

On October 27, 2009, the Commission approved amendments to Regulation 4 VAC 20-1190-10 et seq., effective December 1, 2009, establishing a Class A Resident Gill Net Permit, a Class A Non-Resident Gill Net Permit, and a Class B Gill Net Permit available to resident and non residents. The Commission approval was in response to a commercial industry request to place limitations on the gill net fishery. Commercial industry members had expressed concern about personal observations of increased gill net activity and the need to prevent excessive harvest of limited resources such as striped bass, spot, and Atlantic croaker, as well as prevent additional competition for those dependent on the gill net fishery for their livelihood.

The following guidelines have been provided for the gill net permits:

- Commercial Fishermen will not be able to obtain their specific Gill Net Permit, for the 2010 season, until they have received their 2010 Virginia Commercial Fisherman Registration License.
- Commercial Fishermen will not be able to obtain either a gill net license for gill nets up to 600 feet in length, or gill nets over 600 feet and up to 1,200 feet in length, until they have obtained their Class A Resident Gill Net Permit, Class A Non-Resident Gill Net Permit, or a Class B Gill Net Permit from a VMRC licensing agent.
- Class A Resident gill net permittees or Class A Non-Resident gill net permits are limited entry permits based on criteria described in VAC 20-1190-10 et seq. If a licensee is not authorized for a Class A permit, they are eligible for a Class B permit.
- Class A Resident gill net permittees or Class A Non-Resident gill net permittees shall be authorized to purchase any number of gill net licenses, provided; however, the maximum footage associated with all purchased gill net licenses does not exceed 12,000 feet.
- Class B gill net permittees shall be authorized to purchase any number of gill net licenses, provided; however, the maximum footage associated with all purchased gill net licenses does not exceed 6,000 feet
- Class A Resident gill net permittees may only transfer that permit to another registered commercial fisherman who is a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Class A Non-Resident gill net permittees may only transfer that permit to another commercial fisherman who is not a resident of the Commonwealth of Virginia.