PROCLAMATION

RE: SPOTTED SEATROUT COMMERCIAL

Dr. Louis B. Daniel III, Director, Division of Marine Fisheries, hereby announces that effective **12:01 A.M., Friday, February 8, 2013**, the following will apply to spotted seatrout for **commercial** purposes:

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 posses more than **75 spotted seatrout 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. 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 joint fishing waters of the following water bodies **are exempted from II. C. and D. 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 36° 04.8280'N - 75° 47.4050'W; running easterly along the south side of the bridge to a point on the east shore at 36° 05.5770'N - 75° 44.5850'W. (see map).

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. Fisheries Rules 15A NCAC 03H .0103 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 Rule 15A NCAC 03H .0103.

C. This action was taken to reduce overfishing following action by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC) on the Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan. The MFC directed the Director to implement these restrictions in the interim until the provisions of the Plan take effect in February, 2014.

D. Joint fishing waters are managed jointly by the MFC and the Wildlife Resources Commission. Maps showing boundary lines can be found on the DMF website at: http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/coastal-joint-inland-waters.

E. This proclamation supersedes Proclamation FF-21- 2012, dated March 26, 2012. It changes an incorrect reference in II.E. **All restrictions currently in place remain unchanged.**

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

February 5 , 2013
9:45 A.M.
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/mjc

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