

**Fiscal Analysis for Proposed Readoption and Amendments to 15A NCAC 03 Rules Related
to Commercial Blue Crab Harvest and Gear Regulations
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A**

Rule Amendments: 15A NCAC 03J .0301
15A NCAC 03L .0201-.0205
15A NCAC 03R .0110, .0118

Name of Commission: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Agency Contact: David Dietz, Fisheries Economics Program Manager
N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries
3441 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557
919-707-8573
David.Dietz@ncdenr.gov

Impact Summary: State government: Yes
Local government: Yes
Federal government: No
Substantial impact: No

Authority:

North Carolina General Statutes
G.S. 113-134. Rules.
G.S. 113-173. Recreational Commercial Gear License.
G.S. 113-182. Regulation of fishing and fisheries.
G.S. 113-221.1. Proclamations: emergency review.
G.S. 143B-289.52. Marine Fisheries Commission - powers and duties.

I. Necessity:

General Statute 150B-21.3A requires state agencies to review their existing rules every 10 years to determine which rules are still necessary, and to either readopt or repeal each rule as appropriate. The agency proposes for readoption six rules in 15A NCAC 03 related to blue crab harvest and gear pursuant to this requirement and two rules for amendment. In addition, the rules for readoption are also proposed with substantive changes that aim to conform rules with existing blue crab management measures approved through Amendment 3 of the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Marine Fisheries Director proclamation authority.

II. Summary

These rules contain a variety of technical changes with no meaningful impact to rule intent, as well as a number of substantive changes aimed at conforming rule language with new blue crab and gear management measures approved through Amendment 3 to the Blue Crab FMP. However, all of these new measures are already in effect via proclamation following the approval of the FMP in February 2020. Therefore, the proposed changes simply codify these requirements and would incur no additional fiscal impact. Lastly, a proposed change to marking requirements for pots would likely incur a small financial cost to select fishermen, potentially leading to insignificant state and local-level impacts.

III. Introduction and Purpose of Rule Changes

Upon adoption of Amendment 3 to the North Carolina Blue Crab FMP by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (NCMFC) in February 2020, a variety of updated management measures for the blue crab fishery were approved and set into effect via Marine Fisheries Director proclamation authority. Reviewed and approved by the NCMFC, these management updates included changes to blue crab harvest limits, crab spawning sanctuaries, cull ring requirements, and other gears used by commercial crab fishermen. Following the approval of the Blue Crab FMP in February 2020, these measures were all initially implemented using proclamation authority. The proposed changes seek to formally codify these new requirements in permanent rule consistent with the FMP and proclamations.

IV. Fiscal Impact Analysis

The intent of the proposed rule changes is to conform rule language with ongoing management practice that is reflective of the recently adopted Amendment 3 to the Blue Crab FMP. Because of this, there is no practicable economic impact to the state or any stakeholders across nearly all of the proposed changes, as all of the measures are already in practice by the Division. Additionally, none of the proposed rules are expected to incur any impact to enforcement.

However, proposed changes to rule 15A NCAC 03J .0301 POTS includes a new economic burden on commercial pot fishermen, which could result in small economic impacts at a state and local level. This proposed change relates to updated marking requirements for pot buoys, which may incur direct costs to some participants, depending on their existing forms of identification.

Currently, 15A NCAC 03J .0301 requires one of three possible forms of identification on each buoy. This is one of nine NCMFC rules that contain similar requirements for gear marking. As part of the readoption process, the agency is proposing changes to make these requirements consistent across rules. As a result, proposed changes to this rule require the gear owner's last name and initials to be identified on each buoy as a baseline. Then, if a vessel is used, the identification shall also include either the gear owner's current motorboat registration number or the gear owner's U.S. vessel documentation name. According to NCDMF Marine Patrol staff, many (at least half) of commercial fishermen using these gears already meet this requirement so it will have no significant impact to these stakeholders.

Commercial fishermen needing to add additional identification information will be faced with additional monetary costs and/or labor costs. Identification tags commonly used are \$.55 per tag, which includes all of the required information. If a fisherman has never purchased these tags, there is generally a \$50.00 set up fee for their specific stamp to be made, and it is held for 10 years. An unknown quantity of fishermen have their own devices made to aid in the engraving process. Aside from a fisherman fabricating their own tool, a commercial tool can be purchased at a cost between \$300.00 to \$400.00. Commercial pot operations vary in the amounts of gear they maintain on average, but operations typically maintain 300 to 1500 pots. The proposed changes are not expected to alter the behavior of fishermen. Fishermen are likely to make the required adjustments to their gear over the winter while their gear is stacked and they are preparing for the next season. According to a recent NCDMF gear survey, in 2021 there were 432,743 crab and peeler pots in use across 995 participants (D. Zapf, Personal Communication, June 18, 2021). Using an upper-bound estimate of 50% of pots and participants affected, in which each affected participant needs to purchase a stamp set-up fee and commercial tool, this could generate a maximum total cost to the stakeholders of approximately \$318,205.

Given these added costs to a select number of stakeholders, there is the likelihood for fiscal impacts felt at both the state and local level. Firstly, the added costs to fishermen represent predominately direct expenditures within the state, which should correspond to an insignificant benefit to state and local economies in the form of consumer spending and increased tax revenue. Conversely, if any fishermen find these added costs overly burdensome, there is the unlikely chance overall participation in North Carolina's pot fishery could decrease, leading to insignificant costs again at the state and local level. Again, behavior is not expected to shift based on these proposed changes, and the combined impact of the expected costs and benefits should not be significant.

