

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**“PERTAINING TO THE TAKING OF STRIPED BASS”**  
**EMERGENCY CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-252-10 ET SEQ.**

**PAGE 1 OF 3**

**PREAMBLE**

This emergency chapter establishes a limited commercial and recreational fishery for striped bass in Virginia. The provisions of this chapter are intended to comply with all Federal and interstate requirements for fishing for striped bass. This chapter also authorizes the aquaculture of striped bass and hybrid striped bass and sets forth the conditions required for their culture.

This emergency chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority contained in §§ 28.2-201, 28.2-210 and 28.2-204.1 of the Code of Virginia. This emergency chapter amends and re-adopts, as amended, previous Chapter 4 VAC 20-252-10 et seq., which was promulgated May 28, 2019 and made effective May 28, 2019. The effective date of this emergency chapter, as amended, is August 27, 2019.

**4 VAC 20-252-80. Bay spring/summer striped bass recreational fishery.**

A. The open season for the Bay spring/summer striped bass recreational fishery shall be May 16 through June 15 inclusive.

B. The area open for this fishery shall be the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

C. The minimum size limit for this fishery shall be 20 inches total length, and the maximum size limit for this fishery shall be 28 inches total length.

D. The possession limit for this fishery shall be one fish per person.

**4 VAC 20-252-90. Bay fall striped bass recreational fishery.**

A. The open season for the bay fall striped bass recreational fishery shall be October 4 through December 31, inclusive.

B. The area open for this fishery shall be the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

C. The minimum size limit for this fishery shall be 20 inches total length.

D. The maximum size limit for this fishery shall be 36 inches total length.

E. The possession limit for this fishery shall be one fish per person.

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**“PERTAINING TO THE TAKING OF STRIPED BASS”**  
**EMERGENCY CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-252-10 ET SEQ.**

**PAGE 2 OF 3**

**4 VAC 20-252-100. Potomac River tributaries summer/fall striped bass recreational fishery.**

A. The open season for the Potomac River tributaries summer/fall striped bass fishery shall correspond to the open summer/fall season as established by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission for the mainstem Potomac River.

B. The area open for this fishery shall be the Potomac River tributaries.

C. The minimum size limit for this fishery shall be 20 inches total length.

D. From May 16 through June 15 the maximum size limit for this fishery shall be 28 inches total length.

E. From June 16 through December 31 the maximum size limit for this fishery shall be 36 inches total length.

F. The possession limit for this fishery shall be one fish per person.

**4 VAC 20-252-110. Coastal striped bass recreational fishery.**

A. The open seasons for the coastal striped bass recreational fishery shall be January 1 through March 31 and May 16 through December 31, inclusive.

B. The area open for this fishery shall be the Coastal area as defined in this chapter.

C. The minimum size limit for this fishery shall be 28 inches total length.

D. The maximum size limit for this fishery shall be 36 inches total length.

E. The possession limit for this fishery shall be one fish per person per day.

**4 VAC 20-252-135. Gill net mesh size and tending restrictions: exemptions.**

A. Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Coastal area in accordance with 4 VAC 20-252-130 A and C and sets or fishes any gill net in the Coastal area shall be prohibited from using a gill net mesh size greater than nine inches in stretched mesh.

B. Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Coastal area in accordance with 4 VAC 20-252-130 A and C and sets or fishes any gill net in the Coastal area shall be exempt from the maximum gill net mesh size requirements during November and December as described in 4 VAC 20-430-65 A and B.

**VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**“PERTAINING TO THE TAKING OF STRIPED BASS”**  
**EMERGENCY CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-252-10 ET SEQ.**

C. Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Coastal area in accordance with 4 VAC 20-252-130 A and C and sets or fishes any gill net seven inches or greater in stretched mesh in the Coastal area shall be exempt from the tending requirements described in 4 VAC 20-430-65 E and F during the months of November and December.

D. Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Coastal area in accordance with 4 VAC 20-252-130 A and C shall display an optic yellow flag issued by the commission while fishing for striped bass in the Coastal area and while transiting the Coastal area before and after a striped bass fishing trip. This flag shall be prominently displayed on the starboard side of the vessel.

E. Any registered commercial fisherman who is permitted to harvest striped bass from the Chesapeake Bay area in accordance with 4 VAC 20-252-130 A and C and sets or fishes any gill net in the Chesapeake Bay area shall be prohibited from using a gill net greater than seven inches in stretched mesh with the exception of restricted areas as defined in 4 VAC 20-751-20.

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This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the emergency chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by §§ 28.2-201 and 28.2-210 of the Code of Virginia, duly advertised according to statute, and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at meeting held in Hampton, Virginia, on August 27, 2019.

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION**

BY: Robert L. O'Reilly  
*for* Steven G. Bowman  
Commissioner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of August 2019.

Jennifer G. Farmer  
Notary Public

