



# VMRC FISHERIES NEWS

*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 watermen, VMRC managers, Law Enforcement, researchers, and the Commission.*



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Spring 2007

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## WEIGHT-BASED STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2007

The 2007 Commercial Striped Bass Fishery began on February 1, 2007. All striped bass in the possession of any person for the purpose of sale must be identified with a tamper evident sealed tag that has been approved and issued by the appropriate authority in the jurisdiction of capture. The 2007 Virginia Chesapeake Area tags are red.

The minimum striped bass size limit is 18 inches total length from February 1 through December 1, with a maximum size limit of 28 inches total length from March 26 through June 15, for this area. The 2007 Virginia Coastal Area tags are green, and a minimum striped bass size limit of 28 inches total length from February 1 through December 31 is in effect for this area.

Unlike the 2006 management plan for striped bass, which was based on an industry-wide average weight that was used to assign tags equal to numbers of striped bass, the 2007 management plan is based on the amount of weight harvested by each individual harvester. However, the number of striped bass tags an individual receives is not indicative of his individual quota in 2007.

For the purpose of assigning tags to an individual for commercial harvest, an individual's commercial harvest quota of striped bass, in pounds, was con-

verted to an estimate of number of fish per individual harvest quota. The numbers of fish estimated (equal to the number of tags that would be allotted) is based on the permitted individuals average weight of striped bass harvested during the previous fishing year, plus a number of tags equal to ten percent of the total allotment determined for each individual. Should a harvester land smaller striped bass, on average in 2007 than in 2006, additional tags can be provided

### 2007 Quota allotment example and some frequently asked questions:

Fictitious John Waterman is allotted 5,013 pounds of striped bass quota based on the percent share of the total quota he has been allocated for in 2007. John's Mandatory Reports indicated that he harvested striped bass that averaged 14 pounds in 2006. Based on this information, for 2007, John would get an initial allotment of 358 tags (5,013 pounds of quota divided by 14 pounds per fish), plus 36 additional tags (10% increase), for a grand total of 394 tags.

**What if John Waterman harvests smaller striped bass in 2007 and needs more tags to harvest his quota?**



New Point Comfort - Courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Lighthouse Project

John can get more tags. First, he would schedule an appointment with the Newport News office by calling Mike Johnson (757) 247-2245. He would then provide up to date records of landings, and account for all previously issued tags, used and unused. Once all landings are verified (ensuring John has not reached his quota yet) and all tags are accounted for, more tags can be allotted to John Waterman (VMRC Regulation 4 VAC 20-252-160).

**What if John Waterman harvests larger striped bass in 2007, and reaches his quota, but still has tags remaining?**

Once John has caught his quota in weight, he must stop fishing, and return all remaining tags to the Commission within 30 days of harvesting his individual striped bass quota (VMRC Regulation 4 VAC 20-252-160).

**What if John Waterman has lost, or cannot account for, some of his tags?**

Then, by regulation, John would have to submit an affidavit to the Commission that explains the disposition of the tags that are not accounted for and will be required to pay a processing fee of \$25.00, plus \$0.13 per missing tag, to the Commission before he can receive additional tags, or before receiving the next season's allotment of tags (VMRC Regulation 20-252-160). For example, if John lost 10 tags, then he would have to pay the \$25.00 processing fee plus \$1.30 (10 tags multiplied by \$0.13) for the missing tags, for a grand total of \$26.30.

**What if John Waterman catches more than the individual harvest quota he is allotted?**

John has two options. If the season is in progress, he would need to find someone willing to transfer quota to him (minimum transfer is 200 pounds) before December 1 (no transfers from December 1 through February 1). **Quota transfers are by appointment only, no walk-in transfers allowed.** No transfer will be authorized by the Commission unless the transferor and the transferee provide up to date records of all commercial landings of striped bass and striped bass tag use, prior to the transfer. If he can not receive additional quota within the season or if it is past November 30, he would be found out of compliance for surpassing his individual harvest quota and subject to the findings of the Commission based on recommended penalties pursuant to VMRC Regulation 4 VAC 20-252-155, which range from a warning or loss of quota to permit revocation, depending on the extent of the overage.

**What if John Waterman self markets his striped bass to a restaurant, individual, or out-of-state market (a non-permitted striped bass buyer)?**

John must prepare a receipt describing each sale greater than ten pounds, in total weight (VMRC Regulation 4 VAC 20-252-130). Each receipt shall be in triplicate (one copy for the harvester, one for the buyer, and one for the Commission). The receipt shall report the date of the transaction, name and signature of the buyer, address and phone number of the buyer, number and total weight of striped bass sold, and name and signature of harvester. Receipt books are available from the Commission (contact Mike Johnson (757) 247-2245), and copies of each receipt shall be forwarded to the Commission in accordance with VMRC Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq. If John is shipping his product out of Virginia and is unable to acquire the buyer's signature, then the shipping agent (e.g. truck driver) should sign for the striped bass buyer.

**Contact Mike Johnson (757) 247-2245 for additional information.**

**BLACK DRUM BUYERS**- You are required to possess a black drum buying permit in order to purchase black drum from commercial fishermen. All interested buyers must complete an application to receive a permit. Contact Carter Shackelford at (757) 247-2115, to request an application.

**CHARTER BOATS**- All charter boats fishing for striped bass are required to obtain a striped bass permit and report all striped bass caught and harvested to VMRC. Contact Todd Watkins at (757) 247-2241, to request an application and reporting forms.

**RECREATIONAL FISHING WITH COMMERCIAL GEAR**- Any person who purchases any non-commercial gear license (commercial gear used recreationally) is required to report his harvests on special forms provided by the VMRC. Forms can be found at [www.mrc.virginia.gov/forms](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/forms) or can be requested from our office. Reports for any year are due by January 5, of the following year. For further assistance, contact Carter Shackelford at (757) 247-2115.

