



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

FF-11-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: SPINY DOGFISH – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-47-2025 dated November 18, 2025. This proclamation maintains the opening of the spiny dogfish commercial fishery and the 15,000 pound trip limit in Coastal Fishing Waters. The fishery will close by proclamation once the quota has been reached, or at 6:00 P.M. on April 30, 2026, whichever occurs first. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 12:01 A.M., January 16, 2026**, the following restrictions will apply to the harvest of spiny dogfish in the North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters:

I. TRIP LIMIT AND SEASON

- A. It shall be unlawful for a commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of people involved to possess more than **15,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per trip**.
- B. The commercial spiny dogfish fishery will close by proclamation once the quota has been reached or at **6:00 P.M., April 30, 2026**, whichever occurs first.

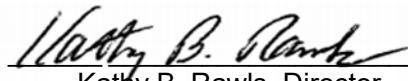
II. It shall be unlawful to possess spiny dogfish without tail and fins naturally attached to the carcass through the point of landing.

III. 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 Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03M .0512.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provision of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under their delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H.0103.
- C. The NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan prohibits the use of gill nets with a stretched mesh length greater than 5 inches or less than 7 inches at night from November 1 through April 30 in all Atlantic Ocean state waters.
- D. The NMFS Bottlenose Dolphin Reduction Plan prohibits the use of gill nets with a stretched mesh length greater than or equal to 7 inches, at night from December 16 through April 14, unless tie downs are used in Atlantic Ocean state waters from the NC/VA border (36° 33' N) to Cape Lookout (34° 35.4'N). Tie downs shall be spaced not more than 15 feet apart along the float line, not more than 48 inches in length from the point where it connects to the float line to the point where it connects to the lead line. Night is any time between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise.
- E. Finfish dealers are required to possess a valid Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit and adhere

to the daily reporting requirements in accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03O.0503 (e)(4). The rule makes it unlawful for a fish dealer to purchase or possess more than 100 pounds of spiny dogfish per day per commercial fishing operation unless the dealer has a Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit.

- F. Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permits are available at no cost from all N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
- G. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the North Carolina spiny dogfish annual quota established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Management Board, following the guidelines of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish.
- 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; 252-515-5000 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- J. **This proclamation maintains the spiny dogfish commercial fishery 15,000 pound trip limit in Coastal Fishing Waters. The fishery will close by proclamation once the quota has been reached, or at 6:00 P.M. on April 30, 2026, whichever occurs first. This action is being taken to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Spiny Dogfish.**

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

January 15, 2026
2:15 P.M.