



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

RS-3-2025

RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- BACK SOUND – EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

This proclamation establishes a closure to all fishing gear and the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary from 12:01 A.M. February 3, 2025 through 11:59 P.M. October 31, 2025, located in the Straits.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M, February 3, 2025**, in the area described below, **the following restrictions apply:**

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

CARTERET COUNTY

The area is located in the Straits near the mainland side of the Harkers Island bridge. The total area is 1.111 acres in size and is delineated by poles and signs as shown on the attached map. The location of the sites and their poles are as follows:

Corner 1	34° 43.4495' N	76° 34.8327' W
Corner 2	34° 43.4308' N	76° 34.7643' W
Corner 3	34° 43.4089' N	76° 34.7688' W
Corner 4	34° 43.4217' N	76° 34.8284' W

II. RESTRICTIONS

- A. During the period beginning at 12:01 A.M. February 3, 2025, and ending at 11:59 P.M. October 31, 2025, it shall be unlawful to use fishing gear in the area described in Section I.
- B. During the period beginning at 12:01 A.M. February 3, 2025, and ending at 11:59 P.M. October 31, 2025, it shall be unlawful to take shellfish in the area described in Section I.

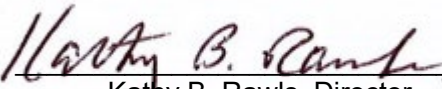
III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52; and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03I .0109.
- 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. This area will be used by East Carolina University and University of North Carolina Institute of Marine Sciences to conduct research on interactions between shellfish and submerged aquatic vegetation.
- D. 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 our website at

www.ncmarinefisheries.net.

- 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109, any closure or restriction in the Research Sanctuary shall be for no more than one year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Fisheries Director.
- G. **This proclamation establishes a closure to all fishing gear and the taking of shellfish in a Research Sanctuary from 12:01 A.M. February 3, 2025 through 11:59 P.M. October 31, 2025, located in the Straits.**

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

Jan. 29, 2025
3:00 P.M.