



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**SF-2-2025**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: OYSTER MECHANICAL HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

**This proclamation closes the Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs) at the mouth of Pamlico and Neuse rivers to commercial harvest of oysters from public bottom by mechanical methods, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M. Thursday, August 21, 2025**, in the areas described below, **the following restrictions will apply:**

#### **I. AREA RESTRICTIONS (SEE MAP)**

##### **A. Pamlico River**

At the mouth of the Pamlico River on the southwestern shore of Roos Point, running easterly to the Swan Quarter Wildlife Refuge, to Brant Island military danger zone and restricted area. This area is approximately 500 acres in size and is delineated by U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation (ATON) as shown on the attached maps. The location of the ATON and signs are as follows:

Willow Point Shoal Light	35° 21.794' N	76° 28.824' W
Swan Quarter PPA Warning Day Beacon "K"	35° 20.444' N	76° 24.549' W
Upper Middle Ground Wreck Light "WR2"	35° 18.514' N	76° 23.774' W
Upper Middle Ground Light "UM"	35° 16.750' N	76° 20.734' W
Brant Island Warning Light "J"	35° 14.298' N	76° 24.236' W
Pamlico Point Warning Light	35° 18.803' N	76° 27.341' W

##### **B. Neuse River (SEE MAP)**

At the mouth of the Neuse River on the eastern shore of Maw Point, running easterly to the southern boundary of Brant Island military danger zone and restricted area, running northwesterly to Piney Island military danger zone and restricted area. This area is approximately 180 acres in size and is delineated by U.S. Coast Guard ATON as shown on the attached maps. The location of the ATON and signs are as follows:

Neuse River Entrance Light "2"	35° 08.126' N	76° 30.853' W
Brant Island Slue Light "1"	35° 10.517' N	76° 22.679' W
Raccoon Island Oyster Sanctuary Day Beacon "A"	35° 05.476' N	76° 23.404' W
Neuse River Entrance Light "NR"	35° 06.622' N	76° 28.539' W
Rattan Bay Restricted Area Light "A"	35° 04.600' N	76° 28.584' W
Neuse River Warning Day Beacon	35° 05.229' N	76° 32.650' W

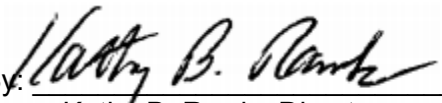
## II. RESTRICTIONS

It shall be unlawful to harvest oysters by mechanical methods in the areas described in Section I.

## III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority N.C. General Statutes 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 03K .0201.
- B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority.
- C. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 defines mechanical methods for oyster harvest.
- D. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0111 requires a permit for the use of mechanical gear on private bottoms. Permits are available, at no cost, from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
- E. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0204 lists areas closed to the use of mechanical methods to take oysters; N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03N .0104 prohibits the use of mechanical methods to take oysters or clams in primary nursery areas.
- F. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0209 prohibits the taking of oysters and clams and the use of mechanical methods for oyster or clam harvest in oyster sanctuaries designated in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0117.
- G. **Maps are provided to aid in the identification of the specified area closures described in Section I. Maps do NOT supersede existing rules or supersede proclamations closing areas to harvest by reason of pollution. The military restricted areas and danger zones shown on the proclamation maps are closed to civilian access pursuant to federal rules 33 CFR 334.410 and 334.420. These closures render these areas unavailable for oyster harvest. Visit the online Shellfish Sanitation Temporary Closure Public Viewer at:**  
<https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5759aa19d7484a3b82a8e440fba643aa>
- H. 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.
- I. The intent of this proclamation is to close Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs) to commercial harvest of oysters from public bottom by mechanical methods in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5.
- J. **For additional oyster harvest restrictions by mechanical methods from public bottom refer to the most recent SF-type proclamation at:**  
<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries/rules-proclamations-and-size-and-bag-limits/fisheries-management-proclamations#currentprocs>
- K. 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 at: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- L. **This proclamation closes the Deep-Water Oyster Recovery Areas (DORAs) at the mouth the Pamlico and Neuse rivers to commercial harvest of oysters from**

**public bottom by mechanical methods, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster  
Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5.**

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

August 18, 2025  
1:30 P.M.