

Tidal Fish Advisory Commission

Currently, the flounder size limit for gear (trawl, gillnet, pound net and fykenet) is a 14" minimum in the Chesapeake Bay, Coastal Back Bays and Atlantic Ocean. This minimum size has never fluxuated to my knowledge.

However; since 2002, the DNR has paralleled the (HLC) minimum size limit with the recreational regulations. This past year it was 19". Years 2002 and 2003 weren't too restrictive because the minimum size increases were to 15" and 16" respectively. The minimum size has increased yearly.

These increases effectively cut HLC License holders out of the commercial fishery. There have been significant commercial quota increases the last two years, yet HLC holders are still required to adhere to recreational size limits.

I'm asking the committee to support a reduction of the minimum Summer flounder size for HLC holders to 16". This will partially level the playing field with all other gear in the commercial flounder fishery.

Respectfully
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