

1 15A NCAC 03I .0120 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 142-143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03I .0120 POSSESSION OR TRANSPORTATION LIMITS THROUGH STATE WATERS;**
4 **SALE OF NATIVE SPECIES**

5 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess or transport through State coastal fishing waters any species of fish ~~which that is~~
6 subject to State size season, size, or harvest restrictions, regardless whether the species was taken in State or federal
7 waters, while actively engaged in a fishing operation, unless all fish taken are in compliance with the restrictions for
8 the waterbody ~~and or~~ area being fished. If State season, size, or harvest restrictions [that implement or comply with
9]differ from comparable restrictions pursuant to a fishery management plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine
10 Fisheries [Commission, in accordance with G.S. 113-252, or adopted by the United States Secretary of Commerce
11 pursuant to] Commission or pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, [46
12 U.S.C. 1801, et seq. as amended, differ from regulations adopted by these entities,]or if there are no corresponding
13 federal regulations, the State restrictions shall apply during such periods of possession or transportation. [apply.
14 Nothing provided here is intended to supersede or interrupt the process to address State restrictions that do not
15 implement or comply with a fishery management plan as described in this Paragraph. This process is found in the
16 N.C. Fishery Management Plan for Interjurisdictional Fisheries available at [http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ne-](http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/ne-fisheries-management)
17 fisheries-management.]

18 (b) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to import native into the state [State] species of fish native to North Carolina for sale in
19 North Carolina the State that do not meet established size limits, [limits established by rule or proclamation,]except
20 as provided in 15A NCAC 03K ~~.0202(e), .0202, 03K-.0207, 03K-[and].0305, and 03M .0503-.0503.~~

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-170; 113-170.4; 113-170.5; 113-182; 113-182.1; 113-252; 143B-*
23 *289.52;*
24 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 1999;*
25 *Eff. August 1, 2000;*
26 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2001;*
27 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2005; April 1, 2003;*
28 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0102 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0102 NETS OR NET STAKES**

4 It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use ~~nets-nets,~~ or net ~~stakes:stakes of metallic material, in any of the following Internal Coastal~~
5 Waters:

6 (1) ~~Within-within~~ 150 yards of any railroad or highway bridge crossing the Northeast Cape Fear River,
7 New River, White Oak River, Trent River, Neuse River, Pamlico River, Roanoke River, and
8 Alligator River; [River] and

9 (2) ~~Within-within~~ 300 yards of any highway bridge crossing Albemarle Sound, Chowan River, Croatan
10 Sound, Currituck ~~Sound-Sound,~~ and Roanoke ~~Sound;Sound.~~

11 ~~(3) ——— If [if] such net stakes are of metallic material.~~

12
13 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;

14 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

15 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0108 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0108 NETS PULLED BY MORE THAN ONE ~~BOAT-VESSEL~~**

4 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to pull or tow a net with more than one ~~boat-vessel~~, except in ~~long-haul fishing~~ long haul
5 operations.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

8 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

9 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0203 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0203 CHOWAN RIVER AND ~~ITS TRIBUTARIES~~MEHERRIN RIVER**

4 **(a) In the Chowan River and the Meherrin River, it shall be unlawful to do any of the following:**

5 (1) set a pound net within 150 yards of the mouth of any tributary; and

6 (2) set a trotline within 100 yards of a pound net from February 1 through May 31.

7 ~~(a)(b)~~ In the Chowan ~~River and its tributaries:~~ ~~tributaries,~~ River, it ~~[is]~~ shall be unlawful ~~[to:]~~ to do any of the
8 following:

9 (1) ~~It is unlawful to anchor the lead line of any net closer than 50 feet from shore [shore,] except in the~~
10 ~~Meherrin River.shore:~~

11 (2) ~~It is unlawful to use pound nets in any tributary creek or within 150 yards of the mouth of any such~~
12 ~~tributary creek of the Chowan River.~~

13 ~~(3)(2)~~ It is unlawful to set a pound net within 200 yards parallel to any other pound net in the Chowan
14 River. ~~River,~~ in accordance with Rule .0502 of this Subchapter; and

15 ~~(4)(3)~~ It is unlawful to use a seine within 1,000 yards of the mouth of any creek tributary to the Chowan
16 River. ~~tributary.~~

17 ~~(5)(3)~~ It is unlawful to set a trotline within 100 yards of a pound net from February 1 through May 31.

18 ~~(b) It is unlawful to set a pound net in any tributary of the Chowan River or within 150 yards of the mouth of any~~
19 ~~tributary of the Chowan River.~~

20 ~~(c) It is unlawful to use a seine within 1,000 yards of the mouth of any tributary of the Chowan River.~~

21
22 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;

23 Eff. January 1, 1991;

24 Amended Eff. September 1, 1991;

25 Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.

1 15A NCAC 03J .0204 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0204 CURRITUCK SOUND AND ITS TRIBUTARIES**

4 In the Internal Coastal Waters of Currituck Sound and its ~~tributaries;~~tributaries, it ~~is~~ shall be unlawful ~~to use a~~
5 ~~seine;~~ to do any of the following:

- 6 (1) ~~It is unlawful to use any net or seine with more than one power boat.~~ in conduct long haul
7 ~~[operations.]~~ operations, as defined in 15A NCAC 03I .0101; and
8 (2) ~~It is unlawful to use any seine or haul net which~~ use a seine ~~that~~ is more than 900 yards in length or
9 ~~which~~ that has a mesh length of less than three inches.

10
11 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;

12 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

13 *Amended Eff. September 1, 1991;*

14 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0206 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0206 SOUTHPORT BOAT HARBOR**

4 It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use ~~any~~ commercial fishing gear in the Southport Boat Harbor, Brunswick County, north of
5 a line beginning at a point on the west side of the mouth of the harbor ~~33°54.9656'N – 78°01.4477' W~~ 33° 54.9656' N
6 ~~– 78° 01.4477' W~~ W, running easterly to a point on the east side of the mouth of the harbor ~~33°54.9656'N –~~
7 ~~78°01.3797' W~~ 33° 54.9656' N – 78° 01.3797' W.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

10 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

11 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2004;*

12 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0207 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0207 ~~DUKE ENERGY PROGRESS BRUNSWICK~~ NUCLEAR PLANT INTAKE CANAL**

4 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to use any commercial fishing equipment in the ~~Duke Energy Progress Brunswick Nuclear Plant~~
5 ~~Intake Canal~~ a nuclear plant intake canal between the fish diversion screen and the ~~Duke Energy Progress Brunswick~~
6 ~~Nuclear Plant~~ nuclear plant.

7
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

9 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

10 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015;*

11 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0209 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0209 ALBEMARLE ~~SOUND/CHOWAN~~ SOUND AND CHOWAN RIVER RIVER**
4 **HERRING MANAGEMENT AREAS**

5 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to use drift gill nets with a mesh length less than three inches from January 1 through May 15
6 in the Albemarle Sound and Chowan River river herring management areas defined in 15A NCAC 03R .0202.

7
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*
9 *Temporary Adoption Eff. May 1, 2000;*
10 *Eff. April 1, 2001;*
11 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; June 1, 2013; December 1, 2007;*
12 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0303 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 143 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0303 DREDGES AND MECHANICAL METHODS PROHIBITED**

4 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use any dredge weighing more than 100 ~~pounds-pounds~~, except in the Atlantic Ocean.

5 (b) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use more than one dredge per vessel to take oysters or crabs or to use any dredges or
6 mechanical methods between sunset and sunrise.

7 (c) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess oysters aboard a vessel with a dredge weighing more than 100 pounds on board.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

10 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

11 *Amended Eff. March 1, 1994; January 1, 1991;*

12 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0304 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0304 ELECTRICAL FISHING DEVICE IN CAPE FEAR RIVER**

4 It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take catfish by the use of a hand-operated device generating pulsating electrical current in
5 the Internal Coastal Fishing Waters of the Cape Fear River ~~except~~ except:

6 (1) _____ from 800 feet downstream of Lock and Dam No. 1 in Bladen County to where the Black River joins
7 the Cape Fear ~~River~~ River; and

8 (2) _____ from July 1 through ~~the last day of February~~ March 1.

9
10 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;

11 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

12 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2008.*

13 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03J .0306 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03J .0306 ~~HOOK AND LINE~~ HOOK AND LINE**

4 It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use any hook larger than 4/0 from July 1 through September 30 in the ~~internal coastal fishing~~
5 ~~waters~~ Internal Coastal Waters of Pamlico Sound and its tributaries south of the Albemarle Sound Management Area
6 as defined in 15A NCAC 03R .0201 and north of a line beginning at a point 34° 59.7942' N - 76° 14.6514' W on Camp
7 ~~Point; Point,~~ running easterly to a point 34° 58.7853' N - 76° 09.8922' W on Core ~~Banks Banks,~~ while using natural
8 bait from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. unless the terminal tackle consists of:

- 9 (1) ~~A circle hook a~~ "circle hook", defined for the purpose of this Rule as a hook with the point of the
10 hook directed perpendicularly back toward the ~~shank, shank~~ and with the barb either compressed or
11 removed; and
12 (2) ~~A a~~ fixed sinker not less than two ounces in weight, secured not more than six inches from the fixed
13 weight to the circle hook.

14
15 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-132; 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-182.1; 143B-289.52;~~*
16 *Eff. April 1, 2009;*
17 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0402 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0402 SEASON, SIZE AND HARVEST LIMITS**

4 Size and harvest limits applicable to hard clams in ~~15A NCAC 03K Rule .0301~~ of this Subchapter ~~do shall~~ not apply
5 to Rangia clams.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 113-202; 143B-289.52;*

8 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2004;*

10 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0403 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0403 DISPOSITION OF MEATS**

4 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to dispose of meats from Rangia clams taken ~~in~~ from prohibited (polluted) waters ~~for~~ by a
5 method that will result in human consumption or ~~by a method that will~~ create risk of human consumption.

