



# 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

**February 25, 2015**

**TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: 2015 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY**

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:

## **2015 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)**

2015 Virginia Quota Allocation	2,359,640
Inshore Quota Allocation	300,000
Offshore Quota Allocation	2,059,640
First Period Offshore Quota * Begins: March 11, 2015	1,456,165
Second Period Offshore Quota Begins: Second Monday in November (November 9, 2015)	603,475

\* Available quota for the directed offshore summer flounder fishery may be lower when bycatch harvest from January 1 through March 11, 2015 is subtracted.

*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

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 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 7,500 pounds in each twenty-day landing period. The first twenty-day landing period will begin March 11, 2015, and end March 30, 2015. 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 11, 2015, 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. 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 or Rachael Maulorico at (757) 247-2244.