



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

KATHY B. RAWLS
Director

PROCLAMATION

RE: SHELLFISH POLLUTED AREA

Kathy B. Rawls, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, upon the recommendation of Dr. Lawrence Greenblatt, State Health Director, Department of Health and Human Services, hereby announces that the following changes in shellfish harvesting areas will take effect at sunrise, Saturday, July 18, 2026.

All those waters in New Hanover and Pender Counties will return to the status in existence immediately prior to the July 13, 2026, temporary closures.

The following remains closed:

PAMLICO COUNTY

All those waters near Bay River bordered on the north by a line running across the Intracoastal Waterway from a point 35° 13.2876' N - 76° 35.5883' W to a point 35° 13.2846' N - 76° 35.4993' W; and bordered on the south by a line beginning at a point 35° 11.8658' N - 76° 34.1288' W, running southwesterly through Beacon "27" to a point 35° 11.3152' N - 76° 35.9773' W near Sanders Point, to include the Intracoastal Waterway, Bear Creek, Chadwick Creek, and Gale Creek.

Jones Bay - All those waters in Jones Bay bordered on the west by a line running across the Intracoastal Waterway from a point 35° 13.2876' N - 76° 35.5883' W to a point 35° 13.2846' N - 76° 35.4993' W; and bordered on the east by a line running from Sow Island Point to Bay Point.

All those waters in Oyster Creek, James Creek, Middle Prong, and Clark Creek bordered on the north by a line beginning at Beard Island Point, running northwesterly to a point on the eastern tip of Cedar Island at 35° 19.4905' N - 76° 32.2801' W; thence running westerly to the tip of Pine Hammock; and bordered on the southeast by a line across Mouse Harbor Ditch from a point 35° 17.8461' N - 76° 30.1404' W to a point 35° 17.8219' N - 76° 30.1512' W.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 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 03K .0101.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the N.C. 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. This proclamation returns the following areas to normal closure boundaries: Myrtle Grove Sound, Masonboro Sound, Middle Sound and Topsail Sound.
- E. These reopenings are due to satisfactory bacteriological sampling results.

BY: _____

Kathy B. Rawls

Kathy B. Rawls, Director

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES, DEQ

July 17, 2026
11:45 A.M.
PA-22-2026