PROCLAMATION

RE: FLOUNDER-COMMERCIAL HARVEST INTERNAL COASTAL WATERS

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Saturday, December 1, 2012 until midnight, Monday, December 31, 2012**, the following restrictions shall apply to the commercial harvest of flounder in **internal coastal waters**:

I. AREA DESCRIPTION

Internal coastal waters of the state of North Carolina as defined in Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03I .0101 (1) (c).

II. CLOSED SEASON

A. In the area described above, it is unlawful for any commercial fishing operation to possess, land, sell or offer for sale flounder **from 12:01 A.M. Saturday, December 1, 2012 through midnight, Monday, December 31, 2012.**

B. Commercial flounder harvest for all commercial gears **will open by this proclamation** at 12:01 A.M. Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

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 .0503.

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 possession and sale of live flounder in tanks or pools that were **captured and recorded on N.C. trip tickets prior to 6:00 P.M. on November 30, 2012** is permitted during the season closure. N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0505 states **that it is unlawful to fail to render a flounder pound net set inoperable during the closed flounder season.**

D. This proclamation implements the December closed season provision of the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.

BY:_____
Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

November 15, 2012
9:00 A.M.
FF-57-2012
/sab

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