



# *COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

*Marine Resources Commission*

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*Newport News, Virginia 23607*

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## **Virginia Marine Resources Commission Acts on Fisheries Violations Votes Unanimously to Revoke Licenses**

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. -- The Virginia Marine Resources Commission at their September 23, 2014, meeting took the following action on fisheries violations:

- Brooks Dale Pruitt, of Onancock, Virginia. Mr. Pruitt, a licensed commercial fisherman has three convictions on three separate dates in one year: one count of possession of uncultured crabs (November 13, 2013); one count of possession of uncultured oysters (March 12, 2014); and one count of possession of hard crabs on a crab scrape boat (July 9, 2014). In accordance with Section 28.2-232 of the Virginia Code and guidelines set forth by the Law Enforcement Committee, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted unanimously to revoke all of Mr. Pruitt's fishing licenses for six months beginning on September 23, 2014 and ending on March 22, 2015. After revocation, Mr. Pruitt will be on probation for one year.
- Charles A. Demarino, of Cape Charles, Virginia. Mr. Demarino, a licensed commercial fisherman was convicted of warm water violation for failure to provide shade over his shellfish on June 24, 2014. In accordance with Section 28.2-232 of the Virginia Code and guidelines set forth by the Law Enforcement Committee, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted unanimously to revoke all of Mr. Demarino's fishing licenses for a period of six months to begin on September 23, 2014 and end on March 22, 2015.

- Christopher Nelson, of Water View, Virginia. Mr. Nelson, a licensed commercial fisherman has three convictions on May 19, 2014: one count of commercially landing striped bass without a permit; one count of failure to properly display a license tag; and one count of an improperly marked gill net. In accordance with Section 28.2-232 of the Virginia Code and guidelines set forth by the Law Enforcement Committee, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted unanimously to revoke all of Mr. Nelson's licenses for a period of one year, beginning on September 23, 2014 and ending on September 22, 2015. Following revocation, Mr. Nelson will be placed on one year probation.
- Darwin R. Harding, of Lottsburg, Virginia. Mr. Harding, a licensed commercial fisherman, was convicted of a warm water violation for transporting oysters without approved temperature controlled storage on June 16, 2014. In accordance with Section 28.2-232 of the Virginia Code and guidelines set forth by the Law Enforcement Committee, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission unanimously to revoke all of Mr. Harding's licenses for a period of one year, September 23, 2014 to September 22, 2015.

Following the monthly meeting, Virginia Marine Resources Commissioner John M.R. Bull said "the Commission vote to unanimously revoke these individuals' fishing licenses continues a steady and consistent message from the Commission to the watermen, that violations of the Commonwealth's fisheries laws and regulations will not be tolerated. The Commission takes this responsibility seriously. We expect compliance."

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