



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

380 Fenwick Road
Building 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Jamie L. Green
Commissioner

April 28, 2025

TO: SPINY DOGFISH STATE PERMIT HOLDERS
FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
RE: SPINY DOGFISH OVERNIGHT GILLNET PROHIBITION

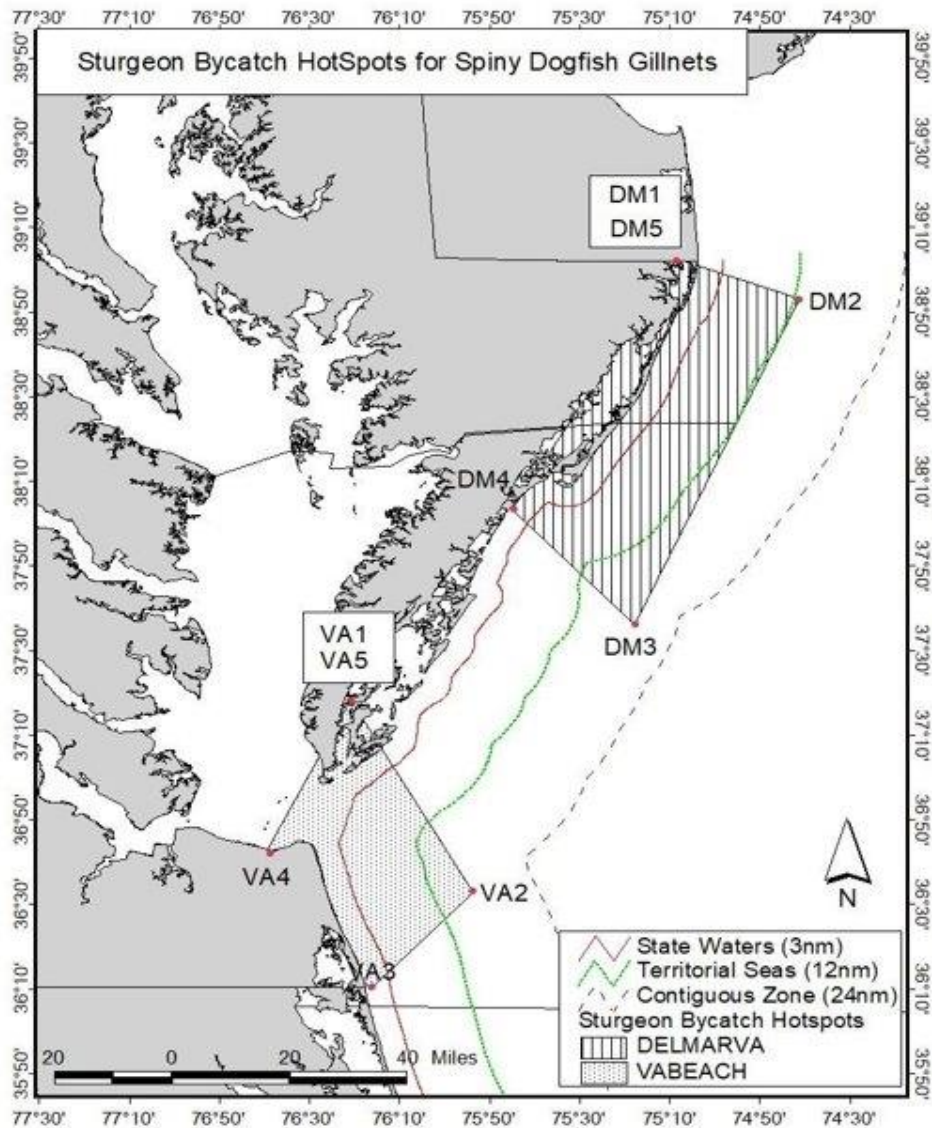
On April 22, 2025, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission voted to amend Chapter 4VAC 20-490, "Pertaining to Sharks", prohibiting overnight soaks of gillnets by spiny dogfish permit holders targeting spiny dogfish in designated areas. This change is to mirror federal law and to remain in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This regulation change will be effective at 12:01 AM on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Chapter 4 VAC 20-490-42. Spiny dogfish commercial quota and harvest limitations.
"It shall be unlawful for any person fishing for spiny dogfish with a Virginia Spiny Dogfish Permit to leave any gill net gear with a mesh size equal to or greater than 5.25- inches and less than 10- inches in the Delaware and Maryland Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Area or the Virginia Atlantic Sturgeon Bycatch Reduction Area between 8:00 pm through 5:00 am the following day from November 1 through March 31."

These reduction areas are defined as:

Reduction Area	Latitude (dd mm.mm)	Longitude (dd mm.mm)
<u>Delaware and Maryland</u>	38° 27.00' N	75° 06.00' W
	38° 21.00' N	74° 48.00' W
	37° 30.00' N	75° 12.00' W
	37° 48.00' N	75° 30.00' W
	38° 27.00' N	75° 06.00' W
Southern Virginia	37° 18.00' N	75° 54.00' W
	36° 48.00' N	75° 36.00' W
	36° 33.00' N	75° 51.00' W
	36° 54.00' N	76° 06.00' W
	37° 18.00' N	75° 54.00' W

A map of the areas is below.



For the full regulation, please visit <https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jill Ramsey at 757-247-2243, jill.ramsey@mrc.virginia.gov or Catherine Wilhelm at 757-247-2004, catherine.wilhelm@mrc.virginia.gov.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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