V. Appendix

Proposed Rules for Reoption

15A NCAC 03J .0301 is proposed for reoption with substantive changes as follows:

SECTION .0300 - POTS, DREDGES, AND OTHER FISHING DEVICES

15A NCAC 03J .0301 POTS

(a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use pots except during time periods and in areas specified herein:

- (1) ~~In Coastal Fishing in Internal Waters~~ from December 1 through May 31, except ~~that that~~:
 - (A) in the Northern Region designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118 (1) all pots shall be removed from Internal Waters from January ~~15-1~~ through ~~February 7- January 31~~. Fish pots upstream of the U.S. 17 Bridge across Chowan River and upstream of a line across the mouth of Roanoke, Cashie, Middle, and Eastmost Rivers to the Highway 258 Bridge are exempt from the ~~January 15 through February 7~~ this removal requirement. ~~The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, reopen various waters to the use of pots after January 19 if it is determined that such waters are free of pots.~~
 - (B) in the Southern Region designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118 (2) all pots shall be removed from Internal Waters from March 1 through March 15.
- (2) ~~From in Internal Waters from~~ June 1 through November 30, ~~north and east of the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle:~~ 30 in the Northern Region designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118 (1):
 - (A) ~~In in~~ areas described in 15A NCAC 03R ~~.0107(a);~~ .0107(a).
 - (B) ~~To to~~ allow for the variable spatial distribution of crustacea and finfish, the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, specify time periods for ~~or and~~ and designate the areas described in 15A NCAC 03R ~~.0107(b);~~ .0107(b) or any part thereof, for the use of pots.
- (3) ~~From in Internal Waters from~~ May 1 through November 30 in the ~~Atlantic Ocean and west and south of the Highway 58 Bridge at Emerald Isle in areas and during time periods designated by the Fisheries Director by proclamation.~~ Southern Region designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118 (2), the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, specify time periods and areas for the use of pots.
- (4) in the Atlantic Ocean from May 1 through November 30 the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, specify time periods and areas for the use of pots.

~~The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in 15A NCAC 03L .0201, further restrict the use of pots to take blue crabs.~~

(b) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use pots:

- (1) in any navigation channel marked by State or Federal agencies; or
- (2) in any turning basin maintained and marked by the North Carolina Ferry Division.

(c) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use pots in a commercial fishing ~~operation, operation~~ unless each pot is marked by attaching a floating buoy of any color except any shade of yellow or any shade of hot pink, or any combination of colors that include any shade of yellow or any shade of hot pink. ~~that~~ Buoys shall be of solid foam or other solid buoyant material ~~and~~ no less than five inches in diameter and no less than five inches in length. ~~Buoys may be of any color except yellow or hot pink or any combination of colors that include yellow or hot pink.~~ The ~~owner-gear owner's~~ last name and initials shall ~~always~~ be identified on the attached buoy by using an engraved buoys-buoy or by attaching engraved metal or plastic tags attached to the buoy. ~~The~~ If a vessel is used, the identification shall also include one of the following:

- (1) gear owner's current ~~motorboat~~ motor boat registration number; or
- (2) gear owner's U.S. vessel documentation ~~name; or name.~~
- (3) ~~gear owner's last name and initials.~~

(d) Pots attached to shore or a pier shall be exempt from Subparagraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this Rule.

(e) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use shrimp pots with mesh lengths smaller than one and one-fourth inches stretch or five-eighths-inch bar.

(f) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use pots to take eels with mesh lengths smaller than one-half inch by one-half inch, ~~except until January 1, 2017 eel pots of any mesh length with an escape panel that is at least four inches square with a mesh length of one inch by one half inch located in the outside panel of the upper chamber of rectangular pots and in the rear portion of cylindrical pots shall be allowed.~~ inch.

(g) ~~It is~~ Except for unbaited pots or pots baited with a male crab, it shall be unlawful to use crab pots in Coastal Fishing Waters unless each pot contains no less than ~~two-three~~ unobstructed escape rings that are at least two and ~~five-sixteenths~~ five-sixteenth inches inside diameter ~~and; and~~ located in the opposite outside panels of the upper chamber of the pot, except the following are exempt from the escape ring requirements:

- (1) ~~unbaited pots;~~
- (2) ~~pots baited with a male crab; and~~
- (3) ~~pots set in areas and during time periods described in 15A NCAC 03R .0118.~~
- (1) for pots with a divider:
 - (A) two escape rings shall be located on opposite panels of the upper chamber of the pot; and
 - (B) at least one escape ring shall be located within one full mesh of the corner and one full mesh of the bottom of the divider in the upper chamber of the pot.
- (2) for pots without a divider:
 - (A) two escape rings shall be located on opposite panels of the pot; and
 - (B) at least one escape ring shall be located within one full mesh of the corner and one full mesh of the bottom of the pot.

For the purpose of this Rule, a "divider" shall mean a panel that separates the crab pot into upper and lower sections.

(h) The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, ~~exempt the escape ring requirements described in Paragraph (g) of this Rule in order to allow the harvest of mature female crabs and may impose any or all of the following restrictions:~~ restrictions for pots:

- (1) specify time;
- (2) specify area;
- (3) specify means and methods;
- (4) specify requirements for a commercial fishing operation or for recreational purposes;
- (5) specify record keeping and reporting requirements;
- ~~(4)~~(6) specify seasons; and season, including a closed season for removal of all pots from Internal Waters;
- (7) specify species; and
- ~~(5)~~(8) specify quantity.

