

"PERTAINING TO AMBERJACK AND COBIA"

EMREGENCY CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-510-10 ET SEQ.

PREAMBLE

This emergency chapter establishes possession limits, season, and minimum size limits for cobia and amberjack in Virginia waters.

This emergency chapter is promulgated pursuant to authority contained in §§28.2-201 and 28.2-210 of the Code of Virginia. This emergency chapter amends and re-adopts previous Chapter 4 VAC 20-510-10 et seq., which was adopted on March 26, 2019 and effective on April 1, 2019. The effective date of this emergency chapter, as amended, is September 25, 2019.

4VAC20-510-20. RECREATIONAL FISHERY POSSESSION LIMITS; SEASON CLOSURE; AND, VESSEL ALLOWANCE.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing recreationally to possess more than two amberjack or more than one cobia at any time. Any amberjack or cobia caught after the possession limit has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately. When fishing from any boat or vessel where the entire catch is held in a common hold or container, the possession limit shall be for the boat or vessel and shall be equal to the number of persons on board legally eligible to fish multiplied by two for amberjack or one for cobia, except there is a maximum vessel limit of three cobia per vessel per day. That vessel limit may only include one cobia greater than 50 inches in total length. The captain or operator of the boat or vessel shall be responsible for any boat or vessel possession limit.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person, fishing recreationally, to harvest or possess any cobia before June 1st or after September 30th.

4VAC20-510-25. COMMERCIAL FISHERY POSSESSION LIMITS AND SEASON.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing commercially to possess more than two amberjack or more than two cobia at any time, except as described in 4VAC 20-510-33. Any amberjack or cobia caught after the possession limit has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately. When fishing from any boat or vessel where the entire catch is held in a common hold or container, the possession limit shall be for the boat or vessel and shall be equal to the number of valid commercial fisherman registration licensees on board multiplied by two, except there is a maximum vessel limit of six cobia per vessel per day. The captain or operator of the boat or vessel shall

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be responsible for any boat or vessel possession limit.

B. In 2019 it shall be unlawful for any person, fishing commercially, to harvest or possess any cobia after September 30.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the emergency chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by §§28.2-201 and 28.2-210 of the Code of Virginia, duly advertised according to statute, and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at meeting held in Hampton, Virginia on September 24, 2019.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

BY: *Steven G. Bowman*
Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25 day of September 2019.

Jennifer G. Farmer
Notary Public