6
7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 113-202; 143B-298.52;*

8 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

9 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2004;*

10 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0404 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0404 ~~DREDGES/MECHANICAL~~ DREDGES AND MECHANICAL METHODS**
4 **PROHIBITED AND OPEN SEASON**

5 It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to use mechanical methods for oystering or clamming to take Rangia clams or their shells:

- 6 (1) within 100 feet of any pier;
7 (2) within any established bed of submerged aquatic vegetation as defined in 15A NCAC 03I .0101 or
8 salt water cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) that may exist together or separately;
9 (3) in areas designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0108, except on shellfish leases and franchises with a Permit
10 to Use Mechanical Methods for ~~Oysters and Clams~~ Shellfish on Shellfish Leases and
11 ~~Franchises~~ Franchises; and
12 (4) in areas designated in ~~15A NCAC 03K .0204(3) and 03R .0103; Rule .0204 of this Subchapter and~~
13 15A NCAC 03R [.0103;] and .0103.

14 ~~(5) —except Mechanical methods prohibited by this Rule shall be permitted~~ in areas and at times specified by
15 proclamation as authorized by ~~15A NCAC 03K .0201 and 03K .0302~~ Rules .0201 and .0302 of this Subchapter.

16
17 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 143B-289.52;*

18 *Eff. August 1, 2004;*

19 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0405 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0405 OYSTERS, ~~MUSSELS, HARD CLAMS~~ CLAMS, OR MUSSELS PROHIBITED**

4 ~~While taking Rangia clams or their shells from a prohibited (polluted) area it is~~ **shall be** unlawful to possess any
5 ~~other shellfish. oysters, hard clams, or mussels while taking Rangia clams or their shells from a prohibited (polluted)~~
6 ~~area.~~

7
8 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 143B-289.52;

9 *Eff. August 1, 2004;*

10 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0501 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 144 as follows:

2
3 **SECTION .0500 - SCALLOPS**
4

5 **15A NCAC 03K .0501 BAY SCALLOP HARVEST MANAGEMENT**

6 The Fisheries Director may, by ~~proclamation, proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103,~~ impose any ~~or~~
7 ~~all~~ of the following restrictions ~~for commercial or recreational on the taking of bay scallop harvest scallops from~~
8 public bottom:

- 9 (1) specify time;
10 (2) specify area;
11 (3) specify means and methods;
12 (4) specify open seasons for the taking of bay scallops during the period beginning the last Monday in
13 January and ending the last Friday in May;
14 (5) specify size; and
15 (6) specify quantity, but shall not exceed possession of more than 15 standard U.S. bushels per person
16 per day or a total of 30 standard U.S. bushels in any combined commercial fishing operation per
17 day.
18

19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;*
20 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*
21 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; February 1, 2008;*
22 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0502 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0502 TAKING BAY SCALLOPS AT NIGHT AND ON WEEKENDS**

4 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to take bay scallops between sunset and ~~sunrise, sunrise~~ or on Saturdays or Sundays, except
5 as provided in ~~15A NCAC 03K .0105~~ Rule .0105 of this Subchapter.

6 (b) Bay scallops taken on Saturdays or Sundays from shellfish leases or franchises in accordance with G.S. 113-208
7 ~~are shall be~~ exempt from this Rule.

8
9 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

10 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

12 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; August 1, 2000;*

13 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0503 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0503 ~~PROHIBITED~~ BAY SCALLOP DREDGE PROHIBITED**

4 It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to take bay scallops with ~~dredges weighing more than 50 pounds or equipped with teeth. Any~~
5 ~~other instrument or device designed to drag the bottom to aid in the taking of bay scallops is also prohibited. any of~~
6 the following:

7 (1) dredges weighing more than 50 pounds or equipped with teeth; and

8 (2) any other instrument or device designed to drag the bottom to aid in the taking of bay scallops.

9
10 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

11 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

12 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03K .0504 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0504 CALICO SCALLOP SEASON ~~HARVEST~~ MANAGEMENT**

4 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to land or possess aboard a vessel calico scallops ~~except~~ ~~[except]~~ at such times as designated
5 by the Fisheries Director by proclamation.

6 (b) The Fisheries Director may, ~~[be proclamation]~~ by proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose
7 any ~~[or all]~~ of the following restrictions on the taking of calico scallops:

8 (1) specify time;

9 (2) specify area;

10 (3) specify means and methods;

11 (4) specify season;

12 (5) specify size; and

13 (6) specify quantity.

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;*
16 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*
17 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

15A NCAC 03K .0507 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145 as follows:

15A NCAC 03K .0507 MARKETING SCALLOPS TAKEN FROM SHELLFISH LEASES OR
FRANCHISES

(a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to sell, purchase, or possess scallops during the closed season without the lease or franchise holder delivering to the purchaser or other recipient a certification, on a form provided by the ~~Division,~~ Division of Marine Fisheries, that the scallops were taken from a valid shellfish lease or franchise. Certification forms shall be furnished by the Division to lease and franchise holders upon request.

(b) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful for lease or franchise holders or their designees to take or possess scallops from public bottom while possessing aboard a vessel scallops taken from shellfish leases or franchises.

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 143B-289.52;

Eff. May 1, 2015;

Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.

1 15A NCAC 03K .0508 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03K .0508 SCALLOP SEASON AND AQUACULTURE HARVEST LIMIT EXEMPTIONS**

4 The following exemptions and restrictions shall apply to the possession, sale, purchase, or transport of scallops
5 produced in an aquaculture operation:

- 6 (1) Possession and sale of scallops by a scallop aquaculture operation shall be exempt from restrictions
7 set forth in ~~15A NCAC 03K Rules .0501, .0504, and .0505.~~ .0505 of this Section.
8 (2) Purchase and possession of scallops from a scallop aquaculture operation shall be exempt from
9 restrictions set forth in ~~15A NCAC 03K Rules .0501, .0504, and .0505.~~ .0505 of this Section.
10 (3) It is shall be unlawful for a person to possess, sell, purchase, or transport scallops described in Sub-
11 Items (1) and (2) of this Rule unless in compliance with all conditions of the Aquaculture Operation
12 Permit, as set forth in ~~15A NCAC 03O .0501 and .0503.~~ Permit [set forth in] issued pursuant to 15A
13 NCAC 03O .0500.

14
15 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134;113-182; 113-201; 143B-289.52;
16 Eff. May 1, 2015;
17 Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.

1 15A NCAC 03L .0208 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 145-146 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03L .0208 STONE CRABS (~~MENIPPE MERCENARIA~~)**

4 **It is unlawful to:**

- 5 (1) ~~Possess stone crab bodies, or fail to immediately return stone crab bodies to the waters from which~~
6 ~~taken;~~
7 (2) ~~Remove, take or possess any claw(s) from June 15 through August 15;~~
8 (3) ~~Remove, take or possess any claw(s) from egg-bearing stone crabs;~~
9 (4) ~~Use any device to take stone crabs that can puncture, crush, or injure the crab body, such as gigs,~~
10 ~~spears, grabs, hooks, or similar devices; and~~
11 (5) ~~Remove, take or possess stone crab claw(s) which have a propodus (forearm) less than two and three~~
12 ~~quarter inches in length, measured by a straight line from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable~~
13 ~~finger. The propodus (forearm) is defined as the largest section of the claw assembly that has both~~
14 ~~a movable and immovable finger and is located farthest from the body of the crab.~~

15 (a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to possess stone crab bodies or fail to immediately return stone crab bodies to the waters
16 from which they are taken.

17 (b) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to remove, take, or possess any stone crab ~~claw(s)~~ claws from June 15 through August
18 15.

19 (c) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to remove, take, or possess any ~~claw(s)~~ claws from egg-bearing stone crabs.

20 (d) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use any device to take stone crabs that can puncture, crush, or injure the crab body,
21 such as gigs, spears, grabs, hooks, or similar devices.

22 (e) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to remove, take, or possess any stone crab ~~claw(s)~~ claws that have a propodus (forearm)
23 less than 2 ~~and~~ ¾ inches in length, measured by a straight line from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable
24 finger. For the purpose of this Rule, "propodus" ~~is defined as~~ shall mean the largest section of the claw assembly
25 that has both a movable and immovable finger and is located farthest from the body of the crab.

26
27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

28 *Eff. December 1, 2006;*

29 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0101 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 146 as follows:

2
3 **SUBCHAPTER 03M - FINFISH**

4
5 **SECTION .0100 – FINFISH, GENERAL**

6
7 **15A NCAC 03M .0101 MUTILATED FINFISH**

8 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing any species of finfish that is subject to a
9 size or harvest restriction without having head and tail attached, except:

- 10 (1) mullet when used for bait;
- 11 (2) hickory shad when used for ~~bait-bait~~, provided that not more than two hickory shad per vessel or
12 fishing operation may be cut for bait at any one time; and
- 13 (3) tuna possessed in a commercial fishing operation as provided in ~~15A NCAC 03M .0520~~ Rule .0520
14 of this Subchapter.

15
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*
17 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*
18 *Amended Eff. January 1, 1991;*
19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2001;*
20 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; April 1, 2011; July 1, 2006; August 1, 2002;*
21 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0102 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 146 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0102 UNMARKETABLE FINFISH**

4 ~~(a) It is unlawful to land finfish if in violation of minimum size or possession limits established by rule or~~
5 ~~proclamation.~~

6 ~~(b)(a)~~ It **is shall be** unlawful to land ~~finfish-finfish~~, taken in connection with a commercial fishing ~~operations which~~
7 ~~operation, that~~ are unmarketable as individual finfish by reason of size, except a quantity not exceeding 5,000 pounds
8 per vessel per day may be sold to a dealer that is licensed under G.S. 113-169.3(f)(6), ~~(7) and (7), or (8).~~

9 ~~(c)(b)~~ ~~Menhaden~~, Atlantic menhaden, Atlantic thread herring, gizzard shad, and pinfish are exempt from this Rule.

