



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate
Date: November 5, 2012

Contact: Patricia Smith
Phone: (252) 726-7021

Gill Net Regulations Relaxed for Portions of Albemarle, Croatan and Roanoke Sounds

MOREHEAD CITY – Beginning Wednesday, fishermen will be allowed to set their flounder gill nets seven days a week in the eastern part of Albemarle Sound and in the northern portions of Croatan and Roanoke sounds.

The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries issued a proclamation Monday exempting these waters from regulations set out in a sea turtle lawsuit settlement agreement. The changes apply to waters east of the mouth of the Alligator River and south of Wright Memorial Bridge to the Virginia Dare Memorial and Washington Baum bridges.

For specific regulations, a map and coordinates, see Proclamation M-53-2012 at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/proclamations>.

The action is being taken because the division has received no reports of sea turtle interactions or sightings in these waters since late September.

These waters have been under the settlement agreement regulations, which include restricting large mesh gill net fishing to four nights per week, since Oct. 1. The waters were put under stricter regulations after the division observed interactions between nets and threatened and endangered sea turtles.

Fishermen typically set large mesh gill nets to target southern flounder.

For more information, contact Chris Batsavage, Protected Resources Section chief, at 252-808-8009 or Chris.Batsavage@ncdenr.gov or after hours at 252-241-2995.

###

###