

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

Order No. EO 17- 01

**Early opening for the January 2017 Florida
Panhandle Blue Crab Trap Closure**

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 the early completion of efforts to identify and remove lost and abandoned blue crab traps through volunteer trap cleanups and the FWC trap retrieval program in the Florida Panhandle, the closure will open ahead of schedule as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-45.0045(1)(a)6, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), all waters of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, and Franklin counties shall reopen for the use of traps for the recreational and commercial harvest of blue crab beginning at 12:01 a.m. on January 11, 2017.
2. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on January 11, 2017 and remain in effect through the end of the closure established in 68B-45.0045(1)(a)6., F.A.C., for 2017.

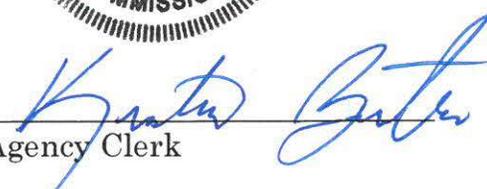
Specific Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution

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



Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 10th day of January, 2017.

Attest:


Agency Clerk


Nick Wiley, Executive Director