

VMRC FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. The purpose of this newsletter is to explore events and issues of interest to commercial fishermen, VMRC managers, Law Enforcement, researchers, and the Commission.

Volume 24, Issue 1
Spring 2016

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We serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources, and protectors of its tidal waters and homelands, for present and future generations.

INSIDE THE SPRING 2016 ISSUE:

This issue contains updates on recent regulatory decisions by the Commission, including amendments to American eel, striped bass, smoothhound (smooth dogfish), and shellfish.

In 2015, the Commission made amendments to the commercial blue crab fishery for the 2015-2016 season, to adjust the bushel limits for the hard crab pot fishery and to adjust the season for all other gears. In 2016 there will be a rolling closure for the blue crab sanctuary.

Instructions and examples for mandatory reporting for all commercial harvesters are included, along with important updates and changes.

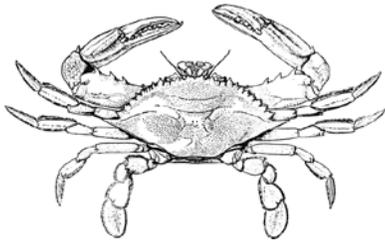
You will also find updates on delayed entry for commercial registration, as well as changes to maximum periods for license revocations. Lastly, included is information regarding turtle and marine mammal strandings.

We would like to thank all of the Virginia commercial harvesters that actively participate in programs and committee meetings sponsored by the Commission. Have a great spring and summer!

VMRC ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Online Mandatory Reporting** – please go to the website: <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/> Select “Request an Account”
*Your password must conform to the state government’s criteria and must be changed once a year. See page 9 of this newsletter for more details.
- **License Sales:** If you are looking to BUY or to SELL a license, please visit: http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/quota&licenses_for_sale.shtm and click on the appropriate link. Further instruction is on each page.
- **Regulations:** All VMRC regulations can be found by species/category <http://mrc.virginia.gov/Regulations/regindex.shtm>
- **Find us on Facebook!** “Like” our page for regular updates!

2016 BLUE CRAB RESOURCE CONSERVATION MEASURES



At the May 2015 Commission meeting, the Commission voted to stay the course in continuing to build the blue crab stock abundance, maintaining daily bushel limits in Chapter 4 VAC 20-270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Blue Crabs". The Commission amended Chapter 4 VAC 20-270-10 et seq. to change crab sanctuary boundaries. Virginia Blue Crab Sanctuary Areas were redefined, with Area 1 divided into Virginia Blue Crab Sanctuary Area 1A and Blue Crab Sanctuary Area 1B and separate closure dates implemented for Blue Crab Sanctuary Areas 1A, 1B and Areas 2 through 4. The Commission also voted to make it unlawful for any vessel to act as both a crab harvester and a crab buyer on the same trip. The prohibition to possess

dark sponge crabs will be from March 17 through June 15. The Commission adjusted the closure dates for the non-crab pot gear season, to close September 26 instead of September 16 and reopen on April 21 instead of May 1. Bushel Limit Management Measures and Season dates will continue from last year, and are listed below.

These measures were taken as a result of the 2014/2015 Bay-wide Winter Dredge Survey, which indicated the female blue crab abundance is only 101 million. While this is an improvement from fewer than 70 million female blue crabs the previous year, it is below the target of 215 million female blue crabs.

At the October 2015 Commission Meeting, the Commission decided to keep the winter crab dredge fishery closed this year, for the eighth consecutive year, because of these low abundance levels.

2016 Blue Crab Bushel & Barrel Limits

From March 17, 2015 through March 31, 2016, any harvester legally licensed for a crab pot license is limited to the following harvest and possession limits shown below:

- 1) 8 bushels, or 2 barrels and 2 bushels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 85 crab pots.
- 2) 10 bushels, or 3 barrels and 1 bushel, of crabs, if licensed for up to 127 crab pots.
- 3) 13 bushels, or 4 barrels and 1 bushel, of crabs, if licensed for up to 170 crab pots.
- 4) 21 bushels, or 7 barrels of crabs, if licensed for up to 255 crab pots.
- 5) 27 bushels, or 9 barrels of crabs, if licensed for up to 425 crab pots.

