

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
All restrictions are subject to change.

Revised
3/12/10

Striped Bass (Rockfish) Spring Season

Season Open: April 17 through May 15
Open Area: Below Harry W. Nice Bridge (Rt. 301)
Minimum Size Limit: 28"
Possession Limit: 1 per person
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
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



Pike (Chain Pickerel)

Minimum Size Limit: 14"
No Possession Limit



Black Drum

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



Red Drum (Puppy Drum)

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



Black Sea Bass

Season: May 22 – Sept. 12
Minimum Size Limit: 12 1/2"
Possession Limit: 25



Spanish Mackerel

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



⁽¹⁾ 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



Summer Flounder

Minimum Size Limit: 18 1/2"
Possession Limit: 4



Catfish – Channel

Minimum Size Limit: 8"
No Possession Limit



Tautog

Minimum Size Limit: 14"
No Possession Limit



Catfish – White

Minimum Size Limit: 10"
No Possession Limit



Weakfish (Sea Trout)

Minimum Size Limit: 12"
Possession Limit: 1 per person



Croaker (Hardhead)

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



White Perch

Minimum Size Limit: 6"
No Possession Limit



Eel

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



Yellow Perch

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



Shad – American

Season Closed – Moratorium



Sturgeon

Season Closed – Moratorium



Shad – Hickory

Season Closed – Moratorium



River Herring – 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>