(i) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use more than 150 crab pots per vessel in Newport River.

(j) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to remove crab pots from the water or remove crabs from crab pots between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

(k) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use pots to take crabs unless the line connecting the pot to the buoy is non-floating.

(l) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use pots with leads or leaders to take shrimp. For the purpose of this Rule, "leads" or "leaders" ~~are defined as~~ shall mean any fixed or stationary net or device used to direct fish into any gear used to capture fish. Any device with leads or leaders used to capture fish shall not be a pot.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-173; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;

Eff. January 1, 1991;

Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; May 1, 1997; March 1, 1996; March 1, 1994; October 1, 1992; September 1, 1991;

Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;

Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;

Temporary Amendment Eff. September 1, 2000;

Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; April 1, 2014; September 1, 2005; August 1, 2004; August 1, 2002;

Amended Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).

15A NCAC 03L .0201 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

SECTION .0200 – CRABS

15A NCAC 03L .0201 CRAB HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

(a) It shall be unlawful to possess blue crabs taken from Crab Harvest Management Areas designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118(1) from January 1 through January 31, except dealers shall have seven days after the beginning of the closure to sell, offer for sale, or transport blue crabs that were taken from this area prior to the closure.

(b) It shall be unlawful to possess blue crabs taken from Crab Harvest Management Areas designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0118(2) from March 1 through March 15, except dealers shall have seven days after the beginning of the closure to sell, offer for sale, or transport blue crabs that were taken from this area prior to the closure.

~~(a) It is unlawful to possess more than 10 percent by number in any container, male and immature female hard blue crabs less than five inches from tip of spike to tip of spike and to fail to return hard blue crabs not meeting this restriction to the waters from which taken, except the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, further restrict the harvest of blue crabs. All blue crabs not sorted into containers as specified in Paragraph (b) of this Rule shall be deemed hard blue crabs for the purpose of establishing the 10 percent culling tolerance.~~

~~(b) It is unlawful to possess blue crabs less than five inches from tip of spike to tip of spike unless individual crabs are sorted to and placed in separate containers for each of the following categories:~~

- ~~(1) — soft crabs;~~
- ~~(2) — pink and red line peeler crabs;~~
- ~~(3) — white line peeler crabs; and~~
- ~~(4) — from March 1 through October 31, male crabs to be used as peeler crab bait.~~

~~The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, further restrict the harvest of blue crabs.~~

(c) It shall be unlawful to possess more than five percent by number of the following hard blue crabs in any combination in any container:

- (1) male hard blue crabs less than five inches from tip of spike to tip of spike;
- (2) immature female hard blue crabs;
- (3) mature female hard blue crabs less than five inches from tip of spike to tip of spike; and
- (4) mature female hard blue crabs with a dark (brown or black) sponge from April 1 through April 30 statewide. For the purpose of this Rule, a "mature female hard blue crab with a dark sponge" shall mean a mature female hard crab that has extruded her eggs on the abdomen or abdominal flap and the eggs have developed a coloration ranging from any shade of brown through black.

(d) It shall be unlawful to possess blue crabs described in Subparagraphs (c)(1) through (c)(3) of this Rule unless individual crabs are sorted and placed into separate containers for each of the following categories:

- (1) soft crabs;

- (2) pink and red-line peeler crabs;
- (3) white line peeler crabs; and
- (4) from March 1 through October 31, male crabs to be used as peeler crab bait.

All blue crabs not sorted into containers as specified shall be deemed hard blue crabs for the purpose of establishing the five percent tolerance described in Paragraph (c) of this Rule.

~~(e)~~(e) It is shall be unlawful to possess more than five percent by number of white-line peelers-peeler crabs in a container of pink and red-line peeler crabs, peelers, except the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, further restrict the harvest of blue crabs.

~~(d)~~(f) It is shall be unlawful to:

- (1) sell white-line peelers; peeler crabs;
- (2) possess white-line peelers-peeler crabs unless they are to be used in the harvester's permitted blue crab shedding operation; and or
- (3) possess male white-line peelers-peeler crabs from June 1 through September 1.

~~The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, further restrict the harvest of blue crabs.~~

~~(g)~~(g) It is shall be unlawful to possess more than 50 blue crabs per person per day, not to exceed 100 blue crabs per vessel per day for recreational purposes, purposes, except the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in Paragraph (f) of this Rule, further restrict the harvest of blue crabs.

~~(h)~~(h) In order to comply with management measures adopted in the N.C. Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, close the harvest of blue crabs and take the following actions for may further restrict commercial and recreational blue crab harvest: harvest by imposing any of the following requirements on the taking of blue crabs:

- (1) specify areas;
- (2) specify seasons;
- (3) specify time periods;
- (4) specify means and methods;
- (5) specify culling tolerance; and
- (6) specify limits on harvest based on size, quantity, sex, reproductive stage, or peeler stage.

(i) It shall be unlawful to fail to immediately return hard blue crabs not meeting the requirements of this Rule to the waters from which they were taken.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
 Eff. January 1, 1991;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; July 1, 1993;
 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; September 1, 2005; August 1, 2000;
 Readopted Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).*

15A NCAC 03L .0202 is proposed for re adoption with substantive changes as follows:

15A NCAC 03L .0202 CRAB TRAWLING

(a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take or possess aboard a vessel crabs taken by trawl in internal waters except in areas and during such times as the Fisheries Director may specify by proclamation.

