

# VMRC FISHERIES NEWS

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION PLANS & STATISTICS 1-800-937-9247

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2003

*This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. Please refer to the regulation cited for legal documentation. To obtain a complete copy of the regulations call 757-247-2248 or access the VMRC home-page: (<http://www.mrc.state.va.us>)*



## HAUL SEINE RESTRICTIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

On July 22, 2003, the Commission approved the proposed amendments to the haul seine regulation. The amended regulation established gear restrictions and a call-in procedure for haul seine operations using more than one vessel to set a haul seine. The effective date for this regulation is August 1, 2003.

The following is only a summary of the modifications made to the haul seine regulation:

### GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to place or set in the water, encircle or enclose any haul seine that exceeds 1000 yards in length.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to tie together, set or fish two or more haul seines with a combined total length of netting that exceeds 1000 yards.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person to tow or drag a haul seine, by two vessels, so that it operates as a long haul seine. When setting a haul seine with more than one vessel, it shall be unlawful for any person to tow or drag a haul seine more than a distance of 1.0 nautical miles, from the point of its deployment, in an open configuration through the water.
- D. It shall be unlawful for any person to use more than one vessel to move either end of a haul seine net or nets.
- E. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove fish or other catch from the pocket, when the pocket is located in waters that are less than 3 feet in depth.

Measurement of the depth of water containing the pocket may be taken within the pocket or within a distance of 15 feet from the pocket, using a pole-type measuring device graduated into 1-foot intervals of measurement.

### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

It shall be unlawful for any person licensed to haul seine and intending to set any haul seine with more than one vessel, to fail to contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Operations Station's toll free line (1-800-541-4646), by 3:00 p.m., when intending to haul seine within the following 24-hour period, to report the specific location and estimated time the haul seine will be set. In the event the site is later determined to not be fishable, the haul seine licensee shall contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Operations Station's toll free line (1-800-541-4646) immediately and identify the alternate location to be fished and the estimated time the haul seine will be set at this alternate location.

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## BLUE CRAB SANCTUARY BOUNDARY COORDINATES

On July 22, 2003, the Commission approved the proposed amendments to the regulation pertaining to blue crab sanctuaries. The effective date of the amended regulation is July 23, 2003.

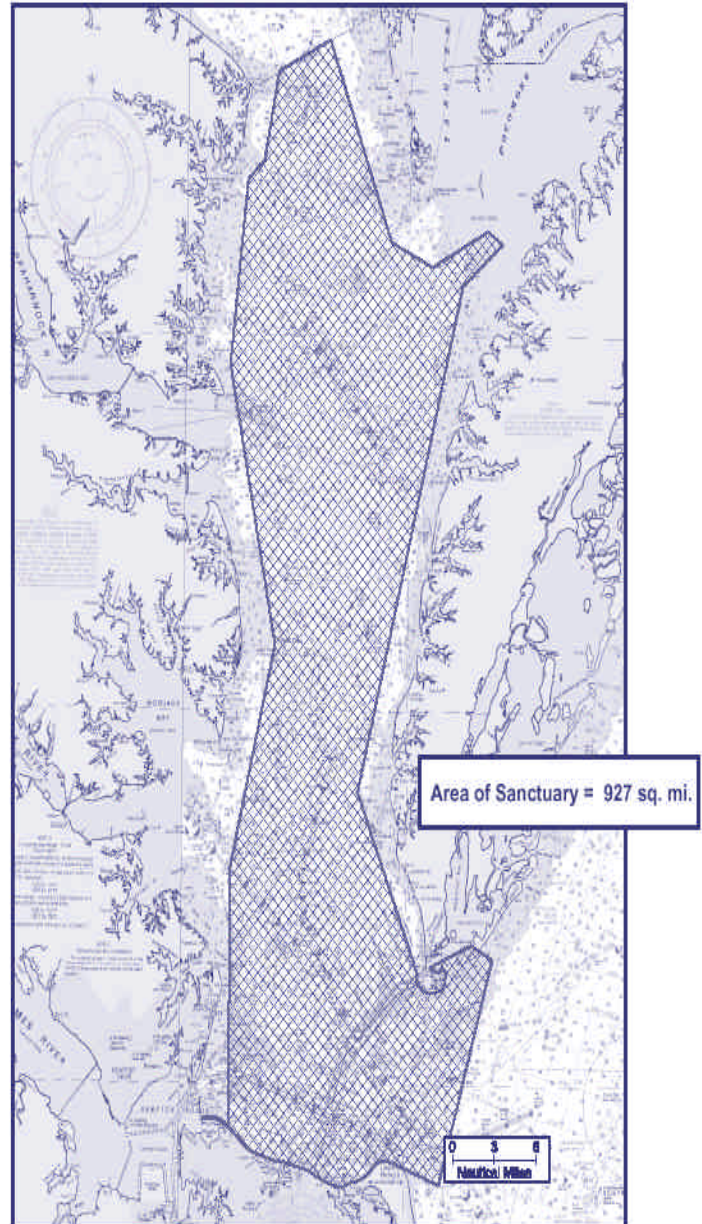
The following is only a summary of the modifications made to the blue crab regulation. The coordinate changes are highlighted.

