



# 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

**January 27, 2016**

**TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY AMENDMENT TO ALLOW  
NORTH CAROLINA POSSESSION LIMIT IN VIRGINIA WATERS**

Effective Thursday, January 28, 2016, fishing vessels entering Virginia waters will be allowed to possess aboard, but not land, the legal North Carolina trip limit. The VMRC will establish the 2016 Directed Period Opening by February 23, 2016. Virginia is currently open for a bycatch of summer flounder. It shall be unlawful for vessels to land any amount of summer flounder in excess of 10% by weight of Atlantic croaker or the combined landings, on board a vessel, of black sea bass, scup, squid, scallops and Atlantic mackerel. Any vessel that has both Atlantic croaker and summer flounder on board cannot possess more the 1,500 pounds of summer flounder, and that vessel must sell the entire harvest of all species at the point of landing.

It shall be unlawful for a licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operation Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646), prior to any vessel entering Virginia waters or offloading. The buyer shall provide to the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time.

Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the total weight of the landed Summer Flounder bycatch has been determined, the buyer shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding total weight of Summer Flounder landed. It shall be unlawful, for any person, to offload, from a boat or vessel, for commercial purposes, any Summer Flounder during the period of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board or entering Virginia waters for safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. Authorization for safe harbor must be approved by the Commissioner. 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, please contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237.

*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