



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-44-2025

PROCLAMATION

RE: FLOUNDER – COMMERCIAL PURPOSES – INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS AND ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS. CLOSES ALL INTERNAL COASTAL AND JOINT FISHING WATERS.

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-43-2025, dated October 23, 2025. It closes the mobile gear northern area and maintains all closures for the pound net management areas and the mobile gear southern management area. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2025. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 4 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at 2:00 P.M. October 29, 2025, the following restrictions will apply to the taking of flounder for commercial purposes in Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters and Atlantic Ocean Fishing Waters (Section III. ONLY):

I. **AREA DESCRIPTION**

All Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters.

II. **HARVEST RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It shall be unlawful to possess, sell or offer for sale flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in Section I., except for the dealer provision in Section II. C.
- B. It shall be unlawful to purchase flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the area described in Section I.
- C. Dealers may sell, offer for sale, transport, or have in possession flounder taken prior to this closure.

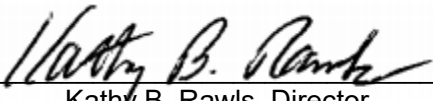
III. **ATLANTIC OCEAN WATERS**

It shall be unlawful to possess flounder taken in a commercial fishing operation from the Atlantic Ocean if taken by any other method than trawl and in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.

IV. **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 Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103; 03M .0503 and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.

- C. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the commercial flounder fishery in accordance with Amendment 4 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan. For information on sub-allocations by Gear Management Area see Southern Flounder FAQ website at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/southern-flounder-FAQ>.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0505 (a)(3) it shall be unlawful to fail to render a flounder pound net set inoperable during the closed flounder season.
- E. See additional regulations on flounder from the Atlantic Ocean in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0503.
- F. For additional gill net restrictions refer to the most recent M-type proclamations that apply to large-mesh gill nets for specific management areas. These can be found on the current proclamations website at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/current-fisheries-management-proclamations>.
- G. Estuarine Flounder Dealer Permits are required for any fish dealer to possess, purchase, sell, or offer for sale flounder taken from Internal Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters. These permits are available at no cost from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
- 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. 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 www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- J. **This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-43-2025, dated October 23, 2025. It closes the mobile gear northern area and maintains all closures for the pound net management areas and the mobile gear southern management area. Quota monitored landings are approaching the Total Allowable Landings (TAL) and harvest will not re-open in 2025. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of Amendment 4 to the N.C. Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan and maintain harvest within the TAL.**

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

October 28, 2025
2:30 P.M.