September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

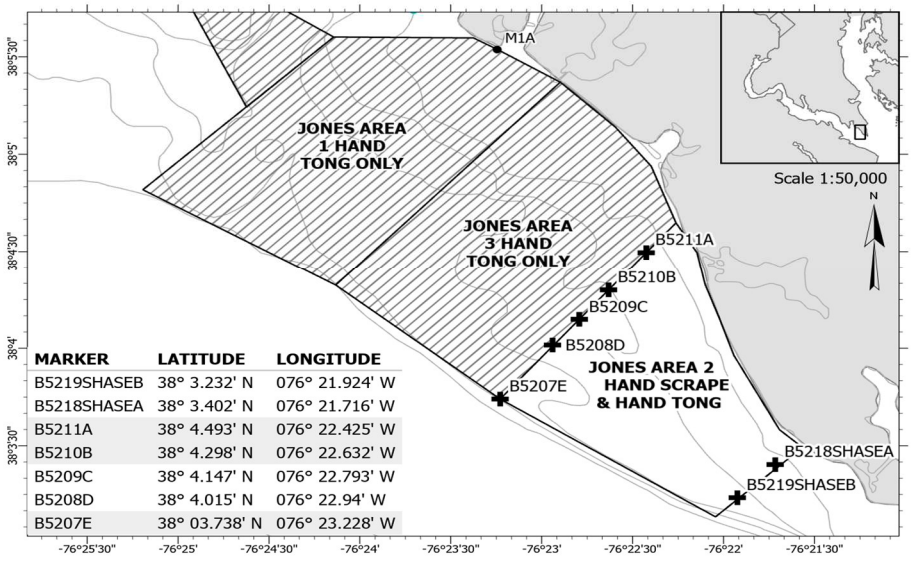
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

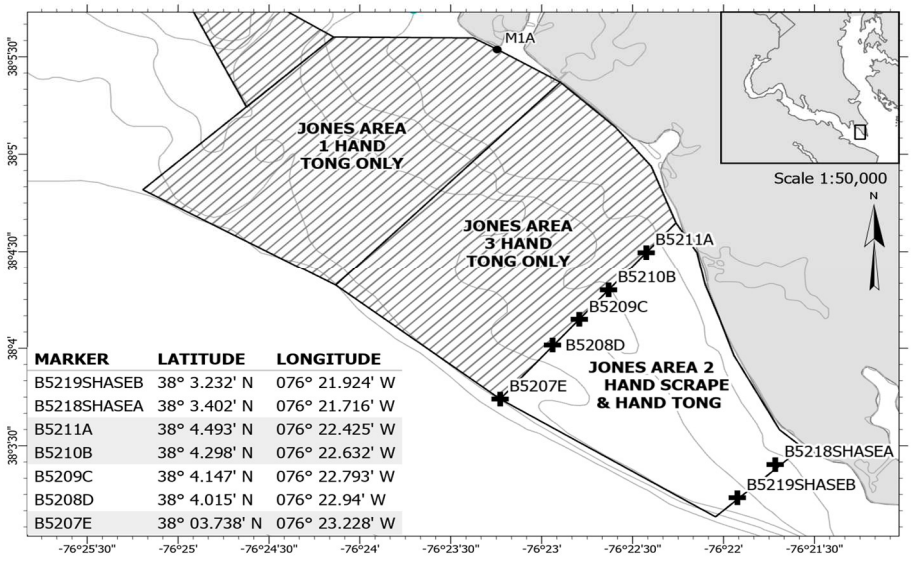
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

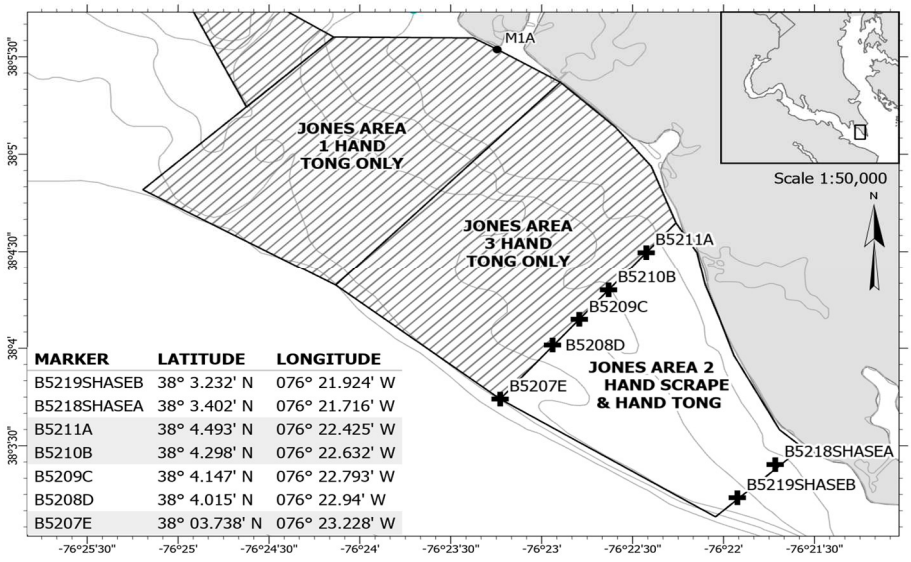
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

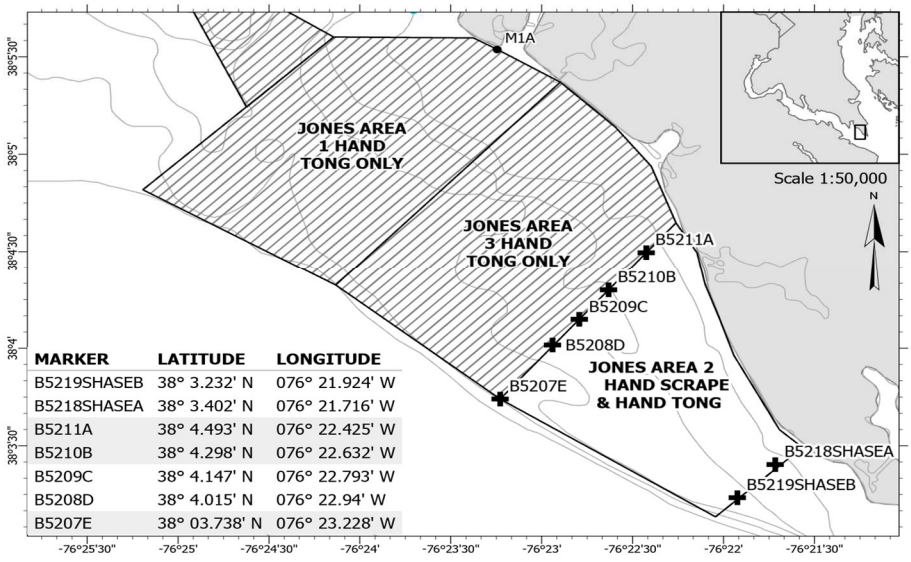
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

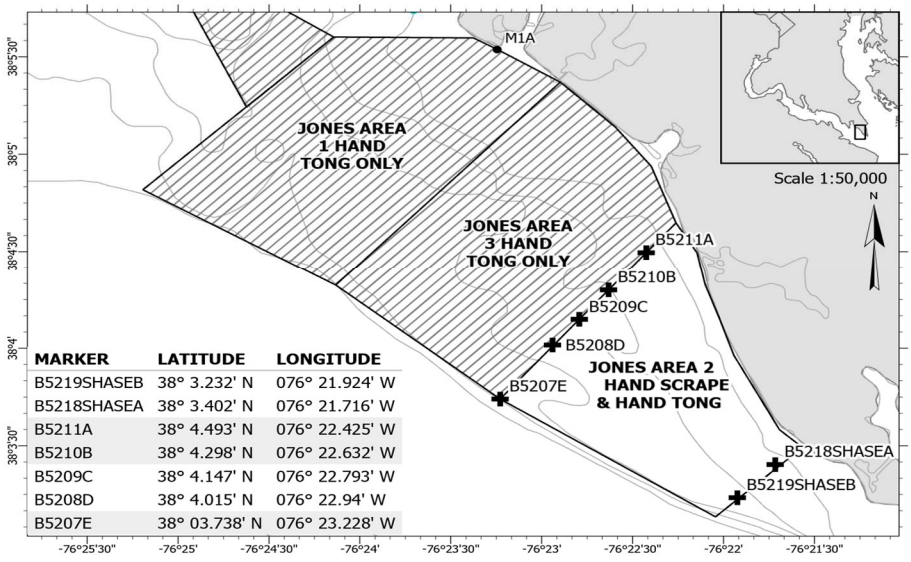
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

