

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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

John M.R. Bull Commissioner

February 12, 2015

TO: COMMERCIAL SPECKLED TROUT BUYERS AND HARVESTERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

Molly Joseph Ward

Secretary of Natural Resources

RE: 2014/2015 COMMERCIAL SPECKLED TROUT QUOTA & REPORTING REMINDER

This is a reminder that 80 percent of the 51,104 pound commercial landings quota for speckled trout has been taken for the season that began on September 1, 2014 and will extend through August 31, 2015. Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday, November 17, 2014, it shall be unlawful, for any commercial fisherman registration licensee, to take, harvest, land or possess a daily bycatch limit of more than 100 pounds of speckled trout. That daily bycatch landing limit of speckled trout shall consist of at least an equal amount of other fish species.

When it is projected that the commercial landings quota will be met, the Marine Resources Commission will provide notice of the closing date for commercial harvest and landing of speckled trout; and it shall be unlawful for any person to harvest or land speckled trout for commercial purposes, after such closing date and until September 1, 2015.

Effective April 1, 2014 the VMRC has established Buyer Reporting Requirements as follows:

On each Monday, from August 1 through November 30, of the open commercial season for speckled trout, any licensed seafood buyer who purchased speckled trout during the previous 7 days shall contact the Commission's Interactive Voice Recording System (1-800-937-9247) and report any purchases of speckled trout, in pounds, during the previous 7 days.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237 or Ande Ehlen at (757) 247-2243.