



VMRC FISHERIES NEWS

This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. The purpose of this newsletter is to explore events and issues of interest to commercial watermen, VMRC managers, Law Enforcement, researchers, and the Commission.



Volume 14, Issue 1

Summer 2006

STRIPED BASS TAGS, COLOR AND SIZE COORDINATED FOR 2006, TO BETTER MANAGE THE HARVEST QUOTAS

Inside this issue:

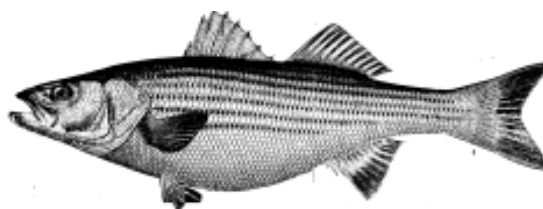
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Since their inception in 1992, the striped bass tags have taken many forms. Over the years, many different colored tags, both metal and plastic, have been utilized. The tags are used to track the quota that provides for the continued, sustained yield from the recovered striped bass stocks. The yearly number of striped bass tags is a result of calculations from the average size of striped bass in the previous year, on a gear and monthly basis.

Each year since 1997, the average weight of striped bass has increased, and this is the main reason why the number of tags has decreased almost every successive year. Commercial harvests of striped bass averaged 7.8 pounds per fish in 1998. By 2005, the average weight was 14.5 pounds. A single gill net share of tags was 302 in 1999 and 176 tags in 2006.

In 2006 the VMRC striped bass tag system used four color categories for the Chesapeake Area and Coastal Area tags. The Chesapeake Area tags are black and pink. The slot, or black tags, are only for placement in fish 18 to 28" in total length. The pink tags are for fish 18" or greater in total length. The Coastal Area tags are blue and orange. The slot, or

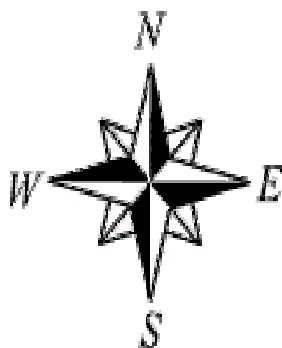
blue tags, are only for fish 28 to 34" in total length. The orange tags are for fish



Morone Saxatilis
"Striped Bass"

28" or greater in total length. The new tag system requires 50% of the tags held by each Chesapeake Area fisherman to be used on 18 to 28" fish, and 50% of the tags held by each Coastal Area fisherman to be used on 28 to 34" fish. The total number of Chesapeake Area tags in 2006 is 106,898 and the total number of Coastal Area tags is 11,597.

There is a scientific model that determines the yearly quota amount for the commercial and recreational fisheries. One important factor that determines the amount of our quotas is the annual production of young or juvenile striped bass. Very strong year classes of juvenile striped bass occurred in 1993, 1996, and 2003. Since 1993, ten year classes have been above average in abundance of juveniles. This is one reason why Virginia has enjoyed higher quotas since 1997, in com-



Striped Bass Tags cont'd from pg 1

parison to earlier years. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science monitors the relative annual recruitment success of juvenile striped bass in the major Virginia nursery areas of the lower Chesapeake Bay. While the relative strength among year classes over time is a significant basis for our quotas, it is also the reason, along with changing exploitation rates, why quotas vary annually. The 2006 commercial and recreational quota, for the Chesapeake Area is 1,554,302 pounds, of whole fish, for each fishery. The Coastal Area commercial quota is 184,853 pounds of whole fish. The Coastal recreational striped bass fishery is not managed by a quota, but is managed by a minimum size 28" total length and a two striped bass possession limit. No coastal states recreational fisheries are managed by an ASMFC quota. All coastal commercial fisheries, from North Carolina to Massachusetts, are under quota-based management. The possession of any improperly tagged striped bass, by any permitted striped bass fisherman, shall be a violation.

