JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

JONATHAN HOWELL
Director

FF-50-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: SPOT – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – CLOSURE

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-50-2025, dated December 2, 2025. This proclamation closes the commercial spot fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters effective 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., April 29, 2026.

Johnathan Howell, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027**, the following restrictions will apply to the spot commercial fishery:

I. **HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:**
- A. It shall be unlawful to take spot in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027 until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., April 29, 2027.
- B. It shall be unlawful for dealers to purchase spot from commercial fishing operations after 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027 until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., April 29, 2027.

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 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 North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Addendum III to the Omnibus Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plans for Spanish Mackerel, Spot, and Spotted Seatrout. Refer to Addendum III for more information:
- 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 or 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- F. **This proclamation closes the commercial spot fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters starting 12:01 A.M., on January 1, 2027. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., on April 29, 2027.**

By: Jonathan Howell
Jonathan Howell, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

October 30, 2026
1:00 P.M.