**FOUND A STRANDED SEA TURTLE ?? PLEASE CONTACT**- Virginia Beach (Science Museum) - (757) 437-6159. Virginia Institute of Marine Science - (804) 684-7313.

## **OYSTER REPORTING** **BE ADVISED**

Please do not put your oyster harvest report (457's) and oyster harvest tickets (453's/455's) with your oyster taxes in with your mandatory reporting system envelope. These are separate reporting systems and it will only delay the processing of your tax payment or cause the possible loss of your check or money. It

should be mailed directly to the attention of the Conservation and Replenishment Department.

**STRIPED BASS TAGS**- You must record the number of tags used daily on your mandatory reporting forms. Red tags are for the Chesapeake Area, and Green tags are for the Coastal Area.

**STRIPED BASS QUOTA TRANSFERS**- Transferring striped bass quota has become very complex and time consuming. You are required to call and make an appointment at least one week in advance before coming to the VMRC main office to transfer striped bass quota. You will need your updated landings to expedite this process. Thank you for your cooperation and patience! Contact Mike Johnson at (757) 247-2245, to make an appointment. **No non-appointment walk-in transfers allowed.**

**STRIPED BASS BUYERS**- All buyers are required to possess a striped bass buyer's permit, in order to purchase striped bass from commercial fisherman. For assistance, please call Todd Watkins at (757) 247-2241.

**STRIPED BASS BUYER REPORTS**- Permitted buyers shall provide written reports to the Commission of daily purchases and harvest information on forms provide by the VMRC. Reports shall be completed in full and submitted monthly no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. In addition, during the month of December, each permitted buyer shall call the VMRC interactive Voice Recording System, on a daily basis, to report his name and permit number, date, pounds of Chesapeake area striped bass purchased and pounds of Coastal area striped bass purchased.

## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2007 VMRC COMMERCIAL LICENSES

The VMRC has implemented a new on-line licensing system December 1, 2006. As a result, you will see several changes for 2007.

**Commercial Registration licenses are changing.** Commercial Registration licenses will continue to be mailed from the VMRC main office only. You will no longer receive a colored plastic card. The Commercial Registration license will be made of a durable thermal paper. The VMRC will provide you with a small envelope that will be mailed to you with your 2007 Commercial Registration license. **THIS LICENSE IS PRINTED ON HEAT SENSITIVE PAPER. DO NOT USE A HEATED LAMINATOR TO SEAL THIS LICENSE, OR IT WILL TURN BLACK AND YOU WILL HAVE TO REQUEST A REPLACEMENT LICENSE.**

**On-line gear license sales.** Fourteen (14) Agents and two VMRC offices have been established to sell licenses using the new on-line Commercial Fishing Licensing System (CFLS). It is mandatory that fixed fishing device licenses be purchased from an on-line Agent.

**2007 is the last year eligibility letters will be issued.** Beginning in 2008, you will have to purchase your eligibility licenses (crab pot, crab dredge, commercial hook-and-line, conch pot, etc.) from an on-line agent. All eligibilities will be pre-authorized from VMRC Main Office through the new on-line Commercial Fishing Licensing System (CFLS).

**New address requirement. Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 ET SEQ.** "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvesting Reporting", requires an applicant to provide a mailing address **and 911 or physical address, if different than the mailing address.** If your current mailing address is a Post Office Box, you must also provide your physical street address. Failure to do so will delay processing your 2007 Commercial Registration license.

**Authorized signature required:** (Fixed Fishing Devices (FFD): pound nets, fyke nets, staked gill nets, crab traps, non-commercial crab traps): As in the past, FFD renewal forms will be sent to the licensee by Virginia Marine Police (VMP) field offices. In the new licensing system, all FFD licenses will be sold by private, automated agents. Before the license can be sold by a private agent, the licensee must return the renewal form to the VMP field office where the FFD device is located, so that the local VMP District Officer can authorize the FFD licenses for sale by the private agents. If a licensee wishes to license a new FFD, they must make application with the local VMP District Officer so that the new FFD site can be authorized for license sale by the private, automated agents. Crab traps need to be renewed by April 1, 2007 to retain priority rights.



Courtesy of Finfish and Fishing Information

# 2007 LICENSE FEES

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
 "PERTAINING TO LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND LICENSE FEES"  
 REGULATION 4 VAC 20-1090-10 ET SEQ.

**PREAMBLE**

This regulation establishes licenses required of persons to take, catch, harvest, possess or market fish, oysters, crabs, clams or other seafood species, for commercial purposes, in the tidal waters of Virginia. This regulation establishes recreational licenses and licenses used for non-commercial purposes, required of persons to take, catch, harvest, or possess finfish or blue crab, for recreational purposes, in the tidal waters of Virginia.

This regulation is promulgated pursuant to authority contained in § 28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia and amends and re-adopts, as amended, previous Regulation 4 VAC 20-1090-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Licensing Requirements and License Fees," which was promulgated by the Marine Resources Commission on September 26, 2006 and made effective on October 1, 2006. The effective date of this regulation is February 1, 2007.

**4 VAC 20-1090-10 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this regulation is to specify the fees, for each license, required of persons to take, catch, harvest, possess or market fish, oysters, crabs, clams or other seafood species in the tidal waters of Virginia, for commercial purposes, or to take, catch or possess any species for recreational purposes. The license fees described in this regulation supersede those fishing license fees described in Title 28.2 of the Code of Virginia.

