PROCLAMATION

RE: STRIPED BASS RECREATIONAL SEASON - ALBEMARLE SOUND MANAGEMENT AREA

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Tuesday, October 1, 2013** the season for striped bass taken for **recreational** purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area **shall open** with the following restrictions:

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

All waters of the Albemarle Sound Management Area (ASMA) as defined in N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03R .0201 (a).

II. SIZE, CREEL AND SEASON LIMITS – ALL AREAS AND GEARS

A. No person shall take or possess striped bass less than 18 inches total length taken for recreational purposes from the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

B. No person, including Recreational Commercial Gear License (RCGL) holders, shall take or possess more than three (3) striped bass taken in any one day for recreational purposes from the Albemarle Sound Management Area.

C. Striped bass may be taken by hook and line for recreational purposes in the Albemarle Sound Management Area seven days a week during the open season.

D. The recreational season for striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area shall **close at 6:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 30, 2014,** unless closed earlier by a proclamation**.**

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, 03M .0201 and 03M .0202.

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 allow the recreational harvest of striped bass in the Albemarle Sound Management Area within the striped bass harvest allocation established by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission in cooperation with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

D. Recreational Commercial Gear License gill net restrictions are found in M-proclamations issued for this area.

E. Recreational seasons for striped bass in the Roanoke, Eastmost, Middle and Cashie rivers are under the management jurisdiction of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and are exempt from this proclamation.

F. Hook-and-line fishing equipment is not commercial fishing equipment in the striped bass fishery and it is illegal to sell or purchase striped bass taken by hook-and-line.

G. Commercial fishing equipment authorized by the RCGL is not considered commercial fishing equipment in the striped bass fishery and it is illegal to sell or purchase striped bass taken by this method in accordance with N.C.G.S. 113-173.

H. All striped bass that do not meet the18 inch size limit shall be immediately returned with minimum harm to the water where taken.

I. This proclamation supersedes FF-42-2012, dated September 7, 2012.

BY: _____
Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director
Division of Marine Fisheries

September 20, 2013
2:00 P.M.
FF-46-2013
/sab

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