

COMMERCIAL FISHING IN VIRGINIA TIDAL WATERS

AMBERJACK - Regulation 4 VAC 20-510-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 32 inches total length. POSSESSION LIMIT . . . 2 amberjack per person.

AMERICAN EEL - 4 VAC 20-500-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 6 inches total length. (See regulation for details on eel pot restrictions.)

AMERICAN SHAD - 4 VAC 20-530-10 ET SEQ. Bycatch fishery by permit only. Contact Joe Cimino for permit information (757)247-8068.

BILLFISHES (Sailfish, White marlin, Blue marlin, Longbill spearfish) - 4 VAC 20-350-10 ET SEQ.

NO SALE: Unlawful for any person to buy, sell, offer for sale, possess with intent to sell, barter or exchange billfish.

BLACK DRUM (Drum, Drumfish) - 4 VAC 20-320-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 16 inches total length.

POSSESSION LIMIT All hook & line fishermen are limited to 1 black drum per person.

HARVEST QUOTA 120,000 pounds of black drum from Virginia tidal waters.

PERMIT REQUIRED: All fishermen need to obtain a Black Drum Harvesting and Selling Permit in order to harvest, sell or possess more than one black drum per day.

BLACK SEA BASS - 4 VAC 20-950-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 11 inches total length.

HARVEST QUOTA 355,152 pounds (2008 Directed fishery) and 40,000 pounds (2008 Bycatch fishery)

PERMIT REQUIRED: All fishermen need to obtain either a Virginia Black Sea Bass Directed Fishery Permit or Bycatch Fishery Permit in order to harvest, sell or possess black sea bass. (See regulation for details).

BLUEFISH - 4 VAC 20-450-10 ET SEQ.

LANDINGS QUOTA 1,124,334 pounds of bluefish.

COBIA (Bonita) - 4 VAC 20-510-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 37 inches total length.

POSSESSION LIMIT 2 cobia per person.

GREY TROUT (Weakfish) - 4 VAC 20-380-10 ET SEQ.

HOOK & LINE FISHERY. . 12 inches total length minimum size limit; no closed season.

GILL NET FISHERY. 12 inches total length minimum size limit; the closed seasons shall be May 14 through Oct. 20 and Dec. 31 through March 15. During the CLOSED SEASON, you can possess up to 150 pounds of grey trout of 12 inches or greater if there is an equal total weight of species other than grey trout on board.

POUND NET FISHERY. . . no minimum size limit. Closed seasons shall be May 1 through 22 and Sept. 13 through March 31; see 4 VAC20-380-50 for exceptions. During the CLOSED SEASON, you can possess up to 450 pounds or 150 times the number of licensed commercial fishermen, whichever is less, of grey trout of 12 inches or greater if there is an equal total weight of species other than grey trout on board.

HAUL SEINE FISHERY . . no minimum size limit. Closed seasons shall be April 1 through 15, June 11 through Aug. 20, and Sept. 25 through March 31. During the CLOSED SEASON, you can possess up to 150 pounds of grey trout of 12 inches or greater if there is an equal total weight of species other than grey trout on board.

TRAWL FISHERY Unlawful to land grey trout in Virginia less than 12 inches in length, except that up to 150 grey trout less than 12 inches in length may be landed by trawl but shall not be sold. Unlawful to have a trawl net cod-end with mesh less than 3 inches. The closed season shall be Sept. 26 through March 31. During the CLOSED SEASON, you can possess up to 150 pounds of grey trout of 12 inches or greater if there is an equal total weight of species other than grey trout on board.

OTHER GEAR TYPES . . . 9 inch minimum size limit.

KING MACKEREL - 4 VAC 20-540-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 27 inches total length (king mackerel less than 27 inches may be taken from a pound net).

MONKFISH (Goosefish) - 4 VAC 20-1080-10 ET SEQ.

HARVEST LIMITS Unlawful to take or possess more than 50 pounds of monkfish tails or 166 pounds of whole fish, unless the vessel holds an applicable Federal Fisheries Permit that authorizes harvest and possession of monkfish.

RED DRUM (Puppy Drum, Channel Bass) - 4 VAC 20-280-10 ET SEQ.

SLOT SIZE LIMIT 18 inch minimum and 26 inch maximum size limits (total length).

