



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
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Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

John M.R. Bull
Commissioner

March 25, 2015

TO: COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: 2015 MAXIMUM COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS SIZE LIMIT OF 28 INCHES FOR THE CHESAPEAKE AREA DELAYED UNTIL APRIL 2

Virginia's commercial striped bass season opened on January 16th, 2015 with an 18" minimum size limit in the Chesapeake area (Chesapeake area is the area that includes the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and the Potomac River tributaries). A Chesapeake area commercial striped bass maximum size limit usually begins on March 26th. However, because of icing this winter, industry requested that the VMRC delay the start of the 28-inch maximum size limit and corresponding gill net mesh size season regulations.

At the March 24, 2015 Commission meeting, staff requested, by emergency action, to delay the start of the 28-inch maximum size limit of commercial striped bass within the Chesapeake Bay area until April 2nd, and to modify a corresponding gill net mesh size regulation. The Commission voted (5-1) to approve the emergency amendments.

These emergency amendments are effective March 26, 2015, through April 1, 2015:

- The maximum size limit for commercial striped bass in the Chesapeake area shall be 28 inches from April 2 through June 15.
(Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., "Pertaining to the Taking of Striped Bass")
- From January 1 through April 1 of each year, it shall be unlawful for any person to place, set, or fish any gill net with a stretched mesh size between 3-3/4 inches and six inches within the restricted areas as set forth in 4 VAC 20-751-20. From April 2 through June 15 of each year, it shall be unlawful for any person to place, set, or fish any gill net with a stretched mesh size greater than six inches within the restricted areas set forth in 4 VAC 20-751-20.
(Chapter 4 VAC 20-751-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Setting and Mesh Size of Gill Nets")

If you have questions or comments, please contact Ande Ehlen at (757) 247-2243.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

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