



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull
Commissioner

April 3, 2015

TO: ATLANTIC MENHADEN BUYERS AND HARVESTERS
FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
RE: CLOSURE OF THE DIRECTED MENHADEN GILL NET FISHERY

Effective 6:00 P.M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, Monday, April 6, 2015, the commercial directed menhaden gill net fishery will close. Based on landing reports from mandatory harvest reporting and Virginia seafood buyers, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the 1,521,108 pounds of the directed menhaden gill net quota, by the above date and time.

As provided in Chapter 4 VAC20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden", when a non-purse seine menhaden bait sector gear quota is announced, by the Commissioner, as having been attained, a 6,000 pound bycatch limit is established. Bycatch landings by that gear type shall not exceed more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day. All bycatch landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M., EDST, April 6, 2015 it shall be unlawful to harvest or land more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day, for commercial purposes, by use of gill net in Virginia, for the remainder of 2015.

If you have questions or comments contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Grist at (757) 247-2236.

JC(PS):jc

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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