10
11 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-185; 143B-289.52;*

12 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

13 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2008;*

14 *Readopted April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0103 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 146 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0103 MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS**

4 It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess, sell, or purchase finfish under four inches in length except:

- 5 (1) ~~as~~ bait in the crab pot fishery in North ~~Carolina with the following provision: Carolina, if~~ such crab
6 pot bait ~~shall is~~ not ~~be~~ transported west of U.S. Interstate 95 ~~and and~~, when transported, ~~shall be is~~
7 accompanied by documentation showing the name and address of the shipper, the name and address
8 of the consignee, and the total weight of the shipment;
- 9 (2) bait in the finfish fishery with the following provisions:
- 10 (a) ~~It it is shall be~~ unlawful to possess more than 200 pounds of live finfish or 100 pounds of
11 dead finfish; and
- 12 (b) ~~Such such~~ finfish bait ~~may is~~ not ~~be~~ transported outside ~~the State~~ of North Carolina;
- 13 (3) live finfish in aquaria, provided ~~that~~ the finfish are not subject to other minimum size limits under
14 the authority of Marine Fisheries Commission ~~Rule, rules;~~ and
- 15 (4) ~~menhaden, herring, Atlantic menhaden, Atlantic thread herring, gizzard shad, and pinfish.~~

16 Bait dealers who possess a valid finfish dealer license from the Division of Marine Fisheries ~~are shall be~~ exempt from
17 Sub-Items (2)(a) and (b) of this Rule. Tolerance of not more than five percent by number of species shall be allowed.

18
19 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-185; 143B-289.52;*
20 *Eff. July 1, 1993;*
21 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2014;*
22 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0501 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 146-147 as follows:

2
3 **SECTION .0500 – OTHER FINFISH**
4

5 **15A NCAC 03M .0501 RED DRUM**

6 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to remove red drum from any type of net with the aid of any boat hook, gaff, spear, gig, or
7 similar device.

8 (b) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to take or possess red drum taken by any boat hook, gaff, spear, gig, or similar device.

9 (c) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess red drum less than 18 inches total length or greater than 27 inches total length.

10 (d) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess more than one red drum per person per day taken by ~~hook and line~~ hook and line
11 or for recreational purposes.

12 (e) ~~The annual Annual commercial harvest limit (September 1 through August 31) for red drum drum: is 250,000~~
13 ~~pounds. The annual commercial harvest limit is allotted in two periods: September 1 through April 30 at 150,000~~
14 ~~pounds, and May 1 through August 31 at 100,000 pounds plus any remainder from the first period allotment. Any~~
15 ~~annual commercial harvest limit that is exceeded one year will result in the poundage overage being deducted from~~
16 ~~the subsequent year's commercial harvest limit and the Fisheries Director shall adjust the period allotments~~
17 ~~accordingly. If the harvest limit is projected to be taken in any period, the Fisheries Director shall, by proclamation,~~
18 ~~prohibit possession of red drum taken in a commercial fishing operation for the remainder of that period.~~

19 (1) The annual commercial harvest limit for red drum ~~is~~ shall be 250,000 pounds.

20 (2) The annual commercial harvest limit for red drum ~~is~~ shall be calculated from September 1 through
21 August 31 and is allotted in two periods:

22 (A) September 1 through April 30 at 150,000 pounds; and

23 (B) May 1 through August 31 at 100,000 pounds plus any remainder from the first period
24 allotment.

25 (3) If the harvest limit is projected to be taken in any period, the Fisheries Director shall, by
26 proclamation, prohibit possession of red drum taken in a commercial fishing operation for the
27 remainder of that period.

28 (4) Any commercial harvest limit that is exceeded during one year shall result in the poundage overage
29 being deducted from the subsequent year's commercial harvest ~~limit~~ limit, and the Fisheries
30 Director shall, by proclamation, adjust the period allotments as described in this Paragraph.

31
32 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;*

33 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

34 *Amended Eff. March 1, 1996; October 1, 1992; September 1, 1991;*

35 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2000; July 1, 1999; October 22, 1998;*

36 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2001;*

37 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2001;*

1 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2009; October 1, 2008; August 1, 2002;*
2 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0502 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0502 MULLET**

4 ~~(a) The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, impose any or all of the following restrictions on the taking of~~
5 ~~mullet:~~

- 6 (1) ~~Specify season;~~
7 (2) ~~Specify areas;~~
8 (3) ~~Specify quantity;~~
9 (4) ~~Specify means/methods;~~
10 (5) ~~Specify size.~~

11 ~~(b)(a)~~ It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess more than 200 mullet per person per day for recreational purposes.

12 (b) The Fisheries Director may, by ~~[proclamation,]~~ proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any
13 ~~[or all]~~ of the following restrictions on the taking of mullet:

- 14 (1) specify time;
15 (2) specify area;
16 (3) specify means and methods;
17 (4) specify season;
18 (5) specify size; and
19 (6) specify quantity, except as provided in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

20
21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;*
22 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*
23 *Amended Eff. July 1, 2006;*
24 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0506 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0506 ~~SNAPPER-GROUPER~~ SNAPPER GROUPER COMPLEX**

4 (a) In the Atlantic Ocean, it ~~is shall be~~ unlawful for an individual fishing under a Recreational Commercial Gear
5 License with seines, shrimp trawls, pots, ~~trotlines-trotlines,~~ or gill nets to take any species of the ~~Snapper Grouper~~
6 snapper grouper complex.

7 (b) The list of species of the ~~snapper grouper-snapper grouper~~ complex ~~listed~~ in the South Atlantic Fishery
8 Management Council Fishery Management Plan for the ~~Snapper Grouper-Snapper Grouper~~ Fishery of the South
9 Atlantic Region ~~are hereby-is~~ incorporated by ~~reference and copies-~~ reference, including subsequent
10 amendments and editions. Copies of the plan are available ~~via the Federal Register posted on the Internet at~~
11 www.safmc.net and at the Division of Marine Fisheries, 3441 Arendell Street, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, North
12 Carolina ~~28557-28557,~~ at no cost.

13
14 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 143B-289.52;*

15 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

16 *Amended Eff. April 1, 1997; March 1, 1996; September 1, 1991;*

17 *Temporary Amendment Eff. December 23, 1996;*

18 *Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; April 1, 1997;*

19 *Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 2002; August 29, 2000; January 1, 2000; May 24, 1999;*

20 *Amended Eff. October 1, 2008; May 1, 2004; July 1, 2003; April 1, 2003; August 1, 2002;*

21 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0507 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0507 BILLFISH**

4 (a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take blue marlin, white marlin, roundscale spearfish, or sailfish, except by hook and
5 line or for recreational purposes.

6 ~~(a)(b) Marlin: Taken for recreational purposes or by hook and line: For blue marlin, white marlin, and roundscale~~
7 ~~spearfish, it is~~ shall be unlawful ~~to~~ to do any of the following:

8 (1) ~~It is unlawful to~~ possess blue marlin less than 99 inches in length from the lower jaw to the fork in
9 the ~~tail~~ tail.

10 (2) ~~It is unlawful to~~ possess white marlin or roundscale spearfish less than 66 inches in length from the
11 lower jaw to the fork in the ~~tail~~ tail.

12 (3) ~~It is unlawful to~~ possess more than one blue marlin, ~~or white marlin~~ marlin, or roundscale spearfish
13 in the aggregate per vessel per ~~trip~~ trip; and

14 (4) ~~It is unlawful to~~ sell or offer for sale blue marlin, ~~or white marlin~~ marlin, or roundscale spearfish.

15 ~~(b)(c) Sailfish: Taken for recreational purposes or by hook and line: For sailfish, it is~~ shall be unlawful ~~to~~ to do any
16 of the following:

17 (1) ~~It is unlawful to~~ possess sailfish less than 63 inches in length from the lower jaw to the fork in the
18 ~~tail~~ tail.

19 (2) ~~It is unlawful to~~ possess more than one sailfish per person per ~~day~~ day; and

20 (3) ~~It is unlawful to~~ sell or offer for sale sailfish.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

23 *Eff. January 1, 1991;*

24 *Amended Eff. March 1, 1996; March 1, 1994; February 1, 1992; September 1, 1991;*

25 *Temporary Amendment Eff. June 7, 1998; September 1, 1996;*

26 *Amended Eff. July 1, 1998;*

27 *Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;*

28 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;*

29 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0510 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0510 AMERICAN EEL**

4 **It is unlawful to:**

5 (1) ~~Possess, sell or take American eels less than nine inches in length;~~

6 (2) ~~Possess more than 25 American eels per person per day for recreational purposes, except the master~~
7 ~~and each mate of for hire vessels that hold a valid for hire license may possess 50 eels each per day;~~
8 ~~and~~

9 (3) ~~Possess American eels from September 1 through December 31 except when taken by baited pots.~~

10 (a) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to possess, sell, or take American eels less than nine inches in length.

11 (b) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to possess more than 25 American eels per person per day for recreational purposes, except
12 the master and each mate of for-hire vessels that hold a valid for-hire license may possess 50 eels each per day.

13 (c) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to possess American eels from September 1 through December 31, except when taken by
14 baited pots.

15
16 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

17 *Eff. July 1, 1993;*

18 *Temporary Amendment Eff. August 1, 2000;*

19 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; April 1, 2001;*

20 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0513 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0513 RIVER HERRING**

4 It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to take or possess river herring from North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters. Possession of river
5 herring from sources other than North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters shall be limited to fish less than or equal to
6 six inches total length when aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing.

7
8 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 143B-289.52;*

9 *Eff. March 1, 1995;*

10 *Amended Eff. August 1, 1998;*

11 *Temporary Amendment Eff. May 1, 2000; August 1, 1999; July 1, 1999; March 1, 1999;*

12 *Amended Eff. June 13, 2016; October 1, 2008; December 1, 2007; April 1, 2001;*

13 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0515 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 147-148 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0515 DOLPHIN**

4 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess for recreational ~~[purposes;]~~ purposes any of the following:

5 (1) more than 10 dolphin per person per day taken by hook and line for recreational purposes. ~~[line;] line;~~
6 and

7 (2) more than 60 dolphin per vessel per day regardless of the number of individuals on board, except
8 headboat vessels with a valid U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection may possess 10 dolphin
9 per paying customer.

