



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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Virginia Marine Resources Commission Revokes Commercial Fishing License for Serious Violations

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NEWPORT NEWS, VA. -- The Virginia Marine Resources Commission today revoked the fishing licenses of four commercial watermen for egregious or repeated violations of Virginia's fishing laws and regulations. They are:

- Earl J. Gautreaux of Gloucester, Virginia. This is Mr. Gautreaux's second license revocation. The first was for the period 9/24/2013 to 9/23/2015. During this revocation period, when he had no fishing privileges, he was convicted in court for six fishery violations including operating an establishment to shuck oysters without a certification of inspection by the state Health Department and harvesting oysters when his license was revoked. His license had been revoked in September 2013 for harvesting over the daily limit of oysters.
- Willie C. Jenkins, Jr. of Gloucester, Virginia. Mr. Jenkins did not obtain any commercial fishing licenses for the year 2014. He was convicted for six fishery violations, two for not obtaining a certificate of inspection to operate an oyster shucking establishment, two for not obtaining an oyster shucking license and two for unlawfully commercial fishing without a valid VMRC commercial license.
- Daniel T. West of Newport News, Virginia. Mr. West was convicted on three fishery violations for the theft of oysters valued at \$200.00 or more from an oyster planting ground leased by York River Oyster Holdings, LLC. The second conviction was for

having unlawful oyster dredging equipment on his boat and lastly, one conviction for taking oysters on improperly marked oyster grounds.

- Mr. Kenneth W. Jenkins of Norfolk, Virginia. Mr. Jenkins was convicted on three fishery violations for the theft of oysters valued at \$200.00 or more from an oyster planting ground leased by York River Oyster Holdings, LLC. The second conviction was for having unlawful oyster dredging equipment on his boat and lastly, one conviction for taking oysters on improperly marked oyster grounds.

“Oysters are an ecologically and economically important natural resource,” said VMRC Commissioner John M.R. Bull. “We, and law-abiding oyster growers, have invested much time, effort and money into increasing the oyster stocks, and to ensuring consumers have the highest quality Virginia oysters on their dinner tables. Violating the fishing laws will have unpleasant ramifications. The Commission is determined to putting a stop to these activities.”

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