



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

August 26, 2020

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: 2020 SPECIFICATIONS AND OPENING NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S
OFFSHORE FALL SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY**

Effective 12:01 A.M., Tuesday, September 8, 2020, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fall Fishery will open for vessels with a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License. Legally licensed vessels in the Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery shall be held to the following provisions:

- **Open Period 1:** It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting summer flounder outside of Virginia waters to land in Virginia more than a total of 12,000 pounds of summer flounder from September 8 through October 31, 2020.
- **Open Period 2:** It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting summer flounder outside of Virginia waters to land in Virginia more than a total of 12,000 pounds of summer flounder from November 1 through December 31, 2020.
- It shall be unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder harvested from the EEZ.

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

- It shall be unlawful for any licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission prior to a vessel offloading Summer Flounder harvested outside of Virginia. The buyer shall provide to the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time. This online system may be accessed at: <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/index.php>
- Once offloading of any vessel is complete, and the total weight of the landed Summer Flounder has been determined, the buyer shall use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission of the vessel name and corresponding total weight of Summer Flounder landed.
- It shall be unlawful, for any person, to offload, from a boat or vessel, for commercial purposes, any Summer Flounder from of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting summer flounder outside of Virginia waters to possess aboard any vessel, in Virginia, any amount of summer flounder, once it has been projected and announced that 100% of the quota has been taken.

Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board or entering Virginia waters for safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. Authorization for safe harbor must be approved by the Commissioner. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

A full copy of CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-620-10 ET SEQ. "Pertaining to Summer Flounder," is available at <https://mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/fr620.shtm> .

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jill Ramsey at (757) 247-2243.