



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission*  
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For Immediate Release  
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## **Fish On! Free Fishing Days Established for June 2-4, 2017**

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – If you’ve always wanted to try fishing, now is your chance! You may fish without a license again this year, during the first weekend in June. Take advantage of the free fishing days, June 2, 3 and 4, 2017, and enjoy the great outdoors with your family and friends without having to spend money for a fishing license.

No fishing license of any kind will be required for recreational rod and reel fishing during free fishing days and facilities use permits will not be required during these dates. All fishing regulations, including size, season, catch limits, and gear restrictions, will remain in effect.

“These free fishing days are an incentive for families and friends to get outside and enjoy our natural resources,” said John M. R. Bull, Virginia’s Marine Resources Commissioner. “Virginia is blessed with spectacular fishing opportunities and we work hard create and maintain our saltwater fisheries so anglers have good chances of landing some fish. This goes to the heart of our conservation efforts.”

The Marine Resources Commission’s website, <http://mrc.virginia.gov>, has extensive information on Virginia’s recreational fishing size, season and creel limits. Anglers who land unusually large saltwater fish may be eligible for special recognition through the agency’s Saltwater Fishing Tournament by completing a free “Citation” application available from any of the over 80 official weigh stations. Additionally anglers can provide important catch information about their saltwater fishing trip by logging into <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/>.

“Fishing offers a person, no matter their age, race, fitness ability or income level, the chance connect with nature and to learn how to become better stewards of our natural resources,” said Bob Duncan, Executive Director of the DGIF which manages the states freshwater fishing. “ In this fast paced society fishing is also a great way of ‘casting’ your troubles away and relieving stress.”

The 2017 Freshwater Fishing and Boating Regulations can be found at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at: [www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/regulations/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/regulations/). Printed regulations are also available at most major outdoor retailers throughout the state that sell hunting and fishing licenses. To increase angling opportunities, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) has removed the restriction to fishing designated stocked trout waters. This will open over 2,900 miles of trout streams, in

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addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing prospects.

DGIF also has a fun way to recognize a trophy freshwater catch, called The Virginia Angler Recognition Program: <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/trophy-fish/>. On average, anglers measure up over 6,000 trophy size fish annually. Since 1963, when the program began, over a quarter-million trophy fish awards have been issued. Anglers are also encouraged to enter the 2017 Kids 'n Fishing Photo Contest. For contest rules visit <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/kidsnfishing> or call 804-367-0969.