(b) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use a trawl to take crabs that does not meet mesh length requirements, except as provided in 15A NCAC 03J .0104. The minimum mesh length to take hard crabs with a trawl ~~is~~ shall be three inches, except:

- (1) ~~The~~ the minimum mesh length ~~is~~ shall be four inches in the area of western Pamlico Sound west of a line beginning at a point 35° 48.3693' N - 75° 43.7232' W on Roanoke Marshes Point; running easterly to a point 35° 48.3000' N - 75° 37.1167' W near Beacon "1" at the southern end of Roanoke Island; running southerly to a point 35° 30.7500' N - 75° 40.5667' W near the "S" Beacon at Long Shoal; running southwesterly to a point 35° 12.6167' N - 76° 04.3833' W near the "BL" Beacon on Bluff Shoal; running westerly to a point 35° 08.1000' N - 76° 17.5000' W near the "BI" Beacon at Brant Island Shoal; running southwesterly to a point 35° 04 .6167' N - 76° 27.8000' W on Point of Marsh; and
- (2) ~~The~~ the Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, specify areas other than the area described in Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule for trawl mesh length use and increase the minimum trawl mesh length to no more than four inches to take hard crabs.

(c) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use a trawl with a mesh length less than two inches or with a combined total headrope length exceeding 25 feet to take soft or peeler crabs, except as provided in 15A NCAC 03J .0104.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;

Eff. February 1, 1991;

Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; September 1, 2005; August 1, 2004; March 1, 1994; September 1, 1991;

Readopted Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).

15A NCAC 03L .0203 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

15A NCAC 03L .0203 CRAB DREDGING

~~(a) It is shall be~~ unlawful to take crabs with dredges ~~except:except~~

(1) ~~from January 1 through March 1 in the area of Pamlico Sound described in 15A NCAC 03R .0109;~~
and

(2) ~~incidental to lawful oyster dredging operations in areas not subject to the exception in Subparagraph~~
~~(a)(1) of this Rule~~ provided the weight of the crabs shall not ~~exceed:exceed~~ the lesser of:

~~(A)(1) 50-10~~ percent of the total weight of the combined oyster and crab catch; or

~~(B)(2) 500 pounds, whichever is less, 100 pounds.~~

The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in 15A NCAC 03L .0201, further restrict the use of dredges to take blue crabs.

~~(b) It is unlawful to take crabs with dredges between sunset and sunrise and between sunset on any Saturday and sunrise on the following Monday, except in the Atlantic Ocean.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; May 1, 1997;
Readopted Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).

15A NCAC 03L .0204 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

15A NCAC 03L .0204 CRAB POTS

(a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take crabs with pots except as provided in 15A NCAC 03J .0301 and .0302. The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation authority established in 15A NCAC 03L .0201, further restrict the use of pots to take blue crabs.

(b) The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, require the use of terrapin excluder devices in each funnel entrance in crab pots and impose the following restrictions concerning terrapin excluder devices:

- (1) specify areas;
- (2) specify time periods; and
- (3) specify means and methods.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2014;
Readopted Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).*

15A NCAC 03L .0205 is proposed for readoption with substantive changes as follows:

15A NCAC 03L .0205 CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARIES

(a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to set or use trawls, pots, ~~and or~~ mechanical methods for ~~oysters or clams shellfish~~ or take crabs with the use of commercial fishing equipment ~~from the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110 from March 1 through August 31~~ in crab spawning sanctuaries:

- (1) from March 1 through August 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110 (1); and
- (2) from March 1 through October 31 for the crab spawning sanctuaries described in 15A NCAC 03R .0110 (2).

(b) The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, designate additional areas as crab spawning sanctuaries and may impose the following restrictions in any crab spawning sanctuary:

- (1) specify areas;
- (2) specify time periods;
- (3) specify means and methods; and
- (4) specify limits on harvest based on size, quantity, sex, reproductive stage, or peeler stage.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. May 1, 1997;
Temporary Amendment Eff. October 2, 1999;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2014; April 1, 2001;
Readopted Eff. (Pending legislative review pursuant to S.L. 2019-198).*

15A NCAC 03R .0110 is proposed for amendment as follows:

15A NCAC 03R .0110 CRAB SPAWNING SANCTUARIES

The crab spawning sanctuaries ~~within which the taking of crabs may be restricted or prohibited are described as follows:~~ referenced in 15A NCAC 03L .0205 are delineated in the following coastal fishing waters:

(1) in Areas from Barden Inlet and North:

