

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.

Why Eels for Bait are Prohibited in the Spring

The use of eels as bait is prohibited during the Pre-season Catch & Release and Spring Trophy seasons because striped bass engulf eels and swallow the hooks. Deep hooked fish experience about 50% mortality. Shallow hooked fish have about 3.5% mortality over the course of the year and about 0.8% mortality in March and April.

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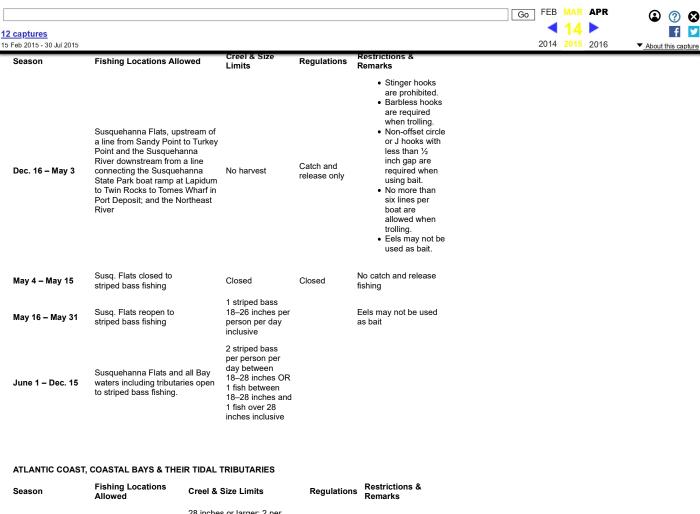
The following tables summarize striped bass fishing, harvest and possession regulations. This is an abridged summary. Full information and updates are available at: www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations.

CHESAPEAKE BAY & TIDAL TRIBUTARIES(EXCLUDING THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER & NORTHEAST RIVER)

SUSQUEHAN	NA RIVER & NOR	THEAST RIVER)		
Season	Fishing Locations Allowed	Creel & Size Limits	Regulations	Restrictions & Remarks
Jan. 1 – Feb. 28	All MD portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only	No harvest	Catch and release only	Directed catch and release of striped bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks. Eels may not be used as bait.
Spring Catch & Release Season March 1 – April 19	Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.	No harvest	Stinger (trailing) hooks are prohibited. Barbless hooks are required when trolling. Non-offset circle hooks or J hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch are required when using natural bait. No more than 6 lines may be employed while trolling regardless of the number of anglers on board.	These restrictions apply in all open catch and release areas from March 1 until 5:00 a.m., April 19 Spawning rivers and the Upper Bay spawning area are off limits until June 1 to striped bass fishing. Eels may not be used as bait See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries /sbmaps.

board.

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Season	Fishing Locations Allowed	Creel & Size Limits	Regulations	Restrictions & Remarks
Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	No area restrictions	28 inches or larger; 2 per person per day		

RESERVOIRS

Season	Fishing Locations Allowed	Creel & Size Limits	Regulations	Restrictions & Remarks
Reservoirs— No Closed Season	Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Tridelphia Reservoir, Conowingo Reservoir, Broadford Lake, Jennings Randolph Reservoir, and Rocky Gorge Reservoir	18 inch minimum size; 2 fish per person per day — only 1 of those fish may be larger than 30 inches		No closed season



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