10 ~~(b) It is unlawful to possess more than 60 dolphin per day per vessel regardless of the number of people on board,~~
11 ~~except headboat vessels with a valid U.S. Coast Guard Certificate of Inspection may possess 10 dolphin per paying~~
12 ~~customer.~~

13 ~~(c)(b) It is shall be~~ unlawful ~~to take or possess~~ ~~[in] for~~ a commercial fishing operation without a valid federal Atlantic
14 Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial vessel ~~[permit;]~~ permit to do any of the following:

15 (1) ~~[to]~~ take or possess more than 10 dolphin per person per day, or ~~[day;]~~ day; and

16 (2) ~~[to]~~ sell dolphin ~~dolphin without a valid Federal Commercial Dolphin/Wahoo vessel permit and~~
17 ~~either a Standard Commercial Fishing License, a Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License, or~~
18 ~~a Land or Sell License.~~

19
20 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

21 *Temporary Adoption Eff. July 1, 1999;*

22 *Temporary Adoption Eff. January 1, 2000;*

23 *Eff. April 1, 2001;*

24 *Amended Eff. September 1, 2005;*

25 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0517 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 148 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0517 WAHOO**

4 (a) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful to possess for recreational purposes more than two wahoo per person per day taken by hook
5 and ~~line for recreational purposes line~~.

6 (b) It ~~is shall be~~ unlawful ~~in~~ for a commercial fishing ~~operation~~ operation to do any of the following:

7 (1) without a valid federal Atlantic Dolphin/Wahoo Commercial vessel permit:

8 (A) to take or possess more than two wahoo per person per day, or ~~day~~ day; and

9 (B) to sell ~~wahoo~~ wahoo without a Federal Commercial Dolphin/Wahoo permit and either a
10 Standard Commercial Fishing License, Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License, or
11 a Land or Sell License; ~~wahoo~~; and

12 (2) to possess aboard a vessel or land more than 500 pounds of wahoo per trip.

13 (c) ~~It is unlawful to possess aboard or land more than 500 pounds of wahoo per trip in a commercial fishing operation.~~

14
15 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

16 *Eff. September 1, 2005;*

17 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0518 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 148 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0518 ~~KINGFISH~~ KINGFISHES (SEA MULLET)**

4 The Fisheries Director may, by proclamation, proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any or all
5 of the following restrictions on the taking of kingfishes:

- 6 (1) ~~Specify season;~~
7 (2) ~~Specify areas;~~
8 (3) ~~Specify quantity;~~
9 (4) ~~Specify means and methods;~~
10 (5) ~~Specify size.~~
11 (1) specify time;
12 (2) specify area;
13 (3) specify means and methods;
14 (4) specify season;
15 (5) specify size; and
16 (6) specify quantity.

17
18 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; ~~113-221; 143B-289.4; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;~~*
19 *Eff. October 1, 2008;*
20 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0520 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 148 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0520 TUNA**

4 (a) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to possess for recreational ~~purposes;~~ purposes any of the following:

5 (1) yellowfin tuna less than 27 inches curved fork ~~length;~~ length:

6 (2) bigeye tuna less than 27 inches curved fork ~~length;~~ length; and

7 (3) more than three yellowfin tuna per person per day.

8 (a)(b) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to possess in a commercial fishing ~~operation;~~ operation any of the following:

9 (1) ~~Yellowfin-yellowfin~~ tuna less than 27 inches curved fork length or 27 inches from the fork of the
10 tail to the forward edge of the cut of beheaded ~~tuna-tuna;~~

11 (2) ~~Bigeye-bigeye~~ tuna less than 27 inches curved fork length or 27 inches from the fork of the tail to
12 the forward edge of the cut of beheaded ~~tuna-tuna;~~

13 (3) ~~Bluefin-Atlantic bluefin~~ tuna less than 73 inches curved fork length or 54 inches pectoral fin curved
14 fork ~~length-length; and~~

15 (b)(4) ~~It is unlawful to possess in a commercial fishing operation tunas tuna~~ subject to a size or harvest
16 restriction without having ~~tails-the tail~~ attached.

17 (c) ~~It is unlawful to possess for recreational purposes:~~

18 (1) ~~Yellowfin tuna less than 27 inches curved fork length.~~

19 (2) ~~Bigeye tuna less than 27 inches curved fork length.~~

20 (3) ~~More than three yellowfin tuna per person per day.~~

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;*

23 *Eff. October 1, 2008;*

24 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2011;*

25 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03M .0521 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 148 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03M .0521 SHEEPSHEAD**

4 The Fisheries Director may, by ~~[proclamation,]~~ proclamation and pursuant to 15A NCAC 03H .0103, impose any ~~or~~
5 all of the following restrictions on the taking of sheepshead:

6 (1) specify time;

7 (2) specify area;

8 (3) specify means and methods;

9 (4) specify season;

10 (5) specify size; and

11 (6) specify quantity.

12
13 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-221.1; 143B-289.52;*

14 *Eff. April 1, 2014;*

15 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03O .0106 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 148-149 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03O .0106 DISPLAY OF LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS**

4 (a) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful:

5 (1) ~~For~~ for any person to use a vessel required to be registered under the provisions of G.S. 113-168.6
6 in a commercial fishing operation without a current ~~commercial fishing vessel registration~~
7 Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration decal mounted on an exterior surface so as to be plainly
8 visible when viewed from the port side; and

9 (2) ~~To~~ to display any ~~commercial fishing vessel registration~~ Commercial Fishing Vessel Registration
10 decal not issued for the vessel displaying it.

11 (b) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful to fail to display ~~any fish dealer's licenses~~ a Fish Dealer License required by G.S. ~~113-169.3,~~
12 ~~113-169.3~~ or ocean fishing pier license Ocean Fishing Pier License required by G.S. 113-169.4 in prominent public
13 view in each location subject to licensing.

14 (c) It ~~is~~ **shall be** unlawful for any person licensed under G.S. 113-174.3 to fail to display a current ~~For Hire License~~
15 for-hire vessel decal on the exterior surface of the vessel so as to be visible when viewed from the port side while
16 engaged in for-hire recreational fishing.

17
18 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-168.6; 113-169.3; 113-169.4; 113-174.1; 113-182; 143B-289.52;
19 Eff. January 1, 1991;
20 Temporary Amendment Eff. July 1, 1999;
21 Amended Eff. May 1, 2015; December 1, 2006; August 1, 2000;
22 Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.

1 15A NCAC 03O .0112 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 149 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03O .0112 ~~FOR HIRE COASTAL RECREATIONAL FISHING~~ FOR-HIRE LICENSE**
4 **REQUIREMENTS**

5 (a) ~~It is unlawful to operate a For Hire Vessel unless the vessel operator possesses either the For Hire Blanket Coastal~~
6 ~~Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) for the vessel or a Division of Marine Fisheries For Hire Fishing Permit for the~~
7 ~~vessel as provided in 15A NCAC 03O .0503(k).~~

8 (a) The license requirements for ~~the~~ **an** operator of a vessel engaged in a for-hire operation are set forth in G.S. 113-
9 174.3. Either the vessel owner or the for-hire vessel operator may seek to obtain the applicable for-hire vessel license.
10 Only the vessel owner ~~can~~ **shall** seek to obtain the applicable registration and endorsement ~~[as set forth in]~~ **required**
11 **by** G.S. 113-168.6. For the purposes of this rule, "for-hire vessel operator" ~~[includes]~~ **shall include** the holder of a
12 Blanket For-Hire Captain's Coastal Recreational Fishing License, Blanket For-Hire Vessel Coastal Recreational
13 Fishing License, or Non-Blanket For-Hire Vessel License, as set forth in G.S. 113-174.3.

14 (b) ~~It is shall be~~ **unlawful** for a ~~For Hire Vessel~~ for-hire vessel operator to operate ~~under the For Hire Blanket CRFL~~
15 ~~without:~~

- 16 (1) ~~Holding~~ **holding** the ~~USCG United States Coast Guard~~ certification required in ~~15A NCAC 03O~~
17 ~~.0101(a)(13); Rule .0101(a) of this Section;~~
18 (2) ~~Having the For Hire Blanket CRFL for the vessel or copy thereof~~ **having a copy of the for-hire**
19 **license** in possession and ready at hand for inspection; and
20 (3) ~~Having~~ **having** current picture identification in possession and ready at hand for inspection.

21 (c) ~~It is~~ **If requested by the Division of Marine Fisheries, it shall be** ~~unlawful for the holder of the For Hire Blanket~~
22 ~~CRFL a for-hire vessel operator to fail to participate in and provide accurate information~~ **as requested by the Division**
23 **[of Marine Fisheries]** ~~for biological sampling in accordance with 15A NCAC 03I .0113 and for survey~~
24 ~~programs~~ **programs administered by the [Division of Marine Fisheries.] Division.**

25 (d) ~~It is unlawful to fail to display a current For Hire Blanket CRFL decal mounted on an exterior surface of the vessel~~
26 ~~so as to be visible when viewed from the port side while engaged in for hire recreational fishing.~~ Requirements for
27 display of licenses and registrations for a vessel engaged in for-hire recreational fishing are set forth in Rule .0106 of
28 this Section.

29
30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-168.6; 113-174.1; 113-174.3; 143B-289.52;*

31 *Eff. July 1, 2008;*

32 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03O .0501 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 149-151 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03O .0501 PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN PERMITS**

4 (a) To obtain ~~any a~~ Division of Marine Fisheries permit, an applicant, responsible party, or person holding a power
5 of attorney shall provide the following information:

- 6 (1) the full name, physical address, mailing address, date of birth, and signature of the applicant on the
7 application and, if the applicant is not appearing before a license agent or the designated Division
8 of Marine Fisheries contact, the applicant's signature on the application shall be notarized;
- 9 (2) a current picture identification of ~~the~~ applicant, responsible party, or person holding a power of
10 attorney. ~~Acceptable attorney, acceptable forms of which shall include picture identification are~~
11 driver's license, North Carolina Identification card issued by the North Carolina Division of Motor
12 Vehicles, military identification card, resident alien card (green card), or ~~passport, or passport or,~~ if
13 applying by mail, a copy thereof;
- 14 (3) for permits that require a list of designees, the full names and dates of birth of ~~the~~ designees of the
15 applicant who will be acting ~~under pursuant to~~ the requested permit;
- 16 (4) certification that the applicant and his ~~or her~~ designees do not have four or more marine or estuarine
17 resource convictions during the previous three years;
- 18 (5) for permit applications from business entities:
 - 19 (A) the business name;
 - 20 (B) the type of business entity: corporation, "educational institution" as defined in 15A NCAC
21 03I .0101, limited liability company (LLC), partnership, or sole proprietorship;
 - 22 (C) the name, address, and phone number of responsible party and other identifying
23 information required by this Subchapter or rules related to a specific permit;
 - 24 (D) for a corporation applying for a permit in a corporate name, the current articles of
25 incorporation and a current list of corporate officers;
 - 26 (E) for a partnership that is established by a written partnership agreement, a current copy of
27 such agreement shall be provided when applying for a permit; and
 - 28 (F) for business entities other than corporations, copies of current assumed name statements if
29 filed with the Register of Deeds office for the corresponding county and copies of current
30 business privilege tax certificates, if applicable; and
- 31 (6) additional information as required for specific permits.

