



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**RS-2-2026**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- MYRTLE GROVE SOUND - UNC-WILMINGTON**

**This proclamation establishes a closure to shellfish fishing and all fishing gear, with the exception of crab pots, in a Research Sanctuary area in Myrtle Grove Sound.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., January 29, 2026**, in the area described below, **the following restrictions apply**:

#### **I. AREA DESCRIPTION**

##### **NEW HANOVER COUNTY**

Behind UNC Wilmington's Center for Marine Science building, surrounding the dock on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway across from Masonboro Island, and north of Carolina Beach Inlet. The area is approximately 3.4 acres in size and is delineated by pilings and signs as shown on the attached map. The location of the pilings are as follows:

Piling 1	34° 08.4600' N	77° 51.7610' W
Piling 2	34° 08.4460' N	77° 51.7160' W
Piling 3	34° 08.3780' N	77° 51.7470' W
Piling 4	34° 08.4030' N	77° 51.8270' W

#### **II. RESTRICTIONS**

- A. It shall be unlawful to use fishing gear with the exception of crab pots in the area described in Section I.
- B. It shall be unlawful to take shellfish in the area described in Section I.

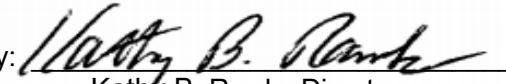
#### **III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 113-134; 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 03I .0109.
- B. It is unlawful to violate provisions 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. This area will be used by the UNC-Wilmington Center for Marine Science (CMS) to conduct species and hydrology research for student and faculty projects in the Departments of Biology, Marine Biology, and CMS-Research & Innovation at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.
- D. 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 our website at <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- E. 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.

F. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109 (a), any closure or restriction in the Research Sanctuary shall be for no more than one year, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Fisheries Director.

G. **This proclamation establishes a closure to shellfish fishing and to all fishing gear, with the exception of crab pots, in a Research Sanctuary area in Myrtle Grove Sound.**

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

January 14, 2026  
3:30 P.M.