



# 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  
Acting Commissioner

April 20, 2012

**TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY**

**FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2012 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY BY ANY GEAR OTHER THAN TRAWL, DREDGE, POUND NET, OR HAND HARVEST, AS OF 12:00 P.M. APRIL 22, 2012**

Effective 12:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Sunday, April 22, 2012, the Virginia horseshoe crab fishery for any gear other than trawl, dredge, pound net, or hand harvest 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 to harvest by gears other than trawl, dredge, pound net, or hand harvest, by the above date and time.

**Therefore, after 12:00 P.M., EST, April 22, 2012, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia caught by any gear other than dredge, trawl, pound net, or hand harvest shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et. seq.).**

The dredge, pound net, and hand harvest fisheries will remain open west of the COLREGS line, and the trawl fishery (east of the COLREGS line) will open on June 8.

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

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

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