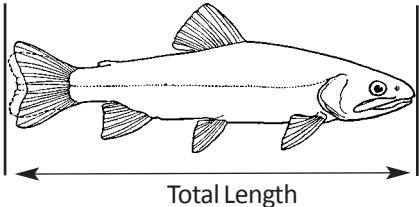


The tables that follow give statewide creel (harvest) and length limits for major sport fish, and exceptions for major rivers and lakes. Regulations for many smaller lakes and boat access areas are posted on site, and posted regulations are in effect (see “D” under Department Owned or Controlled Lakes, Ponds, Streams or Boat Access Sites, page 10).

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Bass: largemouth smallmouth spotted <i>continued on page 13</i>		5 per day in the aggregate (combined) No statewide length limits	LAKES 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
			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
			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
			South Holston Reservoir	No smallmouth less than 15 inches
			RIVERS Clinch River—within the boundaries of Scott, Wise, Russell or Tazewell counties	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			Dan River and tributaries downstream from the Brantly Steam Plant, Danville	Only 2 of 5 bass less than 14 inches
			James River—Confluence of the Jackson and Cowpasture rivers (Botetourt County) downstream to the the 14th Street Bridge in Richmond	No bass 14 to 22 inches, only 1 per day longer than 22 inches
New River—Fields Dam (Grayson County) downstream to the VA-WV State line and its tributary Little River downstream from Little River Dam in Montgomery County (This does not include Claytor Lake which is delineated as: the upper end of the island at Allisonia downstream to the Dam.)	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches			
North Fork Holston River—Rt. 91 Bridge upstream of Saltville, Va downstream to the VA-TN state line	No bass less than 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches			

How to Measure a Fish



Total Length

- Lay the fish on top of or beside a flat measuring rule.
- Do not lay the rule over the curvature of the fish's body.
- Close the fish's mouth and squeeze the tail lobes together.
- Measure from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Bass largemouth smallmouth spotted			<i>Rivers continued</i> North Fork Shenandoah River- 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 County	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 VA—WV state line	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			South Fork Shenandoah River— Confluence of North and South rivers, below Port Republic, downstream to Shenandoah Dam, near Town of Shenandoah	No bass 11 to 14 inches
			Base of Shenandoah Dam, near Town of Shenandoah, down- stream to Luray Dam, near Luray	No bass 14 to 20 inches, only 1 per day longer than 20 inches
Striped bass <i>continued on page 14</i>	landlocked striped bass and landlocked striped bass X white bass hybrids	4 per day in the aggregate no fish less than 20 inches	Buggs Island (Kerr) Reservoir including the Staunton River to Leesville Dam and the Dan River to the Brantly Steam Plant (Danville)	October 1–May 31: 2 per day in the aggregate (combined) no striped bass or hybrid striped bass less than 26 inches June 1–September 30: 4 per day in the aggregate (combined) No length limit.

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Striped bass <i>continued</i>			Lake Gaston	4 per day in the aggregate (combined) October 1–May 31: No striped bass or hybrid striped bass less than 20 inches June 1–September 30: No length limit
			Smith Mountain Lake and its tributaries, including the Roanoke River upstream to Niagara Dam	2 per day in the aggregate (combined) November 1–May 31: No striped bass 26 to 36 inches June 1–October 31: No length limit
	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		
	striped bass in the Meherrin, Nottoway, Blackwater (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and North-west rivers and their tributaries plus Back Bay	2 per day No striped bass less than 18 inches		
White bass		5 per day No statewide length limits	South Holston Reservoir	No harvest or possession (catch and release only)
Walleye		5 per day No walleye less than 18 inches	New River upstream of Buck Dam in Carroll County	No walleye less than 20 inches
			Claytor Lake and the New River upstream of Claytor Lake Dam to Buck Dam in Carroll County	February 1–May 31: 2 walleye per day; no walleye 19 to 28 inches June 1–January 31: 5 walleye per day; no walleye less than 20 inches
Sauger		2 per day No statewide length limits		

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	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	New River–Fields Dam (Grayson County) downstream to the VA–WV state line, including Claytor Lake	1 per day No muskellunge less than 42 inches
Bluegill (bream) and other sunfish excluding crappie rock bass (redeye) and Roanoke bass		50 per day in the aggregate (combined) No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC 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 (combined) No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC 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; South Holston Res.–15 per day in the aggregate (combined)
Rock bass (redeye)		25 per day No statewide length limits	Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) reservoirs and that portion of the New River from the VA–NC 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 (combined) with Roanoke bass No rock bass less than 8 inches
			South Holston Reservoir	20 per day
Roanoke bass		No statewide daily limit No statewide length limits	Nottoway and Meherrin rivers and their tributaries	5 per day in the aggregate (combined) with rock bass No Roanoke bass less than 8 inches

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Trout		6 per day No fish less than 7 inches	See Trout Waters, pgs. 18–25	
Catfish	channel, white and flathead	20 per day No length limits	All rivers below the fall line	No daily limit
	blue	20 per day, only 1 blue catfish per day longer than 32 inches	All rivers below the fall line	No daily limit, except only 1 blue catfish per day longer than 32 inches
	yellow, brown, black, flat and snail bullheads	No daily limit No length limits		
	all catfish		South Holston River	20 per day, only 1 catfish per day longer than 34 inches
American shad and hickory shad	James River above the fall line (14th Street Bridge), the Meherrin River above Emporia Dam, the Chickahominy River above Walkers Dam, the Appomattox River above Harvell Dam, the Pamunkey River and the Mattaponi River above the Rt. 360 bridge, and the Rappahannock River above the Rt. 1 bridge, and VA waters of Lake Gaston and Buggs Island (Kerr) Reservoir and tributaries to include the Dan and Staunton rivers	No possession: (catch and release only)		
	below the fall line in tidal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay	Creel and length limits are set by the Virginia Marine Resources Comm.		
	Meherrin River below Emporia Dam, Nottway River, Blackwater River, (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest rivers, and their tributaries plus Back Bay	10 per day in the aggregate (combined) No length limits		
Anadromous (coastal) alewife and blueback herring	Above and below the fall line in all coastal rivers of the Chesapeake Bay <i>continued on page 17</i>	The Virginia Marine Resources Commission has enacted a ban on the possession of river herring, effective January 1, 2012, due to the collapse of the stock over the past 40 years and in order to comply with an Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission fishery management plan directive.		

Type of Fish	Sub-type or Locations	Creel and Length Limit	Geographic Exceptions	Creel or Length Limits for Exceptions
Anadromous (coastal) alewife and blueback herring <i>continued</i>	Meherrin River, Nottoway River, Blackwater River (Chowan Drainage), North Landing and Northwest rivers and their tributaries plus Back Bay	No possession		
Other native or naturalized nongame fish		20 per day No length limits	Statewide	See pages 27–28 for exceptions
	Threatened and endangered species	No possession		
Grass carp		No possession (catch and release only)		
Snakehead fish	Anglers may possess a snakehead taken from Virginia waters if they immediately kill the fish and notify VDGI (see office listings on page 4 or call 804-367-2925. See snakehead identification on page 36.			
Non-native (exotic) fish	See pages 27–28			



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