

Connecting Blue Crab Industry and State Managers to Enhance Virginia's Electronic Harvest Reporting

Final Report to Virginia Sea Grant, September 2016



Chesapeake Environmental Communications

Project Staff

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Project Period

May 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016

Background

Electronic Harvest Reporting (EHR) allows commercial seafood harvest reporting to be completed on a computer or smart phone. Using EHR instead of the traditional system of paper forms and regular mail provides a much faster, more accurate, and more efficient means of collecting harvest data. Online systems benefit harvesters and managers alike by limiting the amount of paperwork to be processed. EHR also reduces lag times created by sending documents via regular mail and then requiring staff time to manually QA/QC submissions and then enter the data into a digital format.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to exploring how a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) program for blue crabs could work in the Chesapeake Bay by 2017. TACs exist in several other fisheries and rely on timely and accurate harvest data to ensure compliance with set limits. Under the current paper reporting structure in Virginia's blue crab fishery, it can take three to four months for the state to process harvest reports. That lag time is too large to support a TAC fishery that would depend on timely, accurate, in-season data. Virginia would have to greatly expand the adoption of EHR to effectively inform a TAC fishery.

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) launched their online reporting system in 2009, primarily for aquaculture reporting. Few other harvesters were aware of the system or using it until Virginia's Blue Crab Panel, Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and Chesapeake Environmental Communications (CEC)

conducted a series of outreach and education sessions between 2013-2014. Those efforts resulted in a sharp rise (40 to 121 harvesters, or a 202% increase) in the number of crabbers registered to use the system, partially attributed to the fact that many crabbers were then hearing about the system for the first time.

From the fall of 2015 through March 2016, CEC and EDF worked with Virginia Sea Grant (VSG) to identify VMRC's priority needs related to EHR. VMRC indicated then that their highest priorities were in encouraging the larger volume crabbers to report online, assessing blue crab dealers' willingness to report blue crab sales electronically, understanding what a dealer reporting system might look like.

During that period, Bob Fisher (VSG) interviewed approximately 15 seafood dealers from Hampton Roads the lower Eastern Shore. Those seafood dealers expressed a high level of interest in submitting electronic information on their crab purchases from harvesters. Though not required of dealers, benefits would include minimizing chances of being audited for paper records, ability to do away with storing paper receipts by going electronic, ability to increasing accountability and traceability within the industry, and informing timely management decisions.

This project built on previous efforts and sought to focus outreach efforts directly on the crabbers routinely landing the largest volume of crabs. The largest 100 crabbers represent the great majority of blue crab landings and having them report via EHR would provide timely information on a large percentage of in-season harvests. We felt that VMRC would be better served by encouraging the vast majority of catches to be reported electronically, rather than dispersing our efforts and encouraging all crabbers, regardless of landing history, to report via EHR.

Objectives

The objectives of this project were to build on the work of previous projects in order to:

1. Increase the number of users reporting their crab harvests via VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting system (EHR).
2. Gather current user feedback on system usage.
3. Recommend possible updates to VMRC.
4. Assess blue crab dealers' willingness and ability to report crab sales electronically.

We accomplished these objectives through the following activities:

1. Resurveyed the "northern" sector of processors/dealers not contacted by Bob Fisher to understand what tracking systems they use and their willingness to use an online system;

2. Began new dialogue and education sessions with Virginia's 100 largest blue crab harvesters via one-on-one, 2 offered tutorial workshops, and written content/surveys;
3. Updated training materials, outreach flyers, and workshop format; and
4. Summarized feedback from dealer and harvester interviews into lessons learned and recommendations for enhance and expanding the adoption of EHR in Virginia.

Project Activity

Review

Our team conducted a thorough review of work to date on this topic, including past interviews with harvesters and dealers, and past outreach materials. Working with VMRC staff, we researched and assembled contact lists for harvesters, dealers and potential spokespeople amongst the commercial watermen, and prioritized industry contacts.

Initial Steps

Since project start date, we have worked with VMRC Fisheries staff to identify and contact the largest by volume commercial blue crab dealers and harvesters in Virginia to discuss electronic harvest reporting. This is a complex issue to discuss with dealers because of the overlapping mandatory versus voluntary reporting requirements for dealers and harvesters, different systems for federal fisheries, for those who may buy or harvest out of state seafood, and because some dealers are also harvesters. We understand that the web of reporting, including paper forms and online systems, can be very confusing for both dealers and harvesters. That compounded with the sense of distrust harvesters and often dealers have with anyone outside of the industry, makes this a sensitive topic to approach.

CEC has worked closely with the blue crab industry and VMRC staff for several years, establishing a foundation of familiarity with the people and the issues. This allowed us to quickly establish dialogue on EHR benefits harvesters and dealers, develop updated outreach materials, and begin working directly with industry.

Our team met with Stephanie Iverson on June 7th to assess VMRC's priorities and inform project direction, review project objectives, impediments to harvester buy-in to online reporting, and possible alternatives for a dealer reporting system. A follow up conference call was held on July 8th to request further data from VMRC, refining talking points for blue crab dealers given project objectives, and discuss planned VMRC's EHR system updates.

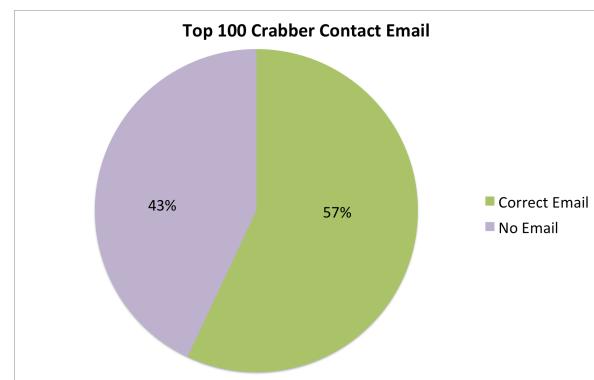
Harvester Outreach

CEC developed a series of communication materials to increase awareness about EHR and provide details on how to register for and use VMRC's online reporting system. Our project team created a simple EHR overview flyer (Attachment A) to provide harvesters and informational webpage with links to the EHR Visual and Printed Guides, the EHR fact sheet, and to the VMRC's online account set-up portal.