32 ~~(b) A permittee shall hold a valid Standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License in order to hold a:~~

- 33 ~~(1) Pound Net Permit;~~
- 34 ~~(2) Permit to Waive the Requirement to Use Turtle Excluder Devices in the Atlantic Ocean;~~
- 35 ~~(3) Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit; or~~
- 36 ~~(4) Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp.~~

1 (A) ~~— An individual who is assigned a Standard Commercial Fishing License is the individual~~
2 ~~required to hold a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp.~~

3 (B) ~~— The master designated on the single vessel corporation Standard Commercial Fishing~~
4 ~~License is the individual required to hold the Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live~~
5 ~~Shrimp.~~

6 **(b) A permittee shall hold a valid:**

7 **(1) Standard or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License in order to hold:**

8 **(A) an Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit;**
9 **(B) a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp; or**
10 **(C) a Pound Net Set Permit.**

11 **The master designated on the single vessel corporation Standard Commercial Fishing License is the**
12 **individual required to hold the Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp.**

13 **(2) Fish Dealer License in the proper category in order to hold dealer permits for monitoring fisheries**
14 **under a quota or allocation for that category.**

15 **(c) An individual who is assigned a valid Standard Commercial Fishing License with applicable endorsements [is]**
16 **shall be eligible to hold any permit that requires a Standard Commercial Fishing License except a Pound Net Set**
17 **Permit.**

18 ~~(e)~~**(d)** If mechanical methods to take shellfish are used, a permittee and his designees shall hold a valid Standard or
19 Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License with a Shellfish Endorsement in order for a permittee to hold a:

20 ~~(1) — Permit to Transplant Prohibited (Polluted) Shellfish;~~
21 ~~(2) — Permit to Transplant Oysters from Seed Oyster Management Areas;~~
22 ~~(3) — Permit to Use Mechanical Methods for Shellfish on Shellfish Leases or Franchises, except as~~
23 ~~provided in G.S. 113-169.2;~~
24 ~~(4) — Permit to Harvest Rangia Clams from Prohibited (Polluted) Areas; or~~
25 ~~(5) — Depuration Permit.~~

26 **(1) Depuration Permit;**
27 **(2) Permit to Harvest Rangia Clams from Prohibited (Polluted) Areas;**
28 **(3) Permit to Transplant Oysters from Seed Oyster Management Areas;**
29 **(4) Permit to Transplant Prohibited (Polluted) Shellfish; or**
30 **(5) Permit to Use Mechanical Methods for Shellfish on Shellfish Leases or Franchises, except as**
31 **provided in G.S. 113-169.2.**

32 ~~(d)~~**(e)** If mechanical methods to take shellfish are not used, a permittee and his designees shall hold a valid Standard
33 or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License with a Shellfish Endorsement or a Shellfish License in order for a
34 permittee to hold a:

35 ~~(1) — Permit to Transplant Prohibited (Polluted) Shellfish;~~
36 ~~(2) — Permit to Transplant Oysters from Seed Oyster Management Areas;~~
37 ~~(3) — Permit to Harvest Rangia Clams from Prohibited (Polluted) Areas; or~~

- 1 ~~(4) Depuration Permit.~~
- 2 (1) Depuration Permit;
- 3 (2) Permit to Harvest Rangia Clams from Prohibited (Polluted) Areas;
- 4 (3) Permit to Transplant Oysters from Seed Oyster Management Areas; or
- 5 (4) Permit to Transplant Prohibited (Polluted) Shellfish.
- 6 ~~(e) A permittee shall hold a valid:~~
- 7 ~~(1) Fish Dealer License in the proper category in order to hold Dealer Permits for Monitoring Fisheries~~
- 8 ~~Under a Quota/Allocation for that category; and~~
- 9 ~~(2) Standard Commercial Fishing License with a Shellfish Endorsement, Retired Standard Commercial~~
- 10 ~~Fishing License with a Shellfish Endorsement, or a Shellfish License in order to harvest clams or~~
- 11 ~~oysters for depuration.~~
- 12 ~~(f) Aquaculture Operations/Collection Permits:~~ Aquaculture Operation Permit and Aquaculture Collection Permit:
- 13 (1) A permittee shall hold a valid Aquaculture Operation Permit issued by the Fisheries Director to hold
- 14 an Aquaculture Collection Permit.
- 15 (2) The permittee or designees shall hold appropriate licenses from the Division of Marine Fisheries for
- 16 the species harvested and the gear used under the Aquaculture Collection Permit.
- 17 (g) Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit:
- 18 (1) An applicant for an Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit shall declare one of the
- 19 following types of gear for an initial permit and at intervals of three consecutive license years
- 20 thereafter:
- 21 (A) a gill net;
- 22 (B) a trawl net; or
- 23 (C) a beach seine.
- 24 For the purpose of this Rule, a "beach seine" is defined as shall mean a swipe net constructed of
- 25 multi-filament or multi-fiber webbing fished from the ocean beach that is deployed from a vessel
- 26 launched from the ocean beach where the fishing operation takes place. Gear declarations shall be
- 27 binding on the permittee for three consecutive license years without regard to subsequent annual
- 28 permit issuance.
- 29 (2) A person is not eligible for more than one Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit
- 30 regardless of the number of Standard Commercial Fishing Licenses, Retired Standard Commercial
- 31 Fishing Licenses, or assignments held by the that person.
- 32 (h) Applications submitted without complete and required information shall not be processed until all required
- 33 information has been submitted. Incomplete applications shall be returned to the applicant with the deficiency in the
- 34 application noted.
- 35 (i) A permit shall be issued only after the application has been is deemed complete by the Division of Marine Fisheries
- 36 and the applicant certifies his or her agreement to abide by the permit general and specific conditions established under

1 15A NCAC 03J .0501, .0505, 03K .0103, .0104, .0107, .0111, .0401, ~~03O and Rules .0502, .0502 and .0503, .0503 of~~
2 this Section, as applicable to the requested permit.

3 (j) In determining whether to issue, modify, or renew a permit, the Fisheries Director or his or her agent shall evaluate
4 factors such as the following:

5 (1) potential threats to public health or marine and estuarine resources regulated by the Marine Fisheries
6 Commission;

7 (2) the applicant's demonstration of a valid justification for the permit and a showing of responsibility;
8 permit; and

9 (3) whether the applicant's applicant has a history of fisheries violations evidenced by eight or more
10 fisheries violations in within 10 years.

11 (k) The Division of Marine Fisheries shall notify the applicant in writing of the denial or modification of any permit
12 request and the reasons therefor. The applicant may submit further information or reasons why the permit should not
13 be denied or modified.

14 (l) Permits are valid from the date of issuance through the expiration date printed on the permit. Unless otherwise
15 established by rule, the Fisheries Director may establish the issuance timeframe for specific types and categories of
16 permits based on season, calendar year, or other period based upon the nature of the activity permitted, the duration
17 of the activity, compliance with federal or state-State fishery management plans or implementing rules, conflicts with
18 other fisheries or gear usage, or seasons for the species involved. The expiration date shall be specified on the permit.

19 (m) For permit renewals, the permittee's signature on the application shall certify all information as-is true and
20 accurate. Notarized signatures on renewal applications shall not be required.

21 (n) It is-shall be unlawful for a permit holder to fail to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries within 30 days of a
22 change of name or address, in accordance with G.S. 113-169.2.

23 (o) It is-shall be unlawful for a permit holder to fail to notify the Division of Marine Fisheries of a change of designee
24 prior to use of the permit by that designee.

25 (p) Permit applications are-shall be available at all Division of Marine Fisheries offices.~~Offices.~~
26

27 *History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-169.1; 113-169.2; 113-169.3; 113-182; 113-210; 143B-289.52;*

28 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2000; May 1, 2000;*

29 *Eff. April 1, 2001;*

30 *Temporary Amendment Eff. October 1, 2001;*

31 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2017; May 1, 2015; April 1, 2011; April 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; December 1,*
32 *2007; September 1, 2005; April 1, 2003; August 1, 2002;*

33 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*

1 15A NCAC 03O .0503 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 151-157 as follows:

3 **15A NCAC 03O .0503 PERMIT CONDITIONS; SPECIFIC**

4 ~~(a) Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit:~~

5 ~~(1) It is unlawful to use horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes without first obtaining a permit.~~

6 ~~(2) It is unlawful for persons who have been issued a Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit to fail to~~
7 ~~submit an annual report on the use of horseshoe crabs to the Division of Marine Fisheries due on~~
8 ~~February 1 of each year. Such reports shall be filed on forms provided by the Division and shall~~
9 ~~include a monthly account of the number of crabs harvested, statement of percent mortality up to~~
10 ~~the point of release, harvest method, number or percent of males and females, and disposition of~~
11 ~~bled crabs prior to release.~~

12 ~~(3) It is unlawful for persons who have been issued a Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit to fail to~~
13 ~~comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan~~
14 ~~for Horseshoe Crab. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery~~
15 ~~Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab is incorporated by reference including subsequent~~
16 ~~amendments and editions. Copies of this plan are available via the Internet from the Atlantic States~~
17 ~~Marine Fisheries Commission at <http://www.asmfc.org/fisheries-management/program-overview>~~
18 ~~and at the Division of Marine Fisheries, 3441 Arendell Street, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC~~
19 ~~28557 at no cost.~~

