

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 14-12

Restrictions for June 1, 2014 through August 31,
2014 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 Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby establishes special regulations related to harvest of oysters from Apalachicola Bay, as defined in 68B-27, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), for the period of June 1 – August 31, 2014. These actions are being taken in order to conserve oyster resources that have been depleted as a result of low flow conditions. The bag limit and prohibition of commercial harvest on Fridays and Saturdays actions are being taken to allocate the depleted resource throughout the summer. These measures will help ensure that the more of the adult spawning oysters will spawn throughout the summer, thereby increasing available spat in the Bay for a longer time period. The closure of East Hole during the summer season is being done to help recover the East Hole population of oysters that are showing signs of recovering. The special regulations are as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019(1)(a)1., FAC, beginning on June 1, 2014 and continuing through August 31, 2014, commercial and recreational harvest for oysters in the area commonly known as East Hole in the Apalachicola Bay System is hereby prohibited. For the purposes of this special regulation, East Hole refers to the area defined as shellfish harvesting Area 1671 by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019(1)(a)1., FAC, beginning on June 1, 2014 and continuing through August 31, 2014, commercial harvest for oysters is prohibited on Friday and Saturday of each week.
3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.014(1), FAC, beginning on June 1, 2014 and continuing through August 31, 2014, a commercial harvester may not harvest or land per day from Apalachicola Bay or possess while in or on the waters of Apalachicola Bay more than eight sixty pound (or ten gallons) bags of oysters.
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.014(2), FAC, beginning on June 1, 2014 and continuing through August 31, 2014, a recreational harvester may not harvest or land per day more than five gallons of oysters in the shell from Apalachicola Bay or possess while in or on the waters of Apalachicola Bay more than five gallons of oysters. The recreational harvesters aboard a vessel in or on Apalachicola Bay may not collectively possess more than five gallons of oysters.
5. All other provisions governing harvest of oysters in Apalachicola Bay System remain in effect.
6. This order shall take effect at 12:01 A.M. on June 1, 2014 and shall expire at 12:01 A.M. on September 1, 2014.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

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

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. EDT, June 1, 2014

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on
this 30 day of May 2014.



Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest 
Agency Clerk