

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 16-14

**Modified Recreational Harvest Regulations for Bay
Scallops West of St. Vincent Island in Franklin County**

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, and due to impacts of a significant and prolonged red tide event that occurred in coastal waters of Gulf County from September through December 2015 during the bay scallop spawning season and larval settlement period, hereby modifies the harvest of bay scallops as follows:

1. The provisions of this Executive Order apply in and on Florida waters west of a line extending due north and due south of the westernmost point of St. Vincent Island in Franklin County (85° 13.43' West longitude), including all waters of St. Joseph Bay.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-18, FAC, the open season for the recreational harvest and possession of bay scallops in or on the described region shall begin at 12:01 a.m. on August 22, 2016 and shall close at 11:59 p.m. on September 5, 2016. All harvest and possession of bay scallops is hereby prohibited in this region prior to August 22, 2016, and between September 6, 2016 and June 24, 2017.
3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-18.004, FAC, the recreational daily bag limit for bay scallops in the described region shall be 40 scallops per person per day. A person may not harvest from the waters of the described region, possess in or on the waters of the region, or land within the described region, more than 40 bay scallops per day.
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-18.004, FAC, the recreational daily vessel limit for bay scallops in the described region shall be 200 scallops per vessel per day. The persons aboard a vessel in or on the waters of the described region may not collectively harvest, possess, or land more than 200 bay scallops per day, regardless of the number of licensed or license-exempt harvesters aboard.
5. All other rules of the Commission relating to bay scallops shall remain in effect.
6. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 25, 2016, and shall expire at 12:01 a.m. on June 24, 2017, unless the closure is extended by subsequent order.

Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution
Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 23 day of June, 2016.

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest
Agency Clerk

Kristin Butler
Agency Clerk