



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-1-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: BLUEFISH – RECREATIONAL – COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-31-2022, dated April 28, 2022. This proclamation increases the private and For-Hire harvest limits for the recreational bluefish fishery.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Thursday, January 1, 2026**, the following restrictions will apply to the recreational bluefish fishery in Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters:

I. **PRIVATE HARVEST LIMIT (All persons not engaged on a For-Hire vessel)**

It shall be unlawful to possess more than **five (5) bluefish per person per day** taken for recreational purposes.

II. **FOR-HIRE HARVEST LIMIT (While engaged on a For-Hire vessel as defined by G.S. 113-174)**

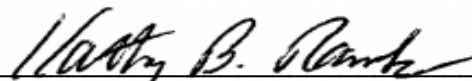
It shall be unlawful to possess more than **seven (7) bluefish per person per day** taken in a for hire operation.

III. **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 allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Bluefish Fishery Management Plan
- D. It shall be unlawful under N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03O .0112 to operate a For-Hire vessel unless the vessel operator possesses the For-Hire Blanket Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) for the vessel.
- 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 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit

the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.

- G. **This proclamation increases the recreational private and For-Hire harvest limits for bluefish.**

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

December 10, 2025
10:30 A.M.