

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
2016 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR
VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS
June 2016**

AMBERJACK

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

AMERICAN EEL

Minimum Size Limit..... 9 inches
Possession Limit.....25 per person (50 for charter/head boat captain and mate)

BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)

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

BLACK SEA BASS

Open season.....May 15-Sept 21 and Oct 22-Dec 31
Minimum Size Limit.....12 ½ inches
Possession Limit.....15 per person

BLUEFISH

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

COBIA (Gaffing prohibited: cobia permit and reporting voluntary)

Season closed.....August 31-December 31
Minimum Size Limit.....40" but only 1 fish over 50" aboard vessel
Possession Limit.....vessel limit 2 fish with 2 or more anglers
Possession Limit.....1 fish for shore or pier anglers

GREY TROUT (WEAKFISH)

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

GROOPER (All species, including Wreckfish)

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

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

RIVER HERRING (ALEWIFE; BLUEBACK).....Illegal to Possess

SCUP (PORGY)

Minimum Size Limit.....8 inches in state waters; 9 inches in Federal
Possession Limit.....30 per person

SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD).....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



SPANISH MACKEREL

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

SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)

Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....5 per person

Only one speckled trout of the 5-fish limit may be 24 inches or greater

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-September 19

TILEFISH (Blueline, Golden & Sand Tilefish)

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

SHARKS

Recreationally Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take 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 Dogfish Sharks but must be landed with head and all fins attached.

Minimum Size Limit (exceptions below).....54 inches fork length (FL)

All sharks must be landed with head and fins attached; hammerhead sharks must be 78 inches FL or greater, no minimum size applies to Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Finetooth Sharks.

Possession Limit.....1 per vessel
Possession limit for Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person.

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

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 an FIP number, register at: 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

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