



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

RS-3-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: RESEARCH SANCTUARY- ATLANTIC OCEAN – DARE COUNTY – COASTAL AND HYDRAULICS LABORATORY, FIELD RESEARCH FACILITY

This proclamation establishes a closure to recreational and commercial trawls, nets, longlines, and seines in a Research Sanctuary area in the Atlantic Ocean off the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Field Research Facility located near the town of Duck, North Carolina.

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., May 15, 2026**, in the area described below, **the following restrictions apply:**

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

ATLANTIC OCEAN - DARE COUNTY (Map 1)

Behind Field Research Facility, surrounding the pier in the Atlantic Ocean near the town of Duck in Dare County, North Carolina. The total area is approximately 349.15 acres in size and is delineated by poles with signs nearshore and buoys with markings offshore as shown on the attached [map](#). The location of the poles and buoys are as follows:

Nearshore (NW corner)	36° 11.201' N	75° 45.115' W
Buoy (NE corner)	36° 11.456' N	75° 44.302' W
Buoy (SE corner)	36° 10.882' N	75° 44.041' W
Nearshore (SW corner)	36° 10.678' N	75° 44.882' W

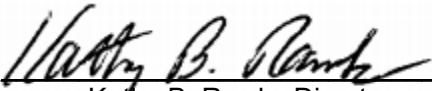
II. RESTRICTIONS

It shall be unlawful to use recreational and commercial trawls, nets, longlines, and seines 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; 113-134.1; 13-170.4; 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. 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.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0202 it shall be unlawful to use trawls within one-half mile of the beach between the Virginia line and Oregon Inlet in the Atlantic Ocean.

- E. This area is used as a Field Research Facility, established in 1977 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and is part of the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory. It is an internationally recognized coastal observatory and instruments at the facility constantly record the changing waves, winds, tides, and currents.
- F. 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>.
- G. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0109, 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.
- H. **This proclamation establishes a closure to recreational and commercial trawls, nets, longlines, and seines in a Research Sanctuary area in the Atlantic Ocean off the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory, Field Research Facility located near the town of Duck, North Carolina.**

BY: 
Kathy B. Rawls, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES, DEQ

May 6, 2026
2:05 P.M.