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 35º 58.5887’N - 75º 51.7080’W near the east shore at the entrance to East Lake; running northeasterly to a point 36º 04.8280’N - 75º 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 36º 04.8280’N - 75º 47.4050’W; running easterly along the south side of the bridge to a point on the east shore at 36º 05.5770’N - 75º 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.