



VMRC FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

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 fishermen, VMRC managers, Law Enforcement, researchers, and the Commission.



Volume 21, Issue 1
Spring 2013

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INSIDE THE SPRING 2013 ISSUE:

This issue of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Commercial Fisheries Newsletter contains updates on recent regulatory decisions by the Commission.

Important regulatory amendments affecting horseshoe crabs, striped bass, speckled trout, American shad, and Atlantic menhaden are included.

Results from the 2012-2013 Bay-Wide Winter Dredge Survey are provided, along with additional information for the blue crab pot fishery.

Changes in mandatory reporting for shellfish harvesters are included, with several examples on how to complete mandatory harvest reporting.

Both harvesters and buyers are invited to complete a survey regarding electronic reporting provided by the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP).

You will also find information regarding a relatively new resource to get offshore weather information from the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office.

The Virginia Blue Crab Industry Panel provided a press release describing its role and ongoing mission.

We would like to thank all of the Virginia commercial harvesters that actively participate in programs and meetings sponsored by the Commission. Have a great spring and summer!

ATLANTIC MENHADEN FISHERY UPDATE



We serve as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources, and protectors of its tidal waters and homelands, for present and future generations.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) enacted state-by-state total allowable landing quotas for Atlantic menhaden, and a 20% reduction in total allowable landings, coast-wide, for 2013 and 2014.

In response to the ASMFC mandate, Virginia has adopted corresponding laws and regulations that provide total

allowable landings for a purse seine menhaden reduction sector, a purse seine menhaden bait sector, and a non-purse seine bait sector (which includes pound nets, gill nets, and all other non-purse seine gear types).

For more information on this issue, please refer to page 10 of this newsletter.

RESULTS FROM THE 2012-2013 BAY-WIDE WINTER DREDGE SURVEY

The Bay-wide Winter Dredge Survey (WDS) has been conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) since winter 1989-1990, and provides annual revisits on the status of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock.

The total number of crabs estimated by the 2012-2013 WDS is 300 million crabs. That is a 60% decline from the total number of crabs in the 2011-2012 WDS (765 million crabs) and is the sixth-lowest total crab estimate in the 1990-2013 time series (Figure 1). The decline in total abundance is attributed to an 81% decline in juvenile abundance (Figure 2). Environmental factors (such as currents) play a large role in determining the success of annual recruits. In addition, predation (e.g., large numbers of juvenile red drum in 2012) and other natural mortality factors may have prevented last year's strong year class of juvenile crabs (age 0) from recruiting into the fishery in late 2012 or as part of the spawning stock

in 2013. The good news is that the number of spawning-age female crabs increased, from 95 million to 147 million and remains well above the biological threshold of 70 million crabs (Figure 3). Based on the 2013 WDS results, the Chesapeake Bay blue crab stock is not overfished, but is below the target abundance of 215 million spawning-age female crabs. This is also the fifth straight year with no overfishing on the female crab portion stock. The preliminary bay-wide 2012 exploitation rate of 10% for female crabs is the lowest rate in the time series since 1990 (Figure 4), and the preliminary estimate of harvest declined to 56 million pounds.

The Commission and the Crab Management Advisory Committee (CMAC) received an update on the winter dredge survey results during their April 2013 meetings. Staff will continue to work with the CMAC throughout the upcoming months to discuss possible management options for late 2013 and 2014.

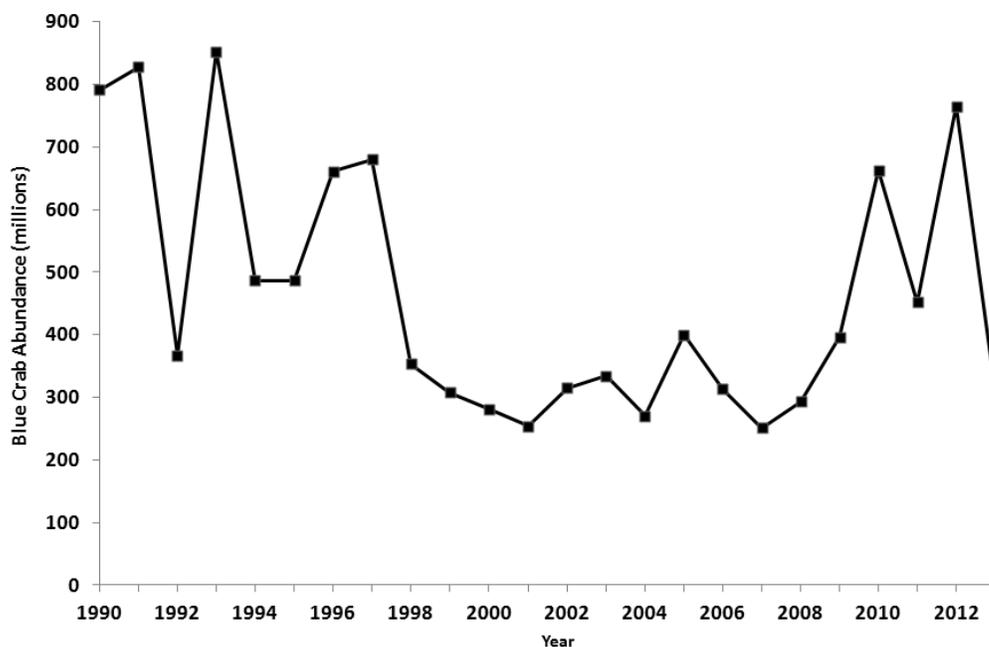


Figure 1. Total number of crabs estimated to be in Chesapeake Bay 1990 – 2013. 2013 data are preliminary.

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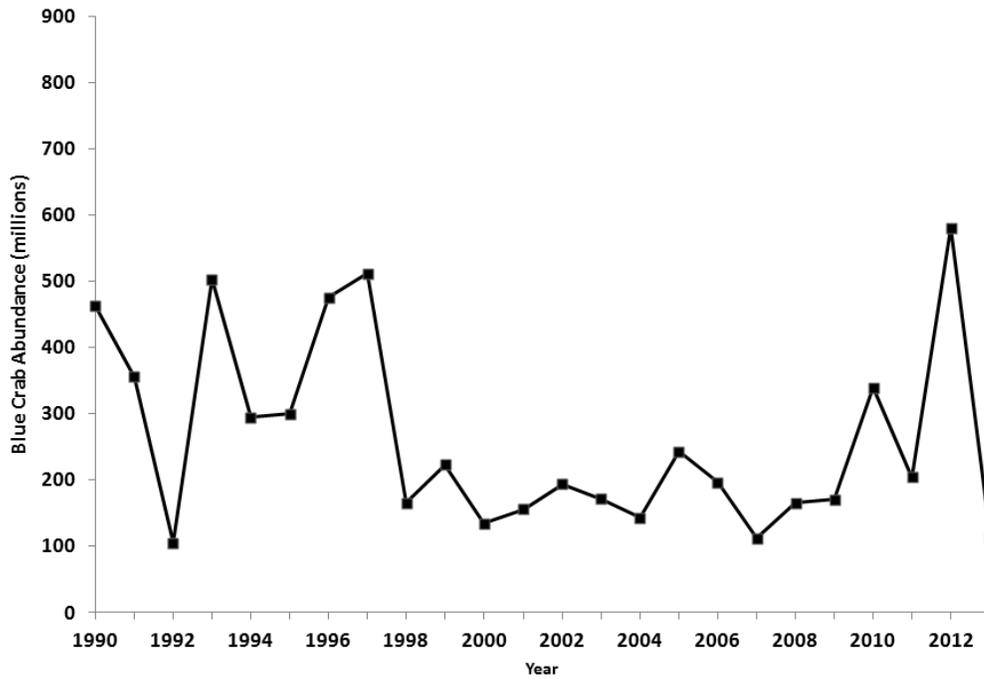


Figure 2. Number of juvenile crabs estimated to be in Chesapeake Bay 1990 – 2013. 2013 data are preliminary.

