



# *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

March 29, 2010

**TO: BLACK SEA BASS INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: CLOSURE OF VIRGINIA'S 2010 BLACK SEA BASS BYCATCH FISHERY**

Effective 6:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday, March 29, 2010, it shall be unlawful for any harvester permitted for the black sea bass bycatch fishery to possess aboard a vessel, or to land in Virginia, any black sea bass. Based upon landing reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia seafood buyers, and VMRC Law Enforcement, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the 2010 commercial black sea bass bycatch fishery quota, by the above date and time.

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M. EST, March 29, 2010, it shall be unlawful for any vessels holding a Virginia Black Sea Bass Bycatch Permit to possess aboard a vessel, or to land in Virginia, any black sea bass. Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Black Sea Bass Directed Permit may possess black sea bass.

It shall be unlawful for any person permitted for the directed fishery, the bycatch fishery, or for an authorized alternate landing to fail to contact, within one hour of landing, the Marine Resources Commission's Law Enforcement Operations Division to report his name and the name of the vessel, his permit number, the location where catch will be offloaded, and the estimated weight of the landing of black sea bass.

It shall be unlawful for any person permitted for the directed fishery, the bycatch fishery, or for an authorized alternate landing to fail to contact, within 24 hours of landing, the Marine Resources Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System (1-800-937-9247) to report the name of the permit holder and the name of the vessel that landed the black sea bass, date of landing, the permit number and the weight of black sea bass landed.

*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

Vessels seeking safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission's Law Enforcement Operations Division in advance of 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 contact Alicia Nelson at (757) 247-2244.