20 ~~(b) Dealers Permits for Monitoring Fisheries under a Quota/Allocation:~~

21 ~~(1) During the commercial season opened by proclamation or rule for the fishery for which a Dealers~~
22 ~~Permit for Monitoring Fisheries under a Quota/Allocation permit is issued, it is unlawful for the fish~~
23 ~~dealers issued such permit to fail to:~~

24 ~~(A) fax or send via electronic mail by noon daily, on forms provided by the Division, the~~
25 ~~previous day's landings for the permitted fishery to the dealer contact designated on the~~
26 ~~permit. Landings for Fridays or Saturdays shall be submitted on the following Monday. If~~
27 ~~the dealer is unable to fax or electronic mail the required information, the permittee shall~~
28 ~~call in the previous day's landings to the dealer contact designated on the permit.~~

29 ~~(B) submit the required form set forth in Subitem (b)(1)(A) of this Rule to the Division upon~~
30 ~~request or no later than five days after the close of the season for the fishery permitted;~~

31 ~~(C) maintain faxes and other related documentation in accordance with 15A NCAC 03I .0114;~~

32 ~~(D) contact the dealer contact designated on the permit daily regardless of whether or not a~~
33 ~~transaction for the fishery for which a dealer is permitted occurred; and~~

34 ~~(E) record the permanent dealer identification number on the bill of lading or receipt for each~~
35 ~~transaction or shipment from the permitted fishery.~~

36 ~~(2) Striped Bass Dealer Permit:~~

- (A) ~~It is unlawful for a fish dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the following areas without first obtaining a Striped Bass Dealer Permit validated for the applicable harvest area:~~
- ~~(i) Atlantic Ocean;~~
 - ~~(ii) Albemarle Sound Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201; and~~
 - ~~(iii) the Joint and Coastal Fishing Waters of the Central/Southern Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.~~
- (B) ~~No permittee shall possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the harvest areas opened by proclamation without having a North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries issued valid tag for the applicable area affixed through the mouth and gill cover, or, in the case of striped bass imported from other states, a similar tag that is issued for striped bass in the state of origin. North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries striped bass tags shall not be bought, sold, offered for sale, or transferred. Tags shall be obtained at the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Offices. The Division of Marine Fisheries shall specify the quantity of tags to be issued based on historical striped bass landings. It is unlawful for the permittee to fail to surrender unused tags to the Division upon request.~~
- (3) ~~Albemarle Sound Management Area for River Herring Dealer Permit: It is unlawful to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale river herring taken from the Albemarle Sound Management Area for River Herring as defined in 15A NCAC 03R .0202 without first obtaining an Albemarle Sound Management Area for River Herring Dealer Permit.~~
- (4) ~~Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit:~~
- ~~(A) It is unlawful for a fish dealer to allow vessels holding a valid License to Land Flounder from the Atlantic Ocean to land more than 100 pounds of flounder from a single transaction at their licensed location during the open season without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit. The licensed location shall be specified on the Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit and only one location per permit shall be allowed.~~
 - ~~(B) It is unlawful for a fish dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale more than 100 pounds of flounder from a single transaction from the Atlantic Ocean without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit.~~
- (5) ~~Black Sea Bass North of Cape Hatteras Dealer Permit: It is unlawful for a fish dealer to purchase or possess more than 100 pounds of black sea bass taken from the Atlantic Ocean north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.0321' N) per day per commercial fishing operation during the open season unless the dealer has a Black Sea Bass North of Cape Hatteras Dealer Permit.~~
- (6) ~~Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit: It is unlawful for a fish dealer to purchase or possess more than 100 pounds of spiny dogfish per day per commercial fishing operation unless the dealer has a Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit.~~
- (a) Aquaculture Operation Permit and Aquaculture Collection Permit:

- (1) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to conduct aquaculture operations ~~utilizing~~ using marine and estuarine resources without first securing an Aquaculture Operation Permit from the Fisheries Director.
- (2) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful:
- (A) to take marine and estuarine resources from Coastal Fishing Waters for aquaculture purposes without first obtaining an Aquaculture Collection Permit from the Fisheries Director;
- (B) to ~~sell,~~ sell or use for any purpose not related to North Carolina ~~aquaculture,~~ aquaculture marine and estuarine resources taken ~~under~~ pursuant to an Aquaculture Collection Permit; or
- (C) to fail to submit to the Fisheries Director an annual ~~report~~ report, due on December 1 of each year on the form provided by the Division of Marine ~~Fisheries~~ Fisheries, stating the amount and disposition of marine and estuarine resources collected under authority of an Aquaculture Collection Permit.
- (3) Lawfully permitted shellfish relaying activities authorized by 15A NCAC 03K .0103 and .0104 ~~are~~ shall be exempt from requirements to have an Aquaculture Operation Permit or Aquaculture Collection Permit issued by the Fisheries Director.
- (4) Aquaculture Operation Permits and Aquaculture Collection Permits shall be issued or renewed on a calendar year basis.
- (5) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to fail to provide the Division with a listing of all designees acting ~~under~~ pursuant to an Aquaculture Collection Permit at the time of application.
- (b) Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit:
- (1) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take striped bass from the Atlantic Ocean in a commercial fishing operation without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit.
- (2) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to obtain more than one Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit during a license year, regardless of the number of Standard Commercial Fishing licenses, Retired Standard Commercial Fishing licenses, or assignments.
- (c) Blue Crab Shedding Permit: It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to possess more than 50 blue crabs in a shedding operation without first obtaining a Blue Crab Shedding Permit from the Division of Marine Fisheries.
- (d) Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit:
- (1) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for the responsible party seeking exemption from recreational fishing license requirements for eligible individuals to conduct an organized fishing event held in Joint or Coastal Fishing Waters without first obtaining a Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit.
- (2) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued for recreational fishing activity conducted solely for the participation and benefit of one of the following groups of eligible individuals:
- (A) individuals with physical or mental ~~limitations;~~ impairment;

- (B) members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents, upon presentation of a valid military identification card;
- (C) individuals receiving instruction on recreational fishing techniques and conservation practices from employees of state or federal marine or estuarine resource management ~~agencies,~~ agencies or instructors affiliated with educational institutions; and
- (D) disadvantaged youths as set forth in 42 U.S. Code 12511.
- For purposes of this Paragraph, educational institutions include high schools and other secondary educational institutions.
- (3) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit ~~is~~ shall be valid for the date, time, and physical location of the organized fishing event for which the exemption is granted and the duration of the permit shall not exceed one year from the date of issuance.
- (4) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued ~~when~~ if all of the following, in addition to the information required in Rule .0501 of this Section, is submitted to the Fisheries Director, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the event:
- (A) the name, date, time, and physical location of the event;
- (B) documentation that substantiates local, state, or federal involvement in the organized fishing event, if applicable;
- (C) the cost or requirements, if any, for an individual to participate in the event; and
- (D) an estimate of the number of participants.
- (e) Dealer permits for monitoring fisheries under a quota or allocation:
- (1) During the commercial season opened by proclamation or rule for the fishery for which a dealer permit for monitoring fisheries under a quota or allocation ~~is~~ shall be issued, it ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer issued such permit to fail to:
- (A) fax or send via electronic mail by noon daily, on forms provided by the Division of Marine Fisheries, the previous day's landings for the permitted fishery to the ~~Division; contact information for the Division is provided on the forms; landings~~ Division. Landings for Fridays or Saturdays shall be submitted on the following ~~Monday; if~~ Monday. If the dealer is unable to fax or electronically mail the required information, the permittee shall call in the previous day's landings to the Division;
- (B) submit the required form set forth in Part (e)(1)(A) of this Rule to the Division upon request or no later than five days after the close of the season for the fishery permitted;
- (C) maintain faxes and other related documentation in accordance with 15A NCAC 03I .0114;
- (D) contact the Division ~~daily~~ daily, regardless of whether ~~or not~~ a transaction for the fishery for which a dealer is permitted occurred; and
- (E) record the permanent dealer identification number on the bill of lading or receipt for each transaction or shipment from the permitted fishery.
- (2) Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit:

- (A) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer to allow vessels holding a valid License to Land Flounder from the Atlantic Ocean to land more than 100 pounds of flounder from a single transaction at their licensed location during the open season without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit. The licensed location shall be specified on the Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit and only one location per permit shall be allowed.
- (B) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale more than 100 pounds of flounder from a single transaction from the Atlantic Ocean without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Flounder Dealer Permit.
- (3) Black Sea Bass North of Cape Hatteras Dealer Permit: It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer to purchase or possess more than 100 pounds of black sea bass taken from the Atlantic Ocean north of Cape Hatteras (35° 15.0321' N) per day per commercial fishing operation during the open season unless the dealer has a Black Sea Bass North of Cape Hatteras Dealer Permit.
- (4) Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit: It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer to purchase or possess more than 100 pounds of spiny dogfish per day per commercial fishing operation unless the dealer has a Spiny Dogfish Dealer Permit.
- (5) Striped Bass Dealer Permit:
- (A) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a fish dealer to possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the following areas without first obtaining a Striped Bass Dealer Permit validated for the applicable harvest area:
- (i) the Atlantic Ocean;
- (ii) the Albemarle Sound Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201;
- or
- (iii) the Joint and Coastal Fishing Waters of the Central/Southern Management Area as designated in 15A NCAC 03R .0201.
- (B) No permittee shall possess, buy, sell, or offer for sale striped bass taken from the harvest areas opened by proclamation without having a valid Division of Marine Fisheries-issued tag for the applicable area affixed through the mouth and gill cover or, in the case of striped bass imported from other states, a similar tag that is issued for striped bass in the state of origin. Division striped bass tags shall not be bought, sold, offered for sale, or transferred. Tags shall be obtained at the Division offices. The Division shall specify the quantity of tags to be issued based on historical striped bass landings. It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for the permittee to fail to surrender unused tags to the Division upon request.
- (f) Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit:
- (1) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to use horseshoe crabs for biomedical purposes without first obtaining a permit.
- (2) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for persons who have been issued a Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit to fail to submit an annual report on the use of horseshoe crabs to the Division of Marine

~~Fisheries~~ Fisheries, due on February 1 of each year. Such reports shall be filed on forms provided by the Division and shall include a monthly account of the number of crabs harvested, a statement of percent mortality up to the point of release, the harvest method, the number or percent of males and females, and the disposition of bled crabs prior to release.

