



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

June 1, 2017

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2017 HORSESHOE CRAB DREDGE FISHERY
EFFECTIVE SUNSET, JUNE 2, 2017.**

Effective Sunset, Friday, June 2, 2017, the Virginia horseshoe crab commercial dredge gear fishery will close. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it has been projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the horseshoe crab dredge gear quota allocated to be harvested by Virginia Horseshoe Crab Class A and Class B Permittees, by the above date and time.

Therefore, after Sunset, June 2, 2017, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia by any gear type except trawl, pound net, or by hand shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et seq.).

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Adam Kenyon (757) 247-8068.

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