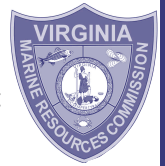


VMRC FISHERIES NEWS

VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION PLANS & STATISTICS 1-800-937-9247

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2004

This newsletter provides only a summary of management measures adopted by the Commission and has no legal force or effect. Please refer to the regulation cited for legal documentation. To obtain a complete copy of the regulations call 757-247-2248 or access the VMRC homepage: (<http://www.mrc.virginia.gov>)



ACCSP
Good Data. Good Decisions.

Atlantic Coastal
Cooperative Statistics Program

MISSION AND VISION

The ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. The ACCSP will be the source of fisheries statistics on the Atlantic Coast. The ACCSP will be efficient, informative, user-friendly, and reliable. The Program will contribute to the restoration and sustainability of marine fisheries.

PROGRAM

The ACCSP standards are organized into six data modules, which the Program's partners are responsible for implementing. As indicated in the ACCSP Strategic Plan 2002-2006, Catch and Effort Data and Permit and Vessel Registration Data are the highest priority modules; followed by biological, bycatch, quota monitoring, socio-economic, and metadata (fishing trends, statutory and regulatory histories, fishing technology histories, environmental data, and socio-economic data (indices).

DATA REQUIREMENTS

Data received from all ACCSP partners must be harmonized so that one integrated set of codes are used for variables such as species, gear, fishing area, etc; and it allows users to use a very flexible, intuitive tool to build data queries and retrieve and download data.

TRACKING SYSTEM

The principals that ACCSP expects to use in building a unified vessel, dealer and commercial fisherman registration tracking system are being tested by the NMFS HQ in building a new, unified NMFS permitting system. Currently in its first months of production, the ACCSP expects to be able to adapt much of the system. Once developed and deployed, this will

enable the ACCSP to provide vessel owners, dealer, and commercial fisherman access to their own data, regardless of to whom it was reported.

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

Any data that individually identifies a contributor to the data set is confidential. ACCSP protects confidentiality in two ways. First, only a very limited number of persons who have demonstrated a need for individual records, and have signed non-disclosure agreements with the data providers, are given access to confidential data. All other system users may access only non-confidential data sets that have been created to provide the best possible information while protecting the identity of dealers, fishermen and vessels.

FUNDING

The ACCSP is supplying \$103,108 to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to continue the second phase of redevelopment of its commercial harvest and fishing licensing, permitting, and vessel data system. The ACCSP supplied \$160,559 to begin the redevelopment in 2003. When complete, the redeveloped system should increase operational efficiency, and produce more timely data. (For more information check out the ACCSP website: www.accsp.org)

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REGULATION AMENDMENTS

BLACK SEA BASS RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASONS

On March 23, 2004, the Commission amended the Black Sea Bass regulation. The effective date of this regulation, as amended, is April 1, 2004.



The amendments are as follows:

C. The open recreational fishing season shall be from January 1 through September 7 and from September 22 through November 30 of each year.

D. It shall be unlawful to possess black sea bass in Virginia for recreational purposes from September 8 through September 21 and from December 1 through December 31 of each year.

SCUP SUMMER HARVEST QUOTA

On March 23, 2004, the Commission amended the Scup regulation. The effective date of this regulation, as amended, is April 1, 2004.



The amendments are as follows:

During the period May 1 through October 31 of each year, the commercial harvest and landing of scup in Virginia shall be limited to 7,911 pounds.

HALL SEINE/SAV INTERACTIONS

On March 23, 2004, the Commission approved a budget of \$20,553 to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science for continued monitoring of this issue. The money will come from the Recreational Fishing Development Fund and the Commercial License Fund.

SUMMER FLOUNDER RECREATIONAL FISHING POSSESSION AND SIZE LIMITS

On March 23, 2004, the Commission approved amendments to the Summer Flounder regulation. The effective date of this regulation, as amended, is March 26, 2004.

The minimum size of Summer Flounder harvested by recreational fishing gear, including but not limited to hook and line, rod and reel, spear and gig, shall be 17 inches, total length, except that the minimum size of Summer Flounder harvested in the Potomac River tributaries shall be 16 inches total length. Length shall be measured in a straight line from tip of nose to tip of tail.