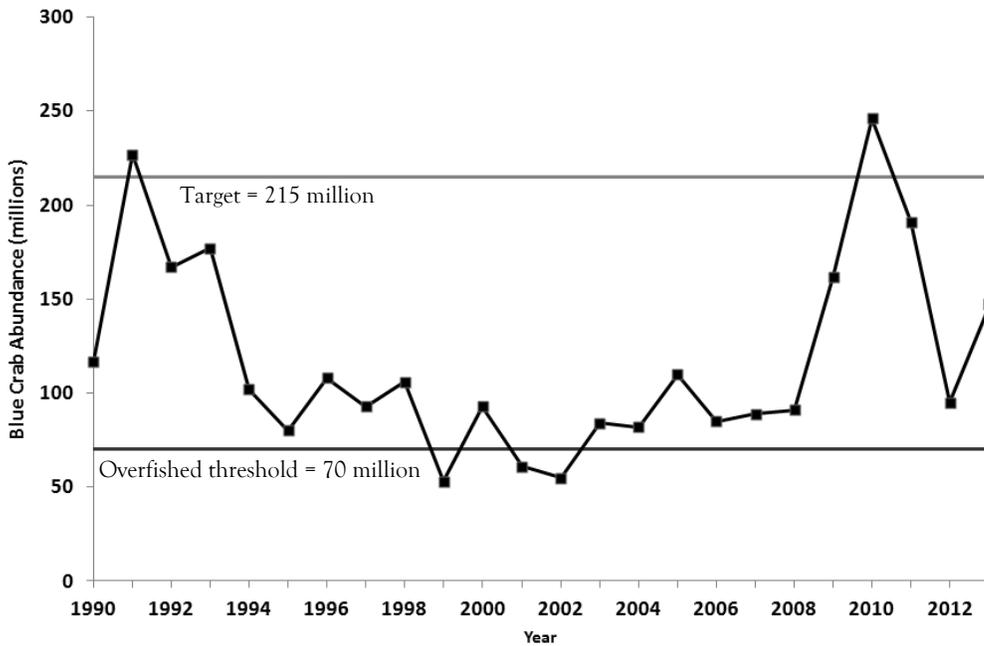


Figure 3. Number of spawning-age female crabs estimated to be in Chesapeake Bay 1990 – 2013. 2013 data are preliminary.

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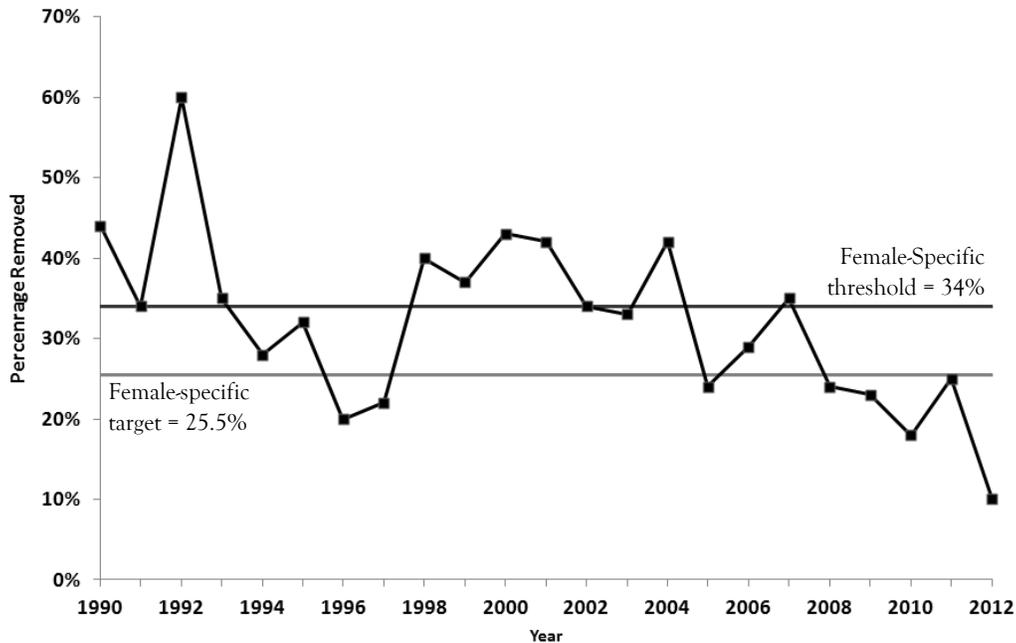
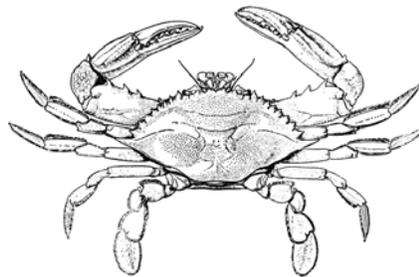


Figure 4. Annual percentage of female crabs removed from the Bay compared to the target fishing rate of 25.5% and the overfishing rate of 34% 1990–2012.



2013 BLUE CRAB POT FISHERY

At the November 2012 Commission meeting the Commission amended Chapter 4 VAC 20-270-10 et seq., “Pertaining to Blue Crabs”. This amendment extended the blue crab pot season by allowing the harvest of male and female blue crabs through December 15, 2012. To offset this increase in harvest, the Commission established license category-specific bushel limits for the 2013 blue crab season as a conservation equivalence measure. Additionally, at the February 2013 Commission meeting, the Commis-

sion approved new amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-270-10 et seq., to establish maximum daily bushel limits of blue crabs, on a vessel, so that the daily limit shall correspond to the highest harvest and possession limit of only one licensee on board that vessel, as well as an amendment that would limit the number of agents in the blue crab fishery in 2013.

