



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

March 22, 2010

TO: BLACK SEA BASS INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: VESSEL POSSESSION AND LANDING REDUCTION FOR BLACK SEA BASS BYCATCH FISHERY

Effective 12:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time (EST), Tuesday, March 23, 2010, it shall be unlawful for any harvester permitted for the black sea bass bycatch fishery to possess aboard a vessel, or to land in Virginia, more than 100 pounds of black sea bass. Based upon landing reports from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Virginia seafood buyers, and VMRC Law Enforcement, it is projected that Virginia will have caught 75% of the 2010 commercial black sea bass bycatch fishery quota, by the above date and time.

Any black sea bass buyer shall provide Operations Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646) the name of any vessel landing black sea bass, the name of that vessel's captain, and the anticipated or approximate offloading time of that vessel. Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the weight of the landed black sea bass has been determined, the buyer shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding weight of black sea bass landed.

Vessels seeking safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of entry into Virginia waters. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

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

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