



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

May 16, 2018

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2018 HORSESHOE CRAB DREDGE FISHERY
EFFECTIVE SUNSET, MAY 17, 2018.**

Effective Sunset, Thursday, May 17, 2018, the Virginia horseshoe crab commercial dredge gear fishery will close. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it has been projected that Virginia will have harvested 100% of the horseshoe crab dredge gear quota allocated to be harvested by Virginia Horseshoe Crab Class A and Class B Permittees, by the above date and time.

Therefore, after Sunset, May 17, 2018, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia by any gear type except trawl, 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 Adam Kenyon (757) 247-8068.