



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

380 Fenwick Road
Building 96
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

David L. Bulova
Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources

Joseph D. Grist
Commissioner

August 7, 2026

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2026 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB CLASS A AND CLASS B DREDGE FISHERY CATEGORIES EFFECTIVE 12 NOON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2026.

Effective 12 noon, Saturday, August 8th, 2026, the Virginia horseshoe crab dredge harvest commercial fishery will close. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it is projected that Virginia will have harvested 100% of the horseshoe crab dredge category quota allocated to be harvested by Virginia Horseshoe Crab Class A and Class B Dredge Category Permittees by the above date and time.

Therefore, after 12 noon, Saturday, August 8th, 2026, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia by any gear type except trawl, pound net, by hand, or gill net shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et seq.).

If you have any questions or comments please contact Ethan Simpson (757) 247-2272.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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