



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

January 25, 2010

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2010 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER AND FIRST PERIOD OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA

NOAA Fisheries Service has announced the commercial quota and recreational harvest limits, for summer flounder, effective January 1, 2010. The coastwide summer flounder total allowable landings (TAL) are 22.13 million pounds. The commercial summer flounder quota allotment is 13,278,000 pounds. Virginia's commercial share (21.31676 %), less the research set-aside, is 2,745,526 pounds. Virginia's commercial summer flounder quota will be distributed, as described in Regulation 4 VAC 20-620-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder," as follows:

2010 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)

2010 Virginia Quota Allocation (21.317%)	2,745,526
Inshore Quota Allocation	300,000
Offshore Quota Allocation	2,445,526
First Period Offshore Quota *	1,728,987
Begins: Last Monday in February (February 22, 2010)	
Second Period Offshore Quota	716,539
Begins: Last Monday in November (November 29, 2010)	

*See following provisions for directed and bycatch fishery during First Period.

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

The First Period quota is **1,728,987** pounds of Summer Flounder. Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, February 22, 2010, Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder fishery of the First Period will open.

- The cumulative possession limit for the First Period Directed Fishery is 7,500 pounds in each twelve-day landing period. The first twelve-day landing period will begin February 22, 2010, and end March 5, 2010. Subsequent landing periods will be subject to quota availability.
- When it is projected and announced that 85% of the First Period quota (1,469,639 pounds) has been taken, it shall be unlawful, for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia's waters, to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10% by weight of all other landed species on board the vessel (this provision subject to change).
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess Summer Flounder.
- Prior to Monday, February 22, 2010, it shall be unlawful, for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia's waters, to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10% by weight of all other landed species on board the vessel.
- 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 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

If you have questions or comments contact Joe Grist at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Cimino at (757) 247-8068. **If you wish to receive memos by email notifying you of when the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will open and close, please email Joe Grist at Joe.Grist@mrc.virginia.gov with your company name and email address.**