It shall be unlawful for any person fishing, in any tidal waters of Virginia except the Potomac River tributaries, with recreational hook and line, rod and reel, spear, gig or other recreational gear to possess more than 6 Summer Flounder. When fishing is 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 eligible to fish multiplied by 6. The captain or operator of the boat or vessel shall be responsible for any boat or vessel possession limit. Any Summer Flounder taken after the possession limit has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person fishing, in the Potomac River tributaries, with recreational hook and line, rod and reel, spear, gig or other recreational gear to possess more than 3 Summer Flounder. When fishing is 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 eligible to fish multiplied by 3. The captain or operator of the boat or vessel shall be responsible for any boat or vessel possession limit. Any Summer Flounder taken after the possession limit has been reached shall be returned to the water immediately.



REGULATION AMENDMENTS

BLUE CRAB LICENSE MORATORIUM

On April 27, 2004, the Commission approved the extension of the blue crab license moratorium until May 26, 2007.



SUNDAY PROHIBITION AND LIMITED EXCEPTIONS IN THE BLUE CRAB FISHERY

On April 27, 2004, the Commission approved the measure that would allow any person licensed to harvest peeler crabs by peeler pot to harvest one bushel of male crabs from his peeler pots, on Sunday, strictly for the purpose of baiting his peeler pots, and such crabs may not be sold. The effective date of this regulation as amended is August 6, 2004.

BLUE CRAB DAILY TIME LIMIT EXCEPTIONS FOR MEDICAL HARDSHIPS

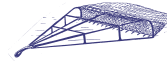
On July 27, 2004, the Commission approved amendments to the crabbing regulation. The amended regulation allows an alternate eight hour daily time limit to be prescribed by the Commissioner or his designee, in accordance with the medical condition that forms a basis for the exception to the daily time limit, as described in subsection A of the regulation. The licensed crab pot or peeler pot fisherman must provide an opinion and supporting documentation, from an attending physician, to the Commissioner, of an existing medical condition that prevents him from adhering to the daily time limit established in subsection A of the regulation. The effective date of this regulation as amended is August 6, 2004.

BLACK DRUM HARVEST REPORT REQUIREMENTS



On July 27, 2004, the Commission approved amendments to the black drum regulation to eliminate the requirement to report commercial harvests of black drum on a weekly basis and to allow for the harvest of one black drum per day (not to be counted against the quota) by any registered commercial fisherman. The effective date of this regulation as amended is August 6, 2004.

CRAB DREDGE PERMIT PROVISIONS ELIMINATED



On April 27, 2004, the Commission approved amendments to the crab dredge regulation. Those persons who are currently eligible for a crab dredge license and those added by the lottery would continue to be eligible for the license in future years unless they failed to register as a commercial fisherman or if they transfer their dredge license to another person. Proof of use will no longer be required to remain eligible for a crab dredge license. The special crab dredge permit is eliminated, but the sale of the licenses will continue to be limited. The effective date of this regulation as amended is May 1, 2004.

CRAB DREDGE LICENSE LOTTERY

According to the crab dredge license sales regulation, In any year when it is determined that the number of persons eligible to purchase a crab dredge license is less than 225, the Commission, by random drawing of qualified applicants, shall add persons to the list of those eligible to purchase a crab dredge license.

The number of crab dredge licenses is currently less than 225, therefore a random drawing will be held to fill the vacant slots on October 7, 2004. All registered Commercial Harvesters are eligible to apply. Applications must be received no later than September 27, 2004. Please refer to the Commercial Crab Dredge Lottery Application insert.

SPINY DOGFISH: 2004 TRIP LIMIT ADJUSTMENTS



On May 25, 2004, The Commission approved amendments to the spiny dogfish regulations. The amended regulation reduces the possession limit from 4,000 pounds to 600 pounds from May 1 through October 30 and allows 300 pounds for period II, November 1 through April 30. The amended regulation also eliminates the 500,000 pound state quota. Dealers are no longer required to report spiny dogfish landings to VMRC daily. The effective date of this regulation as amended is June 1, 2004.