From April 1, 2016 through July 4, 2016, any harvester legally licensed for a crab pot license is limited to the following harvest and possession limits shown below:

- 1) 10 bushels, or 3 barrels and 1 bushel, of crabs, if licensed for up to 85 crab pots.
- 2) 14 bushels, or 4 barrels and 2 bushels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 127 crab pots.
- 3) 18 bushels, or 6 barrels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 170 crab pots.
- 4) 29 bushels, or 9 barrels and 2 bushels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 255 crab pots.
- 5) 47 bushels, or 15 barrels and 2 bushels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 425 crab pots.

Because some harvesters use barrels rather than bushels, the Commission defined a barrel to be equivalent in volume to no more than 3 bushels of crabs. Bushel limits after July 4, 2016 will be established by the Commission during the spring of 2016. This spring time-table will allow the most up-to-date results of the 2015/2016 Bay-wide Winter Dredge Survey to be available to develop sustainable bushel limits.

AMERICAN EEL REGULATIONS

In October 2014, the ASMFC approved Addendum IV to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for American Eel. Addendum IV established a coastwide catch cap for American Eel at 907,671 pounds. If the coastwide cap is exceeded by 10% in a given year, or is exceeded for two consecutive years, then a state specific quota management system will be triggered. The ASMFC has mandated that states submit proposals for the management of their state specific quotas. Preliminary preparation has been focused on reporting requirements, by each state, for both dealers and harvesters.

A state specific quota would represent a substantial decrease in harvest for the Virginia American Eel fishery and will require future discussions on the best way to utilize the quota that Virginia is allocated. Staff needs to be able to identify individuals who are participating in the eel pot fishery in order to track harvest and contact industry members for upcoming discussions and conservation plans.

At its October 27, 2015 public hearing, the Commission voted to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-1090-10 et seq., "Pertaining to License Requirements and License Fees", to establish an eel pot license. Prior to this amendment the regulation did not differentiate between fish pots and eel pots. The establishment of a separate eel pot license will allow for a determination of participation in the eel fishery, something that will be important if ASMFC establishes a commercial quota. The eel pot license will be available for the first time in 2016.

The establishment of the new eel pot license required that the VMRC also make changes to the way in

which pots are marked. On December 8, 2015, the Commission approved changes to Chapter 4 VAC 20-140-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Identification of Crab Pots, Peeler Pots and Fish Pots". This requires that crab and peeler pots be marked with an individual's commercial registration number; it also requires that the number be preceded with a "C" for crab pots and a "P" for peeler pots. Effective January 1, 2016, this regulation also states that eel pots will be marked with the individual's registration number preceded by the letter "E" and fish pots will be marked with the registration number preceded by the letter "F".

Staff would like to remind all legally licensed seafood buyers that in order to purchase or receive any quantity of eel landed in Virginia by a legal harvester, they must obtain an Eel Buyers Permit. All Eel Buyer Permittees will provide the Commission with a report; including date of purchase, the harvesters Commercial Fisherman Registration License Number, weight of eel purchased and gear type. These reports shall be completed and submitted monthly to the VMRC no later than the fifth day of the following month. Any legally licensed individual who self-markets any eels to any person or business is required to obtain an Eel Self-Market Permit. All Eel Self-Market Permittees are required to report their daily landing records to the Commission no later than the fifth of the following month.



Photo courtesy of Cornell University

STRIPED BASS REGULATIONS

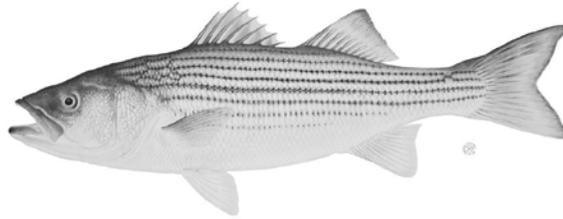


Photo courtesy of Cornell University

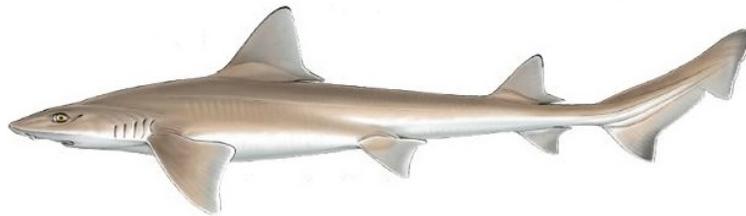
The commercial striped bass season opened on January 16, 2016. The same coastwide reductions that were taken in 2015 remain in place for 2016. For Virginia, the annual commercial coastal quota is 138,640 pounds and the annual commercial Chesapeake Bay quota is 1,064,997 pounds.