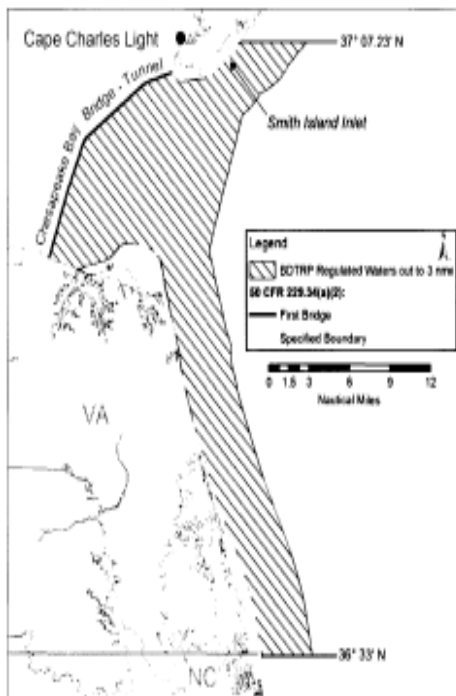
FEDERAL RULE FOR TAKE REDUCTION PLAN : BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AND SEA TURTLE REGULATORY MEASURES IMPACT GILL NETTERS

The National Marine Fisheries Service(NMFS) enacted a Federal rule implementing the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP), which is intended to reduce fishing interactions with bottlenose dolphins along the Atlantic Coast and to the *Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel from Chincoteague to Ship Shoal Inlet, the regulated area is seaward of the COLOREGS line.* This rule is published in the Federal Register under

the authority of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NM FS issues this final rule to implement regulatory and non-regulatory management measures to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury (because of by-catch) of the western North Atlantic coastal bottlenose dolphin stocks (dolphin) in the mid- Atlantic coastal gillnet fishery and eight other coastal fisheries operating within the dolphin's distributional range. This final rule also revises the large mesh size restriction under the mid-Atlantic large mesh gillnet rule for conservation of endangered and threatened sea turtles (mid-Atlantic large mesh gillnet rule) to provide consistency among Federal and state management measures. The measures contained in this final rule will implement gillnet effort reduction, gear proximity requirements, gear or gear deployment modifications, and outreach and edu-

BDTRP Regulations

Gillnet Restrictions for Southern VA State Waters



Large mesh (≥ 7 in) :

- From Nov. 1 – Dec. 31 – At night, fishing prohibited and gillnet gear must be removed from the water and stowed on board.

Federal Rule cont'd from pg 2

cation measures to reduce dolphin by catch below the marine mammal stock's potential biological removal level (PBR). "Final Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan," Prepared by National Marine Fisheries Service/National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, April 2006, available online at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2 Health and Stranding Response Program/bdtrp.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2_Health_and_Stranding_Response_Program/bdtrp.htm)

Impacts to gill netters will include:

- From June 1 to October 31, medium mesh (>5 inches to <7 inches) and large mesh (≥7 inches) gill nets will be restricted between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. During this restricted period, fishermen must remain within 0.5 nautical miles of the closest portion of their gill nets, after fishing remove all gear from the water, and bring it back to port with the vessel.
- From November 1 to December 31, large mesh (≥7 inches) gill nets will be required to be removed from the water between one hour after sunset and one hour prior to sunrise and stowed aboard the vessel when returning to port at night. There will be no fishing overnight. All gill nets and haul seines will be required to have identification tags every 100 yards with owner ID, gear mesh, and a unique identification number. For more information please go to www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/interactions/trt/bdtrp.htm

Mainly, the new federal rule will impact coastal black drum fishermen and fall striped bass fishermen in both the Coastal and Chesapeake areas.

1-800 LINE AND MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING STATUS LETTERS

Commercial Fishers please remember that, as part of the Mandatory Reporting Program, harvest reports are due by the 5th of every month. If you are not fishing, you must also report no activity by the same date. Our system does not automatically enter inactivity. Inactivity is manually entered, and we must be contacted to enter no activity for months you do not work, after the commercial fishing registration license is printed, as stated in the letter you receive with your CFRL. When using the 1-800 line (1-800-937-9247), please remember to provide your name and the last 4 digits of your commercial registration license. If you are providing information for multiple watermen please speak each name and commercial registration license number slowly. Please listen carefully to the recording for the correct option and the required information that you must provide. In January and July of each year, a status letter is sent to all commercial fishers regarding their reporting history. A status letter may be sent monthly to those fishermen who fail to report by the 5th of the month. In order to avoid receiving these letters please turn your harvest and no activity reports in on time.