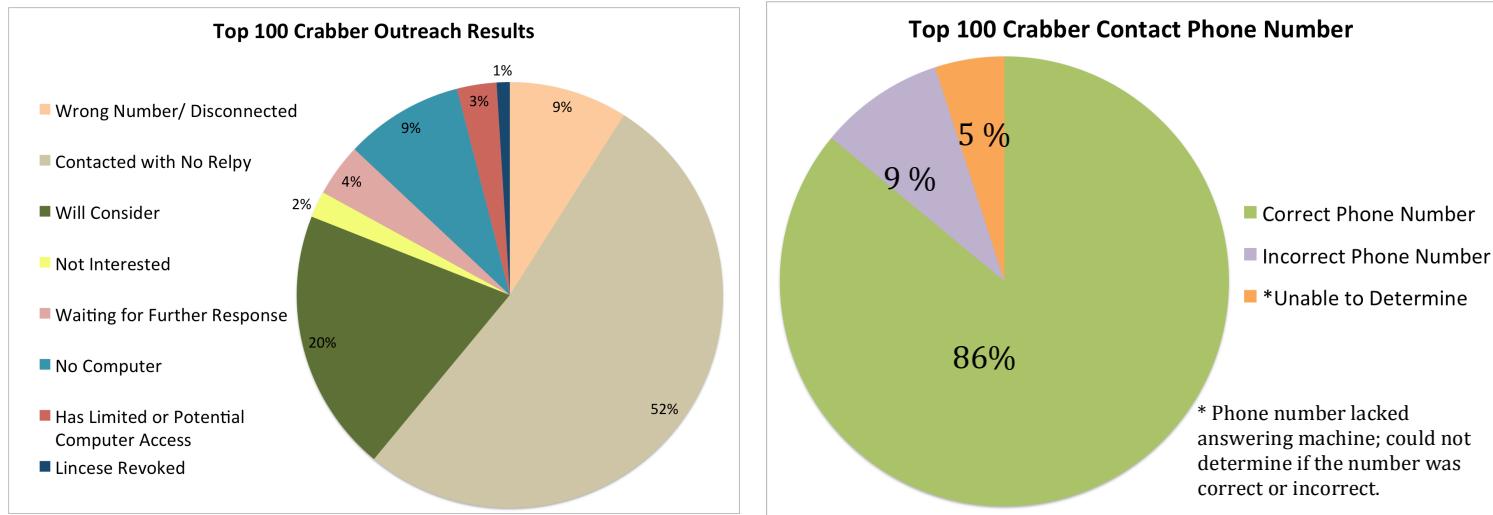
VMRC provided us with a table of the largest 100 crabbers reporting landings over the last five years. The table they provided included their most up to date information for harvesters, however the list either was missing a substantial amount of contact information or listed incorrect information. Many phone numbers provided were incorrect and we were able to update that and other contact information for harvesters. CEC staff updated the list as much as possible through the Virginia Waterman's Association, online research, and contacting harvesters by one means and asking to verify their other contact information. Less than half (47) of the 100 crabbers on this list had an associated email address (our team was subsequently able to add three more email addresses by speaking with crabbers, being the total number of emails to 50). This is striking as having an email address is a basic requirement for registering for VMRC's online reporting system.

We attempted to contact all of the crabbers either by email and or phone. We surveyed them on their existing knowledge of EHR and past experience of it, explained the benefits of EHR to harvesters, and encouraged them to research EHR via the webpage.

We subsequently attempted to re-contact all harvesters who had not replied to messages left either by email or phone. We therefore either spoke directly with, or left at least 2 messages with, every harvester for whom we had good contact information. CEC's project team also developed an e-newsletter with the EHR Informational flyer and sent that to the 50 crabbers with email addresses. The e-newsletter provided the ability to track which crabbers opened their emails and which sections they chose to click on for more information. Our e-newsletter information resulted in ~42% open rate and about half of those who opened the newsletter then clicked through to the online information.



Two in-person training sessions were offered for harvesters on September 12 and 14 and were publicized in the media and all the harvesters we could contact were notified of them by email or phone. Jaik Henderson submitted a Press Release (Attachment D) to the Gazette Journal on August 29th. The paper ran an article with the contents of the press release in their September 7th edition. Despite local area paper coverage and the help of the Virginia Waterman's Association to spread the



news, no crabbers participated in person at either session. CEC's team also sent an email invitation to the training sessions to 50 crabbers.

Summary of Outreach to Harvesters

Throughout our project period, CEC has maintained communication with VMRC's Data Supervisor, Stephanie Iverson, and others within VMRC's Fisheries Division. According to Ms. Iverson, from June through September, 2016 31 additional harvesters registered to use the online reporting system. Of these 31 harvesters, 17 of them were crabbers and 8 of those crabbers were previously identified as one of the "top 100 crabbers".

Lessons learned from our outreach include:

- Harvesters almost always express an a willingness to try EHR after hearing about the system and its potential benefits.
- Harvesters express confidence in their ability to use the online reporting interface without the need for an in-person tutorial, stating that the available online guides online would be sufficient. Training workshops have proven to be largely ineffective as most harvesters are reluctant to take the time to participate in a workshop that takes them away from their home ports. Having up to date, easy to understand training materials that harvesters can refer to at their own pace are much more effective.

