

#### **4VAC15-340-20. Haul seines to take fish for personal use.**

A. Authorization to take fish for personal use. Pursuant to §§ 29.1-412 and 29.1-416 of the Code of Virginia, a permit to use a haul seine to take fish for personal use authorizes the holder of such permit to take nongame fish (except for those species listed in 4VAC15-20-130) with a haul seine for private table use, but not for sale in the counties of Franklin, Henry and Patrick, and in those waters as specified in § 29.1-531 of the Code of Virginia in the county for which such permit is issued, except as otherwise prohibited in 4VAC15-320-100, 4VAC15-330-60, 4VAC15-330-20 (Repealed), and in waters listed in subsection F of this chapter.

B. Holder to be present when seine operated. The holder of a permit to take fish with a haul seine for personal use must be present when the seine is being operated but may have other persons to assist him who are not required to have a permit. However, those assisting the permittee or handling live fish or both must meet the fishing license requirements of the Commonwealth.

C. Length and size of haul seines. The length of a haul seine to take fish for personal use shall not be more than 60 feet in length. The minimum size of mesh shall be 1-½-inch bar mesh (3-inch stretch mesh).

D. Season to take fish with a haul seine. The season to take fish with a haul seine for personal use shall be from July 1 through September 30, both dates inclusive.

~~E. Department notification required to use a haul seine. Persons permitted to use a haul seine for personal use must notify the regional law enforcement office a minimum of 48 hours prior to use.~~

F. Haul seine use restricted in certain areas. The use of haul seines for personal use is prohibited in the following stream sections of Franklin and Patrick counties:

##### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Roanoke River from County Route 634 crossing upstream to the Roanoke/Franklin County line.

##### PATRICK COUNTY

Smith River from Philpott Lake upstream including headwaters.

Rock Castle Creek from its confluence with Smith River upstream, including headwaters.

Dan River from VA/NC state line upstream to County Route 631 crossing.

Poorhouse Creek from its confluence with North Fork Mayo River upstream including headwaters.

North Fork Mayo River from its confluence with Poorhouse Creek upstream.

Rationale: No other gear requires notification of law enforcement officer. Further, very few

personal haul seine permits are issued in a given year. None were issued in 2025.