"PERTAINING TO THE TAKING OF BLUEFISH"

CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-450-10 ET SEQ.

PREAMBLE

This chapter is promulgated pursuant to authority contained in §28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia. This chapter amends and re-adopts, as amended, previous Chapter 4 VAC 20-450-10 et seq., which was adopted July 22, 2014 and effective August 1, 2014. The effective date of this chapter is February 26, 2015.

4 VAC 20-450-10. PURPOSE.

The purposes of this chapter are to manage the recreational harvest of bluefish and to establish a commercial quota system for Virginia bluefish landings, in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, to prevent overfishing.

4 VAC 20-450-20. BLUEFISH POSSESSION LIMIT.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing with recreational hook and line, rod and reel, spear, gig, or other recreational gear to harvest and possess more than 10 bluefish. Any bluefish taken after the possession limit of 10 fish has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately.

B. When fishing from a boat or vessel where the entire catch is held in a common hold or container, the possession limit shall be for the boat or vessel and shall be equal to the number of persons on board legally licensed to fish multiplied by 10. The captain or operator of the boat or vessel shall be responsible for any boat or vessel possession limit.

4 VAC 20-450-30. COMMERCIAL LANDINGS QUOTA.

A. The annual commercial landings of bluefish shall be limited to 608,230 pounds.

B. When it is projected that 95% of the commercial landings quota has been realized, a notice will be posted to close commercial harvest and landings from the bluefish fishery within five days of posting.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest or land bluefish for commercial purposes after the closure date set forth in the notice described in subsection B of this section.

4 VAC 20-450-40. PENALTY:

As set forth in §28.2-903 of the Code of Virginia, any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent violation of any provision of this chapter committed by the same person within 12 months of a prior violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

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This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by § 28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at its meeting held in Newport News, Virginia on February 24, 2015.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

BY: _____
John M. R. Bull
Commissioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 27 day of February, 2015

JANE E. WARREN
NOTARY PUBLIC
Commonwealth of Virginia
Reg. #7191792
My Commission Expires 3/31/16

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Notary Public