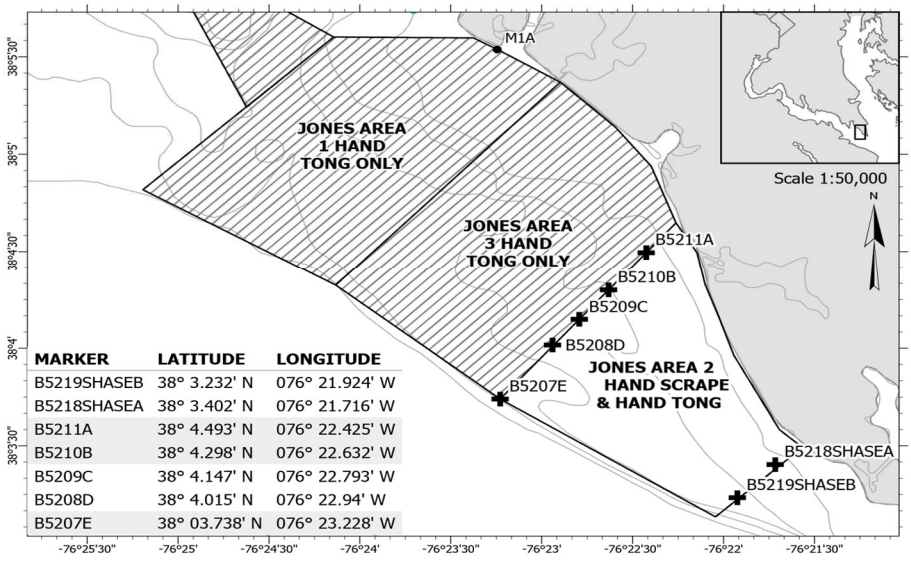
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

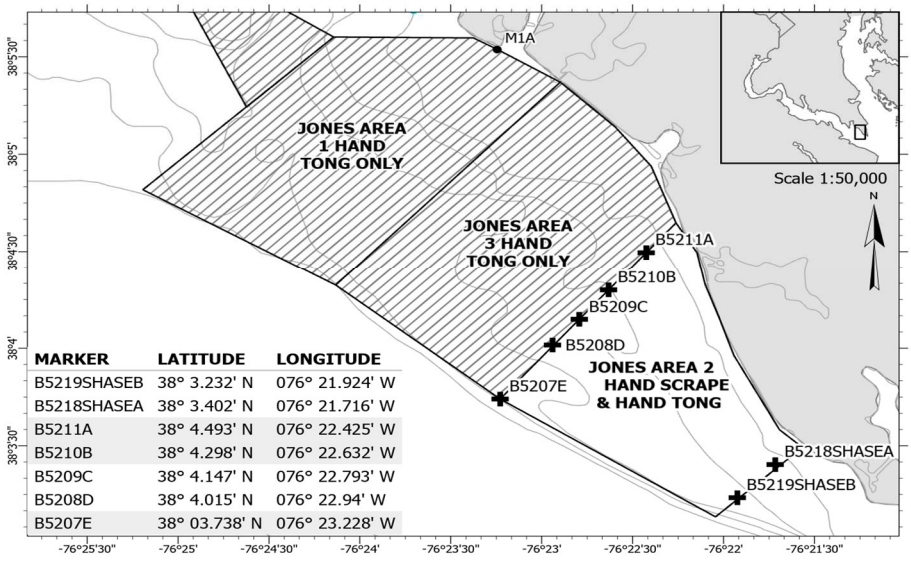
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

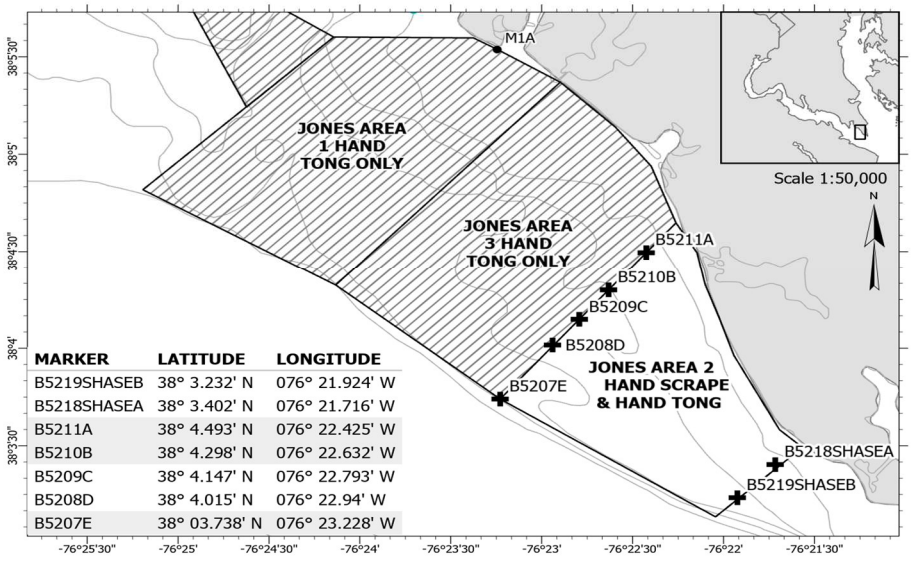
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

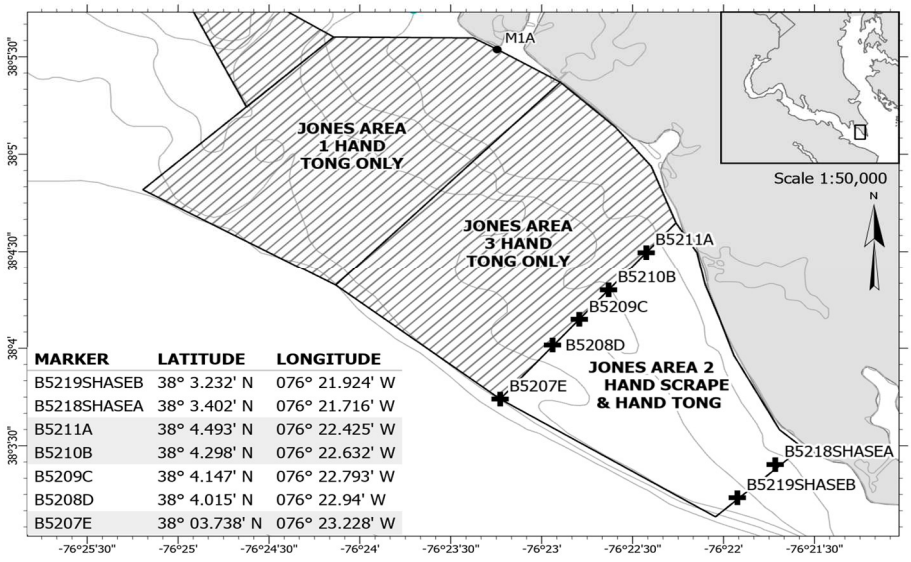
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

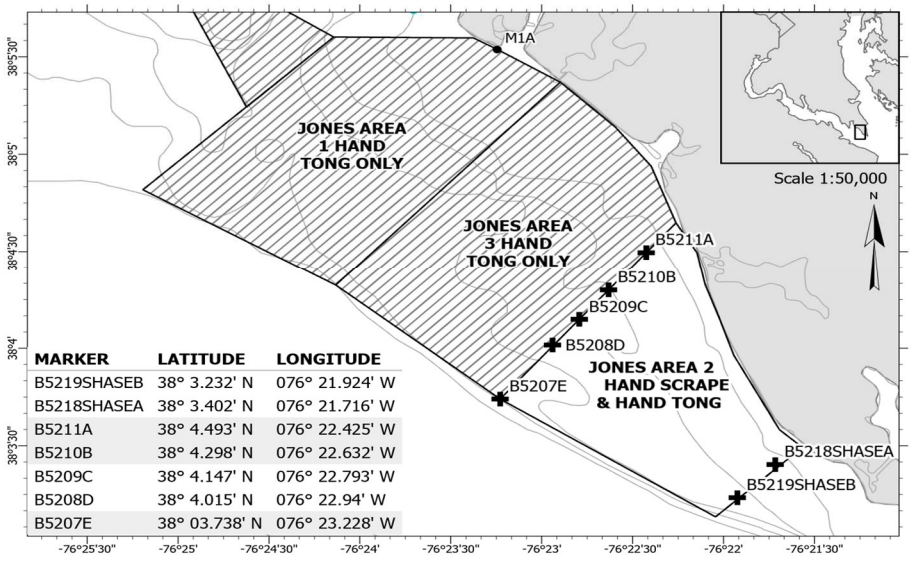
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

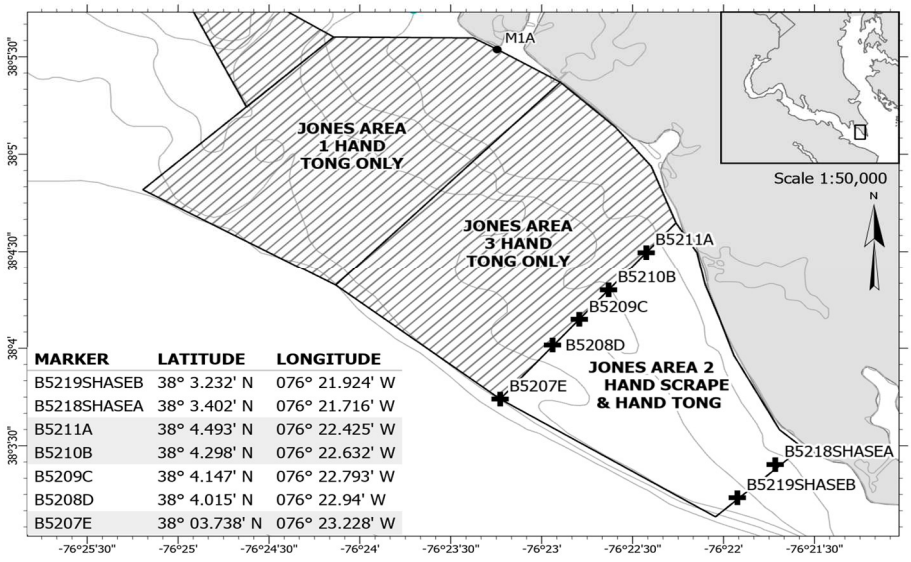
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