**4 VAC 20-1090-30 LICENSE FEES.**

The following listing of license fees applies to any person who purchases a license for the purposes of harvesting for commercial purposes, or fishing for recreational purposes, during any calendar year

**A. COMMERCIAL LICENSES:**

Commercial Fisherman Registration License .....	\$190.00
Commercial Fisherman Registration License for a person 70 years or older.....	\$90.00
Delayed Entry Registration.....	\$190.00
Delayed Entry Registration License for a person 70 years or older.....	\$90.00
Seafood Landing License for each boat or vessel.....	\$175.00
For each Commercial Fishing Pier over or upon sub aqueous beds (mandatory).....	\$83.00
Seafood Buyer's License - For each boat or motor vehicle.....	\$63.00
Seafood Buyer's License - For each place of business.....	\$126.00
Clam Aquaculture License.....	\$10.00
Oyster Aquaculture License.....	\$10.00
Nonresident Harvester's License.....	\$444.00

**OYSTER HARVESTING AND SHUCKING LICENSES**

For each person taking oysters by hand, or with ordinary tongs.....	\$10.00
For each single-rigged patent tong boat taking oysters.....	\$35.00
For each double-rigged patent tong boat taking oysters.....	\$70.00
Oyster Dredge Public Ground.....	\$50.00
Oyster Hand Scrape.....	\$50.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for any number of gallons under 1000.....	\$12.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 1000 gallons, up to 10,000.....	\$33.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 10,000 gallons, up to 25,000.....	\$74.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 25,000 gallons, up to 50,000.....	\$124.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 50,000 gallons, up to 100,000.....	\$207.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 100,000 gallons, up to 200,000.....	\$290.00
To shuck and pack oysters, for 200,000 gallons or over.....	\$456.00



## 2007 LICENSE FEES, continued

### BLUE CRAB HARVESTING AND SHEDDING LICENSES

For each person taking or catching crabs by dip nets.....	\$13.00
For ordinary trotlines.....	\$13.00
For patent trotlines.....	\$51.00
For each boat used for taking or catching hard crabs with dredges.....	\$96.00
For each single-rigged crab-scrape boat.....	\$26.00
For each double-rigged crab-scrape boat.....	\$53.00
For up to 100 crab pots.....	\$48.00
For over 100 but not more than 150 crab pots.....	\$79.00
For over 150 but not more than 200 crab pots.....	\$79.00
For over 200 but not more than 300 crab pots.....	\$79.00
For over 300 but not more than 500 crab pots.....	\$127.00
For up to 300 peeler pots.....	\$36.00
For up to 20 tanks and floats for shedding crabs.....	\$9.00
For more than 20 tanks or floats for shedding crabs.....	\$19.00
For each crab trap or crab pound.....	\$8.00

### HORSESHOE CRAB AND LOBSTER LICENSES

For each person harvesting horseshoe crabs by hand.....	\$16.00
For each boat engaged in fishing for, or landing of, lobster using less than 200 pots.....	\$41.00
For each boat engaged in fishing for, or landing of, lobster using 200 pots or more.....	\$166.00

### CLAM HARVESTING LICENSES

For each person taking or harvesting clams by hand, rake or with ordinary tongs.....	\$24.00
For each single-rigged patent tong boat taking clams.....	\$58.00
For each double-rigged patent tong boat taking clams.....	\$84.00
For each boat using clam dredge (hand).....	\$19.00
For each boat using clam dredge (power).....	\$44.00
For each boat using hydraulic dredge to catch soft shell clams.....	\$83.00
For each person taking surf clams.....	\$124.00

### CONCH (WHELK) HARVESTING LICENSES

For each boat using a conch dredge.....	\$58.00
For each person taking channeled whelk by conch pot.....	\$51.00

### FINFISH HARVESTING LICENSES

Each pound net.....	\$41.00
Each stake gill net of 1200 feet in length or under, with a fixed location.....	\$24.00
All other gill nets up to 600 feet.....	\$16.00
All other gill nets over 600 feet and up to 1200 feet.....	\$24.00
Each person using a cast net or throw net or similar device.....	\$13.00
Each fyke net head, weir, or similar device.....	\$13.00
For fish trotlines.....	\$19.00
Each person using or operating a fish dip net.....	\$9.00
On each haul seine used for catching fish, under 500 yards in length.....	\$48.00
On each haul seine used for catching fish, from 500 yards in length to 1000 yards in length.....	\$146.00
For each person using commercial hook and line.....	\$31.00
For each person using commercial hook and line for catching striped bass only.....	\$31.00
On each boat or vessel under 70 gross tons fishing with purse net, per gross ton. But not more than \$249.....	\$4.00
On each boat or vessel over 70 gross tons fishing with purse net, per gross ton. Provided the maximum license fee for such vessels shall not be more than \$996.00.....	\$8.00
For up to 100 fish pots or eel pots.....	\$19.00
For over 100 but not more than 300 fish pots or eel pots.....	\$24.00
For over 300 fish pots or eel pots.....	\$62.00



# On-Line Licensing Agents



Eastern Shore

Chincoteague Fisheries  
7180 Sunset Drive  
Chincoteague, VA 23336  
(757) 336-3039

Jaxon's Hardware  
242701 Bennett Street  
Parksley, VA 23421  
(757) 665-5023

Cheriton Hardware  
21217 Bayside Road  
Cheriton, VA 23316  
(757) 331-1540

Shore Auto & Supply  
Western Auto Associate Store  
3364 Main Street  
Exmore, VA 23350  
(757) 442-6157

Northern Neck

Jett's hardware  
18425 Northumberland High-  
way  
Reedville, VA 22539  
(804) 453-5325

Marie's Corner Store  
3128n Erica Road  
Montross, VA 22520  
(804) 472-3907

Heathsville LE Office  
6495 Northumberland High-  
way  
Heathsville, VA 22473  
(804) 580-2901

Southside

Long Bay Point Marina  
2101 West Great Neck Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
(757) 481-7517

Middle Peninsula

Harrow's Home Center  
State Route 33 Cooks Corner  
Saluda, VA 23149  
(804) 758-5481

Holiday Marina  
3143 Holiday Marina Drive  
Achilles, VA 23001  
(804) 642-2528

King's Marine and Supply  
2798 Kings Creek Road  
Hayes, VA 23072  
(804) 642-4957

Ocean Products Research  
State Highway 645  
Diggs, VA 23045  
(804) 725-3406

Peninsula

VMRC Operations  
30 Jefferson Ave.  
Newport News, VA 23607  
(Accepts license sales by mail)  
(757) 247-2265

Back River Market  
1250 Poquoson Ave.  
Poquoson, Va. 23662  
(757) 868-4130

I. Coopers  
100 S. King Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
(757) 722-4011

Tangier

Cindy Parks  
16522 West Ridge Road  
Tangier, VA 23440  
(757) 891-2338



## 1-800 LINE AND MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING STATUS LET- TERS

Commercial Fishermen please remember that as part of the Mandatory Reporting Program, harvest reports are due by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. If you are not fishing, you must also report no activity by the same date. Our system does not automatically enter inactivity. Inactivity is manually entered, and we must be contacted to enter no activity for months you do not work, after the commercial fishing registration license is printed, as stated in the letter you receive with your CFRL. When using the 1-800 line (1-800-937-9247), please remember to provide your name and the last 4 digits of your commercial fishing registration license. If you are providing information for multiple watermen please speak each name and commercial registration license number slowly. Please listen carefully to the recording for the correct option and the required information that you must provide. In January and July of each year, a status letter is sent to all commercial fishermen regarding their reporting history. A status letter may be sent monthly to those fishermen who fail to report by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. In order to avoid receiving these letters please turn your harvest and no activity reports in on time.

# HARVEST REPORTING GUIDELINES

ALL REPORTS DUE BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH (ACTIVE OR NOT ACTIVE)

YOU MUST HAVE A COMMERCIAL LICENSE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOU CAN REPORT NO ACTIVITY  
**!!DO NOT TAPE ENTIRE LENGTH OF FOLDER. DO NOT USE STAPLES TO SEAL!!**

↓COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION #  987654-9999 JOE FISHERMAN  123456-9876 MARY FISHERMAN	WATER FISHED	HRS/GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW		
	OVB	24	AGN	1 X 1200'	5	2		
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PROC	PRICE		
	SPMAC			50 LBS				
	TRO			91 LBS				
	PUFT			80 LBS	X			
BFR			10 LBS					
VESSEL NAME and Rock Abbr (oys)		VESSEL NO.		CRM	90 LBS			
VIRGINIA BOAT		VA0000AA						
JOE BUYER		FISHERMAN COUNTY						
↑BUYER & CITY/COUNTY LANDED								
→SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. /LEASE NO. (OYS)BILLING NO. (OYS)								
DATE JANUARY 2, 2007								

↓COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION #  987654-9999/aq#NN999999OL JOE FISHERMAN  123456-9876 MARY FISHERMAN	WATER FISHED	HRS/GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW		
	CBLE	8	CD	2 X 8(16FT)	9	2		
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PROC	PRICE		
	BCS			29 BU				
	CON			1 BU				
	HORF			45 NU				
VESSEL NAME and Rock Abbr (oys)		VESSEL NO.						
↑BUYER & CITY/COUNTY LANDED								
→SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. /LEASE NO. (OYS)BILLING NO. (OYS)								
DATE JANUARY 5, 2007								

↓COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION AND/OR AQUACULTURE LICENSE #  987654-9999/aq#NN999999OL JOE FISHERMAN  123456-9876 MARY FISHERMAN	WATER FISHED	HRS/GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW		
	PIA	7	OSCR	1	8	2		
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PROC	PRICE		
	OYS			PUBLIC	10 BU			
	VESSEL NAME and Rock Abbr (oys)			VESSEL NO.				
	VIRGINIA BOAT			VA0000AA				
RA=(BURP)								
JOE BUYER		FISHERMAN COUNTY						
↑BUYER & CITY/COUNTY LANDED								
→SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. /LEASE NO. 99999 (OYS)BILLING NO. (OYS) 99999								
DATE JANUARY 8, 2007								

*This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. Please refer to the actual regulation for legal documentation.*



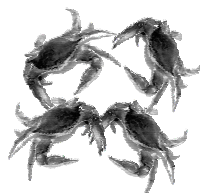
<b>LIST ALL COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION AND/OR AQUACULTURE LICENSE NUMBERS</b>
<b>LIST NAMES OF ALL LICENSED COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN</b> (Full legal name, including helpers full legal name)
<b>NAME OF VESSEL, IF APPLICABLE</b> (Do not list the vessel make or model. (e.g. Carolina Skiff, Sea Ox, Privateer)
<b>VESSEL NUMBER</b> (Coast Guard Document #, VA State Registration, or Hull Number)
<b>USE ABBREVIATIONS LISTED IN ENCLOSED PACKAGE YOU RECEIVED.</b> (For public oyster only)
<b>NAME OF BUYER</b> (If selling to several buyers or selling to the public, write "RETAIL". If keeping for personal use write "PERSONAL USE")
<b>CITY OR COUNTY</b> (Where harvest was first offloaded from the vessel)
<b>ASSIGNED VMRC LEASE NUMBER</b> (For Aquaculture license only)
<b>SPECIAL PERMIT INFORMATION</b> (e.g. Black Drum, Striped Bass, etc...)
<b>DATE</b> (Date Harvest Taken From Water, one day per ticket. <b>DO NOT COMBINE DAYS, PLEASE REMEMBER ALL DATES</b> )
<b>WATER BODY</b> (Main water body where gear was worked, <b>ONLY ONE WATER BODY PER TICKET</b> )
<b>GEAR</b> (Specify type of gear used, one gear per day per ticket. <b>DO NOT COMBINE GEAR</b> on the same ticket)
<b>GEAR HOURS</b> (Amount of time gear is in the water or grow out period, (g.o.p. for Aquaculture Only, see <b>**Note**</b> at the bottom))
<b>GEAR AMOUNT</b> (e.g. Number and total length of nets, number of pots, number and total length of dredge, number of cages)
<b>MAN HOURS</b> (Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, fish, and get back to the dock – in one day; do not multiply by helpers!)
<b>NUMBER OF CREW</b> (Total number of people harvesting species on the vessel, including yourself; This number will always be at least 1)
<b>WHAT SPECIES WAS HARVESTED</b> (Please be specific, for example; SPMAC or KMAC not just MACKEREL)(Clams or oysters, list if private or public grounds)
<b>HOW MUCH WAS HARVESTED</b> (Include unit of measure, e.g. lbs, bu, nu, bbl, cart, etc...)
<b>PUT A ✓ MARK IF HARVEST WAS PROCESSED</b> (If the weight given is for processed weight, please check the box, e.g. filleted, gutted, picked, puffer tails, fins, etc.)
<b>OYSTER</b> (Identify Rock Abbreviation, lease number/billing number)
<b>PRICE</b> (Optional)



**PLEASE READ**



Complete ALL information on the first ticket of each "four ticket" form. On the other three tickets, you may put the date, species, and amount harvested unless you have any changes in the water fished, hours gear fished and worked, gear amount and type, and the number of crew. If any of those changes occur, then you must note the changes on each new ticket. Please refer to the inside covers of the folder for appropriate abbreviations. Put daily catch records in the pocket of the monthly report folder. Fill out monthly summary on inside cover of folder and put signature on the bottom.



**\*\*Note\*\***

Grow out period = Seed to Market



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT (757) 247-8102

## REPORTING PROBLEMS ILLUSTRATION

<p><b>↓ COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION #</b></p> <p>987654-9999</p> <p>JOE FISHERMAN</p> <p>123456-9876</p> <p>MARY FISHERMAN</p> <p>DON'T COMBINE DAYS ON SAME TICKET</p> <p><b>VESEL NAME and Rock Abbr (oys)</b> VIRGINIA BOAT</p> <p><b>VESEL NO.</b> VA0000AA</p> <p><b>JOE BUYER FISHERMAN COUNTY</b> ↑BUYER &amp; CITY/COUNTY LANDED</p> <p>→SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. /LEASE NO. (OYS)BILLING NO. (OYS)</p> <p>DATE JANUARY 2, 2007</p>	<p>WATER FISHED</p> <p>CBLW</p>	<p>HRS GEAR FISHED</p> <p>24</p>	<p>GEAR</p> <p>AGN POT</p>	<p>GEAR AMOUNT</p> <p>1 X 1200'</p> <p>300</p>	<p>MAN HOURS</p> <p>24</p>	<p>NO. OF CREW</p> <p>0</p>	<p>CAN'T BE LESS THAN 1</p>
<p>SPECIES &amp; MARKET CATEGORY</p> <p>DON'T COMBINE GEAR ON SAME TICKET</p>				<p>LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT</p>	<p>✓ IF PRCD</p>	<p>PRICE</p> <p>CAN'T WORK 24 HOURS A DAY</p>	
				<p>1/2/07- 1/6/07</p> <p>PUFT</p>	<p>125 LBS</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>BOX FOR PROCESSED WEIGHT</p>
				<p>1/9/07-1/13/07</p> <p>BLC</p>	<p>220 ( LBS, BU, NU?)</p>	<p>MUST INCLUDE UNIT OF MEASURE</p>	
				<p>1/17/07-1/20/07</p> <p>MACKEREL</p>	<p>80 LBS</p>		
				<p>HOR</p>	<p>10 NU</p>	<p>HORSESHOES ARE LISTED IN NUMBERS.</p>	
				<p>LIST HORSESHOES AS MALE OR FEMALE.</p>			
<p>→SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. /LEASE NO. (OYS)BILLING NO. (OYS)</p>							
<p>DATE JANUARY 2, 2007</p>							



### FREQUENT REPORTING PROBLEM DESCRIPTIONS



<p><b>COMBINING DAYS</b> (Report only one day per ticket)</p>
<p><b>COMBINING GEARS</b> (Report only one gear per ticket)</p>
<p><b>MISSING OR INCORRECT VESSEL NUMBER</b> (Very important information, don't leave blank)</p>
<p><b>MISSING BUYER</b> (Very important, don't leave blank. If selling to several buyers or selling to the public, write "RETAIL". If keeping for personal use write "PERSONAL USE")</p>
<p><b>INCORRECT GEAR AMOUNT</b> (Report actual gear amount used, not necessarily the exact amount licensed for example. If you are licensed for 300 pots, but only fished 100 that day, then only report 100)</p>
<p><b>24 MAN HOURS</b> (Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, fish, and get back to the dock- in one day)</p>
<p><b>CREW NUMBER = 0 is incorrect!</b> (Must equal at least 1 because the crew number includes the captain as well as everyone else on the vessel)</p>
<p><b>GENERALIZED SPECIES</b> (Must be specific. e.g. Mackerel (Spanish or king), Shad (Gizzard or Hickory))</p>
<p><b>MISSING UNIT OF MEASURE</b> ( Must specify lbs, bu, nu, bbl, cart, etc...)</p>
<p><b>✓ IF PRCD</b> (Must check box if the harvest weight is for a fish that has been processed first, then weighed, e.g. puffer tails, shark fin, roe, or black drum)</p>
<p><b>REPORTING SHARK IN NUMBERS</b> (Sharks must be reported in pounds, not numbers. There is no accurate conversion from numbers to pounds for sharks)</p>
<p><b>REPORTING SHED CRABS</b> (Only report peeler and soft crabs caught in pots, do not report crabs that are shed in tanks)</p>
<p><b>REPORTING HORSESHOE CRABS</b> (Must be reported by number and sex per Regulation 4 VAC 20-900)</p>

# REGULATIONS

ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING OYSTERS

MANDATORY REPORTING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OYSTER HARVEST AND PRIVATE CLAM HARVEST AND THE CREATION OF AN OYSTER AND CLAM AQUACULTURE LICENSE

Beginning February 1, 2007, public oyster harvest must be reported by the harvester in the Mandatory Reporting System. Oyster tax forms (Form 453) must still be filled out, and taxes paid for all oysters harvested from public grounds, but generally if you are not a self-marketer these tax forms are reported by the buyer. A table for most of the oyster rocks in the State will be included in the new mandatory reporting packet.

