

# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission*

*Building 96*

*380 Fenwick Road*

*Fort Monroe, VA 23651*

Matthew J. Strickler  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

## EASTERN SHORE COMMERCIAL SHRIMP TRAWL PERMIT

August 1, 2021

To All Those Interested in the Eastern Shore Experimental Shrimp Trawl Permit,

On July 27, 2021, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission approved Chapter 4 VAC 20-1390-10 et. seq., "Pertaining to Shrimping". This new regulation established a commercial shrimp trawl license, lottery, associated gear, season, and area requirements, along with commercial and recreational shrimp possession limits **in the Virginia Beach area only**.

**The Eastern Shore area will remain an experimental fishery in 2021 due to a lack of information to make informed management decisions. A separate permit process similar to what has been done in the past will be used for the Eastern Shore.**

All individuals interest in shrimp trawling on the Eastern Shore must complete the attached Commercial Shrimp Trawl Experimental Permit Form and submitted it to VMRC to be considered for the 2021 fishing year. The agency has already received a large number of commercial fishers expressing interest in this fishery. However, no more than four (4) permits will be issued for the Eastern Shore Area this year.

Applications are also available online at : <https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/whatsnew.shtm>

**Applications must be received by the Commission no later than 5pm, Tuesday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** Send applications to:

**Email** - Preferred method

[fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov)

Subject Header: ES SHRIMP PERMIT

**Mail**

ES SHRIMP PERMIT

VMRC Fisheries Management Division

Building 96, 380 Fenwick Rd

Fort Monroe, VA, 23651

Applications may also be placed in the agency drop box located at the main office address shown above.

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

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

## Information concerning the Eastern Shore Commercial Shrimp Trawl Permit

- 1) All applicants will enter the lottery where at least four (4) permits will be available.
- 2) **Lottery Process** - Those individuals entering the lottery must possess at minimum a valid Commercial Fisherman Registration License (CFRL).
- 3) The lottery is weighted, meaning applicants meeting the most criteria have a better chance of being selected. The table below shows the lottery criteria:

2021 Eastern Shore Experimental Shrimp Trawl Permit Criteria

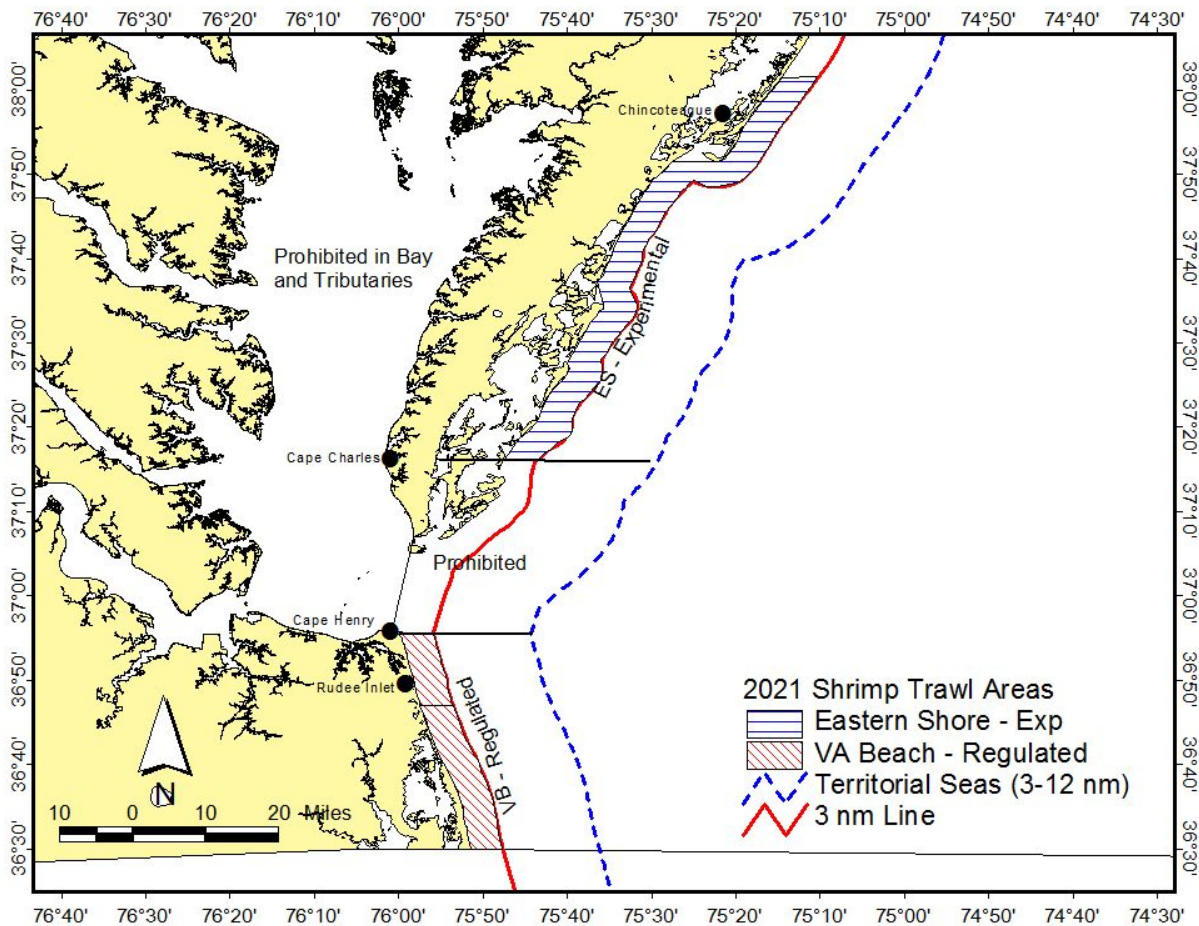
#	Criteria	Pts
1	Virginia Resident Y=10 N=0	10
2	Previous Eastern Shore permit holder of a Virginia-issued Special Experimental Permit for shrimp trawl gear (2019 to 2020) Y=10, N=0	10
3	Previous Eastern Shore permit holder with at least 500 lbs of reported shrimp harvest in any given year between 2019 and 2020 Y=10, N=0, NA=0	10
4	Any Commercial fishing violations in past 3 years (2017-2019) Severe-0, Moderate-2, Occasional-5, Minimal-8, None-10	10
5	Compliance Issues with Mandatory Reporting (2017-2019) Frequent-0, Sometimes-6, Never-10	10
6	Resides near fishing area (Eastern Shore) Y=5, N=0	5
7	1000 lbs of reported harvest over three years (2017-2019) as of 7/1/21. No-0, as helper-5, w/ CFRL-10)	10
8	Cooperative and professional with VMRC staff over past 5 years (0 to 10)	10
9	Previously licensed crab dredger with reported landings (2004-2008) 1 pt for each year	5
10	Application (legible, no blanks, on time, with detail on gear and marketing) (0 to 15)	15
11	Vessel port and lands at least 50% of harvest on Eastern Shore Y=5, N=0	5
	Max Points	100

