

15A NCAC 03K .0304 PROHIBITED TAKING OF CLAMS

(a) It shall be unlawful to take clams by mechanical methods for clamming as defined in 15A NCAC 03I .0101, except as provided in Rule .0302 of this Section. Regardless of the areas that may be opened, it shall be unlawful to take clams by hand tongs in any established bed of submerged aquatic vegetation as defined in 15A NCAC 03I .0101 or salt water cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) that may exist together or separately.

(b) It shall be unlawful to possess clam trawls or cages aboard a vessel at any time, or have kick or deflector plates otherwise used in the mechanical harvest of clams affixed to a vessel at any time, except during the time period specified for a mechanical clam harvest season in Internal Waters in accordance with Rule .0302(a) of this Section. A period of 14 days before and after the season as specified by proclamation shall be allowed for the installation and removal of kick or deflector plates and clam trawls or cages. Vessels with permits for activities provided for in Rules .0104, .0107, and .0401 of this Subchapter shall be exempt from this Rule during the times those activities are permitted.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. October 1, 2008; February 1, 2008; May 1, 1997; July 1, 1993;
Readopted Eff. March 15, 2023.*