



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-15-2025**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: SPOTTED SEATROUT – COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS INCLUDING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN - COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERY CLOSURE – COLD STUN EVENTS**

**This proclamation supersedes proclamations FF-11-2025, dated January 22, 2025. This proclamation extends the closure of the commercial and recreational spotted seatrout fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters due to cold stun events, in accordance with Amendment 1 to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan. The spotted seatrout fishery will open July 1, 2025 by proclamation. The proclamation opening the fishery will also specify size and bag limits and other restrictions consistent with Amendment 1.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **12:01 A.M., April 10, 2025**, following restrictions will apply to spotted seatrout in **Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters including the Atlantic Ocean**:

#### **I. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

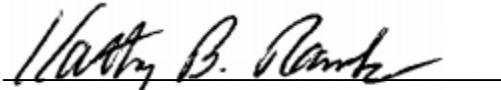
It shall be **unlawful to possess, transport, buy, sell or offer for sale** spotted seatrout taken from Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters of North Carolina except dealers may possess frozen spotted seatrout landed from Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters that were in their possession prior to the January 22, 2025, cold stun closure.

#### **II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G. S. 113-134; 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, 03M .0512 and 03M .0522.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under her delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. This action was taken to control fishing effort following a severe cold stun event under the approved management strategy in Amendment 1 to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.
- D. It is the intent of the Fisheries Director to open the spotted seatrout season for commercial and recreational fishing by proclamation later in 2025 after surviving fish have had the opportunity to spawn in accordance with Amendment 1 to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.
- 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. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net).
- G. **This proclamation extends the closure of the commercial and recreational spotted seatrout fishery due to cold stun events, in accordance with Amendment 1 to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan. The spotted seatrout fishery will open July 1, 2025 by proclamation. The proclamation opening the fishery will also specify size and bag limits and other restrictions consistent with Amendment 1.**

By:



Kathy B. Rawls, Director

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

April 8, 2025  
11:30 A.M.