



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull
Commissioner

April 30, 2015

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: LANDING LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THE GENERAL CATEGORY PERMITEES IN THE 2015 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY, EFFECTIVE SUNSET, APRIL 30, 2015 AND CLOSURE OF THE 2015 GENERAL CATEGORY HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY EFFECTIVE SUNSET, MAY 3, 2015.

It is projected that 80% of the horseshoe crab commercial general category quota has been landed. For that reason, it shall be unlawful for any valid horseshoe crab commercial general category permittee to possess aboard any vessel or to land any number of horseshoe crabs in excess of 125 per day effective Sunset, Thursday, April 30, 2015.

Effective Sunset, Sunday, May 3, 2015, the Virginia horseshoe crab general category permit commercial fishery will close. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the horseshoe crab quota allocated to be harvested by Virginia Horseshoe Crab General Category Permittees, by the above date and time.

Therefore, after Thursday, April 30, 2015 at Sunset, Horseshoe Crab General Category Permittees will be limited to possess aboard any vessel or land more than 125 horseshoe crabs per day, (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et seq.).

AND

After Sunset, May 3, 2015, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia by gears other than trawl, dredge, pound net, or by hand shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et seq.).

If you have any questions or comments please contact Rachael Maulorico (757) 247-2244.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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