



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

May 16, 2016

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, Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 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 1,673,219 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, May 18, 2016, 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 2016.

If you have questions or comments contact Jill Ramsey (757) 247-2243 or Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237.

JC(PS):jc

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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