Also beginning February 1, 2007, an Oyster or Clam Aquaculture License will be required for the harvest of either oysters or clams from private grounds, or from an aquaculture operation. Each of these licenses will cost \$10.00, and can be obtained from any VMRC automated agent. Harvests from private shellfish grounds must also be reported in the Mandatory Reporting System. If you are the harvester on your own private shellfish grounds or you are working someone else's lease, you must have this new aquaculture license. Please see page 12-13 for the updated regulations.

## \*OYSTER REPORTING\*

"Please do not put your oyster harvest report (457's) and oyster harvest tickets (453's/455's) with your oyster taxes in with your mandatory reporting system envelope. These are separate reporting systems and it will only delay the processing of your tax payment or cause the possible loss of your check or money. It should be mailed directly to the attention of the Conservation and Replenishment Department."

## NOTICE

Starting February 2007, Plans and Statistics will be collecting Oyster data. We are in the process of updating and mailing out new forms and folders, however you can still use the current materials. In the top box on the left side of the reporting forms use the ID that starts with the letter "N" for all Aquaculture harvest. The added codes are listed below:

GEAR:

AQUACULTURE

OYSTER

NET PINS	NP	DREDGE	OYDRD
BOTTOM CAGES	BC	TONGS	OT
WATER COLUMN CAGE	WCC	SCRAPE	OSCR
RACK AND BAG	RNB	HAND	OYHND
AQUACULTURE OTHER	AOTR	SHAFTING	OYSST

SPECIES:

SOFT CLAMS	SCL	SPRING PUBLIC	OYSPRNG
SOFT CLAMS PUBLIC	SCLPUB	SPRING PRIVATE	OYSPRIV
SOFT CLAMS PRIVATE	SCLPRV	FALL PUBLIC	OYFALL
		FALL PRIVATE	OYFPRIV
		SEED BUSHEL PUBLIC	PUBS
		SEED BUSHEL PRIVATE	PRVS

Spring oystering occurs January 1 through June 30 and fall oystering occurs July 1 through December 31. Also, please be aware of the different abbreviations for public and private ground for both clamming and oystering. If you live on the Seaside and do not have an oyster lease number, please use 000001 as your lease number. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Plans and Statistics at 757-247-8102 or leave a message on our toll-free line 1-800-937-9247 option 1 then 5 and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

*This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. Please refer to the actual regulation for legal documentation.*

# REGULATIONS

## ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING OYSTERS, CONTINUED

### "PERTAINING TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR OYSTERS"

#### 4VAC 20-200-30 REPORTS REQUIRED:

- A. Any person or company purchasing or otherwise receiving oysters from a harvester, whether taken from public, unassigned, or private ground, shall complete a MRC Form 453 for each such transaction. All applicable information requested on the form shall be completed.
- B. Any person who shall be a harvester of oysters, whether taken from public, unassigned, private ground, or aquaculture operations, who shall shuck, pack, ship, or otherwise direct market said oysters shall complete a MRC Form 453 for each day's harvest. All applicable information requested on the form shall be completed.
- C. Any person or company importing un-shucked oysters from outside Virginia shall complete a MRC Form 455 for each such load imported. All applicable information requested on the form shall be completed.
- D. Any person, company, or harvester receiving a supply of MRC Form 457 (tax report) shall be held accountable for such forms. Two copies (yellow and white) of the MRC Form 457 shall be submitted to the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) main office (attn: Conservation and Replenishment Department (CRD) accompanying any oyster taxes (Replenishment and/or Inspection) and all appropriate copies of the MRC Forms 453 (public and/or private ground oysters) and/or 455 (imported, un-shucked oysters); and, the pink copy of the MRC Form 457 is to be retained by the person, company, or harvester.
- E. Any person, company, or harvester receiving a supply of MRC Form 453 or MRC Form 455 shall be held accountable for such forms. One copy shall be given to the seller, a copy retained by the buyer, and a copy sent to the MRC main office accompanying any oyster taxes (Replenishment and/or Inspection) and oyster tax report (MRC Form 457) due to the Commission.

#### 4 VAC 20-610-60. MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any valid Commercial Fisherman Registration Licensee, Oyster Aquaculture Licensee, or Clams Aquaculture Licensee to fail to fully report their harvests and related information as set forth in this regulation.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman, charter boat captain, head boat captain, commercial fishing pier operator, or owner of a private boat licensed pursuant to §§28.2-302.7 through 302.9 of the Code of Virginia to fail to report recreational catches upon request to those authorized by the Commission.
- C. All registered commercial fishermen and any valid Seafood Landing Licensee, Oyster Aquaculture Licensee, and Clam Aquaculture Licensee shall complete a daily form accurately quantifying and legibly describing that day's harvest from Virginia tidal and federal waters. The forms used to record daily harvest shall be those provided by the Commission or another approved by the Commission. Registered commercial fishermen, Seafood Landing Licensee, Oyster Aquaculture Licensee, and Clam Aquaculture Licensee may use more than one form when selling to more than one buyer.