- Early adopters of EHR experienced frustration with the first version of the online interface but were willing to try the improved version. Specific issues related by these harvesters included:
 - Inability to report for multiple boats using one email address.
 - Lengthy drop down menus, especially for waters fished and landing sites made them difficult to use.
 - Drop down menu “disappears” before selection can be made.
 - If a crabber begins using EHR and decides to go back to paper forms for some reason, VMRC makes re-entry to the online portal more difficult.
- In speaking with Ms. Iverson, the number of EHR registration per month in 2016 were as follows:

January = 10
 February = 8
 March = 5
 April = 9
 May = 13
 June = 8
 July = 4
 August = 7
 September = 11

For a total of 75 new registrations over the last 9 month period, 43 of which were during this project period. This project ran back to back with our previous effort so some of the registrations during the early part of 2016 could have been a result of earlier efforts. Overall, however, there appears to be a steady increase in the number of harvesters signing up for online reporting.

Dealer Outreach

Virginia blue crab dealers (buyers) must maintain a copy of their buyer data, in paper or electronic form, in case they are selected for an audit. Reviewing a year’s worth of paper receipts for an audit can be particularly time consuming for both the dealer and VMRC staff, particularly because each dealer has their own system, typically inconsistent in format and/or platform from other dealers. These issues could be minimized through an online dealer reporting system. VMRC requested that this project ascertain dealers’ willingness to report purchases through an online system.

CEC’s team contacted, or attempted to contact, eight blue crab dealers (previously identified by VMRC as high volume dealers) to ascertain their interest and willingness to report sales through an electronic system and/or share their own

electronic record keeping files. This outreach complemented an earlier and similar effort conducted by Bob Fisher, VIMS Advisory Service for dealers in Hampton Roads and the lower Eastern Shore of Virginia. Our outreach efforts focused on dealers north of those areas, including five Maryland dealers who purchase crabs from Virginia harvesters. Of those eight dealers, one was not reachable by phone or email. The responses we received when asked about their willingness to report online was overwhelmingly positive. Six of the seven dealers we spoke with were willing to consider online reporting if such a system were made available to them.

Dealer	Business Name	City, State	Current System	Willing to Consider Reporting Online
Matthew Riggin	Independent Crab Co	Crisfield, MD	QuickBooks	Yes
Bill Cox	Fresh Catch	Crisfield, MD	Paper	No
Aubrey Vincent	Lindy's Seafood	Woolford, MD	QuickBooks	Yes
Stewart and Curtis Obier	Obier's Seafood	Callao, VA	Paper	Yes
Maurice Bosse	Capt. Mo's Seafood	Montross, VA	Paper	Yes
Harold Webb, Jr	Webb Seafood	Lottsburg, VA	(unreachable)	(unreachable)
Casey Todd	Metompkins Seafood	Crisfield, MD	Custom table	Yes
Bob Evans	Glenwood Evans Seafood	Crisfield, MD	QuickBooks	Yes

Federal dealer reporting

Although VMRC does not currently maintain an online dealer reporting system, Virginia fishermen and dealers handling federally managed species must report through the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program's (ACCSP) Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS). Blue crabs are not federally managed but many dealers are already familiar with the SAFIS system by reporting species that are federally managed. The SAFIS system *could* provide a potential solution for non-mandatory Virginia blue crab sales. In June, Joe Cimino from VMRC notified us that the SAFIS system was about to undergo extensive revisions and the updated system would not be available prior to our project end date. Ultimately, the new SAFIS system may represent the best means for dealers to report crab landings, if they choose to voluntarily use that platform. It is too early in the SAFIS revision process to know if that system could import spreadsheets from desktop systems many dealers are currently using to track blue crab sales (e.g., Quick Books and custom Excel sheets).

Working with Dealers to Approach Harvesters

We contacted three large Virginia crab dealers: Crabs Express, J&W Seafood, and Shells Unlimited to seek their assistance in raising awareness of VMRC's online reporting system. They each agreed to distribute materials to the crabbers they purchase from and each supported the objective of having more crabbers report harvests online. CEC provided those three dealers with ~125 flyers (Appendix A) and those were distributed to their regular harvester clients in early August. This flyer highlighted the basic advantages of using the system; positive feedback from a current harvester reporting online; phone number, email, and a weblink for more information.

Summary of Recommendations

For Dealers

With the upcoming revision of the ACCSP SAFIS system, our recommendation would be for VMRC to work with the ACCSP staff to explore the possibility of the revised SAFIS platform serving as a platform for blue crab dealers to voluntarily report sales. That option would alleviate VMRC from having to create their own dealer reporting system or develop an application to import files from QuickBooks or excel from dealers- all of which have the necessary data in different fields and in different orders.

For Harvesters

In addition to the technical recommendations mentioned above (Summary of Outreach to Harvesters, Lessons Learned), CEC also recommends the following:

- We recommend that VMRC continue expanding the adoption of EHR by Virginia crabbers and other harvesters. To do this, information about the system should be prominently and frequently highlighted throughout VMRC platforms and practices. There are several approaches that could be used, including:
 - Adding a visual "Quick Link" for EHR at the top of the Commercial Fishing page on VMRC's website (Appendix E, current page). That would make the existence of the system more visible and accessible to harvesters. That Quick Link should link to a page on the online reporting system, including the Step-by-Step instructional video, Step-by-Step instructional guide, informational flyer, registration links, and a link directly to the reporting portal.
 - Displaying EHR system materials (flyer and instructional handouts) next to the VMRC Hearing sign-in sheet. Watermen frequently participate in hearings and sign-in is required, ensuring that they would see materials presented there.
 - VMRC staff could present benefits of using the online system and demonstrate it in use at hearings, have field agents demo the system

to harvesters, dealers regularly display/distribute system information, and provide regular assessments on the percentage of harvests reported using the online system.