- ~~(1)(a)~~ (1)(a) ~~In in the Oregon Inlet Area. Beginning Area: beginning~~ beginning at a point on the Atlantic Ocean shore of Bodie Island 35° 47.7054' N - 75° 32.3522' W; running northeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 35° 47.9833' N - 75° 31.8500' W; running southerly to a point in the ocean 35° 46.3500' N - 75° 30.6666' W; running westerly to a point on the Atlantic Ocean shore at 35° 46.1037' N - 75° 31.2785' W; running northerly along the Atlantic shore of Pea Island to and around South Point and continuing southerly along the shore of Pamlico Sound to a point on the south point of Eagle Nest Bay at 35° 43.7085' N - 75° 30.8009' W; running westerly to a point in Pamlico Sound at 35° 43.7100' N - 75° 32.2113' W; running northerly to a point 35° 47.3992' N - 75° 34.1650' W in Pamlico Sound; running northerly to a point on Bodie Island ~~35° 48.5740' N - 75° 33.8722' W;~~ 35° 48.7740' N - 75° 33.8722' W; running southerly along the shore to and around North Point at Oregon Inlet and then northerly on the Atlantic shore to the point of beginning;
- ~~(2)(b)~~ (2)(b) ~~In in the Hatteras Inlet Area. Beginning Area: beginning~~ beginning at a point on the Pamlico Sound shoreline of Hatteras Island 35° 12.0846' N - 75° 43.3514' W; running northwesterly to a point in Pamlico Sound 35° 13.6361' N - 75° 45.4451' W; running southwestery to a point near Outer Green Island 35° 11.0794' N - 75° 48.4440' W; running southeasterly to a point on the Pamlico Sound shore of Ocracoke Island 35° 10.7004' N - 75° 47.9094' W; running northeasterly along the shoreline to a point on the northeastern tip of Ocracoke Island 35° 11.2340' N - 75° 46.3051' W; running southeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean at 35° 10.6644' N - 75° 44.5221' W; running northeasterly to a point on the ocean shoreline of Hatteras Island ~~35° 11.7894' N - 75° 43.5946' W;~~ 35° 11.7895' N - 75° 43.5947' W; running southwestery around the tip of Hatteras Island to the point of beginning;
- ~~(3)(c)~~ (3)(c) ~~In in the Ocracoke Inlet Area. Beginning Area: beginning~~ beginning at a point on Ocracoke Island 35° 06.2555' N - 75° 59.3722' W; running westerly through Shellcastle Island to a point in Pamlico Sound 35° 05.8599' N - 76° 04.3639' W; running southerly to a point on Portsmouth Island ~~35° 03.7378' N - 76° 04.7850' W;~~ 35° 03.7379' N - 76° 04.7850' W; running northeasterly along the shore of Pamlico Sound around the western side of Ocracoke Inlet and southwestery along the shore of the Atlantic Ocean to a point 35° 03.0500' N - 76° 03.0833' W; running southeasterly offshore to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 35° 02.6333' N - 76° 02.7166' W; running northeasterly to a point in the ocean 35° 03.9666' N - 75° 59.3000' W; running northwesterly to a point on the Atlantic shore of

Ocracoke Island 35° 04.7402' N - 75° 59.7124' W; running southwesterly along the shore around the eastern side of Ocracoke Inlet and northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

- (4)(d) ~~In the Drum Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 52.81101' N - 76° 17.1780' W; running northwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 53.7347' N - 76° 18.0439' W; running southwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 50.8286' N - 76° 21.2515' W; running southeasterly to a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 50.1496' N - 76° 20.3924' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western side of Drum Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Core Banks 34° 50.0049' N - 76° 20.3741' W; running southeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 49.4995' N - 76° 19.8407' W; running northeasterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 52.2167' N - 76° 16.7476' W; running northwesterly to a point on the ocean shore of Core Banks 34° 52.6147' N - 76° 17.0705' W; running southwesterly toward and around the eastern side of Drum Inlet, then in a northeasterly direction along the Core Sound shore of Core Sound to the point of beginning; Ophelia and Drum Inlet Area: beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 51.7718' N - 76° 18.5093' W; running northwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 52.3431' N - 76° 19.1661' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "27" in Core Sound 34° 50.6411' N - 76° 22.0094' W; running southwesterly to a point in Core Sound 34° 49.0120' N - 76° 23.0288' W; running southeasterly to a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 48.6143' N - 76° 22.3033' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western side of Ophelia Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline southwesterly to a point on Core Banks 34° 48.9349' N - 76° 21.4582' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Core Banks 34° 51.6790' N - 76° 18.3829' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline toward and around the eastern side of Ophelia Inlet, then northeasterly along the Core Sound shore of Core Banks to the point of beginning; and~~
- (5)(e) ~~In the Bardens Inlet Area. Beginning at a point on Core Banks near the southern side of Hogpen Bay 34° 40.7047' N - 76° 29.6108' W; running westerly to a point near Marker "35" at 34° 40.7071' N - 76° 31.5922' W; running southwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 38.9974' N - 76° 32.4858' W; running southeasterly around the eastern end of Shackleford Banks and then northwesterly along the ocean shoreline to a point on shore 34° 38.5608' N - 76° 32.6863' W; running southwesterly through Buoy "4" to Buoy "2" at the end of the Cape Lookout Jetty 34° 37.1272' N - 76° 33.7381' W; running southeasterly to the base of the Cape Lookout Jetty 34° 36.7836' N - 76° 33.1569' W; running northerly to the end of Power Squadron Spit, around Lookout Bight and northerly up Core Banks to~~

~~the point of beginning.~~ Barden Inlet Area: beginning at a point on the Core Sound shore of Core Banks 34° 40.7131' N – 76° 28.9495' W; running northwesterly to a point on Harkers Island 34° 41.0674' N – 76° 31.5834' W; running southwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 39.5418' N - 76° 34.0451' W; following the shoreline in southeasterly direction around the northern side of Barden Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline northwesterly to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 38.7748' N - 76° 32.8463' W; running southwesterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 38.2938' N - 76° 33.5130' W; running southerly to a point near Buoy "2" at the end of the Cape Lookout Jetty in the Atlantic Ocean 34° 37.1253' N - 76° 33.7446' W; running southeasterly to a point on Cape Lookout 34° 36.7229' N - 76° 33.0514' W; running northerly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline toward and around the southern side of Barden Inlet to a point on Cape Lookout 34° 36.5492' N - 76° 32.2416' W, then running northeasterly along the Core Sound shore of Core Banks to the point of beginning.