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2013 Blue Crab Bushel & Barrel Limits

From March 16, 2013 through November 30, 2013, any harvester legally licensed for a crab pot license is limited to the following harvest and possession limits shown below:

- 1) 27 bushels, or 9 barrels, of crabs, if licensed for up to 85 crab pots.
- 2) 32 bushels, or 10 barrels and 2 bushels, if licensed for up to 127 crab pots.
- 3) 38 bushels, or 12 barrels and 2 bushels, if licensed for up to 170 crab pots.
- 4) 45 bushels, or 15 barrels, if licensed for up to 255 crab pots.
- 5) 55 bushels, or 18 barrels and 1 bushel, if licensed for up to 425 crab pots.

Because some harvesters use barrels rather than bushels, the Commission defined a barrel to be equivalent in volume to no more than 3 bushels of crabs.

2013 Daily Individual & Vessel Possession Limits Limiting the use of agents

The new bushel limits for 2013 eliminate the 51 bushel vessel limit that was previously in place for the spring (March 17 – May 31) each year. In an effort to avoid combining bushel limits through license “stacking”, and to address the lack of a vessel limit, CMAC also recommended that when multiple crab pot licensees are on board a vessel, the overall vessel limit should equal the bushel limit of the highest license holder on board (e.g., if an 85-pot license holder worked on a vessel with a 255-pot license holder, the vessel limit would be equal to 45 bushels). Emergency amendments to Chapter 4 VAC 20-270-10 et seq. establish that the new bushel and vessel possession limits are daily limits.

Reports from industry suggested that with the new license category-specific bushel limits by pot category, some licensees who have not been previously active may attempt to capitalize on the new bushel-limit system by using agents. Because latent effort can be activated via the agent process, it can exacerbate the effects of overcapacity on this resource, especially in times of low abundance.

CMAC therefore recommended that the number of crab agents for 2013 be limited to the number of 2012 licensees that used agents or transferees of a 2012 license, plus a 10% buffer for new individuals interested in obtaining an agent for 2013, for a total of 168 agents. The Commissioner can still approve requests for agent use for non-economic hardships.

REMINDER

The VMRC staff would like to remind the blue crab industry that these license category-specific bushel limits and limited number of agents are only in place for the remainder of the 2013 season. Crab management plans specific to 2014 will be discussed with CMAC this summer and with the Commission by the fall.



On January 20, 2012, Delegate Margaret B. Ransone submitted a letter to the VMRC Commissioner requesting the establishment of a panel to study the current oyster inspection and replenishment tax system. Delegate Ransone sought a thorough investigation as to how the current system can be improved for a more consistent and comprehensive source of financial support to the Oyster Replenishment Fund.

During the summer of 2012, a panel consisting of commercial harvesters, shellfish shippers, packers and repackers, oyster aquaculturists, the Virginia Seafood Council and the Virginia Shellfish Growers met and found that the current oyster inspection tax and replenishment tax did not generate sufficient resources to sustain more than a marginal oyster replenishment program. They recommended that the oyster tax system be abolished and replaced with the Oyster Resources User Fees.

In the 2013 General Assembly session, the recommendations of this panel were adopted into the Code of Virginia. Beginning on July 1, 2013, the oyster inspection and replenishment tax will not be collected on oysters harvested after that date. Submission of the MRC forms 453, 455, and 457 will not be required for oyster harvests after June 30, 2013. All oyster harvests will be reported by the public ground harvester or aquaculture product owner to the Mandatory Harvest Reporting system. Any reports and taxes due for harvest through June 30, 2013 will be due by July 5, 2013.

Starting July 1, 2013, all oyster harvesters, oyster buyers, oyster shucking houses, and oyster aquaculturists will be required to pay an Oyster Resource User Fee prior to any harvest of oysters during the remainder of 2013.

Proceeds from all Oyster Resource User Fees will be deposited to the Oyster Replenishment Fund. Harvesters, aquaculturists, and buyers may pay these fees from a MRC licensing agent or by mail beginning June 1, 2013. Payment is required prior to using any of the listed gear types in 2013 and subsequent years, for harvesting oysters from private ground, buying public ground oysters, or shucking or packing oysters. Each harvester entitled to a daily quota in the hand scrape and dredge public fisheries must first pay the Oyster Resource User Fee. The shucking house fees must be paid in person or by mail from the MRC Main Office, or from the licensing office in Heathsville. Oyster Resource User Fees and oyster gear licenses will not be sold at the MRC Operations Office.

There are also two new buyer licenses for any person purchasing oysters caught from the public grounds of the Commonwealth or the Potomac River from the harvester. For a single place of business with one boat or motor vehicle, this license is \$50. For a single place of business with multiple boats or motor vehicles used for buying oysters, this license is \$100.

USER TYPE		RESOURCE USER FEE
Any licensed commercial fisherman harvesting public ground oysters by hand (Seaside of the Eastern Shore only)		\$50.00
Any licensed commercial fisherman harvesting public ground oysters with any type of gear		\$300.00
Any commercial operation taking oysters from a riparian assigned or general oyster planting ground (Oyster Aquaculture Product Owner Permit or Oyster Aquaculture Harvester Permit)		\$50.00
Any business shucking or packing oysters:	a) Less than 1,000 gallons/year	\$500.00
	b) 1,001–10,000 gallons/year	\$1,000.00
	c) 10,001–25,000 gallons/year	\$2,000.00
	d) 25,001 gallons or more/year	\$4,000.00
Any oyster buyer purchasing oysters harvested from public grounds	a) Single truck or location	\$100.00
	b) Multiple trucks or locations	\$300.00

NON-AGENCY NEWS: SHELLFISH UPDATE

PROVIDED BY THE DIVISION OF SHELLFISH SANITATION

No one wants to make someone sick, but if you handle shellfish in the warm weather months you should be aware of *Vibrio* bacteria and how to minimize their growth as you handle shellfish during and after harvest. *Vibrio* are a group of bacteria, some of which cause illness in people who eat raw oysters or undercooked oysters. In some cases, people with certain health conditions are at risk from a particular kind of *Vibrio* (*V. vulnificus*), which can cause severe illness or even death. There are several types of *Vibrio* bacteria that live naturally in Virginia shellfish harvest waters and are not associated with contamination. These bacteria tend to die back during the winter months, but begin to grow as the water warms above 50-55° F in the spring. Shellfish concentrate these bacteria from the water, and when shellfish are harvested the bacteria can grow to considerably higher concentrations than when in the water. If the shellfish are not placed under refrigeration and cooled quickly, the bacteria that have accumulated can multiply at alarming rates. Therefore, it is important that shellfish be placed in refrigeration below 50° F, or iced, as quickly as possible after harvest.