(3) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for persons who have been issued a Horseshoe Crab Biomedical Use Permit to fail to comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crab is incorporated by reference including subsequent amendments and editions. Copies of this plan are available via the Internet from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission at <http://www.asafc.org/fisheries-management/program-overview> and at the Division of Marine Fisheries, 3441 Arendell Street, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, at no cost.

(g) Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp:

(1) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful to take shrimp with trawls from 9:00 p.m. on Friday through ~~12:00 p.m.~~ (noon) 12 noon on Saturday without first obtaining a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp.

(2) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a holder of a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp to use trawls from 12:01 p.m. on Saturday through 4:59 p.m. on Sunday.

(3) It ~~is~~ shall be unlawful for a permit holder during the timeframe specified in Subparagraph (k)(1) of this Rule to:

(A) use trawl nets to take live shrimp except from areas open to the harvest of shrimp with trawls;

(B) take shrimp with trawls that have a combined headrope length of greater than 40 feet in Internal Coastal Waters;

(C) possess more than one gallon of dead shrimp (heads on) per trip;

(D) fail to have a functioning live bait tank or a combination of multiple functioning live bait tanks tanks, with aerator(s) and/or aerators or circulating water, with a minimum combined tank capacity of 50 gallons; or

(E) fail to call the Division of Marine Fisheries Communications Center at 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021 prior to each weekend use of the permit, specifying activities and location.

(d) Permit to Waive the Requirement to Use Turtle Excluder Devices in the Atlantic Ocean:

(1) It is unlawful to trawl for shrimp in the Atlantic Ocean without Turtle Excluder Devices installed in trawls within one nautical mile of the shore from Browns Inlet (34° 35.7000' N latitude) to Rich's Inlet (34° 17.6000' N latitude) without a valid Permit to Waive the Requirement to Use Turtle Excluder Devices in the Atlantic Ocean when allowed by proclamation as set forth in 15A NCAC 031.0107 from April 1 through November 30.

1 (2) ~~It is unlawful to tow a shrimp trawl net for more than 55 minutes from April 1 through October 31~~
2 ~~and 75 minutes from November 1 through November 30 in the area described in Subparagraph~~
3 ~~(d)(1) of this Rule when working under this permit. Tow time begins when the doors enter the water~~
4 ~~and ends when the doors exit the water.~~

5 (3) ~~It is unlawful to fail to empty the contents of each net at the end of each tow.~~

6 (4) ~~It is unlawful to refuse to take observers upon request by the Division of Marine Fisheries or the~~
7 ~~National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries.~~

8 (5) ~~It is unlawful to fail to report any sea turtle captured. Reports shall be made within 24 hours of the~~
9 ~~capture to the Marine Patrol Communications Center by phone. All turtles taken incidental to~~
10 ~~trawling shall be handled and resuscitated in accordance with requirements specified in 50 Code of~~
11 ~~Federal Regulations (CFR) 223.206. 50 CFR 223.206 is hereby incorporated by reference, including~~
12 ~~subsequent amendments and editions. A copy of the reference materials can be found at~~
13 ~~[http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9088932317e242b91d6a87a47b6bda54&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50tab_02.tpl)~~
14 ~~[idx?SID=9088932317e242b91d6a87a47b6bda54&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50tab_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9088932317e242b91d6a87a47b6bda54&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50tab_02.tpl)~~
15 ~~, free of charge.~~

16 (e)(h) Pound Net Set Permit: The holder of a Pound Net Set Permit shall follow the Pound Net Set Permit conditions
17 as set forth in Rule 15A NCAC 03J .0505. ~~.0505 sets forth the specific conditions for pound net set permits.~~

18 (f) ~~Aquaculture Operation Permit and Aquaculture Collection Permit:~~

19 (1) ~~It is unlawful to conduct aquaculture operations utilizing marine and estuarine resources without~~
20 ~~first securing an Aquaculture Operation Permit from the Fisheries Director.~~

21 (2) ~~It is unlawful:~~

22 (A) ~~to take marine and estuarine resources from Coastal Fishing Waters for aquaculture~~
23 ~~purposes without first obtaining an Aquaculture Collection Permit from the Fisheries~~
24 ~~Director;~~

25 (B) ~~to sell, or use for any purpose not related to North Carolina aquaculture, marine and~~
26 ~~estuarine resources taken under an Aquaculture Collection Permit; and~~

27 (C) ~~to fail to submit to the Fisheries Director an annual report due on December 1 of each year~~
28 ~~on the form provided by the Division the amount and disposition of marine and estuarine~~
29 ~~resources collected under authority of an Aquaculture Collection Permit.~~

30 (3) ~~Lawfully permitted shellfish relaying activities authorized by 15A NCAC 03K .0103 and .0104 are~~
31 ~~exempt from requirements to have an Aquaculture Operation Permit or Aquaculture Collection~~
32 ~~Permit issued by the Fisheries Director.~~

33 (4) ~~Aquaculture Operation Permits and Aquaculture Collection Permits shall be issued or renewed on~~
34 ~~a calendar year basis.~~

35 (5) ~~It is unlawful to fail to provide the Division of Marine Fisheries with a listing of all designees acting~~
36 ~~under an Aquaculture Collection Permit at the time of application.~~

37 (g)(i) Scientific or Educational Activity Permit:

- 1 (1) It ~~is-shall be~~ unlawful for institutions or agencies seeking exemptions from license, rule,
2 proclamation, or statutory requirements to collect, hold, culture, or exhibit for scientific or
3 educational purposes any marine or estuarine species without first obtaining a Scientific or
4 Educational Activity Permit.
- 5 (2) The Scientific or Educational Activity Permit shall only be issued for collection methods and
6 possession allowances approved by the Division of Marine Fisheries.
- 7 (3) The Scientific or Educational Activity Permit shall only be issued for approved activities conducted
8 by or under the direction of Scientific or Educational institutions as defined in ~~Rule-15A NCAC 03I~~
9 .0101.
- 10 (4) It ~~is-shall be~~ unlawful for the responsible party issued a Scientific or Educational Activity Permit to
11 fail to submit an annual report on collections and, if authorized, sales to the ~~Division~~ ~~Division~~ of
12 ~~Marine Fisheries~~ due on December 1 of each ~~year-year~~, unless otherwise specified on the permit.
13 The reports shall be filed on forms provided by the Division. Scientific or Educational Activity
14 permits shall be issued on a calendar year basis.
- 15 (5) It ~~is-shall be~~ unlawful to sell marine or estuarine species taken under a Scientific or Educational
16 Activity Permit without:
- 17 (A) the required license for such sale;
- 18 (B) an authorization stated on the permit for such sale; and
- 19 (C) providing the information required ~~in-by~~ ~~Rule-15A NCAC 03I .0114~~ if the sale is to a
20 licensed fish dealer.
- 21 (6) It ~~is-shall be~~ unlawful to fail to provide the Division ~~with~~ of Marine Fisheries a ~~listing-list~~ of all
22 designees acting under a Scientific or Educational Activity Permit at the time of application.
- 23 (7) The permittee or designees utilizing the permit shall call the Division of Marine Fisheries
24 Communications Center at 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021 not later than 24 hours prior to use of
25 the permit, specifying activities and location.
- 26 ~~(h)(j)~~ Under Dock Oyster Culture Permit:
- 27 (1) It ~~is-shall be~~ unlawful to cultivate oysters in containers under docks for personal consumption
28 without first obtaining an Under Dock Oyster Culture Permit.
- 29 (2) An Under Dock Oyster Culture Permit shall be issued only in accordance with provisions set forth
30 in G.S. 113-210(c).
- 31 (3) The applicant shall complete and submit an examination, with a minimum of 70 percent correct
32 answers, based on an educational package provided by the Division of Marine Fisheries pursuant to
33 G.S. ~~113-210(j). The examination demonstrates-113-210(j), demonstrating~~ the applicant's
34 knowledge of:
- 35 (A) the application process;
- 36 (B) permit criteria;
- 37 (C) basic oyster biology and culture techniques;

- (D) shellfish harvest area closures due to pollution;
- (E) safe handling practices;
- (F) permit conditions; and
- (G) permit revocation criteria.
- (4) Action by an Under Dock Oyster Culture Permit holder to encroach on or usurp the legal rights of the public to access public trust resources in Coastal Fishing Waters shall result in permit revocation.
- ~~(i) Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit:~~
- ~~(1) It is unlawful to take striped bass from the Atlantic Ocean in a commercial fishing operation without first obtaining an Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit.~~
- ~~(2) It is unlawful to use a single Standard Commercial Fishing License, including assignments, to obtain more than one Atlantic Ocean Striped Bass Commercial Gear Permit during a license year.~~
- ~~(j) Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit:~~
- ~~(1) It is unlawful for the responsible party seeking exemption from recreational fishing license requirements for eligible individuals to conduct an organized fishing event held in Joint or Coastal Fishing Waters without first obtaining a Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit.~~
- ~~(2) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued for recreational fishing activity conducted solely for the participation and benefit of one of the following groups of eligible individuals:~~
- ~~(A) individuals with physical or mental limitations;~~
- ~~(B) members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents, upon presentation of a valid military identification card;~~
- ~~(C) individuals receiving instruction on recreational fishing techniques and conservation practices from employees of state or federal marine or estuarine resource management agencies, or instructors affiliated with educational institutions; and~~
- ~~(D) disadvantaged youths as set forth in U.S. Code 42 § 12511.~~
- ~~For purposes of this Paragraph, educational institutions include high schools and other secondary educational institutions.~~
- ~~(3) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit is valid for the date, time, and physical location of the organized fishing event for which the exemption is granted and the duration of the permit shall not exceed one year from the date of issuance.~~
- ~~(4) The Coastal Recreational Fishing License Exemption Permit shall only be issued when all of the following, in addition to the information required in 15A NCAC 03O .0501, is submitted to the Fisheries Director, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the event:~~
- ~~(A) the name, date, time, and physical location of the event;~~
- ~~(B) documentation that substantiates local, state, or federal involvement in the organized fishing event, if applicable;~~
- ~~(C) the cost or requirements, if any, for an individual to participate in the event; and~~

(D) — an estimate of the number of participants.

