



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT RECREATIONAL (NON-COMMERCIAL) FISHING FOR **BLUEFISH** IN GEORGIA'S SALTWATERS WILL BE CLOSED EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024, UNLESS REOPENED EARLIER THROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER.

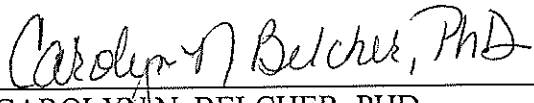
THIS SEASONAL CLOSURE IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION'S FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFISH AND IS NECESSARY FOR THE CONTINUED CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIES.

THIS ACTION IS TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.C.G.A. SECTIONS 27-4-130 AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

WALTER RABON, COMMISSIONER
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DOUG HAYMANS, DIRECTOR
COASTAL REOURCES DIVISION

CAROLYN BELCHER, CHIEF OF MARINE FISHERIES
COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

BY: 
CAROLYN N. BELCHER, PHD
CHIEF OF MARINE FISHERIES



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN KEMP
GOVERNOR

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BY THE COMMISSIONER

- WHEREAS:** The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was established in 1942 to “promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the Atlantic seaboard . . .” and Georgia is a voting member of the Commission with an obligation to uphold its findings; and
- WHEREAS:** A recent stock assessment for Bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*, found the species to be overfished but not undergoing overfishing; and
- WHEREAS:** To recover the species, the Commission approved new recreational fishing regulations beginning in 2020 to include a 3-fish bag limit for private and shore modes and a 5-fish bag limit for the for-hire mode unless an acceptable conservation equivalency measure is provided; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia’s Commission representatives proposed an equivalency measure of a two-month seasonal closure in lieu of bag limit reductions, which was accepted by the Commission’s Bluefish Management Board; and
- WHEREAS:** O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-130 authorizes the Commissioner to close all or any portion of the salt waters of the state to commercial and non-commercial fishing by species for a period not to exceed six months within a calendar year; and
- WHEREAS:** The Commissioner has determined that closing all portions of the salt waters of the state to non-commercial fishing of Bluefish would be consistent with current, sound principles of wildlife research and management; and
- WHEREAS:** based on the foregoing, the State of Georgia desires to close the salt waters of the State to non-commercial Bluefish fishing during March and April 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS THE COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

Effective March 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024: All salt waters of the state are hereby closed to non-commercial harvest of Bluefish, *Pomatomus saltatrix*, pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-130 unless reopened earlier through Administrative Order.

This 5th day of February 2024.

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES