



Potomac River Fisheries Commission

MARYLAND – VIRGINIA
"Potomac River Compact of 1958"



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

New Language
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DRAFT

FOR THE PURPOSE OF
amending the language for (8)

Regulation I

Section 5(d) Reduction of License Fees

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 single boat or vessel used by the licensee~~ a natural person using a license to take fish with fish trot line(s).
- (9) a commercial hook and line.

Additional licenses or similar types of licenses not listed herein require payment of the usual license fees provided for in Section 2 of this Regulation.



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF

amending the license fee and add language for a pennant

Regulation I

Section 1, Sec. 2(u) Charter Boat Captain

For each Charter Boat Captain, a license fee of ~~\$65.00~~. For the purposes of this section, the term "Charter Boat" shall include any vessel used to carry fee paying persons to catch or attempt to catch finfish, crabs, oysters or clams, including but not limited to, vessels commonly known as charter, head, party or guide boats. The application for such license shall include a copy of the applicant's current United States Coast Guard License permitting him to carry passengers for hire. Applications without such documentation shall not be approved. Captains licensed under this section and carrying fee paying persons to catch or attempting to catch finfish shall do so only from a vessel properly licensed under Regulation VI. ~~Whenever a vessel is used to carry fee paying passengers, they must fly the pennant that was issued with their Charter Boat Captains License.~~



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
repealing unused regulations

Regulation VI

Sec. 5(d) Recreational Striped Bass Permit REPEAL

~~The owner of each boat used in the Potomac River for striped bass fishing during the recreational striped bass season(s) for which the Commission, by appropriate order, has required a recreational striped bass permit, shall first apply for and obtain a validated striped bass permit for such boat. Such validated permit shall be kept in the possession of the owner/operator of the boat whenever fishing for striped bass and shall be available for inspection by any duly authorized enforcement officer of Maryland or Virginia or agent of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The permit will contain a log sheet which must be completed daily before the end of each fishing trip by the owner/operator and must include such information as is necessary for all persons aboard that boat during that trip. The validated permit and the log sheet must be returned to the Potomac River Fisheries Commission when requested by the Commission or within 10 days of the close of the season. Failure to return the permit and log sheet may result in refusal or delay of future permit requests.~~

Sec. 5(e) Barbless Hooks Required REPEAL

~~All persons fishing recreationally for striped bass during the closed season, whether fishing from the shore, a pier or other structure, or a charter, pleasure, or rental boat, shall use barbless hooks or barbed hooks with the barb closed or removed.~~



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF

to amend the language from "registration fee" to "license" and increase the license fee

Regulation I

Sec. 2(g)(1) Oyster Buyer Registration-Fee License

Any person desiring to purchase any oysters from the Potomac River for resale, shall first register as an oyster buyer with the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and pay a registration **license** fee of \$50.00 per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
Moving the hand scrape line to above Swann Point and Bluff Point

Reg. II, Sec. 2(a)(4) Closed Areas for Hand Scraping / Hand Tonging

The following area(s) shall be closed for the purpose of taking or catching, or attempting to take or catch oysters by means of a hand scrape at any time:

(1) ~~All areas lying upstream from a straight line between a point (38°16.02' North Latitude, 76°52.00' West Longitude) at Neal Sound Entrance Light #2 in Charles County, Maryland and a point (38°11.52' North Latitude, 76°54.20' West Longitude) at the mouth of Popes Creek in Westmoreland County, Virginia and,~~ All areas lying upstream from a straight line between a point (38°18.699' North Latitude, 76°55.314' West Longitude) at the mouth of Cuckhold Creek in Charles County, Maryland and a point (38°16.464' North Latitude, 76°59.411' West Longitude) at the mouth of Rosier Creek marked by PR V8A in Westmoreland County, Virginia and,

(2) Heron Island Oyster Bar, bound on the north by the PRFC/DNR jurisdictional line, as marked by markers PR "M3A", "M3B", "M3C", "M3D" and "M3E"; on the west by Dukeharts Channel, as marked by the navigational aids "G C1", "FL G3" and "G C5"; on the south by the Potomac main channel, as marked by navigational aids "R N 14" and "R N 12"; and, on the east by Breton Bay Channel, as marked by navigational aid "R G N 'Hi'" and Marker "PR M3E".

