



# *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

**December 23, 2025**

**TO: COMMERCIAL CROAKER HARVESTERS AND BUYERS**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: 2026 COMMERCIAL SEASON CLOSURE FOR CROAKER**

Effective 12:01 A.M., Thursday, January 1, 2026, the Virginia commercial croaker fishery will close. Therefore, after 12:01 A.M., Thursday, January 1, 2026, it shall be unlawful for any commercial fisherman registration licensee to harvest or land croaker until the season opens on January 15, 2026.

Chapter 4 VAC 20-1370-50., "Pertaining to Atlantic Croaker", states the following:

**It shall be unlawful for any person fishing commercially with any gear type to harvest or land any Atlantic croaker before January 15 of the current calendar year.**

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Catherine Wilhelm at 757-247-2004 or [catherine.wilhelm@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.wilhelm@mrc.virginia.gov).

*An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

Telephone (757) 247-2200 Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646