



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**SF-2-2024**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: 2023-2024 OYSTER SEASON CLOSURE - BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

**This proclamation closes Brunswick County in Internal Coastal Waters to the harvest of oysters off public bottom in accordance with management measures adopted in Amendment 4 of the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan. This closure is two weeks prior to closure of the remainder of the state.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that **oyster harvest WILL CLOSE** in Internal Coastal Waters as indicated in the in the following areas:

I. **BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

It shall be unlawful to take oysters from public bottom in Brunswick County at sunset, Friday, March 15, 2024.

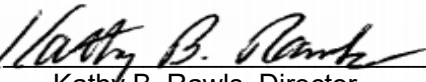
II. **TRANSPORTATION EXEMPTION**

Commercial fishing operations shall be exempt from the transportation requirement set out in 15A NCAC 03I .0120 when transporting oysters in waterbodies that are closed to harvest. Commercial fishing operations are not exempt when in possession of oysters and harvesting oysters in a closed area.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority N.C. General Statutes 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 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 their delegated authority.
- 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. Harvest and area restrictions for commercial and recreational harvest as well as transportation restrictions for commercial harvest of oysters by hand off public bottom remain in effect through proclamation [SF-6-2023](#).
- E. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0201 the oyster season for all other counties except for Brunswick County will close at sunset on March 31, 2024 unless closed earlier by proclamation.
- F. Oysters marketed from private beds during closed oyster season must be accompanied by a certification form as required by N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0205.
- G. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the commercial and recreational oyster fishery off public bottom in Brunswick County 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; 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- I. **This proclamation closes Brunswick County in Internal Coastal Waters to the harvest of oysters off public bottom in accordance with management measures adopted in Amendment 4 of the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan. This closure is two weeks prior to closure of the remainder of the state.**

By:   
Kathy B. Rawls, Director  
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

March 7, 2024  
10:20 A.M.