



JOSH STEIN
Governor

D. REID WILSON
Secretary

JONATHAN HOWELL
Director

FF-49-2026

PROCLAMATION

RE: ATLANTIC CROAKER – COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS – CLOSURE

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-51-2025, dated December 2, 2025. This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters effective 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2026. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027.

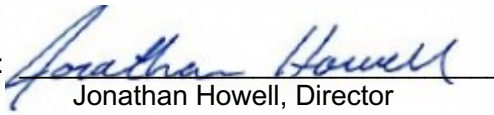
Johnathan Howell, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., December 16, 2026**, the following restrictions will apply to the Atlantic croaker commercial fishery:

I. **HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:**

- A. It shall be unlawful to take Atlantic croaker in a commercial fishing operation after 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2026 until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027.
- B. It shall be unlawful for dealers to purchase Atlantic croaker from commercial fishing operations after 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2026 until the season reopens at 12:01 A.M., January 1, 2027.

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; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 and 03M .0512.
- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to allow North Carolina to comply with the requirements of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Addendum III to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Croaker. Refer to [Addendum III](#) for more information:
- D. 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.
- E. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 or 252-515-5500 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- F. **This proclamation closes the commercial Atlantic croaker fishery in North Carolina Coastal and Joint Fishing Waters effective 12:01 A.M., December 16, 2026. The fishery will re-open at 12:01 A.M., on January 1, 2027.**

By: 
Jonathan Howell, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

October 30, 2026
12:45 P.M.