



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

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April 10, 2026

TO: RECREATIONAL SUMMER FLOUNDER ANGLERS

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: SEASON, POSSESSION LIMITS, AND SIZE MINIMUM WHEN FISHING IN FEDERAL WATERS

Public Notice: Federal Waters Regulations for Summer Flounder (Fluke)

This notice is intended to clarify the regulations regarding the harvest of summer flounder from federal waters during the upcoming 2026 season. NOAA's process to approve the use of conservation equivalency for summer flounder has not been approved/completed. Therefore, if you are fishing for summer flounder in federal waters the following rules apply to all recreational anglers, charter boats, and headboat operators

-Minimum Size

The minimum size for summer flounder harvested in Federal waters is 18.5 inches total length for:

- Recreational vessels
- Party boats with passengers or more than five crew
- Charter boats with more than three crew

-Seasonal Restriction

Recreational fishing for summer flounder in the EEZ is closed from October 1 through May 7. Only vessels with a federal commercial moratorium permit or a federal dealer permit may fish for or possess summer flounder during the closed season. Recreational anglers aboard commercial vessels without a federal permit must follow the recreational closure.

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

-Possession Limit

The recreational possession limit in federal waters is 3 summer flounder per person per trip. This limit applies to all recreational anglers, including charter/party boat operators and crew when carrying passengers for hire.

If you have questions or comments, contact Alexa Galvan, at (757) 247-2069.

If you are interested to hear the information as it was communicated at the MAFMC, [please follow this link](#). The discussion starts around the 3:17 mark.