- The Annual opt-in process should include information on the online reporting system, clearly identifying its benefits to the industry and to harvesters. The annual process should also require harvesters to confirm their contact information, if it does not already.
- A longer term recommendation is that as more and more smartphone and tablet carrying watermen enter the industry, the system should be designed to be more responsive across devices. A few watermen we spoke with also expressed an interest in having an app to make access easier.
- Harvesters want some of the known technical issues resolved to encourage their continued use of the system. These were outlined in the “Summary of Outreach to Harvesters”. As one harvester said, “Change is hard so the system should be as easy to use as possible so we don’t give up”.

Appendices

- A. EHR Information Flyer for Harvesters
- B. Updated Visual Guide to EHR
- C. List of Crabbers Contacted
- D. Press Release, August 2016
- E. Image of VMRC's Current Commercial Fishing Webpage

Make VMRC Harvest Reporting *Easier*



Reduce frustration from the paper work involved with monthly reporting.

Save time on harvest reporting! This non-paper reporting method is *timely, accurate* and *verifiable* to make reporting less stressful.

- Eliminate paper reporting
- Report using a mobile device or home computer
- Gain access to your own full harvest record
- Better data leads to better management of blue crabs



“It saves me so much time.
I wish I had done it sooner!”
– Cpt. J.C. Hudgins

Email or call us to request a demo and ask questions about the system.

Online information and resources available at:
www.ChesapeakeData.com/wp/EHR

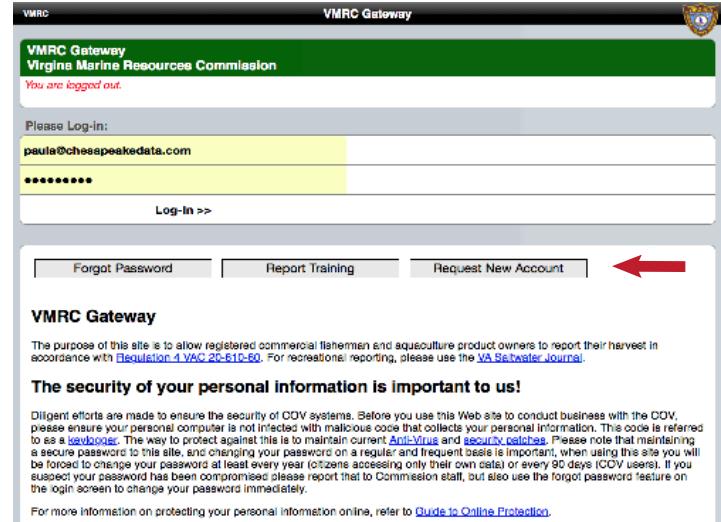




Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

1. Sign Up

First time users will have to request log in information by contacting Stephanie Iverson at Stephanie.Iverson@mrc.virginia.gov or 757-247-2061. You can also request an account by going to <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/> and clicking "Request New Account". It will take 1-2 business days for you to receive your temporary password.



VMRC Gateway
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

You are logged out.

Please Log-in:

Paula@chesapeakedata.com

Log-In >>

Forgot Password Report Training Request New Account

VMRC Gateway

The purpose of this site is to allow registered commercial fishermen and aquaculture product owners to report their harvest in accordance with [Regulation 1 VAC 20-610-80](#). For recreational reporting, please use the [VA Saltwater Journal](#).

The security of your personal information is important to us!

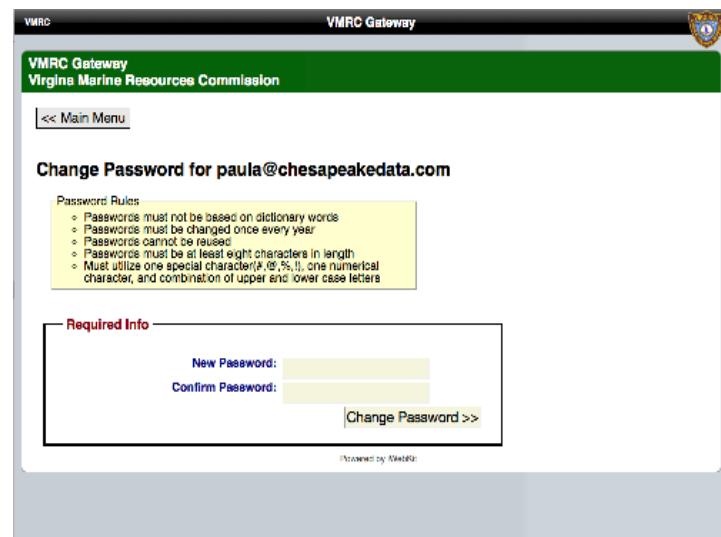
Diligent efforts are made to ensure the security of COV systems. Before you use this Web site to conduct business with the COV, please ensure your personal computer is not infected with malicious code that collects your personal information. This code is referred to as a [keylogger](#). The way to protect against this is to maintain current [Anti-Virus](#) and [Security patches](#). Please note that maintaining a secure password to this site, and changing your password on a regular and frequent basis is important, when using this site you will be forced to change your password at least every year (citizens accessing only their own data) or every 90 days (COV users). If you suspect your password has been compromised please report that to Commission staff, but also use the forget password feature on the login screen to change your password immediately.

For more information on protecting your personal information online, refer to [Guide to Online Protection](#).

2. Log in

Once you have been emailed your temporary password, you can log on at the above website using your email address and password.

After you've logged in, click "Change Password" at the top of the page under your name. Follow the instructions to create a new unique password. You will need to change this password once a year to maintain the security of your account.



