**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**2017 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR VIRGINIA’S MARINE WATERS SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS**

March 2017

**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/ headboat captain and mate)

**BLACK DRUM**
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. 16 inches
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per person

**BLACK SEA BASS**
Season: Season is closed—open season yet to be established
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. 12½ inches
Possession Limit .................................................... 15 per person

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

**COBIA** (Gaffing prohibited; cobia permit and reporting mandatory)
Season closed: Open season to be established
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. 27 inches
Possession Limit .................................................... 3 per person

**GREY TROUT**
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. 12 inches
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per person

**GROUPER** (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**
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. 18 inches
Maximun 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

**TILTFISH** (Blueline, Golden & Sand Tilefish)
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. None
Possession Limit .................................................... 7 per person

** англи и ShEETFISH**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**TOMMYR**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per person

**TUNA**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**TURBOT**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**VIRGINIA**
Possession limit for At
ters
Season closed: Season yet to be established
Minimum Size Limit .................................................. None
Possession Limit .................................................... None

**WESTERN SPRINGFLUDBER**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per person

**WHALE FISH**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**WINDFISH**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**WORMFISH**
Possession Limit .................................................... 1 per vessel

**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

**STRIPE 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 .................................................. 17 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**
Recrational 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.

**FISHING**
Minimum Size Limit (exceptions below) ............... 54 inches fork length (FL)
All sharks must be landed with head and fins attached; hammerhead sharks must be 76 inches FL or greater, no minimum size applies to Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead, Blacknose, Firetouh Sharks.

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**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 snap, or attempt to snap, any fish.

**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) 564-2200; or from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 2600 Washington Ave., 3rd Floor, Newport News, VA 23607, (757) 491-5160.