



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

June 9, 2011

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: CLOSURE OF PORTIONS OF THE 2011 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY, AS OF 12:00 P.M. FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2011

Effective 12:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Friday, June 10, 2011, the Virginia Horseshoe Crab fisheries for hand harvest, dredge, and the other gear category (including gillnet and pound net) will close for the year. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the horseshoe crab quota for these three gear categories (hand harvest, dredge, and other), by the above date and time.

Therefore, after 12:00 P.M., EST, June 10, 2011, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia harvested by hand, dredge, and other gear shall be prohibited (Regulation 4 VAC 20-900-10 et. seq.). Only permitted harvesters using trawl gear shall be allowed to possess and land horseshoe crabs.

In addition, it is also projected that 80% of the total Virginia commercial crab quota will be harvested at the above date and time, and horseshoe crab landing limits will be reduced. Horseshoe crab endorsement licensees will be limited to landing 1,250 horseshoe crabs per vessel, per day, and horseshoe crab bycatch permittees will be limited to landing 250 horseshoe crabs per vessel, per day (Regulation 4 VAC 20-900-25 et. seq.). Please note, only horseshoe crabs landed by trawl gear will be permitted after the above date and time.

If you have questions or comments contact Alicia Nelson (757) 247-2244.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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