POSSESSION LIMIT . . . Any person is limited to 3 red drum.

SCUP (Porgy) - 4 VAC 20-910-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 9 inches total length.

POSSESSION LIMIT . . . 30,000 pounds of scup (Jan. 1- April 30); 3500 pounds of scup (Nov. 1- Dec. 31).

HARVEST QUOTAS . . . 30,000 pounds in a 14-day period during Jan. 1 through Apr. 30; 7,862 pounds May 1 through Oct. 31; 6500 pounds Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. (See regulation for details of landing limits and fish pot restrictions).

SHARKS - 4 VAC 20-490-10 ET SEQ. Subject to Change.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 58 inches fork length or 31 inches in carcass length; except, any person may harvest and land for commercial purposes from Virginia's portion of the Territorial Sea within the three nautical mile line only up to 200 pounds of shark carcasses less than the 31 inch minimum carcass length.

POSSESSION LIMIT . . . It shall be unlawful for any person to harvest spiny dogfish, for commercial purposes, from state waters, after it has been announced that the Interstate Quota for spiny dogfish has been taken.

CATCH LIMITATIONS . . A vessel may not have on board or land more than 4000 pounds of shark carcasses per day. Longlining and finning sharks are prohibited; however, fins may be removed at sea provided the carcass of the shark is retained and counted as part of any possession or landing limit.

HARVEST QUOTA . . . Unlawful to take, possess aboard any vessel or land in Virginia more than 600 pounds of spiny dogfish per day (May 1 - Oct. 30), or 4000 pounds of spiny dogfish per day (Nov. 1 - April 30), for commercial purposes. All commercially harvested spiny dogfish must be sold to a federally permitted dealer.

SPADEFISH - 4 VAC 20-970-10 ET SEQ.

POSSESSION LIMIT . . . Commercial hook & line fishermen are limited to 6 spadefish per person.

SPANISH MACKEREL - 4 VAC 20-540-10 ET SEQ. MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 14 inches total length.

CATCH LIMITATION . . . No person may land more than 3500 pounds of Spanish mackerel per vessel per trip.

SPECKLED TROUT (Spotted Seatrout) - 4 VAC 20-280-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 14 inches total length. (Pound net and Haul seine fisheries are allowed up to 5% tolerance of speckled trout under 14 inches, by weight).

POSSESSION LIMIT . . . All hook & line fishermen are limited to 10 speckled trout per person.

LANDINGS QUOTA 51,104 pounds of speckled trout September 1 through August 31, for each 12 month period.

STRIPED BASS (Rockfish, Striper) - 4 VAC 20-252-10 ET SEQ.

It is unlawful for any person to engage in the commercial fishery for striped bass without first having obtained the necessary Commercial Fisherman's Registration License, the appropriate gear license and the special permit to harvest striped bass. Size limits and season restrictions must be observed and all commercially harvested striped bass must be identified with a tamper evident sealed tag that has been approved and issued by the appropriate authority in the jurisdiction of capture. The *Individual Transferable Share Program* allows any permitted fisherman to transfer his striped bass commercial quota shares (tags) to any commercially registered fisherman on a permanent or temporary basis, provided the transfer is documented on the proper form, notarized, and approved by the Commissioner.

STURGEON - Code 28.2 - 303 It is unlawful to take, catch or possess any sturgeon.

SUMMER FLOUNDER - 4 VAC 20-620-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 14 inches total length.

HARVEST QUOTA 300,000 pounds per year from Virginia tidal waters. (See regulation for details of offshore limits and see Regulation 4 VAC 20-920-10 ET SEQ. for details of Summer Flounder Endorsement License and Exemption).

TAUTOG - 4 VAC 20-960-10 ET SEQ.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT . . 14 inches total length. (See regulation for details of fish pot restrictions).

CLOSED SEASON April 16 through October 2 and December 1 through December 15

Unless exempted, it shall be unlawful for any boat or vessel to land seafood in Virginia for commercial purposes without a VMRC Seafood Landing License (4 VAC 20-920-10 ET SEQ.). All information provided above is summarized from the Code of Virginia and Virginia Marine Resource Commission regulations. Please refer to the regulations and Code sections cited for legal documentation. All regulations are subject to change; call (757) 247-2200. Revised Feb. 7, 2007