# REGULATIONS

## ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING OYSTERS, CONTINUED

- D. Registered commercial fishermen, valid Oyster Aquaculture Licensee and valid Clam Aquaculture Licensee shall submit a monthly harvest report to the Commission no later than the 5th day of the following month. This report shall be accompanied by the daily catch records described in paragraph C., above. Completed forms shall be mailed or delivered to the Commission or other designated locations.
- E. The monthly catch report and daily catch records shall include the name and signature of the registered commercial fisherman and his license registration number, buyer or private sale information, date of harvest, city or county of landing, water body fished, gear type and amount used, number of hours gear fished, number of hours watermen fished, number of crew on board including captain, species harvested, market category, and live weight or processed weight of species harvested, and vessel identification (Coast Guard documentation number, VA license number or Hull/VIN number). Any information on the price paid for the catch may be provided voluntarily.
- F. Registered commercial fishermen, valid Oyster Aquaculture Licensees, and valid Clam Aquaculture Licensees not fishing during a month shall so notify the Commission no later than the 5th of the following month by postage paid postal card provided by the Commission or by calling the Commission's toll free telephone line.
- G. Any person licensed, as a commercial seafood buyer pursuant to § 28.2-228 of the Code of Virginia shall maintain for a period of one year a copy of each fisherman's daily harvest record form for each purchase made. Such records shall be made available upon request to those authorized by the Commission.
- H. Registered commercial fishermen, valid Oyster Aquaculture Licensees and Clam Aquaculture Licensees shall maintain their daily harvest records for one year and shall make them available upon request to those authorized by the Commission.
- I. Registered commercial fishermen and licensed seafood buyers shall allow those authorized by the Commission to sample catch and seafood products to obtain biological information for scientific and management purposes only. Such sampling shall be conducted in a manner which does not hinder normal business operations.
- J. The reporting of oyster harvest and transactions by licensed seafood buyers, Oyster Aquaculture licensees, and any registered commercial fisherman who self-markets his oyster catch shall be made in accordance with the Commission Regulation 4 VAC 20-200-10 et seq. and the Code of Virginia, Article 3. Oyster Records and Taxes.
- K. The reporting of the harvest of federally permitted species from beyond Virginia's tidal waters that are sold to a federally permitted dealer shall be exempt from the procedures described in this section.
- L. The owner of any purse seine vessel or bait seine vessel (snapper rig) licensed under the provisions of All



shall submit the Captain's Daily Fishing Reports (a copy of the form is attached to this regulation) to the National Marine Fisheries Service, in accordance with provisions of Amendment I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for Atlantic Menhaden, which was effective July 2001.



## ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING SUMMER FLOUNDER

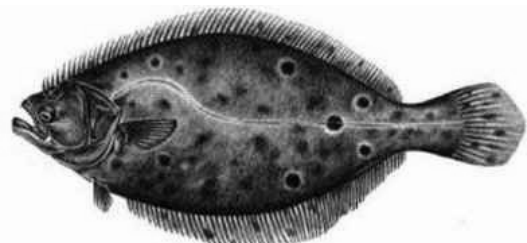
Public Notice

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: REVISED 2007 FINAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER

NOAA Fisheries Service has increased the commercial quota and recreational harvest limits, for summer flounder, effective January 19, 2007. This increase has been implemented using authority granted by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. The summer flounder total allowable landing (TAL) is increased by this action from 12.98 million pounds, published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2006, to 17.112 million pounds. With this increase, the revised commercial summer flounder quota is 10,267,098 pounds. Virginia's commercial share (21.317 %) will increase by 528,101 pounds for a total of 2,138,818 pounds. Virginia's revised commercial summer flounder quota will be distributed, as described in Regulation 4 VAC 20 620 10 ET. SEQ. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder," as follows:



REVISED 2007 COMMERCIAL SUMMER FLOUNDER QUOTAS (in pounds)

Virginia 2007 Quota 2,138,818  
Inshore allocation 300,000

-----  
Offshore Quota 1,813,818

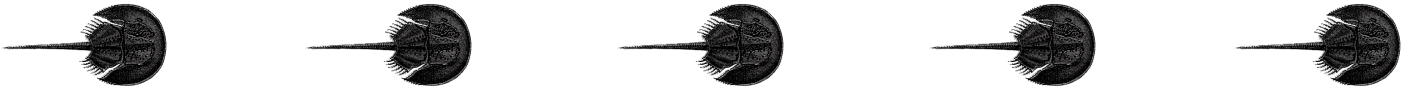
First Quarter (64.3%) 1,166,285  
Second Quarter (6.4%) 116,084  
Third Quarter no directed fishery  
Fourth Quarter (29.3%) 531,449

The First Quarter quota is therefore 1,166,285 pounds of Summer Flounder. Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, January 22, 2007, the First Quarter of the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder fishery will open. The cumulative possession limit for the First Quarter Directed Fishery is 12,500 pounds in each ten-day landing period, beginning January 22 through January 31. When it is projected and announced that 85% of the First Quarter quota (991,342 pounds) has been taken, it shall be unlawful, for any person harvesting Summer Flounder outside of Virginia's waters, to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10% by weight of all other landed species on board the vessel. 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 Com-

mission 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 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

If you have questions or comments contact Lewis Gillingham at (757) 247-2243.