The VMRC in 2007, in conjunction with the Virginia Division of Shellfish Sanitation (DSS), and the Virginia shellfish industry, adopted regulations effective during the warm weather months designed to minimize the risk of illness associated with raw shellfish consumption from *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus*. Subsequent to their implementation, each year these regulations went through varying degrees of revision. Since *Vibrio* bacteria are naturally occurring and are present in oysters harvested from open and approved growing areas, we cannot completely eliminate the risk of illnesses due to raw oyster consumption. Shellfish production in Virginia has increased tremendously since the regulations were put in place, and one would expect as servings of raw oysters increase so would the potential for cases of illnesses. There were four

reported cases of *V. parahaemolyticus* illness in 2012 attributed to oysters commercially harvested from the following growing areas: James River, Tom's Cove, and Occohannock Creek. In 2011, Virginia had one *V. vulnificus* illness attributed to oysters commercially harvested in the Yeocomico, and in 2010 Virginia had two reported *V. vulnificus* illnesses: one illness from oysters commercially harvested in the James River, and one illness from oysters commercially harvested in the Rappahannock River.

The Virginia shellfish industry should be commended for its continuing efforts to minimize the risk of illness associated with the consumption of shellfish harvested in our waters. The harvest restrictions have required industry innovation and significant investment. Industry has complied with the regulations by purchasing GPS tracking devices, refrigerated trucks, walk-in coolers and ice machines. Shading, shellstock storage bins, and ice coolers have been installed on harvest vessels. In many cases small aquaculture dealers who had no onshore facilities have built facilities with walk-in coolers and grading areas. In essence, Virginia shellfish dealers have come a long way.

Last summer the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) evaluated the Virginia Shellfish Program, which is carried out jointly by the VMRC and the Department of Health. During that evaluation FDA inspected harvest boats throughout Virginia to determine the compliance by the shellfish industry with Virginia's *Vibrio* Control Plan. The FDA reported that the Virginia Program was in substantial compliance with the state regulations and with the NSSP requirements for *Vibrio* control, which is something that we can all be proud of. As we move into the 2013 summer harvest season there will be no new harvest requirements for shellfish harvest and this is in no small way due to the industry's diligence in assuring that Virginia oysters are harvested and placed under refrigeration in compliance with

(Continued Shellfish Sanitation Update)

the controls that are in place. While we cannot completely eliminate the risk of illnesses associated with raw oyster consumption, the illnesses from last year's harvest point out the continued need for industry to maintain strict adherence to the current time and temperature control requirements. **VMRC's regulations regarding these requirements can be found at: <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/regulations/fr1230.shtm>**

HORSESHOE CRAB REGULATIONS

At the December 10, 2012 Commission meeting, a public hearing established the 2013 Virginia horseshoe crab quota, established limited transferability of licenses, and defined the lawful uses of agents in the fishery. To reduce latent effort in the hand harvest fishery and prevent potential quota overages, Virginia established limited entry qualifications on the horseshoe crab hand harvest fishery in 2013. To be eligible for a hand harvest permit, fishermen must have been issued a horseshoe crab hand harvester permit prior to the license moratorium of May 1, 2011, and had documented, on Virginia mandatory harvest reports, a minimum harvest of one horseshoe crab by hand harvest methods at any time from 1993 through the control date of December 31, 2010.

The 2013 Virginia commercial quota of horseshoe crabs was set at 172,828 horseshoe crabs. This is a 13% increase from the 2012 quota and includes a male-only harvest allocation of up to 81,331 horseshoe crabs for areas east of the COLREGS line. No female horseshoe crabs can be harvested from water east of the COLREGS line. Effective January 1, 2013 harvest of horseshoe crabs, from east of the COLREGS line, is limited to trawl and dredge gear only.

STRIPED BASS

Several important changes went into effect for the 2013 striped bass fishery. The fishery opened on January 16, 2013, earlier than the February 1 date that has been in place for several years. The early opening allowed more time to harvest prior to the beginning of annual large mesh gill net restrictions required by the Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan, in coastal waters, on March 15. Gill nets with a stretched mesh size from 5 inches to 6 inches were permitted to be set from January 16 through the end of February in restricted areas, as described by Chapter 4 VAC 20-751-10 et seq., to coincide with the earlier opening of the striped bass season.

The quota transfer process has also been modified. Temporary and permanent quota transfers began on February 1 and can be scheduled through September 30 with a minimum transfer of 500 pounds, unless 100% of all unused quota is being permanently transferred. No transfers will be permitted from October 1 through November 30. To allow individuals to account for quota overages, only temporary transfers of at least 200 pounds will be permitted from December 1 through December 15.

SPECKLED TROUT COMMERCIAL CLOSURE

The commercial speckled trout fishery was closed on Thursday, October 18, 2012. Based on landing reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia seafood buyers, and VMRC Law Enforcement, Virginia was projected to have caught 100% of the 51,104 pound commercial quota for speckled trout by that date and time. The commercial season

for the harvest of speckled trout begins September 1 each year and ends August 31 of the following year, unless the commercial quota is reached before then. This was the first time that the commercial fishery was closed because of a quota overage since 1995. The commercial speckled trout fishery will re-open September 1, 2013.

AMERICAN SHAD SUSTAINABLE FISHERY BYCATCH PERMIT

Amendment III to the ASMFC Shad and River Herring Fisheries Management Plan was approved in February 2010. This amendment required all states to close their American shad fisheries by January 1, 2013 unless they could demonstrate a sustainable harvest of shad. This mandate was based upon results of the 2007 American Shad Coastwide Stock Assessment that found low abundance in all stocks on the East Coast. Virginia submitted a Sustainable Fishery Plan, for a bycatch allowance of American shad, to ASMFC which was approved in October 2012. The bycatch allowance plan was approved for 5 years, from 2013 through 2017, and established maximum annual limits of 30 American shad bycatch permits and harvest of 500 total American shad.

The original intent of the bycatch permit was to convert dead discards of American shad into a useable product, while being able to collect biological data from the fishery. Members of industry were concerned that limiting the number of permits available would cause a possible increase in license

interest and prevent recent fishery participants from obtaining a license. At the February 26, 2013 Commission meeting, a public hearing was held to establish eligibility criteria for the American Shad Bycatch Permit.

The Commission voted to adopt the recommendations of the Finfish Management Advisory Committee (FMAC) to grant American Shad Bycatch Permit eligibility to those individuals who within the last three years have both 1) held an American Shad Bycatch Permit, and 2) complied with all reporting requirements associated with holding that permit. If the remaining number of permits is still below the maximum of 30, then they would be distributed as applications are received.

All other American Shad Bycatch Permit regulation requirements remain in effect, including: the limitation of shad harvest to the bycatch areas, as defined by Chapter 4 VAC 20-530-10 et seq., a 10 fish per vessel per day limit, requirements on harvesting an equal number of food grade species, and weekly reporting requirements.

ALEWIVES VS. MENHADEN IDENTIFICATION

A moratorium on possession of river herring (alewife and blueblack herring) from Virginia tidal waters was established January 1, 2012 to rebuild the Virginia stocks of the species. These species look very similar to the Atlantic menhaden, a legally-harvested species. Descriptions of the two most commonly misreported species are provided below to ensure commercial harvesters are reporting the correct species.

