



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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For Immediate Release

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VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION REVOKES COMMERCIAL WATERMAN LICENSES FOR FIVE YEARS, IMPOSES \$10,000.00 CIVIL PENALTY

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. -- The Virginia Marine Resources took the following actions on fisheries violations at the August 23, 2016 meeting:

Mr. David A. Turner, of Hampton, Virginia. Mr. Turner, a commercial licensee, was convicted June 27, 2016 on 10 fisheries violations in Hampton General District Court. The dates of the offences and violations are:

- February 29, 2016 on one count of commercial fishing after revocation of licenses by the Commission – 2nd offense;
- February 29, 2016 on one count of taking shellfish from a condemned area;
- February 29, 2016 on one count of harvesting oyster from a closed area;
- February 18, 2016 on one count of removal of oysters from a polluted area;
- February 17, 2016 on engaging in commercial fishing while revoked;
- February 17, 2016 on one count of possession, storing, selling condemned shellfish;
- January 28, 2016 for not having a valid oyster shucking license;
- January 28, 2016 for operating an illegal oyster processing establishment with no certificate of inspection;
- January 21, 2016 for not having a valid 2016 oyster shucking license and
- January 21, 2016 for operating an illegal oyster processing establishment with no certificate of inspection.

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Mr. Turner first appeared before the Commission as a natural resource offender during the December 2013 Commission meeting. The Commission decided to revoke his licenses for 12 months, 12/10/2013 through 12/09/2014, followed by one year probation, 12/10/2014 through 12/09/2015, owing to four natural resource convictions including two warm water convictions. Mr. Turner appeared a second time before the Commission during the January 2015 Commission meeting. The Commission decided to revoke Mr. Turner's licenses and privileges for two years, (the maximum sentence allowed at the time) from January 27, 2015 through January 26, 2017, due to violating his revocation with two new oyster convictions including harvesting oysters from a condemned area.

Yesterday, the Commission voted unanimously to revoke all Mr. Turner's Commission-issued licenses for a period of five years from the date of this Commission meeting, August 23, 2016 through August 22, 2021. The Commission also voted unanimously to prohibit the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of any of Mr. Turner's licenses during this revocation period. The Commission voted unanimously to revoke Mr. Turner's fishing privileges, within the Commonwealth's tidal waters, for a period of five years from the date of this Commission meeting, August 23, 2016 through August 22, 2021. Finally, the Commission voted unanimously to impose a civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) payable by February 22, 2017, as authorized under Section 28.2-232 of the Code of Virginia.

In other revocation action, Mr. Jason W. Winder, of Poquoson, Virginia, a commercial fisherman registration licensee, was convicted on April 20, 2016, in Newport News General District Court for one count of possession of unculled oysters and his licenses were revoked for six months.

Mr. Winder was put on probation during the July 2015 Commission meeting for one year, July 28, 2015 through July 27, 2016, for harvesting oysters during a closed public season. Because Mr. Winder was on probation when convicted of this latest violation, the Commission voted unanimously to revoke all Mr. Winder's Commission-issued licenses for a period of six months from the date of this Commission meeting, August 23, 2016 through February 22, 2017. The Commission voted unanimously to prohibit the issuance, reissuance, and renewal of any of Mr. Winder's licenses during this revocation period. Finally, the Commission voted unanimously to place Mr. Winder on probation for a period of three years immediately following this revocation period, February 23, 2017 through February 22, 2020. Any failure on Mr. Winder's part to obey any of the laws or regulations relating to the Marine Resources of the Commonwealth during the one year probation would result in Mr. Winder appearing before the Commission for another hearing on license revocation.

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