



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

February 26, 2014

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2014 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

NOAA Fisheries Service has announced the commercial quota and recreational harvest limits, for summer flounder, effective January 1, 2014. The coastwide summer flounder total allowable landings (TAL) are 19.07 million pounds. The commercial summer flounder quota allotment is 11.73 million pounds. Virginia's commercial quota, after subtracting the research set-aside amount, is 2,427,783 pounds. Virginia's commercial summer flounder quota will be distributed, as described in Chapter 4 VAC 20-620-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder," as follows:

2014 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)

2014 Virginia Quota Allocation	2,427,783
Inshore Quota Allocation	300,000
Offshore Quota Allocation	2,127,783
First Period Offshore Quota * Begins: March 12, 2014	1,504,342
Second Period Offshore Quota Begins: Second Monday in November (November 10, 2014)	623,441

* Available quota for the directed offshore summer flounder fishery may be lower when bycatch harvest from January 1 through March 12, 2014 is subtracted.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, March 12, 2014, legally licensed vessels in the Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery shall be held to the following provisions:

- The cumulative possession limit for the Offshore (EEZ) Fishery is 12,500 pounds in each twenty-day landing period. The first twenty-day landing period will begin March 12, 2014, and end March 31, 2014. Subsequent twenty-day landing periods will be subject to quota availability.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder.
- 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 a vessel offloading Summer Flounder harvested outside of Virginia. 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 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.
- Prior to March 12, 2014, or when it is projected and announced that 85% of the first period offshore quota has been taken, it shall be unlawful to:
 1. possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters 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, or
 2. possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 1,500 pounds, landed in combination with Atlantic croaker, or
 3. fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

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. 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 or Adam Kenyon at (757) 247-8068.