



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

September 27, 2018

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2018 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Effective 12:01 A.M., Tuesday, October 16, 2018, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will 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:

- The possession limit for the Offshore (EEZ) Fishery from October 16 through December 31, 2018 is 7,000 pounds.
- 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 harvested from the EEZ.
- It shall be unlawful for any licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission 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.
<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/index.php>

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

- Once offloading of any vessel is complete, and the total weight of the landed Summer Flounder has been determined, the buyer shall use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission of 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 from of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting summer flounder outside of Virginia waters to possess aboard any vessel, in Virginia, any amount of summer flounder, once it has been projected and announced that 100% of the quota has been taken.

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 Jill Ramsey at (757) 247-2243.