(2) in Areas from Beaufort Inlet and West and South:

(a) Beaufort Inlet Area: beginning at a point on the Back Sound side of Shackleford Banks 34° 41.0017' N - 76° 37.7538' W; running northerly to a point on Carrot Island 34° 42.3553' N - 76° 37.1124' W; running westerly along the shoreline to a point on Carrot Island 34° 42.6291' N - 76° 38.6608' W; running westerly to a point on Town Marsh 34° 42.6394' N - 76° 38.7442' W; running westerly along the shoreline to a point on Town Marsh 34° 42.7915' N - 76° 40.2489' W; running westerly to a point on Bird Shoal 34° 42.7694' N - 76° 40.4764' W; running northerly to a point on Pivers Island 34° 42.9294' N - 76° 40.4301' W; running northerly along the shoreline to a point on Pivers Island 34° 43.1892' N - 76° 40.3873' W; running northerly to a point on Radio Island 34° 43.2344' N - 76° 40.4099' W; running along the shoreline to a point on Radio Island 34° 43.2770' N - 76° 41.2422' W; running along the south side of the Highway 70 Bridge over the Newport River to a point near the Morehead City Port 34° 43.2419' N - 76° 41.7067' W; running southerly along the shore to a point near the Morehead City Port 34° 42.9560' N - 76° 41.6986' W; running southwesterly to a point on Goat Island 34° 42.7185' N - 76° 41.9145' W; running southeasterly along the shoreline to a point on Goat Island 34° 42.2031' N - 76° 41.3923' W; running southwesterly to a point on shore near Fort Macon State Park 34° 42.1709' N - 76° 41.3693' W; following the shoreline in a southwesterly direction around the western shoreline of Beaufort Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Bogue Banks 34° 41.6480' N - 76° 42.0986' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running easterly then southeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Shackleford Banks 34° 40.6129' N - 76° 38.1521' W; running northwesterly along the

Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern side of Beaufort Inlet, then running easterly along the Back Sound shore of Shackleford Banks to the point of beginning;

(b) Bogue Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Bogue Banks 34° 39.1828' N - 77° 05.8503' W; running northerly to a point 34° 40.1526' N - 77° 05.6346' W; running northerly to a point 34° 40.2531' N - 77° 05.6385' W; running westerly to a point 34° 40.2550' N - 77° 05.9450' W; running southerly to a point 34° 40.1732' N - 77° 05.9616' W; running southerly to a point 34° 39.9629' N - 77° 06.1038' W; running southerly to a point 34° 39.5209' N - 77° 06.4042; running southwestery to a point 34° 39.0599' N - 77° 07.3287' W; running southerly to a point on Bear Island 34° 38.3856' N - 77° 07.2373'; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Bogue Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Bear Island 34° 37.5607' N - 77° 09.5752' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Bogue Banks 34° 38.7491' N - 77° 05.2548' W; running southwestery along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern side of Bogue Inlet to a point 34° 38.7686' N - 77° 06.0596' W; running northerly to a point 34° 38.9900' N - 77° 06.1269' W, then running northeasterly to the point of beginning;

(c) Bear Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Bear Island 34° 37.7852' N - 77° 09.7128' W; running northerly to a point 34° 37.8817' N - 77° 09.7698' W; running southwestery to a point 34° 37.6695' N - 77° 10.4134' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 37.8105' N - 77° 10.5849' W; running southwestery to a point on Saunders Island 34° 37.4531' N - 77° 11.0624' W; running southeasterly to a point on Browns Island 34° 37.2216' N - 77° 10.8461' W; following the shoreline in northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Bear Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Browns Island 34° 36.1188' N - 77° 13.0193' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Bear Island 34° 37.5607' N - 77° 09.5752' W; running southwestery along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of Bear Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(d) Browns Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Browns Island 34° 35.8978' N - 77° 13.8409' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 36.0015' N - 77° 13.9606' W; running westerly to a point 34° 35.9360' N - 77° 14.1340' W; running southerly to a point 34° 35.6631' N - 77° 14.1270' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Browns Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point 34° 33.7692' N - 77° 16.8043' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Browns Island 34° 36.1188' N -

