

**Virginia Marine Resources Commission
2023 Recreational Fishing Regulations
For Striped Bass in Virginia's Marine Waters**

Coastal Season.....January 1 - March 31
and May 16 - December 31
Possession Limit1 per person
Minimum Size Limit......28 inches
Maximum Size Limit......31 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
Possession Limit..... 1 per person
Minimum Size Limit......20 inches
Maximum Size Limit......28 inches

Chesapeake Area Season (Fall).....Oct 4 – Dec 31
Possession Limit..... 1 per person
Minimum Size Limit......20 inches
Maximum Size Limit......31 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 "open seasons."

Fish Length Measurements
Size limits are in total length; fish must be measured from the most forward projection of the snout, with the mouth closed, to the tip of the longer lobe of the tail fin, with the tail compressed along the midline, using a straight-line measure, not over the curve of the body.

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

For more information, visit the Virginia Marine Resources Commission internet website at:

www.mrc.virginia.gov

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

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait. For more information about circle hooks and a definition of bait, please visit:

<https://mrc.virginia.gov/Notices/circle-hooks.shtm>

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.

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
Mainstem

- Please contact the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) for information on regulations governing the striped bass harvest in the main stem 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 or on the internet at www.prfc.us

Virginia Tributaries of the Potomac River

- The open season for the Potomac River tributaries summer/fall striped bass fishery shall correspond to the open summer/fall season as established by PRFC for the mainstem Potomac.
- Size Limits and Possession Limits correspond with the Virginia Chesapeake Bay area regulations on the reverse side.

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.

Information on the most current regulations can be obtained from:
Virginia Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Fort Monroe, VA 23651
(757) 247-2200
Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
(757) 491-5160

www.mrc.virginia.gov



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