- 4) Selected applicants will be notified no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> and have 14 days to accept the permit. Those that fail to notify staff by the deadline forfeit the permit and another eligible individual will be chosen through the same process.
- 5) **Transfers:** Transfers of any Experimental Shrimp Trawl Permit is prohibited.
- 6) **Agents:** Agents are prohibited. Permittee must be on the boat.
- 7) **Season:** November 1 to December 31 (*in accordance with Code of Virginia § 28.2-215*).
- 8) **Fishing Area:** Coastal waters of the Virginia Atlantic shoreline due east of Cape Charles, VA, out to the 3 nautical mile line, north to the Maryland/Virginia state line, excluding all seaside bays, sounds, and inlets.
- 9) **Time of Day Restriction:** 30 minutes prior to sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset
- 10) **Gear:**
  - a. Vessel should be of appropriate size to fish the required gear (minimum 35 ft)
  - b. A fixed frame net must have an opening no larger than 16 ft. in width and 4 ft. in height (i.e., beam or frame trawl).
  - c. Net mesh must be from 1.5 inches to 2.0 inches stretched mesh.
  - d. Net must be equipped with a properly installed National Marine Fisheries Service or North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries approved by-catch reduction device

(BRD).

- e. Tow duration cannot exceed 30 minutes.
  - f. The Commission shall approve all shrimp trawl gear prior to the final issuance of an Experimental Shrimp Trawl Permit. Contact staff for an inspection.
- 11) Harvest of any Virginia quota-managed species is prohibited (Black Drum, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, Atlantic Menhaden, Scup, Speckled Sea Trout, Spiny Dogfish, Striped Bass, and Summer Flounder).
  - 12) Use of agents or transferring of any Commercial Shrimp Trawl Permit is prohibited.
  - 13) Permittees shall allow VMRC observer staff onboard fishing trips to collect data on shrimp and bycatch.
  - 14) Permittees are required to contact the MRC staff after each trip to report estimates of shrimp harvest, total bycatch, and any interactions with protected resources. Contact information will be provided.
  - 15) Harvest of all species must be reported to the MRC's Mandatory Harvest Reporting Program by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The 2021 Virginia Beach Shrimp Trawl Harvest Area will be managed under Chapter 4 VAC 20-1390-10 "Pertaining to Shrimp" et seq. The Eastern Shore Area will remain experimental in 2021 and will be administered through Special Experimental Permits.





**VMRC EXPERIMENTAL SHRIMP TRAWL PERMIT**  
**EASTERN SHORE AREA APPLICATION FORM**

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

MRC ID: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (if different):

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE AN ACTIVE CFRL?  Yes or  No (Check One)

VESSEL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

VESSEL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ VESSEL LENGTH: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a permit holder of a Virginia-issued Special Experimental Permit for shrimp trawl gear for any year between 2017 and 2020?  Yes or  No (Check One)

Please provide a detailed description of your intended fishing gear (attach photos or drawings if necessary)

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APPLICANT INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please briefly explain your qualifications for an experimental shrimp trawl permit. Include information such as experience in other shrimp fisheries, previous experimental permits through VMRC, suitable vessel, and proposed methods of marketing the product.

I have read and understand the attached information pertaining to this experimental shrimp trawl permit and lottery process.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Email Application to: [fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov) and use subject line “*ES SHRIMP EXPERIMENTAL PERMIT*” **OR**

Mail applications to: “*ES SHRIMP EXPERIMENTAL PERMIT*”, VMRC, 380 Fenwick Rd, Building 96, Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA, 23651 **OR**

Drop in the Commission’s drop box located outside of the Main Office indicated above.