



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

November 2, 2018

TO: ATLANTIC MENHADEN BUYERS AND HARVESTERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: CLOSURE OF THE COMMERCIAL NON-PURSE SEINE MENHADEN BAIT FISHERY

Effective 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 5, 2018, the commercial non-purse seine menhaden bait fishery will close. This sector includes cast net, dredge, fyke net, gill net, pound net, haul seine and trawl. Based on landing reports from mandatory harvest reporting and Virginia seafood buyers, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the 5,880,010 pounds of the commercial non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota, by the above date and time.

As provided in Chapter 4 VAC20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden", Pursuant to § 28.2-400.4 of the Code of Virginia, once the Commissioner announces the date of closure for the non-purse seine bait fishery, any person licensed in the non-purse seine menhaden bait sector may possess and land up to 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day. All bycatch landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M., Monday, November 5, 2018, it shall be unlawful to harvest or land more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day, for commercial purposes, by use of any commercial non-purse seine gear in Virginia, for the remainder of 2018.

If you have questions or comments contact Jill Ramsey at (757) 247-2243.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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