



ROY COOPER
Governor

DIONNE DELLI-GATTI
Secretary

JOHN G. BATHERSON
Acting Director

FF-31-2021

PROCLAMATION

RE: RED DRUM -COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS - OPEN

This proclamation supersedes FF-18-2021 dated March 4, 2021. It opens the commercial red drum fishery in North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters.

John G. Batherson, Acting Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, May 1, 2021**, the following restrictions will apply to the commercial fishery for red drum:

I. HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

- A. It is unlawful to possess more than seven (7) red drum per day taken in a commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of individuals or vessels involved.
- B. It is unlawful to possess red drum taken in a commercial fishing operation that is not in legal possession of either, flounder, bluefish, black drum, or striped mullet caught on the same day.
- C. It is unlawful to land or transport red drum in a commercial fishing operation unless the weight of the combined daily landed catch of flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet exceeds the daily catch of red drum.

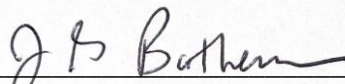
II. TRANSPORT, TRANSFER AND SALE

- A. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to transfer possession of red drum except to a North Carolina licensed finfish dealer at point of sale.
- B. All transport of red drum subsequent to possession and prior to sale is considered to be part of the commercial fishing operation regardless of whether transport is by vessel, vehicle or other means, **with exception noted for vehicles in II. D below.**
- C. All red drum that are sold, shall be sold while in possession of the flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet species component of the daily landed catch.
- D. The daily landed catch of red drum along with the daily landed catch of flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet species taken in a commercial fishing operation must remain in possession of the commercial fishing operation and be transported together up to the point of sale. **Two SCFL holders from separate commercial fishing operations may transport their daily landed catch of red drum and associated target species as described above to the dealer in the same vehicle. A SCFL holder from each operation must accompany each single harvest limit until the time of sale to the dealer.**
- E. It is unlawful to purchase more than the daily harvest limit of red drum from a single commercial fishing operation.

III. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G. S. 113-134;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 03M .0501.
- 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. The intent of this proclamation is to manage the annual commercial harvest of red drum within the 250,000 pound cap implemented by Amendment 1 of the N.C. Red Drum Fishery Management plan. The commercial fishing year is September 1 through August 31. The first harvest period (150,000 pounds) of September through April was closed because the 150,000 pound limit was exceeded. The second harvest period (100,000 pounds) for May through August will now be reduced from 100,000 pound limit to account for any overages in the first harvest period and keep annual harvest below the 250,000 pound cap.
- 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 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.
- F. **This proclamation supersedes FF-18-2021 dated March 4, 2021. It opens the commercial red drum fishery in North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters.**

By: _____



John G. Batherson, Acting Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

April 29, 2021
9:28 A.M.