



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**PT-2-2026**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: POTS OPEN – PROVISIONAL POT AREAS IN INTERNAL COASTAL FISHING WATERS OF PAMLICO SOUND AND PAMLICO, BAY, AND NEUSE RIVERS**

**This proclamation describes areas open to crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in the provisional pot areas in Internal Coastal Fishing Waters of Pamlico Sound and Pamlico, Bay, and Neuse rivers not being utilized by long haul operations in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N. C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan. This proclamation will expire at 11:59 PM, November 30, 2026, unless superseded by another proclamation.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Monday, June 1, 2026, until 11:59 P.M., Monday, November 30, 2026**, the following restrictions shall apply to crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in the Atlantic Ocean and Internal Coastal Fishing Waters:

**IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL TO USE POTS IN AREAS DESCRIBED IN N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107(b), EXCEPT IN AREAS DESCRIBED BELOW: (See attached [maps](#)):**

- I. **ATLANTIC OCEAN** – Statewide
- II. **HYDE COUNTY BAYS:**
  - A. Wysocking Bay, Lone Tree Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R.0107 (b)(1)(A). (Map 1)\
  - B. Wysocking Bay, Mt. Pleasant Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(1)(B). (Map 1)
  - C. Juniper Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(2). (Map 2)
  - D. Swanquarter Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(3). (Map 2)
  - E. Deep Cove as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(4). (Map 3)
  - F. Rose Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(5). (Map 3)
  - G. Spencer Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(6). (Map 3)
- III. **PAMLICO RIVER:**
  - A. Lee Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(7)(A). (Map 5)

- B. Huddy Gut as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(7)(B). (Map 5)
- C. Indian Island as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(7)(C). (Maps 4 and 5)
- D. Old Field Point, Goose Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(7)(D). (Map 4)

IV. **PAMLICO COUNTY BAYS:**

- A. Big Porpoise Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(8). (Map 6)
- B. Middle Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(9). (Map 6)
- C. Jones Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(10). (Maps 6 and 7)
- D. Bay Point as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(11). (Map 7)

V. **BAY RIVER:**

- A. Rockhole Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(12)(A). (Map 7)
- B. Hogpen Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(12)(B). (Map 7)
- C. Fisherman Bay as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(12)(C). (Map 7)

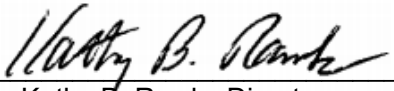
VI. **NEUSE RIVER:**

- A. Swan Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(13)(A). (Map 7)
- B. Gum Thicket Shoal as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(13)(C). (Map 8)
- C. Orchard Creek as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(13)(D). (Map 8)
- D. Pine Cliff Recreation Area as described in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107 (b)(13)(F). (Map 9)

VII. **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; 113-182.1; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03J .0301.
- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to allow pots to be used in provisional pot areas currently not being utilized extensively by long haul operations due to the variable seasonal distribution of finfish, fisheries targeting finfish, and recreational uses in accordance with Amendment 3 to the Blue Crab FMP.
- D. **Horizontal hatched** areas on attached [maps](#) indicate those areas designated for pot use by N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301 (a)(2)(A); **Angled hatched** areas indicate areas opened to pots by this proclamation as authorized by N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC

- 03J .0301 (a)(2)(B). **Non-hatched areas** on [maps](#) are **CLOSED** to the use of pots. Designated pot area boundary coordinates are found in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0107.
- E. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301 (b)(1), it shall be unlawful to use pots in any navigation channel marked by State or Federal agencies.
  - F. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03O .0302(a)(3) the only commercial fishing gear authorized (including restrictions) for use under a valid Recreational Commercial Gear License with or without a vessel, five eel, fish, shrimp, or crab pots in any combination, except only two pots of the five may be eel pots. Peeler pots are not authorized for recreational purposes.
  - 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. 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 the division [website](#).
  - I. **This proclamation describes areas open to crab, eel, fish, and shrimp pots in the provisional pot areas in the Atlantic Ocean and Internal Coastal Fishing Waters of Pamlico Sound and Pamlico, Bay, and Neuse rivers not being utilized by long haul operations in accordance with Amendment 3 to the N. C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan. This proclamation will expire at 11:59 PM, November 30, 2025, unless superseded by another proclamation.**

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

May 19, 2026  
3:15 P.M.