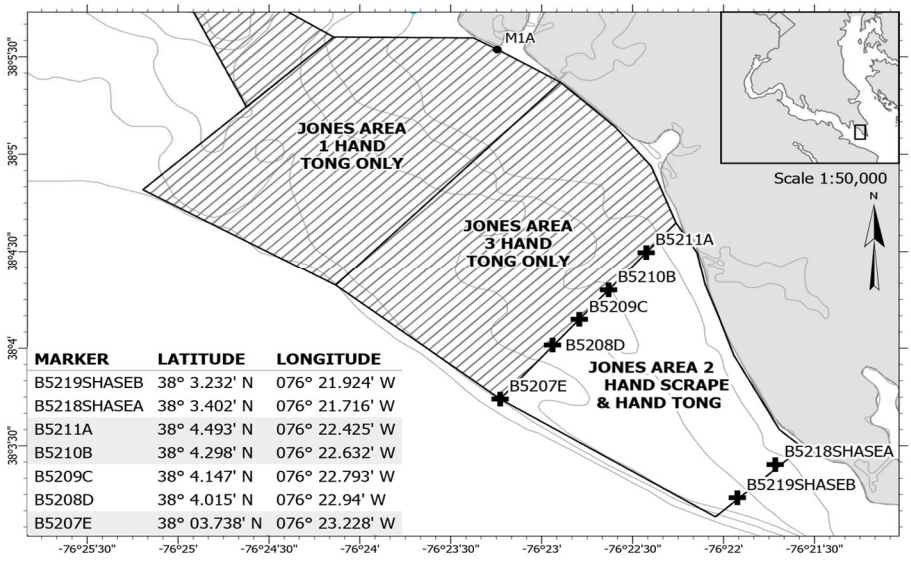
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

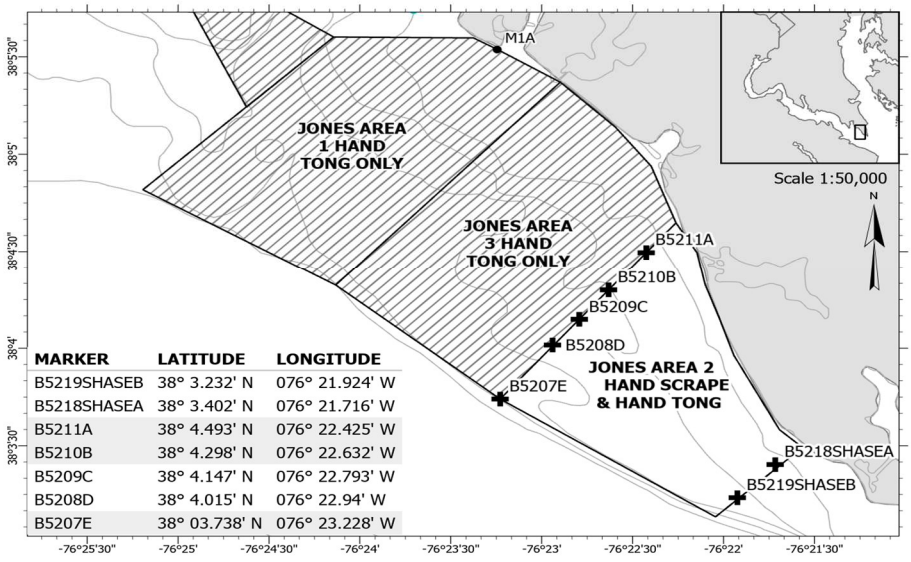
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

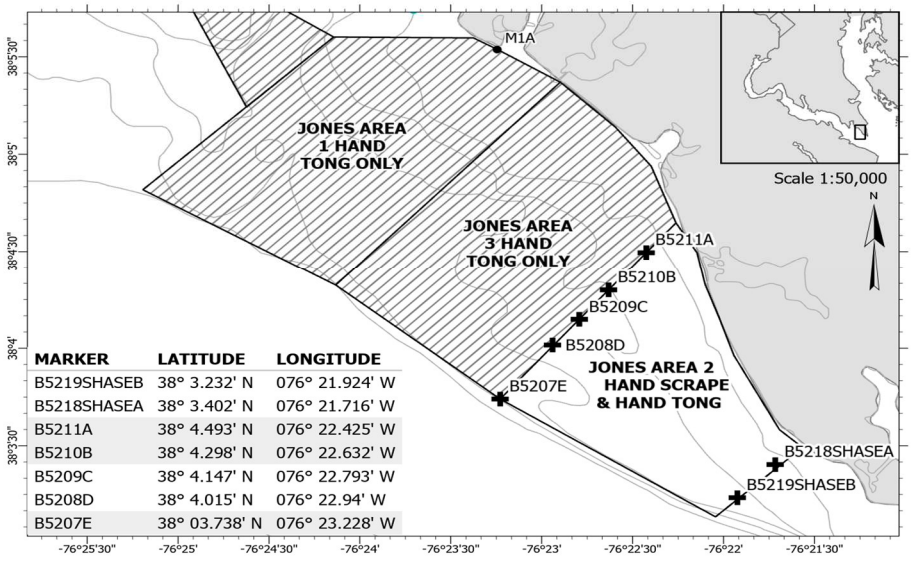
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

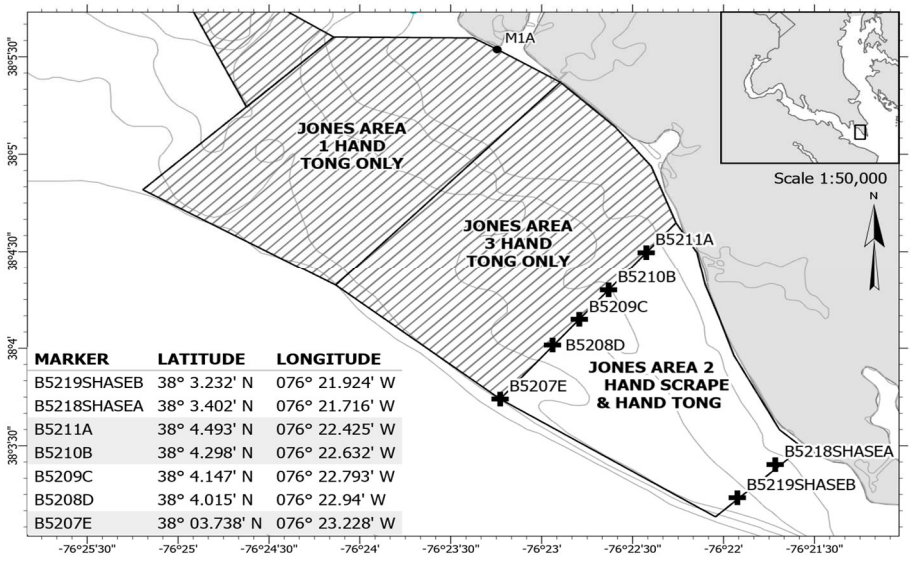
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

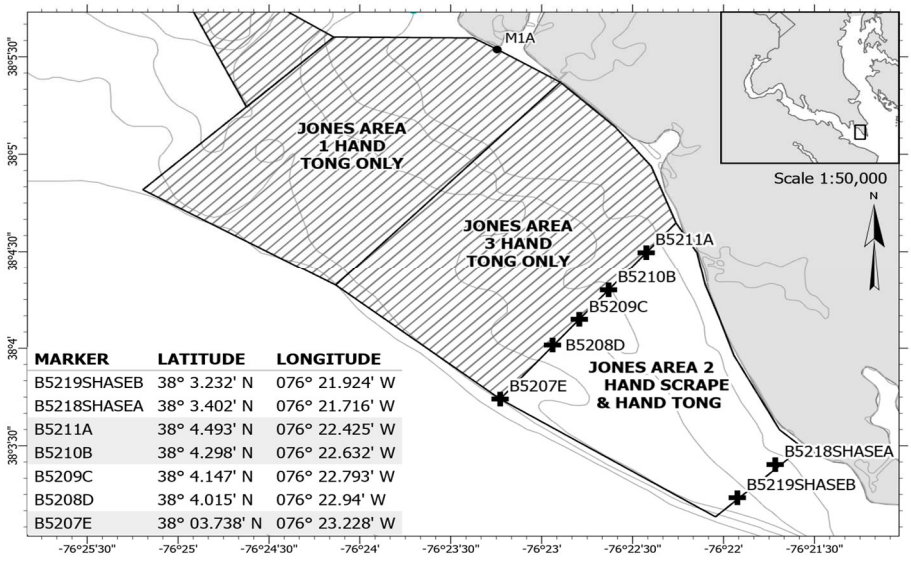
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

