

## Summary of Maryland Tidal Recreational Fisheries Regulations

### FISH HEALTH HOTLINE:1-888-584-3110

This is an abridged version of the regulations and does not include all regulated species. May not include Emergency Amendments, Quota Closures/Modifications or Proposed Amendments. Under State Govt. Article, Section 7-217, Annotated Code of Maryland, the printed version of COMAR is the official and enforceable text. Only the official text may be judicially noticed under Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Section 10-203, Annotated Code of Maryland. Consult the Maryland Register, Code of Maryland Regulations and Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for full legal text. For additional information call DNR Fisheries Service, 410 260-8260 or 1-800-688-FINS or e-mail Dianne Samuels at [dsamuels@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:dsamuels@dnr.state.md.us).

Species	Minimum Size	Season, Days, Times, Creel Limits	Special Conditions/Comments
Bass, Black Sea	11-1/2"	May 10 - Feb 28	25/person/day Opens in EEZ 5/10/02
Bass, Black Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth	12" 15" = Mar 1 - Jun 15	Open Year Round 5/person/day Please use Circle Hooks	Pocomoke and its tributaries Closure Jul 15 - Aug 31
Bass, Striped		Mar 15, 2002 - May 3, 2002	Susquehanna Flats, upstream of a line from Sandy Point to Turkey Point and downstream from the lower Railroad Bridge near Perry Point, excluding the area of Susquehanna River from the Railroad Bridge near Perry Point upstream to the base of the Conowingo Dam; and Northeast River.
Bass, Striped (Bay)	28"  18"-28"	<u><a href="#">Apr 20, 2002 - May 15, 2002</a></u> 1/person/day May not possess striped bass while fishing between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.  <u><a href="#">May 16, 2002 - Dec. 15, 2002</a></u> 2 @ 18" - 28" OR 1 @ 18" - 28" and 1 larger than 28"/person/day. May not possess striped bass while fishing between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.	No Eels, restricted to the mainstem Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the Maryland/ Virginia Line, Tangier & Pocomoke Sounds (no Tributaries)  Please use Circle hooks when bait fishing.  <b>May 16 - 31, 2002:</b> No Eels, restricted to the mainstem Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the Maryland/ Virginia Line, Tangier & Pocomoke Sounds (no Tributaries).  <b>June 1 - Dec. 15, 2002:</b> Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.  Charter boat captain and mate = 1/boat/day
Bass, Striped  Potomac River and Md Tribs	28"  18"-28"	<b>Apr 20, 2002 - May 15, 2002</b> 1/person/day  <b>May 16, 2002 - Dec 31, 2002</b> 2 @ 18" - 28" OR 1 @ 18" - 28" and 1 larger than 28"/person/day	Downstream of the Harry W. Nice Bridge (US 301), including the Maryland and Virginia tributaries downstream of the bridge  Downstream of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95), including the Maryland and Virginia tributaries downstream of the bridge call the Potomac River Fisheries Commission at 800-266-3904
Bass, Striped (Ocean)	28"	Open year round 2/person/day	Prohibited beyond MD waters (3 miles)
Bluefish	8"	Open year round 10/person/day	

Catfish: Blue, Channel, White	10"	Open year round	
Pickrel, Chain	14"	10/person/day	CLOSED Mar 15 - Apr 30
Pike, Walleyed (Walleye)	14"	Open year round 5/person/day	By rod, hook and line only
Clam, Hard	7/8"	Open year round 1 bushel/person/day	
<a href="#">Crab, Blue</a>	5" Male Hard <a href="#">No Min. size for Mature Females</a>  4" Soft  3-1/2" Peeler  Effective 8/1/02 5-1/4" Male Hard	Apr 1 - Dec 15 Closed Wednesdays Except handlines, dip nets and pots at private piers  Apr, Oct, Nov and Dec 1/2 hour after sunrise-5:00 PM main Bay 1/2 hour after sunrise - sunset in tributaries May, Jun, Jul, Aug and Sep 1/2 hour before sunrise-5:00 PM main Bay 1/2 hour before <a href="#">sunrise</a> <a href="#">-sunset in tributaries</a>	<a href="#">Click here to get a more detailed description of the 2002 crab regulations</a>  <a href="#">Click here to get a more detailed description of the Crab Regulations in Ocean City and seaside Bays.</a>
Croaker	9"	Open year round 25/person/day	
Drum, Black	16"	1/person/day & not more than 6/boat/day	
Drum, Red	18"	Open year round 5/person/day - 1 fish over 27"	
Eel, American	6"	If pot mesh less than 1/2" x 1/2" escape panel required	With a non-commercial crab license-10 pots for bait. (License is required to set pots)
Flounder, Summer	17"	8 fish/person/day Jan 1, 2002 - Jul 24, 2002 and Aug 12, 2002 - Dec 31, 2002	Closed Jul 25 - Aug 11
Herring	NONE	CLOSED Jun 6 - Dec 31	
Lobster	3 1/4" carapace	Open year round	
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open year round 15/fish /person/day	
Oysters	3"	Oct 1-Mar 31-1 Bushel/day Mon-Fri sunrise-3 PM Sat sunrise to noon	CLOSED AREAS shaft tongs, rakes, hand and diving
Perch, White	None for hook and line 8" Dipnet		
Perch, Yellow	9"	PROPOSED Single, barbless hooks required Feb 1 - Mar 15 5/person/day	CLOSED Watersheds: Magothy, Nanticoke, Patapsco, Severn, South and West Rivers
Scup	10"	50/person/day Jan 1-Feb 28 and Jul 1-Oct 31	Closed Mar 1 - Jun 30 and Nov 1 - Dec 31

Sea Trout	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	
Shad, American & Hickory		CLOSED	CLOSED
Sturgeon, Atlantic & Shortnose		CLOSED	CLOSED
Tautog	14"	Open year round 5 fish/person/day	
Weakfish	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	

**Note:** A Tidal Sport Fishing License Required for all individuals 16 yrs and older to fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

THE TAKING OF SHAD AND STURGEON IS PROHIBITED.

**Shark and Tuna** are Federally Managed Species. Call the National Marine Fisheries Service for more information.