

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
Building 96
380 Fenwick Road
Fort Monroe, VA 23651*

Travis A. Voyles
Secretary of Natural and
Historic Resources

Justin L. Green
Commissioner

July 3, 2024

TO: COMMERCIAL FISHING REGISTRATION LICENSEES

FROM: VMRC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: 2024 VIRGINIA SHRIMP TRAWL LICENSE

For the first time since the establishment of the limited entry commercial shrimp trawl license in 2021, one license has become available for the 2024 fishing year. As such, the VMRC will be conducting a lottery to fill that vacant license, pursuant to [4VAC20-1390](#). Interested individuals must submit a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License Application Form to VMRC by 5 pm on Monday, July 31. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

After four years as an experimental fishery, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission established regulations for the Virginia Beach shrimp trawl fishery in July 2021. These regulations include 12 limited entry commercial shrimp trawl licenses, a lottery for available licenses, and requirements for gear, season, area, and shrimp possession limits.

Applications must be received by the Commission **no later than 5pm, July 31st, 2024**. Send applications to:

Email - Preferred method

fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov

Subject Header: VB SHRIMP LICENSE

Building 96, 380 Fenwick Rd

Fort Monroe, VA, 23651

Mail

VB Shrimp License

VMRC Fisheries Management Division

Applications can also be submitted to the agency drop box located at the main office address listed above.

If you have any questions regarding the process for this experimental fishery, please contact Pat Geer at 757-247-2236 or Joshua McGilly at 757-247-2299.

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

Information about the Commercial Shrimp Trawl License

1. If the number of individuals eligible for a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License pursuant to is fewer than 12 by July 1 in the current calendar year, a lottery will be conducted,
2. **Lottery Process** - Those individuals entering the lottery must: 1) Possess a valid Commercial Fisherman Registration License (CFRL); 2) Reported at least 1,000 pounds of harvest (all species) per year in at least three of the previous five calendar years to the MRC's Mandatory Reporting Program as a CRFL license holder or helper; 3) Submit a completed application prior to the deadline; and 4) If selected, applicant must sign and return a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License Acceptance Form within 14 days of being selected or the license will be forfeited to another eligible individual through the same process.
4. **Time of Day Restriction:** 30 minutes prior to sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset
5. **Gear:**
 - a. **A fixed frame net with an opening no larger than 16 feet in width and 4 ft in height (i.e., beam or frame trawl).**
 - b. **Net mesh will be from 1.5 inches to 2.0 inches stretched mesh.**
 - c. **Net must be equipped with at least one properly installed National Marine Fisheries Service or North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries approved by-catch reduction device (BRD)**
 - d. **Tow duration cannot exceed 30 minutes.**
 - e. **Commission staff shall approve all shrimp trawl gear prior to final issuance of a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License.**
6. **Harvest of any Virginia quota-managed species is prohibited (Black Drum, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, Atlantic Menhaden, Scup, Speckled Sea Trout, Spiny and Smooth Dogfishes, Striped Bass, and Summer Flounder).**
7. Transferring of any Commercial Shrimp Trawl License is prohibited without written request to the MRC, and approval by the Commissioner or their designee.
8. Agents are prohibited without advance written request to the MRC and approval by the commissioner. Exceptions shall only be granted due to death, medical hardships, or military service.
9. Licensees shall allow VMRC observer staff onboard fishing trips to collect data on shrimp and bycatch.
10. Licensees are required to contact the MRC staff after each trip to report estimates of shrimp harvest, total bycatch, and any interactions with protected resources. Contact information will be provided. Additionally, harvest of all species must be reported to the MRC's Mandatory Harvest Reporting Program by the 5th of each month.

Map: The 2024 Virginia Beach Shrimp Trawl License Area and the Eastern Shore Experimental Permit Area.

