

EMAIL EXCHANGE FROM VMRC:

There will be no change to the license structure. The boat license will continue to cover everyone on board.

NOAA has a national registration requirement that went into effect in January. Everyone age 16 and older must call them and register annually with them. It's called the National Saltwater Angler Registry and can be found here ... <https://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/>

The federal registration is free this year (2010). Next year (2011) and forevermore they're going to charge everyone between \$15-\$25 A year.

Well, we didn't like the idea that all Virginia anglers would have to pay the feds to register as of next year and we worked to get Virginia exempted as of next year. That's because we'll be doing a registration program at **no charge** to anglers. It will be up and running in January, 2011. We'll have a toll-free number and an online sign-up. It will be called the **Virginia Fisherman Identification Program**.

Folks who buy a saltwater fishing license **won't** have to register. Folks who fish legally without a license will have to call and register with us. That would include anyone who doesn't have a license and fishes from a licensed boat.

So, nothing will change for people who buy a license. All the current licenses will remain available.

Folks who don't need a license to fish will have to call and register with us in January, just as they are required to call and register with NOAA this year.

September 28, 2010: The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has approved the creation of a free fisherman identification program that will **exempt** saltwater anglers from paying \$15-\$25 a year to register to fish with the federal government under the National Saltwater Angler Registry that is now in effect. The Virginia Fisherman Identification Program will be in place in January 2011. It will impact only those adult saltwater anglers who are exempt under Virginia law from having to buy a saltwater fishing license. **If you buy an annual saltwater license, you will not be affected by this program.** As of January, license-exempt saltwater anglers 16 years of age or older will need to register with the VMRC either online or through a toll-free number that will be established to collect their names, addresses, phone numbers and dates of birth. The FIP is designed, in conjunction with contact information that will be collected from licensed anglers when they buy their licenses, to create a complete phone book of all adults who fish in Virginia's saltwaters. **This will allow all Virginia anglers to be exempt from the National Saltwater Registry and the annual federal registration charge.**

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