

# 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

## VIRGINIA BEACH COMMERCIAL SHRIMP TRAWL LICENSE

August 1, 2021

To All Those Interested in the Virginia Beach Commercial Shrimp Trawl License,

On July 27, 2021, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission approved Chapter 4 VAC 20-1390-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Shrimping". This new regulation establishes a commercial shrimp trawl license, lottery, associated gear, season, and area requirements, along with commercial and recreational shrimp possession limits. This regulation is the result of a four-year experimental program to assess the development of a shrimp fishery in Virginia. Many of the requirements of the experiment fishery have been adopted into the regulation.

To be considered for a 2021 Commercial Shrimp Trawl License, all individuals must complete the attached Commercial Shrimp Trawl License Application Form and submitted it to VMRC. The agency has already received a large number of commercial fishers expressing interest in this fishery. However, the regulation allows no more than 12 licenses to be issued for the Virginia Beach Shrimp Trawl Harvest Area each year.

Applications are also available online at: <https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/whatsnew.shtm>

**Applications must be received by the Commission no later than 5pm, Tuesday August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.** Send applications to:

**Email** - Preferred method

[fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov)

Subject Header: VB SHRIMP LICENSE

**Mail**

VB Shrimp License

VMRC Fisheries Management Division

Building 96, 380 Fenwick Rd

Fort Monroe, VA, 23651

Applications may also be placed in the agency drop box located at the main office address shown above.

*An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat*

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)

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

## Information concerning the Virginia Beach Commercial Shrimp Trawl License

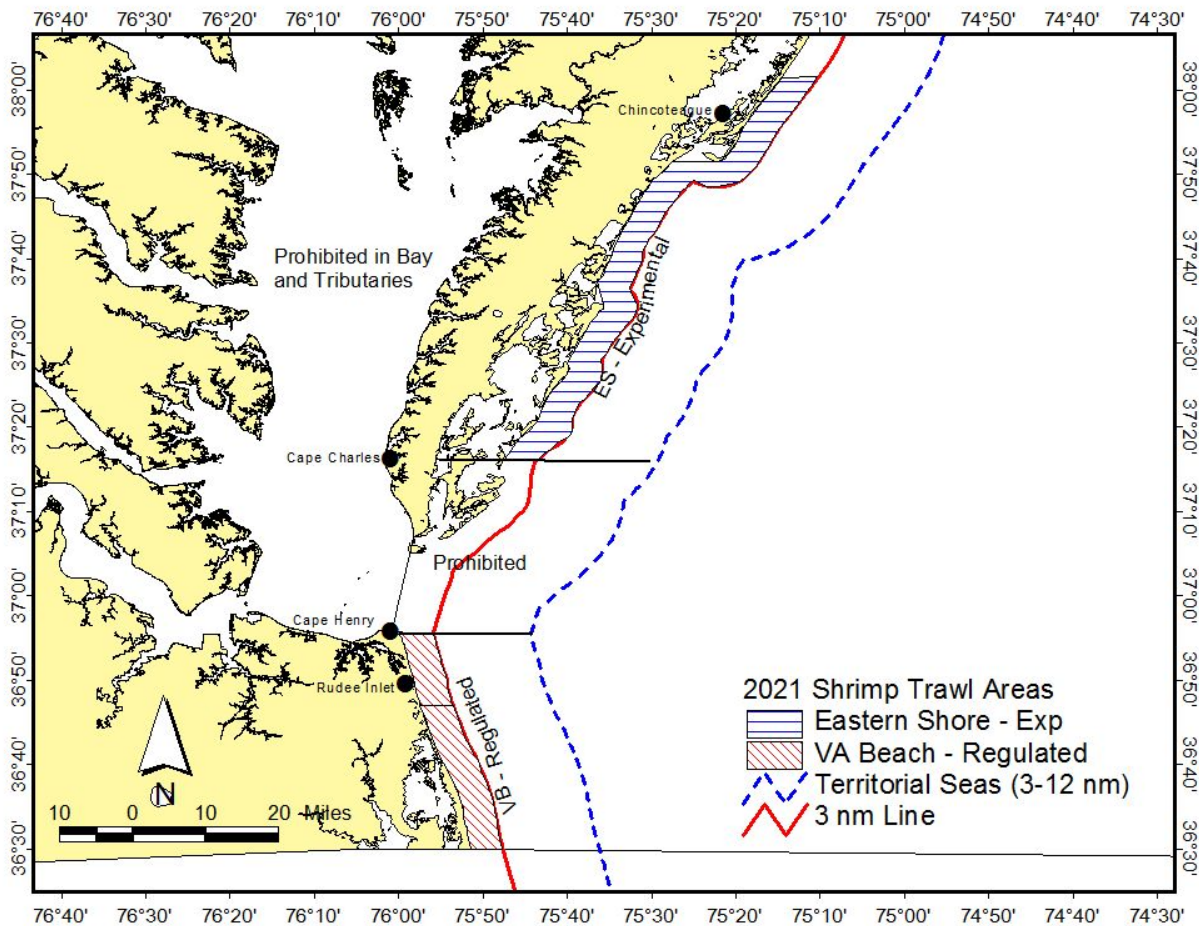
- 1) All those that held a Virginia issued Special Experimental Permit for shrimp trawl gear between 2017 and 2020 and reported at least 500 lbs. of shrimp on that permit during any one of those years will qualify for a license if they apply.
- 2) All other applicants will enter the lottery.
- 3) **Lottery Process:** Those individuals entering the lottery must possess a valid Commercial Fisherman Registration License (CFRL), submit a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License, and reported at least 1,000 pounds of harvest (all species) per year in at least three of the previous five calendar years to the MRC's Mandatory Reporting Program.
- 4) The lottery is weighted, meaning applicants meeting the most criteria have a better chance of being selected. The table below shows the lottery criteria:

