

2016 Virginia Recreational Fishing Regulations and Citation Qualifiers

SPECIES	MIN SIZE LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	SEASON	CITATION WEIGHT	RELEASE CITATIONS
AMBERJACK	32 IN.	2 per person		RELEASE ONLY	50 IN.
AMERICAN EEL	9 IN.	25 per person			
AMERICAN SHAD			Illegal to Possess		
BLACK DRUM	16 IN.	1 per person		80 Lbs	46 IN.
BLACK SEA BASS	12.5 IN.	15 per person	May 15 - Sept 21 and Oct 22 - Dec 31	5 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
BLUE MARLIN	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	RELEASE ONLY	NO MIN
BLUEFISH	None	10 per person		16 Lbs	36 IN.
COBIA	40 IN.	1 per person, 2 Per Vessel	Closes August 30th	55 Lbs	50 IN.
CREVALLE JACK				RELEASE ONLY	40 IN.
CROAKER				3 Lbs	20 IN.
DOLPHIN	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by SAFMC - http://www.safmc.net/	25 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
FALSE ALBACORE			Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	RELEASE ONLY	32 IN.
FLOUNDER	16 IN.	4 per person	Open year-round	6 Lbs	26 IN.
GREY TRIGGERFISH				4 Lbs	20 IN.
GREY TROUT	12 IN.	1 per person		9 Lbs	30 IN.
GROUPERS	None	1 per person			
KING MACKEREL	27 IN.	3 per person		20 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
KINGFISH (ROUNDHEAD)				1 Lb 8 oz	16 IN.
POMPANO				1.5 Lbs	16 IN.
RED DRUM	Min 18 IN. to Max 26 IN.	3 per person		RELEASE ONLY	46 IN.
SAILFISH	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	RELEASE ONLY	NO MIN
SCUP (PORGY)	8 IN.	30 per person			
SHARK (ANY)	*see below	*see below	*Closed Season For Certain Species: May 15 - July 15	RELEASE ONLY	72 IN.
SHEEPSHEAD	None	4 per person		10 Lbs	24 IN.
SPADEFISH	None	4 per person		9 Lbs	22 IN.
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 IN.	15 per person		4 Lbs	26 IN.
SPEARFISH				RELEASE ONLY	NO MIN
SPECKLED TROUT	14 IN.	5 per person	5 per Person, only 1 greater than 24"	5 Lbs	24 IN.
SPOT				1 Lbs	13 IN.
STRIPED BASS	*see below	*see below	May 1 - May 15, May 16 - June 15, October 4 - December 31	40 Lbs	44 IN.
SWORDFISH	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	100 Lbs	NO MIN
TARPON				RELEASE ONLY	36 IN.
TAUTOG	16 IN.	3 per person	Closed Season: May 1 - Sept 19	9 Lbs	23 IN.
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	None	7 Tilefish (BlueLine,Golden		10 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	None	7 Tilefish (BlueLine,Golden		30 LBS	NOT ELIGIBLE
TRUE ALBACORE			Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	40 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
TUNA (BLUEFIN)	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	100 Lbs	60 IN.
TUNA (YELLOWFIN, BIGEYE)	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	70 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
WAHOO	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by SAFMC - http://www.safmc.net/	35 Lbs	NOT ELIGIBLE
WHITE MARLIN	Federal Regulations	Federal Regulations	Managed by NMFS - http://www.hmspermits.gov/	RELEASE ONLY	NO MIN

*See Full Regulations at <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/swrecfishingrules.shtm>

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