### **VIRGINIA BLUE CRAB SANCTUARY BOUNDARY LINE COORDINATES**

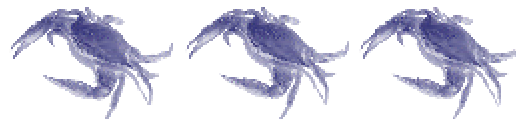
"Virginia Blue Crab Sanctuary" means two distinct sanctuary areas, with one area consisting of all tidal waters which are bounded by a line beginning at a point, near the western shore of Fisherman's Island, being on a line from the Cape Charles Lighthouse to the Thimble Shoal Light, having NAD83 geographic coordinates of 37° 05' 58.00" N, 75° 58' 45.95" W; thence southwesterly to Thimble Shoal Light, 37° 00' 52.19" N, 76° 14' 24.63" W; thence southwesterly to the offshore end of Harrison's Fishing Pier, 36° 57' 44.98" N, 76° 15' 31.76" W; thence north to Flashing Green Buoy "9" on the York River Entrance Channel, 37° 11' 30.99" N, 76° 15' 16.85" W; thence northeasterly to Wolf Trap Light, 37° 23' 27.15" N, 76° 11' 46.01" W; thence northwesterly to a point, northeast of Windmill Point, 37° 38' 23.13" N, 76° 15' 59.54" W; thence northerly to a point due east of Great Wicomico Light at 37° 48' 15.72" N, 76° 14' 33.15" W; thence northeasterly to a point, 37° 49' 18.10" N, 76° 13' 06.00" W; thence northerly to a point on the Virginia-Maryland State line, 37° 54' 04.00" N, 76° 11' 49.15" W; thence northeasterly to a point on the Virginia - Maryland State Line, 37° 55' 44.82" N, 76° 07' 13.41" W; thence southeasterly to a point, southwest of Tangier Island, 37° 44' 59.85" N, 76° 01' 34.31" W; thence southeasterly to a point, southeast of Tangier Island, **37° 43' 41.05" N, 75° 57' 51.84" W**; thence northeasterly to a point, south of Watts Island, 37° 45' 36.95" N, 75° 52' 53.87" W; thence southeasterly to a point, 37° 44' 56.15" N, 75° 51' 33.18" W; thence southwesterly to a point, west of Parkers Marsh, 37° 42' 41.49" N, 75° 55' 06.31" W; thence southwesterly to a point, west of Cape Charles Harbor, 37° 15' 37.23" N, 76° 04' 13.79" W; thence southeasterly to a point near the western shore of Fisherman's Island, on the line from Cape Charles Lighthouse to Thimble Shoal Light, said point being the point of beginning, and a second area consisting of all tidal waters which are bounded by a line beginning at Cape Charles Lighthouse, having NAD83 geographic coordinates of 37° 07' 31.63" N, 75° 53' 58.36" W; thence southwesterly to Cape Henry Lighthouse, 36° 55' 42.02" N, 76° 00' 18.44" W; thence southeasterly to a point, 36° 54' 42.39" N, 75° 56' 44.23" W; thence northeasterly to a point, east of Cape Charles Lighthouse 37° 06' 45" N, 75° 52' 05" W; thence westerly to the Cape Charles Lighthouse, said point being the point of beginning.