Criteria #	2021 Shrimp Trawl License Lottery Criteria	Possible Points
1	Current Virginia Resident	15
2	Commercial fishing violations in past 3 years (2017-2019) Severe-0, Moderate-5, Occasional-10, Minimal-15, None-20	20
3	Compliance Issues with Mandatory Reporting (2017-2019) Frequent-0, Sometimes-6, Never-10	10
4	Application Complete (Y=5 N=0)	5
	Max Points	50

- 5) Selected applicants will be notified and have 14 days to complete and return a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License Acceptance Form provided by the commission. Those that fail to return the completed form by the deadline forfeit the license and another eligible individual will be chosen through the same process.
- 6) Selected applicants will be pre-qualified to purchase a shrimp trawl license from the Commission. (Fee \$100).
- 7) **Transfers:** Transfers of any Commercial Shrimp Trawl License is prohibited.
- 8) **Agents:** Agents are prohibited without advance written request to the MRC and approval by the commissioner. Exceptions shall only be granted due to death, medical hardships, or military service.
- 9) **Season:** October 1 to January 31.
- 10) **Fishing Area:** Cape Henry to the NC border out to the 3 nm line (Blue Crab Sanctuary Area 4).
- 11) **Time of Day Restriction:** 30 minutes prior to sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset
- 12) **Gear:**
  - a. Vessel should be of appropriate size to fish the required gear (minimum 35 ft.)
  - b. A fixed frame net must have an opening no larger than 16 ft.in width and 4 ft. in height (i.e., beam or frame trawl).
  - c. Net mesh must be from 1.5 inches to 2.0 inches stretched mesh.
  - d. Net must be equipped with at least one properly installed National Marine Fisheries Service or North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries approved by-catch reduction device (BRD)
  - e. Tow duration cannot exceed 30 minutes.

- f. Commission staff shall approve all shrimp trawl gear prior to final issuance of a Commercial Shrimp Trawl License.
- 13) Harvest of any Virginia quota-managed species is prohibited (Black Drum, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Atlantic Horseshoe Crab, Atlantic Menhaden, Scup, Speckled Sea Trout, Spiny and Smooth Dogfishes, Striped Bass, and Summer Flounder)
- 14) Licensees shall allow VMRC observer staff onboard fishing trips to collect data on shrimp and bycatch.
- 15) Licensees are required to contact the MRC staff after each trip to report estimates of shrimp harvest, total bycatch, and any interactions with protected resources. Contact information will be provided.
- 16) Harvest of all species must be reported to the MRC's Mandatory Harvest Reporting Program by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

The 2021 Virginia Beach Shrimp Trawl Harvest Area will be managed under Chapter 4 VAC 20-1390-10 "Pertaining to Shrimp" et seq. The Eastern Shore Area will remain experimental in 2021 and will be administered through Special Experimental Permits.





**VMRC COMMERCIAL SHRIMP TRAWL LICENSE**  
**VIRGINIA BEACH AREA APPLICATION FORM**

YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

MRC ID: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first) (middle initial) (last)

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS (if different) : \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(area code)

DO YOU HAVE AN ACTIVE CFRL? Yes or No (Check One)

VESSEL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

VESSEL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ VESSEL LENGTH: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a permit holder of a Virginia-issued Special Experimental Permit for shrimp trawl gear for any year between 2017 and 2020? Yes or No (Check one)

If you were a permit holder, did you report a minimum shrimp harvest of 500 pounds to the Marine Resource Commission’s Mandatory Harvest Reporting Program in any given year from 2017 through 2020? Yes No N/A (Check one)

I have read and understand the attached information pertaining to this license and lottery process.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Email Application to: fisheries@mrc.virginia.gov and use subject line “VB SHRIMP APPLICATION” **OR**  
Mail applications to: “VB SHRIMP APPLICATION”, VMRC, 380 Fenwick Rd, Building 96, Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA, 23651 **OR** Place in the Commission’s Drop Box at the address above

VBShrimpTrawl\_Application2021Final.docx

<b>For Staff Use Only</b>
<b>Date Received:</b>