

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

Order No. EO 15-13

**Amendment to EO 14-18: Limited reopening of
commercial harvest of wild oysters from East Hole in
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 amends Executive Order 14-18 to allow limited commercial oyster harvest in the area commonly known as East Hole in the Apalachicola Bay System. Executive Order 14-18 closed East Hole to the harvest of wild oysters in order to help recover the population that was showing signs of recovering. For the purposes of this amendment, East Hole refers to the area defined by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as shellfish harvesting Area 1671. This Executive Order amends Executive Order 14-18. While recovery is evident in the area that was shelled, the oysters are growing in clumps. In order to increase the growth of these oysters, it is beneficial to break them up. Utilizing the local oyster harvesting force to break up these oysters will quicken the recovery. East Hole will be open to limited commercial oyster harvest as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019(1)(a)1, FAC, or Executive Order 14-18, beginning on May 7, 2015 and continuing through May 28, 2015, commercial harvest of oysters in the area commonly known as East Hole in the Apalachicola Bay System is hereby open on Thursdays (May 7th, May 14th, May 21st and May 28th).
2. All other provisions governing harvest of oysters in the Apalachicola Bay System, including other provisions of Executive Order 14-18 and 68B-21, FAC, remain in effect.
3. This order shall take effect at 12:01 A.M. on May 7, 2015 and shall expire at sunset on May 28, 2015.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

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

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. EDT, May 7, 2015



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on
this 28th day of April 2015.

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest
Agency Clerk