PROCLAMATION

RE: 2020-2021 OYSTER MECHANICAL HARVEST CLOSURE

This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-2-2021, dated January 11, 2021, and closes mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.

John G. Batherson, Acting Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at sunrise, Monday, February 15, 2021, the following restrictions shall apply to the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom:

I. MECHANICAL HARVEST RESTRICTIONS:
   It is unlawful to harvest oysters by mechanical methods from public bottom.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION:
   A. This proclamation is issued under the authority N.C. General Statutes 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 .0201.
   B. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103 it is unlawful to violate the provisions of any proclamation issued by the Fisheries Director under his delegated authority.
   C. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03K .0111 requires a permit for the use of mechanical gear on private bottom (shellfish lease, or franchise). Permits are available, at no cost, from all Division of Marine Fisheries License Offices.
   D. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 defines mechanical methods for oyster harvest.
   E. 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.
   F. The intent of this proclamation is to close the commercial harvest of oyster by mechanical methods from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.
   G. 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.
   H. This proclamation supersedes Proclamation SF-2-2021, dated January 11, 2021, and closes the mechanical harvest of oysters from public bottom, in accordance with the N.C. Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 4.

By: _____________________________
    John G. Batherson, Acting Director
    DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

February 12, 2021
1:05 P.M.