



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

November 16, 2010

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: RE-OPENING OF VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, November 29, 2010, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will re-open for vessels with a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License. Landings from the offshore fishery, through November 3 (including the by-catch allowance), total 1,706,246 pounds. The available flounder (including remaining unused quota from the inshore fishery and state transfers) is projected to be 952,684 pounds of Summer Flounder.

- The cumulative possession limit for the Directed Fishery is 7,500 pounds in each twelve-day landing period. The first twelve-day landing period will begin November 29, 2010, and end December 10, 2010. Subsequent landing periods will be subject to quota availability.
- 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.
- 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

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

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 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Prior to November 29, 2010, or when it is projected and announced that 85% of the projected remaining quota (809,781 pounds) has been taken, 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.

After the landing quota has been attained and announced, no boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board may enter Virginia waters, except for safe harbor. Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board, entering Virginia waters for safe harbor, shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. 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 Grist at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Cimino at (757) 247-8068.