VMRC Gateway
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

<< Main Menu

Change Password for paula@chesapeakedata.com

Password Rules

- >Password must not be based on dictionary words
- Password must be changed once every year
- Password cannot be reused
- Password must be at least eight characters in length
- Must utilize one special character(!, @, %, !), one numerical character, and combination of upper and lower case letters

Required Info

New Password:
Confirm Password:
Change Password >>

Powered by WebKit



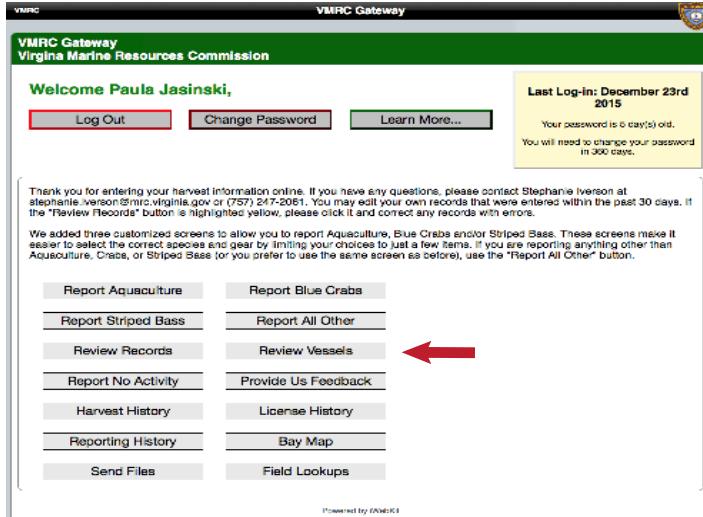
provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



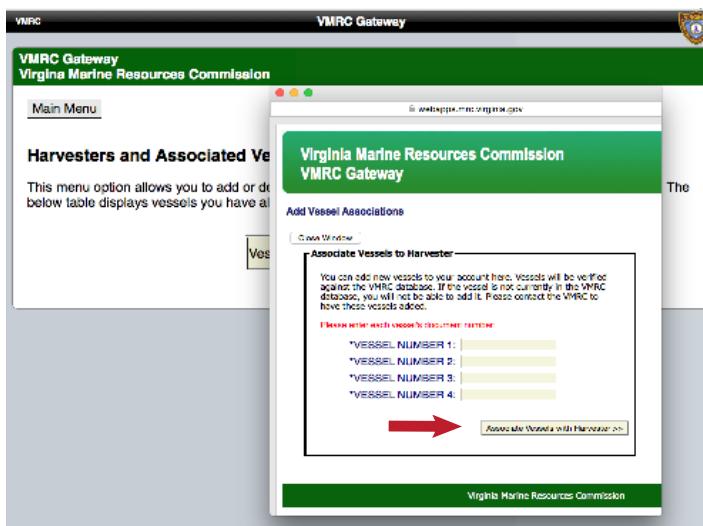
Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

3. Report Vessel

Before you begin reporting, click “Review Vessels” on the main page. Then click Add Vessels in the far right column.



A pop-up box will appear to enter the VRMC assigned vessel number of your boat, and associate it with your account.



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

4. Reporting Harvest

Return to the main page, and click “Report Blue Crabs”. After your first report, you can begin reporting from this step.

The screenshot shows the VMRC Gateway main page. At the top, it displays the VMRC logo and the text "VMRC Gateway" and "Virginia Marine Resources Commission". Below this, a yellow box on the right shows the last log-in date as "December 23rd, 2015" and a message about password expiration. The main content area is titled "Welcome Paula Jasinski" and includes buttons for "Log Out", "Change Password", and "Learn More...". Below these are several reporting options: "Report Aquaculture", "Report Blue Crabs" (which is highlighted with a red arrow), "Report Striped Bass", "Report All Other", "Review Records", "Review Vessels", "Report No Activity", "Provide Us Feedback", "Harvest History", "License History", "Reporting History", "Bay Map", "Send Files", and "Field Lookups".

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required information to report.

Enter your data, beginning with the year, month, and day of harvest. If you used an agent, select “yes” and enter their ID.

The screenshot shows the "Report Entry" form. At the top, it says "Report Entry" and "AUTOCOMPLETE * REQUIRED". It includes buttons for "Clear Fields" and "Last Recall". The form contains numerous input fields, many of which are highlighted with a light yellow background. A red arrow points to the "YEAR FISHED" field, which is marked with an asterisk (*). Other fields include "MONTH FISHED", "DAY FISHED", "USED AN AGENT", "VMRC ID OF AGENT USED", "BUYER", "HOURS FISHED", "GEAR AMOUNT", "GEAR", "WATER ABBR", "LANDING", "SPECIES", "UNIT", "AMOUNT", "CREW NUMBER", "WTRMAN HOURS", "HELPER1 VMRC ID", "HELPER2 VMRC ID", "HELPER3 VMRC ID", "HELPER4 VMRC ID", "HELPERS VMRC ID", and "VESSEL NUMBER". A "Submit" button is at the bottom right.