HARVEST REPORTING GUIDELINES

ALL REPORTS DUE BY THE 5TH OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH (ACTIVE OR NOT ACTIVE)

YOU MUST HAVE A COMMERCIAL LICENSE FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOU CAN REPORT NO ACTIVITY

↓COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION # 987654-9999 123456-9876 Joe Fisherman Joe Helper	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW	CONT.
	OVV	24	AGN	1200FT	6	2	
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PRCD	PRICE	
	PUFT			125 LBS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SHK			150 LBS				
SPMAC			50 LBS				
VESSEL NAME		VESSEL NUMBER					
GO FISH		000456789					
BUYER		COUNTY LANDED					
BIG BUYER		VIRGINIA BEACH					
→ SPECIAL PERMIT INFO.							
DATE AUGUST 2, 2004							

↓COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION # VESSEL NAME VESSEL NUMBER BUYER COUNTY LANDED → SPECIAL PERMIT INFO. DATE AUGUST3, 2004	WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW	CONT.
	CBLW	24	POT	150	8	2	
	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY			LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PRCD	PRICE	
	BCJ			10 BU			
BCS			25 BU				
BCP			105 NU				

GUIDELINE DESCRIPTIONS	
1	COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION LICENSE NUMBER (Including Helpers)
2	NAME OF FISHERMAN
3	NAME OF VESSEL (If Applicable)
4	VESSEL NUMBER (Coast Guard Doc#, VA State Registration, or Hull Number)
5	NAME OF BUYER (If harvest sold to several buyers write "RETAIL", if harvest kept or sold to the public write "PERSONAL USE".)
6	CITY OR COUNTY (Where harvest offloaded from vessel)
7	SPECIAL PERMIT INFORMATION (e.g. Black Drum, Striped Bass, etc...)
8	DATE (Date Harvest Taken From Water, one day per ticket. <u>DO NOT COMBINE DAYS</u>)
9	WATER BODY (Main water body gear worked)
10	GEAR HOURS (Amount of Time Gear Is In The Water)
11	GEAR (Specify type of Gear Used, one gear per day per ticket. <u>DO NOT COMBINE GEAR</u> , on the same ticket)
12	GEAR AMOUNT (e.g. Number and Total Length of Nets, Number of Pots, Number and Total Length of Dredge)
13	MAN HOURS (Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, work, and get back to the dock— in one day)
14	No. OF CREW (Total number of people on the vessel, Including Yourself)
15	SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY (Please be specific, for ex; SPMAC or KMAC not just MACKERAL)
16	LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT (Include unit of measure e.g. lbs, bu, nu, bbl, etc...)
17	IF PRCD (If the weight given is for processed weight, please check the box)
18	PRICE (Optional)

FREQUENT REPORTING PROBLEMS



↓ COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION #		WATER FISHED	HRS GEAR FISHED	GEAR	GEAR AMOUNT	MAN HOURS	NO. OF CREW	CONT.	
987654-9999 Joe Fisherman		CBLW	24	GILL NET POT	1200FT 300	24	0		
VESSEL NAME		VESSEL NUMBER		SPECIES & MARKET CATEGORY		LIVE WEIGHT OR AMOUNT	✓ IF PRCD	PRICE	
BUYER		COUNTY LANDED		DATE					
		AUGUST 2-AUGUST 28, 2004							
		8/2-8/7/04	PUFT			125 LBS			
		8/9-8/14/04	BLC			220 (LBS, BU, OR NU?)			
		8/16-8/21/04	MACKERAL			50 LBS			
		8/23-8/28/04	SHK			1 NU			

AGN, DGN, OR SGN? BE SPECIFIC (points to GEAR)

DON'T COMBINE GEARS ON SAME TICKET (points to GEAR AMOUNT)

CANT WORK 24 HOURS A DAY (points to MAN HOURS)

CANT BE LESS THAN 1 (points to NO. OF CREW)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION DON'T LEAVE BLANK (points to VESSEL NAME, BUYER, DATE)

