



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull
Commissioner

November 3, 2015

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2015 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND RE-OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY (UPDATED)

Fisheries management staff has received several questions regarding the summer flounder notice sent on October 27, 2015. This notice is to clarify information that was provided on October 27, 2015 that summarized the most recent Virginia summer flounder regulation amendments. Please see Chapter 4 VAC 20-620-10 ET SEQ. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder" for the complete regulation.

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Sunday, November 1, 2015, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will re-open for vessels with a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License. Legally licensed vessels in the Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery shall be held to the following provisions:

- It is unlawful for any vessel to possess aboard or land in Virginia more than 10,000 pounds of summer flounder in addition to the North Carolina legal landing limit from November 1 through November 30, 2015.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to possess aboard or land in Virginia more than 5,000 pounds of summer flounder in addition to the North Carolina legal landing limit from December 1 through December 30, 2015.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

- It shall be unlawful for a licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operation Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646), prior to a vessel offloading Summer Flounder harvested outside of Virginia. The buyer shall provide to the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time.
- Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the total weight of the landed Summer Flounder has been determined, the buyer shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding total weight of Summer Flounder landed.
- It shall be unlawful, for any person, to offload, from a boat or vessel, for commercial purposes, any Summer Flounder during the period of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board or entering Virginia waters for safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. Authorization for safe harbor must be approved by the Commissioner. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237 or Rachael Maulorico at (757) 247-2244.