Staff would also like to remind any buyer permitted to purchase striped bass harvested from Virginia tidal waters that they shall provide written reports to the Commission of daily purchases and harvest information each month. Buyer reporting forms can

be found at the VMRC website or by calling 757-247-2243.

To schedule a striped bass quota transfer, please contact Melanie Ramirez at (757) 247-2238 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, or Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. No walk-in (non-appointment) striped bass quota transfers, or additional tag allocations, will be allowed. If you do not have a confirmed appointment with staff, you will be required to schedule an appointment for a later date and time.

SMOOTHHOUND REGULATIONS



On February 5, 2016, ASMFC's Coastal Sharks Management Board approved a commercial quota of 2,649,268 pounds dressed weight for smoothhound sharks (also known as smooth dogfish in the Atlantic) and implemented state-shares for the allocation of the coastwide quota, pursuant to the provisions of Addendum II to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Coastal Sharks. The Board's action responds to NOAA Fisheries' final approval of Amendment 9 to the 2006 Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, which

brings smoothhound sharks under federal management effective March 15, 2016.

NOAA Fisheries will close the federal waters fishery when smoothhound shark landings are expected to reach 80% of the coastwide quota. However, fishermen with a state commercial fishing license can continue to harvest smoothhound in state waters until the allotted state share is projected to have been harvested. Virginia's share for 2016 is 34.8 % of the coast wide quota at 922,030 pounds dressed weight.



SHELLFISH REGULATIONS



In recent years, poor spat recruitment (except 2012) and large increases in effort resulted in the Commission voting under emergency action to suspend the sale of public oyster all gear user fees for individuals that have never purchased an all gear user fee at the February 23, 2016 Commission meeting. This emergency management measure was recommended by the Shellfish Management Advisory Committee (SMAC) in order to keep current fishing effort from expanding. SMAC and VMRC staff is working to develop management measures that address increased fishing effort within the public oyster dredge and hand scrape fisheries.

MANDATORY SHELLFISH CERTIFICATIONS

The National Shellfish Sanitation Program guidelines now require training and education programs for all shellfish harvesters and certified dealers. This training program is currently being implemented in Virginia and is now required for all shellfish permits and licenses with Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Division of Shellfish Sanitation (DSS).

Completion of the training is a pre-requisite for licensing. The intent is to increase the awareness of temperature control and food handling practices for shellfish to minimize growth of *Vibrio* bacteria.

HARVESTERS

Training is required for all new harvesters prior to purchasing 2016 VMRC shellfish licenses and permits. It can be completed online. Training is free and takes 45 minutes to 1 hour.

<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/training/register.php>

DEALERS

This educational requirement is in addition to HACCP requirements. Shellfish dealers must obtain this training within 90 days of initial licensing in order to be listed on the interstate certified shellfish shippers list (ICSSL). At a minimum, one individual involved in the shellfish operations must obtain the required training.

To access the online training, you will need to go to the website, <https://va.train.org>. You must have a valid email address to complete this online course. On the website home page for TRAIN, you will see on the top of the page a link entitled "How to create a TRAIN account." You will need to follow the instructions once you open the link to create your account which will involve a unique user ID and password. Once you have created your account, you can locate the Shellfish Dealer Course by either searching the course name or entering the unique course ID number:

Course Name: **VDH: Shellfish Dealers Training Program**

Course ID: **1054082**

In following the course flow, everyone will need to listen and view the first section of slides. After the introductory period, you may select what type of shellfish dealer you are based on your certification number (shucker packer – SP, shellstock shipper – SS, Repacker – RP or Reshipper – RS), and complete only that section. For example, if your dealer certification number is VA 000SS, then you would need to select the Shellstock Shipper segment. On the next to the last slide you will see a blank certificate. If you wish to have a paper certificate, you will need to type in your name and print and/or save your certificate from that page while you have the course open and running. Please allow one hour for this training.

DELAYED ENTRY FOR COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION

In 2015, the commercial registration and the exception to delayed entry for commercial registration adopted new procedures. Commercial registration will now be open from December 1 until April 30 of the following year.

The exception to delayed entry for commercial registration process introduced stricter requirements. The major changes include: the applicant must have a valid Commercial Fisherman Registration License during the preceding year; did not transfer that Commercial Fisherman Registration License; and can demonstrate a significant hardship, on the basis of health or active military duty. You must meet all requirements to have approval of the exception application.

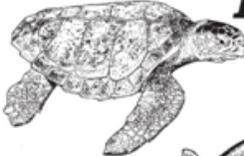
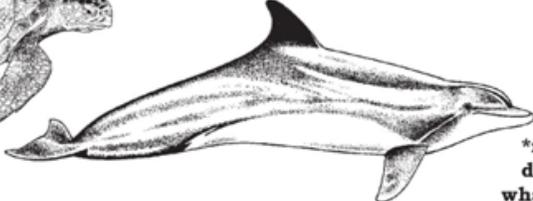
PLEASE POST




WANTED!

INFORMATION ON STRANDED SEA TURTLES AND MARINE MAMMALS*

DEAD OR ALIVE!


*marine mammals =
dolphins, porpoises,
whales, seals, manatees

CALL
VIRGINIA AQUARIUM STRANDING RESPONSE
(LOCATED IN VIRGINIA BEACH)

757-385-7575

(7 DAYS A WEEK)

CALL ANY TIME.

WE NEED INFORMATION ON LOCATION, SPECIES (IF KNOWN), SIZE,
CONDITION, AND THE CONTACT NUMBER OF A PERSON WHO WILL BE
NEAR A PHONE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!!
QUESTIONS?? CALL VAQ STRANDING RESPONSE 757-385-7575.

REVOCATION OF LICENSES

On March 23, 2015, Bill 2195 was approved unanimously and the Code of Virginia §28.2-232 was amended. The amended Code of Virginia, allows for up to a five-year revocation and up to \$10,000 in civil penalties. This amended Code of Virginia went into effect on July 1, 2015. In the same General Assembly Session, § 28.2-528 Revocation of Licenses for theft of oysters was modified, in that the revocation of licenses and fishing privileges can now extend from six months to 5 years. Since the fine requires a public hearing, that provision is only associated with § 28.2-232, as a public hearing is not required under § 28.2-528 of the Code of Virginia.

MANDATORY REPORTING GUIDELINES

NEW: ADDITIONAL HARVESTER POSTCARDS



A new postcard (blue) will be available upon request. This postcard allows any licensed or permitted harvester to notify the VMRC that he or she is harvesting with another licensed harvester. The postcard will have a signature line for the primary harvester (the one submitting the report) and any additional harvester that may be included on the report. This postcard does not replace the requirement for the mandatory harvester reports but provides harvesters with additional documentation of when they harvest together. Monthly mandatory harvest reports are still due on the 5th day of the following month by all commercially licensed and permitted harvesters on forms and folders provided by the Commission.

1-800-LINE INFORMATION

The VMRC Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) (1-800-937-9247) is available for harvesters to report no activity, report immediate harvest information for required species (such as black sea bass, horseshoe crabs, spiny dogfish, and American shad by-catch), request forms and folders, and leave messages for license information. When using the IVRS, please remember to speak slowly when providing your name and VMRC ID.

VISITING THE MAIN OFFICE

It is our recommendation that you call prior to planning any trip to the Fisheries Management Division offices in Newport News, to ensure someone will be available to assist you with your item on that day. Fisheries staff members are working diligently to provide services as quickly as possible; however, staff resources and personnel are limited, and there will be some days that we may not be able to directly assist you with a specific problem until a later time or date. Thank you for your consideration.

ONLINE REPORTING ACCOUNT REQUESTS

Online harvest reporting is available to all licensed commercial harvesters with appropriate computer equipment and internet access. However it is not recommended if all you report is 'no activity' for the entire year. It would be best to use the green cards or contact our toll free line which is available 24/7 for your convenience. To register for the program, visit

