



ROY COOPER  
*Governor*

ELIZABETH S. BISER  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**SF-1-2024**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: 2023-2024 OYSTER MECHANICAL HARVEST CLOSURE**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-10-2023 dated December 12, 2023, and closes the commercial harvest of oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **2:00 P.M, Friday, January 12, 2024**, the following restrictions shall apply to the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom:

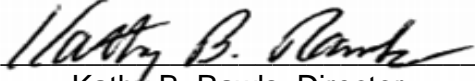
I. **MECHANICAL HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:**

**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 113-134; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-184; 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. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0111 requires a permit for the use of mechanical gear on private bottoms. Permits are available, at no cost, from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
- D. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 defines mechanical methods for oyster harvest.
- E. 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.
- F. The intent of this proclamation is to close Mechanical Oyster Harvest Management Areas which have met the criteria to be closed to the commercial harvest of oyster by mechanical methods from public bottom in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.
- G. 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).
- H. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-10-2023 dated December 12, 2023, and closes the commercial harvest of oysters by mechanical methods**

**from public bottom in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.**

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

January 5, 2024  
1:05 P.M.