

**July 7, 2024**

**Supplement to**

**POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION  
BOOK OF REGULATIONS**

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the April 9, 2023 edition of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission Regulations and should be consulted before referring to any law to determine whether there are updates or changes.

I hereby certify that the enclosed Regulations were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## **REGULATION I**

### **Section 5(d) Reduction of License Fees**

Effective 7.7.2024

Except persons born after July 15, 1945, natural persons who have for the previous three (3) years held a Potomac River Fisheries Commission license or licenses, as listed herein, shall be eligible to renew and/or obtain such license(s) for a reduced fee of 50% of the current license fee. The licenses available under this section are as follows:

- (1) crab dip nets, crab trot lines and patent crab trot lines.
- (2) a single peeler trap.
- (3) a single boat or vessel used by the licensee to catch crabs with crab pot(s).
- (4) oyster hand tong, however, this exemption does not apply to the fee for the "OT" tags issued to the captain.
- (5) the "OT" vessel license for power assisted hand tong rigs.
- (6) oyster hand scrape.
- (7) oyster hand scrape vessel.
- (8) a natural person using a license to take fish with fish trot line(s).
- (9) a commercial hook and line.
- (10) a natural person using a license to take fish with fish pot(s).
- (11) a natural person using a license to take eels with eel pot(s).
- (12) a natural person using a license to take bait with bait pot(s).

### **Section 2(d)(5) Crab Pot ID Tags/Decals Fee and Replacement**

Effective for the 2025 season

- i) The fee for crab pot ID tags/decals shall be set by order for each crab pot license. The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. ID tags/decals will be available for pick up at the Commission office or can be shipped to the crabber for the established shipping and handling charge.
- ii) Replacement ID tags/decals – The original number of ID tags/decals issued will be the lawful number of pots that can be set plus 5% as replacement ID tags/decals. Replacement ID tags/decals in excess of the original number issued may be purchased for \$1.00 each up to an additional 5%. Any further request for replacements must be accompanied by an incident report on forms supplied by the Commission. The Commission may, after review of the incident report, either grant or refuse to honor such request.
- iii) In the event of a river wide or defined area weather event, the Commission, by Order, may suspend the crab pot ID tags/decals requirement for such period of time(s) or area(s) as it determines.

## REGULATION II

### **Section 1(m) Individual Wild Shellfish Identification Tag** Effective 10.1.2024

A shellfish tag that shall only be used for oysters harvested from a single harvest area in any one day and accompanies a single oyster basket.

### **Section 1(n) Bulk Wild Shellfish Identification Tag** Effective 10.1.2024

A shellfish tag designated exclusively for oysters harvested as a single lot by a single harvester. This tag must be affixed to one of the bushels within the single lot and accompany the single lot throughout conveyance.

### **Section 1(o) Single lot** Effective 10.1.2024

Refers to multiple bushel baskets of shellfish collected from a single bar, during a single trip, on a single day, by a single harvester.

### **Section 1(p) Conveyance** Effective 10.1.2024

Any form of transport, either mechanical, such as a boat or truck, or non-mechanical that is used to transport shellfish from the harvest area to the landing site or from the landing site to the certified dealer or other use.

### **Section 2(g)(1) Identification Tags Required** Effective 10.1.2024

Each basket of oyster harvested from the Potomac River, except as provided in Reg. II, Sec. 2(g)(2), (for Oyster Management Reserve Area, see Reg. VIII, Sec. 7(d)) must be tagged with an accurately completed PRFC issued Individual Wild Shellfish identification tag before leaving the bar from which the oysters were harvested. No basket of oyster harvested from the Potomac River may be removed from the boat without said tag being firmly affixed to the basket. These Individual Wild Shellfish identification tags must be purchased from the PRFC. The identification tag shall stay affixed to the basket until the basket is in possession of a person who is licensed and certified to sell shellfish, in accordance with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance and listed on the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List. All oysters must be sold on day of harvest.

### **Section 2(g)(2) Bulk Identification Tags Required** Effective 10.1.2024

When multiple bushels of oysters are harvested as a single lot, and placed in any conveyance, the single lot must be tagged with an accurately completed PRFC issued Bulk Wild Shellfish identification tag, for that quantity of shellfish, before leaving the bar from which the oysters were harvested. These Bulk Wild Shellfish identification tags must be purchased from the PRFC. If a Bulk Wild Shellfish identification tag is used, the vessel may only harvest from one bar on that trip. The Bulk Wild Shellfish identification tag shall remain affixed to one of the bushels within the single lot and accompany the single lot until the single lot is in possession of a person who is licensed and certified to sell shellfish, in accordance with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance and listed on the Interstate Certified Shellfish Shippers List. All oysters must be sold on day of harvest.