ALEWIVES

- More slender body
- Single large black spot
- Heavy, sharp serrations along underside



Photo courtesy of Cornell University

MENHADEN

- Deep belly
- Multiple spots (single larger black spot behind gill cover, followed by up to 6 lines of smaller spots)
- No serrations along underside

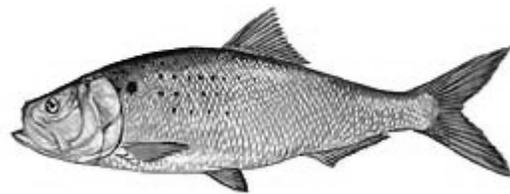


Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Ecological Foundation, Inc.

NEW MENHADEN REGULATION

On December 14, 2012, the ASMFC adopted Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The major impact to Virginia from Amendment 2 was the 20% reduction in 2013 and 2014 total allowable landings.

The provisions of Amendment 2 mandated by the ASMFC were enacted upon the signature of Governor McDonnell on February 23, 2013, and will expire on January 1, 2015. The expiration is timed to coincide with the ASMFC scheduled completion of a Benchmark Stock Assessment of Atlantic Menhaden in 2014 that should better determine whether overfishing is occurring or whether the stock is overfished.

Section 28.2-400.2 of the Code of Virginia establishes the total allowable commercial landings for menhaden in 2013 and 2014 in metric tons equivalent to 318,067,167 pounds. The purse seine menhaden reduction sector is allocated an annual quota of 286,396,768 pounds of allowable menhaden landings. The purse seine menhaden bait sector is provided a 26,648,870-pound annual quota of allowable menhaden landings. The non-purse seine menhaden bait sector is allocated a 5,021,529-pound annual quota of allowable menhaden landings.

On March 26, 2013, the Commission adopted Chapter 4 VAC 20-1270-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Atlantic Menhaden" as authorized by the Code of

Virginia, to comply with requirements established by Amendment 2.

The non-purse seine menhaden commercial bait sector shall submit daily reports according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

When the Commissioner announces that 90% of the non-purse seine menhaden bait quota has been reached, each harvester of this sector is required to report his previous 10 days of landings by calling the Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System (1-800-937-9247; first choose Option 2, then Option 8) and continue to report additional landings every 10 days, until it is announced that the non-purse seine bait quota has been attained. More frequent reporting is permissible. The Commission may also implement other harvest conservation measures such as trip limits.

When a non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota, by gear, is announced as having been attained, individuals using that specific gear type may land no more than 6,000 pounds of menhaden per day, as bycatch. All bycatch landings of menhaden must be reported according to the schedule and reporting requirements established by Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting".

The non-purse seine menhaden bait sector quota by gear, for 2013 and 2014, is as follows:

Cast Net:	1,930 pounds	Dredge:	3,069 pounds
Fyke Net:	2,115 pounds	Pound Net:	3,412,020 pounds
Gill Net:	1,521,108 pounds	Seine:	20,103 pounds
Hook and Line:	234 pounds	Trawl:	58,847 pounds
Pot:	2,064 pounds	Trot Line:	39 pounds

NON-AGENCY NEWS: FIRST LANDING BUOY DELIVERS INFO ON WIND, WAVES, AND MORE 24/7

For those headed offshore, a relatively new resource may come in handy. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System's (CBIBS) "First Landing" buoy is located near the eastern end of the Tail of the Horseshoe. Like other CBIBS buoys, it monitors 25 different variables including wind speed, wave height, temperature, and salinity—and updates information every 10 minutes.

It's easy to check data from the buoy to see what conditions are like out on the water. All this data is available to you at no charge via the buoy system's website, www.buoybay.noaa.gov, a toll-free phone number, 877-BUOY-BAY (877-286-9229), and apps for Android and iPhone smartphones (visit the website for easy links to these apps).

NOAA plans to slightly reposition the First Landing buoy on March 20 to 36°58.463 N, 76°02.734 W lat/long; 41300.0, 27190.9 (LORAN). This is north of Cape Henry and outside the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, on the ocean side of First and Second Islands—roughly 300 meters west of the red "2T" buoy and on the 190.9 TD line. It is bright yellow, 14 feet tall, and will feature an active radar reflector with an enhanced radar signature.

The First Landing buoy is the newest CBIBS; there are nine other buoys located in the Chesapeake Bay. They are on station all the way north to the mouth of the Susquehanna River.



Be a Bayfriend

The Chesapeake Bay is one of Virginia's greatest natural resources and one of the most challenged bodies of water in the state. Virginia ranks third in the nation for seafood production. Chesapeake Bay oysters and blue crabs are some of the tastiest in the world. But we need help from citizens like you to keep the bay clean. **Consider a bay license plate.**

Money from the sale of these plates helps citizens keep the bay healthy. More than 100 grants were provided last year to restore wetlands, plant buffers around waterways, promote shad restoration, decrease pollution and provide educational programs.

Now you can join the cause from your car by becoming a **Friend of the Chesapeake Bay.**

For a \$25 annual fee you can have personalized revenue-sharing license plates with \$15 going to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.

So, Bayfriend, what's on your plate?
To purchase a plate, visit www.dmv.state.va.us/vehicles/#splates/info.asp?idnm=CB

VIRGINIA BLUE CRAB INDUSTRY PANEL

A New Model for Blue Crab Management in the Chesapeake Bay

Virginia's watermen work with the state to define future of the industry

Gloucester, VA- Virginia's commercial watermen are taking a lead role in defining the future for the blue crab fishery. In an effort supported by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), crabbers from across coastal Virginia have formed the Virginia Blue Crab Industry Panel (Panel). Newly initiated, this panel brings commercial watermen, representing diverse gear types, together with fisheries managers and conservation groups to design a long-term blue crab management system that meets conservation and management goals while also achieving the economic and social goals of the industry. The new panel will complement the work of VMRC's existing Blue Crab Management Advisory Committee that focuses on shorter-term management needs. The Panel will consider the longer-term view of the commercial blue crab industry and think more broadly about how the blue crab fishery will be managed in the next 5 years and beyond.

Virginia's Blue Crab Industry Panel has identified long-term priorities on which they will focus. These include increased accountability measures within the fishery, identifying ways to attract younger watermen into the industry, assessing total crabbing effort, and gaining a better understanding of alternative management strategies that may benefit the commercial blue crab fishery and its fishermen.

One of the initial focal areas is to explore a pilot electronic harvest reporting program for crabbers around the state. In addition to that focus, the Panel is also engaged in the ongoing winter crab dredge research study.

VMRC Commissioner, Jack Travelstead, supports the panel and is "encouraged by [their] commitment to discuss issues and propose conservation measures that [they] envision as crucial to the long-term sustainability of the blue crab resources and fisheries." Parallel efforts in Maryland, where there is a similar industry-led process underway, and Virginia may usher in a new style of fisheries management within the Chesapeake Bay where commercial watermen have a leadership role in exploring alternatives to current management and commit to co-management of the resource with the state regulatory agencies.

