



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

March 24, 2010

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: CLOSURE OF VIRGINIA'S DIRECTED OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Effective 6:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday, March 29, 2010, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will close. Vessels that have entered Virginia waters and secured to an offloading site prior to 6:00 P.M., EST, Monday, March 29, 2010 may possess and offload 7,500 pounds of Summer Flounder, minus any previous landings during the twelve-day landing period. Based upon landing reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia seafood buyers and VMRC Law Enforcement, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 85% of the First Period Offshore Quota of 1,728,987 pounds of Summer Flounder by the above date and time.

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M., EST, March 29, 2010, it shall be unlawful for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia's waters to do any of the following:

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.
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.
3. Fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess Summer Flounder. The buyer shall continue to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station prior to a vessel offloading any Summer Flounder harvested outside Virginia.

The buyer shall provide Operations Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646) the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time. Once offloading of any

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vessel is complete and the 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 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.

Vessels seeking safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of 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 contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-8068 or Joe Grist at (757) 247-2237.