PROCLAMATION

RE: SHEEPSHEAD – RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective 12:01 A.M., Monday, June 1, 2015, the following will apply to sheepshead.

I. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT

It is unlawful to possess sheepshead less than 10 inches fork length.

II. HARVEST LIMITS

A. It is unlawful to possess more than 10 sheepshead per person per day or trip (if trip occurs over more than one calendar day) for recreational purposes.

B. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to land or possess more than 300 pounds of sheepshead per trip except:
   1. Commercial gig and spear operations: it is unlawful to land or possess more than 10 sheepshead per person per day or per trip (if the trip occurs over more than one calendar day).
   2. Pound net operations are exempt from the commercial trip limit restrictions.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 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 .0521.

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 sheepshead that do not meet the 10 inch size limit shall be immediately returned to the waters where taken.

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, phone 252-726-7021 or 800-682-2632 for more information, or visit the division website at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/.

F. This proclamation is being issued to implement size and harvest restrictions for the recreational and commercial sheepshead fishery.

By: ________________________________
   Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director
   DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES
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