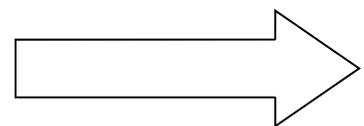
The Panel encourages participation from additional interested crabbers. Virginia's Panel meets monthly, on the last Sunday of the month, at the Crowne Plaza Hampton Marina Hotel from 1pm - 5pm. Contact information and panel materials are accessible from www.vacrabbers.com or through Paula Jasinski at 804.824.3945.

ACCSP SURVEY

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) has a survey for fishermen (commercial and recreational), harvesters, and seafood dealers to complete regarding electronic reporting. The survey will provide the ACCSP with input on how fishery stakeholders view electronic reporting. The survey can be completed via the paper version included in the newsletter on pages 13 and 14, or electronically at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting

Completed paper versions can be mailed to:

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
ATTN: Stephanie Iverson
2600 Washington Ave, Third Floor
Newport News, VA 23607



IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES ELECTRONIC REPORTING



The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) would like to hear from you ... Atlantic coast commercial and recreational fishermen, harvesters and dealers!

As technologies improve and the electronic era moves forward, state and federal agencies that collect fisheries data could use electronic reporting as a means to capture what fishermen harvest. This survey has been developed to better understand the potential positives and negatives of electronic reporting through the eyes of dealers and the fishing community.

Please take a few minutes to educate us as we explore electronic reporting options. Your input on this survey will then be used to initiate a workshop during the fall of 2013. The intent of the workshop will be to produce a document to be shared with fishermen and fishery management agencies on how to improve new and existing electronic reporting systems. Your anonymous input is critical to the future of fisheries data collection for your industry.

This survey is also available electronically. Please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting if you would like to enter electronically. Please see reverse side for information on returning your paper survey.

ABOUT YOU:

Please answer the following questions so we may better get to know you.

1. Age:

- Under 25 25 - 34 35 - 44
 45 - 54 Over 54

2. Fishing sector:

- Commercial fisherman Dealer
 For-hire recreational Private recreational
 Other: _____

3. Primary home port, business, or residency:

- Maine New Hampshire
 Massachusetts Rhode Island
 Connecticut New York
 New Jersey Delaware
 Pennsylvania Maryland
 Virginia North Carolina
 South Carolina Georgia
 Florida

4. Primary area fished:

- Inland (bays, lagoons, and/or sounds)
 State waters (0 - 3 miles)
 Federal waters (> 3 miles)

5. Fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.) are:

- Full-time job Part-time job
 Recreational
 Other: _____

6. To which jurisdiction(s) or agencies do you currently report information on your fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.)? Please let us know all that apply.

- None Maine
 New Hampshire Massachusetts
 Rhode Island Connecticut
 New York New Jersey
 Delaware Pennsylvania
 Maryland Virginia
 North Carolina South Carolina
 Georgia Florida
 Sector manager
 NOAA: Northeast Regional Office
 NOAA: Southeast Regional Office
 NOAA: Highly Migratory Species (HMS)

7. How often are you required to report for your fishing related activities (e.g., commercial or recreational fisherman, harvester, dealer, etc.)?

- Before arriving at dock Daily
 Weekly Twice a month
 Monthly None
 Other: _____

8. What is your experience with electronic reporting?

- No experience I am required to use it
 It is an option and I do not use it
 It is an option and I use it

9. What electronic tool(s) do you currently use?

Please let us know all that apply.

- Computer Work internet access
 Tablet At-sea internet access
 Smartphone Home internet access
 At-dock internet access None
 Other: _____

... PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPINIONS ON ELECTRONIC REPORTING:

Please answer the following questions so we may better understand your preferences for electronic reporting.

10. From your perspective please let us know if you 'agree' or 'disagree' with the following statements. For instance, if you think paper reporting takes more time for you, then you select 'agree'.

If you do not 'agree' or 'disagree' please indicate that with the 'neutral' option.

a. Electronic reporting takes more time for me than paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

b. Electronic reporting imposes more costs for me than paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

c. Electronic reporting is more difficult for me than paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

d. Electronic reporting programs are less reliable for me than paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

e. I believe data from electronic reporting programs are available to managers and scientists faster than paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

f. I believe data from electronic reporting programs contain less errors than those from paper reporting.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

g. I would use electronic reporting if it replaced all other reporting requirements and allowed filing a single catch report.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

h. I would use electronic reporting if the program addressed my needs and was designed to my standards.

() Agree () Neutral () Disagree

11. If you have experience with electronic reporting please share with us the key advantages.

12. If you have experience with electronic reporting please share with us the key disadvantages.

13. What would you require an electronic reporting system to include in order for you to use it?

14. What other impediments or concerns prevent you from favoring or using electronic reporting programs?

15. As we mentioned this information will be used to educate us as we explore electronic reporting options. If you would like information on the results of the electronic reporting workshop please provide an email or mailing address below.



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. For more information please visit www.accsp.org.



The Virginia Marine Resources Commission serves as stewards of the Commonwealth's marine and aquatic resources, and protectors of its tidal waters and homelands, for present and future generations. For more information please visit www.mrc.state.va.us.

RETURNING YOUR PAPER SURVEY

Please return your paper survey to your local fisheries management office or you can also return through the mail to Ann McElhatton, ACCSP Program Manager, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201. For more information please do not hesitate to call 703.842.0780 or email info@accsp.org.

This survey is also available electronically. Please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACCSP_ereporting if you would like to enter electronically.

MANDATORY REPORTING GUIDELINES

OLD MANDATORY REPORTING FORMS

Please dispose of old Mandatory Reporting forms received prior to 2010. Mandatory reports filled out using old forms are no longer accepted and will be returned. Valid forms have a revision date of 2010 or later. This revision date can be found on the upper left hand of the form. You may request additional forms and folders at any time by contacting the Mandatory Reporting Staff at 757-247-2241.

1-800-LINE INFORMATION

The VMRC Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) (1-800-937-9247) is available for harvesters to report no activity, report immediate harvest information for required species (such as black sea bass, horseshoe crabs, spiny dogfish, and American shad by-catch), request forms and folders, and leave messages for license information. When using the IVRS, please remember to provide your name and VMRC ID.

VMRC SERVICE DEMANDS HAVE INCREASED

More permits and transfers are being processed than ever before. For that reason, it is our recommendation that you call prior to planning any trip to the Fisheries Management Division offices in Newport News to ensure someone will be available to assist you with your item on that day. Fisheries staff members are working diligently to provide services as quickly as possible, however, staff resources and personnel are limited, and there will be some days that we may not be able to directly assist you with a specific problem until a later time or date. Please assist us in helping you. Thank you for your consideration.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REPORT BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT HARVESTED (NO ACTIVITY)!

HELPERS—YOUR MRC ID AND FULL NAME SHOULD BE LISTED ON PRIMARY HARVESTER'S MANDATORY REPORTING FORM!

