VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
2008 RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS
FOR VIRGINIA'S MARINE WATERS
SIZE and POSSESSION LIMITS

AMERICAN EEL
Minimum Size Limit.....6 inches
Possession Limit.....50 per person
AMBERJACK
Minimum Size Limit.....32 inches
Possession Limit.....2 per person
BLACK DRUM (DRUM, DRUMFISH)
Minimum Size Limit.....16 inches
Possession Limit.....1 per person
BLACK SEA BASS
Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches
Possession Limit.....25 per person
BLUEFISH
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Possession Limit.....10 per person
COBIA
Minimum Size Limit.....37 inches
Possession Limit.....1 per person
GRAY TROUT (WEAKFISH)
Minimum Size Limit.....12 inches
Possession Limit.....6 per person
GROUPER (All Species, including Wreckfish)
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Possession Limit.....1 per person
KING MACKEREL
Minimum Size Limit.....27 inches
Possession Limit.....3 per person
RED DRUM (CHANNEL BASS, REDFISH)
Minimum Size Limit.....18 inches
Maximum Size Limit.....26 inches
Possession Limit.....3 per person
SCUP (PORGY)
Minimum Size Limit.....8 inches
Possession Limit.....50 per person
SHAD (AMERICAN SHAD) (Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries)
Season.....Closed; Illegal to possess
SHEEPSHEAD
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Possession Limit.....4 per person
SPADEFISH
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Possession Limit.....4 per person

All Regulations are Subject to Change. It is the Angler's Responsibility to Know and Abide by all Current Regulations and Laws. Check for New Regulations Before You Go Fishing.
January 2008

SPANISH MACKEREL
Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....15 per person
SPECKLED TROUT (SPOTTED SEATROUT)
Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....10 per person
STRIPED BASS (ROCKFISH, STRIPER)
Regulations on Seasons, Size Limits, Possession Limits, Available on Separate Regulation Card or From the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. (For contact information see below.)
STURGEON
Illegal to possess
SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)
Minimum Size Limit.....18.5 inches
Possession Limit.....5 per person
Season Closed.....January 1-March 31 and July 23-July 28
TAUTOG
Minimum Size Limit.....14 inches
Possession Limit.....4 per person
Season Closed.....May 1-June 24
TILEFISH (Blueline, Golden & Sand Tilefish)
Minimum Size Limit.....None
Possession Limit.....7 per person
SHARKS (ALL SPECIES EXCEPT SPINY AND SMOOTH DOG SHARKS)*
Minimum Size Limit.....54 inches fork length**
Possession Limit.....1 per vessel***
Federal waters beyond the three mile limit governed by different Regulations set by the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

* Prohibited Species – It is illegal to take, catch or possess any shark from the "prohibited shark group," as defined in regulation 4VAC20-490-20, including but not limited to the following species commonly encountered in Virginia: Atlantic Angel, Dusky, Sand Tiger, White, and Bigeye Thresher Sharks. No size or possession limits apply to Dog Sharks.
** Any shark carcass (body minus head and tail) in possession must measure 30 inches in length or longer; no minimum size limit applies to Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks.
*** Possession limit for Atlantic Sharpnose and Bonnethead Sharks is 1 per person.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Saltwater Fishing License – Individual license required inthe Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and in all seaside and coastal ocean waters out to the Three Mile Limit Line, unless fishing on a licensed pier, licensed charter or headboat, or licensed privateboat; or unless specifically exempted.

Measurements – Size limits are total length measurements; fish must be measured from tip of nose to tip of tail, except Black Sea Bass, which are measured from tip of nose along the centerline of the body, to the center of the tail.

Snagging – Illegal to snag, or attempt to snag, any finfish.

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Information on Regulations, including Updates and Changes.
Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., Third Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, (757) 247-2200; from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 South Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, (757) 491-5160; and from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at, **www.mrc.virginia.gov**

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2008 Recreational Fishing Regulations
For Striped Bass in Virginia's Marine Waters

Coastal Season.....January 1 – March 31
and May 16 – December 31
Possession Limit.....2 per person
Minimum Size Limit.....28 inches

Coastal Regulations: Apply in Virginia's coastal ocean waters inside the Three Mile Limit Line, plus all of the creeks, bays, inlets and tributaries on the seaside of Accomack County, Northampton County (including areas east of the causeway from Fisherman Island to the mainland) and the City of Virginia Beach (including federal areas and state parks, fronting on the Atlantic Ocean and east and south of the point where the shoreward boundary of the Territorial Sea joins the mainland at Cape Henry).

*** Chesapeake Area Season** (Spring).....May 16- June 15, 2008
Possession Limit.....2 per person
Minimum Size Limit.....18 inches
Maximum Size Limit**.....28 inches

Chesapeake Area Regulations: Apply in the main stem of the Chesapeake Bay and its Virginia tributaries. Refer to the reverse side of this card for information pertaining to Potomac River

** 1 fish of the 2 fish possession limit may be larger than 32 inches, as provided for in the Trophy Season regulations except in the spawning reaches of the tributary rivers where no fish 32 inches in length or longer may be possessed. Combining limits for overlapping seasons or regulations is prohibited – no more than 2 fish allowed in any overall limit at any time.

Virginia Trophy Season*
Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries.....May 1 – June 15, 2008
Potomac River Tributaries.....Same as main stem of Potomac River
Coastal Waters (Territorial Sea).....May 1 – May 15, 2008
Possession Limit.....1 per person
Minimum Size Limit.....32 inches

Trophy Season Regulations: Apply in Virginia's Territorial Sea and the Chesapeake Bay and its Virginia tributary rivers, except the spawning reaches of the tributary rivers where no fish 32" in length or longer may be kept or possessed.

*Catch report required for any fish 32" or larger kept during Trophy Season. Regulations apply in the Chesapeake Bay and the Territorial Sea. Trophy Season possession limit cannot be combined or added to the limit for any overlapping season.

All measurements are in total length; fish are measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Important Information Concerning
Saltwater Fishing Regulations
For Striped Bass

Regulations in Spawning Reaches of Virginia's Tributary Rivers
Regulations in the spawning reaches of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Tributary rivers are the same as the regulations for Chesapeake Bay. Except no trophy fish (no fish 32" in length or longer) may be kept or possessed from May 1, 2008– June 15, 2008.

Federal Waters Regulations
Atlantic Ocean waters beyond the Three Mile Limit Line are closed to taking and possession of striped bass all year.

Potomac River Striped Bass Regulations
Please contact the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) for information on regulations governing the striped bass harvest in the Potomac River and the Spring, Summer-fall seasons of the Virginia tributaries of the Potomac River. Contact information for the PRFC office is: 222 Taylor Street, Colonial Beach, VA 22443, (804) 224-7148, or (800) 266-3904.

Illegal To Gaff Striped Bass
Gaffing Striped Bass or attempting to gaff Striped Bass is illegal in Virginia Marine Waters.

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Fishing.

Regulations are subject to review and change throughout the year. Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, 2600 Washington Ave., Third Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607, (757) 247-2200; from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, 968 South Oriole Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, (757) 491-5160; and from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at

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