



ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

FF-24-2018

PROCLAMATION

RE: SPOTTED SEATROUT – COMMERCIAL- SEASON OPEN

This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-1-2018, dated January 3, 2018. This proclamation opens the commercial spotted seatrout fishery as outlined in the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Supplement A, following a closure implemented due to a cold stun event in January 2018.

Stephen W. Murphey, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **at 12:01 A.M., Friday, June 15, 2018**, the following restrictions will apply to the spotted seatrout commercial fishery:

I. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT

It is unlawful to possess spotted seatrout (speckled trout) less than **14 inches** total length.

II. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to possess more than 75 spotted seatrout (speckled trout) per day.
- B. It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) spotted seatrout per person per day taken by hook and line in Joint and Coastal Fishing Waters of the state.
- C. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to possess or sell spotted seatrout for commercial purposes taken from Joint Fishing Waters of the state from **midnight on Friday to midnight on Sunday each week**.
- D. The joint fishing waters of the following water bodies **are exempted from II. C. above**:


Albemarle Sound – north and west of a line beginning at a point 35° 58.5887'N - 75° 51.7080' W near the east shore at the entrance to East Lake; running northeasterly to a point 36° 04.8280'N - 75° 47.4050'W near Point Harbor; ([see map](#))

Currituck Sound - north of the Highway 158 Wright Memorial Bridge beginning at a point on the western shore at 36° 04.8280'N - 75° 47.4050'W; running easterly along the south side of the bridge to a point on the east shore at 36° 05.5770'N - 75° 44.5850'W. ([see map](#)).

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of North Carolina G.S. 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52 and North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103, 03M .0522.
- B. It is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority pursuant to N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.

- C. All undersized or over the daily harvest limit spotted seatrout shall be immediately returned to the waters where taken, regardless of the condition of the fish.
- D. Proclamation M-3-2014, effective February 5, 2014, states it is unlawful to set gill nets in the joint fishing waters of the state from **midnight on Friday to midnight on Sunday each week.**
- E. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the Spotted Seatrout fishery in accordance with the Supplement A to the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan.
- F. Contact the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information or visit the division website at www.ncmarinefisheries.net.
- G. In accordance with N.C.G.S. 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.
- H. **This proclamation supersedes proclamation FF-1-2018, dated January 3, 2018. This proclamation opens the commercial spotted seatrout fishery as outlined in the N.C. Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Supplement A, following a closure implemented due to a cold stun event in January 2018.**

By: 
Stephen W. Murphey, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

June 11, 2018
12:12 P.M.