

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
2013 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR  
VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS**

**AMBERJACK**

Minimum Size Limit.....32 inches  
Possession Limit.....2 per person

**AMERICAN EEL**

Minimum Size Limit.....6 inches  
Possession Limit.....50 per person

**BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches  
Possession Limit.....1 per person

**BLACK SEA BASS**

Open season.....May 19- October 14, and November 1- December 31  
Minimum Size Limit.....12 ½ inches  
Possession Limit.....20 per person

**BLUEFISH**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
Possession Limit.....10 per person

**COBIA**

Minimum Size Limit.....37 inches  
Possession Limit.....1 per person

**GRAY TROUT (WEAKFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches  
Possession Limit.....1 per person

**GROUPE (All species, including Wreckfish)**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
Possession Limit.....1 per person

**HERRING (RIVER HERRING; ALEWIFE; BLUEBACK)**

Minimum Size Limit.....Closed; Illegal to possess

**KING MACKEREL**

Minimum Size Limit.....27 inches  
Possession Limit.....3 per person

**RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, REDFISH)**

Minimum Size Limit.....18 inches  
Maximum Size Limit.....26 inches  
Possession Limit.....3 per person

**SCUP (PORGY)**

Minimum Size Limit.....8 inches  
Possession Limit.....50 per person

**SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD)**

Minimum Size Limit.....Closed; Illegal to possess

**SHEEPSHEAD**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
Possession Limit.....4 per person

**SPADEFISH**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
Possession Limit.....4 per person

Where open or closed seasons are specified, dates are inclusive.



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

**May 2013**



**SPANISH MACKEREL**

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches  
Possession Limit.....15 per person

**SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)**

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches  
Possession Limit (April 1 - November 30).....10 per person  
Possession Limit (December 1 - March 31).....5 per person  
Only one speckled trout may be 24 inches or greater Dec. - March

**STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH, STRIPER)**

Regulations on seasons, size limits, possession limits, available on separate regulation card or from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. (For contact information, see below.)

**STURGEON**

.....Illegal to Possess

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)**

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches  
Possession Limit.....4 per person

**TAUTOG**

Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches  
Possession Limit.....3 per person  
Season Closed.....May 1-Sept.19

**TILEFISH (BlueLine, Golden & Sand Tilefish)**

Minimum Size Limit.....None  
Possession Limit.....7 per person

**SHARKS (All species except Spiny and Smooth Dog Sharks) \***

Minimum Size Limit.....54 inches fork length \*\*  
Possession Limit.....1 per vessel \*\*\*

A non-boat assisted shore angler is entitled to a vessel possession limit.

Season Closed.....May 15 - July 15  
(Includes Blacktip, Bull, Great Hammerhead, Lemon, Nurse, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead, Spinner, and Tiger Shark)

Federal waters, beyond the Three Mile Limit governed by different regulations set by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

\*Recreationally Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take, catch or possess any shark from the "Recreationally Prohibited Species" list, as defined in Regulation 4VAC20-490-20, including but not limited to the following species commonly encountered in Virginia: Atlantic Angel, Dusky, Sand Tiger, Sandbar, White, and Bigeye Thresher Sharks. No size or possession limits apply to Dog Sharks.

\*\*All sharks (All species except Spiny Dog Sharks) must be landed with head and fins attached; no minimum size applies to Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, and Finetooth Sharks.

\*\*\*Possession limit for Atl. Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person.

Sharks may only be taken by handline or rod and reel; No spearing or bowfishing.

**ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS**

**Saltwater Fishing License** – Individual license required in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and in all seaside and coastal ocean waters out to the Three Mile Limit Line, unless fishing on a licensed pier, licensed charter or headboat, or licensed private boat; or unless specifically exempted. For a FIP number, register at: [www.mrc.virginia.gov/FIP](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/FIP) or call 1-800-723-2728.

**Measurements** – Size limits are in total length; fish must be measured from the tip of the nose to tip of tail, except Black Sea Bass, which are measured from tip of nose along the centerline of the body, to the center of the tail.

**Snagging** – Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any finfish.

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

Information may also be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Newport News, VA 23607, (757) 247-2200; or from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 2600 Washington Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Newport News, VA 23607, (757) 491-5160.

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2013 Recreational Fishing Regulations  
For Striped Bass in Virginia's Marine Waters  
From October 4 through December 31, 2013**

**Coastal Season** . . . . . January 1 - March 31, 2013  
and May 16 - December 31, 2013  
**Possession Limit** . . . . . 2 per person  
**Minimum Size Limit** . . . . . 28 inches

**\* Chesapeake Area Season (Fall)** . . October 4 - December 31, 2013  
**Minimum Size Limit** . . . . . 18 inches  
**Maximum Size Limit** . . . . . \* 28 inches

Possession Limits...\* 2 per person; minimum size is 18 inches, except one fish of the two fish may be 28 inches or greater.

**Federal Waters Regulations**

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

**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 Regulations:**

Apply in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's Chesapeake Bay tributary rivers, except for the tributary rivers emptying into the Potomac River.

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

**Where an open season is specified dates are inclusive.**

**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 trophy fish (no fish 32" in length or longer) may be kept or possessed from May 1, 2013 – June 15, 2013.

**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 [www.prfc.state.va.us](http://www.prfc.state.va.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 Anglers 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)



**September 2013**