- 77° 13.0193' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of Browns Inlet, then northerly along the shore to the point of beginning;
- (e) New River Inlet Area: beginning at a point on shore on the south side of Wards Channel 34° 32.2064' N - 77° 19.8404' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 33.1386' N - 77° 20.8902' W; running westerly to a point 34° 33.1097' N - 77° 21.1013' W; running southeasterly to a point 34° 32.3473' N - 77° 20.6013' W; running southwesterly to a point on Topsail Island 34° 32.1096' N - 77° 20.8447' W; following the shore line in a southerly direction around the western shoreline of New River Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point 34° 31.3352' N - 77° 21.1694' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point 34° 33.7692' N - 77° 16.8043' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shoreline of New River Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;
- (f) Topsail Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Topsail Island 34° 21.9619' N - 77° 37.8381' W; running northwesterly to a point in Topsail Sound 34° 22.1071' N - 77° 37.9944' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "5" 34° 21.7185' N - 77° 38.3499' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "3" 34° 21.5798' N - 77° 38.5928' W; running southwesterly to a point near Marker "1" 34° 21.1055' N - 77° 39.1749' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 21.2065' N - 77° 39.6127' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 20.7450' N - 77° 40.3682' W; running southerly to a point 34° 20.3011' N - 77° 40.3728' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the western shoreline of Topsail Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 20.0228' N - 77° 40.4332' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Topsail Island 34° 20.8762' N - 77° 38.9403' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Topsail Inlet, then northeasterly along the Topsail Sound shore of Topsail Island to the point of beginning;
- (g) Rich Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 18.1292' N - 77° 42.6492' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 18.2851' N - 77° 42.9352' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 18.0190' N - 77° 43.2798' W; running southerly to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 17.5649' N - 77° 43.1649' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Rich Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 17.2243' N - 77° 43.2491' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Lea-Hutaff Island 34° 18.1251' N - 77° 42.4352' W; running southwesterly along the

Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Rich Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(h) Mason Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 14.9536' N - 77° 45.9567' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 15.0409' N - 77° 46.1766' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 14.8657' N - 77° 46.4044' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 14.7256' N - 77° 46.5348' W; running southerly to a point on Shell Island 34° 14.2036' N - 77° 46.5189' W; following the shoreline in a northeasterly direction around the southern shoreline of Mason Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Shell Island 34° 14.1375' N - 77° 46.4263' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Figure Eight Island 34° 14.8474' N - 77° 45.7857' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Mason Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(i) Masonboro Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Wrightsville Beach 34° 11.3446' N - 77° 48.7458' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.4604' N - 77° 49.0510' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5164' N - 77° 49.2368' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5255' N - 77° 49.2652' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 11.5700' N - 77° 49.4425' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 11.3553' N - 77° 49.5924' W; running easterly to a point 34° 11.3737' N - 77° 49.4628' W; running easterly to a point 34° 11.3737' N - 77° 49.4345' W; following the shoreline southeasterly to a point 34° 11.2551' N - 77° 49.2287' W; running southerly to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 10.8451' N - 77° 49.0242' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Masonboro Inlet through a point at the base of the jetty 34° 10.8814' N - 77° 48.7074' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 10.5221' N - 77° 49.1658' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the shoreline and the Atlantic Ocean side of the jetties from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and returning to shore parallel to a point 34° 11.5753' N - 77° 48.3061' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline through a point at the base of the jetty 34° 11.2076' N - 77° 48.5555' W, around the northern shoreline of Masonboro Inlet then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(j) Carolina Beach Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Masonboro Island 34° 04.8168' N - 77° 52.8796' W; running southerly to a point 34° 04.4997' N - 77° 53.0080' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction to a point 34° 04.5022' N - 77° 52.7982' W; running easterly to a point on Pleasure Island 34° 04.5102' N - 77° 52.7340' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the southern shoreline of Carolina Beach Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Pleasure Island 34° 04.3505' N - 77°

52.5048' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Masonboro Island 34° 05.2151' N - 77° 52.1472' W; running southeasterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the northern shoreline of Carolina Beach Inlet, then westerly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(k) Cape Fear River Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Bald Head Island 33° 52.7072' N - 78° 00.0449' W; running northeasterly to a point 33° 53.6135' N - 77° 59.2549' W; running northerly to a point 33° 54.4086' N - 77° 59.0330' W; running northerly to a point 33° 54.8399' N - 77° 58.9115' W; running westerly to a point at Southport 33° 54.9503' N - 78° 01.3581' W; running southerly to a point on Fort Caswell 33° 53.7948' N - 78° 01.0782' W; following the shoreline in a southerly direction around the western shoreline of Cape Fear River Inlet then westerly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Caswell Beach 33° 53.4293' N - 78° 01.7604' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running southerly to point near Buoy "12" 33° 51.8213' N - 78° 01.0179' W; running southeasterly to a point 33° 51.1999' N - 78° 00.0632' W; running northeasterly to a point on Bald Head Island 33° 51.3488' N - 77° 59.9222' W; running northwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Cape Fear River Inlet, then northeasterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(l) Lockwoods Folly Inlet Area: beginning at a point on Oak Island 33° 54.9392' N - 78° 13.6711' W; running northerly to a point on Sheep Island 33° 55.0837' N - 78° 13.6753' W; following the shoreline northwesterly to a point on Sheep Island 33° 55.2263' N - 78° 13.9395' W; running westerly to a point on Holden Beach 33° 55.1794' N - 78° 14.3132' W; following the shoreline in a southwesterly direction around the western shore of Lockwoods Folly Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Holden Beach 33° 54.8695' N - 78° 14.6180' W; running southerly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 33° 54.6076' N - 78° 14.6026' W; running easterly to a point in the Atlantic Ocean 33° 54.5564' N - 78 14.0529' W; running northerly to a point on Oak Island 33° 54.8853' N - 78° 14.0041' W; running northwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Lockwoods Folly Inlet, then easterly along the shore to the point of beginning;

(m) Shallotte Inlet Area: beginning at a point near Monks Island 33° 54.5773' N - 78° 22.8077' W; running southwesterly to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 54.2436' N - 78° 23.2758' W; following the shoreline in a southerly direction around the western shore of Shallotte Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 53.8151' N - 78° 23.7753' W; extending 100 yards seaward from the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running easterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Big Beach 33° 54.1103' N - 78° 21.9540' W; running westerly

along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Shallotte Inlet, then northerly along the shore to the point of beginning; and