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

Next, enter the name of your buyer. The fields highlighted in red are a reminder that it will autofill the information. Begin typing, and a drop-down list will pop up for you to click on the code.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE * REQUIRED

[Clear Fields](#) [Last Recall](#)

*YEAR FISHED: 2015
*MONTH FISHED: *SELECT MONTH**
*DAY FISHED: *SELECT DAY**
*I USED AN AGENT: YES

VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:

BUYER: (Type Buyer Name)

*HOURS FISHED:
*GEAR AMOUNT:
*GEAR:
*WATER ABBR: (Type Water Name)
*LANDING: (Type Landing Name)

*SPECIES:
*UNIT:
*AMOUNT:
*CREW NUMBER:
*WTRMAN HOURS:
HELPER VMRC ID:
HELPER2 VMRC ID:
HELPER3 VMRC ID:
HELPER4 VMRC ID:
HELPERS VMRC ID:
*VESSEL NUMBER:

AAMES SFD
0001
A BROWN SFD
0002
A CARTER SFD
0003
A FIRTH SFD
0004
A H HUTTON SFD
0005
A&A SFD
0006
A&B SFD
0007
ABBOTT BROS
0008
ACE IN THE HOLE
0009
ACME FISH CO
0010
ALDON MILES & SON
0011
ALLEN'S OYS HSE

Enter the hours your gear was in the water, and the amount of gear you used. Make sure that you enter the amount of gear used that day, not the amount allowed by your license. Select the gear type from the drop-down menu.

AUTOCOMPLETE * REQUIRED

[Clear Fields](#) [Last Recall](#)

*YEAR FISHED: 2015
*MONTH FISHED: *SELECT MONTH**
*DAY FISHED: *SELECT DAY**
*I USED AN AGENT: YES

VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:

BUYER: (Type Buyer Name)

*HOURS FISHED:
*GEAR AMOUNT:
*GEAR:
*WATER ABBR: (Type Water Name)
*LANDING: (Type Landing Name)

*SPECIES:
*UNIT:
*AMOUNT:
*CREW NUMBER:
*WTRMAN HOURS:
HELPER VMRC ID:
HELPER2 VMRC ID:
HELPER3 VMRC ID:
HELPER4 VMRC ID:
HELPERS VMRC ID:
*VESSEL NUMBER: *SELECT VESSEL*

POTS AND TRAPS, BLUE CRAB
POTS AND TRAPS, PEELER
POUND NET, CRAB
CRAB SCRAPES
CRAB DREDGE
CRAB DIP NET
CRAB TROT LINE W/BAIT

Submit >>



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

Next, enter the water body where you fish your gear. A drop-down menu will appear with abbreviations for the water body.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE * REQUIRED

*YEAR FISHED: 2015
*MONTH FISHED: **SELECT MONTH**
*DAY FISHED: **SELECT DAY**
*I USED AN AGENT: YES
VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:
*BUYER: (Type Buyer Name)
*HOURS FISHED:
*GEAR AMOUNT:
*GEAR:
*WATER ABBR: (Type Water Name) **rapp**
*LANDING: (Type Landing Name)
*SPECIES:
*UNIT:
*AMOUNT:
*CREW NUMBER:
*WTRMAN HOURS:
HELPER VMRC ID:
HELPER2 VMRC ID:
HELPER3 VMRC ID:
HELPER4 VMRC ID:
HELPERS VMRC ID:
*VESSEL NUMBER: **SELECT VESSEL**

The next field is entered in the same way. Type in where you bring your catch ashore, and select the correct abbreviation from the drop-down list.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE * REQUIRED

*YEAR FISHED: 2015
*MONTH FISHED: **SELECT MONTH**
*DAY FISHED: **SELECT DAY**
*I USED AN AGENT: YES
VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:
*BUYER: (Type Buyer Name)
*HOURS FISHED:
*GEAR AMOUNT:
*GEAR:
*WATER ABBR: (Type Water Name)
*LANDING: (Type Landing Name) **v**
*SPECIES:
*UNIT:
*AMOUNT:
*CREW NUMBER:
*WTRMAN HOURS:
HELPER VMRC ID:
HELPER2 VMRC ID:
HELPER3 VMRC ID:
HELPER4 VMRC ID:
HELPERS VMRC ID:
*VESSEL NUMBER: **SELECT VESSEL**



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

Enter the species and specific type of blue crab here. You will have to submit a separate report for each species and type you harvested that day. Select one of the options from the drop-down list. You can report for other species from the main page.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE REQUIRED

***YEAR FISHED:** 2015
***MONTH FISHED:**
***DAY FISHED:**
***I USED AN AGENT:**
VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:
***BUYER:** (Type Buyer Name)
***HOURS FISHED:**
***GEAR AMOUNT:**
***GEAR:**
***WATER ABBR:** (Type Water Name)
***LANDING:** (Type Landing Name)

***SPECIES:** **BLUE CRAB, HARD, UNCLASSIFIED (BLC)**
 BLUE CRAB, HARD, SOOK (BCS)
 BLUE CRAB, HARD, JIMMY (BCJ)
 BLUE CRAB, HARD (NO1)
 BLUE CRAB, PEELER (BCP)
 BLUE CRAB, SOFT (BCSF)
 BLUE CRAB, SOFT, JUMBO (BCJU)
 BLUE CRAB, SOFT, WHALE (BCW)
 BLUE CRAB, SOFT, PRIME (BCPR)
 BLUE CRAB, SOFT, HOTELPRIME (BCHP)
 OYSTER TOAD (TOY)
 CONCHS, UNCLASSIFIED (CON)
 CONCHS, SMALL (CONS)
 CONCHS, LARGE (CONL)
 CROAKER, ATLANTIC, UNCLASSIFIED (CRO)
 CROAKER, ATLANTIC, SMALL (CRS)
 CROAKER, ATLANTIC, MEDIUM (CRM)

Enter the unit and amount of blue crabs harvested.

BU = bushels

LBS = pounds

NU = number

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE REQUIRED

***YEAR FISHED:** 2015
***MONTH FISHED:**
***DAY FISHED:**
***I USED AN AGENT:**
VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:
***BUYER:** (Type Buyer Name)
***HOURS FISHED:**
***GEAR AMOUNT:**
***GEAR:**
***WATER ABBR:** (Type Water Name)
***LANDING:** (Type Landing Name)

SPECIES:** *SELECT UNIT****
 BOX
 BU
 CART
 DOZ
 GAL
 LBS
 NU

***VESSEL NUMBER:**

Submit >



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

The following lines contain required information which can aid VMRC in making timely management decisions.