Notwithstanding the above provisions of this Regulation the Commission may, by appropriate Order, open or close any areas of the Potomac River under its jurisdiction to the taking or catching of oysters by hand tong and/or hand scrape. If a closure is specified, it shall be unlawful to take any oysters in violation of such Order



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
setting the CP ID fee by order

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Regulation I

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

- i) The fee for crab pot ID tags/decals shall be ~~\$75.00~~ **set by order** ~~per~~ **for each** crab pot license. The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Any crabber renewing their Crab Pot License after January 31, during the grace period through April 30, shall pay a \$25.00 administrative fee plus the ~~\$75.00~~ **established** crab pot ID decal fee, ~~set by order,~~ at least 45 days prior to receiving their ID decals. 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.



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF

to adjust the license structure and language from a boat or vessel to a natural person

Regulation VI

Sec. 4(a) Exemptions

The taking or catching of crabs for sport, recreation or immediate household use, without a license, shall be lawful for private land owners from their pier or no more than 100 feet from their shoreline provided that no natural person shall in any one day take more than three (3) dozen hard crabs, and one (1) dozen soft crabs or peeler crabs ~~or to exceed five (5) dozen hard crabs or two (2) dozen soft crabs or peeler crabs per boat per day~~ by:

- (1) no more than two (2) hard crab pots fished by the owner and marked with a buoy that is easily visible on the surface and legibly displays the owner's initials in no less than one (1) inch letters;
- (2) no more than two (2) hard crab pots attached to a pier;
- (3) a single trot line ~~per boat~~ no longer than six hundred feet (600') marked with a buoy on each end;
- (4) no more than ten (10) collapsible crab traps ~~per boat~~;
- (5) dip nets, and/or;
- (6) hand lines, but by no other means.

There is a limit of one (1) private landowner exemption per property.

Sec. 4(b) License Required

Except as provided in Sec. 4(a) it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or remove or attempt to take, catch or remove crabs from the Potomac River for sport, recreation or immediate household use, ~~from any boat or vessel~~ whom is not properly licensed for sport crabbing.

Sec. 4(c) License Fees

The annual sport crabbing license fee payable to the Commission under Regulation VI shall be \$30.00 for each ~~boat or vessel used in~~ natural person taking or catching crabs with any of the following:

- (1) no more than five (5) hard crab pots;
- (2) a single crab trot line less than 1,200 feet in length, and/or;
- (3) no more than 20 collapsible crab traps;
- (4) dip nets, and/or;
- (5) hand lines.



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
allowing crab size limits to be set by order



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Reg. VII, Sec. 2(a) Size Limits

It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, keep in floats, or have in possession any:

- (1) ~~hard crabs, except mature female crabs, less than 5 ¼" inches~~
- (2) ~~peeler crabs less than 3 ½ inches~~
- (3) ~~sponge crabs, spawn crab, blooming female crab, mother crab or the female crab from which the egg pouch or bunion has been removed of any size.~~

The Commission may from time to time and by appropriate Order, specify commercial size limits for blue crabs which may be taken or caught and the manner of such taking or catching. It shall be unlawful to take and keep in floats or have in possession any blue crab caught within the confines of the Potomac River in violation of such Order.



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FOR THE PURPOSE OF
establishing an OMR administrative fee

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Reg. VIII, Sec. 4(f) OMR Administrative Fee

Any person desiring to purchase any Oyster Management Reserve (OMR) License(s) shall first pay an OMR administrative fee of \$200 to be deposited into the Commission's general fund. This OMR administrative fee must be paid in full, in addition to the published OMR License fees, and prior to any OMR License being issued.