

15A NCAC 030 .0208 TERMINATION PROCEDURES FOR SHELLFISH LEASES

(a) Procedures for termination of shellfish leases are provided in G.S. 113-202.

(b) Consistent with G.S. 113-202(11) and G.S. 113-201(b), a shellfish lease holder that failed to meet the requirements in G.S. 113-202, G.S. 113-202.1, G.S. 113-202.2, or the rules of this Section that govern a determination of failure to utilize the lease on a continuing basis for the commercial production of shellfish may be granted a single extension period of no more than two years per contract period upon a showing of hardship by written notice to the Fisheries Director or the Fisheries Director's designee received prior to the expiration of the lease term that documents one of the following occurrences caused or will cause the lease holder to fail to meet lease requirements:

- (1) death, illness, or incapacity of the shellfish lease holder or the holder's immediate family as defined in G.S. 113-168 that prevented or will prevent the lease holder from working the lease;
- (2) damage to the shellfish lease from hurricanes, tropical storms, or other severe weather events recognized by the National Weather Service;
- (3) shellfish mortality caused by disease, natural predators, or parasites; or
- (4) damage to the shellfish lease from a manmade disaster that triggers a state emergency declaration or federal emergency declaration.

(c) In the case of hardship as described in Paragraph (b) of this Rule, the notice shall state the shellfish lease number. In the case of hardship as described in Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule, the notice shall also state the name of the shellfish lease holder or immediate family member and either the date of death or the date of the illness or incapacity. The Fisheries Director may require a doctor's verification that the illness or incapacity occurred. In the case of hardship as described in Subparagraphs (b)(2) through (b)(4) of this Rule, the notice shall also include documentation of damage to the shellfish lease. Written notice and supporting documentation shall be addressed to the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, 3441 Arendell Street, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113-134; 113-182; 113-201; 113-202; 113-202.1; 113-202.2; 113-205; 143B-289.52;
Eff. January 1, 1991;
Amended Eff. May 1, 1997; March 1, 1995; March 1, 1994; October 1, 1992; September 1, 1991;
Temporary Amendment Eff. January 1, 2002; October 1, 2001;
Amended Eff. May 1, 2017; April 1, 2003;
Readopted Eff. June 1, 2022;
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