

**"PERTAINING TO THE SNAGGING OR TOWING OF FISH"**

**CHAPTER 4VAC20-740-10 ET SEQ.**

**PREAMBLE**

This chapter prohibits the snagging of fish or towing of any cobia or striped bass.

This chapter is promulgated pursuant to authority contained in §28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia. This chapter amends and readopts previous Chapter 4VAC20-740-10 et seq., which was adopted on March 26, 2019, and was effective on April 1, 2019. The effective date of this chapter is October 1, 2024.

**4VAC20-740-10. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to reduce snagging and towing injuries and mortalities to finfish in Virginia waters, and to preserve the public safety by prohibiting the practice of snagging fish.

**4VAC20-740-15. Definitions.**

The following words or terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Mugel genus” means white mullet, striped mullet, and flathead grey mullet.

“Snagging” means the act of intentionally hooking or attempting to hook a fish in any part of its body other than its mouth using a fishing line, hook, or other device.

“Towing of fish” means tethering a fish, by any method, behind the vessel while the engine is running and in gear.

**4VAC20-740-20. Snagging prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to take or to attempt to take any finfish by means of snagging other than Atlantic menhaden and species in the Mugel genus.

**4 VAC 20-740-25. Towing of fish prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to tow any cobia or striped bass.

**4VAC20-740-30. Penalty.**

As set forth in §28.2-903 of the Code of Virginia, any person violating any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and a second or subsequent violation of any provision

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of this chapter committed by the same person within 12 months of a prior violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

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This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the chapter passed by the Marine Resources Commission, pursuant to authority vested in the Commission by §28.2-201 of the Code of Virginia, and recorded in the Commission's minute book, at meeting held in Hampton, Virginia on September 24, 2024.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

By: *Jamie L. Green* for  
**Jamie L. Green**  
**Commissioner**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3 day of October 2024.



*Jamie R. Hogge*  
Notary Public