

A Sport Fishing License is Required ♦ Possession of Fillets is Prohibited  
Any Fish Caught with Hook and Line May Not Be Sold or Offered for Sale Except by Commercial License  
Any Fish Whose Size is Prohibited, Season is Closed, or is in Excess of the Possession Limit  
Must be Immediately Released to the Waters Where Found

Revised  
3/09

**Striped Bass (Rockfish)**

**Spring Season**  
Season Open: April 18 through May 15  
Open Area: Below Harry W. Nice Bridge (Rt. 301)  
Size Limit: 28"  
Possession Limit: 1 per person  
Restrictions: No high-grading allowed  
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. No more than 2 hooks

**Summer/Fall Season**

May 16 through December 31  
Below Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)  
18" with only 1 over 28"  
2 per person  
No high-grading allowed  
None



**Special Restriction:** When Fishing for Striped Bass During the Closed Season – Barbless Hooks are Required

**Black Bass (Largemouth Bass)**

Minimum Size Limit: 15" March 1 – June 15  
12" all other times  
Possession Limit: 5 per person



**Shad – American**

Season Closed – Moratorium



**Black Drum**

Minimum Size Limit: 16"  
Possession Limit: 1 per person



**Shad – Hickory**

Season Closed – Moratorium



**Black Sea Bass**

Minimum Size Limit: 12 1/2"  
Possession Limit: 25 per person



**Spanish Mackerel**

Minimum Size Limit: 14"  
Possession Limit: 15 per person



<sup>(1)</sup> Tail filament is not inc. in the total length of the fish

**Bluefish (Taylor)**

Minimum Size Limit: No Limit  
Possession Limit: 10 per person



**Spotted Sea Trout**

Minimum Size Limit: 14"  
Possession Limit: 10 per person



**Catfish – Bullhead**

Minimum Size Limit: 6"  
No Possession Limit



**Sturgeon**

Season Closed – Moratorium



**Catfish – Channel**

Minimum Size Limit: 8"  
No Possession Limit



**Summer Flounder**

Season: April 15 – Sept. 13  
Minimum Size Limit: 16 1/2"  
Possession Limit: 1 per person



**Catfish – White**

Minimum Size Limit: 10"  
No Possession Limit



**Tautog**

Minimum Size Limit: 14"  
No Possession Limit



**Croaker (Hardhead)**

Minimum Size Limit: No Limit  
Possession Limit: 25 per person



**Weakfish (Sea Trout)**

Minimum Size Limit: 12"  
Possession Limit: 6 per person



**Eel**

Minimum Size Limit: 6"  
Possession Limit: 50 per person



**White Perch**

Minimum Size Limit: 6"  
No Possession Limit



**Pike (Chain Pickerel)**

Minimum Size Limit: 14"  
No Possession Limit



**Yellow Perch**

Minimum Size Limit: 9"  
Possession Limit: 5 per person



**Red Drum (Puppy Drum)**

Minimum Size Limit: 18"  
Maximum Size Limit: 25"  
Possession Limit: 5 per person



All restrictions are subject to change. For the most current information contact:  
Potomac River Fisheries Commission  
(804) 224-7148 ♦ (800) 266-3904 ♦ [www.prfc.state.va.us](http://www.prfc.state.va.us)  
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**POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION  
SPORT FISHING LICENSE RECIPROcity GUIDELINES**

**Licenses That Will Be Accepted**

Bodies of Water	Virginia		PRFC Sport Fishing License	Maryland	
	Fresh Water	Salt Water		Bay Sport	Non Tidal
<b>Potomac River (Tidal)</b> Waters of the District of Columbia (DC license required)	No	No	No	No	No
Main stem of the Potomac River above Rt. 301 bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Main stem of the Potomac River below Rt. 301 bridge	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
MD tributaries above Rt. 301 bridge up to demarcation lines <i>(listed below)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
MD tributaries below Rt. 301 bridge up to demarcation lines <i>(listed below)</i>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
MD tributaries upstream of demarcation lines <i>(listed below)</i>	No	No	No	No	Yes
VA tributaries above Rt. 301 bridge up to demarcation lines <i>(listed below)</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
VA tributaries below Rt. 301 bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
VA tributaries upstream of demarcation lines <i>(listed below)</i>	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Chesapeake Bay</b> MD portion of Chesapeake Bay and its other tidal tributaries	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
VA portion of Chesapeake Bay and its saltwater tributaries	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Patuxent River</b> Above MD Rt. 214 bridge	No	No	No	No	Yes
Below MD Rt. 214 bridge	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Rappahannock River</b> Above Rt. 360 bridge	Yes	No	No	No	No
Main stem below Rt. 360 bridge	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Tributaries below/downstream of Rt. 360 bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Virginia Ocean</b> – Including ocean tributaries	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

**Demarcation Lines (Boundary Lines) between Tidal and Non-Tidal or Saltwater and Freshwater**

Maryland	Virginia
<p>Tidal waters of the Potomac River tributaries between the border with District of Columbia along its southeast quadrant line and the Chesapeake Bay are downstream of the highway bridges of the following:</p> <p><b>Breton Bay</b> - MD Rt. 243;  <b>Henson Run</b> - Oxon Hill Rd.;  <b>Mattawoman Creek</b> - MD Rt. 225;  <b>Nanjemoy Creek</b> - Trappe Bridge on MD Rt. 6;  <b>Piscataway Creek</b> - MD Rt. 224 (Livingston Rd.);  <b>Port Tobacco Creek</b> - MD Rt. 6;  <b>St. Clements Bay</b> - MD Rt. 234;  <b>St. Mary's River</b> - MD Rt. 5, (Great Mills Rd.);  <b>Wicomico River</b> - MD Rt. 234;                      Other tidal bays and tributaries thereof.</p>	<p>Virginia waters between the District of Columbia and Rt. 301 bridge downstream of the following:</p> <p><b>Accotink Creek</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Aquia Creek</b> - 1st bridge above Aquia Harbor Marina;  <b>Chopawamsic</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Choptank</b> - Causeway;  <b>Dogue Creek</b> - Rt. 235, Mt. Vernon Memorial Parkway;  <b>Four Mile Run</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Hunting Creek</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Little Hunting Creek</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Neabsco</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Occoquan River</b> - fall line;  <b>Pohick Creek</b> - Rt. 611 (Colchester Rd.);  <b>Potomac Creek</b> - Rt. 608 bridge;  <b>Powells Creek</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;  <b>Quantico Creek</b> - Rt. 1 bridge;                      Unnamed bays &amp; tributaries accessible by gas powered boats.</p>