Courtesy of Finfish and Fishing Information

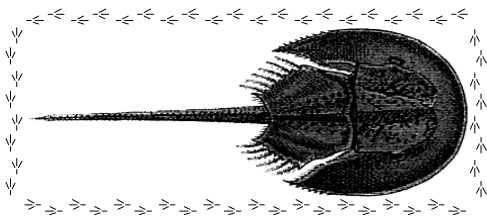


!! IMPORTANT REMINDERS !!

BLACK DRUM BUYERS- All buyers are required to possess a black drum buyers permit in order to purchase black drum from commercial fisherman. All interested buyers must complete a buyer application to receive a permit. Contact Carter Shackelford at (757) 247-2115, to request an application.

CHARTER BOATS- All charter boats fishing for striped bass are required to obtain a special striped bass permit. All striped bass caught and harvested must be reported to the VMRC at the end of the season. Contact Todd Watkins at (757) 247-2241, to request an application.

RECREATIONAL FISHING WITH COMMERCIAL GEAR- All licensed recreational fishermen who purchase commercial gear used recreationally are required to report their harvests on special forms provided by the VMRC. Forms can be found online at www.mrc.virginia.gov/forms or can requested to be sent by mail. Reports are due by January 5, the following year. For further assistance, contact Carter Shackelford at (757) 247-2115.



STRIPED BASS TAGS- You must record the number of tags used daily on your mandatory reporting forms. Be sure to separate black and pink tags (for the bay quota), and blue and orange tags (for the ocean quota).

STRIPED BASS TAG TRANSFERS- Because transferring striped bass tags has become very complex and time consuming, you are now required to call and make an appointment at least one day in advance before coming to the office to transfer striped bass tags. Thank you for your cooperation and patience! Contact Linnette Curtis-King (757) 247-8102 to make an appointment.

STRIPED BASS BUYERS- All buyers are required to possess a striped bass buyer permit, in order to purchase striped bass from commercial fisherman. For assistance, please call Todd Watkins at (757) 247-2241.

STRIPED BASS BUYER REPORTS- Permitted buyers shall provide written reports to the Commission of daily purchases and harvest information on forms provide by VMRC. Reports shall be completed in full and submitted monthly no later than the 5th day of the following month. In addition, during the month of December, each permitted buyer shall call the VMRC interactive Voice Recording System, on a daily basis, to report his name and permit number, date, pounds of Chesapeake area striped bass purchased and pounds of Coastal area striped bass purchased.

HARVEST REPORTING GUIDELINES

ALL REPORTS DUE BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH (ACTIVE OR NOT ACTIVE)

YOU MUST HAVE A COMMERCIAL LICENSE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOU CAN REPORT NO ACTIVITY

↓ COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION # 987654 -9999 123456 -9876 Joe Fisherman Joe Kelly Helper	WATER FISHED OVB	HRS GEAR FISHED 24	GEAR AGN	GEAR AMOUNT 1200 FT	MAN HOURS 6	NO. OF CREW 2	CONT.
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PRCD	PRICE	
	PUFT			125 LBS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SHK			150 LBS			
SPMAC			50 LBS				
VESSEL NAME GO FISH		VESSEL NUMBER 000456789					
BUYER BIG BUYER		COUNTY LANDED VIRGINIA BEACH					
SPECIAL PERMIT INFO.							
DATE JANUARY 2, 2006							

↓ COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION # VESSEL NAME VESSEL NUM BER BUYER COUNTY LANDED SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. DATE JANUARY 3, 2006	WATER FISHED CBLW	HRS GEAR FISHED 24	GEAR POT	GEAR AMOUNT 150	MAN HOURS 8	NO. OF CREW 2	CONT.
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PRCD	PRICE	
	BCJ			10 BU			
	BCS			25 BU			
BCP			105 NU				

