



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-23-2026**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: BLUEFISH – COMMERCIAL – COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-2-2026, dated December 12, 2025. This proclamation establishes an 800-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the North Carolina commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., April 13, 2026**, the following restrictions shall apply to the **commercial bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters**:

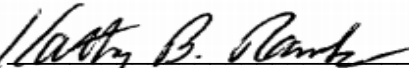
#### **I. HARVEST PERIOD**

- A. It shall be unlawful for an individual or commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of persons, license holders, or vessels involved, to possess, sell, or offer for sale more than **800 pounds of bluefish per day or per trip, whichever is more restrictive.**
- B. The fishery will close by proclamation once the annual North Carolina quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first.

#### **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 and .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the 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. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 (5)(f) fish shall be considered landed when the fish reach the shore or structure connected to the shore.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0113 it shall be unlawful for any licensee under Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the General Statutes to refuse to allow the Fisheries Director or their agents to obtain biological data, harvest information, or other statistical data necessary or useful to the conservation and management of marine and estuarine resources from fish in the licensee's possession.
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to establish harvest limits for the taking of commercial bluefish in coastal and joint fishing waters and to assure that the quota allocated to North Carolina in the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan is not exceeded.
- F. Contact the 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 <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>

- 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. **This proclamation establishes an 800-pound possession limit for the commercial bluefish fishery. The fishery will close by proclamation once the annual North Carolina quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first.**

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

April 10, 2026  
10:15 A.M.