

VIRGINIA'S SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE



Beginning on January 1, 1993, anglers fishing in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal, saltwater tributaries were required to obtain a saltwater recreational fishing li-

cence. Virginia's territorial sea was added to the licensing requirement in 2000. The first increase in licensing fees occurred in 2006.

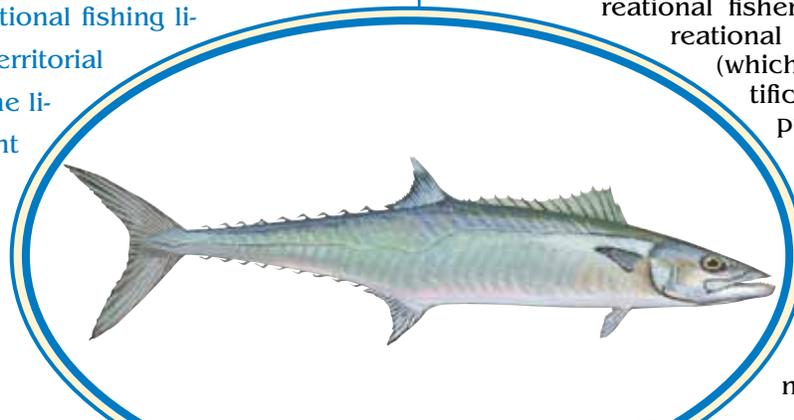
PURPOSE

The license was part of a package of legislation aimed at improving Virginia's marine fisheries, which was passed by the General Assembly in 1992. In addition to the license, the package included a two year delayed entry system for all commercial fisheries and a commercial harvester's license. The legislation also invested authority in the Marine Resources Commission to limit entry in specific fisheries, as needed. The package was designed to give the Marine Resources Commission both the regulatory authority and a source of funding to enhance marine fishery resources.

The saltwater recreational license was designed to raise revenues to conserve and en-

hance fish species caught by recreational fishermen. The law creating the license specified that all license monies had to be deposited in a special fund called the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund.

Expenditures are limited to programs to conserve and enhance fish species important to recreational fishermen, to improve recreational fishing opportunities (which includes building artificial reefs, access, and public education), to obtain data and conduct research for fisheries management, to create and restore habitat for species important to recreational fishermen, and for law enforcement.



KING MACKEREL

LICENSE FUND EXPENDITURES

The licenses raise approximately \$2.4 million annually for recreational fishing projects. A board of citizens representing the interests of the recreational fishery, called the Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board, has been entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing and recommending proposals for expenditures from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund.

This board is appointed by the Commissioner of the Marine Resources Commission. Their recommendations are approved by the Marine Resources Commission, which has final authority over all Fund expenditures.



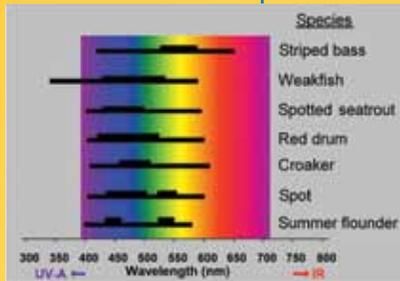
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www.mrc.virginia.gov/vsrfdf/index.shtm

Projects Funded with Saltwater Recreational License Funds

I. Artificial Reefs

1. Mobjack Bay Artificial Reef
2. Poquoson Artificial Reef
3. Bluefish Rock Artificial Reef
4. Nandua-Pungoteague Artificial Reef
5. Buoy Purchase & Placement for Artificial Reefs
6. Deployment Funds for the Artificial Reef Program
7. Digital Imagery of Virginia's Artificial Reefs
8. Reef monitoring equipment for the Artificial Reef Program
9. Assessment Study of Northern Neck and Poquoson Artificial Reefs



II. Public Access

1. Cranes Creek Landing
2. Glebe Point Fishing Pier
3. Mill Creek Landing
4. Gloucester Point Landing
5. Messick Point Landing
6. Smith Landing and Fishing Pier
7. Elizabeth River Fishing Pier
8. Ocean View Fishing Pier
9. Sandbridge Fishing Pier
10. Cape Charles Fishing Pier
11. Buckroe Fishing Pier
12. Quinby Harbor Enhancements
13. Newport News Wavescreen Fishing Pier
14. Curtis-Merritt Harbor Enhancements

III. Enhancement of Recreational Fishing Opportunities and Public Education

1. Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
2. Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program
3. Virginia Marine Anglers Guide
4. Kiwanis Club Kids Fishing Program
5. Hampton Roads Sunshine Kids Fishing Program
6. Newport News Kids Fishing Program
7. Saxis and Morley's Wharf Kids Fishing Program
8. Hope House and Oak Grove Nursing Home Fishing Program
9. VA Charter Boat Association Kids Fishing Program

IV. Data Collection and Assessment

1. Economic Impact Study of Virginia's Saltwater Recreational Fishery
2. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey
3. Virginia Marine Sportfish Collection
4. Chesapeake Bay Multispecies Monitoring and Assessment Program (ChesMMAP)
5. Monitor Recreationally Important Juvenile Fish

V. Fisheries Management Research

1. Sheephead Biological Assessment
2. Improving Stock Assessment of Weakfish
3. Visual Function in Chesapeake Bay Sport and Prey Fishes
4. Striped Bass Mycobacteriosis
5. Shark and Ray Stock Assessment and Monitoring
6. Establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Trophic Interaction Laboratory Services Program
7. Finfish Aging Laboratory
8. American Shad Monitoring
9. Red Drum Population Structure Study
10. American Eel Monitoring
11. Genetic Assessment of Atlantic Menhaden
12. Social and Economic Study of Atlantic Menhaden
13. Striped Bass Satellite Pop-up Tag Study
14. Summer Flounder Acoustic Tag Study

VI. Habitat Research and Restoration

1. Seagrass Habitat Restoration
2. Utility of Alternative Reefs to Simultaneously Enhance Recreational Fish Production and Oyster Restoration.
3. Effects of Boat Scarring on Seagrass

Note: Includes projects funded totally or in part with recreational saltwater fishing license funds.



License and Registry Information
License fees and exemptions change periodically, please check before you fish to make sure you have the proper license and/or registration number.
www.mrc.virginia.gov
757-247-2200