.
- B. It is unlawful to violate 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. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the recreational mullet fishery in accordance with Supplement A to Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0120 it shall be unlawful to possess or transport through State coastal fishing waters any species of fish that is subject to State season, size, or harvest restrictions, regardless whether the species was taken in State or federal waters, unless all fish taken are in compliance with the restrictions for the waterbody or area being fished. If State season, size, or harvest restrictions differ from comparable restrictions pursuant to a fishery management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, or if there are no corresponding federal regulations, the State restrictions shall apply during such periods of possession or transportation.
- E. In accordance with N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Inland Fishing Regulations 15A NCAC 10C .0422, maintains a daily creel limit for striped and white mullet in aggregate of 200 fish and no closed season in Inland Waters.
- F. It is unlawful to use mullet from N.C. Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters as cut bait during the closed season.
- 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 the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 or 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- I. **This proclamation supersedes FF-35-2023 dated September 21, 2023. This proclamation maintains the closure of the recreational mullet fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Supplement A of Amendment 1 to the N.C. Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan. The fishery will re-open on January 1, 2024.**

By:   
Kathy B. Rawls, Director

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

October 4, 2023  
10:45 A.M.