### Virginia Blue Crab Sanctuary

Commercial and recreational crabbing prohibited in sanctuary  
from June 1 - September 15



If you would like to view enlarged sections of this map, please visit our website at [www.mrc.state.va.us](http://www.mrc.state.va.us). The link to the map is located at the bottom of the section that contains the boundary coordinates within the blue crab sanctuary regulation.



## BLACK SEA BASS QUOTA MODIFICATIONS



On June 24, 2003, the Commission approved the recommendation for the modification of the individual fishing quotas and bycatch fisheries for black sea bass. The directed fishery (individual fishing quota) is now 558,334 lbs, and the bycatch fishery quota is 42,073 lbs of black sea bass. The effective date of this regulation as amended is July 1, 2003.

The following is only a summary of the modifications made to the black sea bass regulation:

### COMMERCIAL HARVEST QUOTAS

- A. The 2003 directed commercial fishery black sea bass quota is 558,334 pounds. When it has been announced that the directed fishery quota has been projected as reached and the directed fishery has been closed, it shall be unlawful for any directed commercial black sea bass fishery permittee to possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia any black sea bass.
- B. The 2003 bycatch commercial fishery black sea bass quota is 42,073. When it has been announced that the bycatch fishery quota has been projected as reached and the bycatch fishery has been closed, it shall be unlawful for any bycatch commercial black sea bass fishery permittee to possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia any black sea bass. In the event the bycatch fishery quota is exceeded, the amount the quota is exceeded shall be deducted from the following year's bycatch fishing quota.

## SCUP QUOTA



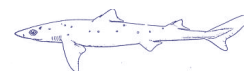
On June 24, 2003, the Commission approved the recommendation for the modification of the scup quota for the period of May 1 through October 31. The total quota for this period will be 7,721 lbs of scup. The effective date of this regulation as amended is July 1, 2003.

The following is only a summary of the modifications made to the scup regulation:

### POSSESSION LIMITS AND HARVEST QUOTAS

During the period May 1 through October 31 of each year, the commercial harvest and landing of scup in Virginia shall be limited to 7,721 pounds.

## SPINY DOGFISH HARVEST



On June 24, 2003, the Commission approved the recommended amendments to the regulation pertaining to sharks. The amended regulation establishes a possession limit for spiny dogfish of 7,000 lbs, eliminates finning spiny dogfish (unless the carcass is retained), prohibits the possession of spiny dogfish commercially harvested from state waters after it has been announced that the quota has been reached, and it requires that all spiny dogfish caught from state or federal waters for commercial purposes be sold to a federally permitted dealer. The effective date of this regulation as amended is July 2, 2003.

The following is only a summary of the modifications made to the shark regulation:

### CATCH LIMITATIONS

- E. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia any spiny dogfish harvested from federal waters (Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles), for commercial purposes, after it has been announced that the federal quota for spiny dogfish has been taken.
- F. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia more than 7,000 pounds of spiny dogfish per day, for commercial purposes.
- G. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest any spiny dogfish, for commercial purposes, from state waters, after it has been announced that the Interstate quota for spiny dogfish has been taken.
- H. All spiny dogfish harvested from state waters or federal waters, for commercial purposes, must be sold to a federally permitted dealer.