~~(k) Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp:~~

~~(1) — It is unlawful to take shrimp with trawls from 9:00 p.m. on Friday through 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Saturday without first obtaining a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp.~~

~~(2) — It is unlawful for a holder of a Permit for Weekend Trawling for Live Shrimp to use trawls from 12:01 p.m. on Saturday through 4:59 p.m. on Sunday.~~

~~(3) — It is unlawful for a permit holder during the timeframe specified in Subparagraph (k)(1) of this Rule to:~~

~~(A) — use trawl nets to take live shrimp except from areas open to the harvest of shrimp with trawls;~~

~~(B) — take shrimp with trawls that have a combined headrope length of greater than 40 feet in Internal Coastal Waters;~~

~~(C) — possess more than one gallon of dead shrimp (heads on) per trip;~~

~~(D) — fail to have a functioning live bait tank or a combination of multiple functioning live bait tanks with aerator(s) and/or circulating water, with a minimum combined tank capacity of 50 gallons; and~~

~~(E) — fail to call the Division of Marine Fisheries Communications Center at 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021 prior to each weekend use of the permit, specifying activities and location.~~

History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-169.1; 113-169.2; 113-169.3; 113-182; 113-210; 143B-289.52; Temporary Adoption Eff. September 1, 2000; August 1, 2000; May 1, 2000; Eff. April 1, 2001; Amended Eff. May 1, 2017; May 1, 2015; April 1, 2014; April 1, 2009; July 1, 2008; January 1, 2008; September 1, 2005; October 1, 2004; August 1, 2004; August 1, 2002; Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.

1 15A NCAC 03R .0112 is readopted with changes as published in 33:03 NCR 157-158 as follows:

2
3 **15A NCAC 03R .0112 ATTENDED GILL NET AREAS**

4 (a) The attended gill net areas referenced in 15A NCAC 03J .0103(g) are delineated in the following areas:

- 5 (1) Pamlico River, west of a line beginning at a point 35° 27.5768' N - 76° 54.3612' W on Ragged Point;
6 running southwesterly to a point 35° 26.9176' N - 76° 55.5253' W on Mauls Point;
7 (2) ~~Within within~~ 200 yards of ~~any the~~ shoreline in Pamlico River and its tributaries east of a line
8 beginning at a point 35° 27.5768' N - 76° 54.3612' W on Ragged Point; running southwesterly to a
9 point 35° 26.9176' N - 76° 55.5253' W on Mauls Point; and west of a line beginning at a point 35°
10 22.3622' N - 76° 28.2032' W on Roos Point; running southerly to a point at 35° 18.5906' N - 76°
11 28.9530' W on Pamlico Point;
12 (3) Pungo River, east of the northern portion of the Pantego Creek breakwater and a line beginning at a
13 point 35° 31.7198' N - 76° 36.9195' W on the northern side of the breakwater near Tooleys Point;
14 running southeasterly to a point 35° 30.5312' N - 76° 35.1594' W on Durants Point;
15 (4) ~~Within within~~ 200 yards of ~~any the~~ shoreline in Pungo River and its tributaries west of the northern
16 portion of the Pantego Creek breakwater and a line beginning at a point 35° 31.7198' N - 76°
17 36.9195' W on the northern side of the breakwater near Tooleys Point; running southeasterly to a
18 point 35° 30.5312' N - 76° 35.1594' W on Durants Point; and west of a line beginning at a point 35°
19 22.3622' N - 76° 28.2032' W on Roos Point; running southerly to a point at 35° 18.5906' N - 76°
20 28.9530' W on Pamlico Point;
21 (5) Neuse River and its tributaries northwest of the Highway 17 highrise bridge;
22 (6) Trent River and its tributaries; and
23 (7) ~~Within within~~ 200 yards of ~~any the~~ shoreline in Neuse River and its tributaries east of the Highway
24 17 highrise bridge and south and west of a line beginning on Maw Point at a point 35° 09.0407' N -
25 76° 32.2348' W; running southeasterly near the Maw Point Shoal Marker "2" to a point 35° 08.1250'
26 N - 76° 30.8532' W; running southeasterly near the Neuse River Entrance Marker "NR" to a point
27 35° 06.6212' N - 76° 28.5383' W; running southerly to a point 35° 04.4833' N - 76° 28.0000' W near
28 Point of Marsh in Neuse River. In Core and Clubfoot creeks, the Highway 101 Bridge ~~constitutes~~
29 ~~shall constitute~~ the attendance boundary.

30 (b) The attended gill net areas referenced in 15A NCAC 03J .0103(h) are delineated in the following Internal Coastal
31 Waters and Joint Fishing Waters of the ~~state-State~~ south of a line beginning on Roanoke Marshes Point at a point 35°
32 48.3693' N - 75° 43.7232' W; running southeasterly to a point 35° 44.1710' N - 75° 31.0520' W on Eagles Nest Bay
33 to the South Carolina ~~State-state~~ line:

- 34 (1) ~~All all~~ primary nursery areas described in 15A NCAC 03R .0103, all permanent secondary nursery
35 areas described in 15A NCAC 03R .0104, and no-trawl areas described in 15A NCAC 03R .0106(2),
36 (4), (5), (8), (10), (11), and (12);

- (2) ~~In~~ in the area along the Outer Banks, beginning at a point 35° 44.1710' N - 75° 31.0520' W on Eagles Nest Bay; running northwesterly to a point 35° 45.1833' N - 75° 34.1000' W west of Pea Island; running southerly to a point 35° 40.0000' N - 75° 32.8666' W west of Beach Slough; running southeasterly and passing near Beacon "2" in Chicamicomico Channel to a point 35° 35.0000' N - 75° 29.8833' W west of the Rodanthe Pier; running southwesterly to a point 35° 28.4500' N - 75° 31.3500' W on Gull Island; running southerly to a point 35° 22.3000' N - 75° 33.2000' W near Beacon "2" in Avon Channel ; running southwesterly to a point 35° 19.0333' N - 75° 36.3166' W near Beacon "2" in Cape Channel; running southwesterly to a point 35° 15.5000' N - 75° 43.4000' W near Beacon "36" in Rollinson Channel; running southeasterly to a point 35° 14.9386' N - 75° 42.9968' W near Beacon "35" in Rollinson Channel; running southwesterly to a point 35° 14.0377' N - 75° 45.9644' W near a "Danger" Beacon northwest of Austin Reef; running southwesterly to a point 35° 11.4833' N - 75° 51.0833' W on Legged Lump; running southeasterly to a point 35° 10.9666' N - 75° 49.7166' W south of Legged Lump; running southwesterly to a point 35° 09.3000' N - 75° 54.8166' W near the west end of Clarks Reef; running westerly to a point 35° 08.4333' N - 76° 02.5000' W near Nine Foot Shoal Channel; running southerly to a point 35° 06.4000' N - 76° 04.3333' W near North Rock; running southwesterly to a point 35° 01.5833' N - 76° 11.4500' W near Beacon "HL"; running southerly to a point 35° 00.2666' N - 76° 12.2000' W; running southerly to a point 34° 59.4664' N - 76° 12.4859' W on Wainwright Island; running easterly to a point 34° 58.7853' N - 76° 09.8922' W on Core Banks; running northerly along the shoreline and across the inlets following the COLREGS Demarcation Line to the point of beginning;
- (3) ~~In~~ in Core and Back sounds, beginning at a point 34° 58.7853' N - 76° 09.8922' W on Core Banks; running northwesterly to a point 34° 59.4664' N - 76° 12.4859' W on Wainwright Island; running southerly to a point 34° 58.8000' N - 76° 12.5166' W; running southeasterly to a point 34° 58.1833' N - 76° 12.3000' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 56.4833' N - 76° 13.2833' W; running westerly to a point 34° 56.5500' N - 76° 13.6166' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 53.5500' N - 76° 16.4166' W; running northwesterly to a point 34° 53.9166' N - 76° 17.1166' W; running southerly to a point 34° 53.4166' N - 76° 17.3500' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 51.0617' N - 76° 21.0449' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 48.3137' N - 76° 24.3717' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 46.3739' N - 76° 26.1526' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 44.5795' N - 76° 27.5136' W; running southwesterly to a point 34° 43.4895' N - 76° 28.9411' W near Beacon "37A"; running southwesterly to a point 34° 40.4500' N - 76° 30.6833' W; running westerly to a point 34° 40.7061' N - 76° 31.5893' W near Beacon "35" in Back Sound; running westerly to a point 34° 41.3178' N - 76° 33.8092' W near Buoy "3"; running southwesterly to a point 34° 39.6601' N - 76° 34.4078' W on Shackleford Banks; running easterly and northeasterly along the shoreline and across the inlets following the COLREGS Demarcation lines to the point of beginning;

- 1 (4) ~~Within~~ within 200 yards of ~~any~~ the shoreline in the area upstream of the 76° 28.0000' W longitude
2 line beginning at a point 35° 22.3752' N - 76° 28.0000' W near Roos Point in Pamlico River; running
3 southeasterly to a point 35° 04.4833' N - 76° 28.0000' W near Point of Marsh in Neuse River; and
4 (5) ~~Within~~ within 50 yards of ~~any~~ the shoreline east of the 76° 28.0000' W longitude line beginning at
5 a point 35° 22.3752' N - 76° 28.0000' W near Roos Point in Pamlico River; running southeasterly
6 to a point 35° 04.4833' N - 76° 28.0000' W near Point of Marsh in Neuse River, except from October
7 1 through November 30, south and east of Highway 12 in Carteret County and south of a line from
8 a point 34° 59.7942' N - 76° 14.6514' W on Camp Point; running easterly to a point at 34° 58.7853'
9 N - 76° 09.8922' W on Core Banks; to the South Carolina ~~State-state~~ Line.

10
11 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-173; 113-182; ~~113-221~~; 143B-289.52;*
12 *Eff. August 1, 2004;*
13 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2016; June 1, 2013; April 1, 2011; April 1, 2009;*
14 *Readopted Eff. April 1, 2019.*