REPORTING GUIDELINE DESCRIPTIONS

COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION LICENSE NUMBER (Including Helpers)
NAME OF FISHERMAN (Full Legal Name, Including Helpers Full Legal Name)
NAME OF VESSEL (Not the vessel make or model)
VESSEL NUMBER (Coast Guard Document#, VA State Registration, or Hull Number)
NAME OF BUYER (If selling to several buyers or selling to the public, write "RETAIL". If keeping for personal use write "PERSONAL USE")
CITY OR COUNTY (Where harvest offloaded from the vessel)
SPECIAL PERMIT INFORMATION (e.g. Black Drum, Striped Bass, etc...)
DATE (Date Harvest Taken From Water, one day per ticket. <u>DO NOT COMBINE DAYS, PLEASE REMEMBER ALL DATES</u>)
WATER BODY (Main water body where gear was worked)
GEAR (Specify type of gear used, one gear per day per ticket. <u>DO NOT COMBINE GEAR</u> on the same ticket)
GEAR HOURS (Amount of time gear is in the water soaking)
GEAR AMOUNT (e.g. Number and total length of nets, number of pots, number and total length of dredge)
MAN HOURS (Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, fish, and get back to the dock – in one day; do not multiply by helpers!)
NUMBER OF CREW (Total number of people on the vessel, including yourself; This number will always be at least 1)
SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY (Please be specific, for example; SPMAC or KMAC not just MACKEREL)
LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT (Include unit of measure e.g. lbs, bu, nu, bbl, cart)
✓ IF PRCD (If the weight given is for processed weight, please check the box)
PRICE (Optional)

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REPORTING PROBLEM ILLUSTRATION

	WATER	HRS GEAR	GEAR	GEAR	MAN	NO. OF	CONT
↓ COMM REGISTRATION # 9876549999 Joe Fisherman	CBLW	24	GILL NET POT	1200FT 300	24	0	
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR	✓ IF	PRIC	
	1/2 -1/7/06	PUFT		125 LBS			
	1/9 -1/14/06	BLC		220 (LBS, BU, OR NU?)			
VESSEL NAME VESSEL NUMBER BUYER COUNTY LANDED DATE JANUARY 27 JANUARY 28, 2006	1/16-1/21/06	MACKEREL		50 LBS			
	1/23-1/28/06	SHK		1 NU			

AGN, DGN, OR SGN? BE SPECIFIC **DON'T COMBINE GEARS ON SAME TICKET** **CAN'T WORK 24 HOURS A DAY** **CAN'T BE LESS THAN 1**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION DON'T LEAVE BLANK **DON'T COMBINE DAYS ON SAME TICKET** **NO CONVERSION, MUST REPORT SHARKS IN LBS** **✓ BOX FOR PROCESSED WEIGH**

SPANISH OR KING? BE SPECIFIC **MUST INCLUDE UNIT OF MEASURE**



FREQUENT REPORTING PROBLEM DESCRIPTIONS



COMBINING DAYS <i>(Report only one day per ticket)</i>
COMBINING GEARS <i>(Report only one gear per ticket)</i>
MISSING OR INCORRECT VESSEL NUMBER <i>(Very important information, don't leave blank)</i>
MISSING BUYER <i>(Very important, don't leave blank. If selling to several buyers or selling to the public, write "RETAIL". If keeping for personal use write "PERSONAL USE")</i>
INCORRECT GEAR AMOUNT <i>(Report actual gear amount used, not necessarily the exact amount licensed for example. If you are licensed for 300 pots, but only fished 100 that day, then only report 100)</i>
24 MAN HOURS <i>(Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, fish, and get back to the dock- in one day)</i>
CREW NUMBER = 0 is incorrect! <i>(Must equal at least 1 because the crew number includes the captain as well as everyone else on the vessel)</i>
GENERALIZED SPECIES <i>(Must be specific. ie: Mackerel (spanish or king), Shad (Gizzard or Hickory))</i>
MISSING UNIT OF MEASURE <i>(Must specify lbs, bu, nu, bbl, cart, etc...)</i>
✓ IF PRCD <i>(Must check box if the harvest weight is for a fish that has been processed first, then weighed, e.g. puffer tails, shark fin, roe, or black drum)</i>
REPORTING SHARK IN NUMBERS <i>(Sharks must be reported in pounds, not numbers. There is no accurate conversion from numbers to pounds for sharks)</i>
REPORTING SHEDDED CRABS <i>(Only report peeler and soft crabs caught in pots, do not report crabs that are shedded in tanks)</i>

Record Breakers

State Record Striped Bass Caught

March 27

Clay T. Armstrong of Mechanicsville, Virginia caught a 68 pound, 1 ounce striped bass on March 27, 2006. It was certified by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament as a new state record. The fish was 52 inches long, and measured 33.5 inches around. Clay caught this huge fish off Virginia Beach south of Sandbridge.



State Record Cobia Caught

June 10

Joseph F. Berberich II of Hayes, Virginia caught a 109 pound cobia on June 10, 2006. It was a new state record and was certified as such by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. It measured 69.5 inches overall, and 33.25 inches around. Joseph caught this enormous fish at York Spit out in the Chesapeake Bay.

State Record Spadefish Caught



Courtesy of VMRC Website



June 17

Austin Edwards of Powhatan, Virginia caught a 14 pound, 5 ounce spadefish on June 17, 2006. As a new state record, it has been certified by the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament. It was 24 inches long and 26 inches around. Austin caught this whopper at the Cell in the Chesapeake Bay.



Courtesy of Karen Underkoffler

If you would like more information, please contact Claude Bain, Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 S. Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451, phone: (757) 491-5160, email: mrcswt@visi.net.

ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING BLACK SEA BASS:**4 VAC 20-950-30. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT.**

- A) The minimum size for black sea bass harvested by commercial fishing gear shall be 11 inches, total length.
- B) The minimum size of black sea bass harvested by recreational gear, including but not limited to hook-and-line, rod-and-reel, spear and gig, shall be 12 inches, total length.
- C) It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any black sea bass smaller than the minimum size limit, as designated, respectively, in subsections A and B of this section.
- D) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, trade, or barter, or offer to sell, trade, or barter any black sea bass less than 11 inches, total length.
- E) Total length shall be measured along the lateral midline, from tip of nose to tip of tail, excluding the caudal fin filament.

4 VAC 20-950-47. COMMERCIAL HARVEST QUOTAS.

- A) The 2006 directed commercial fishery black sea bass quota is 631,380 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 2006 by-catch commercial fishery black sea bass quota is 118,082 pounds. When it has been announced that the by-catch fishery quota has been projected as reached, and the by-catch fishery has been closed, it shall be unlawful for any by-catch commercial black sea bass fishery permittee to possess aboard any vessel, or land in Virginia, any black sea bass. In the event the by-catch fishery quota is exceeded, the amount of the quota overage shall be deducted from the following year's by-catch fishing quota.

AMENDMENTS CONCERNING BLUEFISH:**4 VAC 20-450-30. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS QUOTA:**

- A. During the period of January 1 through December 31, commercial landings of bluefish shall be limited to 1,124,334 pounds.
- B. When it is projected that 95% of the commercial landings quota has been realized, a notice will be posted to close commercial harvest and landings from the bluefish fishery within 5 days of posting.
- C. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest or land bluefish for commercial purposes after the closure date set forth in the notice described in subsection B of this section.

ISSUES, AMENDMENTS CONCERNING STRIPED BASS:**4 VAC 20-252-130. ENTRY LIMITS, PERMITS, REPORTS.**

- F. All permitted commercial harvesters of striped bass shall report to the Commission, in accordance with 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq. In addition to the reporting requirements of 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., all permitted commercial harvesters of striped bass shall record and report daily striped bass tag use and specify the number of tags used on striped bass harvested in either the Chesapeake area or Coastal area. Daily striped bass tag use

on striped bass harvested from either the Chesapeake area or Coastal area, within any month, shall be recorded on forms provided by the Commission and shall accompany the monthly catch report submitted no later than the 5th day of the following month.

