COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
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TO: **SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY**

FROM: **VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

SUBJECT: **OPENING OF VIRGINIA'S 2026 DIRECTED OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY**

2026 Fall/Winter Openings

- **Fall/Winter 2026, Virginia will open its Directed Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery for 2 periods. The open dates and landing limits are as follows:**
    - The landing limit for the Offshore (EEZ) Fishery from Thursday, October 1 through Monday, November 9, 2026, is 12,500 pounds. Vessels may land a maximum of 12,500 pounds for the entire period of October 1 through November 9, 2026.
    - **UPDATE:** The landing limit for the period of Tuesday, November 10, 2026, through Thursday, December 31, 2026, is 15,000 pounds per trip. **(SFEL holders may land, in Virginia, 15,000 pounds per trip given that there are 5 days between each landing for this period or until the quota is reached)**

- **During the open Directed Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery periods, each vessel shall hold a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License and adhere to the below restrictions:**

- It shall be unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.

- It shall be unlawful to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of summer flounder in excess of the total of the Virginia landing limit and the amount of the legal North Carolina or New Jersey landing limit or trip limit.

- **It shall be unlawful for any person to possess aboard any vessel, in Virginia, any amount of summer flounder, once it has been projected and announced that 100% of the quota described in 4VAC20-620-30 A has been taken.**

- For additional requirements please visit:
    - https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency20/chapter620/

Additional Information

All announcements regarding the opening and closing of Virginia's Directed Offshore Flounder Fishery can be found on the home page of the agency website (https://mrc.virginia.gov), by clicking the link for "Summer Flounder Notices" under the section labeled Commercial Fishing.