(n) Tubbs Inlet Area: beginning at a point on the Jinks Creek shore of Ocean Isle Beach 33° 52.5844' N - 78° 28.6583' W; running northerly to a point 33° 52.7734' N - 78° 28.7428' W; running southwesterly to a point 33° 52.6815' N - 78° 29.0080' W; running southwesterly to a point on the Eastern Channel shore of Sunset Beach 33° 52.3878' N - 78° 29.1301' W; following the shoreline in an easterly direction around the western shore of Tubbs Inlet then along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline to a point on Sunset Beach 33° 52.3250' N - 78° 29.1865' W; extending 100 yards seaward of the mean high water line and the COLREG Demarcation Line in the Atlantic Ocean and running northeasterly and returning to shore parallel to a point on Ocean Isle Beach 33° 52.5676' N - 78° 28.4027' W; running southwesterly along the Atlantic Ocean shoreline around the eastern shore of Tubbs Inlet then in a northerly direction along the shore to the point of beginning.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. September 1, 1991;
Recodified from 15A NCAC 03R .0010 Eff. December 17, 1996;
Amended Eff. August 1, 2004;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. (Pending legislative review of 15A NCAC 03L .0205).*

15A NCAC 03R .0118 is proposed for amendment as follows:

15A NCAC 03R .0118 ~~EXEMPTED CRAB POT ESCAPE RING AREAS~~ CRAB HARVEST MANAGEMENT AREAS

The areas referenced in 15A NCAC ~~03J-0301(g)~~ 03L .0201 (a) and (b) are delineated in the following coastal fishing waters:

- (1) ~~Pamlico Sound within the area described by a line beginning at a point 35° 43.7457' N 75° 30.7014' W on the south shore of Eagles Nest Bay on Pea Island; running westerly to a point 35° 42.9500' N 75° 34.1500' W; running southerly to a point 35° 39.3500' N 75° 34.4000' W; running southeasterly to a point 35° 35.8931' N 75° 31.1514' W in Chicamacomico Channel near Beacon "ICC"; running southerly to a point 35° 28.5610' N 75° 31.5825' W on Gull Island; running southwestly to a point 35° 22.8671' N 75° 33.5851' W in Avon Channel near Beacon "1AV"; running southwestly to a point 35° 18.9603' N 75° 36.0817' W in Cape Channel near Beacon "2"; running westerly to a point 35° 16.7588' N 75° 44.2554' W in Rollinson Channel near Beacon "42RC"; running southwestly to a point 35° 14.0337' N 75° 45.9643' W southwest of Oliver Reef near the quick flashing beacon; running westerly to a point 35° 09.3650' N 76° 00.6377' W in Big Foot Slough Channel near Beacon "14BF"; running southwestly to a point 35° 08.4523' N 76° 02.6651' W in Nine Foot Shoal Channel near Beacon "9"; running westerly to a point 35° 07.1000' N 76° 06.9000' W; running southwestly to a point 35° 01.4985' N 76° 11.4353' W near Beacon "HL"; running southwestly to a point 35° 00.2728' N 76° 12.1903' W near Beacon "1CS"; running southerly to a point 34° 59.5027' N 76° 12.3204' W in Wainwright Channel immediately east of the northern tip of Wainwright Island; running southwestly to a point 34° 59.3610' N 76° 12.6040' W on Wainwright Island; running easterly to a point at 34° 58.7853' N 76° 09.8922' W on Core Banks; running easterly and northerly along the shoreline across the inlets following the COLREGS Demarcation line up the Outer Banks to the point of beginning.~~ Northern Region: All Coastal Fishing Waters of the state north and east of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/Virginia state line.
- (2) ~~Newport River, from April 1 through June 15 within the area described by a line beginning at a point 34° 49.5080' N 76° 41.4440' W; running westerly along the south side of the Highway 101 Bridge over Core Creek to a point on the west shore 34° 49.5260' N 76° 41.5130' W; running along the shoreline of Newport River and its tributaries to a point 34° 49.3050' N 76° 44.2350' W; running westerly along the south side of the Highway 101 Bridge over Harlowe Canal to a point on the west shore 34° 49.2980' N 76° 44.2610' W; running along the shoreline of Newport River and its tributaries to a point 34° 45.2478' N 76° 46.4479' W; running southerly along the Inland Coastal Waters boundary line to a point 34° 45.1840' N 76° 46.4488' W; running along the shoreline of Newport River and its tributaries to a point 34° 43.2520' N 76° 41.6840' W; running easterly along~~

~~the north side of the Highway 70 Bridge over Newport River to a point 34° 43.2840' N - 76° 41.2200' W; running along the shoreline of Newport River and its tributaries to a point 34° 43.3530' N - 76° 40.2080' W; running easterly across Gallant Channel to a point 34° 43.3521' N - 76° 40.0871' W; running along the shoreline of Newport River and its tributaries back to the point of beginning.~~Southern Region: All Coastal Fishing Waters of the state south and west of a line extending southeast from the Highway 58 Bridge to a point offshore at 34° 36.3292' N - 77° 02.5940' W to the North Carolina/South Carolina state line.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;
Eff. April 1, 2014;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. (Pending legislative review of 15A NCAC 03L .0201).*