



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

February 25, 2016

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2016 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Virginia's commercial summer flounder quota will be distributed, as described in Chapter 4 VAC 20-620-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder," as follows:

2016 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)

2016 Virginia Quota Allocation	1,731,781
Inshore Quota Allocation	300,000
Offshore Quota Allocation	1,431,781
First Period Offshore Quota: Begins March 9, 2016	1,002,247

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, March 9, 2016, legally licensed vessels in the Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery shall be held to the following provisions:

From the second Wednesday in March through May 7, it shall be unlawful for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia waters to do any of the following:

Possess aboard any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder in excess of the combined total of the Virginia landing limit described below, and the amount of the legal North Carolina possession limit.

Land Summer Flounder in Virginia for commercial purposes more than twice during each consecutive 30-day period, with the first 30-day period beginning on the second Wednesday in March.

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

Land in Virginia more than a total of 7,500 pounds of Summer Flounder during the first 30-day period, with the first 30-day period beginning on March 9.

Land in Virginia more than a total of 5,000 pounds of Summer Flounder during the second 30-day period with the second 30-day period beginning on April 7.

Land in Virginia any amount of Summer Flounder more than once in any consecutive five-day period.

Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder.

It shall be unlawful for a licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to contact the VMRC Operations 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.

Prior to March 9, 2016, it shall be unlawful to:

1. possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10%, by weight, of Atlantic croaker or the combined landings, on board a vessel, of black sea bass, scup, squid, scallops and Atlantic mackerel, or
2. possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 1,500 pounds, landed in combination with Atlantic croaker, or
3. fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

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) 247-2236