

2003 Virginia Freshwater Fishing Regulations – Table of Creel and Length Limits

Type of fish	Sub-type or location	Creel and length limits	Geographic exceptions	Creel or length limits for exceptions		
largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass		5 per day in the aggregate	Lakes			
		No statewide length limits	Lake Anna	No bass 12 to 15 inches		
			Beaverdam Creek Reservoir (Loudoun County)	No bass 12 to 15 inches		
			Briery Creek Lake	No bass 14 to 24 inches, only 1 per day longer than 24 inches		
			Buggs Island (Kerr)	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches		
			Chesdin Reservoir	No bass 12 to 15 inches		
			Claytor Lake	No bass less than 12 inches		
			Flannagan Reservoir	No bass less than 12 inches		
			Lake Gaston	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches		
			Leesville Reservoir	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches		
			Lake Moomaw	No bass less than 12 inches		
			Occoquan Reservoir from the reservoir dam upstream to the Lake Jackson Dam on Occoquan Creek and upstream to the Yates Ford Bridge (Rt. 612) on Bull Run Creek	No bass less than 14 inches		
			Philpott Reservoir	No bass less than 12 inches		
			Quantico Marine Base waters	No bass 12 to 15 inches		
			Smith Mt. Lake and its tributaries below Niagara Dam	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches		
			Rivers		Appomattox River – Brasfield Dam to Bevel’s Bridge on Rt. 602, Chesterfield Co.	No bass 12 to 15 inches
			Clinch River – within the boundaries of Scott, Wise, Russell, or Tazewell counties	No bass 11 to 14 inches		
			Dan River and tributaries down stream from the Brantley Steam Plant, Danville	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches		

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(continued) largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass		5 per day in the aggregate	James River – Confluence of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers downstream to Rt. 220 bridge near Lick Run, Botetourt Co.	No bass 11 to 14 inches
		No statewide length limits	Rt. 220 bridge near Lick Run downstream, to Rt. 614 bridge, Botetourt Co.	No bass 14 to 22 inches, only 1 per day longer than 22 inches
		Rt. 614 bridge downstream to the Interstate 95 bridge, Richmond	No bass 11 to 14 inches	
		New River – Claytor Dam downstream to the Va. – WV State line and its tributary Little River downstream from Little River Dam, Montgomery County	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches	
		North Fork Holston - Rt. 634 bridge near Saltville, Va. – Tenn state line	No bass less than 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches	
		North Fork Shenandoah – Rt. 42 bridge, Rockingham Co. downstream to the confluence with S. Fork Shenandoah at Front Royal	No bass 11 to 14 inches	
		Potomac River - Virginia tidal tributaries above Rt. 301 bridge	No bass less than 15 inches from March 1 through June 15	
		Roanoke (Staunton) River - and its tributaries below Difficult Creek, Charlotte Co.	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches	
		Shenandoah River – Confluence of South Fork and North Fork rivers, Front Royal, downstream, to the Warren Dam, near Front Royal	No bass 11 to 14 inches	
Base of Warren Dam, near Front Royal downstream to Rt. 17/50 bridge	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches			
Rt. 17/50 bridge downstream to Va.-WV State line	No bass 11 to 14 inches			

Type of fish	Sub-type or location	Creel and length limits	Geographic exceptions	Creel or length limits for exceptions
(continued) largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass		5 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	South Fork Shenandoah River - Confluence of North and South rivers, below Port Republic, downstream to Shenandoah Dam, near Town of Shenandoah Base of Shenandoah Dam, near Town of Shenandoah, downstream to Luray Dam, near Luray Base of Luray Dam, near Luray, downstream to the confluence with North Fork of Shenandoah, Front Royal	No bass 11 to 14 inches No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches No bass 11 to 14 inches
striped bass	landlocked striped bass and landlocked striped bass x white bass hybrids	4 per day in the aggregate. No fish less than 20 inches	Smith Mountain Lake and its tributaries, including the Roanoke River upstream to Niagara Dam	2 per day in the aggregate
	anadromous (coastal) striped bass above the fall line in all coastal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay	Creel and length limits shall be set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission for recreational fishing in tidal waters		
	anadromous (coastal) in the Meherrin, Nottoway, Blackwater (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest Rivers and their tributaries plus Back Bay	4 per day No length limits		
white bass		5 per day No statewide length limits		
walleye		5 per day No statewide length limits	Flannagan and South Holston reservoirs	No walleye less than 18 inches
			Claytor Lake and New River upstream of Claytor Lake Dam	No walleye less than 20 inches
sauger		2 per day No statewide length limits		

Type of fish	Sub-type or location	Creel and length limits	Geographic exceptions	Creel or length limits for exceptions
chain pickerel		5 per day No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs	No daily limit
northern pike		2 per day No pike less than 20 inches		
muskellunge		2 per day No muskellunge less than 30 inches		
bluegill (bream) and other sunfish excluding crappie, rock bass (redestye) and Roanoke bass		50 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the Virginia-North Carolina state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little Rivers in Grayson County	No daily limit
crappie (black or white)		25 per day in the aggregate No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the Virginia-North Carolina state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little Rivers in Grayson County	No daily limit
			Flannagan and South Holston reservoirs	No crappie less than 10 inches
rock bass (redestye)		25 per day No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the Virginia-North Carolina state line downstream to the confluence of the New and Little Rivers in Grayson County.	No daily limit
			Nottoway and Meherrin rivers and their tributaries	5 per day in the aggregate with Roanoke bass No rock bass less than 8 inches
Roanoke bass		No statewide daily limit No statewide length limits	Nottoway and Meherrin rivers and their tributaries	5 per day in the aggregate with rock bass. No Roanoke bass less than 8 inches

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trout		6 per day No fish less than 7 inches	Go back to Regulation Table of Contents, "Trout Waters"	
catfish	channel, blue, and flathead catfish	20 per day No length limits	All rivers below the fall line	No daily limit
	yellow, brown, and black bullheads	No daily limit No length limits		
American shad and hickory shad	in the James River above the fall line (14 th Street Bridge), in the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, in the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, in the Appomattox River above Harvell Dam, in the Mattaponi River and Pamunkey River above the Rt. 360 bridge, and in the Rappahannock River above the Rt. 1 bridge	No possession: (catch and release only)		
	(below the fall line) in tidal waters	Creel and length limits shall be those set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission		

Type of fish	Sub-type or location	Creel and length limits	Geographic exceptions	Creel or length limits for exceptions
anadromous (coastal) alewife and blueback herring	in the James River above Boshers Dam, in the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, in the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, in the Appomattox River above Harvell Dam, in the South Anna River above the U.S. Rt. 1 bridge, and in the Rappahannock River above Embrey Dam	No possession: (catch and release only)		
	below the fall line	Creel and length limits shall be those set by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission		
other nongame fish	Go back to Regulation Table of Contents "Nongame Fish, ..."			