### FINNING

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in finning.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess fins, except that fins may be removed at sea, provided the carcass of the shark is retained and counted as part of any possession or landing limit. The possession of any fins without possession of a comparable number of shark carcasses with fins removed shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter. The boat or vessel captain or operator is responsible for compliance with the provisions of this section.

## USFWS STRIPED BASS TAGGING PROGRAM

### ATTENTION COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS FISHERMEN!!!

With help from you and others, State and Federal fishery biologists along the Atlantic Coast and Chesapeake Bay are able to gather the information necessary to manage the fishery and maintain fishable levels of striped bass, one of the East Coast's most prized fisheries. The success of the program depends on people like you who care about the future of striped bass.

**For tagging information to be useful, however,** fishermen who return the tags must provide accurate and complete information. Unfortunately, much of the tagging information the USFWS has collected in the past has not been useful for management purposes because certain information was missing or inaccurate.

In the past, rewards were issued for any tag return to encourage participation in the tagging program. The policy changed in 1996 and the USFWS will **no longer pay for any tag returns that do not have complete and accurate information.**

If incomplete information is received you may still receive a hat for your participation. However, to receive a cash reward, complete and accurate tag return information is required. Below is a list of the information that the USFWS needs to process a tag return and issue a cash reward:

- .. The tag number.
- .. Was the tag removed from the fish or not?
- .. If removed, what portion of the tag was removed: streamer, button, or both?
- .. Was the fish: sold, kept for consumption, released, accidentally killed in net, or kept for the purpose of research?
- .. How was the fish caught: anchor gill net, drift gill net, seine, pound net, trap, or hook & line?
- .. What was the date that the fish was caught? (At a minimum, provide month and year).
- .. Where was the fish caught? (Include the name of the water body and the nearest town or city that could be found on a map).

We have learned that successful restoration and management requires cooperation from all who care about striped bass. It is because of the thoughtful and willing participation of you and others that the striped bass fishery has begun to prosper again. We can all be proud of the striped bass success story. If we continue to work together we can look forward to continued success with striped bass for years to come.

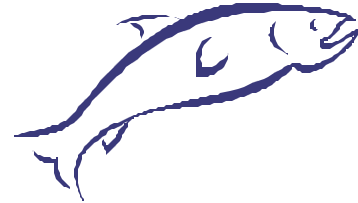
Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact Tina McCrobie if you have any questions or comments:

1-800-448-8322 or 410-263-2604  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Maryland Fishery Resources Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21401



# HARVEST REPORTING GUIDELINES

- **REPORTS DUE BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH ACTIVE OR NOT ACTIVE**
- **NAME AND COMMERCIAL NUMBER** (Including the number of helpers and their commercial numbers)
- **VESSEL NAME** (Not the vessel make or model)
- **VESSEL NUMBER** (Very important to ALWAYS include this)
- **CITY/COUNTY** (Where harvest is offloaded from the boat, NOT truck)
- **BUYER** (If no buyer, then indicate if it is for retail or home use)
- **DATE** ( Must include month and day for each trip)
- **WATER BODY** (See report folder for appropriate abbreviations)
- **HARVEST AMOUNT** (Must indicate unit of measure: BU, LBS, NU ... ETC)
- **HOURS GEAR WORKED** (Amount of hours gear spent in the water before pulling the harvest)
- **MAN HOURS WORKED** (The total amount of time it takes to leave the dock, work the gear and return to the dock)
- **GEAR TYPE AND GEAR AMOUNT** (Please do not combine multiple gear type on same trip report)
- **IF PRCD** (Processed weight. If the weight given is for processed weight, please check the appropriate box)
- **SPECIES ABBREVIATIONS:** Please use appropriate abbreviation for species as given on the folders of the reports.  
**Example:** Please don't just write "shad" on the report, indicate whether it is supposed to be gizzard, American, or hickory. If you have a mackerel, please indicate whether it is a Spanish, king, or Boston. Please be specific!
- **PEELER CRABS** (Only report peeler crabs harvested, NOT the amount of crabs shed)



