



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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MRC Contact: Michele Guilford
(757) 247-2206
Michele.Guilford@mrc.virginia.gov

DGIF Contact: Paige Pearson
Marketing and PR Manager
(804) 593-2051
Paige.Pearson@dgif.virginia.gov

Fish On! Free Fishing Days Established for June 1-3, 2018

NEWPORT NEWS, VA – If you’ve always wanted to try fishing, now is your chance! You may fish without a license again this year, during the first weekend in June. Take advantage of the free fishing days, June 1, 2 and 3, 2018, and enjoy the great outdoors with your family and friends without having to spend money for a fishing license.

No fishing license of any kind will be required for recreational rod and reel fishing during free fishing days and facilities use permits will not be required during these dates. All fishing regulations, including size, season, catch limits, and gear restrictions, will remain in effect.

Matthew Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources, said “we hope the public will take advantage of these three free fishing days to enjoy the richness and wonders of our Chesapeake Bay, lakes and rivers. We encourage parents will take their kids fishing; give them a memory that can last a lifetime. And to support Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, there’s no better way to raise awareness and appreciation for our natural resources than to get out and enjoy a day on the Chesapeake Bay.”

“These free fishing days are an incentive for families and friends to get outside and enjoy our natural resources,” said Steven Bowman, Virginia’s Marine Resources Commissioner. “Virginia is blessed with spectacular fishing opportunities and we work hard create and maintain our saltwater fisheries so anglers have good chances of landing some fish. This goes to the heart of our conservation efforts.”

The Marine Resources Commission’s website, <http://mrc.virginia.gov>, has extensive information on Virginia’s recreational fishing size, season and creel limits. Anglers who land unusually large saltwater fish may be eligible for special recognition through the agency’s Saltwater Fishing Tournament by completing a free “Citation” application available from any of the over 80 official weigh stations. Additionally anglers can provide important catch information about their saltwater fishing trip by logging into <https://www.vasaltwaterjournal.com/>.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

“Fishing offers a person, no matter their age, race, fitness ability or income level, the chance connect with nature and to learn how to become better stewards of our natural resources,” said Bob Duncan, Executive Director of the DGIF which manages the states freshwater fishing. “ In this fast paced society fishing is also a great way of ‘casting’ your troubles away and relieving stress.”

The 2018 Freshwater Fishing and Boating Regulations can be found at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website at: www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/regulations/.com. Printed regulations are also available at most major outdoor retailers throughout the state that sell hunting and fishing licenses. In addition, the Marine Resources Commission’s website, <http://mrc.virginia.gov>, has extensive information on Virginia’s recreational fishing size, season and creel limits.

DGIF also has a fun way to recognize a trophy freshwater catch, called The Virginia Angler Recognition Program: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/varp/>. On average, anglers measure up over 6,000 trophy size fish annually. Since 1963, when the program began, over a quarter-million trophy fish awards have been issued.

Anglers are also encouraged to enter the 2018 Kids ‘n Fishing Photo Contest. For contest rules visit <https://www.dgif.virginia.gov/kidsnfishing/or call 804-367-0969>.

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