Enter the number of people in your crew, and how many hours you spent on the water.

In the Helper VMRC ID fields, you are required to add the VMRC ID of any additional licensed harvesters who worked on your vessel on this date.

Finally, select your vessel number from the drop-down menu.

If you need to look up a code for fields with autofill information while reporting any of the above information, return to the main page, and click "Field Lookups", then the relevant category.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE • REQUIRED

[Clear Fields](#) [Last Recall](#)

*YEAR FISHED: *MONTH FISHED: *DAY FISHED: *I USED AN AGENT:

VMRC ID OF AGENT USED:

*BUYER: *HOURS FISHED: *GEAR AMOUNT: *GEAR:

*WATER ABBR: *LANDING:

*SPECIES: *UNIT: *AMOUNT:

*CREW NUMBER: *WTRMAN HOURS: *WATER ABBR:

HELPER VMRC ID: HELPER2 VMRC ID: HELPER3 VMRC ID: HELPER4 VMRC ID: HELPER5 VMRC ID:

VESSEL NUMBER [Submit >>](#)

VMRC Gateway
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

[<< Main Menu](#)

Field Lookup Values

[View Gears](#) [View Waters](#) [View Species](#)

[View Buyers](#) [View Landings](#) [View Rocks](#)



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications



Visual Guide to VMRC's Electronic Harvest Reporting System

Once you verify that the information you entered is accurate, you can submit your report by clicking “Submit” at the bottom right of the page. Once you have done that, your reporting is complete and you do not need to submit paper reports for that day’s harvest.

The next time you submit a report, click “Last Recall” at the top of the reporting page to autofill the fields with your previous information. Then type in fields that changed, such as the day.

You are able to edit or delete reports within 30 days of submission.

On the main page, click “Review Records” to see all the reports you have submitted.

Click “Harvest History” to search and print your records by month and year.

If you have any more questions, please contact Stephanie Iverson at Stephanie.Iverson@mrc.virginia.gov or 757-247-2061, or read the FAQs at vacrabbers.com/electronic-harvest-reporting/faq/.

Report Entry

AUTOCOMPLETE REQUIRED

[Clear Fields](#) [Last Recall](#)

YEAR FISHED: 2015 **MONTH FISHED:** **SELECT MONTH**** **DAY FISHED:** **SELECT DAY**** **I USED AN AGENT:** **SELECT USED AGENT**

VMRC ID OF AGENT USED: **BUYER:** (Type Buyer Name) **HOURS FISHED:** **GEAR AMOUNT:** **GEAR:** **WATER ABBR:** (Type Water Name) **LANDING:** (Type Landing Name)

SPECIES: **UNIT:** **SELECT UNIT**** **AMOUNT:** **CREW NUMBER:** **WTRMAN HOURS:** **HELPER VMRC ID:** **HELPER2 VMRC ID:** **HELPER3 VMRC ID:** **HELPER4 VMRC ID:** **HELPERS VMRC ID:** **VESSEL NUMBER:** **SELECT VESSEL****

Submit >>

VMRC Gateway

VMRC Gateway
Virginia Marine Resources Commission

Welcome Paula Jasinski,

[Log Out](#) [Change Password](#) [Learn More...](#)

Last Log-in: December 23rd 2015
Your password is 0 day(s) old.
You will need to change your password in 360 days.

Thank you for entering your harvest information online. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Iverson at Stephanie.Iverson@mrc.virginia.gov or (757) 247-2061. You may edit your own records that were entered within the past 30 days. If you added three customized screens to allow you to report Aquaculture, Blue Crabs and/or Striped Bass. These screens make it easier to select the correct species and year by limiting your choices to just a few items. If you are reporting anything other than Aquaculture, Crabs, or Striped Bass (or you prefer to use the same screen as before), use the “Report All Other” button.

Review Records

Report Aquaculture	Report Blue Crabs
Report Striped Bass	Report All Other
Review Vessels	Provide Us Feedback
Harvest History	License History
Reporting History	Bay Map
Send Files	Field Lookups

Powered by eVMS



provided by Chesapeake Environmental Communications

Date Requested	Name	VMRC ID	Account Type	Document
9/17/16	ANGELA H TAYLOR	009532	Harvester	VA7164BZ
9/7/16	ROBERT BUCKANIN	N067720	Harvester	VA7125XX
	CLIFTON D			
9/6/16	HANSFORD	5596	Harvester	VA6412LL
9/3/16	WILLIAM ADDISON	N069534	Harvester	VA5406AN
9/1/16	GEORGE ESTUDANTE	N061879	Harvester	VA347AP
	JESSIE MONTANA			
8/22/16	LARGE	009506	Harvester	NO BOAT
8/3/16	JOHNNIE R SHARKEY	008984	Harvester	VA2437BY
7/11/16	AUBREY S STOKES II	009518	Harvester	992210
7/4/16	MARK A SNOOK	009604	Harvester	VA9038BD
6/13/16	SCOTT WALLACE	009529	Harvester	VA2904BY
6/11/16	BRUCE T VOGT	N013375	Harvester	NO BOAT
6/3/16	JASON W NEWTON	009283	Harvester	VA1779BW
	LUTHER D HEADLEY			
9/11/16	SR	3529	Harvester	VA877FF
	MARVIN R			
9/6/16	HOLLOWAY JR	1170	Harvester	VA5327WW
	JAMES B CERNY			
9/5/16		4460	Harvester	VA1501SS
	BRIAN NATHAN			
9/5/16	GARNETT	0977	Harvester	VA5116BD
	LEE J WIRTH			
9/5/16		0659	Harvester	VA1360BJ
9/4/16	JAMIE C FISHER	3886	Harvester	VA1086BH
	TYE W BURNS			
8/23/16		008989	Harvester	VA2303AZ
	JOHN S AUGUSTINE			
8/22/16		4669	Harvester	VA8724BU
	DANIEL LANE KNOTT			
8/19/16		009238	Harvester	VA6471AV
	CHRISTOPHER J			
8/8/16	POWELL	009578	Harvester	VA3805AX
	THOMAS ALLAN			
8/3/16	PARKS SR	5583	Harvester	VA9846EE
	CHARLES N DRYDEN			
7/18/16		2267	Harvester	277741
	ROBERT EDWARD			
7/4/16	HOYLE	5111	Harvester	VA925BG
	STEPHEN W MOORE			
6/13/16		0924	Harvester	VA267AF
	KYLE ROBBINS			
6/8/16		008851	Harvester	560903
	PETER BLEEKER JR			
6/6/16		3783	Harvester	VA5971AS
	TIMOTHY GAINES			
6/5/16	HOWLETT	1355	Harvester	VA6649ZZ
	MATTHEW L THAYER			
6/2/16		009599	Harvester	VA5878KK

