



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Jack G. Travelstead
Commissioner

July 10, 2012

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2012 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB
TRAWL FISHERY, AS OF 6:00 P.M. JULY 11, 2012**

Effective 6:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Wednesday, July 11, 2012, the Virginia horseshoe crab trawl fishery will close. Based upon landing reports from Virginia seafood buyers and horseshoe crab harvesters, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 100% of the horseshoe crab quota allocated for harvest by trawl, by the above date and time.

Therefore, after 6:00 P.M., EST, July 11, 2012, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia caught by trawl shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et. seq.).

The dredge, hand, and pound net fisheries will remain open for horseshoe crabs west of the COLREGS line, until further notice.

If you have questions or comments contact Alicia Nelson (757) 247-2244.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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