



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Douglas W. Domenech  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

August 24, 2011

## **Commercial Crabbing Daily Work Hour Limits Lifted Temporarily** *~ Allows more time for crab pots to be retrieved before the hurricane ~*

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. – Virginia Marine Resources Commissioner Steven G. Bowman has temporarily lifted the time-of-day restrictions on the commercial harvest of crabs, in order to give crabbers plenty of time to get their gear out of the water before Hurricane Irene hits Virginia.

Hurricane Irene currently is expected to make landfall in Virginia on Sunday.

“I urge crabbers to take advantage of this opportunity to retrieve all their crab pots so that are not lost in the storm or blown ashore onto private property or into moored vessels,” said Bowman. “Lost crab pots can continue to capture and kill fish, crabs and even birds. No one wants that.”

Commercial crabbing hours at this time of year are limited to 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those daily harvest hour limits will not apply for the next three days -- from Thursday Aug. 25 through Saturday Aug. 27, 2011.

Lifting the time of day restrictions on the commercial harvest of crabs is permitted under Regulation 270, Section 30: “D. The lawful daily time periods for the commercial harvest of crabs by crab pot or peeler pot may be rescinded by the Commissioner of Marine Resources when he determines that a pending weather event is sufficient cause for the removal of crab pots from the tidal waters of the Commonwealth.”

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission manages Virginia’s saltwater fisheries, both recreational and commercial, and is based in Newport News, Va.

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