Email	Valid	Status	GEAR	TYPE
brookangel025@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
bobbuckanin@gmx.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
evodoc@cox.net	Y	APPROVED	NO	
kohlbean@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
gestudante@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
offshoremate@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
jsharkey41@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
samrider789@aol.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
chrisbait@verizon.net	Y	APPROVED	NO	
rcrllc@comcast.net	Y	APPROVED	NO	
isopr4433@aol.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
outlawcrabs@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED	NO	
sea31975@yahoo.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
mahollow@verizon.net	Y	APPROVED		POT
jcerny@cox.net	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT, SCR
dgarnett63@yahoo.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT
wirth_6@yahoo.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
emandi4210@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED		POT, PPOT
tyeburns7@yahoo.com	Y	APPROVED		POT, TANK, PPOT
captainjohnny3@aol.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
knottnormal222@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED		POT
bigjohnsstore@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
tlparks@live.com	Y	APPROVED		POT
renddryden@icloud.com	Y	APPROVED		SCR
rehoyleinc@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED		POT
haylie_313@hotmail.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
c.harrells@yahoo.com	Y	APPROVED		POT, PPOT
captNPB@aol.com	Y	APPROVED		TANK, POT, PPOT
51dannyc@gmail.com	Y	APPROVED		POT, PPOT
Matt131@cox.net	Y	APPROVED		PPOT

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Jaik Henderson
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(804) 694-9124

Video to Feature Watermen's Tours

Virginia Watermen's Heritage Tours is the subject of a new promotional video being shot around the Chesapeake Bay over the next few weeks. On a breezy, sunny afternoon last week, Captain J.C. Hudgins hosted a group of visitors aboard his deadrise "Risky Business II" and was filmed as he demonstrated pulling crab pots and talked about the life of a working waterman.

The video is being produced by Chesapeake Environmental Communications (CEC) of Gloucester with the help of Bruce Nelson of Bruce Nelson Photography, Gloucester. Virginia Watermen's Heritage Tours, established in 2012 by the Virginia Waterman's Association, Rappahannock Community College, and CEC, and currently funded by a grant from the USDA, is a program that offers watermen, charter captains and aquaculture growers the opportunity to earn additional income by conducting tours for visitors looking for an authentic, hands-on experience of the waterman's daily life. The watermen in turn become vocal stewards of the Bay and surrounding waters, providing through their own stories, their unique perspective on the area's history and culture, and the environmental impact of human activity on the water.

CEC is working with watermen on another project, promoting the adoption by crabbers of the online harvest reporting system used by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to capture crab harvest data used by VMRC in fisheries management decisions. Commercial crabbers who have switched from paper to online reporting say it is faster, easier, and more efficient, in that the burden of paperwork is greatly reduced and crabbers then have access to their entire harvest record. CEC is holding one hour-long tutorials on the online system at two locations, on September 12, at 5:30 at the offices of Chesapeake Environmental Communications at 7335 Lewis Avenue, Gloucester, and on September 14, at 6 pm the meeting of the Virginia Watermen's Association, at Bank of Northumberland in Kilmarnock. All crabbers interested in switching to online reporting are invited to attend, free of charge. RSVPs by email (Info@ChesapeakeData.com) or phone (804.694.9124) are encouraged for room space and printing purposes.

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Commercial Fishing

Quick Links



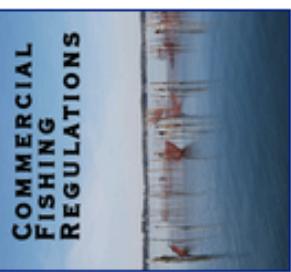
COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS



SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT



COMMERCIAL CRABBING



Commercial Fishing Links

Oyster Resource User Fees

Agency News – listing of fishery openings and closings, recent regulatory actions and other news related to the Commission

Agency Meetings – calendar of upcoming agency meetings and associated regulatory notices

Commercial Fishing Newsletters

Watermen Associations

Other Commercial Fishing Links

2015 Virginia monthly Spiny Dogfish Weekly Landings Graph

2015 Weekly Quota Tracking for The Non-Purse Seine Menhaden Salt Sector

Pound Net Siting Public Review Notices, Pound Net Cap Report, and other Fixed Fishing Device (FFD) Licensing Information

New Menhaden Regulation Information

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Commercial Licenses

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VMRC Mobile

BAY 2K

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Commercial Licenses

Map of MRC Automated Agents

License Agents

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Black Sea Bass Quota and Permits for Sale

SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FISHING DEVELOPMENT