ONLINE REPORTING IS AVAILABLE

Online harvest reporting is available to all licensed commercial harvesters with the appropriate computer equipment and internet access. To register for the program, send an email to Stephanie.Iverson@mrc.virginia.gov and provide Stephanie Iverson your full name, VMRC ID, and valid vessel document number, or call her at 757-247-2061 with all the information above and a current email address. Once your account has been requested and approved you will get an initial email with your username, and instructions on getting your password. You will also be asked to agree to terms and conditions of use, and be given basic computer safeguarding information. Once you are able to log on to the system for the first time, review the YouTube tutorial for instructions on navigating the data entry screens. There will be three tabs for specific reporting requirements. Review all lookup tables before beginning to enter data and use proper abbreviations. You may also report your 'no activity' and get a summary of all records you have submitted through the online reporting system. Also note your online account will have to be reset if you don't use it for 120 days. You may contact Stephanie Iverson through the feedback tab if you have any questions or problems while using the system.



Please remember the following when filling out monthly mandatory reports:

COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN REGISTRATION LICENSEES

Mandatory fields to be filled out by harvester:

- VMRC ID and full and legal name of the registered commercial fisherman
- VMRC ID and full and legal name of any agent, if used
- VMRC ID and full and legal name of no more than **five** helpers who were not serving as agents
- Buyer or private sale information (one per ticket)
- Vessel identification (Coast Guard documentation number or VA registration number; one per ticket)
- Vessel name (if applicable), not the make
- Public rock abbreviation (if applicable)
- Lease number for aquaculture (oyster and clams) harvested from private grounds (if applicable)
- City or county where harvest was landed
- Date of harvest (one day per ticket)
- Water body fished (one per ticket; use codes from mandatory reporting folders)
- Number of hours any gear was fished
- Gear type and amount of gear used (one per ticket)
- Number of hours the registered commercial fisherman fished (dock to dock; use whole numbers, and do NOT multiply by crew members)
- Number of crew on board, including captain
- Species harvested, market category
- Live weight or processed weight of species harvested
- Information on the price paid for the harvest may be provided voluntarily
- Circle unit of measure
- Put a check mark if the product was processed

BLUE CRABS

- Only one gear per ticket (e.g. harvest from crab pots and peeler pots should be written on separate tickets)
- Report peelers and soft crabs in numbers
- Report the peeler crabs harvested FOR a shedding tank, DO NOT report soft crabs FROM a shedding tank

FINFISH

- For anchored gill net (AGN), be sure to include number of nets and total amount in feet
- Specify the number of hooks you used for trot lines
- Be sure to include the number of tags used for harvesting striped bass
- Receipts must be included for striped bass sold as retail when the amount sold is more than 10 pounds
- Report the number of black drum kept

BLUE CRAB (USING AN AGENT)

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW					
			9998	JRL	48	POT	250	6	1					
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed					
9999	Joseph Fisherman		Thomas Fisherman											
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.											
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME	NO1	3	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			VA0000AA	BCS	2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓VESSEL NAME	BCP	2	BU	LBS	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>

FINFISH

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW					
				CBLE	24	AGN	3@3600ft	7	3					
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed					
9999	Joseph Fisherman													
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.											
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME	SPOT	200	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			VA0000AA	CRL	96	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓VESSEL NAME	TRM	24	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Miss Virginia	TRL	30	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	SPT	10	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>

FINFISH (WITH STRIPED BASS)

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW					
				OVB	24	AGN	2@2400ft	7	2					
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed					
9999	Joseph Fisherman													
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.											
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME	SPMAC	50	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			VA0000AA	CRM	10	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓VESSEL NAME	TRO	91	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Miss Virginia	PUFT	40	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	STB(4TAGS)	55	BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU	<input checked="" type="radio"/> LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU	LBS	NU	BBL	BOX	DOZ	GAL	TRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please remember the following when filling out monthly mandatory reports:

OYSTER HARVEST FROM PUBLIC GROUNDS

- Report aquaculture and shellfish harvested from public ground on SEPARATE pages
- Include the rock abbreviation obtained from the provided list of oyster rocks (e.g., BURP) ; do not include the water code number (e.g., 345)
- Report all oysters in bushels

AQUACULTURE PRODUCT OWNERS (PRIVATE)

Mandatory fields to be filled out by aquaculture product owners:

- Report aquaculture and shellfish harvested from public ground on SEPARATE pages
- VMRC ID and full and legal name of the aquaculture product owner
- VMRC ID and the full and legal name of no more five helpers (recommended not required)
- Number of crew (the number of individuals harvesting)
- Buyer or private sale information (one per summary report)
- Assigned VMRC lease number (one per summary report). If you harvest on the seaside or have riparian rights and do not have a lease number please use 00001 as your lease number (for aquaculture harvest only)
- City or county of landing (one per summary report; use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Use date of last day of the month (summary report only required)
- Water body fished (Recommended not required)
- Gear type (one per summary report; use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Species harvested, market category (use code from the Mandatory Reporting folder)
- Live weight
- Unit (bu - oysters; nu - clams)
- Information on the price paid for the harvest may be provided voluntarily

Note: A no-cost vessel permit is available for oyster or clam aquaculture product owner permittees to transport harvesters without their own individual harvesters permit to harvest oyster or clams from the product owner's leased, subleased, or fee simple ground.

OYSTER HARVEST (PUBLIC GROUNDS)

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	PIA	7	OSCR	1	8	2
9999	Joseph Fisherman		↓BUYER	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
			Joe Oyster Buyer	OYSPRNG	10	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman		Miss Virginia			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			BURP			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

AQUACULTURE PRODUCT OWNERS (OYSTERS FROM PRIVATE GROUNDS) - Summary Report

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	YRL		BC			3
9999	Joseph Fisherman		↓BUYER	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
			Joe Oyster Buyer	OYSPRIV	1500	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman					BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9875	Charles Fisherman		↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			98765			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 30, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

AQUACULTURE PRODUCT OWNERS (CLAMS FROM PRIVATE GROUNDS) - Summary Report

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓AGENT NAME	YRL		BUL			3
9999	Joseph Fisherman		↓BUYER	↓SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓AMOUNT	↓UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
			Joe Clam Buyer	CHEPRIV	20,000	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓VESSEL ID NO.	CHDPRIV	10,000	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓VMRC ID	↓NAME		↓VESSEL NAME	LITPRIV	50,000	BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman					BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9875	Charles Fisherman		↓PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			98764			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 30, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

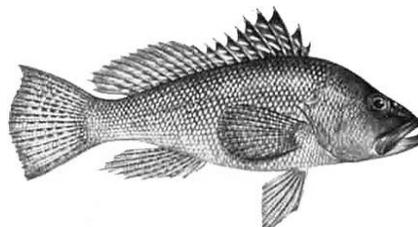
SEAFOOD LANDING LICENSEES

Mandatory fields to be filled out by Seafood Landing Licensees:

- Seafood landing license number and full and legal name of seafood landing licensee
- Buyer or private sale information (one per ticket)
- Vessel identification (Coast Guard documentation number or VA registration number)
- Name of vessel (if applicable) (one per ticket)
- City or county of landing (one per ticket; use list from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Date of harvest (one per ticket)
- Water body fished (one per ticket; use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Number of hours gear fished
- Gear type and amount used (one per ticket; use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Number of hours the seafood landing licensee fished
- Number of crew on board, including captain
- Species harvested, market category (NON-FEDERALLY PERMITTED SPECIES ONLY) (use codes from Mandatory Reporting folders)
- Live weight or processed weight of species harvested

Please ensure that all fields are correctly filled out prior to submitting your mandatory reports. For questions about how to fill out mandatory reports please call 757-247-8102.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REPORT BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT HARVESTED (NO ACTIVITY)!



