



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Marine Resources Commission

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Free Fishing Days Established for June 5-7

NEWPORT NEWS, VA. – You may fish without a license during the first weekend in June. Take advantage of the free fishing days, June 5-7, 2009, and spend quality time outdoors with your family and friends for FREE!

The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), the two state agencies that regulate saltwater and freshwater fishing in the Commonwealth, announce that June 5-7, 2009 are free fishing days in Virginia.

“This is a great chance to discover the joy of fishing and boating,” said Steven G. Bowman, Commissioner of VMRC, which regulates saltwater fishing. “Fishing produces memories that can last a lifetime and can foster a deeper appreciation for our natural environment. We should all strive to be stewards of our natural resources.”

No fishing license of any kind will be required for recreational rod and reel fishing during free fishing days, except for a special freshwater trout license in designated stocked trout waters. All fishing regulations, including size, season, catch limits and gear restrictions, will remain in effect.

“We have some of the best freshwater fishing in the country. In fact, no matter where you live in Virginia, there’s great fishing within an hour’s drive. We urge you to give fishing a try and get hooked on this popular, fun and rewarding outdoor activity,” said Bob Duncan, Executive Director of VDGIF, which regulates freshwater fishing.

Want to Fish After the First Weekend in June? Fishing in Virginia is a bargain.

A Virginia saltwater fishing license costs only \$12.50 a year for state residents, while annual freshwater fishing and trout licenses are merely \$18 each for state residents. Those license fees support valuable fisheries work across the Commonwealth.

Both VMRC and VDGIF offer short term licenses ideal for visitors and a variety of combination licenses to benefit anglers.

“We’re proud of the work we do to protect our natural resources, and we hope everyone takes advantage of free fishing days so that they may learn the joys of fishing in Virginia,” said Bowman. “That is what our conservation efforts are all about.”

For size, season and catch limits of saltwater species, please go to <http://www.mrc.virginia.gov/regulations/swrecfishingrules.shtm>

To purchase a fishing license online – and for freshwater fishing regulations and information on Virginia lakes, rivers, boating access and more visit www.HuntFishVA.com

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