

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
APPLICATION

**To Possess, Propagate, Buy and Sell Largemouth bass (Black bass) and Other Members of
the Sunfish Family in Virginia (24 – SUNF)**

(Under Authority of § 29.1-412, and 417 of the Code of Virginia, and 4 VAC 15-360)

Permit Period is January 1st through December 31st (or part thereof)

Non-refundable Application Fee: \$50.00

Permit (Check One): NEW RENEWAL Previous VDGIF Permit No. _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss.

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Date of Birth _____ Last four of SSN _____ Drivers' Lic# _____

Business Name _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Phone Number _____

Name and location (e911 address-no P.O. Box) of facility if different from above, where animal(s) will be sold:

_____ County _____

Type of business:

SN [] Largemouth bass (black bass) and other members of the sunfish family
catch-out pond (\$50.00) [Fishing license not required]

* Permit required only if fish are being sold by weight (e.g. by the pound)

Annual Report Required

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

As provided for in § 29.1-412 and 417 of the Code of Virginia, and 4 VAC 15-360, the permit shall be required by any person or establishment which sells for the specified purposes any of the species listed below in subsection "A" (catch-out ponds, or for human consumption).

A. Permitted Species:

1. Game fish (sunfish)

Gamefish can only be held and sold for stocking private ponds (without Department stocking authorization 4 VAC 15-320-60) with the exception of trout (brown trout, brook trout, or rainbow trout) (4 VAC 15-330-190) which can be sold for any purpose, with the exception of bait as stated below. Gamefish species authorized for holding and for sale as outlined above, include trout (including all Salmonidae), all of the sunfish family (including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and spotted bass, rock bass, bluegill and crappie), walleye, white bass, chain pickerel, muskellunge and northern pike (4 VAC 15-320-40) (§29.1-100).

2. Fish in these facilities cannot originate from state waters. They must be artificially raised and reside in privately owned, non-public facilities.
3. Holding and stocking of striped bass or hybrid striped bass are not covered under this permit. A permit must be obtained from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.
4. Any Largemouth Bass/sunfish sold under this permit must be dead at the time of sale. Selling live fish for stocking requires an aquaculture permit.

B. Possession Limits:

Privately owned facilities may possess and sell unlimited quantities when possession is accompanied by a valid invoice or bill of sale from an individual permitted by this Department or from a properly permitted aquaculture facility in Virginia or out-of-state.

C. Exceptions and Restrictions:

1. **Sunfish Catch-out Ponds** (no fishing license required) \$50.00
 - a. Largemouth bass (black bass) and other members of the sunfish family fishing ponds shall have a continuous open season for taking sunfish in any department authorized commercially operated fishing ponds without creel or hours restricted. (§29.1-531D, Code of Virginia, 4 VAC 15-330-10)
 - b. The operator of a largemouth bass (black bass) and other members of the sunfish family fishing pond shall be required to furnish each fisherman taking sunfish therein a bill of sale, which shall include the name of the fisherman, date, species and number of sunfish creeled. The fisherman shall retain this bill of sale as long as the fish are in his possession and a duplicate thereof shall remain with the operator of the commercially operated fishing pond and be made available for inspection by all authorized department personnel (4 VAC 15-330-180).
 - c. Public waters may not be used as a catch-out-pond. If a person wants to stock a stream and charge people to fish, he needs a Fish Stocking Authorization Letter from a Regional Fisheries Biologist. The customers must go by the state length and creel limits and have a fishing license. They do not need a trout license if the area of stream is not designated stocked water.

D. Term of Permit:

Permits are issued for a one-year period beginning January 1st and expiring December 31st (§29.1-413, Code of Virginia). All permits will expire December 31st, regardless of date of issuance. Permit fees are not prorated. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to initiate any and all renewals.

E. Inspections:

Authorized representatives of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries may make periodic inspections of the facility and stocks of each operation and permittee shall allow such inspections at any reasonable time.

F. Record Keeping: Permittees shall maintain detailed records which shall include an account of sales by date, purchaser, species and number or poundage sold. Records and receipts shall be retained by permittee for a period of one year.

G. Annual Report Requirement: An Annual Report is required for all transactions involving largemouth bass (black bass) and other members of the sunfish family. Reports are due on December 31st.

F. COMPLIANCE/VIOLATION/REVOCAATION:

- A. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possession, sale, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified. Further, any violation of state or federal wildlife laws related to the permitted activities by the permittee, his/her agents or employees, or guests will constitute a violation of the conditions of the permit.
- B. As provided by 4 VAC 15-30-5, failure to comply with the provisions of a permit may result in the revocation or suspension of the permit for a period up to but not to exceed five (5) years. Any person whose permit is revoked, or suspended may appeal that decision in writing, to the Director, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P O Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228-0778.

G. Permit Renewal Procedures:

- A. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possession, sale, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified. Further, any violation of state or federal wildlife laws related to the permitted activities by the permittee, his/her agents or employees, or guests will constitute a violation of the conditions of the permit.
- B. As provided by 4 VAC 15-30-5, failure to comply with the provisions of a permit may result in the revocation or suspension of the permit for a period up to but not to exceed five (5) years. Any person whose permit is revoked, or suspended may appeal that decision in writing, to the Director, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P O Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228-0778.

H. Federal, State, or Local Laws:

This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other Federal, State, or Local laws and regulations, including those that apply to Threatened/Endangered Species.

Please call (804) 367-6913 if you have any questions.



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
ANNUAL REPORTING FORM FOR PROPAGATING AND SELLING OF
LARGEMOUTH BASS (BLACK BASS) AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUNFISH FAMILY
 Report Due Date is December 31st

NAME: _____ VDGIF PERMIT # _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE # _____

NUMBER OF PONDS _____ TOTAL ACREAGE OF PONDS _____

SALES OF LARGEMOUTH BASS (BLACK BASS) AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUNFISH FAMILY

COMMON NAME	NUMBER SOLD	POUNDS SOLD
Largemouth Bass		
Smallmouth Bass		
Bluegill		
Black Crappie		

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

RETURN TO: **Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries**
Permit Section
P. O. Box 3337
Henrico, VA 23228