### **ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING HORSESHOE CRABS**

Changes to Regulation 4 VAC 20-900-10 et. seq., "Pertaining to Horseshoe Crabs," were adopted by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, effective July 1, 2006. All fishermen harvesting and possessing horseshoe crabs should be knowledgeable of the following items from section 4 VAC 20-900-25:

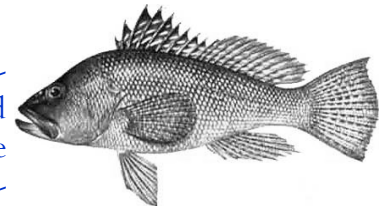
- \* From January 1 through June 7, of each year, it shall be unlawful for any person to land, in Virginia, any horseshoe crab harvested from federal waters.
- \* During each calendar year no more than forty percent of Virginia's horseshoe crab quota and any and all transfers of quota, from other jurisdictions, shall be harvested from waters east of the COLREGS Line\*. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest horseshoe crabs, from waters east of the COLREGS Line, or to land horseshoe crabs, in Virginia, which are harvested east of the COLREGS Line, after forty percent of Virginia's horseshoe crab quota and any and all transfers of quota has been attained for this designated area and announced as such.
- \* It shall be unlawful for any person, whose harvest of horseshoe crabs is from waters east of the COLREGS Line, to possess aboard a vessel or to land in Virginia any quantity of horseshoe crabs that, in aggregate, is not comprised of at least a minimum ratio of two male horseshoe crabs to one female horseshoe crab.
- \* "COLREGS Line" means the COLREGS Demarcation lines, as specified in Coastal Pilot, 35th and 36th editions by Lighthouse Press.

Any questions regarding horseshoe crabs, please call 757.247.2243 or, send an email to [lewis.gillingham@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:lewis.gillingham@mrc.virginia.gov).

### **ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING BLACK SEA BASS**

#### **BLACK SEA BASS**

It is unlawful for any person to participate in the commercial black sea bass fishery, or to possess, harvest, or sell black sea bass, without first qualifying for and obtaining either a directed fishery permit or a by-catch fishery permit from the commission, unless a vessel is authorized by VMRC to act as an alternate landing vessel for a directed fishery permit holder.



#### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Any person allowed to land black sea bass must contact, within one hour of landing, the Marine Resources Commission's Law Enforcement Operations Division to report his name and the name of the vessel, his permit number, the location where catch will be offloaded, and the estimated weight of the landing of black sea bass. They must then contact, within 24 hours of landing, the Marine Resources Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System to report the name of the permit holder and the name of the vessel that landed the black sea bass, date of landing, the permit number and the weight of black sea bass landed.

**BACKGROUND:**

A mature male Chinese Mitten Crab "*Eriocheir Sinensis*" was collected June 9, 2006 at the mouth of the Patapsco River, Maryland by a commercial waterman fishing crab pots. The crab was captured by Captain John Delp aboard "Bodacious". This is the first confirmed record for the Chesapeake Bay. The species is native to East Asia, and is a potential invasive that could have negative ecological impacts. The Chinese mitten crab occurs in both freshwater and saltwater. It is catadromous, migrating from freshwater rivers and tributaries to reproduce in salt water. Young crabs spend 2-5 years in freshwater tributaries and can extend over 50 miles inland, potentially above fall lines. Mature male and female crabs migrate downstream to mate and spawn in salt water estuaries.

The Chinese Mitten Crab is listed under the Federal Lacey Act which makes it illegal in the United States to import, export, or conduct interstate commerce of this species without a permit.

**CURRENT STATUS:**

Only a single animal has been captured in the Chesapeake Bay, and this may be an isolated occurrence. There are several possible transfer mechanisms that could result in the delivery of a crab to local waters, without the species becoming established. However, due to the documented ability of this species to invade and to establish itself in new areas, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have established a joint effort to investigate the status of this species.

**PLANNED RESPONSE:**

MD DNR and partner agencies are taking this encounter seriously. This watch statement has been circulated to federal, state, county, municipal and private agencies and/or organizations that are conducting sampling programs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and potential mitten crab habitat. MD DNR is also networking with commercial watermen, fish passage monitoring programs, and with power companies that monitor species captured on cooling water intake screens. This broad based monitoring is the first step to assessing if additional mitten crabs are present in the Bay habitat.

**HOW TO IDENTIFY A MITTEN CRAB**

- Only crab in fresh waters of North America
- Claws equal in size with white tips and "hair".
- If you find a crab without hair on the claws, it is NOT likely to be a mitten crab.
- Carapace up to 4 inches wide; light brown to olive green in color.
- No swimming legs. This crab has eight sharp-tipped walking legs.

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A MITTEN CRAB**

- Do not throw it back alive!
- Freeze the animal, keep on ice, or preserve it in rubbing alcohol, as a last resort.
- Note the precise location where the animal was found.
- If possible, take a close-up photo, as above.
- Photos can be emailed to lfegley@dnr.state.md.us or to ruizg@si.edu for preliminary identification. Include your contact information with photo.
- If you cannot take a photo, contact Maryland DNR: Lynn Fegley (410-260-8285) or Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC): Greg Ruiz (443-482-2227)

**REMEMBER THE LAW!**

Never transport a live Mitten crab.

Mitten crab specimens are needed to confirm sightings, so please follow the instructions above, if you find a mitten crab.

To learn more about mitten crabs see:

[http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine\\_invasions/news/mitten\\_crab.jsp](http://www.serc.si.edu/labs/marine_invasions/news/mitten_crab.jsp)

<http://www.wsg.washington.edu/outreach/mas/nis/mittencrab.html>

**With Special Thanks to Our Partners**



Courtesy of



Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

## MEETINGS

VMRC – Virginia Marine Resources Commission – Meetings set on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9:30am. (fisheries items begin at 12:00 noon). Held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News.

ASMFC – Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Call (202) 452-9110 to find out meeting dates, location and time.

BCMAC – Blue Crab Management Advisory Committee – Meetings 3rd Monday of each month, held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News.

FMAC – Finfish Management Advisory Committee – Meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month, held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News.

MAFMC – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council – Call (302) 674-2331 for meeting dates, location and time.

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

RFAB – Recreational Fishery Advisory Board – Meetings on May 14 at 5:30pm and 7:00pm, July 9 at 7:00pm, and Sept 10 at 7:00pm. Held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News. Contact Sonya Davis (757) 247-8155 for information.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
2600 WASHINGTON AVE., 3RD FLOOR  
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA 23607

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