<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/> and select "Request an Account." You will need to provide your VMRC ID, date of birth, vessel ID number, and current email address. Once your request has been submitted, an email will be sent to you from Stephnie.iverson@mrc.virginia.gov. You will need to click on the link to verify your email. The request should take less than a week to process. If the request is approved you will receive an email notifying you of how to proceed. There will be five tabs for specific reporting requirements (blue crabs, striped bass, aquaculture - privately leased grounds, public oysters, and all other species). Review all lookup tables before beginning to enter data. Type full names as instructed and click in drop-down boxes as they appear. You may also report your 'no activity' and get a summary of all records you have submitted through the online reporting system. Also note your online account will have to be reset if you don't use it for 120 days. Please contact Stephanie Iverson through the feedback tab if you have any questions or problems while using the system. To learn more about online reporting, visit:

<http://www.vacrabbers.com/electronic-harvest-reporting/>

REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REPORT BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT HARVESTED (NO ACTIVITY)! ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS – YOUR MRC ID AND FULL NAME SHOULD BE LISTED ON THE PRIMARY HARVESTER'S MANDATORY REPORTING FORM!

Please remember the following when filling out monthly mandatory reports:

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN REGISTRATION LICENSEES

Mandatory fields to be filled out by harvester:

- VMRC ID and full and legal name of the registered commercial fisherman
- VMRC ID and full and legal name of any agent, if used
- VMRC ID and full and legal name of no more than **five** additional licensed harvesters who were not serving as agents
- Buyer or private sale information (one per ticket)
- Vessel identification (Coast Guard documentation number or VA registration number; one per ticket)
- Vessel name (if applicable), not the make
- Open harvest area (public oysters) (if applicable)
- Lease number for aquaculture (oyster and clams) harvested from private grounds (if applicable)
- City or county where harvest was landed
- Date of harvest (one day per ticket)
- Water body fished (one per ticket; use codes from mandatory reporting folders)
- Number of hours any gear was fished
- Gear type and amount of gear used (one per ticket)
- Number of hours the registered commercial fisherman fished (dock to dock; use whole numbers, and do NOT multiply by crew members)
- Number of crew on board, including captain
- Species harvested, market category
- Live weight or processed weight of species harvested
- Circle unit of measure
- Put a check mark if the product was processed (Filletted, Guttled, Puffer Tails, Fins, etc...)

BLUE CRABS

- Only one gear per ticket (e.g. harvest from crab pots and peeler pots should be written on separate tickets)
- Report peelers and soft crabs in numbers
- Report the peeler crabs harvested FOR a shedding tank, DO NOT report soft crabs FROM a shedding tank

FINFISH

- Fish pot (FPOT) and Eel pot (EPOT) are now considered separate gears. Obtain the correct license and report accordingly
- Report "Hoopnet" as Fish pot (FPOT)
- For anchored gill net (AGN), be sure to include number of nets and total amount in feet
- Specify the number of hooks you used for trot lines
- Be sure to include the number of tags used for harvesting striped bass
- Receipts must be included for striped bass sold as retail when the amount sold is more than 10 pounds
- Report the number of black drum kept

All licenses and permits are effective for one calendar year. Expiration date is December 31st of the current year.

EXAMPLES

BLUE CRAB (USING AN AGENT)

Only forms with a revision date of 2010 or later will be accepted.

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
009999	Joseph Fisherman		009998 Thomas Fisherman	JRL	48	POT	250	6	1
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.						
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME						
			VA0000AA Miss Virginia	BCS	2	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)						<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓AREA (OYSTER ONLY)						<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED						<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County						<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)						<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 20, 2016						<input type="checkbox"/>

FINFISH

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
009999	Joseph Fisherman		009999 Joe Fish Buyer	CBLE	24	AGN	3@3600ft	7	3
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.						
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME						
009988	Mary Fisherman		VA0000AA Miss Virginia	SPOT	200	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
009977	William Fisherman		VA0000AA Miss Virginia	CRL	96	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	TRM	24	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓AREA (OYSTER ONLY)	TRL	30	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED	SPT	10	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County						<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)						<input type="checkbox"/>
			May 12, 2016						<input type="checkbox"/>

FINFISH (WITH STRIPED BASS)

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
009999	Joseph Fisherman		009999 Joe Fish Buyer	OVB	24	AGN	2@2400ft	7	2
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.						
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME						
009988	Mary Fisherman		VA0000AA Miss Virginia	SPMAC	50	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	CRM	10	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓AREA (OYSTER ONLY)	TRO	91	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED	PUFT	40	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County	STB(4 TAGS)	55	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)						<input type="checkbox"/>
			May 13, 2016						<input type="checkbox"/>

Please remember the following when filling out monthly mandatory reports:

OYSTER HARVEST FROM PUBLIC GROUNDS

- Oyster harvest from private grounds (aquaculture) must be reported on a different form. See page 11.
- Include the Open Harvest Area (e.g., James River Hand Scrape Area A)
- Contact the VMRC if you need a list of Open Harvest Areas
- A list of the Open Harvest Areas will be sent out once the open areas are set in regulation.
- Report all oysters in bushels

EXAMPLE

OYSTER HARVEST (PUBLIC GROUNDS)

Only forms with a revision date of 2010 or later will be accepted.

