



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

380 Fenwick Road

Building 96

Fort Monroe, VA 23651

Stefanie K. Taillon
Secretary of Natural and
Historic Resources

Jamie L. Green
Commissioner

January 14, 2026

TO: COMMERCIAL CROAKER HARVESTERS AND BUYERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2026 COMMERCIAL SEASON OPENING FOR CROAKER

Effective 12:01 A.M., Thursday, January 15, 2026, the 2026 Virginia commercial croaker fishery will open. The season will remain open until December 31, 2026.

Chapter 4 VAC 20-1370-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Atlantic Croaker", states the following:

4 VAC 20-1370-50. COMMERCIAL FISHERY.

It shall be unlawful for any person fishing commercially with any gear type to harvest or land any Atlantic croaker before January 15 of the current calendar year.

For the full regulations, please visit <https://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Catherine Wilhelm at 757-247-2004 or catherine.wilhelm@mrc.virginia.gov.

An Agency of the Natural and Historic Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646