







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 and No High-Grading Allowed ♦ It Shall be Unlawful to Possess a Live Snakehead Fish or to Return, Release, or Otherwise Discard Any Living Snakehead Fish to the Potomac River

All restrictions are subject to change.

Rev. 4/11

Striped Bass (Rockfish)	Spring Season	Summer/Fall Season	
Season Open:	April 16 through May 15	May 16 through December 31	
Open Area:	Below Harry W. Nice Bridge (Rt. 301)	Below Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)	
Minimum Size Limit:	28"	18" with only 1 over 28"	
Possession Limit:	1 per person	2 per person	
Bait Restrictions:	No live eel. No more than 2 hooks	None	
Special Restriction:	When Fishing for Striped Bass During the Closed Season — Barbless Hooks are Required		
Black Bass (Largemouth Bass)		Pike (Chain Pickerel)	
Minimum Size Limit: 15" March 1–June 15 12" all other times		Minimum Size Limit: 14" No Possession Limit	
Possession Limit: 5 per person			
Black Drum		Red Drum (Puppy Drum)	
Minimum Size Limit: 16"		Minimum Size Limit: 18" Maximum Size Limit: 25"	
Possession Limit: 1 per person		Possession Limit: 5 per person	
Black Sea Bass		Spanish Mackerel	
Season: May 22–Oct. 11 & Nov. 1–Dec. 31		Minimum Size Limit: 14" Possession Limit: 15 per person	
Minimum Size Limit: 12 1/2" ⁽¹⁾			
Possession Limit: 25 per person			
⁽¹⁾ Tail filament is not included in the total length of the fish.			
Bluefish (Taylor)		Spotted Sea Trout	
Minimum Size Limit: No Limit		Minimum Size Limit: 14" Possession Limit: 10 per person	
Possession Limit: 10 per person			
Catfish — Bullhead		Summer Flounder	
Minimum Size Limit: 6" No Possession Limit		Minimum Size Limit: 17 1/2" Possession Limit: 4 per person	
Catfish — Channel		Tautog	
Minimum Size Limit: 8" No Possession Limit		Minimum Size Limit: 14" No Possession Limit	
Catfish — White		Weakfish (Sea Trout)	
Minimum Size Limit: 10" No Possession Limit		Minimum Size Limit: 12" Possession Limit: 1 per person	
Croaker (Hardhead)		White Perch	
Minimum Size Limit: No Limit		Minimum Size Limit: 6" No Possession Limit	
Possession Limit: 25 per person			
Eel		Yellow Perch	
Minimum Size Limit: 6" Possession Limit: 50 per person		Minimum Size Limit: 9" Possession Limit: 5 per person	
Shad — American		Sturgeon	
Season Closed — Moratorium		Season Closed — Moratorium	
Shad — Hickory		River Herring — Moratorium	
Season Closed — Moratorium		Season Closed	
			Blueback Alewife

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION

SPORT FISHING LICENSE RECIPROcity GUIDELINES

Licenses That Will Be Accepted

NOTICE – While PRFC fishing licenses are valid in MD & VA areas listed here, the seasons, sizes and creel limits for each species may be different. Check MD & VA rules before fishing.

Bodies of Water	Virginia		PRFC Sport Fishing License	Maryland	
	Fresh Water	Salt Water		Bay Sport	Non Tidal
Potomac River (Tidal) 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
Chesapeake Bay 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
Patuxent River Above MD Rt. 214 bridge	No	No	No	No	Yes
Below MD Rt. 214 bridge	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rappahannock River 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
Virginia Ocean – 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>Breton Bay - MD Rt. 243; Henson Run - Oxon Hill Rd.; Mattawoman Creek - MD Rt. 225; Nanjemoy Creek - Trappe Bridge on MD Rt. 6; Piscataway Creek - MD Rt. 224 (Livingston Rd.); Port Tobacco Creek - MD Rt. 6; St. Clements Bay - MD Rt. 234; St. Mary's River - MD Rt. 5, (Great Mills Rd.); Wicomico River - 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>Accotink Creek - Rt. 1 bridge; Aquia Creek - 1st bridge above Aquia Harbor Marina; Chopawamsic - Rt. 1 bridge; Choptank - Causeway; Dogue Creek - Rt. 235, Mt. Vernon Memorial Parkway; Four Mile Run - Rt. 1 bridge; Hunting Creek - Rt. 1 bridge; Little Hunting Creek - Rt. 1 bridge; Neabsco - Rt. 1 bridge; Occoquan River - fall line; Pohick Creek - Rt. 611 (Colchester Rd.); Potomac Creek - Rt. 608 bridge; Powells Creek - Rt. 1 bridge; Quantico Creek - Rt. 1 bridge; Unnamed bays & tributaries accessible by gas powered boats.</p>