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	JRL	7	OT	1	8	2
009999	Joseph Fisherman		↓BUYER	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
			Joe Oyster Buyer	OYSPRNG	10	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BU	LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
009988	Mary Fisherman		Miss Virginia			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			THRK			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ AREA (OYSTER ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Thomas Rock Area A			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			January 15, 2016			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTENTION:

NEW AQUACULTURE-ONLY REPORTING FORMS

On Friday, April 17, 2015 the VMRC mailed out new mandatory reporting forms and instructions for aquaculture harvest, along with a letter describing the change:

“The Mandatory Reporting Program (MRP) has revised the form that will be used by all aquaculture product owners (clam and oysters) to report their monthly summary harvest. These forms have been simplified for your usage; they only include information required for aquaculture harvest reporting. This form is for reporting aquaculture only; no other harvest can be submitted on the form enclosed. If you participate in any other fishery that harvest must be reported separately, on the original forms.”

We are now ONLY accepting aquaculture harvest on the NEW AQUA forms. Any aquaculture harvest reports submitted on the old forms will be returned to be resubmitted on the new forms.

Important information about how to complete these new forms is available on page 13.

All licenses and permits are effective for one calendar year. Expiration date is December 31st of the current year.

AQUACULTURE PRODUCT OWNERS (PRIVATE)

Mandatory fields to be filled out by aquaculture product owners:

- VMRC ID and full and legal name of the aquaculture product owner
- VMRC ID and the full and legal name of no more five additional licensed harvesters
- Number of crew (the number of individuals harvesting)
- Buyer or private sale information (one per summary report)
- Assigned VMRC lease number (one per summary report). If you harvest on the seaside or have riparian rights and do not have a lease number please use 00001 as your lease number (for aquaculture harvest only)
- City or county of landing (one per summary report; use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Use date of last day of the month (summary report only required)
- Water body fished (recommended but not required)
- Gear type (one per summary report; use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Species harvested, market category (use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Report the live weight and the unit (bu - oysters; nu - clams)

Important Notes:

- The appropriate aquaculture user fees and permits must be acquired before working on leased grounds. Public ground oyster user fees and permits DO NOT apply to aquaculture activity.
- A no-cost vessel permit is available for oyster or clam aquaculture product owner permittees to transport harvesters without their own individual harvesters permit to harvest oyster or clams from the product owner’s leased, subleased, or fee simple ground.

EXAMPLE

AQUACULTURE PRODUCT OWNERS (OYSTERS FROM PRIVATE GROUNDS)

AQUACULTURE (PRIVATE GROUNDS) HARVEST ONLY MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING FORM						
PRODUCT OWNER VMRC ID AND NAME		*Note* Report clams in units of 'NU' and oysters in units of 'BU'			↓NO. OF CREW 3	
↓VMRC ID N012345	↓NAME Joseph Fisherman	↓WATER FISHED (ONE PER TICKET) YRL		↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY OYSPRIV	↓AMOUNT 150	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE): <input checked="" type="radio"/> BU <input type="radio"/> NU
ADDITIONAL PERMITTED HARVESTER(S) VMRC ID AND NAME(S) LIST UP TO FIVE (5) HARVESTERS BELOW		↓BUYER Joe Oyster Buyer				
↓VMRC ID 009876	↓NAME Mary Fisherman	↓GEAR BC	↓GEAR AMOUNT			
N099999	Charles Fisherman					
		↓LEASE NUMBER (ONE PER TICKET) 98766				
		↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED Fisherman County				
		↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET) April 30, 2016				

SEAFOOD LANDING LICENSEE

Mandatory fields to be filled out by Seafood Landing Licensees:

- Seafood landing license number and full and legal name of seafood landing licensee
- Buyer (NON-FEDERALLY PERMITTED ONLY) or private sale information (one per ticket)
- Vessel identification (Coast Guard documentation number or VA registration number)
- Name of vessel (if applicable) (one per ticket)
- City or county of landing (one per ticket; use list from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Date of harvest (one per ticket)
- Water body fished (one per ticket; use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Number of hours gear fished
- Gear type and amount used (one per ticket; use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Number of hours the seafood landing licensee fished
- Number of crew on board, including captain
- Species harvested, market category (NON-FEDERALLY PERMITTED SPECIES ONLY) (use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Live weight or processed weight of species harvested
- Please ensure that separate mandatory reporting forms are used when submitting reports for species caught offshore.

All licenses are effective for one calendar year. All licenses and permit expire on Dec 31st of the current year.

EXAMPLE: SEAFOOD LANDING LICENSEES (OFFSHORE) - FINFISH

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	OSVBA	8	HL	4	9	2
G999	Joseph Fisherman		↓BUYER Joe Buyer	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY TTG	↓AMOUNT 20	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE): BU <input checked="" type="radio"/> NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		* Check if processed <input type="checkbox"/>	
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO. VA0000AA	CRO	80	BU <input checked="" type="radio"/> NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME Miss Virginia	BFL	50	BU <input checked="" type="radio"/> NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	
009988	Mary Fisherman		↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	TILE	25	BU <input checked="" type="radio"/> NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	
			↓ AREA (OYSTER ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET) August 27, 2016			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please ensure that all fields are correctly filled out prior to submitting your mandatory reports.
For questions about how to fill out mandatory reports please call 757-247-8102.

NON-COMPLIANCE

The automated compliance notification process has been in place since 2010. Based on a harvester's reporting history, this notification process automatically generates postcards which will serve as reminders for submitting mandatory reports.

Details for the notification process are outlined below:

- If a mandatory report is not submitted by the 5th of the following month, then a **1st notification** 4"x6" postcard will be generated and mailed to the harvester.
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 2 weeks (14 days) after the 1st notification, then a **2nd notification** 4"x6" postcard will be generated and mailed out to the harvester.
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 2 weeks (14 days) after the 2nd notification postcard, then a 8½"x11" **'certified' letter** will be generated and mailed out to the harvester
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 5 days after the issue date on the certified letter, then the harvester who has not responded may receive a **'service letter'** delivered by a Marine Police Officer (MPO) to appear before the Commission for a non-compliance hearing.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOU MUST REPORT BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT HARVESTED (NO ACTIVITY)!



EXAMPLE: FIRST NOTIFICATION POSTCARD

TOM FISHERMAN

February 12, 2015

PO BOX 1234

AQUAVILLE, VA 22222

MRC ID: ####

Dear Tom Fisherman,

This letter serves as your **FIRST** notification by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) that your monthly mandatory harvest reports, required by Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., are currently incomplete. As of February 12, 2015, our records indicate that you have not submitted a report for November 2014. If you need to report 'no activity' for November 2014, please call 1-800-937-9247 and leave a message on our automated voice mail system. If you did harvest seafood and have not submitted your reports, please do so by February 26, 2015. If your monthly reporting records are in error, please contact Mandatory Reporting at 757-247-2241, as soon as possible, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm Friday.

MEETINGS

VMRC – Virginia Marine Resources Commission – Meetings are set for the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9:30am, (fisheries items begin at 12:00 noon), and are held at the Commission's main office in Newport News.

ASMFC – Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Please visit <http://www.asmfc.org> or call (703) 842-0740 to find out meeting dates, locations, and times.

MAFMC – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council – Please visit <http://mafmc.org> or call (302) 674-2331 for meeting dates, locations and times.

CMAC – Crab Management Advisory Committee – Meeting dates vary. Please refer to VMRC website calendar for meeting updates.

<http://mrc.virginia.gov/calendar.shtm>

FMAC – Finfish Management Advisory Committee – Meeting dates vary. Please refer to VMRC website calendar for meeting updates.

<http://mrc.virginia.gov/calendar.shtm>

CFAB – Commercial Fishery Advisory Board – Contact Alicia Nelson (757) 247-8155 for information.

As a reminder, VMRC office hours are 8AM-5PM Monday-Thursday, and 8AM-2:30PM Friday.