## CALCULATING HOURS WORKED VS. HOURS GEAR FISHED

- **HOURS WORKED** = [trip time] the total amount of time it takes to leave the dock, work the gear and return to the dock  
**EXAMPLE:** If it takes 2 hours to ride in the boat from the dock to the fishing site, 4 hours to pull the harvest from the gear, and another 2 hours to return to the dock, then the total HOURS WORKED= 8 hours.
- **HOURS GEAR FISHED**=Amount of hours gear spent in the water before pulling the harvest.  
**EXAMPLE:** If nets or pots are set on Monday and harvested on Tuesday (gear left in the water for 1 day) then HOURS GEAR FISHED = 24 hours. If the harvest is not pulled until Wednesday (gear left in the water for 2 days) then HOURS GEAR FISHED = 48





## Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

### **The Commonwealth of Virginia Receives \$160,559 from the ACCSP**

WASHINGTON, April 10, 2003 – The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a state and federal partnership for marine fisheries data collection and data management, has allocated \$160,559 from its 2003 grant for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to redevelop information systems.

This redevelopment project should increase the VMRC's operational efficiency, producing more timely, accurate and accessible commercial fishing licensing, permitting, and vessel data than the current system. Since 2000, the ACCSP has provided the VMRC with \$283,698 for fisheries data collection and data management projects.

The ACCSP provided a total of \$3.5 million to its state and federal partners in 2003. Other grants benefiting the fisheries of Virginia and neighboring coastal states include \$175,144 for dockside biological sampling of commercial fisheries, and \$623,094 for increased sampling of recreational fisheries and implementation of the new for-hire survey.

#### **About the ACCSP**

The ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit [www.accsp.org](http://www.accsp.org).



# **WATERMEN, DO YOU NEED MEDICAL HELP?**

For Watermen and Their Families

**Portsmouth Family Medicine  
Announces the Opening of a**

## **WATERMAN'S CLINIC**

A Physician Run Clinic for Watermen and Their Families Who Cannot Afford Medical Care Due to Lack of Health Insurance. Basic Medical Services Will Be Provided Without Charge. Medications are Not Included. Basic Laboratory Work Can Be Provided At A Discount.

**FOR APPOINTMENTS  
CALL 397-6344**

**Watermen's Health Initiative  
Portsmouth Family Medicine  
2700 London Blvd.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707**

## VMRC CALENDAR

| SEPTEMBER  | OCTOBER  | NOVEMBER                                       |
|--|--|--|
| HOLIDAY - 9/1/03<br>RFAB - 9/8/03 7 PM<br>FMAC-9/16/03 7 PM<br>VMRC-9/23/03<br>9:30 AM | VMRC- 10/28/03<br>9:30 AM<br>FMAC-10/21/03 7PM | VMRC- 11/25/03<br>9:30AM<br>FMAC-11/18/03 7 PM |

The meeting dates and times are tentative and subject to change. Please call to verify the date and time of the meeting you would like to attend.

- VMRC**— Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Meetings set on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9:30 A.M. (fisheries items are generally considered after 12 noon). Held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News. **NOTE: Please call the Agency to confirm the date and time on scheduled meetings.**
- FMAC**— Finfish Management Advisory Committee. Meetings generally the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M. Held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News.
- ASMFC**—Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Call (202) 452-9110 to find out the meeting location.
- CMAC**— Clam Management Advisory Committee. Meetings to be announced. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.. Held at Commission Main office.
- MFAMC** -Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Call (302) 674-2331 to find out the meeting location.
- RFAB**- Recreational Fishery Advisory Board

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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
 MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
 2600 WASHINGTON AVE. 3RD FLOOR  
 NEWPORT NEWS, VIRIGINA 23607

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED