



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-2-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: BLUEFISH – COMMERCIAL – COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-21-2025, dated June 9, 2025. This proclamation opens the 2026 commercial bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters with no daily possession limit. The fishery will close by proclamation once the 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., January 1, 2026**, the following restrictions will apply to the **commercial bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters**:

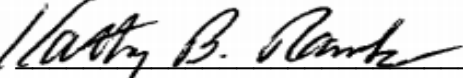
I. HARVEST PERIOD

The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial 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 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. The intent of this proclamation is to open the commercial bluefish season and manage the quota allocated to North Carolina in the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan.
- D. 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.

- E. 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 <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- F. **This proclamation opens the 2026 commercial bluefish fishery with no daily possession limit. The fishery will close by proclamation once the commercial quota is projected to be reached or December 31, 2026, whichever occurs first.**

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

December 12, 2025
3:00 P.M.