



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

May 15, 2013

TO: VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: CLOSURE OF THE 2013 VIRGINIA HORSESHOE CRAB FISHERY
BY ANY GEAR OTHER THAN TRAWL, DREDGE, POUND NET, OR
HAND HARVEST, AS OF 6:00 P.M. MAY 16, 2013**

Effective 6:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Thursday, May 16, 2013, the Virginia horseshoe crab commercial 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 6:00 P.M., EDT, May 16, 2013, the possession or landing of any horseshoe crabs in Virginia caught by gears other than trawl, dredge, pound net, or hand harvest shall be prohibited (Chapter 4 VAC 20-900-10 et. seq.).

The dredge and pound net fisheries will remain open until further notice, and the hand harvest fishery and the trawl fishery will open on June 8, 2013.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD