

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

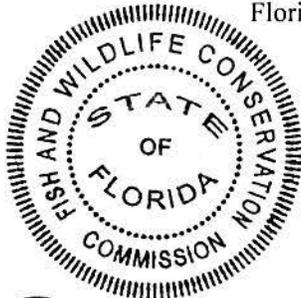
Order No. EO 20-22

**Temporary Suspension of Commercial
and Recreational Wild Oyster Harvest
from the Apalachicola Bay**

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 suspends commercial and recreational harvest of wild oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) from Apalachicola Bay, as defined in 68B-27, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), for the period of August 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Such actions are only authorized as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27, F.A.C., no person may harvest a wild oyster from Apalachicola Bay or possess a wild-harvested oyster in or on the waters of Apalachicola Bay.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27, F.A.C., the possession of tongs in or on Apalachicola Bay is prohibited. For the purposes of this order, “tongs” are defined as a hand-operated instrument used for gathering oysters consisting of a pair of long-handled rakes with inward facing teeth.
3. The provisions of this order do not apply to the authorized harvest of oysters from submerged lands leased for shellfish culture by the State of Florida within Apalachicola Bay.
4. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on August 1, 2020, and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2020, unless rescinded at a sooner date.

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



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
on this 29th day of July, 2020.

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

Attest 
Agency Clerk

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