



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, Saturday, December 23, 2023.

All those waters in Carteret County 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:**

**CARTERET COUNTY**

**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** upstream of a straight line beginning at a point 34° 44.4581' N - 76° 37.3826' W on the shore south of Cow Pen Creek; running easterly near the old Fl. "Danger" Beacon to a point 34° 44.4929' N - 76° 35.3320' W on the northwest shore of Goose Bay, to include all of Ward Creek.

**The following also remains closed:****BRUNSWICK / PENDER / ONSLOW COUNTIES**

**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.

**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.

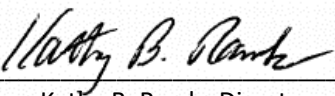
**All those waters** bordered on the north by a line beginning at a point 34° 33.0934' N - 77° 21.6926' W on the mainland near Hatch Point, running easterly near Marker "76" to New River Inlet Channel Beacon "12", thence running southerly following the dredged channel to the eastern tip of North Topsail 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.

**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: A portion of North River, Jarrett Bay, and Oyster Creek.
- E. These openings are due to satisfactory bacteriological sampling results.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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

December 22, 2023  
12:30 P.M.  
PA-109-2023