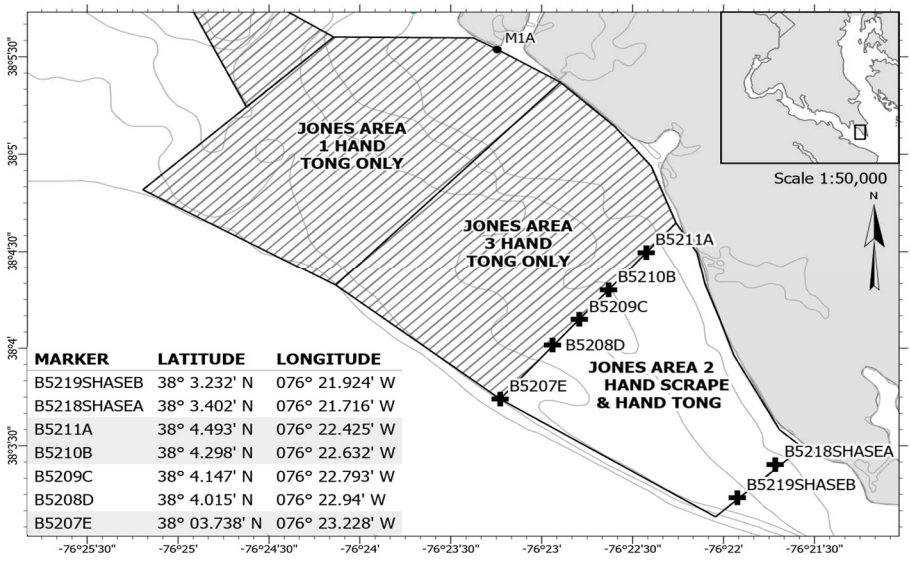
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

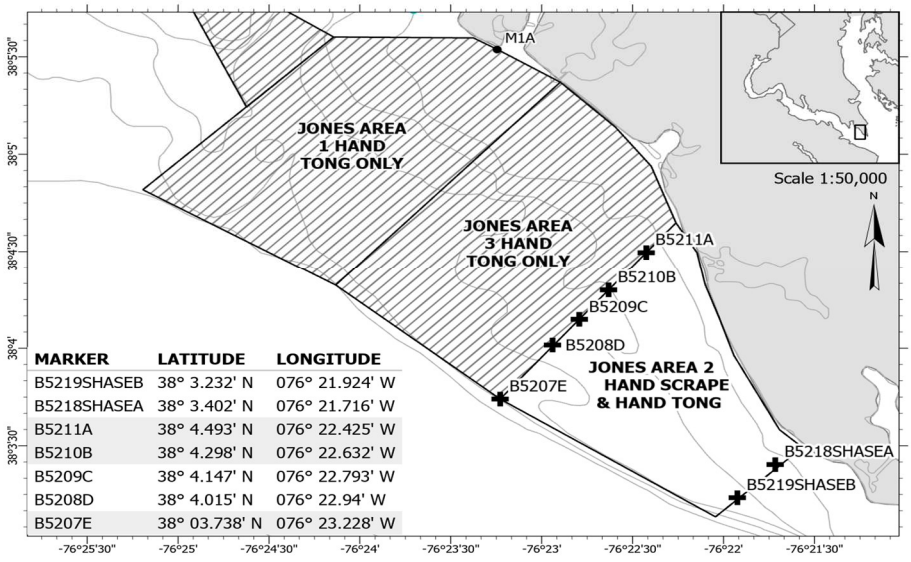
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

OYSTER

Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

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(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

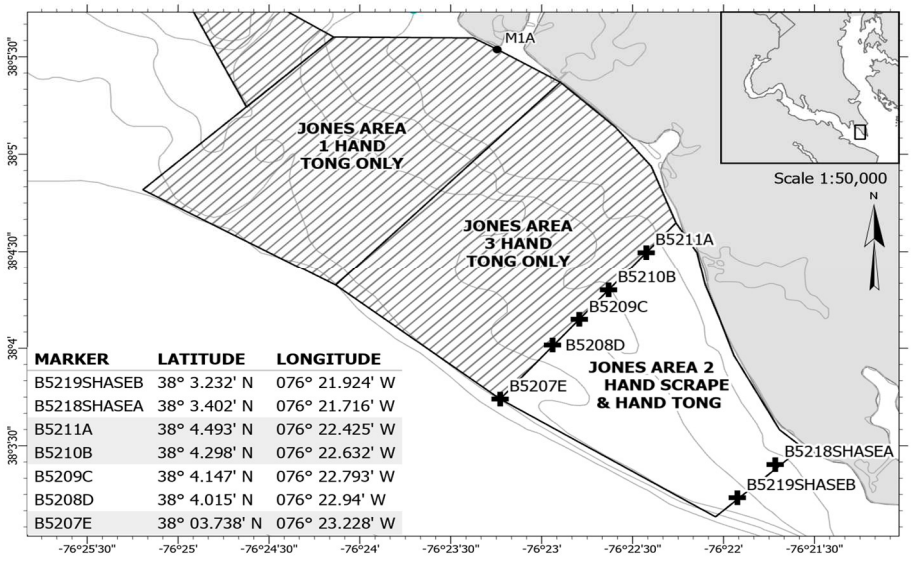
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024

September 21, 2026

Supplement to

POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION BOOK OF REGULATIONS

This supplement should be inserted inside the back cover of the October 6, 2024 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 Orders were adopted by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and are effective for the dates shown thereon.

ATTEST:

Ronald W. Owens, Executive Secretary Date 9/21/26

Between printings of the Supplement, some Orders may be subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for species in the Potomac River. Any "modified" Orders will be posted to the PRFC webpage (prfc.us) as a Public Notice and are available separately upon request. Modified Orders will be published in the subsequent issue of the Supplement.

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CLAMMING
O R D E R #2003-12
CLOSED AREAS TO SOFT SHELL CLAMMING

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the seafood resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 8 (a) and 7 (a)(1):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following described areas are closed to all soft-shell clam harvest by any means at any time:

Closed Area — Upstream Limit

All waters of the Potomac River lying upstream of a line drawn from the U.S. Coast Guard Neale Sound entrance light number "2" (Potomac River entrance to Neale Sound, MD) and the mouth of Popes Creek, VA.

Closed Area "A"

Eastern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is identified by sighting jurisdictional spar buoy "A" over the tip of Point Lookout.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC seed area marker "B" over Smith Creek Approach Light #2.

Closed Area "B"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Mary's River Junction Lighted Buoy over PRFC marker "PRIB".

Western boundary - is a line extending due north from St. Mary's River Junction lighted Buoy.

Northern boundary - is a jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of St. Mary's River, which is identified by sighting spar buoy M2C over PRFC marker "PRM2A".

Closed Area "C"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of Deep Point, St. George's Island.

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. George's Creek West Channel Light #1 over the center span of the St. George's Island Bridge.

Closed Area "D"

Eastern boundary - is a line extending due south of the mouth of Flood Creek.

Western Boundary - is identified by sighting St. Clement's Island Lighted Beacon #3 over St. Patrick Creek Approach Light #2.

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the mouth of Breton Bay as marked with PRFC markers "PRM3A, 3B and 3C: and spar buoys "3D" and "3E."

Closed Area "E"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac River channel buoy number "N-14" over a fixed marker on the southwest tip of St. Clement's Island, Md., and the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR across Dukeharts Channel as marked with PRFC markers "PRM4B and 4C."

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting St. Catherine Sound South Channel Light #1L over PRFC marker "PRM5A."

Closed Area "F"

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting spar buoy "V6D", located on the Maryland-Virginia line at Nomini Bay, over the southern tip of Hollis Island.

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting PRFC marker "PRV4B" over the north end of the tavern at Coles Point.

Closed Area "G"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore five hundred (500) yards west of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore fifteen hundred (1500) yards east of the entrance jetty to Bonums Creek.

Closed Area "H"

Western boundary - is a line extending due east from Sandy Point Neck, which is identified by sighting the easternmost white boat house over a red gambrel roofed barn.

Eastern boundary - is a line extending Northeasterly form the western entrance to Cod Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-48-B."

Closed Area "I"

Western boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore from the entrance to Hack Creek to U.S. Coast Guard buoy "#N-45B."

Eastern boundary - is a line perpendicular to the shore approximately four thousand (4000) yards below the western boundary opposite a white house.

Closed Area "J"

Eastern boundary - is a line identified by sighting the U.S. Coast Guard Potomac/Wicomico River Junction buoy (red/black num buoy) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River red day beacon "#2W" (Mouth of the River Bar).

Western boundary - is a line identified by sighting the tip of Cobb Point (Cobb Island) over the U.S. Coast Guard Wicomico River flashing green light "#3W" (Shipping Point).

Northern boundary - is the jurisdictional line of the PRFC and Maryland DNR at the Mouth of the Wicomico River as marked with PRFC marker "PRM6A," Cobb Bar Light, and "PRM6B."

Closed Area "K"

All of the waters of Piney Point Hollow beginning at a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.148' N and Long. 76° 30.217' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NW'trly approximately 306° true to a point, defined by Lat. 38° 08.343' N. and Long. 76° 30.557' W. and marked with a buoy;

Thence, running NE'trly approximately 41° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.428' N. and Long. 76° 30.463' W.;

Thence, running SE'trly approximately 110° true to a point at or near the mean low water line of the shore, defined by Lat. 38° 08.340' N. and Long. 76° 30.153' W.;

Thence, running SW'trly approximately 194° true to the point of beginning.

Conditionally Closed Area - The area south and/or east of the Upstream Limit and north and/or west of the Charles - St. Mary's County line is closed for clamming April 1 through October 31 each year.

Notice: ALL Closed areas extend from the mean low water line offshore to the Channel, unless otherwise noted.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2003-12 shall become effective October 6, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

CRAB
O R D E R #2008-09
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY POT LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation I, Section 2(d)(3).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: those persons holding a 285, 380, or 475 pot license are limited to that number from the effective date of this Order and each year thereafter.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2008-09 shall become effective July 1, 2008, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2022-11 "Revised" (replaces #2022-11)
COMMERCIAL CRAB FISHERY TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 5(b).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch crabs between sunset and two (2) hours before sunrise during the months of June, July and August and between sunset and one (1) hour before sunrise in all other months, or to land or unload crabs earlier than sunrise or later than sunset.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2022-11 "Revised" shall become effective September 18, 2022, and remain in effect until such time as the Commission has taken further action.

O R D E R #2025-09 (replaces #2024-07)
CRAB SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 4.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch any crabs by any means in the Potomac River during the closed season(s) as follows:

(1) Hard crabs: – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.
Mature females –In addition to the season, see the Order for River Wide Female Crab Harvest Limits.

(2) Soft crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler crabs – October 31 through April 30 next succeeding.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: it shall be unlawful to set, fish or use in the Potomac River any:

(1) Crab pots – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(2) Trotlines and dip nets – December 1 through March 31 next succeeding.

(3) Peeler traps – July 1 through April 30 next succeeding.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-09 shall become effective March 31, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-08 (replaces #2025-12)
LIMITED ENTRY CRAB POT FISHERY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having acted to declare the crab pot fishery a limited entry fishery and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2 (d)(1),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that the maximum number of crab pot licenses allowable in the Potomac River for any license year shall be three hundred and ninety-eight (398).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-08 shall become effective March 16, 2026, and supersedes and repeals Order #2025-12 and will remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-11 (replaces #2025-10)
RIVER WIDE FEMALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than the below limits in the Potomac River during the following seasons, as follows:

(1) Eight (8) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twelve (12) bushels for 400 pot licenses and sixteen (16) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026;
(2) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from September 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026;

(3) Twenty (20) bushels for 300 pot licenses; twenty-five (25) bushels for 400 pot licenses and thirty (30) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from October 1, 2026 through November 30, 2026; and,
(4) Twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of female crabs per day from April 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-11 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-10 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-12 (replaces #2025-11)
RIVER WIDE MALE CRAB HARVEST LIMITS FOR MANAGEMENT YEAR 2026-2027

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the crab resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) and Regulation VII, Section 7.

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any commercial crab pot licensee to take or catch, or attempt to take or catch, more than twelve (12) bushels for 300 pot licenses; sixteen (16) bushels for 400 pot licenses and twenty (20) bushels for 500 pot licenses of male crabs per day from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-12 shall become effective July 1, 2026 supersedes and repeals Order #2025-11 and will remain in effect through June 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-13 (replaces #2024-14)
CRAB POT IDENTIFICATION TAGS/DECALS FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the blue crab population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the blue crab resource; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 2(d)(5); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Decals shall be $120.00 per crab pot license; and,
2. The fee for Crab Pot Identification Tags shall be $60.00 per crab pot license.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: The fee shall be paid at the time of Crab Pot License renewal/issue. Individuals who wish to modify their product selection for the upcoming season must notify the Commission by July 1 of the current season. If no notification is received by that date, the identification product will default to the previous year's order.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-13 shall become effective June 15, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

FISH
O R D E R #2010–06
POSSESSION OF SNAKEHEADS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the indigenous seafood resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (1) and Section 8 (a), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) It shall be unlawful to release, to return, or otherwise discard any living snakehead or member of the *Channidae* family to the Potomac River.

b) It shall be lawful to possess a live snakehead fish (of the family *Channidae*) only so long as necessary to kill the fish as specified in paragraph (c).

c) A person may possess a dead snakehead fish only with (i) the head removed, or (ii) the fish is gutted, or (iii) both gill arches of the fish removed and the person notifies, as soon as practicable, one of the following agencies:
   i) Maryland Department of Natural Resources 410-260-8287,
   ii) Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 800-770-4951,
   iii) DC Fisheries and Wildlife Division 202-535-2260, or
   iv) US Fish and Wildlife Service 703-358-1932.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2010-06 shall become effective June 20, 2010, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2013–01 (replaces #2012-05)
AMERICAN SHAD BY-CATCH PROVISION

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the American shad resources; and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a) (2); and Reg. III, Sec. 11(c)(2); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

a) That the tolerance specified in Regulation III, Section 11 (c) (2) for gill nets and pound nets shall be 2% by volume of the total catch in possession, not to exceed two (2) standard bushels per day per licensee, of American or hickory shad shall be allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order 2013-01 shall become effective January 1, 2013, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2014-05
SEASONAL CLOSURE FOR AMERICAN EELS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Addendum III to the Fishery Management Plan for American Eel and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

FISH

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch and keep any American eels from fyke net(s) and/or pound net(s) in the Potomac River during the closed season, from September 1 through December 31.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2014-05 shall become effective January 1, 2014, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-01 (replaces #2025-01 "Revised")
2026 RECREATIONAL AND CHARTER FISHERIES STRIPED BASS SEASON

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the Striped Bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for Striped Bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 7(a) and 8(a), Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11;

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the following restrictions shall apply to the recreational and charter striped bass fishery:

Catch & Release Season:

Open Dates: January 1 thru May 15, 2026
Creel Limit: No harvest permitted, catch and release fishing only
Bait Restrictions: No live eel. **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

Summer/Fall Season:

Open Dates: May 16 thru July 6, 2026 and Aug. 21 thru Dec. 31, 2026
Closed Dates: July 7 thru August 20, 2026 (No Direct Targeting)
Open Area: Downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95)
Creel Limit: One (1) fish per person per day
Size Limit: Minimum Nineteen (19.0) inches TL and Maximum Twenty-Four (24.0) inches TL
No High-Grading: Unlawful to return fish to the water after it is placed into a cooler or storage area.

No At-sea/At-shore Filleting: Unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing, any striped bass from which the head or tail has been removed

Bait Restrictions: **Non-offset (inline) Circle Hooks* are required to be used when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural bait**. No more than two (2) hooks or sets of hooks for each rod or line may be used. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered one set of hooks.

* A Circle Hook is defined as a non-offset or inline hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" or "inline" means the point and barb are in the same plane as the shank (e.g. when the hook is laying on a flat surface, the entire hook and barb also lay flat).

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-01 shall become effective January 1 2026, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-02 (replaces #2025-02)
2026 COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 10; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the catch limits for striped bass (rockfish) provided for in Regulation III, Section 10, Sub-sections (a) and (b) shall be 532,761 pounds, and divided by gear type as follows:

1) Commercial Hook and Line: 101,496 pounds total for all licensees, plus any available gill net allocation as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d).

2) Pound Net: 118,806 pounds total for all licensees. Each pound net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total, and such share will be proportional to the total number of pound net licenses issued and the number held by the licensee. Two or more licensees may, and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed, verified, and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

3) Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: 12,786 pounds total for all licensees. This gear type includes and is limited to fyke net and haul seine licenses only. The yearly total number of ID tags shall be divided 60% haul seine, 40% fyke net and further divided equally among fishermen who have held the specific license type and who have fished such gear and reported catch of other species during each of the last 3 license years.

    i. Each haul seine licensee must have his/her haul seine measured and sealed by PRFC or law enforcement prior to qualifying to receive striped bass tags. Only one (1) seal per net will be allowed.
    ii. Each fyke net licensee must have at least one net set and fishing before receiving his share of the total.
    iii. Unlawful to harvest striped bass from any haul seine or fyke net that has not been certified/inspected.

4) Gill Net: Published Separately

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that striped bass identification tags may be used only on fish harvested with the gear type for which the striped bass identification tags were issued.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-02 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-02 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-03 "Modified" (replaces #2026-03)
2026 RECREATIONAL and CHARTER FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** recreational and charter seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	25 per person
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	Mar. 1 - June 15	15" min.	5 per person
	All other times	12" min.	5 per person
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 per person
Black Sea Bass [1]	May 15 - Dec. 31	13" min.	15 per person
	Tail filament is not incl. in total length of the fish		
Bluefish Recreational	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	5 per person
Charter "For Hire"	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	8" min.	7 per person
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia [3]	June 15 - Sept. 20	43" min.	1/person or 2/vessel
Crappie	Jan 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	10 per person
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum *	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	*18" min. – 26" max.	*3 per person
River Herring	.....C L O S E D.....		
Shad (American or Hickory)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Snakehead [2]	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Spanish Mackerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	15 per person
Spot	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	50 per person
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	10 per person
Striped Bass	..... P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y.....		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	.....C L O S E D.....		
Summer Flounder	Jan. 1 - May 31	16" min.	4 per person
	June 1 - Dec. 31	17.5" min.	4 per person
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No Limit
Weakfish	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	12" min.	1 per person
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	10 per person

(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.

(3) – **Cobia** – Gaffing is now allowed to land a cobia while fishing recreationally.

*Red Drum possession and per person limits shown here are only valid until August 31, 2026. Please see Public Notice for updated possession and per person limits that are effective September 1, 2026.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-03 "Modified" shall become effective September 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-03 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-04 (replaces #2025-04 "Revised")
2026 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON, SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (ACFCMA) and the provisions of Regulation III, Sections 9, 10 and 11; **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that commercial seasons, size limits, and catch limits provided for in Regulation III, Section 9, 10, and 11 shall be for the species named therein as follows:

Species	Season	Size Limit	Catch Limit
American Eel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	No limit
Atlantic Croaker	Jan. 1 - Sept. 30	No limit	No limit
Black Bass (Large or Small Mouth)	C L O S E D		
Black Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	16" min.	1 fish
Black Sea Bass*(1)	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	11" min.	No limit*
Bluefish*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Catfish: Bullhead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Channel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
White	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Blue	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit	No limit
Cobia*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	37" min.	2/person or 6/vessel
Pike or Chain Pickerel	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Red Drum	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	18" min. - 25" max.	5 fish
River Herring	C L O S E D		
Shad (American or Hickory)	C L O S E D (See Order #2013-01 for By-Catch Provisions).		
Snakehead	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No limit (2)	No limit
Spanish Mackerel*	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	3,500 lbs/vessel/day
Spot	Jan. 1 - Oct. 28	No limit	No limit
Spotted Sea Trout	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Striped Bass	P U B L I S H E D S E P A R A T E L Y		
Sturgeon (Atlantic or Shortnose)	C L O S E D		
Summer Flounder**	Mar. 10 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit*
Tautog	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	14" min.	No limit
Weakfish***	Jul. 28 - Dec. 31	12" min.	50 lbs / day*
White Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	6" min.	No limit
Yellow Perch	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	9" min.	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.

***BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** the commercial fisheries for black sea bass, bluefish, cobia, and/or Spanish mackerel, have daily catch limits (landing limits) imposed subject to ASMFC notification and may be closed immediately by Order of the Commission upon notification by both Maryland and Virginia that the ASMFC/MAFMC established commercial harvest quota for such

species has been landed and the state waters are closed for the harvest of such species.

****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that when the PRFC summer flounder quota, based on the ASMFC quota as established by the MD/VA/PRFC In State Commercial Summer Flounder Landings Memorandum of Understanding, is reached the fishery shall be closed. Providing that daily landing limits may be imposed when 80% of the quota is projected to be landed.

*****BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED:** that subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Weakfish Management Plan pound netters are permitted to possess no more than 50 lbs. (1 bushel) 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.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-04 shall become effective, January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-04 "Revised" and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-05 (replaces #2025-05)
COMMERCIAL GEAR STRIPED BASS SEASONS & SIZE LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation III, Sections 9(a) and 11(a); **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** the Potomac River striped bass (rockfish) seasons and size limits shall be for each gear type or segment listed below as follows:

	Gear	Season	Size Limit
1)	Commercial Hook and Line:	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.
2)	Pound Net:	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
3)	Miscellaneous Commercial Gear: (Includes Haul Seine and Fyke Net Only)	February 15 through March 25	18" min. / 36" max.
		June 1 through December 15	18" min. / no max.
4)	Gill Net:	SEE THE CURRENT GILL NET SEASON & RESTRICTIONS ORDER	

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: except for the gear types or segments listed herein and within the specified dates, or as otherwise provided by Regulation or Order, it shall be unlawful to take, catch, and remove any striped bass from the Potomac River during any other times of the year or by any other means.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-05 shall become effective January 1, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-05 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-06 Revised (replaces #2026-06) COMMERCIAL ATLANTIC MENHADEN CATCH LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary to comply with certain provisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Amendments 2 and 3, and Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (IFMP) for Atlantic Menhaden and the provisions of Regulation I, Section 7(a)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the catch limit for Atlantic menhaden provided for in Regulation III, Section 10(a) shall be 2,436,710 pounds. A weekly menhaden harvest call-in program will be imposed when 70 percent of the catch limit is projected to be landed. When the PRFC Atlantic menhaden catch limit is reached, all commercial fisheries shall be closed to all gear types.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: When the commercial fisheries for Atlantic menhaden are closed, subject to the provisions of the ASMFC Amendment 2 and Addendum I to the IFMP for Atlantic Menhaden, PRFC commercial fishermen using stationary multi-species gear are permitted to possess and/or land no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden for a single vessel per day, which must be harvested by the licensee from his licensed net(s). In this case, stationary multi-species gears are defined as pound nets, anchored/staked gill nets, and fyke nets. Exception – a single vessel may land/possess no more than 12,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden per day when there are two PRFC pound net licensees physically on board who each have at least one of their pound nets set and fishing and prior to the fishery being closed and the by-catch provisions being implemented, no more than 6,000 pounds of Atlantic menhaden are harvested from either of the licensees' nets.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-06 "Revised" shall become effective September 21, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2026-06 and remain in effect until December 31, 2026.

O R D E R #2026-14 (replaces #2025-14) COMMERCIAL HOOK AND LINE AND GILL NET LIMITED ENTRY

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population to impose restrictions on fishing for striped bass and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(i)(1) and 2(l)(2):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: the maximum number of commercial hook and line licenses shall be two hundred and forty-six (246), and the maximum number of gill net stands shall be six hundred and sixty-nine (669).

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: no more than five (5) Commercial Hook & Lines Licenses may be issued to or renewed by any natural person in any given year.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: the provisions of Regulation III, Sec. 13(d) entitled "Individual Striped Bass Allocation Transfer from Gill Net to Commercial Hook and Line" shall be allowed provided the sum total of gill nets and commercial hook and line licenses do not exceed nine hundred and fifteen (915).

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-14 will become effective, June 15, 2026 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-14, and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R 2026-15
HOOK & LINE RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Hook and Line License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Hook & Line License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Hook & Line random drawing shall be set at $100;

2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;

3. No natural person currently holding five (5) PRFC Hook and Line Licenses can get into the random drawing;

4. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;

5. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;

6. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;

7. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;

8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-15 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

O R D E R 2026-16
GILL NET RANDOM DRAWING REGISTRATION FEE

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having identified one (1) Gill Net License that was not renewed and became available for a random drawing, will conduct a random drawing for one (1) Gill Net License during the next commercial license renewal period, starting on November 1, 2026, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 1(d)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:**

1. The non-refundable registration fee for the 2026/2027 Gill Net random drawing shall be set at $100;
2. Persons desiring to obtain a limited entry fishing license, by random drawing, shall register with the Commission between November 1st, 2026 and the last business day of January 2027 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday;
3. The registration shall include the person's name and address and the non-refundable fee;
4. No person may register more than once per year per fishery and the registration shall be for this year's random drawing only;
5. Notice of being selected will be mailed to the person selected at the address shown on the registration form;
6. The person selected will have until March 31st, 2027 to purchase the license;
7. The gill net license will be valid for the remainder of the 26/27 gill net season;
8. A license received via random drawing may not be transferred to another person for 5 years.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order #2026-16 shall become effective November 1, 2026.

FISH
O R D E R #2026-17 (replaces #2025-17)
2026-2027 GILL NET SEASON AND RESTRICTIONS & COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS CATCH AND SIZE LIMIT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the striped bass (rockfish) population, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8 and Regulation III, Sections 9(a), (b) and 10(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS**: the gill net fishery shall be allowed under the following conditions and limitations:

a) Season - The gill net season shall be from November 9, 2026 through March 25, 2027.

b) Permitted Nets - Each licensee, shall be permitted to set and fish a single properly identified net, in the number of his licensed locations (stands) as follows:

i) November 9th through February 28th – all stands, and;
ii) from March 1st through March 15th – 4 stands, and;
iii) March 16th through March 25th – 3 stands.

c) Other Conditions – Once renewed no change of the ownership of any gill net licenses will be allowed during the remainder of the open gill net season. Two or more licensees may and are encouraged to jointly fish lawfully licensed and set nets belonging to one or more of the individuals.

d) Quota – The gill net striped bass quota shall be 292,247 pounds total for all licensees, less any taken with a hook and line as may be allowed under Regulation III, Sec. 13(d). Each individual's striped bass quota will be proportional to the number of gill net licenses held by that individual and will be represented by a number of striped bass identification tags issued to that individual.

e) Striped Bass Size Limit

November 9, 2026 through February 14, 2027	18” Min.
February 15, 2027 through March 25, 2027	18” Min. / 36” Max.

AND IT IS ADDITIONALLY DECLARED AND ORDERED: that this Order is subject to automatic modification without further action as necessary to comply with requirements imposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Amendments to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the above species in the Potomac River.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-17 shall become effective November 1, 2026, shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-17 and remain in effect for the 2026-2027 season or until such time the Commission has taken further action.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2012-09 (replaces #2011-09)
OYSTER LICENSE SURCHARGE FEES

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Sections 2(f) and 7(a).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: establishment of a $300.00 per person oyster license surcharge fee.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: that oyster license surcharge fees collected will be used to purchase natural seed for planting.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2012-09 shall become effective September 30, 2012 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2018-10
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA ESTABLISHED
(Knotts Hollow Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Special Management Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that **Knotts Hollow Bar** (100 acres) is designated as a Special Management Area. Knotts Hollow Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "Beginning at a point Beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.430' N., Long. 76° 41.012' W., then running 355° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.642' N., Long. 76° 41.035' W., then running 79° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.795' N., Long. 76° 40.043' W., then running 122° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.688' N., Long. 76° 39.828' W., then running 181° (True) to a point at or near Lat. 38° 13.455' N., Long. 76° 39.832' W., then running 268° (True) to the point of beginning."

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Knotts Hollow Bar, the boundaries as described above, unless the Commission so chooses to open the area (Reg. I, Sec. 8(a)).

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2018-10 shall become effective March 12, 2018 and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER
O R D E R #2024-19 (replaces #2020-12)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR
(Green Hill/Old Farm Bar)

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-

river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a): **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** that Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar (468 acres) is designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time on Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar until October 1, 2028. The Green Hill Bar/Old Farm Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°13.613' N, Long. 76°55.273' W, then running 130° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.308' N, Long. 76°54.643' W, then running 198° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.052' N, Long. 76°54.731' W, then running 299° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.119' N, Long. 76°54.882' W, then running 285° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.230' N, Long. 76°55.348' W, then running 250° to a point defined by Lat. 38°12.873' N, Long. 76°56.667' W, then running 331° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.133' N, Long. 76°56.846' W, then running 23° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.328' N, Long. 76°56.746' W, then running ° to a point defined by Lat. 38°13.396' N, Long. 76°55.510' W, then running 39° to the point of the beginning."

AND, IT IS FURTHERED DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2024-19 shall become effective September 16, 2024 shall supersede and repeal Order #2020-12 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-16 (replaces #2024-21)
MOLLUSCAN SHELLFISH COMPLIANCE WITH NSSP MODEL ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, for the purpose of protecting the health of the public that consumes shellfish harvested from the Potomac River, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b), finds it necessary to comply with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, (by the most current version):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That, except as specifically hereinafter provided otherwise, the provisions of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) *10.15.07.01* and Virginia Administrative Code *Chapter 4 VAC 20-1230-31*, as amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated by reference.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That a shellfish harvester shall:

OYSTER

(1) Harvest in accordance with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance incorporated by reference in COMAR 10.15.07.01A; and,

(2) From May 1 through October 31:

a) Protect harvested oysters from direct sun by providing shade over the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
b) Maintain air flow to the area where the harvested oysters are stored;
c) Document the harvest start time, which is the time the first oysters are removed from the water, on a harvest trip record or harvest tag; and
d) Provide the harvest time record as required in Section 2(c) of this Order to a dealer on delivery.

(3) Shellfish harvesters shall conform to the curfew restrictions of the State where their harvested shellfish are landed.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2025-16 shall become effective June 16, 2025 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2025-22
SEED PRODUCTION AREA – CORNFIELD HARBOR

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Seed Production Area for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that a ten (10) acre portion of Cornfield Harbor Bar (484 acres) and Additions (289 acres) be designated as a Seed Production Area. Cornfield Harbor and Additions are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Cornfield Point downstream to Point Lookout, MD. The "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°2.641' N, Long. 76°19.668' W, then running 63° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.667' N, Long. 76°19.605' W, then running 165° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.515' N, Long. 76°19.555' W, then running 274° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°2.518' N, Long. 76°19.611' W, then running 340° True to the point of the beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That the "Cornfield Harbor Seed Production Area" (10 acres) is closed to oyster harvest, and it shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch or attempt to take or catch oysters by any means at any time.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2025-22 shall become effective October 1, 2025, and remain in effect until further notice.

OYSTER

O R D E R #2026-18 (replaces Order #2025-19)
2026-2027 HAND TONG OYSTER SEASON DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a)(1), **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season dates, days and time limits, except as may be otherwise provided, shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-18 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect through March 31, 2027.

O R D E R 2026-19 (Replaces Order #2025-20)
2026-2027 JONES SHORE BAR OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources on the Jones Shore Bar and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits for Jones Shore bar shall be as follows:

Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Tonging	Oct. 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Monday thru Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area open to Hand Tonging - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.892' N, 76˚23.530' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.323' N, 76˚24.132' W); thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚04.816' N, 76˚25.192' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚05.599' N, 76˚24.143' W); thence easterly to a point (38˚05.594' N, 76˚23.374' W) along the shoreline south of Calvert Bay, MD; thence southeasterly to Gray Point, MD at the mouth of Rowley Bay (38˚05.536' N, 76˚23.245' W); thence southeasterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning.

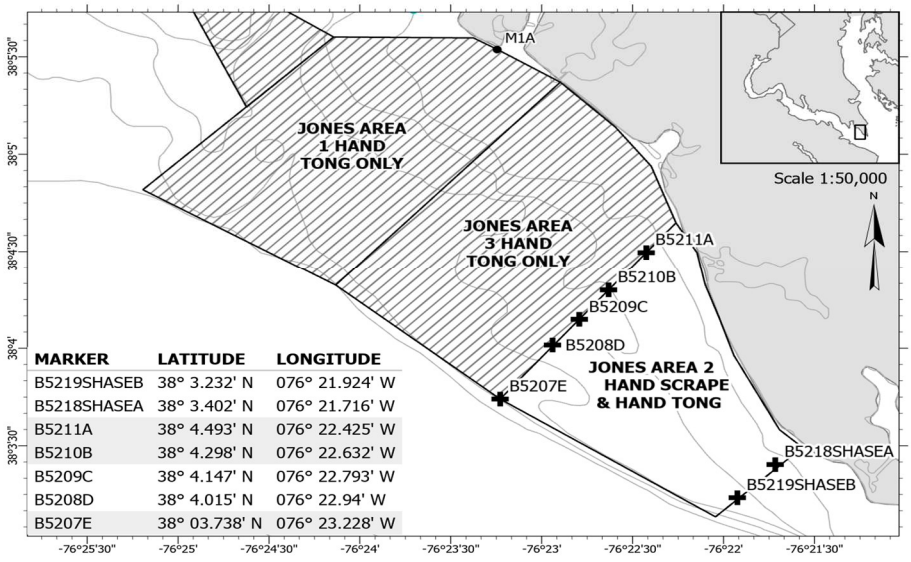
Gear	Season	Days	Hours
Hand Scraping	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Feb. 28, 2027	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
	Mar. 1, 2027 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Mon. thru Fri.	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

Area 2 open to Hand Scraping - That portion of the Potomac River commonly known as Jones Shore (Area 2) and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point on shore above Hall Pond, MD (38˚03.490' N, 76˚21.566' W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚03.134' N, 76˚22.044' W), which is the intersection of an established fish trap area as delineated on NOAA chart #122233; thence northwesterly along the fish trap area line to a point (38˚03.738' N, 76˚23.228' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚04.669' N, 76˚22.237' W) at the south side of the pier at Camp Brown St. Mary's County, MD; thence southwesterly along the shore following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of beginning. (See attached map)

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-19 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until further notice.

Potomac River Fisheries Commission - Jones Shores Rotational Areas



MARKER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
B5219SHASEB	38° 3.232' N	076° 21.924' W
B5218SHASEA	38° 3.402' N	076° 21.716' W
B5211A	38° 4.493' N	076° 22.425' W
B5210B	38° 4.298' N	076° 22.632' W
B5209C	38° 4.147' N	076° 22.793' W
B5208D	38° 4.015' N	076° 22.94' W
B5207E	38° 03.738' N	076° 23.228' W

O R D E R 2026-20 (replaces Order #2025-18)

2026-2027 ROTATIONAL HAND SCRAPE HARVEST PROGRAM OYSTER SEASON, AREAS, DATES, DAYS, AND TIME LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources in the Potomac River and pursuant to its authority under Regulation II, Section 2(b) and Regulation I, Section 7(a) **HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS:** The 2026-2027 hand scrape oyster season, areas, dates, days open and time limits shall be as follows:

Area	Season	Days	Hour
Area 8	Oct. 1, 2026 thru Apr. 30, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.
Areas 2, 3 & 7	Nov. 1, 2026 thru Mar. 31, 2027	Monday through Friday	Sunrise to 3:00 p.m.

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Areas open to Hand Scraping –

a) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 2**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence southeasterly to Smiths Point, VA (37˚ 53.390' N, 76˚ 14.150' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V2BB" (38˚ 2.740' N, 76˚ 31.259' W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

b) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 3**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 10.234' N, 76˚ 35.365' W); thence westerly to a point (38˚ 12.099' N, 76˚ 44.582' W) as marked by navigational aid "R N 14"; thence northerly to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409' N, 76˚ 44.722' W); thence westerly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "M4A" (38˚ 12.492' N, 76˚ 44.572' W); thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Georges Island, MD (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

c) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 7**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence southerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699' N, 76˚ 55.314' W); thence easterly to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker "V8A" (38˚ 16.462' N, 76˚ 59.413' W); thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

d) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 8**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 21.831' N, 76˚ 59.010' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Maryland shoreline; thence westerly to a point (38˚ 21.570' N, 77˚ 0.899' W), which is where the Harry Nice/Middleton Bridge meets the Virginia shoreline; thence northerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 22.073' N, 77˚ 5.605' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 24.356' N, 77˚ 5.537' W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

Areas closed to Hand Scraping –

e) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as "**Area 1**" and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (37˚ 58.668' N, 76˚ 17.229' W) at the mouth of the Potomac River; thence northwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.640' N, 76˚ 29.309' W); thence northerly to a point (38˚ 6.149' N, 76˚ 28.458' W); thence easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚

5.817’ N, 76˚ 23.853’ W); thence southwesterly to a point (38˚ 4.816’ N, 76˚ 25.192’ W); thence southeasterly to the point (38˚ 4.323’ N, 76˚ 24.132’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.738’ N, 76˚ 23.228’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.134’ N, 76˚ 22.044’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 3.489’ N, 76˚ 21.566’ W); easterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to the point (38˚ 2.188’ N, 76˚ 19.333’ W); thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

f) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 4**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V2BB” (38˚ 2.740’ N, 76˚ 31.259’ W); thence northwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence northerly to a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence westerly a point (38˚ 10.234’ N, 76˚ 35.635’ W); thence southwesterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

g) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 5**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence easterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence northeasterly to the mouth of Cuckhold Creek, MD (38˚ 18.699’ N, 76˚ 55.314’ W); thence southwesterly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to St. Clements Island, MD (38˚ 12.409’ N, 76˚ 44.722’ W); thence southerly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

h) That portion of the Potomac River to be known as “**Area 6**” and enclosed within the following described boundaries: Beginning at a point (38˚ 12.099’ N, 76˚ 44.582’ W) as marked by navigational aid “R N 14”; thence southerly to a point (38˚ 9.956’ N, 76˚ 45.795’ W) as marked by navigational aid "R 2"; thence westerly following the jurisdictional boundary of the Commission to PRFC Jurisdictional Marker “V8A” (38˚ 16.462’ N, 76˚ 59.413’ W); thence northeasterly to a point (38˚ 17.580’ N, 76˚ 57.364’ W); thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 15.676’ N, 76˚ 54.984’ W) marked by navigational aid “R N 28”; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 14.192’ N, 76˚ 51.062’ W) marked by navigational aid "R N 18"; thence southeasterly to a point (38˚ 13.493’ N, 76˚ 49.783’ W) marked by navigational aid "G C 15"; thence southeasterly to the point of the beginning, less and except such portions of the described Area otherwise closed by Order or Regulation of PRFC.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: Possession of a hand scrape shall be permitted during the aforesaid times and from one hour before and for two hours after such times. The use or possession of any hand scrape at any other time is unlawful.

AND, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-20 shall become effective October 1, 2026 and remain in effect until April 30, 2027.

O R D E R #2026-21 (replaces Order #2026-07)
ROTATIONAL NATURAL OYSTER HARVEST BAR – LOWER CEDAR POINT

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having given consideration to the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resource and having found it desirable to establish a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program for the purpose of rehabilitating the oyster fishery in the middle-river area of the Potomac River, and subject to its authority under Regulation I, Section 8(a):

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: that Lower Cedar Point Bar (150 acres) and Addition (574 acres) are designated as a Rotational Natural Oyster Harvest Program area. Lower Cedar Point and Addition are located in the Potomac River on the Maryland side from Lower Cedar Point downstream to Cuckold Creek (includes Waverly).

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Bar is open to hand tong oyster harvest from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Lower Cedar Point Bar is enclosed within the following described boundaries: "All the waters of Potomac River enclosed by a line beginning at a point defined by Lat. 38°19.724' N, Long. 76°59.014' W, then running 335° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.888' N, Long. 76°59.077' W, then running 18° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.331' N, Long. 76°58.889' W, then running 90° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°20.328' N, Long. 76°58.416' W, then running 195° True to a point defined by Lat. 38°19.780' N, Long. 76°58.600' W, then running 256° True to the point of beginning."

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: That Lower Cedar Point Addition (574 acres) is open to oyster harvest during the oyster season.

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: That this Order #2026-21 shall supersede and repeal Order #2025-08 "Revised" become effective October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027 and remain in effect until further notice.

O R D E R #2026-22 (replaces Order #2025-21)
RIVER WIDE DAILY OYSTER BUSHEL LIMITS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it necessary for the preservation of the oyster population, having considered the protection, promotion, growth and conservation of the oyster resources, and pursuant to its authority under Regulation I, Section 7(a),

HEREBY DECLARES AND ORDERS: for the 2026-2027 commercial oyster season, from October 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027, there will be a river wide daily bushel limit of eight (8) bushels per licensee, sixteen (16) bushels per vessel regardless

of the number of licensees on board. This Order applies to licensees holding hand scrape and/or hand tong licenses.

AND IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED: this Order #2026-22 shall become effective October 1, 2026, and remain in effect through April 30, 2027.

POLICY
HAUL SEINE / CRAB POT AREAS

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to foster cooperation between the haul seine fishery and the crab pot fishery regarding the use of the same areas; and wishing this to be a voluntary system, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

FOR HAUL SEINE LICENSEE:

- **a)** A haul seine licensee, wishing to haul a particular area where crab pots are set, is to buoy the area with at least four (4) buoys that project at least 4 ft. above the water's surface and have the licensee's name and telephone number in legible letters and numbers.
- **b)** Prior to placing the buoys, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) (800-419-0743) or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) (800-541-4646), depending on which shore is to be marked, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (800-266-3904), must be notified of the specific area where the haul is to be made and the intended date and time.
- **c)** Buoys must be placed 3 days prior to the intended haul and must be removed as soon as the haul is complete, but not later than 7 days of being set and,

FOR CRAB POT LICENSEE:

- **d)** Once the area is buoyed, no additional crab pots are to be set within the confined area.
- **e)** Any crab pots set within the confined area should be moved outside of that area.
- **f)** Crab pots can be replaced after the haul is complete and the buoys are removed, or 7 days after the buoys are set, whichever comes first.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC haul seine and crab pot licensees. And, further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this voluntary system during 2007.

This Policy was adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held February 16, 2007 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
COMMERCIAL STRIPED BASS HOOK & LINE TAG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow participants in the commercial Striped Bass hook & line fishery to transfer tags to other eligible participants in the fishery, wishing this to be a voluntary, opt in process, **HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

a) Any PRFC commercially licensed hook & line fisherman who has not had a striped bass hook & line conviction in the past year, is not currently on probation, and who has not had a striped bass hook & line tag audit penalty in the past year.

b) Any PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman who has unused tags may transfer his tags.

c) Any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) who has used ALL of his/her tags for the current fishing season may receive tags from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has unused tags for that season.

d) Exception - During the license renewal time (December 1 through last business day in January) any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferee) may receive a complete set of tags (without any tags required to be used) from any eligible PRFC licensed hook & line fisherman (transferor) who has not renewed his PRFC Hook & Line License for that season. Both PRFC licensed fishermen are required to come in person at the same time to the PRFC Office in Colonial Beach, VA to renew their Hook & Line License and complete this striped bass tag exchange. Both fishermen will be required to have their catch records up to date.

HOW TRANSFERS ARE DONE:

a) In order to participate in the PRFC Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line Tag Exchange Program, prospective participants must opt in by agreeing to allow PRFC to provide some or all of their personal contact information (name, phone number, address, and/or email) to other opt in participants.

b) Transferees must use all of their tags (tag out) before they can receive any tags through a transfer, except during the license renewal time when a transfer can occur without any tags required to be used.

c) Both parties must come in person at the same time to the PRFC office, or alternatively, a notarized letter giving permission from the transferor to the transferee must be brought in at the time of the transaction. Proxies for either party will not be allowed. Both parties will be required to have their catch records up to date.

d) Each individual transfer of tags between two H&L licensees will be considered a transaction and will be subject to a $25 administration fee.

EACH TRANSFER TRANSACTION CONSISTS OF TWO PARTS:

a) The H&L licensee (transferor) transferring tags will first conduct a transaction to return a specified quantity of tags to PRFC and designate a recipient of the transfer (transferee). The transferor must bring his/her tags to the PRFC office.

b) The designated H&L transferee will conduct a transaction at the PRFC office to be reissued the specified quantity of tags being transferred and pay an administrative fee of $25 (flat rate regardless of the number of tags transferred).

Tags are then officially assigned to the H&L transferee, and they become his/her responsibility.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

a) The number of tag transactions that any qualified H&L participant may conduct through the course of the season is unlimited.

b) A minimum of ten (10) tags must be transferred. All transfer of tags must be in consecutive order.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial Striped Bass hook & line licensees, and further the Commission will monitor and evaluate this tag exchange program annually.

This Policy was duly amended and adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held June 15, 2018 in Colonial Beach, VA.

POLICY
PRFC Guidelines on Emergency Use of Another Vessel for Crabbing

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION, having found it desirable to develop guidelines to allow a PRFC commercial crabber, who holds a valid PRFC crabbing license, to use another boat in the case of an emergency when the PRFC office is closed;

HEREBY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

EXCEPTION GRANTED:

1) The exception is allowed only during non-business hours to include:
   a) After 4:00 p.m. Friday and/or before 8:30 a.m. on the following Monday unless the following Monday is a holiday in which case before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday; or
   b) After 4:00 p.m. on the eve of a holiday, the holiday itself and before 8:30 am on the next day that is not a holiday

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Licensee **must** call the PRFC at (804) 224-7148 **before** they use another boat and leave the following information:
   a) Date and time of call
   b) Name of licensee
   c) CP number
   d) Boat information that is out of service
   e) Boat information (registration number, length, inboard/outboard) to be used and the name of the person that boat is registered to.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1) If using a boat that has another PRFC commercial crab license attached to it, then each licensee may only crab their license and on alternate days.
2) If the mechanical issue extends past the start of the next PRFC business day, the licensee is required to obtain the "mechanical permit" from the PRFC to continue to use another boat.
3) Licensee **must** be on board the boat.
4) All PRFC regulations and orders must be adhered to.

THE POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION will furnish a copy of these guidelines to all PRFC commercial crab license holders.

This Policy was duly adopted by the **POTOMAC RIVER FISHERIES COMMISSION** at a regular public meeting held September 14, 2023 in Colonial Beach, VA and revised at a regular public meeting held on March 8, 2024