



PA-37-2026

JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

MICHAEL S. LOEFFLER
Interim Director

PROCLAMATION

RE: SHELLFISH POLLUTED AREA

Michael S. Loeffler, Interim 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 shellfish area temporary **closures will take effect immediately**.

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take any oysters, clams, or mussels or possess, sell, or offer for sale any oysters, clams, or mussels taken from the following polluted areas:

CARTERET COUNTY

Jarrett Bay - All those waters in Jarrett Bay upstream of a line beginning at a point 34° 45.9213' N - 76° 29.2047' W on the east shore of Spit Bay; thence in a straight line to a point 34° 45.7944' N - 76° 29.3623' W at the northern tip of Davis Island; thence in a straight line to a point 34° 45.5281' N - 76° 30.1032' W at the "Chimney" near Jump Run Creek.

Oyster Creek - All those waters in Oyster Creek upstream of a straight line across the mouth, beginning at a point 34° 48.8185' N - 76° 26.9761' W on the west shore; running northeasterly to a point 34° 48.9768' N - 76° 26.6340' W on the east shore.

Brett Bay - All those waters in Brett Bay upstream of a straight line from Piney Point to King Point.

The following also remains closed:

BRUNSWICK / NEW HANOVER / PENDER / ONSLOW / CARTERET COUNTIES

All those waters between the permanent closure line near IWW Marker "89" in Ocean Isle and the South Carolina State Line, to include the Tubbs Inlet area.

All those waters bordered on the north by a line beginning at a point 34°19.5068'N - 77°42.9887' W on the mainland, running southerly near IWW Marker "105" and following the eastern shore of Green Channel to the southern tip of Hutaff Island near Rich Inlet; and bordered on the south by a line beginning at a point 34° 11.5660'N - 77° 49.6758' W on the mainland; running southeasterly near IWW Marker "129" to a point 34° 11.3991'N - 77° 49.3386' W on the south shore of Shinn Creek; thence running southeasterly to a point 34° 10.9146'N - 77° 48.9429' W on the northern tip of Masonboro Island, to include Middle Sound, Pages Creek, and a portion of Topsail Sound.

All those waters bordered on the north by a line beginning at a point 34° 28.2180' N - 77° 30.5521' W on the mainland near Morris Landing, running southeasterly near Beacon "49" to a point on Topsail Island at 34° 27.273' N - 77° 29.937' W; and bordered on the south by a line beginning at a point 34° 24.7539'N - 77° 35.6463' W on the mainland near Sloop Point, running southwesterly near IWW Marker "86" to a point 34° 24.6325'N - 77° 35.6860' W near Beacon "BC"; thence running southerly following Banks Channel near Green Markers "21" and "19" to a point 34° 24.0765'N - 77° 35.2697' W on Topsail Beach near Beacon "18", to include a portion of Topsail Sound, Virginia Creek, Beckys Creek, and a portion of Stump Sound.

All those waters from the Intracoastal Waterway to the mainland between IWW Beacon "49" (34° 40.2621' N - 77° 07.9802' W) near Swansboro, and IWW Beacon "59" (34° 37.3978' N - 77° 12.6533' W), to include the Intracoastal Waterway, Bear Creek, and Queens Creek.

Newport River - All those waters in Newport River upstream of a line beginning at a point 34° 45.6960' N - 76° 43.5180' W on the south shore near Penn Point; running northeasterly to a point 34° 46.5733' N - 76° 42.6350' W on the north shore near the Hardesty Farms subdivision (near the Newport River DMF Shrimp Line).

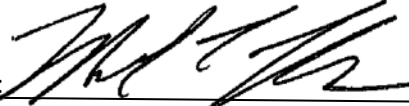
Core Creek – All those waters in Core Creek upstream of a line beginning at a point 34° 46.3210' N - 76° 41.2515' W on the west shore, running easterly near IWW Marker "25" to a point 34° 46.2251' N - 76° 40.5919' W on the east shore near the mouth of Ware Creek.

Whitehurst Creek – All those waters in Whitehurst Creek upstream of a straight line across the mouth, beginning at a point 34° 43.5146' N - 76° 33.3428' W on the west shore; running easterly to a point 34° 43.5511' N - 76° 33.1664' W on the east shore.

Sleepy Creek – All those waters in Sleepy Creek upstream of a straight line across the mouth, beginning at a point 34° 43.2745' N - 76° 31.4600' W on the west shore; running easterly to a point 34° 43.2672' N - 76° 31.2792' W on the east shore.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.C. 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. These temporary closures are due to heavy rainfall and resultant runoff.

BY: 
Michael S. Loeffler, Interim Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES, DEQ

August 24, 2026
7:50 A.M.
PA-37-2026