DON'T COMBINE DAYS ON SAME TICKET (points to dates)

SPANISH OR KING? BE SPECIFIC (points to MACKERAL)

NO CONVERSION, MUST REPORT SHARKS IN LBS (points to SHK)

MUST INCLUDE UNIT OF MEASURE (points to LBS, NU)

✓ BOX FOR PROCESSED WEIGHT (points to IF PRCD)



FREQUENT REPORTING PROBLEM DESCRIPTIONS



1	COMBINING DAYS (Report only one day per ticket)
2	COMBINING GEARS (Report only one gear per ticket)
3	MISSING OR INCORRECT VESSEL NUMBER (Very important information, don't leave blank)
4	MISSING BUYER (Very important, don't leave blank. If selling to several buyers write "RETAIL", if selling to the public or keeping for personal use write "PERSONAL USE")
5	INCORRECT GEAR AMOUNT (Report actual gear amount used, not necessarily the exact amount licensed for. ie. If you are licensed for 300 pots, but only fished 100 that day, then only report 100)
6	24 MAN HOURS (Amount of time it takes to leave the dock, work, and get back to the dock- in one day)
7	CREW NUMBER = 0 (Must equal at least 1 because the crew number includes the captain as well as everyone else on the vessel)
8	GENERALIZED SPECIES (Must be specific. ie: Mackerel (spanish or king), Shad (Gizzard or Hickory))
9	MISSING UNIT OF MEASURE (Must specify lbs, bu, nu, bbl, etc...)
10	IF PRCD (Must check box if the harvest weight is for a fish that has been processed first, then weighed, ie. puffer tails, shark fin, roe, etc...)
11	REPORTING SHARK IN NUMBERS (Sharks must be reported in pounds, not numbers. There is no accurate conversion from numbers to pounds for sharks)
12	REPORTING SHEDDED CRABS (Only report peeler and soft crabs caught in pots, do not report crabs that are shedded in tanks)



National Whale Conservation Fund
Large Whale Gear Competition
 Request for Proposals
 2004-2006



Project Summary

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), the Northeast Consortium, and the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals for *The Large Whale Gear Competition*, a new project under NFWF's National Whale Conservation Fund. The National Whale Conservation Fund was established to support research, management, conservation and education/outreach activities related to the conservation and recovery of whales.

The purpose of *The Large Whale Gear Competition* is to support the development of innovative fishing gear or gear modifications that decrease the incidence of entanglement of large whales, especially the endangered North Atlantic right whale, through a team competition. Awarded applicants will receive up to US\$10,000 grants to build gear prototypes, as well as travel stipends, to test their gear at sea with commercial New England fishermen. An additional grant of up to US\$50,000 will be awarded to the team that has designed and tested a prototype that shows the most promise in becoming a new, commercially-viable whale-friendly fishing gear or gear modification.

Eligibility

Interested applicants **must form a team and secure an advisor** from a college/university or from a related fishing industry, private company, fishing association, or other entity qualified to advise on potential solutions to gear-whale interactions.

- Competing teams must have at least three members (including the advisor), of which one must be designated as the team spokesperson.
- Advisors can provide teams with guidance and technical expertise, but cannot be actively involved in construction and operation to produce the prototype.
- Applicants can design and build the devices as an entire class project or school group activity, if submitted from an educational establishment; however, it is not required.
- Multiple teams from the same institution are permitted.
- Application and presentation materials must be submitted in English.

Submitting a Competition Entry

Letter of Intent (LOI): A non-binding letter of intent, citing a desire to participate, is required from all potential applicant teams and is due to the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** via mail or email (see Contact Information below) by 5 p.m., EST, **December 1, 2004**. LOIs must include:

- Project title
- Brief project abstract (less than 200 words)
- Applicant organization and complete contact information
- Name and complete contact information of the team spokesperson
- List of potential team members and their organizational/company affiliations

Team spokespersons will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of their LOI via email and an invitation to submit a proposal.

