STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 19-06
Temporary Modification of Regulations for Spotted Seatrout in Southwest Florida

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 prolonged natural red tide event in southwest Florida that has caused widespread mortality of saltwater fish, hereby temporarily modifies the spotted seatrout fishery to prohibit the harvest and possession of spotted seatrout greater than 20-inches in total length within specified waters of southwest Florida as follows:

1. The provisions of this order apply in and on all waters of the following geographic areas:
   a. All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties; and
   b. All Florida waters, and adjacent federal waters, off Collier County north of a line extending due east and due west from the south bank at the mouth of Gordon Pass (26°05.52' North Latitude).

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-37, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), a person may not harvest a spotted seatrout (Cynoscion nebulosus) greater than 20-inches in total length caught in or on the described region and may not possess or land a spotted seatrout greater than 20-inches in total length in the described region during the term of this order.

3. All other rules and orders of the Commission relating to spotted seatrout shall remain in effect.

4. This order shall take effect at 12:00 a.m. on February 22, 2019 and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 2019, unless rescinded or extended by subsequent order.

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 20th day of February 2019.

Eric Sutton
Executive Director