

2023
Potomac River Fisheries Commission
Commercial Fishing Seasons, Size and Catch Limits

	Open Season	Size Limits	Daily Limit
American Eel	January 1 – December 31	9" Minimum	No Limit
Atlantic Croaker	January 1 – September 30	No Limit	No Limit
Black Bass - Large or Small Mouth	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Black Drum	January 1 – December 31	16" Minimum	1 Per Licensee
Black Sea Bass *	January 1 – December 31	11" Minimum	No Limit
Bluefish *	January 1 – December 31	No Limit	No Limit
Catfish - Bullhead Channel White Blue	January 1 – December 31	No Limit	No Limit
	January 1 – December 31	No Limit	No Limit
	January 1 – December 31	No limit	No Limit
	January 1 – December 31	No Limit	No Limit
Cobia *	January 1 – December 31	37" Minimum	2/person or 6/vessel
Menhaden***	January 1 – December 31	No Limit	Quota = 5,547,444 lbs
Pike/Chain Pickerel	January 1 – December 31	14" Minimum	No Limit
Red Drum	January 1 – December 31	18" Minimum 25" Maximum	5 Per Licensee
River Herring	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Shad - American or Hickory	CLOSED	CLOSED	GN & PN = 2bu./Lic.
Snakehead	January 1 – December 31	No Limit ⁽²⁾	No Limit
Spanish Mackerel *	January 1 – December 31	14" Minimum	No Limit *
Spot	January 1 – October 28	No Limit	No Limit
Spotted Sea Trout	January 1 – December 31	14" Minimum	No Limit
Striped Bass	SEE REVERSE	SEE REVERSE	SEE REVERSE
Sturgeon - Atlantic or Shortnose	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Summer Flounder *	March 10 – December 31	14" Minimum	Quota = 34,886 lbs.
Tautog	January 1 – December 31	14" Minimum	No Limit
Weakfish **	**July 28 – December 31	12" Minimum	50 lbs / day
White Perch	January 1 – December 31	6" Minimum	No Limit
Yellow Perch	January 1 – December 31	9" Minimum	No Limit

(1) – **Black Sea Bass** – The tail filament is not to be included in the total length of the fish.

(2) – **Snakehead** – It shall be unlawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*), only so long as necessary to **kill the fish** as specified in Order 2010-06.

* Denotes fisheries that may have daily catch limits imposed or be closed immediately by Order of PRFC subject to the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial landing quotas.

** **Pound Netters** using fish cull panels as defined in Reg. III, Sec. 8(d) may possess up to 50 lbs. (1 bu.) of legal size weakfish from February 15th through July 27th. The allowance must be less than or equal to the poundage of other lawfully harvested species.

*** When the menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed; however, **gill net, fyke net and pound net licensees** are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 lbs. or 12,000 lbs. if two licensees are fishing together of menhaden for a single vessel per day.

All regulations subject to change.

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COMMERCIAL Striped Bass Fishing Seasons, Size and Catch Limits

COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE

SIZE LIMITS

Season: January 1 through February 14.....18" min. – no max.
February 15 through March 25.....18" min. & 36" max.
June 1 through December 31.....18" min. - no max.

Yearly Quota: 81,959 lbs. (12,530 tags) total for all licensees

POUND NET

SIZE LIMITS

Season: February 15 through March 25.....18" min. & 36" max.
June 1 through December 15.....18" min. – no max.

Yearly Quota: 127,748 lbs. (23,000 tags) total for all licensees

MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL GEAR

SIZE LIMITS

(Qualifying Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)

Season: February 15 through March 25.....18" min. & 36" max.
June 1 through December 15.....18" min. – no max.

Yearly Quota: 13,749 lbs. (2,300 tags) total for all licensees who have reported harvest of species other than striped bass using that particular gear type for the last 3 years.

Haul Seine 60% - 1,380 tags total for all licensees
Fyke Net 40% - 920 tags total for all licensees

GILL NET (2022 – 2023 SEASON)

SIZE LIMITS

Season: November 7, 2022 through February 14, 202318" min. – no max.
February 15 through March 25, 2023.....18" min. & 36" max.

Yearly Quota: 349,405 lbs. total for all licensees

Setting Nets: Each licensee shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net in the number of their licensed locations (stands) as follows:

November 7, 2022 through February 28, 2023 all stands
March 1, 2023 through March 25, 20234 stands