

PROCLAMATION

RE: RED DRUM-COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective at **12:01 A.M., Thursday, January 1, 2015**, the following restrictions apply to the taking of red drum for commercial purposes:

I. HARVEST LIMIT

- A. It is unlawful to possess more than seven (7) red drum per day taken in a commercial fishing operation, regardless of the number of individuals or vessels involved.
- B. It is unlawful to possess **red drum** taken in a commercial fishing operation that is not in possession of either, flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet caught the same day.
- C. It is unlawful to land or transport red drum in a commercial fishing operation unless the weight of the combined daily landed catch of flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet exceeds the weight of the daily landed catch of red drum.

II. TRANSPORT, TRANSFER AND SALE

- A. It is unlawful for a commercial fishing operation to transfer possession of red drum except to a North Carolina licensed finfish dealer.
- B. All transport of red drum subsequent to possession and prior to sale is considered to be part of the commercial fishing operation regardless of whether transport is by vessel, vehicle or other means.
- C. All red drum that are sold, shall be sold prior to the sale of the flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet species component of the daily landed catch.
- D. The daily landed catch of red drum along with the daily landed catch of flounder, bluefish, black drum or striped mullet species taken in a commercial fishing operation must remain in the possession of the commercial fishing operation and be transported together up to the point of sale. **Two SCFL holders from separate commercial fishing operations may transport their daily landed catch of red drum and associated target species as described above to the dealer in the same vehicle. A SCFL holder must accompany each single harvest limit until the time of sale to the dealer.**
- E. It is unlawful to purchase more than the daily harvest limit of red drum from a single commercial fishing operation.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. This proclamation is issued under the authority of N.C.G.S. 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 .0501 and 03M .0512.
- 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 manage the commercial red drum fishery as specified in the N.C. Red Drum Fishery Management Plan. The annual harvest limit for the fishing year September through August is 250,000 pounds. However, the Plan requires any overage from one year to be deducted from the subsequent year. The September through April harvest period harvest limit will be reduced from 150,000 pounds to 137,324 pounds due to an overage in this period from the prior q fishing year.
- D. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0501(c), it is unlawful to possess red drum less than 18 inches total length or greater than 27 inches total length.
- E. In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 3M .0501(d), it is unlawful to possess more than one red drum per person per day taken by hook-and-line or for recreational purposes.
- 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 <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/>.
- G. This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-78-2014 dated December 2, 2014. **This proclamation increases the commercial red drum harvest limit to seven (7) fish. The division has analyzed trip ticket data and determined that sufficient poundage remains within the harvest period to raise the daily landing limit in order to minimize discards.**

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

December 19, 2014
12:45 P.M.
FF-92-2014
/sab