

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

Order No. EO 17-33

**Restrictions for the Commercial Harvest of
Oysters from the St. Andrews Bay System,
Bay County from September 1, 2017 through
June 30, 2018**

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 special regulations related to the harvest of oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) from the St. Andrews Bay System, Bay County, for the period of September 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. These actions are being taken in order to conserve oyster resources. The special regulations are as follows:

1. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), or Executive Order EO 16-18, in Bay County a person may harvest oysters for commercial purposes from public reefs or possess oysters harvested from public reefs beginning on September 1, 2017 and continuing through June 30, 2018.
2. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.019, FAC, or Executive Order EO 16-18, the harvest of oysters for commercial purposes from the St. Andrews Bay System in Bay County, is prohibited on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of each week beginning on September 1, 2017 and continuing through September 30, 2017.
3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 68B-27.014(1), FAC, or Executive Order EO 16-18, beginning on September 1, 2017 and continuing through June 30, 2018, a commercial harvester may not harvest or land per day from the St. Andrews Bay System or possess while in or on the waters of the St. Andrews Bay System more than five bags of oysters, provided that no more than ten bags of oysters may be possessed aboard any vessel in or on the waters of the St. Andrews Bay System at any time.
4. This Order does not authorize the harvest or possession of oysters within a portion of West Bay, Bay County, where the harvest and possession of oysters is prohibited by Executive Order number EO 16-18.
5. All other rules of the Commission relating to oysters shall remain in effect.
6. This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. CDT on September 1, 2017, and shall expire at 11:59 p.m. CDT on June 30, 2018.

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 25th day of August 2017.

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Attest _____
Agency Clerk