



ROY COOPER

Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER

Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS

Director

PROCLAMATION

RE: SHELLFISH POLLUTED AREA

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, upon the recommendation of Betsey Tilson, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Director, Department of Health and Human Services, hereby announces that the following changes in shellfish harvesting areas will take effect at sunrise, Friday, December 22, 2023.

All those waters in New Hanover, Pender, Onslow, and Carteret Counties will return to the status in existence immediately prior to the December 11 and December 18, 2023 temporary closures, **except the following which remain closed:**

NEW HANOVER / PENDER / ONSLOW / CARTERET COUNTIES

All those waters from the Intracoastal Waterway to the mainland between the Surf City Bridge and IWW Marker "105" (34° 19.4274' N - 77° 42.9507' W) near Green Channel, to include the Intracoastal Waterway, a portion of Topsail Sound, Old Topsail Creek, Virginia Creek, and Beckys Creek.

All those waters bordered on the north by a line beginning at a point 34° 33.0934' N - 77° 21.6926' W on the mainland near Hatch Point, running easterly near Marker "76" to New River Inlet Channel Beacon "12", thence running southerly following the dredged channel to the eastern tip of North Topsail Beach at New River Inlet; and bordered on the south by the Surf City Bridge, to include the Intracoastal Waterway, Stump Sound, Alligator Bay, and Chadwick Bay.

All those waters from the Intracoastal Waterway to the mainland, between the Emerald Isle High Rise Bridge and IWW Beacon "63", located near Browns Inlet, to include the Intracoastal Waterway, Bear Creek, Queens Creek, and White Oak River.

Newport River – All those waters in Newport River upstream of the Highway 70 High Rise Bridge and the Morehead-Beaufort Causeway, to include all tributaries and Core Creek.

North River - All those waters in North River upstream of a straight line beginning at a point 34° 42.1302' N - 76° 36.0815' W at the permanent closure line near Beacon "5"; running northeasterly to a point 34° 43.2724' N - 76° 34.5238' W on the mainland at the Harker's Island Bridge at The Straits.

Jarrett Bay – All those waters in Jarrett Bay upstream of a line beginning at a point 34° 47.1861' N - 76° 29.8331' W on the west shore near the mouth of Williston Creek; running easterly across the bay to a point 34° 47.1144' N - 76° 29.4531' W on the eastern shore near Great Creek.

Oyster Creek - All those waters in Oyster Creek upstream of a straight line across the mouth, beginning at a point 34° 48.8185' N - 76° 26.9761' W on the west shore; running northeasterly to a point 34° 48.9768' N - 76° 26.6340' W on the east shore.

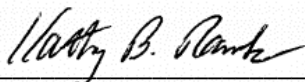
The following also remains closed:

BRUNSWICK COUNTY

All those waters between IWW Beacon "1" near Southport and the South Carolina State Line, to include Tubbs Inlet, Shallotte River, the Shallotte Inlet Area, Lockwoods Folly River, and the Lockwoods Folly Inlet Area.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03K .0101.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the N.C. Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. 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.
- D. This proclamation returns the following areas to normal closure boundaries: Middle Sound, Pages Creek, a portion of Topsail Sound, Salliers Bay, Freeman Creek, a portion of Bogue Sound, Whitehurst Creek, Sleepy Creek, a portion of Jarrett Bay, Brett Bay, and Nelson Bay.
- E. These openings are due to satisfactory bacteriological sampling results.

BY: 
Kathy B. Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES, DEQ

December 21, 2023
1:05 P.M.
PA-108-2023