



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

February 4, 2011

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2011 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

NOAA Fisheries Service has announced the commercial quota and recreational harvest limits, for summer flounder, effective January 1, 2011. The coastwide summer flounder total allowable landings (TAL) are 29.48 million pounds. The commercial summer flounder quota allotment is 17,375,135 pounds. Virginia's commercial share (21.31676 %), less the research set-aside, is 3,703,816 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:

2011 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)

2011 Virginia Quota Allocation (21.317%)	3,703,816
Inshore Quota Allocation	300,000
Offshore Quota Allocation	3,403,816
First Period Offshore Quota *	2,406,498
Begins: Last Monday in March (March 7, 2011)	
Second Period Offshore Quota	997,318
Begins: Last Monday in November (November 28, 2011)	

* Available quota for the directed offshore summer flounder fishery may be lower when bycatch harvest from January 1 through March 6, 2011 is subtracted.

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

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, March 7, 2011, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will open for vessels with a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License.

- The cumulative possession limit for the Directed Fishery is 10,000 pounds in each fifteen-day landing period. The first fifteen-day landing period will begin March 7, 2011, and end March 21, 2011. Subsequent fifteen-day landing periods will be subject to quota availability.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder.
- 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.
- Prior to March 7, 2011, or when it is projected and announced that 85% of the first period offshore quota (2,045,523 pounds) has been taken, it shall be unlawful to:
 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, or
 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, or
 3. fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board or entering Virginia waters for safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such 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, please contact Joe Grist at (757) 247-2237 or Joe Cimino at (757) 247-8068.