

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2016 Recreational Fishing Regulations  
For Striped Bass in Virginia's Marine Waters**

**Coastal Season** . . . . . January 1 - March 31, 2016  
and May 16 - December 31, 2016  
**Possession Limit** . . . . . 1 per person  
**Minimum Size Limit** . . . . . 28 inches

**Coastal Regulations:**

Apply in Virginia's coastal ocean waters inside the Three Mile Limit Line, plus all of the creeks, bays, inlets and tributaries on the seaside of Accomack County, Northampton County (including areas east of the causeway from Fisherman Island to the mainland) and the City of Virginia Beach (including federal areas and state parks, fronting on the Atlantic Ocean and east and south of the point where the shoreward boundary of the Territorial Sea joins the mainland at Cape Henry).

**Chesapeake Area Season (Spring)** . . . . . May 16 - June 15, 2016  
**Possession Limit** . . . . . 2 per person  
**Minimum Size Limit** . . . . . 20 inches  
**Maximum Size Limit\*** . . . . . 28 inches

**Chesapeake Area Regulations** Apply in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay and its Virginia tributaries. Refer to the reverse side of this card for information pertaining to Potomac River "open seasons."

\*1 fish of the 2 fish possession limit may be larger than the Trophy Size limit of 36 inches except in the spawning reaches of the tributary rivers where no fish greater than 28 inches in length or longer may be possessed. Combining limits for overlapping seasons or regulations is prohibited – no more than 2 fish allowed in any overall limit at any time.

**Virginia Trophy-Size Season\*\***

Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries . . . . . May 1 - June 15, 2016  
Potomac River Tributaries . . . . . Same as main stem of Potomac River  
Coastal Waters (Territorial Sea). . . . . May 1 - May 15, 2016  
**Possession Limit** . . . . . 1 per person  
**Minimum Size Limit** . . . . . 36 inches

**Trophy Season Regulations** Apply in Virginia's Territorial Sea and the Chesapeake Bay and its Virginia tributary rivers, except the spawning reaches of the tributary rivers where no fish 28 inches in length or longer may be kept or possessed.

\*\* Trophy-Size Permit and catch report required for any Trophy-size striped bass kept during Trophy-Size Season (<https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/permits/>). Regulations apply in the Chesapeake Bay and the Territorial Sea. Trophy-Size Season possession limit cannot be combined or added to the limit for any overlapping season.

**Chesapeake Area Season (Fall)**.....October 4 – December 31, 2016  
**Possession limit**.....2 per person  
**Minimum Size Limit**.....20 inches  
**Maximum Size Limit\*\*\***.....28 inches

\*\*\*Except only one of the two fish possession limit may be greater than 28 inches.

**All measurements are in total length; fish are measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.**

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Important Information Concerning  
Saltwater Fishing Regulations  
For Striped Bass**

**Regulations in Spawning Reaches of Virginia's Tributary Rivers**

Regulations in the spawning reaches of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay tributary rivers are the same as the regulations for Chesapeake Bay, except no fish greater than 28 inches in length or longer may be kept or possessed from May 1, 2016 – June 15, 2016.

**Federal Waters Regulations**

Atlantic Ocean waters beyond the Three Mile Limit Line are closed to taking and possession of striped bass all year.

**Potomac River Striped Bass Regulations**

Please contact the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) for information on regulations governing the striped bass harvest in the Potomac River and the Spring, Summer-Fall seasons of the Virginia tributaries of the Potomac River. Contact information for the PRFC office is 222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443, (804) 224-7148, or (800) 266-3904 or on the internet at <http://www.prfc.us/>

**Illegal to Gaff Striped Bass**

Gaffing Striped Bass or attempting to gaff Striped Bass is illegal in Virginia Marine Waters.

**All Regulations are Subject to Change.  
It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know and  
Abide by all Current Regulations and Laws  
Check for New Regulations Before You Go Fishing.**

Regulations are subject to review and change throughout the year. Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., Third Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, (757) 247-2200; from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 2600 Washington Ave., Third Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, (757) 491-5160; and from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at

[www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)



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