G. Any buyer permitted to purchase striped bass harvested from Virginia tidal waters shall provide written reports to the Commission of daily purchases and harvest information on forms provided by the Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Such information shall include the date of the purchase, buyer's and harvester's striped bass permit numbers and harvester's Commercial Fisherman Registration License number. In addition, for each different purchase of striped bass harvested from Virginia waters, the buyer shall record the gear type, water area fished, city or county of landing, weight of whole fish, and number and type of tags (Chesapeake area or Coastal area) that applies to that harvest. These reports shall be completed in full and submitted monthly to the Marine Resources Commission no later than the 5th day of the following month. In addition, during the month of December, each permitted buyer shall call the VMRC interactive Voice Recording System, on a daily basis, to report his name and permit number, date, pounds of Chesapeake area striped bass purchased and pounds of Coastal area striped bass purchased.

4 VAC-20-252-135. GILL NET MESH SIZE AND TENDING RESTRICTIONS:EXEMPTIONS.

C) Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Coastal Area, in accordance with 4 VAC 252-130 C, shall display a fluorescent orange flag, of dimensions not less than 30 inches in length and 18 inches in width, while fishing for striped bass in the Coastal Area and while transiting the Coastal area before and after a striped bass fishing trip. This flag shall be prominently displayed on the starboard side of the vessel.

D) It shall be unlawful for any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from Virginia waters and possesses striped bass tags on board a vessel to place, set, fish or possess aboard a vessel any gill net with a stretched mesh size greater than 9 inches, from February 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006 and November 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

4 VAC-20-252-140. COMMERCIAL SEASONS, AREAS, AND SIZE LIMITS:

Except as may be adjusted pursuant to 4 VAC 20-252-150, the open commercial striped bass fishing seasons, areas, and applicable size limits shall be as follows:

A) In the Chesapeake area, the open commercial season shall be from February 1 through December 31, inclusive. The minimum size limit shall be 18 inches total length during the periods of February 1 through December 31. The maximum size limit shall be 28 inches from March 26 through June 15.

B) In the Coastal area, the open commercial season shall be February 1 through December 31, inclusive, and the minimum size limit shall be 28 inches total length.

4 VAC-20-252-160. INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERABLE SHARES; TAGGING.

B) After January 31, 2006, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess Chesapeake area tags in the Coastal area.

D. Transfers of Chesapeake area or Coastal area striped bass commercial quota shares from one person to an-

REGULATIONS

other may be permanent or temporary. Transferred tags from the Chesapeake area striped bass commercial quota shall only be used by the transferee for striped bass harvested from the Chesapeake area, and transferred tags from the Coastal area striped bass commercial quota shall only be used by the transferee for striped bass harvested from the Coastal area. Permanent transfers of commercial quota shares shall grant to the transferee that transferred share of the quota of tags for future years, and the transferor loses that same transferred share of the quota of tags in future years. Temporary transfers of striped bass commercial harvest quota shares shall allow the transferee to harvest that transferred share of the quota of tags during the year in which the transfer is approved. Thereafter, any share of the transferred striped bass commercial quota of tags reverts back to the transferor.

G. At the place of capture, and as soon as possible after capture, tags shall be passed through the mouth of the fish and one gill opening, and interlocking ends of the tag shall then be connected such that the tag may only be removed by breaking. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be a violation of this chapter.

H. It shall be unlawful to bring to shore any commercially caught striped bass that has not been marked by the fisherman with a tamper evident, numbered tag provided by the Commission. It shall be unlawful to possess striped bass in a quantity greater than the number of tags in possession.

