STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 15-12 **Directed Commercial Harvest of Atlantic Coast Menhaden Prohibited**

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 limits allowable commercial harvest of menhaden on the Atlantic coast north and east of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line to menhaden harvested as bycatch in quantities equal to or less than 1,000 pounds per harvester per day. This action is taken in accordance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden (IFMP). The IFMP includes annual state-by-state commercial quotas for menhaden and Florida's fishery has exceeded its annual quota. The fishing season for the entire U.S. Atlantic coast runs from January 1 – December 1, each year, as established by the IFMP. This Executive Order amends and supersedes Executive Orders number 13-22, 13-23 and 14-13. The authorized commercial harvest for the remainder of the 2015 fishing year is limited as follows:

1. Beginning April 20, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2015, the directed commercial harvest of menhaden harvested from state and federal waters of the Atlantic north and east of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line is prohibited. Up to 1,000 pounds of menhaden harvested as bycatch from this region may be retained per person or per vessel, whichever is less, per day. No person may harvest more than 1,000 pounds of menhaden per day within or without state waters of the Atlantic north or east of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line. No person may possess more than 1,000 pounds of menhaden in or on state or federal waters of the Atlantic north or east of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line and no more than 1,000 pounds may be possessed aboard a vessel in or on those same waters. No person may sell more than 1,000 pounds of menhaden per day or purchase more than 1,000 pounds of menhaden per day from any individual or vessel north of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line, except that any quantity of menhaden which has been previously landed and sold in compliance with all state regulations may be purchased and sold. The burden shall be on any person purchasing or selling menhaden to establish the chain or possession from the initial transaction after harvest, by appropriate receipt(s), bill(s) of sale, or bill(s) of lading, and to show that such menhaden was harvested in compliance with state regulations.

2. All other rules of the Commission relating to menhaden shall remain in effect.

3. This order shall take effect at 12:01 A.M. on April 20, 2015 and shall expire at 12:01 A.M. on January 1, 2016.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. EDT, April 20, 2015

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION STATE OF FLORIDA

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 16th day of April, 2015.

for Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest Kristina Butler
Agency Clerk