

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. EO 17-27

**Temporary No Entry Area for Bay Scallop Restoration
in St. Joseph Bay**

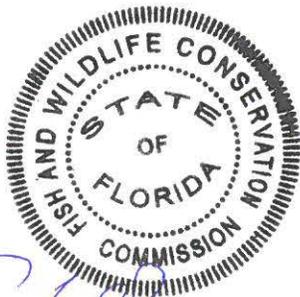
The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, and acting through its Executive Director under Delegations of Authority Paragraph 17 and Paragraph 22, hereby establishes a temporary No Entry Area within St. Joseph Bay to protect bay scallop population restoration efforts effective July 15, 2017, through December 31, 2017. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is conducting a restoration project to rebuild the bay scallop population within St. Joseph Bay by holding adult scallops in cages within the No Entry Area to protect them from predators and to increase spawning success. The boundary of the No Entry Area will be marked on the water with buoys labeled "FWC". All activities within the described No Entry Area are prohibited as follows:

1. All vessels and all persons, either in vessels or swimming, diving, wading, or fishing are hereby prohibited from entering the following No Entry Area within St. Joseph Bay:

Commencing at the northwestern-most corner of the No Entry Area (29°42.175'N, 85°20.10'W); thence in an easterly direction to the northeastern-most corner of the No Entry Area (29°42.175'N, 85°19.95'W); thence in a southerly direction to the southeastern-most corner of the No Entry Area (29°42.075'N, 85°19.95'W); thence in a westerly direction to the southwestern-most corner of the No Entry Area (29°42.075'N, 85°20.10'W); thence in a northerly direction to the northwestern-most corner of the No Entry Area, the point of beginning.

2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Chapter 68B-18, Florida Administrative Code, no person may harvest any bay scallop from this No Entry Area or possess a bay scallop in this area.
3. No person shall molest, tamper with, remove the contents of, or possess a bay scallop restoration cage within the No Entry Area without prior written authorization from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
4. All other rules or orders of the Commission relating to bay scallops shall remain in effect.
5. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. EDT on July 15, 2017, and shall expire at 12:01 a.m. EST on January 1, 2018, unless extended by subsequent order.

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



Attest
Agency Clerk

Jill Campbell

Given under my hand and seal of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on this 14th day of July, 2017.

Nick Wiley

Nick Wiley
Executive Director