SEAFOOD LANDING LICENSEES (OFFSHORE) - FINFISH

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ AGENT NAME	OSVBA	24	HL	4 hooks	12	2
G999	Joseph Fisherman			↓ SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓ AMOUNT	↓ UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓ VESSEL ID NO. VA0000AA	CRO	80	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ VESSEL NAME	BFL	50	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman		Miss Virginia						
			↓ PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	TILE	25	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ AGENT NAME	OSVBA	24	CPOT	50	7	2
G999	Joseph Fisherman			↓ SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓ AMOUNT	↓ UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓ VESSEL ID NO. VA0000AA	CONS	50	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ VESSEL NAME	CONL	95	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman		Miss Virginia			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

PRIMARY HARVESTER VMRC ID & NAME		<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF AGENT USED	↓AGENT VMRC ID	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ AGENT NAME	OSVBA	10	DGN	3@3600ft	7	2
G999	Joseph Fisherman			↓ SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY	↓ AMOUNT	↓ UNITS (CIRCLE ONE):			* Check if processed
ADDITIONAL HARVESTERS VMRC ID & NAME(S) LIST ONLY HELPERS WITH VMRC ID			↓ VESSEL ID NO. VA0000AA	CRO	250	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
↓ VMRC ID	↓ NAME		↓ VESSEL NAME	TRO	95	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
9876	Mary Fisherman		Miss Virginia	TRM	56	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ PUBLIC ROCK ABBR (OYSTERS ONLY)	DFSR	76	BU (BS) NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ LEASE NUMBER (AQUA. ONLY)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ CITY/COUNTY LANDED			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			Fisherman County			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			↓ DATE (ONE PER TICKET)			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>
			April 12, 2013			BU LBS NU BBL BOX DOZ GAL TRAY			<input type="checkbox"/>

NON-COMPLIANCE

The automated compliance notification process has been in place since 2010. Based on a harvester's reporting history, this notification process automatically generates postcards which will serve as reminders for submitting mandatory reports.

Details for the notification process are outlined below:

- If a mandatory report is not submitted by the 5th of the following month, then a 1st notification postcard will be generated and mailed to the harvester.
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 2 weeks (14 days) after the 1st notification, then a 2nd notification postcard will be generated and mailed out to the harvester.
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 2 weeks (14 days) after the 2nd notification postcard, then a 'certified' letter will be generated and mailed out to the harvester
- If a mandatory report is not submitted 5 days after the issue date on the certified letter, then the harvester who has not responded may receive a 'service letter' delivered by a Marine Police Officer (MPO) to appear before the Commission for a non-compliance hearing.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REPORT BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH EVEN IF YOU HAVE NOT HARVESTED (NO ACTIVITY)!



Sample of 1st notification postcard

TOM FISHERMAN

March 8, 2013

PO BOX 1234

AQUAVILLE, VA 22222

MRC ID: ####

Dear Tom Fisherman,

This letter serves as your FIRST notification by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) that your monthly mandatory harvest reports, required by Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., are currently incomplete. As of March 8, 2013, our records indicate that you have not submitted a report for June 2012. If you need to report 'no activity' for June 2012, please call 1-800-937-9247 and leave a message on our automated voice mail system. If you did harvest seafood and have not submitted your reports, please do so by March 22, 2013. If your monthly reporting records are in error, please contact Mandatory Reporting at 757-247-2241, as soon as possible, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Sample of 2nd notification postcard

TOM FISHERMAN

March 25, 2013

PO BOX 1234

AQUAVILLE, VA 22222

VMRC ID: ####

Dear Tom Fisherman,

This letter serves as your SECOND notification by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) that your monthly mandatory harvest reports, required by Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., are currently incomplete. As of March 25, 2013, VMRC records indicate that you have not submitted a report for June 2012. If you need to report 'no activity' for June 2012, please call 1-800-937-9247 and leave a message on our automated voice mail system. If you did harvest seafood and have not submitted your reports, please do so by April 8, 2013. If your monthly reporting records are in error, please contact Mandatory Reporting at 757-247-2241, as soon as possible, between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Sample certified letter

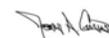
Dear Tom Fisherman,

A review of your reporting history indicates that you have not submitted mandatory reports, as required by Regulation 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting" for the following month:

Month not on file for 2012: June

The Commission hereby requires the submission of the aforementioned missing or any other delinquent mandatory reports within five days of the issuance of this certified letter. The mandatory reporting forms must be completed and mailed in the report folders you have been issued. Please mark the front of the report folder "ATTN: STEPHANIE IVERSON" to ensure your missing report(s) are processed immediately. Failure to report will result in you being called before the Commission and possible suspension of your commercial fishing license. If you require additional forms or folders, please call 1-800-937-9247 to request those items. If you believe our records regarding your harvest are incorrect or if you have any other questions concerning this matter, please call Stephanie Iverson at (757) 247-2061, between the hours of 8:15 am and 5:00 pm.

Respectfully,



Senior Manager, Fisheries Management

VMRC – Virginia Marine Resources Commission – Meetings are set for the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9:30am, (fisheries items begin at 12:00 noon), and are held at the Commission’s main office in Newport News.

ASMFC – Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission – Please visit <http://www.asmfc.org> or call (703) 842-0740 to find out meeting dates, locations, and times.

MAFMC – Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council – Please visit <http://mafmc.org> or call (302) 674-2331 for meeting dates, locations and times.

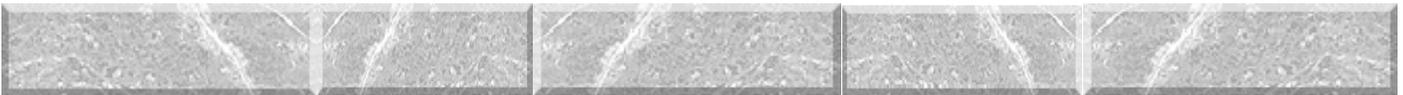
CMAC – Crab Management Advisory Committee – Meeting dates vary. Please refer to VMRC website calendar for meeting updates.

<http://mrc.virginia.gov/calendar.shtm>

FMAC – Finfish Management Advisory Committee – Meeting dates vary. Please refer to VMRC website calendar for meeting updates.

<http://mrc.virginia.gov/calendar.shtm>

CFAB – Commercial Fishery Advisory Board – Contact Alicia Nelson (757) 247-8155 for information.



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
NORFOLK, VA
PERMIT NO 2217