Full Proposal: Applications will be accepted by invitation only and are due online to the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** by 5 p.m., EST, **March 15, 2005**. NOTE additional required application attachment (not to exceed 2MB):

- a schematic drawing of the proposed device

Please do not exceed space and attachment size limitations, especially the 2MB limit on individual

attachments, as the proposal may not upload correctly and/or your proposal may not be reviewed. Matching funds are not required for this grant program. If a team does not have access to the Internet, the proposal form may be requested and submitted to NFWF by fax or mail. Review the downloadable Standard Provisions for contract terms and conditions.

Restrictions

Grants funds cannot be used for political advocacy, lobbying, or litigation, mitigation projects, general administrative overhead or indirect expenses, fundraising, and equipment purchases not related to the direct completion of the project.

Competition Structure

A review panel comprised of GOMLF and other industry representatives, NOAA Fisheries gear specialists, and independent gear researchers and large whale scientists, will review the proposals and invite up to 15 teams to participate in a poster display and design presentation competition in **Spring 2005**. (The poster format will be provided to invited teams.) The NFWF Whale Council will award up to five finalist teams grants of up to US\$10,000 each to build gear prototypes and conduct at-sea trials. Finalist teams will reconvene for the at-sea challenge competition during late **Fall 2005**.

Each of the finalist teams will be judged according to the following categories:

- Proposal
- Poster Display
- Design and Construction Presentation
- At-Sea Testing Trials (detailed evaluation criteria will be included in the full proposal invitation package – criteria will include ‘user friendliness’ of gear modification(s), flexibility, cost, safety, etc.)

A final winner will be selected to receive a grant of up to US\$50,000 to complete development of the new gear device and will be invited to conduct a final at-sea test with fishermen upon its completion in **Spring 2006**.

General Gear Criteria

Fishing gear modification(s) must be able to perform normal characteristic functions of those fisheries within the following coastal and open ocean environmental conditions, throughout the general activities associated with these commercial fisheries, including:

- The ability to work in wind speeds up to a Beaufort 4-5 during fishing practices, rolling waves and a severe damp/wet environment.
- The ability to function in a corrosive and fouling marine environment with limited maintenance.
- The ability to withstand wet environment - waterproof and “pounding” environment (i.e., shock-proof).
- The ability to perform in the event of entanglement by a large whale, such as the North Atlantic right whale.

Please review the attached document for additional background information. Applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team web site for important information regarding existing fishing gear and regulations.

Contact Information

The National Whale Conservation Fund’s *Large Whale Gear Competition* project is a collaborative effort among the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA Fisheries, Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation and the Northeast Consortium.

Please submit Letters of Intent and Proposals to and request further information from: Leslie Ricketts, Program Director – Marine Conservation Funds, **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: 202-857-0166, ext. 558, Fax: 202-857-0162, Email: leslie.ricketts@nfwf.org.



VMRC CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
HOLIDAY - 9/6/04 RFB- 9/13/04 7 PM VMRC - 9/28/04 12 PM	HOLIDAY- 10/11/04 VMRC- 10/26/04 12 PM	HOLIDAY 11/11/04 VMRC- 11/16/04 12PM HOLIDAY 11/25-11/26/04

The meeting dates and times are tentative and subject to change. Please call to verify the date and time of the meeting you would like to attend.

- VMRC**— Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Meetings set on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 9:30 A.M. (fisheries items are generally considered after 12 noon). Held at the Commission's main office in Newport News. **NOTE: Please call the Agency to confirm the date and time on scheduled meetings.**
- FMAC**— Finfish Management Advisory Committee. Meetings generally the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 P.M. Held at the Commission's main office in Newport News.
- ASMFC**—Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Call (202) 452-9110 to find out the meeting location.
- CMAC**— Clam Management Advisory Committee. Meetings to be announced. Meetings begin at 7 p.m.. Held at Commission Main office.
- MFAMC** -Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Call (302) 674-2331 to find out the meeting location.
- RFAB**- Recreational Fishery Advisory Board

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
 MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
 2600 WASHINGTON AVE. 3RD FLOOR
 NEWPORT NEWS, VIRIGINA 23607

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED