STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 20-15

Restrictions for June 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 for Commercial and Recreational Oyster Harvest from the Apalachicola Bay System

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Paragraph 22 of the Delegations of Authority, and due to the need to conserve oyster resources that have been depleted, hereby establishes special regulations related to commercial and recreational harvest of oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) from Apalachicola Bay, as defined in 68B-27, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), for the period of June 1 - August 31, 2020. Such special regulations are as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.017, and 68B-27.019(1)(a)1., F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, commercial and recreational harvest of oysters is prohibited on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of each week.

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.014(1), F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, a commercial harvester may not harvest or land from Apalachicola Bay or possess when in or on the waters of Apalachicola Bay, more than two (2) bags of oysters per day.

3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.014(2), F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, a recreational harvester may not harvest or land per day more than five (5) gallons of oysters in the shell from Apalachicola Bay or possess while in or on the waters of Apalachicola Bay, more than five (5) gallons of oysters in the shell per person or per vessel, whichever is less.

4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019(1)(a)1., F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, commercial and recreational harvest of oysters in the area commonly known as East Hole in the Apalachicola Bay System is hereby prohibited. For purposes of this order, "East Hole" means the area defined as shellfish harvesting area number 1671 by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019(1)(a)1., F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, commercial and recreational harvest of oysters north of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge is hereby prohibited. This area is defined as shellfish harvesting area number 1652 by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

6. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-27, F.A.C., beginning June 1, 2020 and continuing through August 31, 2020, no person may harvest or possess in or on Florida Waters, an oyster taken from the Hotel Bar Experimental Area in Apalachicola Bay, unless authorized pursuant to Chapter 68B-8, F.A.C.

    a. For purposes of this order, the Hotel Bar Experimental Area is defined as the area within the following boundary:

    Commencing at 29°40.313'N, 84°54.363'W; thence in an easterly direction to 29°40.318'N, 84°54.160'W; thence in a southerly direction to 29°40.246'N,

84°54.150'W; thence in a westerly direction to 29°40.241'N, 84°54.353'W; thence in a northerly direction to 29°40.313'N, 84°54.363'W, the point of beginning.

7. All other rules or orders of the Commission relating to harvest of oysters from Apalachicola Bay shall remain in effect.

8. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2020 and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on August 31, 2020.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution and subsection 120.81(5), Florida Statutes

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION STATE OF FLORIDA

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 26th day of May, 2020.

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Attest
Agency Clerk

/s/ Quilla Miralia
Approved as to form and legal sufficiency