AMENDMENTS CONCERNING OYSTERS:

4 VAC 20-720-50 CLOSED HARVEST SEASON AND AREAS:

It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest oysters from the following areas during the specified periods:

- 1) All public oyster grounds and unassigned grounds in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, including the tributaries of the Potomac River, except those areas listed in Section 4 VAC 20-720-40, are closed: October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006.
- 2) James River Seed Area including the Deep Water Shoal State Replenishment Seed Area and the James River Jail Island and Point of Shoals Clean Cull Areas: May 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.
- 3) All public oyster grounds and unassigned grounds on the Seaside of Eastern Shore: for clean cull oysters, February 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006 and for seed oysters, all year. Oyster harvest from leased oyster ground and fee simple oyster ground shall require a permit from the Marine Resources Commission as set forth in Section 4VAC 20-720-90 of this Chapter.
- 4.) The following areas shall be closed from February 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006:
The Rappahannock River Hand Tong Area; the Corrotoman River Hand Tong Area; The Rappahannock River Hand Scrape Area; the Temples Bay Hand Scrape Area (Rappahannock River); the Drumming Ground Hand Scrape Area (Rappahannock River); the Nomini River Area; the Lower Machodoc Area; the Coan River Area; the Piankatank River; the Yeocomico River Area; the Little Wicomico River; the Great Wicomico River Hand Scrape Area; the James River Hand Scrape Area; the Thomas Rock Hand Scrape Area and the Blackberry Hangs Hand Scrape Area (Upper Chesapeake Bay); The York River; the Deep Rock Dredge Area (Lower Chesapeake Bay).
5. Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound: October 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005 and March 1, 2006. through September 30, 2006.

AMENDMENTS CONCERNING HORSESHOE CRABS:

4 VAC 20-900-25. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest horseshoe crabs from any shore or tidal waters of Virginia,

within 1000 feet, in any direction, of the mean low water line, from May 1 through June 7. The harvests of horseshoe crabs for biomedical use shall not be subject to this limitation.

B. From January 1 through June 7, of each year, it shall be unlawful for any person to land, in Virginia, any horseshoe crab harvested from federal waters.

D. The commercial quota of horseshoe crab, for each calendar year, shall be 152,495 horseshoe crabs. Additional quantities of horseshoe crab may be transferred to Virginia by other jurisdictions, in accordance with the provisions of Addendum I to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Horseshoe Crab Fishery Management Plan, April 2000, provided that the combined total of the commercial quota and transfers from other jurisdictions shall not exceed 355,000 horseshoe crabs. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest from Virginia waters, or to land in Virginia, any horseshoe crab, for commercial purposes, after any calendar-year commercial quota of horseshoe crab has been attained and announced as such.

E. It shall be unlawful for any person, whose harvest of horseshoe crabs is from waters east of the COLREGS Line, to possess aboard a vessel or to land in Virginia any quantity of horseshoe crabs that, in aggregate, is not comprised of at least a minimum ratio of two male horseshoe crabs to one female horseshoe crab.

F. Limitations on the daily harvest and possession of horseshoe crabs, for any vessel described below, are as follows:

2. It shall be unlawful, for any person who meets the requirements of 4 VAC 20-900-30 E and holds a valid Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License, to possess aboard any vessel or to land any number of horseshoe crabs in excess of 2,000, except that when it is projected and announced that 85% of the commercial quota is taken it shall be unlawful for any person, who meets the requirements of 4 VAC 20-900-30 D and holds a valid Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License, to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia any number of horseshoe crabs in excess of 1,000. The harvest of horseshoe crabs, described in this subdivision, shall be restricted to using only crab dredge.

3. It shall be unlawful for any registered commercial fisherman or Seafood Landing Licensee who does not possess a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License, to possess aboard any vessel more than 500 horseshoe crabs or for any vessel to land any number of horseshoe crabs in excess of 500.

4 VAC 20-900-35. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS.

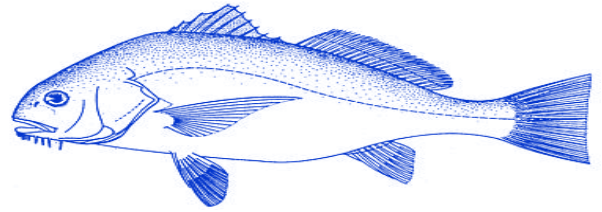
A. Any person harvesting or landing horseshoe crabs in Virginia shall report monthly on forms provided by the Commission all harvests of horseshoe crabs, including, but not limited to bait fisheries, bycatch, biomedical industry, and scientific and educational research harvest. Reporting requirements shall consist of numbers and pounds landed by sex, harvest method and harvest location.

