

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BY THE COMMISSIONER

- WHEREAS:** O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-195 authorizes the Commissioner of Natural Resources to open or close for the purpose of taking shellfish any or a portion of the salt waters of this state at any time between January 1 and December 31, provided that he has determined that such action in opening or closing said waters is in accordance with the current, sound principles of wildlife research and management; and
- WHEREAS:** O.C.G.A. Section 27-4-197(a) mandates that the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture conduct a shellfish program sufficient to be certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration for interstate shipment of shellfish produced in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS:** The precautionary closure was made in the interest of protecting public health in accordance with the requirements of the FDA and ISSC for a closure due to a major storm related event; and
- WHEREAS:** As a result of receiving 7-10 inches of rainfall coastwide from Tropical Storm Debby, water samples have been collected and analyzed from all shellfish growing areas and results were below bacterial threshold levels as prescribed by the FDA and ISSC; and
- WHEREAS:** The Commissioner has determined that reopening the salt waters of this State to the commercial and recreational harvest of clams for human consumption on August 16, 2024 would be consistent with current sound principles of wildlife management.

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

- ORDERED:** That the salt waters of the State of Georgia shall be reopened to the commercial and recreational harvest of clams at 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 16, 2024.

This 16th day of August 2024.



WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER OF NATURAL RESOURCES