



JOSH STEIN  
*Governor*

D. REID WILSON  
*Secretary*

KATHY B. RAWLS  
*Director*

**FF-18-2026**

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **RE: SCUP – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – ATLANTIC OCEAN- NORTH OF CAPE HATTERAS – CLOSES THE WINTER I PERIOD**

**This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-7-2026, dated December 15, 2025. This proclamation closes the harvest period for the commercial scup Winter I period, north of Cape Hatteras effective at 12:01 A.M., March 16, 2026.**

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., March 16, 2026**, the following restrictions will apply to the **commercial scup fishery** in the Atlantic Ocean **north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.3' N. Latitude)**:

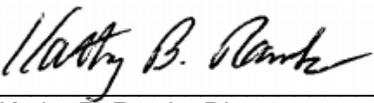
#### **I. HARVEST LIMITS**

- A. It shall be unlawful to possess, sell or offer for sale scup during the remainder of the Winter I commercial harvest period, effective **12:01 A.M., March 16, 2026** and ending at **11:59 P.M., April 30, 2026**.

#### **II. 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; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 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 Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.
- C. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101(5)(f) fish shall be considered landed when the fish reach the shore or structure connected to the shore.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0113 it shall be unlawful for any license under Chapter 113, Subchapter IV of the N.C. General Statutes to refuse to allow the Fisheries Director or their agents to obtain biological data, harvest information, or other statistical data necessary or useful to the conservation and management of marine and estuarine resources from fish in the licensee's possession.
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to maintain North Carolina's compliance with the requirements of the joint Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council/Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

- F. 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.
- G. Contact the 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://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/marine-fisheries>.
- H. **This proclamation closes the harvest period for the commercial scup Winter I period, north of Cape Hatteras effective at 12:01 A.M., March 16, 2026.**

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

March 13, 2026  
4:45pm