B. It shall be unlawful for a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License holder to fail to contact the Marine Resources Operations Station, prior to the vessel issued a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License offloading horseshoe crabs. The Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License holder shall provide the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time and site. Following offloading, the Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License holder shall contact the VMRC Interactive-Voice-Response (IVR) System within 24 hours of landing and provide their Horseshoe Crab Endorsement License number, the time, date and location of offloading and the number of horseshoe crabs landed.

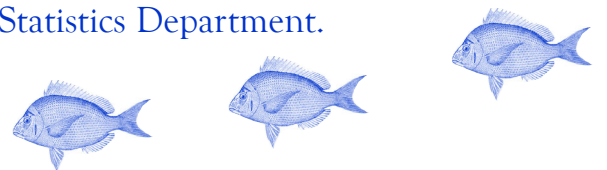


2006 Federally Permitted Dealer Information

Federally Permitted Dealers	City	State
B & C SEAFOOD INC	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
BENDER SEAFOOD	NASSAWADOX	VA
C & T SEAFOOD	TANGIER	VA
CHESAPEAKE BAY PKG, LLC	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
CHINCOTEAGUE FISHERIES	CHINCOTEAGUE	VA
CRAIG G NEFF	NORFOLK	VA
DBA MID-ATLANTIC AQUATIC TECH	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
DELORES OF WANCHESE	HAMPTON	VA
DEMARIA SEAFOOD	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
EDGERTON FISH CO	CHINCOTEAGUE	VA
GEORGES SEAFOOD DISTRIBUTORS	NORFOLK	VA
GEORGES SEAFOOD, INC	NORFOLK	VA
HAMPTON ROADS SEAFOODS, LTD	HAMPTON	VA
HARRY DOERNTE	POQUOSON	VA
J H MILES & COMPANY, INC	NORFOLK	VA
K & A SEAFOOD	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA
L D AMORY & CO, INC	HAMPTON	VA
OLD POINT PACKING, INC	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
PEABODY CORP	NEWPORT NEWS	VA
R & S SEAFOOD	WACHAPREAGUE	VA
R STUBBS SEAFOOD CO	CHINCOTEAGUE	VA
SEA BASSTARDS SEAFOOD	CHINCOTEAGUE	VA
SEAFORD SCALLOP CO, INC	SEAFORD	VA
SEASIDE ENTERPRISES	PARKSLEY	VA
V J ONEAL & COMPANY, INC	SEAFORD	VA
WANCHESE FISH CO, INC	HAMPTON	VA



Virginia's offshore harvest reporting requirements for Seafood Landing and Commercial Registration licenses is regulated by 4VAC20-610-60 which states that all registered commercial fishermen and all holders of a Seafood Landing License shall complete a daily form accurately and legibly describing that day's harvest from Virginia's tidal and federal waters. The forms used to record daily harvest shall be those provided by the Commission or another approved by the Commission. Registered commercial fishermen may use more than one form when selling to more than one buyer. The reporting of the harvest of federally permitted species from beyond Virginia's tidal waters that are sold to a federally permitted dealer shall be exempt from the procedures described above. If you are unsure if your dealer is federally permitted, please refer to the chart on the left. Your reports, for any month you harvested any seafood species, are due by the 5th day of the following month. If you have any questions, please call Kelly Lancaster at (757) 247-2116, Plans and Statistics Department.



AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
FMAC - NO MEETING VMRC - 08/22/06 9:30am	FMAC - 09/19/06 6:00pm VMRC - 09/26/06 9:30am	FMAC-10/17/06 6:00pm VMRC-10/24/06 9:30am

>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 6 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.

MAFMC – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Call (302) 674-2331 to find out the meeting location.

RFAB – Recreational Fishery Advisory Board. Meetings to be announced. Held at Commission Main office.

Striped Bass Subcommittee. Will be held in place of FMAC on August 15, 2006, at 6:00pm.

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.



NOTICE



VMRC Summer office hours begin 6/2/06; the Commission offices will be open M-Thu 8-5 & Fri 8-2:30.

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



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED