

## MARYLAND GUIDE TO

# FISHING AND CRABBING

2018  
–  
2019



## STATE RECORDS

page 47

### Also inside...

- License Information
- Seasons, Sizes and Limits
- Fish Identification
- Public Lakes and Ponds
- Tidal/Nontidal dividing lines
- Oysters and Clams

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## LICENSE FREE FISHING DAYS!

In Maryland, anyone may fish without a recreational fishing license on June 2, June 9 and July 4, 2018.

All other fishing regulations apply.





Larry Hogan, Governor  
Mark Belton, Secretary

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fishing and Boating Services**  
Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue, B-2  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2352  
410-260-8300  
800-688-3467

[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries)  
[customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov)

**Cover photos:**  
Eric Wilson, Rich Watts, Adam Aghion,  
Jim Livingston, Allen Sklar,  
Danny Riley and Eric Wilson

This publication is intended as a guide only. Rules are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all rules. For statutes see the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. For regulations see the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 08. Maryland statutes and regulations can be found at the following web sites:

- **Statutes:** [lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/](http://lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/)
- **Regulations:** [dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html](http://dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html)

#### GET INVOLVED!

- **Subscribe to the department's email list**—[dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email.aspx)
- **Follow the Department of Natural Resources:**
  - Twitter—[twitter.com/MDDNRFISH](http://twitter.com/MDDNRFISH)
  - Facebook—[facebook.com/MarylandDNRFisheries/](http://facebook.com/MarylandDNRFisheries/)
- **Share your fishing story on the Angler's Log**—[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers\\_log.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers_log.aspx)

#### Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

This commission is comprised of individuals from across the state who represent the interests of various recreational fishing constituencies. The meeting schedule, agenda, summaries of past meetings, member affiliations and contact information are online at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries).

#### Commissioners

Mr. Micah Dammeyer Nontidal/Tidal Fisheries Freshwater Guide	Mr. Charles Nemphos Tidal Fisheries, Outdoors Retail
Ms. Beverly Fleming Marine Fisheries, Assateague Mobile Sportfishing Association	Captain Edward O'Brien Tidal/Marine Fisheries, Maryland Charter Boat Association
Mr. James Gracie Nontidal Fisheries, Mid-Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited	Mr. David Sikorski Tidal Fisheries, Coastal Conservation Association
Captain Phil Langley Maryland Charter Boat Association	Mr. David J. Smith Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association
Mr. Scott Lenox Coastal / Marine Fisheries	Mr. David M. Sutherland Marine Conservation and Economics
Mr. Valentine Lynch Marine Fisheries, Ocean City Marlin Club	Mr. Roger Trageser Black Bass Fisheries, Maryland Bass Nation
Dr. Raymond P. Morgan II Nontidal Fisheries Western MD	Mr. James Wommack Tidal/Marine Fisheries
Mr. John Neely Nontidal Coldwater/ Tidal Fisheries	Vacant Aquaculture Industry

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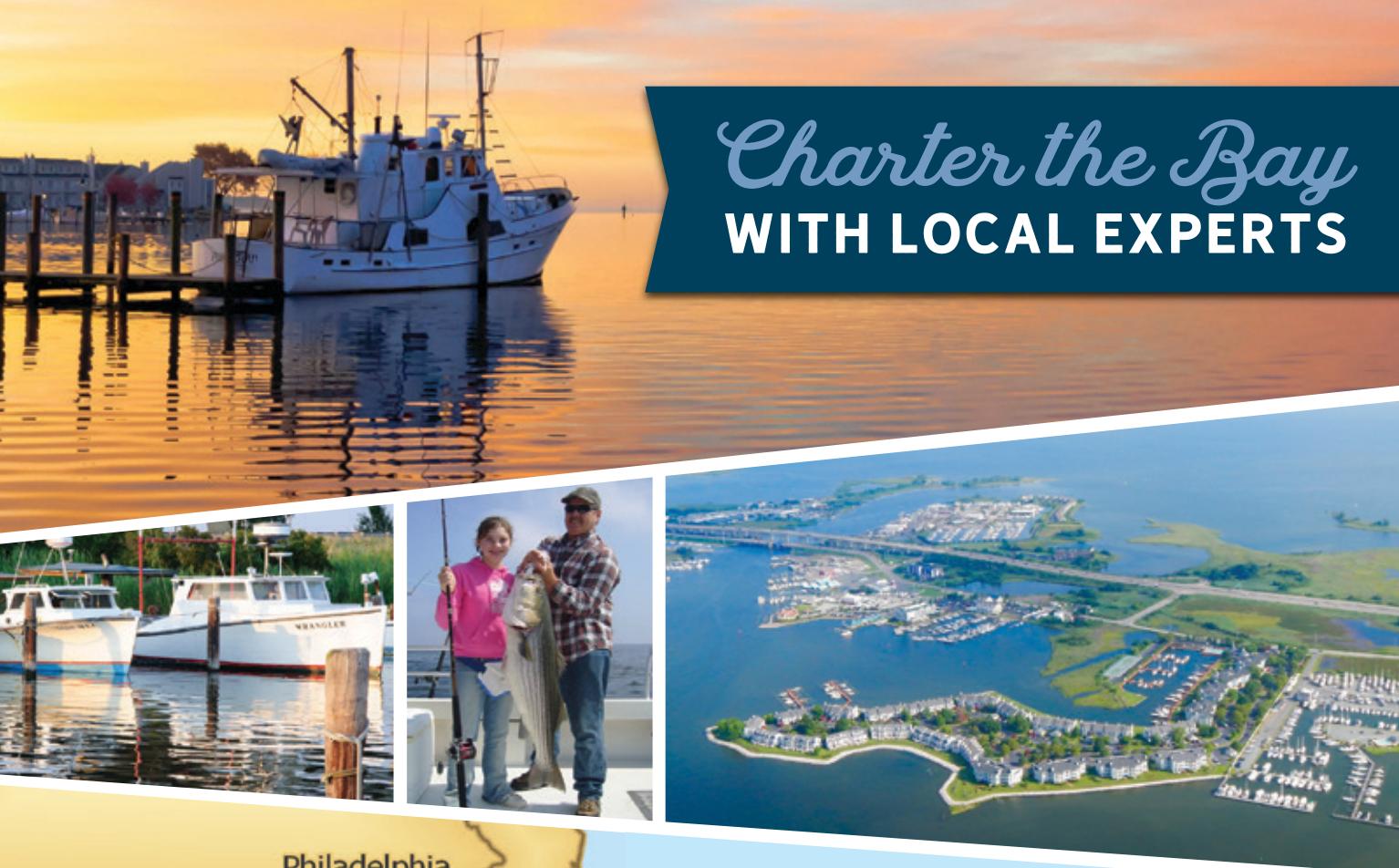
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Larry Hogan



Mark Belton

Dear Anglers,

Maryland is known for its great fishing and rich waterways, featuring brackish, fresh and salt waters — from Deep Creek Lake, to the beaches of the Eastern Shore, to piers near Baltimore or Cambridge. Even better, no location is more than three or four hours from your front door. And the fish are just as diverse: striped bass, white perch, walleye, largemouth bass and three species of trout await your line and lure. Recreational fishing benefits not only anglers like you, but also aids our conservation and management efforts, removing invasive species like snakeheads from Maryland waters. Indeed, Maryland anglers have long been guardians of our state's aquatic resources. Together, we work to preserve and restore the health of our local waterways while also enjoying all that Maryland has to offer.

In addition to helping the environment, the sport also encourages active outdoor recreation and has a positive impact on the economy. Whether this is your first year fishing or your fiftieth, we'd like to thank you for buying a fishing license. It might seem like a simple act, but it's vital to our conservation efforts. The revenue from your fishing license and trout stamp allows us to manage and maintain the fishing experience in all corners of our state for this generation and the next.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for a memorable year of fishing in Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan  
Governor of Maryland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Belton".

Mark Belton  
Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Photo by John Mullican

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# WHAT'S NEW / DID YOU KNOW?



Courtesy of Tessa Cosens

5/6/17 Tessa Cosens of Washington County broke the muskellunge record on the Upper Potomac River on May 6 with a 32.5-pound fish.

## New State Records:

- Muskellunge - Nontidal Division, 32.5 lbs. by Tessa Cosens
- Sheepshead - Atlantic Division, 18.0 lbs. by Robert Martin
- Sheepshead - Chesapeake Division, 13.73 lbs. by Dave Alveberg
- White Catfish - Chesapeake Division, 8.27 lbs. by Jacob Vosburgh
- White Perch - Nontidal Division, 1.90 lbs by George Venker

Check the online version of this fishing guide for the most up-to-date information—[eregulations.com/maryland/fishing](http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing)

**Did you know that you no longer need to have a signed paper copy of your license with you?**

You can now show an officer an electronic copy of your license. Use the pdf that is generated by the licensing system on your phone or other electronic device. You still need to carry a photo ID with you.

## FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Fish are recommended as part of a healthy and balanced diet. Most fish are safe to eat, but some have levels of contaminants which may be harmful.

The Maryland Department of the Environment monitors fish and provides consumption advisories with recommended limits about how often certain fish should be eaten to minimize health risks. These

advisories are intended for people who eat Maryland fish on a regular basis.

The Maryland Department of the Environment analyzes fish for two contaminants which can pose health risks and are known to accumulate in fish: PCBs and methylmercury. The information included in Maryland Department of the Environment consumption advisories is of particular importance

for women and children because of the potential harmful effect of these contaminants on developing brains.

To see fish consumption advisories and other information which will help you make the best choices about what fish you eat and how often to eat them, visit [mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/fishconsumptionadvisory.aspx](http://mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/fishconsumptionadvisory.aspx) or call 410-537-3906.

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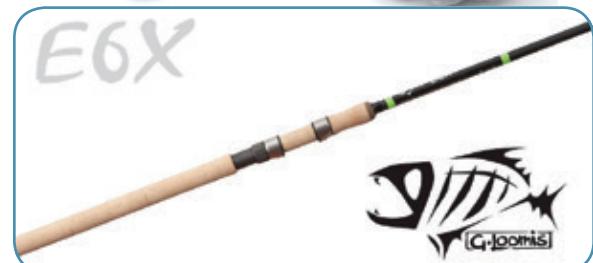
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## THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at [TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation](http://TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation)



TAKEMEFISHING.org



# ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

## Licensing and Registration Service Centers

- Licensing and Registration Service Centers offer the following: boat dealer licenses, commercial fishing licenses, hunting licenses, off-road vehicle permits, recreational fishing licenses, vessel registration, vessel titles. Information about state parks and forests, other locations and activities and safety classes for hunters and boaters is also available. Public hours are 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except state holidays. Learn more at: [compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcorpassportal](http://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcorpassportal)
- Annapolis Service Center**  
1804 West Street, Suite 300  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-260-3220  
866-344-8889 (toll free in Maryland)
- Bel Air Service Center**  
501 West MacPhail Road #2  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
410-836-4550  
866-623-3187 (toll free in Maryland)
- Centreville Service Center**  
120 Broadway Avenue  
Centreville, MD 21617  
410-819-4100  
866-439-1708 (toll free in Maryland)
- Essex Service Center**  
**CLOSED Tuesday and Thursday**  
1338 Eastern Blvd. A  
Essex, MD 21221  
667-401-0760  
866-535-8319 (toll free in Maryland)
- Frederick Service Center**  
1601 Bowmans Farm Road  
Frederick, Maryland 21701  
(240) 236-9950  
866-688-3823 (toll free in Maryland)
- Prince Frederick Service Center**  
6904 Hallowing Lane  
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678  
410-535-3382  
866-688-3823
- Salisbury Service Center**  
251 Tilghman Road, Room #2  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
410-713-3840  
866-812-1678 (toll free in Maryland)

## Natural Resources Police Offices

### 24 Hour Assistance: **800-628-9944 or 410-260-8888**

Use these phone numbers for emergencies, to report natural resources violations or ask questions on fisheries regulations.

All offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties**  
32144 Mt. Olive Road  
Salisbury, MD 21804
- Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties**  
3001 Starr Road  
Queen Anne, MD 21657
- Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties**  
1070 East College Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21409
- Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties**  
2160 Old Washington Road  
Waldorf, MD 20601
- Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, Howard and Montgomery counties**  
3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue  
Owings Mills, MD 21117
- Frederick and Washington counties**  
2011 Monument Road  
Myersville, MD 21773
- Allegany and Garrett counties**  
11701 Mountain Road N.E.  
Flintstone, MD 21530

## Fisheries

### Fisheries Information 410-260-8300 or 800-688-3467

### Trout Stocking Information 800-688-3467, press 1

- Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery  
Hagerstown, 301-791-4736

### Fisheries Work Centers

- Cooperative Oxford Lab  
Oxford, 410-226-0078
- Matapeake Work Center  
Stevensville, 410-643-6776
- Ocean City Work Center  
Ocean City, 410-213-1531

### Freshwater Fisheries Regional Offices

- Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties  
Millington, 410-928-3604
- Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties  
Brandywine, 301-888-2423
- Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Montgomery counties  
Woodbine, 410-442-2080
- Frederick and Washington counties  
Thurmont, 301-898-5443 or 9724
- Allegany and Garrett counties  
Oakland, 301-334-8218

## CATCH A POACHER 24-HOUR HOTLINE

Poaching deprives the public of the opportunity to use and enjoy Maryland's natural resources. Preserving our natural resources for present and future enjoyment is everyone's responsibility.

Citizens who use the poaching hotline to supply Maryland Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a poacher will be eligible to receive cash rewards.

Please provide names, addresses, vehicle and boat descriptions and as much additional information as you can.

Your anonymity is guaranteed.

**800-635-6124**

## NATURAL RESOURCE POLICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have what it takes and the desire to serve, we're interested in talking to you.

To begin your career as a Maryland Natural Resources Police officer, please contact Corporal Raymond Griggs at 443-221-8521, [raymond.griggs1@maryland.gov](mailto:raymond.griggs1@maryland.gov), or visit the Maryland Natural Resources Police Recruitment Facebook page.

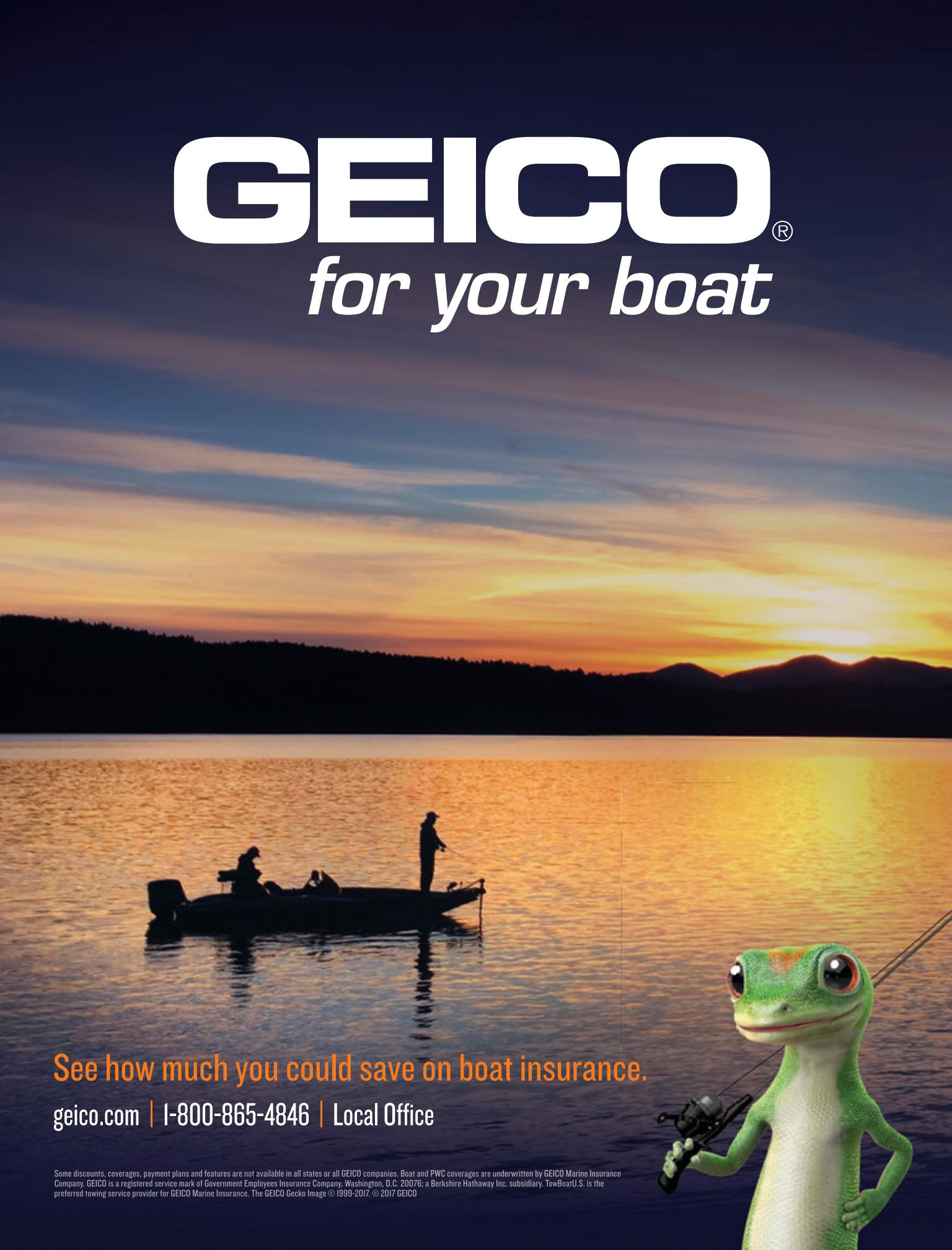


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# FISHING LICENSES, STAMPS AND SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRATION

## 2018 Fishing Licenses and Fees

**Fishing licenses, stamps and registrations are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase, unless otherwise specified.**

Resident Nontidal Sport Fishing License .....	\$20.50
Resident 7-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License .....	\$7.50
Resident Trout Stamp .....	\$5
Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License .....	\$15
Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License.....	\$6
Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License .....	\$5
(65 years or older. License includes tidal, nontidal, and trout stamp. It may be purchased at any time in the calendar year in which you attain the age of 65)	
Non-Resident Nontidal Sport Fishing License .....	\$30.50*
Non-Resident 7-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License.....	\$7.50*
Non-Resident 3-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License .....	\$5*
*Or the same fee charged to visiting Maryland anglers by a non-resident's home state, whichever is higher— <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service_fishingcost_bystate.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service_fishingcost_bystate.aspx</a>	
Non-Resident Trout Stamp .....	\$10
Non-Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License .....	\$22.50
Non-Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License .....	\$12
Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Boat License.....	\$50

1. Passengers onboard licensed boats do not need a license. However, they must have a free Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration (see below).

2. An individual Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License and a complimentary individual crabbing license are included for the person who purchases this license.

**Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration .....** Free

Unless individually licensed, a free registration is required for:

1. Passengers on boats with Bay and Coastal Sport Boat Licenses.
2. Anglers fishing in designated License Free Fishing Areas.
3. Waterfront property owners and family fishing on private property.
4. Anglers in possession of a Virginia saltwater recreational fishing license or on a Virginia-licensed boat.

## Penalties

The department may suspend an individual's fishing license or privilege if that individual is convicted of, or pays a fine for, violating certain fishing rules. A full copy of suspendable fishing violations can be found in the Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.13.05. To view this regulation, visit [dsd.state.md.us/COMAR](http://dsd.state.md.us/COMAR). Individuals who are suspended for violating fishing rules in Maryland may also be suspended in other states under the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

## INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE EN ESPAÑOL

[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/espanol](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/espanol)



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## RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services regulations page for possible changes at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx)

## Who Needs A Trout Stamp?

A trout stamp is required for anyone 16 years of age or older to catch, attempt to catch or possess trout in nontidal waters.

## How Do I Know Whether I Need A Tidal or Nontidal Maryland Fishing License?

To see whether the area you are fishing requires a nontidal or tidal fishing license, please see Tidal/Nontidal Dividing Lines section on page 34.

## Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration Exemptions

Anglers fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays, Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributaries must be registered with the state unless one of the following applies:

- You are under 16 years of age.
- You are fishing from a licensed charter boat or from a licensed commercial fishing pier.
- You are fishing on a free fishing day—the first two Saturdays in June and July 4.
- You possess a valid commercial tidal fish license.
- You possess a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license.
- You possess a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License.

## To Obtain A License or Saltwater Angler Registration:

Go to [compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrccompass-portal](http://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrccompass-portal), call 855-855-3906 (available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 365 days a year) or visit a Department of Natural Resources Licensing and Registration Service Center or license agent (tackle shop or outdoor outfitter).

## Purple Heart Recipient Discount

Any Maryland veteran who has received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained defending our nation now qualifies for a 50 percent discount on Maryland hunting and fishing licenses.

## Veteran and Complimentary Licenses

Any American veteran residing in Maryland who is 100 percent service-connected

## YOUR FISHING DOLLARS AT WORK

Fishing license and trout stamp revenue allows the department to assess, protect, conserve and manage Maryland's fisheries.

To learn more, read the latest budget report here at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/SFAC\\_budget\\_report-2016.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/SFAC_budget_report-2016.pdf)

# FISHING LICENSES, STAMPS AND SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRATION

disabled or who is a former POW may apply for a free lifetime fishing license, which includes tidal, nontidal and trout stamp privileges. This license must be obtained at a Department of Natural Resources Service Center and cannot be obtained at independent retail locations. Locate your nearest Service Center by visiting [dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service\\_centers.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/service_centers.aspx).

## License Exemptions

### Statewide Sport Fishing License Exemptions

You may fish for finfish without a license if:

- You are under 16 years of age.
- You are a resident of Maryland, on active duty with Armed Forces, on leave with official orders.
- You fish on a free fishing day—the first two Saturdays in June and July 4.
- You fish in an area designated by Department of Natural Resources as a license free fishing area, and you have obtained a Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration (if required in that area.). A list of license free fishing areas is available on page 46 and online at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/license-free.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/license-free.aspx).

### Nontidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

You may fish for finfish without a license in Maryland's nontidal waters if you are an owner or tenant, their spouse, child or the spouse of their child residing on the property and fishing from the property's riparian shoreline. Anglers should confirm riparian ownership before fishing, as some impoundments and waterways are surrounded by buffers. In these areas, there are no riparian shoreline owners and fishing licenses are required. Anglers with riparian shorelines must comply with all fishing rules.

### Trout Stamp Exemptions

A trout stamp is not required for possession of trout taken from privately owned lakes and ponds or licensed fee fishing lakes and ponds.

### Tidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

You may fish for finfish without a license in Maryland's tidal waters if:

- You possess a valid commercial fishing license.
- You are fishing from a licensed charter boat or licensed commercial fishing pier.
- You are fishing from a boat displaying a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing Boat License.
- You are an owner or tenant, their spouse, child or the spouse of their child residing on the property and fishing from the property's shoreline.
- Anglers should confirm riparian ownership before fishing. Anglers with riparian shorelines must comply with all fishing rules.

Contact Fishing and Boating Services for license exemption information concerning:

- An individual who attends, resides, or is under treatment by a state approved mental health facility
- A nonprofit organization that works with individuals with physical or mental disabilities
- A governmental entity or nonprofit organization that works with individuals with physical or mental disabilities who are serving or have served in the armed forces
- The primary caregiver or the representative for any of the above categories



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# RECIPROCAL LICENSES

## Virginia

- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia nontidal fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the mainstem of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Virginia.
- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland, so long as they have obtained a Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration.
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License issued in that person's name can fish from the Virginia banks of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Maryland without a Virginia fishing license.
- Any holder of a valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License may fish in Virginia tidal saltwater, regardless of residency, so long as they have obtained a Virginia Saltwater Angler Registration.

## West Virginia

- A resident of West Virginia possessing a valid West Virginia fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River (mainstem only) opposite the shore of West Virginia, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir (opposite the shore of West Virginia).
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License issued in that resident's name may fish the West Virginia banks of the Potomac River, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir, without a West Virginia fishing license.

• A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License issued in that resident's name may fish on the portions of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Pennsylvania without a Pennsylvania fishing license.

• Reciprocal fishing privileges extend from waters' edge to waters' edge. It does not include tributaries or fishing from shore.

• The Conowingo Reservoir extends from the Conowingo Dam in Maryland to Holtwood Dam in Pennsylvania. The Youghiogheny Reservoir extends from the red posts on the Youghiogheny River in Maryland downstream to Youghiogheny Dam in Pennsylvania.

## Pennsylvania

- A resident of Pennsylvania possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in the portions of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Maryland without a Maryland fishing license.

## Potomac River

- A Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license holder may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland.
- A valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License holder may fish any portion of the Potomac River mainstem down-stream of the I-95/I-495 Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

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# RECREATIONAL CRABBING LICENSES AND CRAB POT REGISTRATION

## 2018 Licenses and Fees

**Crabbing licenses and registrations are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase/registration.**

Maryland Resident .....	\$5
Non-Resident .....	\$10
Maryland Resident who possesses a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License or a Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License .....	\$2
Recreational Crabbing Boat License* .....	\$15
Waterfront Property Crab Pot Registration .....	Free

### \*Recreational Crabbing Boat License

The Recreational Crabbing Boat License includes an individual crabbing license for the purchaser. If the purchaser is not on board the licensed boat, an individual on board is then authorized to catch the licensed recreational limit of one bushel of male hard crabs and two dozen soft crabs or male peelers.

## Who Needs A Maryland Recreational Crabbing License?

Anyone who uses the following gear:

- Collapsible crab traps
- Eel pots for own bait
- Net Rings
- Seines
- Trotline

Additionally, anyone who uses other legal gear to catch more than the following quantity of crabs:

- More than 24 with a limit of one bushel of male hard crabs
- More than 12 with a limit of 24 soft crabs or male peelers

A recreational crabbing license is not required in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays and their tributaries.

## Crabbing License Exemptions

You do not need a license if you are using the following gear:

- Handlines
- Dip nets

If you are crabbing without a license using license-exempt gear, you are still limited to the unlicensed crabber limits of no more than 24 male hard crabs and no more than 12 soft crabs or male peeler crabs.

You also do not need a license if you are:

- Assisting another individual who has a recreational crabbing license
- Crabbing from a boat that is displaying a recreational crabbing boat decal

## Waterfront Property Crab Pot Registration

### Registration - Annual

An owner, lessee, or tenant of a private shoreline property may use a maximum of two crab pots, regardless of the number of owners or lessees of the property, and must be annually registered with the department. The registration is free and it does NOT count as a recreational crabbing license.

A license is not needed to use properly registered crab pots; however, you are limited to the unlicensed crabber limits. See pages 40 and 41 for details.

Private property crab pots set in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays and their tributaries do NOT need to be registered.

See page 40 and 41 for crab catch limits.

## LICENSE FREE FISHING AREAS

Maryland features many areas where recreational anglers can fish year-round without a fishing license. When fishing in these areas you are exempt from all license and stamp fees and requirements. You are required to observe all other fishing rules. A free MD/PRFC angler registration is also required for anglers fishing without a license in designated license free fishing areas located in tidal water, you may register online through the Maryland licensing system.

ANNE ARUNDEL	• Annapolis—Maryland Route 450 old bridge at the Severn River.
BALTIMORE COUNTY	• Cox's Point on Back River and Deep Creek. Directions: Eastern Blvd. (Rt. 150) to Riverside Drive south.
BALTIMORE CITY	• Canton Recreational Pier at Boston Street • Middle Branch Park from fishing pier south of the Hanover-Pottee Street Bridges, to Hanover Street Bridge over Middle Branch. Directions: Route 2 to Middle Branch Park • Canton Waterfront Park
CAROLINE COUNTY	• Denton—Pier associated with G. Daniel Crouse Memorial Park on the east side of Choptank River north of Maryland Route 404 Bridge. • Federalsburg Municipal Park
CECIL COUNTY	• Charlestown—Town-owned stone wharf on the Northeast River near the corner of Conestoga and Water Streets and the historic site of Charlestown Wharf. • North East—North East Community Park at mouth of North East Creek.
CHARLES COUNTY	• Friendship Landing—County-owned pier and property adjacent to the pier off Friendship Landing Road southeast of Ironsides Riverside Road (Rt. 425) on Nanjemoy Creek.

## LICENSE FREE FISHING AREAS

DORCHESTER COUNTY	• Cambridge—Long Wharf from south end of city-owned bulkhead associated with the Municipal Yacht Basin within Cambridge Creek to the end of east breakwater at mouth of the Municipal Yacht Basin.
FREDERICK COUNTY	• Gambrill State Park—Banks of the one acre pond located within Gambrill State Park boundaries, near the Park's campground. (Angler registration not required at this location.)
HARFORD COUNTY	• Havre de Grace—Tydings Memorial Park within designated area, and pier at the end of Congress Street.
KENT COUNTY	• Chestertown—Maryland Route 213 Bridge over Chester River.
SOMERSET COUNTY	• Jemes Island State Park—Bulkhead area on Daugherty Creek within the boundaries of Jemes Island State Park.
WICOMICO COUNTY	• Sharptown—Pier and town dock off Ferry Street on the Nanticoke River. • Salisbury—Designated city-owned bulkhead on the Wicomico River between Mill Street and Division Street. • Tyaskin Park—County-owned park on Wetipquin Creek west of Rt. 349 at Tyaskin.
WORCESTER COUNTY	• Pocomoke City—City docks from Laurel Street boat ramp to U.S. Route 13 overpass and Winter Quarter dock on Pocomoke River. • Snow Hill—All city-owned waterfront property which includes Byrd Park, Sturgis Park, and city bulkheading adjacent to the municipal parking lot near the Route 12 bridge over the Pocomoke River. • Ocean City—Northside Park—Town-owned pier and park at 125th Street. • Ocean City—Chicago Avenue—Bulkhead between 2nd and 4th Streets.

# GENERAL FISHING DEFINITIONS

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### ARTIFICIAL FLY

A lure constructed by winding natural or synthetic material such as feathers, fur, hair, tinsel, thread, fiber, wire, plastic, cork, or rubber on or around the hook, and designed to be cast by means of a fly rod.

### ARTIFICIAL LURE

The following are considered artificial lures: spinners, spoons, plugs and molded facsimiles of worms, insects and fish. For the purposes of these regulations, artificial flies and streamers are considered to be artificial lures.

### BAIT

Any item that emits an odor or scent such as worms, minnows, crayfish, insects, and food items. The addition of any scent to an artificial lure or fly to make it smell like bait, makes it bait.

### BLACK BASS

Refers to both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

### CATCH

Catch means to take, kill, trap, gather, harvest or in any manner reduce any fish to personal possession.

### CIRCLE HOOK

A non-offset hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank. Circle hooks used in bait fisheries should be non-offset. That is, if the hook is laid on a flat surface, all parts of the hook lie flat on the surface.

### CULL

After being in possession of a fish, to discard or exchange that fish to possess another fish of the same species.

### DAILY CREEL

Daily creel is the number of fish that an angler can keep after a single day of fishing.

### EEZ

The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone is where the U.S. federal government has jurisdiction over natural resources it begins at 3 nautical miles and extends to 200 nautical miles from the Maryland coast.

### IN AGGREGATE

A catch of related fish species counted together.

### POSSESSION

Any condition where a fish is controlled with the angler's intent of ownership. Possession limit is the maximum number of fish that an angler may have in their possession after two or more days of fishing.

### STINGER HOOK

A hook which trails another hook or hook unit, either by direct physical attachment to the lead hook or hook unit, or by a connective device such as a line, swivel or chain, and is part of the same bait or lure.

### TROLLING

The method of angling during which fish are attracted to a lure or bait being trailed from a boat which is moving forward or backward by mechanical, manual or wind power.

## BASIC CATCH AND RELEASE FISH HANDLING TIPS

### HANDLING

- Don't hold the fish out of the water for more than 30 seconds.
- Wet hands and hold fish by lip with one hand and support its body with the other hand.
- Hold fish over water in case it is dropped.
- For videos about safe handling, care and proper catch-and-release techniques visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/  
Pages/bass/videos.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/bass/videos.aspx)

### DE-HOOKING

- When removing the hook, use a soft rubber or small-mesh nylon landing net to hold fish, or firmly hold the fish with a wet rag or glove.
- Use a non-offset circle hook when using bait to reduce the potential for deep-hooking the fish.

- Use barbless hooks with artificial bait. Barbs can be pinched down with pliers or filed off.
- Always have pliers, a de-hooker or hemostats handy for deeply hooked fish.
- If the hook cannot be removed from a deep or gut hooked fish without causing bleeding to the fish, then leave the hook in and cut the line as close to the mouth as possible.

### RESUSCITATION

- Try reviving a fish that is not lively by opening its mouth and pulling it forward to force water over the gills.
- Additional information is available at [http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/  
catch-and-release.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/catch-and-release.aspx)

## A Guide to Skin Wounds and Water Contact

*Vibrio* are bacteria that occur naturally in brackish and salt waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as well as coastal bays, especially when the water is warm. If *Vibrio* or other bacteria come into contact with an open wound they can cause serious infections, particularly for people with liver disease or a weakened immune system.

### Protect Yourself

- If you have any cuts or scrapes, avoid warm Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributary waters.
- If water contact cannot be avoided, cover wounds with waterproof bandages.
- Clean any cut or a scrape immediately with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer then wash as soon as possible.
- Wear shoes and gloves to avoid cuts and scrapes.

**If you develop a wound with unusual redness, swelling or drainage, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY and let your health care provider know whether you came in contact with brackish or salt water.**



Maryland  
Department of  
the Environment

[mde.maryland.gov/vibrio](http://mde.maryland.gov/vibrio)  
410-537-3906  
toll-free 800-633-6101 ext. 3906

### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[phpa.health.maryland.gov/oehfp/chs/pages/  
healthyswimming.aspx](http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/oehfp/chs/pages/healthyswimming.aspx) | toll-free 866-703-3266

### MARYLAND HEALTHY BEACHES

[marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html](http://marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html)

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# SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

## RECREATIONAL GEAR—NONTIDAL

These are the **ONLY** types of gear you may use in nontidal waters

GEAR	RULES AND EXCEPTIONS
BAIT TRAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be marked with the individual's name and address or DNRIid number</li> <li>Must be checked daily</li> <li>Unless attached to a boat that is not docked, must be set within 100 feet of the shore and either be attached to the property/ private pier/dock or marked by a buoy or pole with a sign</li> <li>If set on public property, must be set within 100 feet of the owner</li> <li>If set on private property, must have permission of the landowner</li> <li>May not be used in any trout management area</li> <li>Only one may be used by each individual</li> </ul>
HOOK AND LINE, ROD AND REEL AND HANDLINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual must be actively in control of the gear</li> <li>Snagging is not legal</li> <li>May use up to 3 active lines at a time</li> <li>May not use more than 2 hook units per line</li> <li>When ice fishing, 5 tip ups or rods may be used</li> </ul>
BUSH BOBS AND BANK POLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be marked with individual's name and address or DNRIid number.</li> <li>Rule changes pending as of publication. Online guide will be updated if changes become effective. - see <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx</a>.</li> </ul>
NETS (general rules that apply to seines, dip nets and landing nets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May not bait nets</li> <li>Except for landing nets, nets may not be used in any Trout Management Area</li> <li>A non-resident may only use landing nets</li> </ul>
SEINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have mesh no greater than ¼ inch</li> <li>Must not exceed 6 feet in width and 4 feet in height</li> <li>Must only be used to catch minnows and bait fish</li> <li>May not be used within 50 feet of a dam or the mouth of any river or tributary</li> <li>Must be emptied on shore</li> </ul>
DIP NETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May only be used in areas of the Potomac River, Monocacy River and Conococheague Creek that lie within Allegany, Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties</li> <li>May only be used to catch carp, catfish, Northern snakehead, or suckers</li> <li>May not be used in any other area or to catch any other species</li> </ul>
LANDING NETS	May only be used to land a fish caught by other means
BOW, GIG, SPEAR AND SPEAR GUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a retrieval line attached</li> <li>May not use projectile gear in any trout management area, or state-controlled community ponds or lakes</li> <li>May not be used within 100 yards of any human being, private or public swimming area, international diving flag, occupied duck blind, or vessel other than the vessel occupied by the individual using the projectile gear</li> <li>The distance restrictions will not apply if the individual receives permission from the affected parties prior to using the projectile gear</li> <li>May not be used to fish for any trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrids, northern pike, muskellunge, or muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky, largemouth and smallmouth bass, snapping turtles and any threatened or endangered species</li> </ul>
HAND AND NOODLING	No special rules

## Nontidal Sport Fishing

### It Is Illegal

- To cut a hole through the ice measuring more than 10 inches in any direction for the purpose of ice fishing.
- To take bait fish from Put-and-Take Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Areas.
- In Deer and Swan creeks in Harford County:
  - For a person to catch or attempt to catch fish other than by hook and line, with line held in hand, attached to a pole or rod held in hand, or attended in a manner that the fish voluntarily takes bait or lure in its mouth.
  - For a person to possess or use minnows for bait while fishing.
  - For anyone to use a dip net baited by attaching an attractant to the net material or frame.
- To remove the head and tail of fish in possession while at the fishing location, except for snakeheads. The head and tail shall remain attached in such a manner as to permit identification of fish species and total length. A person may take snakehead fish from Maryland waters by any legal means provided that the head of the snakehead fish is immediately removed, or the body is gutted, or the gills are removed from both sides of the fish, or the fish is filleted upon capture.
- For a person to catch snapping turtles from waters of the state by hook and line, trotline, bow and arrow, net, seine, trap, fish pot, or other fishing rig, spear, gig or iron or any device capable of piercing any part of the turtle.
- To operate any vehicle on any lands owned or controlled by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources without written permission from the department except on those roads, lanes or areas which are open to automobile traffic or which are specifically marked by the department.
- To camp on lands owned and controlled by the department except on designated sites or with written permission.
- To swim in any State-controlled lake except in designated areas.
- In the Battie Mixon Fishing Hole:
  - To fish between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
  - To use boats propelled by gasoline or diesel power.
- To fish any streams or nontidal waters that contain trout between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. (This does not apply to nontidal impoundments of five acres or more.)
- To cull trout.
- Regarding crayfish in the Susquehanna River, Middle Potomac River, Monocacy River and Upper Potomac River basins, it is illegal to:
  - Catch or process any species of crayfish unless the head is immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture.
  - Use any species of crayfish as bait unless the head is removed behind the eyes.
  - Catch and possess a female crayfish with eggs attached to the underside of the abdomen.

**RECREATIONAL GEAR—TIDAL**These are the **ONLY** types of gear you may use in tidal waters

GEAR	RULES AND EXCEPTIONS
BAIT TRAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be marked with the individual's name and address or DNRid number</li> <li>Must be checked daily</li> <li>Unless attached to a boat that is not docked, must be set within 100 feet of the shore and either be attached to the property/ private pier/dock or marked by a buoy or pole with a sign</li> <li>If set on public property, must be set within 100 feet of the owner</li> <li>If set on private property, must have permission of the landowner</li> <li>May not be used in any trout management area</li> <li>Only one may be used by each individual</li> </ul>
HOOK AND LINE, ROD AND REEL AND HANDLINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual must be actively in control of the gear</li> <li>Snagging is not legal</li> <li>May not use more than two hook units per line</li> <li>For striped bass gear restrictions see Striped Bass section—pages 38 and 39</li> </ul>
JUGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May only be used in tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay</li> <li>May only be used from July 1–February 28</li> <li>Must be attended between sunset and sunrise</li> <li>May use up to 10 jugs with no more than 2 hooks per line and no more than one line per jug</li> <li>Must be marked with the individual's DNRid number</li> <li>May not be used to take largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, all shark species, snapping turtles and any threatened or endangered species</li> </ul>
NETS (general rules for allowable nets)	May not bait nets
CAST NETS	Radius may not exceed 10 feet
SEINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have mesh no greater than ¼ inch</li> <li>Must not exceed 50 feet in width and 5 feet in height</li> <li>Must only be used to catch minnows and bait fish</li> <li>May not be used within 50 feet of a dam or the mouth of any river or tributary</li> <li>May not be emptied from a boat or on the shore or in water less than 12 inches deep</li> </ul>
DIP NETS	Nets are prohibited in certain county waters at certain times of year. Call 410-260-8300 or 800-688-3467 for more information.
LANDING NETS	May only be used to land fish caught by other means
BOW, GIG, SPEAR AND SPEAR GUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have a retrieval line attached, except for gigs</li> <li>A gig must be propelled by hand</li> <li>May not be used within 100 yards of any human being, private or public swimming area, international diving flag, occupied duck blind, or vessel other than the vessel occupied by the individual using the projectile gear</li> <li>The distance restrictions will not apply if the individual receives permission from the affected parties prior to using the projectile gear</li> <li>May not be used to fish for any trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrids, northern pike, muskellunge, or muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky, largemouth and smallmouth bass, snapping turtles, all shark species, lobster and any threatened or endangered species</li> </ul>
HAND AND NOODLING	No special rules

**Tidal Sport Fishing****Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries and Atlantic Ocean,  
Coastal Bays and Tributaries****It is Legal**

1. To keep any size white perch if caught by hook and line.
2. To use an umbrella rig that has no more than two hooks or two sets of hooks.
3. To catch and release alewife herring, American shad, blueback herring, hickory shad and sharks.

**It is Illegal**

1. To have in one's possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland any striped bass cut up or filleted at any time. Striped bass must be landed whole.
2. To have in one's possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland more than 15 cut up pounds of any fish upon which a size or weight limit is prescribed by law or regulations.
3. To use Sabiki rigs or mackerel trees in Maryland. (Multiple hook rigs including Sabiki rigs and mackerel trees are allowed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Atlantic Ocean.)
4. To operate a boat within the area 400 yards below or 400 yards above the Conowingo Dam.

Towns such as Ocean City may have special fishing ordinances. Be sure to check local jurisdictions' websites for restrictions.

**STATEWIDE RESTRICTIONS****IT IS ILLEGAL**

- To buy, sell, or offer to buy any fish or crab harvested under a recreational license.
- To use waders or boots soled with felt or any natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.
- To disturb, take, destroy or possess the nest or eggs of a terrapin or snapping turtle.

**LEAVE NO TRACE**

- Be considerate of others.
- Take trash with you.
- Pack it in. Pack it out.
- Clean your fish at home.
- Avoid impacting stream banks and lake shores.
- Do not dispose of unused bait on or near the water.
- Recycle or dispose of old lures and line.
- Avoid discarding dead or moribund fish.
- Respect private property.

# SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

The following tables summarize rules governing the harvest and possession of fish species that anglers commonly catch in Maryland. This summary does not include all regulated species. Full information and updates are available at [dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html](http://dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html)

## NONTIDAL

### NONTIDAL

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS		SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS			
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches		Open Year Round	Daily—25 Possession—25				
BAITFISH (Including Madtoms)	None		Open Year Round	Daily—35 in aggregate Possession—35 in aggregate				
BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	12 inches or as provided for by special regulations.		CLOSED March 1–June 15	Daily—5 in aggregate Possession—10 in aggregate	Catch and Release is permitted at all times.			
CARP	None		Open Year Round	Daily—15 Possession—30				
CHAIN PICKEREL	14 inches		Open Year Round	Daily—5 Possession—10				
CHANNEL CATFISH	None		Open Year Round	Daily—5 Possession—10				
CRAPPIE	None		Open Year Round	Daily—15 Possession—30				
HERRING (Alewife and Blueback)			CLOSED		Catch and Release is permitted at all times.			
MUSKELLUNGE AND TIGER MUSKIE	36 inches		Open Year Round	Daily—1 Possession—2				
NORTHERN PIKE	30 inches		Open Year Round	Daily—2 Possession—4				
SHAD (American/White and Hickory)			CLOSED		Catch and Release is permitted at all times.			
STRIPED BASS and HYBRID STRIPED BASS	18 inches		Open Year Round	2 striped bass/striped bass hybrid per day, only one of which may be over 30 inches. Possession—4	Striped bass and hybrid striped bass in nontidal waters may be taken only from Broadford Lake, Conowingo Reservoir, Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Rocky Gorge Reservoir and Triadelphia Reservoir. See table footer for contact information.			
SUCKERS	None		Open Year Round	Daily—30 Possession—60				
SUNFISH, including Bluegills and Rock Bass (commonly known as Red Eye or Goggle-Eye)	None		Open Year Round	Daily—15 in aggregate Possession—30 in aggregate				
TROUT—statewide (all species of trout)	None—Except as provided in Special Trout Management Area Regulations.		Open Year Round— Except as provided in Special Trout Management Area Regulations.	Daily—2 in aggregate Possession—4 in aggregate— Except as provided in Special Trout Management Area Regulations.				
TROUT: Put-and-Take Areas (all species of Trout)	None		Open Year Round	Daily—5 in aggregate Possession—10 in aggregate	See Put-and-Take section for specific requirements.			
WALLEYE	Minimum Size: 15 inches year round, and during January 1–April 15 the minimum size is 15 inches with a maximum size of 20 inches, in the Potomac River mainstem approximately 0.5 miles upriver from Chain Bridge to the spillway in Cumberland.		Open year round— Except on Deep Creek Lake and the Youghiogheny River downstream of Route 42 bridge where it is closed from March 1 through April 15.	Daily—5 Possession—10				
WHITE PERCH	None		Open Year Round	None				
YELLOW PERCH	Nontidal rivers and streams	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10 Possession—20	The possession of yellow perch eggs requires prior authorization from the department.			
ATLANTIC STURGEON, SHORTNOSE STURGEON, AND BIVALVES/SHELLFISH	Nontidal lakes and ponds	None						
<b>Special Closures:</b>								
1. Magothy River from the base of Lake Waterford Dam downstream for 3,300 feet is closed to all fishing during February, March and April.								
2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet during February, March and April.								
Contact Information for Restricted Areas: <b>Baltimore City Reservoirs</b> —for Prettyboy and Liberty (boat permits required) information, rules, and regulations, call 410-795-6150. For Loch Raven call 410-887-7692. <b>Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Lakes</b> —Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge fishing by permit only. For permits, rules and regulations call the information center at Brighton Dam 301-774-9124.								

# SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

## YOUNGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE (RESERVOIR)

YOUNGHIOGHENY RIVER LAKE (RESERVOIR)				
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
AMERICAN SHAD	None	Open Year Round	Daily—3	
BAITFISH, FISH BAIT	None	Open Year Round	Daily—50 in aggregate	
BASS – Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted	15 inches 12 inches	Jan 1–April 14 and Nov 1–Dec 31 June 16–Oct 31	Daily—4 in aggregate Daily—6 in aggregate	No Harvest (Catch and Release) all other dates; No tournaments during closure.
CRAYFISH	None	Open Year Round	Daily—50	Head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken
GIZZARD SHAD	None	Open Year Round	Daily—50	
MUD BUGS (dragonfly nymphs)	None	Open Year Round	None	
MUSKELLUNGE AND TIGER MUSKIE	40 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 in aggregate	
NORTHERN PIKE	24 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—2	
PICKEREL	18 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
RIVER HERRING	None	Open Year Round	Daily—50 in aggregate	
SAUGER	12 inches	Jan 1–March 14 and May 5–Dec 31	Daily—6	
STRIPED BASS AND HYBRID STRIPED BASS	20 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—2 in aggregate	
SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH, WHITE PERCH, CRAPPIES, CATFISH, ROCK BASS, SUCKERS, CARP AND WHITE BASS	None	Open Year Round	Daily—50 in aggregate	
TROUT AND SALMON (all species)	7 inches	8 a.m. April 14–Sept 3 Jan 1–Feb 28 and Sept 4–Dec 31	Daily—5 in aggregate Daily—3 in aggregate	
WALLEYE AND HYBRIDS	15 inches	Jan 1–March 14 and May 5–Dec 31	Daily—6 in aggregate	
PADDLEFISH, MUSSELS, CLAMS, AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES			CLOSED	

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# SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES				
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	Jan 1-Aug 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	15 inches March 1–June 15	Open Year Round	Daily—5 in aggregate	
	12 inches June 16 through last day in February			
BLACK DRUM	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat Limit—6	
BLACK SEA BASS	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>			
BLUEFISH	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
CATFISH	None	Open Year Round	None	
CHAIN PICKEREL (Pike)	14 inches	CLOSED March 15–April 30	Daily—10	
COBIA	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>			
CROAKER (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD	None	Open Year Round	None	Illegal to possess live snakehead fish.
RED DRUM (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
SHARKS	See Highly Migratory Species Section, page 44			
SNAPPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—20 in aggregate	Snapper species— <a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a>
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	Must be landed with head and fins intact.
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
STRIPED BASS	See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Section, page 38			
SUMMER FLOUNDER (Fluke)	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>			
TAUTOG	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>			
WALLEYE	15 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—5	
WEAKFISH	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
WHITE PERCH	None if caught with hook and line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear	Open Year Round	None	
YELLOW PERCH	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
ALEWIFE HERRING, AMERICAN SHAD, ATLANTIC STURGEON, SHORTNOSE STURGEON, AND BIVALVES/SHELLFISH (mussels and clams)	CLOSED			
<b>Areas Closed to Fishing—Feb, March and April:</b> 1. Magothy River from Lake Waterford dam downstream for 3,300 feet. 2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet.				

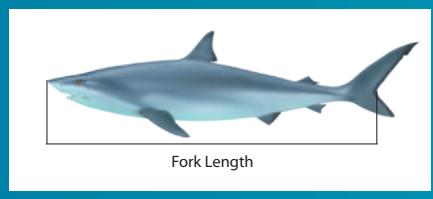
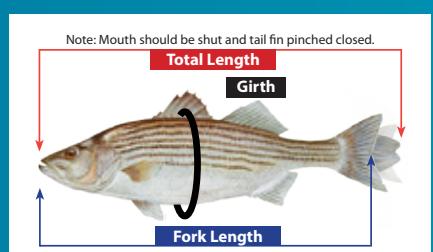
## HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

Size limits are generally based on the total length of a fish. The total length of a fish is the maximum length with the mouth closed and the tail pinched together measured from the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this straight line measurement is to push the fish's snout against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and with the fish lying along a tape measure and then pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length.

Fork length refers to the length from the snout of a fish to the end of the middle caudal fin rays. This is the measurement for determining the legal size of a shark.

The girth of a fish is best measured with a fabric ruler. Measuring the girth is helpful in trying to determine if you have a possible record fish, which is determined by total weight. By using the total length and girth of a fish in inches you can get a rough estimate of the weight in pounds with this formula:

$$\text{((Girth in inches} \times \text{Girth in inches}) \times \text{Length in inches}) / 800 = \text{Approximate weight in pounds}$$



# SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS AND TRIBUTARIES				
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	January 1–August 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
BLACK DRUM	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat limit—6	
BLACK SEA BASS		Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>		
BLUEFISH	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
COBIA		Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>		
CROAKER (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
DOLPHINFISH (Mahi-Mahi)	None	Open Year Round	Daily—10 Boat limit—60	Only applies to federal waters.
GROUPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—1	Grouper species— <a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a>
LOBSTER *Please see additional recreational lobster information below	3½–5¼ inches carapace length	CLOSED Feb. 1–March 31	100/person/24 hour period or 500 for a 5-day or longer trip when using gear other than lobster traps	Must be landed whole. Spearing is prohibited. No egg-bearing females.
RED DRUM (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
SCUP (Porgy)	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—50	
SHARKS	See Highly Migratory Species Section—page 44			
SNAPPER COMPLEX (includes: sheepshead and spadefish)	None	Open Year Round	Daily—20 in aggregate	Snapper species— <a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a>
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
STRIPED BASS	See Atlantic Striped Bass Section—Page 38			
SUMMER FLOUNDER (Fluke)		Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>		
TAUTOG		Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — <a href="http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/">eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</a>		
TILEFISH SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—7 in aggregate	Tilefish species— <a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a>
WAHOO	None	Open Year Round	Daily—2	Only applies to federal waters.
WEAKFISH	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
ALEWIFE HERRING, AMERICAN SHAD, ATLANTIC STURGEON, SHORTNOSE STURGEON, AND BIVALVES/SHELLFISH(mussels and clams)			CLOSED	



Photo by Bob Mott

## SUMMER FLOUNDER HOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Undersized summer flounder must be released and there are two things anglers can do to maximize survivability.

- **Use a size three or larger hook.** A lot of mortality associated with hooking is caused by the fish swallowing the hook and being lodged in the gills or organs. Larger hooks can help to prevent this from happening.
- **Be ready to release a fish once it is caught.** Having the right tools such as a wet rag, pliers and a measuring board will enable you to return the fish to the water quickly. Which will improve the odds of survival.

# PUT-AND-TAKE TROUT FISHING AREAS

The following restrictions apply to the areas listed:

- a) Creel Limit (all species) combined—5 Daily / 10 Possession.
- b) Minimum Size—no minimum size.
- c) Season—areas are closed to all fishing from 10 p.m. of the first date, to 5:30 a.m. of the second date, except as provided for by special regulation or where more restrictive fishing hours are posted.

## 2018 Closure Schedule

- Closure 0—No Closure.
- Closure 1—Sunday March 11, 2018 to Saturday March 31, 2018.
- Closure 2—Sunday March 25, 2018 to Saturday March 31, 2018.



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Photo by Joe Evans

## Areas Subject to Provisions of this Section:

### Allegany County

Battie Mixon Ponds .....	0
Cotton Cove Pond in Glendening Recreational Complex at Frostburg.....	2
Dans Mountain Pond .....	0
Evitts Creek—mainstem upstream of Interstate Rt. 68.....	1
Evitts Creek Ponds .....	0
Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed .....	1
Flintstone Creek Watershed .....	0
Georges Creek—mainstem from the upper boundary of Town Park in Westernport upstream to Neff Run.....	0
Jennings Run—mainstem downstream of the confluence of North Jennings Run.....	2
Lake Habeeb (Rocky Gap Lake).....	0
Lions Park Pond, Frostburg (area subject to user restrictions by the City of Frostburg) 0	
North Branch Potomac River mainstem—from Allegany County line downstream to the upper Potomac River Commission Waste-water Treatment Plant discharge in Westernport.....	0
North Jennings Run Watershed .....	2
Orchard Pond.....	0
White Sulfur Pond.....	0
Wills Creek—mainstem upstream of the US Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project at The Narrows above Cumberland.....	1

### Anne Arundel County

Severn Run—mainstem upstream of MD Route 3 .....	1
--	---

### Baltimore County and Baltimore City

Avalon Pond (Lost Lake).....	0
Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from the red post located 1.6 miles downstream of Corbett Road downstream to the hiker/biker bridge located approximately one mile downstream of Phoenix Road; and from Cromwell Bridge downstream to the Interstate Rt. 95 bridge.....	1

### Charles County

Hughesville Pond .....	0
Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management area—all ponds.....	0
Wheatley Lake.....	0

### Frederick County

Cunningham Falls Lake .....	0
Fishing Creek—mainstem upstream of Fishing Creek Reservoir including left fork (Steep Creek).....	1
Frank Bentz Pond.....	2
Friends Creek Watershed.....	1
Hamburg Pond.....	2

Middle Creek—mainstem from the MD Route 17 bridge near the junction of Bittle Road upstream to the confluence of Spruce Run 1	
Middletown Pond.....	0
Owens Creek—mainstem from Buck Lantz Road downstream to Roddy Road (catch and return only from June 1 through last day of February).....	1
Rainbow Lake.....	2
Urbana Lake.....	0

Whiskey Springs Pond .....	2
Woodsboro Community Pond .....	0

Beaver Run—upstream of Maryland Route 91.....	1
Farm Museum Pond.....	2
South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem from West Friendship Road (Howard County side) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at Sykesville downstream to its confluence with the North Branch Patapsco River .....	1
Piney Run—mainstem downstream from Arrington Road .....	1
Piney Run Reservoir .....	0

Robert's Mill Pond .....	0
Bear Creek—mainstem from the corner of Fish Hatchery Road and Rabbit Hollow Road downstream to the confluence with the Youghiogheny River at Friendsville.....	1
Broadford Lake .....	0
Deep Creek Lake .....	0
Herrington Creek—mainstem .....	0

Herrington Lake .....	0
Jennings Randolph Lake .....	0
Little Youghiogheny River—mainstem from MD Route 219 downstream to the Youghiogheny River.....	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of MD Route 7 .....	1

Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at MD Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line .....	1
Howards Pond .....	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of MD Route 7 .....	1
Robert's Mill Pond .....	0

Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at MD Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line .....	1
Howards Pond .....	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of MD Route 7 .....	1
Robert's Mill Pond .....	0

Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at MD Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line .....	1
Howards Pond .....	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of MD Route 7 .....	1
Robert's Mill Pond .....	0

## TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE AND MAPS:

[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking),  
800-688-3467,  
press 1, and by email  
alert—[dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email.aspx)



Mill Run—mainstem downstream of uppermost bridge on Mill Run Road .....	1
Muddy Creek—mainstem.....	0
New Germany Lake .....	0
North Branch Potomac River mainstem—from Jennings Randolph Lake upstream approximately 6 miles to the lower boundary of Potomac State Forest; from the uppermost boundary of Potomac State Forest at Wallman upstream approximately 8.5 miles to the bridge at Old Wilson Road; from the red post located approximately 100 yards above the upstream concrete abutments at Barnum, West Virginia, downstream to the red post located below a pool known as Blue Hole, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport United States Geological Survey Quadrangle, and from Piney Swamp Run downstream to the Allegany County line.....	0
Piney Reservoir.....	0
Savage Reservoir.....	0
Savage River—mainstem from Savage Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick .....	2
Snowy Creek mainstem .....	0
Youghiogheny River—mainstem upstream of the junction of Muddy Creek and from the upstream side of the Maryland Route 42 bridge downstream 0.4 miles to the confluence of Minnow Run, 50 yards downstream from Maple Street.....	0

## Harford County

Deer Creek—mainstem from 1 mile south of Rocks State Park upstream to the bridge at Maryland Route 23.....	1
Forest Hill Pond .....	2
Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Maryland Route 1651	

## Howard County

Centennial Lake .....	0
Lake Elkhorn.....	0
Patuxent River—mainstem from base of Rocky Gorge Reservoir Dam in Laurel downstream to the Railroad crossing.....	1

South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem from West Friendship Road (Howard County side) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at Sykesville downstream to its confluence with the North Branch Patapsco River ..... 1

## Washington County

Antietam Creek—mainstem from upstream boundary of Devil's Backbone Park to the mouth of Beaver Creek..... 0

Beaver Creek—from the downstream side of the bridges on the private farm lane located below the Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery downstream to Black Rock Creek, and from Beaver Creek Road downstream to the confluence with Antietam Creek..... 1

Blairs Valley Lake .....

Greenbrier Lake..... 0

Indian Springs Pond..... 2

Israel Creek .....

Licking Creek Mainstem .....

Sharpsburg Community Pond .....

Sideling Hill Creek Watershed .....

## Montgomery County

Great Seneca Creek—from Maryland Route 28 upstream to Maryland Route 355..... 1

Izaak Walton Pond .....

2

Lake Needwood..... 0

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Pond .....

2

Northwest Branch Watershed—upstream of Maryland Route 410 to Norwood Road.... 2

Pine Lake..... 2

## Prince George's County

Allen's Pond .....

0

Cosca Lake .....

0

Greenbelt Lake .....

0

Lake Artemesia..... 0

Laurel Lakes..... 0

Melwood Pond..... 0

Schoolhouse Pond .....

0

Tucker Pond .....

0

## Wicomico County

Beaverdam Creek—in Salisbury from Schumaker Dam downstream to the bridge crossing at Memorial Plaza Road..... 0

## Worcester County

Shad Landing Pond .....

0

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# SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS—TROUT

## Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to Artificial Fly Fishing

### Areas:

- Big Hunting Creek, Frederick County—all waters of Big Hunting Creek and its tributaries within Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park except Owens Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Cunningham Falls Lake and Frank Bentz Pond.
- Beaver Creek, Washington County—from the confluence with Black Rock Creek downstream approximately 1 mile to the red post located 0.1 mile above Beaver Creek Road.
- Patuxent River, Montgomery and Howard Counties—from red bank posts located on both sides of the river, approximately 400 yards below Brighton Dam downstream to Mink Hollow Road.

### Restrictions:

- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All trout caught must be immediately released and returned to the water.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and streamers constructed in a normal fashion using natural and/or synthetic materials, which may include feathers, fur, hair, tinsel, thread, fiber, plastic, cork, wire and rubber on a single hook with the components wound on or around the hook. Specifically prohibited are the use of molded replicas of insects, earthworms, fish eggs, fish or any invertebrate or vertebrate either singly or in combination with other materials, or other lures commonly described as spinners, spoons, or plugs made of metal, plastic, wood, rubber or similar substance or a combination of these.
- You may only fish with conventional fly fishing tackle, fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached. Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited. The use of spinning, spincast, and casting reels is prohibited.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures

### Areas:

- Patuxent River, Howard and Montgomery counties—the mainstem of the Patuxent River from the crossing of MD Route 97 upstream to the crossing of MD Route 27 and Cabin Branch from its confluence with the Patuxent River upstream to Hipsley Mill Road.
- Morgan Run, Carroll County—from bridge on London Bridges Road upstream to bridge on Maryland Route 97.
- Paint Branch and tributaries, Montgomery County—upstream of Fairland Road.
- Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore County—mainstem from Prettyboy Reservoir Dam downstream to Bluemount Road.
- North Branch Potomac River—from an overhead cable and red bank post located approximately 345 yards below the Jennings Randolph Reservoir spillway downstream approximately one mile to a red post, located approximately 100 yards above the upstream concrete abutments at Barnum, West Virginia, and from a red post located below a pool known as Blue Hole, approximately 1/3 mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport United States Geological Survey Quadrangle, downstream approximately 4 miles to the confluence of Piney Swamp Run.
- Youghiogheny River, Garrett County—mainstem beginning at the red post approximately 100 yards upstream of the Deep Creek Lake tailrace and extending downstream 4 miles to the Sang Run Bridge.
- Little Hunting Creek, Frederick County—mainstem from the red post located approximately 0.25 mile downstream of Route 806, upstream to include all waters of Little Hunting Creek within the boundaries of Cunningham Falls State Park.

### Restrictions:

- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All trout caught must be immediately released and returned to the water.

- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Trophy Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures and Flies

### Area:

- Savage River mainstem from the downstream side of the Rt. 135 Bridge upstream for a distance of approximately 2.7 miles to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge).

### Restrictions:

- Two fish creel and possession limit for all species of trout combined.
- Minimum Sizes:
  - Brook trout—12 inches
  - Brown trout—18 inches
  - All other trout species—no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Artificial lures are restricted to single hooks with single hook points.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Trophy Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to Use of Artificial Flies

### Area:

- Savage River mainstem from the Savage River Reservoir Dam downstream to the lower suspension bridge (Allegany Bridge).

### Restrictions:

- Two fish creel and possession limit for all species of trout combined.
- Minimum Sizes:
  - Brook trout—12 inches
  - Brown trout—18 inches
  - All other trout species—no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and streamers.
- You may only fish with conventional fly fishing tackle (fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached). Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited.

## PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We urge anglers to respect property rights and seek permission before attempting to park, fish or enter private property. The privilege of fishing and right of entry to private property is at the owner's discretion. Respect for landowners and their property helps to ensure continued fishing access. Poor behavior encourages landowners to post their property to prevent access. Remember that every angler pays for the improper actions of a few. Always be courteous and respectful.

# SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS—TROUT

- The use of spinning, spincast, and casting reels is prohibited.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas

### Group I Areas:

- Catoctin and Little Catoctin Creek, Frederick County—from U.S. Route 40 near its intersection with MD Route 17 within Doubs Meadow Park downstream to the lower park boundary near Myersville.
- Catoctin Creek, Frederick County—within the boundaries of Catoctin Creek Park.
- Middle Patuxent River, Howard County—from U.S. Route 29 downstream to Murray Hill Road.
- Town Creek mainstem, Allegany County—within Green Ridge State Forest, from a red post located approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile downstream of the upper ford on Lower Town Creek Road, just south of the Wagner Road intersection, downstream to the red post located just upstream of the lower ford on Lower Town Creek Road (Mallory Place), and from a red post located approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downstream of Manafort Road to a red post located approximately  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles downstream (Bull Ring Ranch).

### Restrictions:

- From June 1–Sept 30, the creel and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From Oct 1–May 31, you:
  - May not possess trout in these areas.
  - Must immediately release any trout caught to the water from which the trout was taken.
  - May not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

### Group II Areas:

- Casselman River mainstem, Garrett County—from a boundary marked by two red posts on both stream banks located on the south side of the Interstate 68 east-bound bridge downstream to the Pennsylvania state line.
- North Branch Potomac River mainstem, Garrett County—from the lowermost boundary of the Potomac State Forest near Lostland Run to the uppermost boundary of the Potomac State Forest at Wallman.
- Youghiogheny River mainstem, Garrett County—below Friendsville from a site located 50 yards downstream of Maple

Street (at the confluence of Minnow Run) downstream 1.8 miles to the powerline crossing upstream of the Youghiogheny Reservoir.

### Restrictions:

- From June 16–Sept 30, the creel and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From Oct 1–June 15, you:
  - May not possess trout in these areas.
  - Must immediately release any trout caught to the water from which the trout was taken.
  - May not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Put-and-Take/Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Area

### Area:

- Owens Creek, Frederick County—mainstem from Buck Lantz Road downstream to Roddy Road.

### Restrictions:

- From March 1–May 31:
  - No bait, lure or tackle restrictions are in effect.
  - Put-and-Take Trout Area regulations apply.
- From June 1—the last day of February, you:
  - May not possess trout in these areas.
  - May not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

## Zero Creel Limit Area—All Species of Trout

### Area:

- North Branch of the Potomac River from the Upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge at Westernport downstream to the Route 956 bridge at Pinto.

### Restrictions:

- Zero creel and possession limits for all trout species.
- No tackle restrictions.

## Zero Creel Limit Area—Brook Trout

### Area:

- Savage River mainstem and tributaries upstream of the Savage River Reservoir dam, excluding the impoundments and Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas—Savage River Reservoir, Savage River from Savage River Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick Run, and New Germany Lake.

### Restrictions:

- Zero creel and possession limits for brook trout.
- Two fish creel and possession limit for all other trout species combined.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and artificial lures.
- You may not possess or use natural or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

The online Public Angler Access Map includes color codes to illustrate special management areas. [gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html](http://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html)

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# SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS—ALL SPECIES

## TAKE A CHILD FISHING

"To Catch a Fish," is one of the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, issued as part of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, an initiative to ensure all Maryland young people have the opportunity to connect with their natural world and grow to become informed and responsible stewards.

**Maryland's My First Fish Program** recognizes an angler that catches his or her first fish in Maryland. A special certificate is available online to an angler for this first fish.

**Fishing rodeos** are typically held at small ponds or lakes and are aimed at helping beginners successfully catch a fish, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/youth/rodeo.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/youth/rodeo.aspx).

**Share your fishing story on the Anglers Log!**  
[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers\\_log.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers_log.aspx)

**The Youth Fishing Club** is open to everyone between the ages of 5 and 15. Membership is free.

For more information on youth fishing or to join the Maryland Youth Fishing Club, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/youth/index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/youth/index.aspx).

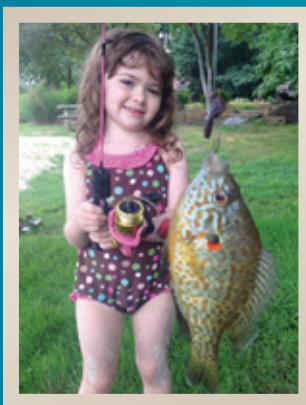


Photo by Paul Strackbein

## Limited Harvest Fishing Areas

### Areas:

- Allens Pond, Prince George's County.
- Bowie Town Center Pond, Prince George's County.
- Cosca Lake, Prince George's County.
- Farm Museum Pond, Carroll County.
- Governor's Bridge Natural Area Pond, Prince George's County.
- Greenbelt Lake, Prince George's County.
- Hughesville Pond, Charles County.
- Hutchins Pond, Calvert County.
- Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County.
- Merkle Wildlife Management Area, Prince George's County—all ponds located within the Merkle area boundaries.
- Milltown Landing Pond, Prince George's County.
- Myrtle Grove Pond, Charles County.
- Pemberton Pond, Wicomico County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County—age restricted March 1 through May 15.
- Roberts Field Pond, Carroll County.
- Robert's Mill Pond, Carroll County.
- South Germantown Park Pond, Montgomery County, in South Germantown Park.
- Tucker Pond, Prince George's County.
- Westminster Community Pond, Carroll County.

### Restrictions:

- You may not possess more than 10 fish.
- You may not possess more than one largemouth bass, not to exceed 15 inches in length.
- For areas that are also on the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing list, only five of the 10 fish limit may be trout species.
- There is no minimum size for largemouth bass in these areas.

## Impoundments Limited to Catch-and-Return Fishing

You may not possess any fish in these areas:

- Lake Hashawa, Carroll County.
- Upper John Owings Pond, Carroll County.
- Waterworks Park, Anne Arundel County—City of Annapolis.

### Restrictions:

- Limited to anglers who are under 16 years old or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.

## Youth, Senior and Blind Angler Fishing Areas

### Areas:

- Jones Falls, Baltimore County—Jones Falls and tributaries above Stevenson Road.
- Laurel Run (Moscow), Allegany County.
- Pangborn Pond, Washington County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County—restrictions in effect from March 1 through May 15. On May 16, the area returns to limited harvest with no age restriction.
- Boonsboro Pond, Washington County—behind Boonsboro Free Library.

### Restrictions:

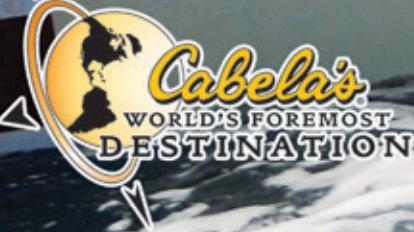
- Fishing is limited to anglers who are under 16 years old, 65 years and older, or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.



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# LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

## Trophy Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass Fishing Areas

### Areas:

- Blairs Valley Lake, Washington County.
- Centennial Lake, Howard County.
- Chesapeake Ranch Estates, Calvert County—all ponds.
- Johnson Pond, Wicomico County.
- Leonard Mill Pond, Wicomico County.
- Little Seneca Lake, Montgomery County.
- Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, St. Mary's County—all ponds.
- St. Mary's Lake, St. Mary's County—located on Maryland Route 5.

### Restrictions:

- You may not possess more than five bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass combined) per day while fishing in these areas.
- No bass in possession can measure between 11 and 15 inches long.
- Only one bass in possession may be 15 inches or longer.

## Catch-and-Release Bass Fishing Areas

### Areas:

- Monocacy River—from the Potomac River upstream to Buckeystown Dam.
- North Branch Potomac River—from the spillway in Cumberland upstream approximately 25 miles to U.S. Route 220 Bridge at Keyser, West Virginia.
- Patapsco River—from Interstate 70 downstream to Maryland Route 144 (Frederick Road).
- Potomac River—from Dam No. 2 (Seneca Breaks) upstream to the mouth of the Monocacy River.
- Wheatley Lake, Charles County.

### Restrictions:

- You may not possess largemouth or smallmouth bass in these areas.
- You must immediately release any largemouth or smallmouth bass into the water where it was caught.



## LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT PERMITS

A black bass tournament permit is required if all of the following conditions apply:

- The tournament has 10 or more boats participating.
- The tournament has a specific location where fish are weighed, measured, counted or otherwise entered.
- The tournament provides anglers an offer, reward or incentive for catching black bass.

For bass information and tournament registration, go to [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/charters/tournaments.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/charters/tournaments.aspx).

The application deadline is either 15 days prior to the tournament if the contest will have 10–50 boats, or 30 days prior for tournaments with 50 or more boats.

## TIPS FOR LIVE RELEASE TOURNAMENTS

- Use a big enough live well; one pound fish per gallon of water.
- Use a minimum 750 gal/hour pump.
- Use ice and water exchanges, and keep the live well water temperatures 5–7 degrees F below the river water temperature.
- Take extra care when fishing summer tournaments. Extreme heat can be a killer.
- Use continuous circulation and frequent water exchanges, and periodically lift the lids of live wells to expel carbon dioxide. This may require more of your attention during periods of rough water when bass experience increased stress.
- Act quickly if the live well stops working! Bucket in fresh water every 10 minutes, use a spare pump, move your fish to a working live well, or release them.
- Use an effective culling strategy that prevents tearing the lips or tissue of bass.
- Remove dead bass from live wells; do not discard harvested species at boat ramps or near parking lots. In many cases, harvested fish can be consumed or donated for consumption.
- Clean and remove algae or plant material from live well and intake systems.

## BOWFISHING

Bowfishing has become increasingly popular. Species that are often targeted with a bow include carp, gar and snakeheads. It is illegal to use a bow to hunt some popular sportfishes, such as largemouth bass, striped bass, trout and all sharks. Please review other rules in the Recreational Gear section of this Guide (Pages 16–17).



Photo by Jim Thompson

## Regulations

A person aboard a vessel, raft or tube must wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket at all times while on the upper Potomac River and its tributaries, between November 15 and the following May 15. This regulation is in addition to class III, IV, V, and VI White Water Stream segment regulations, which require life jackets to be worn at all times.

## Class III rapids (hazardous)

Dam #3 to Knoxville Falls.

## Class IV rapids (significant hazard to life)

Great Falls (foot of falls) to Chain Bridge.

## Class VI rapids (extreme risk to life)

Great Falls area from the base of the aqueduct dam to a line from the foot of the main falls on the Virginia shoreline to the Maryland shoreline below Olmstead Island.

## Safety Tips

ALWAYS wear an approved life jacket while on the Potomac. Leave a float plan with someone at home describing where you are going, who you're with and when you expect to return.



Photo by James Joseph

Know the weather predictions for the area. REMEMBER the river currents are strong and unpredictable, especially after heavy rains. Wading should NOT be attempted when the river levels exceed the normal level.

## River Flow Information

- Conowingo Dam spill hotline— 877-457-2525.
- Jennings Randolph Lake (North Branch Potomac) and Savage River Dam projected

releases—410-962-7687 or online—[nab-wc.usace.army.mil/mapserver/index.html](http://nab-wc.usace.army.mil/mapserver/index.html).

- Potomac River flow at Hagerstown—301-223-6377.
- Susquehanna riverflow at Conowingo—888-457-4076.
- U.S. Geological Survey flow information for all Maryland waters—[md.water.usgs.gov](http://md.water.usgs.gov).
- Youghiogheny River white water release schedule—315-413-2823 or online—[deepcreekhydro.com](http://deepcreekhydro.com).



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# FISH IDENTIFICATION

For the most up-to-date Maryland Fishing Information—[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries)



Atlantic Coast



Nontidal



Chesapeake Bay

For information on more species of fish go to: [dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/fishfacts-index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/fishfacts-index.aspx)  
To learn more about some of Maryland's species of sharks go to page 45 of this guide.



American Eel ● ● ●

9" minimum, creel limit 25



Brook Trout ●

No minimum size\*, creel limit 2\* (combined)  
Angler Award Size 12"



Largemouth Bass ● ●

See tables pages 17–19  
Angler Award Size 21"



Atlantic Spadefish ● ●

No minimum size, creel limit 20 in aggregate  
Angler Award Size 24"



Brown Trout ●

No minimum size\*, creel limit 2\* (combined)  
Angler Award Size 21"



Muskellunge ●

36" minimum, creel limit 1  
Angler Award Size 40"



Black Crappie ● ●

No minimum size, nontidal creel limit 15  
Angler Award Size 15"



Chain Pickerel ● ●

14" minimum, creel limit 5 (nontidal); 10 (tidal)  
Angler Award Size 24"



Northern Pike ●

30" minimum, creel limit 2, Angler Award Size 38".



Black Drum ● ●

16" minimum, creel limit 1  
Angler Award Size 48"



Channel Catfish ● ●

No size limits, nontidal creel limit—5; no tidal creel limit  
Angler Award Size 30"



Rainbow Trout ●

No minimum size\*, creel limit 2\* (combined)  
Angler Award Size 20"



Black Sea Bass ● ●

See online version for season and limits  
Angler Award Size 20"



Croaker (hardhead) ● ●

9" minimum, creel limit 25  
Angler Award Size 18"



Red Drum ● ●  
(channel bass, puppy drum)

18" minimum & 27" max slot limit, creel limit 1  
Angler Award Size 36", Catch & Release Only



Bluefish ● ●

8" minimum, creel limit 10  
Angler Award Size 34"



Fallfish ●

No minimum size or creel limit



Scup (porgy) ●

8" minimum, creel limit 50

# FISH IDENTIFICATION

The "Angler Award" is part of FishMaryland. To find out more go to page 46 or go to [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/index.aspx)



**Sheepshead** ● ●

No minimum size, creel limit 20 in aggregate  
Angler Award Size 24"



**Summer Flounder (fluke)** ● ●

See online version for season and limits  
Angler Award Size 24"



**Smallmouth Bass** ● ●

See tables pages 17–19  
Angler Award Tidal & Nontidal Size 20"



**Tautog** ● ●

See online version for season and limits  
Angler Award Size 24"



**Spanish Mackerel** ● ●

14" minimum, creel limit 15  
Angler Award Size 22"



**Walleye** ● ●

See pages 18 and 20 for season and limits  
Angler Award Size 26"



**Spot** ● ●

No minimum size, no creel limit  
Angler Award Size 12"



**Weakfish** ● ●

13" minimum, creel limit 1  
Angler Award Size 24"



**Spotted Seatrout** ● ●

14" minimum, creel limit 4  
Angler Award Size 24"



**White Perch** ● ● ●

No minimum size or creel limit if caught hook & line;  
8" minimum if caught with any other gear  
Angler Award Size 13"



**Striped Bass (rockfish)** ● ● ●

See striped Bass section for season and limits.  
Angler Award Nontidal Award Size 36"  
Angler Award Chesapeake & Coast Size 40"



**Yellow Perch** ● ●

9" minimum in tidal waters and nontidal rivers and streams; no minimum size in lakes and ponds; creel limit 10  
Angler Award Size 14"

\* except where otherwise indicated in nontidal limits

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# PUBLIC LAKES & PONDS

The use of boats or motors on ponds and lakes is subject to local restrictions. Consult with local authorities before making your trip.

\* Designates locations with boat ramp facilities.

ALLEGANY COUNTY			CALVERT COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE	PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
BATTIE MIXON FISHING HOLE	MD Route 51 at Oldtown	33	CALVERT CLIFFS PARK POND	Route 4, near Lusby	1
COTTON COVE POND	Lion's Park Glendening Recreational Complex in Frostburg	1	HUTCHINS POND	off Mt. Harmony Road, off Route 2, near Sunderland	2.3
DAN'S MOUNTAIN POND	MD Route 36 two miles east of Lonaconing	1	CAROLINE COUNTY		
EVITTS CREEK COMMUNITY PONDS	I-68, Exit 46 four miles east of Cumberland	4	CHAMBERS LAKE	MD Route 306 in Federalsburg	6
LIONS PARK POND	Frostburg (subject to user restrictions by the city of Frostburg)	1	* SMITHVILLE LAKE	U.S. Route 404 east to Noble Road	40
ORCHARD POND	MD Route 51 Green Ridge State Forest	2	CARROLL COUNTY		
* ROCKY GAP LAKE (LAKE HABEEB)	I-68, Exit 50 five miles northwest of Flintstone	243	BENNETT CERF POND	off MD Route 27 within Random House Industrial Park	1
WHITE SULPHUR COMMUNITY POND	I-68, Exit 62 Green Ridge State Forest, 12 miles east of Flintstone	1	FARM MUSEUM POND	west of MD Route 32 near Westminster	4.7
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY			LAKE HASHAWHA	off Rinehart Road	1
FRIENDSHIP PARK POND	Route 778, Friendship	1	* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	Route 26 near Wards Chapel	3100
FRIENDSHIP POND	MD Route 176	1	NORTH CARROLL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 30 at Manchester	1.2
LAKE WATERFORD	Route 648 near Severna Park	11	* PINEY RUN RESERVOIR	MD Route 32 near Eldersburg	300
PATUXENT PONDS	Patuxent Road near Conoways	3.2	ROBERT'S MILL POND	east of Taneytown, north of Route 140	2
WATERWORKS PARK	by permit only	1.5	UPPER JOHN OWINGS	John Owings Road	0.5
BALTIMORE COUNTY			WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 140 at Westminster	1.3
AVALON POND (LOST LAKE) GLEN ARTNEY AREA	within Patapsco Valley State Park, entrance on South St. off MD Rt.1	1	CECIL COUNTY		
GWINN BROOK COMMUNITY POND	off U.S. Route 140 near Owings Mills	1.3	* CONOWINGO RESERVOIR	U.S. Route 1 at Conowingo	4000
HILLCREST POND	MD Route 144 at Lansdowne	4	ELKTON COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 281 east of MD Route 213	1.3
LAKE ROLAND	MD Route 139 Baltimore	98.2	RISING SUN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 273 in Rising Sun	1
* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	MD Route 26 near Ward's Chapel	3100	STEMMERS RUN RESERVOIR	Stemmers Run Road at MD Route 282—call 410-356-9272 for permission	90
* LOCH RAVEN RESERVOIR	MD Route 146; Dulaney Valley Road	2400	CHARLES COUNTY		
* PRETTYBOY RESERVOIR	off MD Route 25 and U.S. Route 111, Beckleysville Road	1500	* GILBERT RUN PARK (WHEATLEY LAKE)	MD Route 6; east of Oliver's Shop	75

## HELP SAVE MARYLAND'S ENDANGERED HELLBENDERS— PLEASE DO NOT KILL

The hellbender is a large, dark, aquatic salamander that can live for more than 30 years and grow to over two feet long.

Hellbenders can bite, and their protective coating of slime makes them difficult to handle. If you catch a hellbender on your fishing line, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let the animal go.

If you have seen or caught a hellbender, we would like to hear from you. Please call DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.



DORCHESTER COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
GALESTOWN LAKE	Galestown Road east of MD Route 313	15
FREDERICK COUNTY		
BRUNSWICK COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 79 at Brunswick House Industrial Park	1
* CUNNINGHAM FALLS LAKE	MD Route 77 west of Thurmont	42
EMMITSBURG RESERVOIR (RAINBOW LAKE)	Hampton Valley Road near Emmitsburg—Town Permit Required	8
FRANK BENTZ MEMORIAL POND	MD Route 77 west of Thurmont	2
GAMBRILL COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 40 near Frederick	1
LIBERTYTOWN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 75 at Libertytown	1
URBANA COMMUNITY POND	Dixon Road off Route 80 at Urbana	5

GARRETT COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
ACCIDENT COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 219 Accident	1
* BROADFORD LAKE	MD Route 135 at Mt. Lake Park	230
* DEEP CREEK LAKE	U.S. Route 219, McHenry	3900
* HERRINGTON MANOR LAKE	U.S. Route 219 five miles north of Oakland	44
* NEW GERMANY LAKE	I-68, Exit 22 six miles south of Grantsville	10
PINEY RESERVOIR	U.S. Route 40 Alt. north on Piney Run Road east of Grantsville	18
PLEASANT VALLEY LAKE	MD Route 495 twelve miles south of Grantsville	18
* JENNINGS RANDOLPH LAKE	MD Route 135 south on Mt. Zion Road five miles from Kitzmiller on West Virginia Route 46	952
* SAVAGE RESERVOIR	MD Route 135 on Savage River Road	350
* YOUGHIOGHENY RESERVOIR	MD Route 42 two miles north of Friendsville	800
HARFORD COUNTY		
BYNUM RUN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 22 at Bel Air	1.1
* CONOWINGO RESERVOIR	Broad Creek Landing and Glen Cove Marina—Darlington, MD	4000
DUBLIN DELL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 136 in Dublin	1
FOREST BRANCH PARK	Joppatowne, Foster Branch Road	1
FOREST HILL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 23 at Forest Hill	1.3
HOWARD COUNTY		
* CENTENNIAL LAKE	Columbia	50
LAKE ELKHORN	Columbia	37
GUILFORD PARK POND	MD Route 32 off Interstate 95	0.5
LAKE KITTAMAQUNDI	Columbia	31
WILDE LAKE	Columbia	22
KENT COUNTY		
MILLINGTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PONDS (4)	Massey Delaware Line Road, east of Massey—telephone 410-928-3650 for permission	3.7
SASSAFRAS NRMA POND	Kennedyville	2
* URIEVILLE COMMUNITY LAKE	MD Route 213 north of Chestertown	35
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
CLOPPER LAKE	within Seneca State Park	90
* DUCKETT RESERVOIR	MD Route 198 and U.S. Route 29 Burtonsville	800
KINGS COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 355 and MD Route 121 Clarksburg	1
LAKE FRANK	MD Route 115 near Norbeck	54
LAKE NEEDWOOD	MD Route 115 near Norbeck	74
* LITTLE SENECA LAKE	near Boyds	505
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK POND	1120 Jackson Road, Silver Spring	5
PINE LAKE	MD Route 97 near Wheaton	5
* TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR	off MD Route 650 near Brighton Temporarily closed to fishing and boating keep up to date on the closure by checking <a href="http://www.wsscwater.com/brighton">www.wsscwater.com/brighton</a> .	800

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
ALLENS POND	MD Route 197 near Bowie	10
BOWIE TOWN CENTER POND	off Mitchellville Road, Bowie	8
CEDARVILLE POND	off Cedarville Road in Cedarville State Forest	4
COSCA LAKE	Thrift Road south of Clinton	11
DUCK POND	U.S. Route 193 and Adelphi Road in University Hills Park	1
GOVERNOR BRIDGE NATURAL AREA POND	Governor Bridge Rd, Bowie	8
GREENBELT LAKE	off Crescent Road in Greenbelt Park	21
LAKE ARTEMESIA	Branchville Road, Berwyn Heights	38
LAUREL LAKE	Route 1 and Cherry Lane, Laurel	11
MELWOOD COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 223, Woodyard Road between MD Routes 4 and 5	1.3
MERKLE PONDS	Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, off Fenno Road	2
MILLTOWN LANDING POND	Patuxent River Park, off Milltown Landing Road	1
SCHOOLHOUSE POND	across from County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro	4
TUCKER POND	Tucker Road near Oxon Hill	1.4
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY		
* TUCKAHOE LAKE	Rt.404 east to Rt. 480 to Eveland Rd to Crouse Mill Rd.	43
* UNICORN LAKE	MD Route 313 south of Millington	45
* WYE MILLS COMMUNITY LAKE	MD Route 662 south of U.S. Route 50	50
ST. MARY'S COUNTY		
* ST. MARY'S LAKE	MD Route 5, Calloway	250
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
* BIG POOL	I-70, exit 12 MD Route 56 east of Fort Frederick State Park	88
* BLAIRS VALLEY LAKE	Blairs Valley Road north of Clear Spring	35
BROWNSVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 67 at Brownsville	1.2
* GREENBRIER LAKE	Greenbrier State Park, U.S. Route 40 near Hagerstown	42
INDIAN SPRINGS COMMUNITY POND	Mooresville Road eight miles west of Clear Spring	1.3
LITTLE POOL	off MD Route 615 east of Hancock	18
WICOMICO COUNTY		
* JOHNSONS LAKE	Isabella Street at U.S. Route 50 to Lake Street	108
* LEONARDS MILL LAKE	U.S. Route 13 north of Salisbury	30
POWELLVILLE POND	MD Route 354 in Powellville	4
SHUMAKER LAKE	MD Route 12 in Salisbury	35
WORCESTER COUNTY		
BIG MILLS LAKE	Big Mills Road west of MD Route 12	10
MOORE'S POND	U.S. Route 13 near Pocomoke City	2

# TIDAL / NONTIDAL DIVIDING LINES

The following boundaries are designated as dividing lines for tidal and nontidal waters. These boundary lines identify whether a nontidal fishing license or Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing license is required. If you are fishing upstream of the location listed, nontidal fishing regulations apply. If you are fishing downstream of the location listed, tidal regulations apply.

## Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties

- Anacostia River:
  - a) Northeast Branch Bridge at north-bound lane of Alternate Route 1 Bladensburg Road.
  - b) Northwest Branch Bridge at south-bound lane of Rhode Island Avenue.
- Furnace Branch—MD Route 2.
- Patuxent River:
  - a) Mainstem: bridge on MD Route 214.
  - b) Lyons Creek: MD Route 4.
  - c) Stocketts Run: confluence with the river.
  - d) Rock Run: confluence with the river.
  - e) Ferry Branch: confluence with the river.
- Magothy River—Catherine Avenue.
- Marley Creek—MD Route 10.
- Severn River—bridge on MD Route 3.
- South River and its tributaries:
  - a) North River: Rutland Road.
  - b) Bacon Ridge Branch: Chesterfield Road.
  - c) Beards Creek: MD Route 214.
  - d) Broad Creek: Harry S. Truman Parkway.

## Baltimore county

- Big Gunpowder Falls—three-fourths of a mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge.
- Little Gunpowder Falls—three-fourths of a mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge.
- Stansbury Park Pond—base of dam.
- Stemmers Run—Golden Ring Road Bridge.

## Baltimore and Howard counties

- Patapsco River—B&O viaduct at Relay.

## Calvert county

- Battle Creek—bridge about two miles east of Bowens (Sixes Road).
- Fishing Creek—one and one-half miles upstream from the mouth of the creek at Chesapeake Beach.
- Hall's Creek—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Hellen Creek—Mill Branch Road, near Solomons.
- Hunting Creek—bridge on MD Route 263 about 100 yards west of MD Route 4.
- Island Creek—Ross Road, near Brooms Island.
- Lyon's Creek—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Mills Creek—MD Route 760.
- Parkers Creek—MD Route 765.
- Plum Point Creek—bridge on MD Route 263.

- Quaker Swamp—MD Routes 2/4.
- St. Johns Creek—MD Route 4.
- St. Leonard's Creek—Parran Road.

## Caroline county

- Chapel Branch—MD Route 313 near Piney Grove Church.
- Choptank River—bypass on MD Route 313 on the outskirts of Greensboro.
- Fowling Creek—wooden bridge on Stratum Road about one mile below MD Route 16.
- Hunting Creek—MD Route 331.
- Marshyhope Creek—at its confluence with Faulkner Branch.
- Mill Creek—MD Route 16.
- Tuckahoe Creek—abandoned stone railroad bridge upstream of MD Route 404.
- Watt's Creek—bridge on American Legion Road.

## Cecil county

- Big Elk Creek—MD Route 213.
- Bohemia River—Telegraph Road.
- Happy Valley Branch—confluence with Susquehanna River.
- Little Elk Creek—U.S. Route 40.
- Mill Creek—Old Elk Neck Road.
- North East River—MD Route 7.
- Octoraro Creek—bridge on U.S. Route 222.
- Principio Creek—Amtrak crossing below MD Route 7.
- Rock Run—confluence with the Susquehanna River.

## Charles, Montgomery and Prince George's counties

- Henson Run—bridge on Old Broad Creek Road.
- Hoghole Run—MD Route 6.
- Mattawoman Creek—bridge on MD Route 225.
- Nanjemoy Creek and its tributaries:
  - a) Mainstem: MD Route 6.
  - b) Mill Run (Burgess Creek): MD Route 6.
  - c) Hill Top Fork: MD Route 6.
  - d) Wards Run: MD Route 6.
- Oxon Creek (Run)—MD Route 210.
- Patuxent River and its tributaries:
  - a) Swanson Creek: MD Route 381.
  - b) Mataponi Creek: St. Thomas Church Road.
  - c) Spice Creek: MD Route 382, Croom Road.

- d) Full Mill Branch: MD Route 382, Croom Road.

- e) Black Swamp Creek: MD Route 382, Croom Road.
- Piscataway Creek—bridge on MD Route 224 (Livingston Road).
- Pomonkey Creek—Fenwick Road.
- Port Tobacco Creek—bridge on MD Route 6.
- Potomac River—Little Falls at man-made dam.
- Western Branch—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Wicomico River—Allens Fresh, bridge on MD Route 234.

## Dorchester county

- Chicamico River—U.S. Route 50
- Transquaking River—dam at Higgins Mill Pond.

## Harford county

- Bynum Run—Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on MD Route 7.
- Deer Creek—railroad bridge located at the mouth of Deer Creek.
- Gray's Run—CSX Railroad crossing upstream of U.S. Route 40.
- James Run—Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on MD Route 7.
- Winter's Run—dam located one half mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road.

## Kent and Queen Anne's counties

- Chester River—500 yards upstream from the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge at Millington at the point where the Cypress Branch empties into the Chester River.
- Herring Branch—MD Route 299.
- Morgan Creek—Wallis Road.
- Red Lion Branch—at its confluence with the Chester River.
- Sassafras River—MD Route 299.
- Unicorn Branch—U.S. Geological Survey weir just east of MD Route 313.
- Wye East River—Wye Mills Lake dam.

## St. Mary's county

- Budds Creek—MD Route 234.
- Chaptico Run—Chaptico Bridge on MD Route 234.
- Dynard Run—MD Route 242.
- Eastern Branch—MD Route 5.
- Gilbert Swamp Run—MD Route 234.

- Great Mills Run—bridge on MD Route 5.
- McIntosh Run—MD Route 5.
- Park Hall Run—MD Route 5.
- St. Clements Creek—MD Route 234 bridge at town of Clements.
- Tomakokin Creek—MD Route 470.
- Town Run—bridge on MD Route 5.

**Susquehanna River**

- Conowingo Dam—at U.S. Route 1.

**Wicomico and Worcester counties**

- Barren Creek—US Route 50 Bridge
- Beaverdam Creek—dam just upstream of U.S. Route 13 (Business).
- Nassawango Creek—Furnace Road.
- Pocomoke River—bridge on Whiton Crossing, three miles south of Powellville.
- Wicomico River—Isabella Street in Salisbury.

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Bluefish



Brook Trout



Blue Crab



Freshwater (Tidal & Nontidal)  
Multispecies Survey (includes Snakehead)



Muskellunge



Potomac River  
Smallmouth Bass Survey



Shad



Striped Bass



Yellow Perch

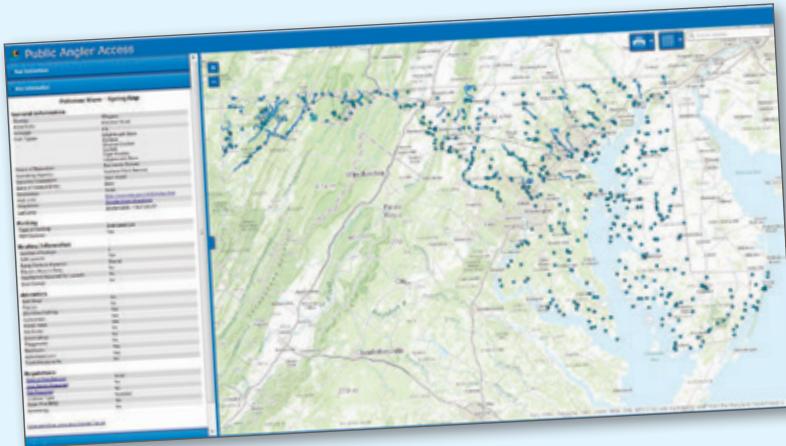


Summer Flounder



The Artificial  
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# INVASIVE SPECIES

The introduction of invasive and non-native species can cause irreversible changes in the food web. Several invasive species of concern are listed below. For information on other invasive and non-native species, and to see a list of species prohibited from transport, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/invasives](http://dnr.maryland.gov/invasives). To report the illegal transport or unauthorized introduction of invasive species, contact the Natural Resources Police—800-635-6124.

## Snakehead



It is against Maryland, Virginia, and federal laws to possess, import, or transport live northern snakehead.

If you catch a snakehead and want to keep it, you must immediately kill the fish by removing its head, gutting it or removing its gill arches. Anglers are encouraged to catch and keep northern snakeheads year round. There is no minimum size or creel limit for snakeheads.

The Department of Natural Resources asks anglers to report snakeheads caught outside of the Potomac River and its tributaries or upstream of Great Falls. Send catch information to [fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov) or call 410-260-8300 to help the department track the range of the species.

If you catch a northern snakehead with a blue or red tag, please report the tag number and the location, date and time of day when the fish was caught to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-448-8322.

## Blue & Flathead Catfish

Blue and flathead catfish are invasive species that have spread rapidly throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. These catfish have few natural predators, eat a wide variety of native fish and shellfish, and may cause ecological harm.

It is illegal to move live blue or flathead catfish from one body of water to another and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,500. Anglers are encouraged to catch and keep blue and flathead catfish year round. There is no minimum size or creel limit for these catfish.

### INVASIVE CATFISH IDENTIFICATION



**Blue Catfish**

Anal fin squared with 30 to 36 fin rays



**Flathead Catfish**

Projecting lower jaw and a slightly notched tail

### NON-INVASIVE CATFISH IDENTIFICATION



**Channel Catfish**

Anal fin with rounded margin and deeply forked tail



**White Catfish**

Stocky body with large head, anal fin with rounded margin and moderately forked tail

## HARVEST AN INVASIVE FISH AND HELP DNR TO MONITOR THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Questions on what gear is legal to harvest invasive species? Check out the gear tables in the Sport Fishing Regulations section on pages 16 and 17.



Photo by Dany Dominguez

## Zebra Mussels



Zebra mussels are an aggressive invasive species and reproduce at a very prolific rate, out-competing native species for needed resources. These mussels quickly overtake and cover all available areas to such an extent that they can clog water intake structures, boats, moorings, ropes, fishing lines, traps, and even dams and power plants. Zebra mussels are established from the Susquehanna River and Flats to the upper Bay. Additionally, The Department of Natural Resources recently confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in tributaries of the upper Western Shore near Middle River in Baltimore County.

More information on zebra mussels is available at [dnr.maryland.gov/Invasives/Pages/zebra\\_mussels.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Invasives/Pages/zebra_mussels.aspx), including a fact sheet and reporting form. The department asks citizens, to report any suspected sightings to [invasivemussels.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:invasivemussels.dnr@maryland.gov).

## STATE RECORDS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

- Catfish, Blue — 84 lbs., Ed Jones, 8/13/2012, Near Fort Washington, Potomac River
- Northern Snakehead — 18.42 lbs., Emory (Dutch) Baldwin III, 5/20/2016, Potomac River



Photo Courtesy of Ed Jones



# Maryland's MOST UNWANTED

Non-native species can invasively colonize our waters and push out native species leading to negative impacts on water quality, fish habitat, and recreation.

### Prevent the spread of harmful species:

#### REMOVE

and dispose of aquatic plants, mud, and debris from your boat, motor, trailer and gear before launching and after haul out.

#### DRAIN

all water from live wells, bilge, bait buckets, coolers, and motor immediately after use.

#### DISPOSE

of all unused bait far away from the water. Immediately remove the heads of crayfish in the Upper and Middle Potomac, Monocacy River and Susquehanna River Basin.

#### RINSE

boat, motor, trailer, tackle, buckets and all gear, including SCUBA gear, with hot or high-pressure water.

#### DON'T STOCK

fish in any waters. The importation, introduction and transport of aquatic species without a permit is prohibited by law.

#### DON'T TRANSFER

live fish from one area to another.

#### DON'T RELEASE

aquarium fish into the wild.



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# STRIPED BASS

## It is Illegal:

- To possess any cut up or filleted striped bass at any time aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland. Striped bass must be landed whole.
- To use more than two hooks or two sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.
- To use eels as bait while fishing for striped bass with hook and line from Dec. 16–May 15, inclusive, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
- To cull striped bass.
- To possess striped bass while fishing in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries from midnight to 5 a.m.
- To use a gaff to land striped bass.
- To take or shoot striped bass with a spear gun and spear in the tidal waters of the state.
- To fish for striped bass by any means or practice catch-and-release of striped bass in designated spawning areas from March 1–May 31.
- To intentionally snag a striped bass.

## STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED

Striped bass tournament organizers need department authorization to hold a tournament.

Submit requests including name of the tournament, date(s), location of check-ins, qualifying area, expected number of participants, and charity (if applicable) to [fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov).

Striped bass tournaments held prior to May 1 must be catch & release. Each tournament is provided a data sheet to record all striped bass caught. Tournament organizers are responsible for submitting the completed data sheet to the department.

## BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TAGGED FISH!

The success of tagging studies relies on anglers like you. If you catch a tagged fish, please follow the instructions printed on the tag, or call Fishing and Boating Services at 800-688-3467. Please record the tag number, capture date, fishing location, and total length.



Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which stretches from 3–200 miles off the coast.

## CHESAPEAKE BAY AND TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

(excluding the Susquehanna Flats, Lower Susquehanna River and Northeast River)

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS
JAN. 1–FEB. 28	All Maryland portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Directed catch and release of striped bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks.</li><li>Eels may not be used as bait.</li></ul>
SPRING CATCH AND RELEASE SEASON MARCH 1–APRIL 21	Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.	No harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Stinger (trailing) hooks are prohibited.</li><li>Barbless hooks are required when trolling.</li><li>Non-offset circle hooks or J hooks with a gap of less than ½ inch are required when using natural bait.</li><li>No more than 6 lines may be employed while trolling regardless of the number of anglers on board.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These restrictions apply in all open catch and release areas from March 1 until 5:00 a.m., April 15</li><li>Spawning rivers and the Upper Bay spawning area are off limits until June 1 to striped bass fishing.</li><li>Eels may not be used as bait.</li><li>See maps at: <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx</a>.</li></ul>
SPRING TROPHY SEASON APRIL 21–MAY 15	Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the MD-VA Line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers, except Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound	1 fish per person per day Minimum size 35 inches		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eels may not be used as bait.</li><li>See maps at: <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx</a>.</li></ul>
MAY 16–MAY 31	Chesapeake Bay downstream from a line drawn from the south corner of Hart-Miller Island Dike to the end of MD Route 21 at Tolchester and south to the MD/VA line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers. EXCEPT: Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound; Chester River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Hail Point to Long Point to Ferry Point; Patuxent River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Point Patience to the west point of land at the entrance of Little Kingston Creek; and Choptank River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Holland Point to a point of land at the west entrance of Chapel Creek are open.		2 fish per person per day between 20–28 inches OR 1 fish between 20–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches	See maps at: <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx</a> .
SUMMER/FALL SEASON JUNE 1–DEC. 20	All Maryland Chesapeake Bay waters and tributaries open to fishing		2 fish per person per day between 20–28 inches OR 1 fish between 20–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches	See maps at: <a href="http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx">dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/stripped-bass-maps.aspx</a> .
DEC. 21–DEC. 31	All Maryland portions of Chesapeake Bay are open to catch and release striped bass fishing	No harvest	Catch and release only	

**SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND NORTHEAST RIVER**

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS
DEC 20–MAY 3	Susquehanna Flats, upstream of a line from Sandy Point to Turkey Point and the Susquehanna River downstream from a line connecting the Susquehanna State Park boat ramp at Lapidum to Twin Rocks to Tomes Wharf in Port Deposit; and the Northeast River	Catch and Release only		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stinger hooks are prohibited.</li> <li>• Barbless hooks are required when trolling.</li> <li>• Non-offset circle or J hooks with less than <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> inch gap are required when using bait.</li> <li>• No more than six lines per boat are allowed when trolling.</li> <li>• Eels may not be used as bait.</li> </ul>
MAY 4–MAY 15	Susquehanna Flats closed to striped bass fishing	CLOSED		No catch and release fishing
MAY 16–MAY 31	Susquehanna Flats reopen to striped bass fishing	1 fish per person per day between 20–26 inches		Eels may not be used as bait
JUNE 1–DEC 20	Susquehanna Flats and all Bay waters including tributaries open to striped bass fishing	2 fish per person per day between 20–28 inches OR 1 fish between 20–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches		

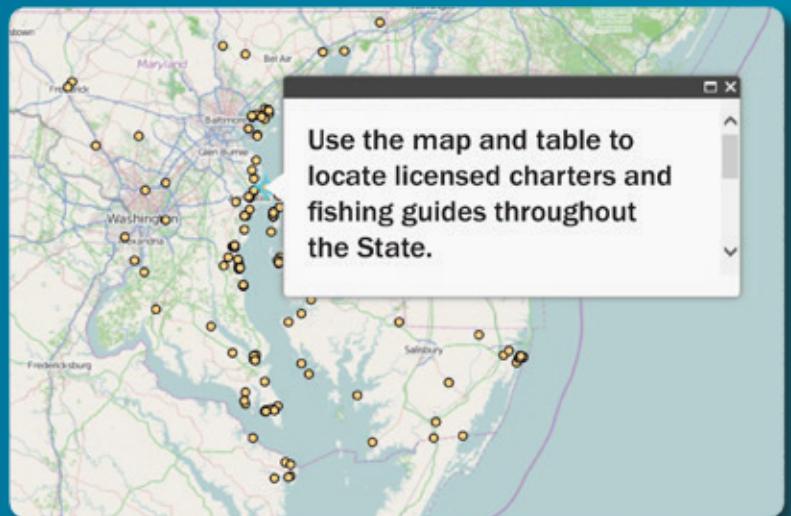
**ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES**

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS
JAN. 1–DEC. 31	No area restrictions in state waters	2 fish per person per day. Must be between 28 inches and 38 inches, inclusive, or greater than or equal to 44 inches		Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which stretches from 3–200 miles off the coast.

**RESERVOIRS**

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS
RESERVOIRS	Broadford Lake, Conowingo Reservoir, Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Rocky Gorge Reservoir, and Tridelpia Reservoir.	18 inch minimum size; 2 fish per person per day—only 1 of those fish may be larger than 30 inches		Open Year Round

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[dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/charters/map.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/charters/map.aspx)

# BLUE CRABS—CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

## Crabbing License/Registration

See page 13.

## Season

April 1–Dec 15.

## Time of Day Restrictions

Rivers, creeks and tributaries:

- April and Oct through Dec. 15—one half hour after sunrise to sunset.
- May through Sept—one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Chesapeake Bay Mainstem:

- April and October through Dec. 15—one half hour after sunrise to 5 p.m.
- May through September—one half hour before sunrise to 5 p.m.

Using properly registered crab pots on private property, dip nets or handlines is permitted 24 hours a day.

## Day of Week Restrictions

No recreational crabbing is allowed on Wednesdays except:

- When using crab pots from private property;
- When using handlines or dip nets;
- During a week when a state or federal holiday falls on a Wednesday or Thursday.

## Minimum Size Limits

### (measured from tip to tip of spikes)

Male hard crab:

- April 1–July 14—5 inches
- July 15–Dec 15—5½ inches

Male peeler crab:

- April 1–July 14—3¼ inches
- July 15–Dec 15—3½ inches

Soft crab:

- April 1–Dec 15—3½ inches

## Daily Creel/Possession Limits

LICENSE		DAILY CREEL / POSSESSION LIMIT	
		MALE HARD CRABS	MALE PEELERS, SOFT CRABS OR COMBINATION
UNLICENSED INDIVIDUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From shore</li> <li>• From unlicensed boat</li> <li>• From waterfront crab pots</li> </ul>	2 dozen	1 dozen
LICENSED INDIVIDUAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From shore</li> <li>• From unlicensed boat</li> <li>• From waterfront crab pots</li> </ul>	1 bushel	2 dozen
BOAT LIMITS			
UNLICENSED BOAT	With 2 or more unlicensed	4 dozen	1 dozen
	With 1 licensee and any number of unlicensed individuals	1 bushel	2 dozen
	With 2 or more licensees and any number of unlicensed individuals	2 bushels	2 dozen
LICENSED BOAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 1 or more unlicensed</li> <li>• With 1 licensee</li> <li>• With owner and any number of unlicensed individuals</li> </ul>	1 bushel	2 dozen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With 2 or more licensees with any number of unlicensed individuals</li> <li>• With a licensee who is not the owner and any number of unlicensed individuals</li> </ul>	2 bushels	2 dozen

## It is Illegal for a Recreational Crabber:

- To sell crabs.
- To possess an egg-bearing (sponge) crab or any female hard or peeler crab.
- To set or fish a trotline, collapsible trap or crab net ring within 100 feet of another individual's set gear.
- To fish crab gear which belongs to another person.
- To harvest crabs while SCUBA diving.
- To use gear other than the gear listed in the table below.

## Additional Crab Pot Rules

- Crab pots must have two cull rings, one measuring at least 2¾ inches and one at least 2½ inches located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
- Crab pots must have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.
- Annual registration required.

## The Amount of Gear Allowed for Unlicensed and Licensed Recreational Crabbing

LICENSE STATUS	HANDLINES AND DIP NETS	CRAB POTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	TROTLINE	COLLAPSIBLE TRAPS AND NET RINGS	SEINE	EEL POTS
UNLICENSED	Unlimited	A maximum of 2 annually registered crab pots per property regardless of the number of owners or lessees. These pots must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marked with your DNRIid</li> <li>• Set in front of private property within 100 yards of shore</li> <li>• Attached by a line to the property or marked by a buoy or pole and sign</li> <li>• Registered annually</li> </ul>	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
LICENSED	Unlimited		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 1200ft*</li> <li>• Must have floats of the same color, size, shape on each end</li> <li>• Floats must be marked with your DNRIid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 30 traps, rings or combination of both*</li> <li>• Must be marked with a buoy bearing your DNRIid unless attached to a pier, wharf or boat</li> <li>• Traps must have a flat bottom measuring no more than 20 inches by 15 inches and have no more than four articulated sides</li> <li>• Net rings must have a diameter less than or equal to 30 inches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesh cannot be greater than ¼"</li> <li>• Cannot exceed 50' in width and 5' in height</li> <li>• Must be emptied from shore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 10 eel pots for catching your own bait</li> <li>• Must be labeled with your DNRIid and may not be set in a buoy-free channel</li> </ul>

\*The amount of gear is per boat regardless of the number of licensees or individuals on board.

# BLUE CRABS—ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS AND TRIBUTARIES

## Season

April 1–Dec 31.

## Harvest Restrictions

- There are no license or registration requirements.
- There are no time of day restrictions.
- The taking of sponge crabs is prohibited.

## Minimum Size Limits

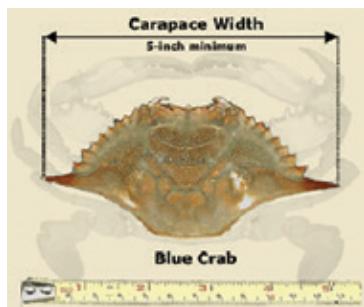
(measured from tip to tip of spikes)

- Hard crabs—5 inches.\*
- Soft crabs—3½ inches.
- Peeler crabs
  - April 1–July 14—3¼ inches
  - July 15–Dec 31—3½ inches
- Mature female crabs—no minimum size.

## Recreational Crabbing Daily Catch Limits

The daily catch limit in the waters of the Coastal Bays of the Atlantic Ocean and their tidal tributaries is:

- One bushel per person.
- Two bushels per boat if two or more individuals are on the boat.



## It is Legal

To crab in the Coastal Bays of Maryland's Atlantic Ocean and coastal tributaries using:

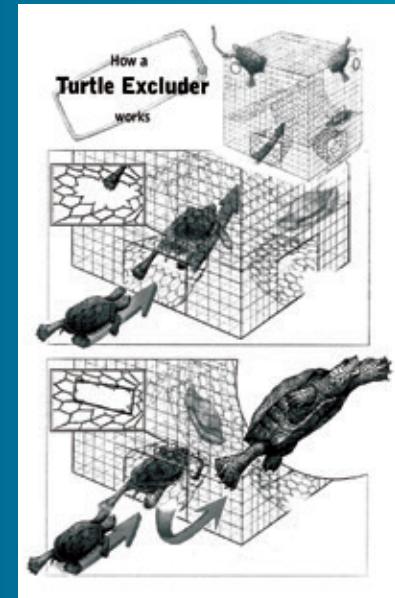
- No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
- No more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or
- Dip nets and any number of hand-lines; or
- No more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps or crab net rings per person from docks, piers, bridges, boats or shoreline; or
- No more than 25, or a combination of 25, collapsible crab traps or crab net rings, if two or more persons are in a boat.

For waterfront property owners to set a maximum of two crab pots at their property, provided that:

- Pots are marked with the owner's name and address or DNRid; and
- Crab pots must have two cull rings, one measuring at least 2¾ inches and one at least 2½ inches, located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
- Pot cull rings must be closed from April 23–May 31.
- Crab pots must have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.

## TURTLE EXCLUDERS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW

Turtle excluders are required in recreational crab pots in Maryland. These devices prevent terrapins from entering a crab pot without hindering blue crab entry. Without turtle excluders, terrapins can enter crab pots and drown. To get instructions for making your own turtle excluder, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/crabpot.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/crabpot.aspx)



## BLUE CRAB IDENTIFICATION



**SALLY**

An immature (adolescent) female blue crab is easily identified as having an inverted "V" or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



**SOOK**

A mature (adult) female blue crab identified as having an inverted "U" or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



**JIMMY**

A mature male blue crab with a long, narrow, inverted "T" shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

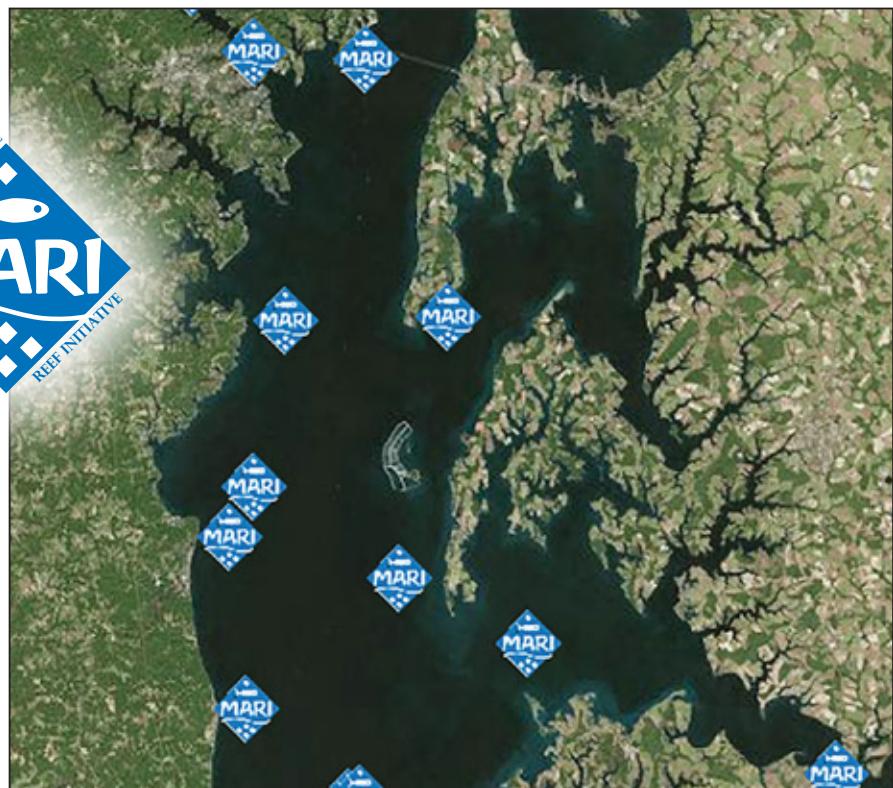
# ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Maryland has artificial reef sites in both bay and ocean waters. These are collaborative projects between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the partner organizations of the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative, and the Ocean City Reef Foundation.

The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative is a volunteer organization including more than 60 private, state, and federal partners dedicated to preserving, restoring and creating fish habitat in tidewater Maryland. It acts as a funding mechanism under an agreement with the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland using private and corporate donations for reef development.

The Ocean City Reef Foundation works to build reefs off of Ocean City and, in partnership with The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative, accepts donations as a non-profit 501(c)(3) at [ocreefs.org](http://ocreefs.org).

For more general information on artificial reef projects and to view the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative and The Ocean City Reef Foundation reef coordinates, go to [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/reefs/index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/reefs/index.aspx).



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The logo for R&D Boat Supply, Inc. includes a red anchor, a blue steering wheel, and a white captain's hat. The company name "R&D Boat Supply, Inc." is in blue, with "R&D" in red. The address "22 Washington St. Cambridge, MD 21613" is listed, along with the phone number "410-228-0674".

R&D  
Boat Supply, Inc.  
22 Washington St.  
Cambridge, MD 21613  
**410-228-0674**  
Custom Boat Work - Power & Sail  
Marine, Fishing & Hunting Supplies  
Carpentry, Engines, Electronics, Hydraulics  
Charter Captain Courses - Licensure Classes  
From the Ocean to the Bay - 30 years Experience

### CHARTER CAPTAIN'S COURSE

[www.chartercapt.com](http://www.chartercapt.com)  
WE TEACH & TEST FOR LICENSE

An illustration of a person wearing a cap and sunglasses, sitting in a small boat and holding a fishing rod.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED!

**COURSES BEGIN**  
*February & September, 2018*  
We teach and test for up to  
100 ton Master near coastal.  
*Sailing and Towing*

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Capt. Ken Daniel c/o R&D Boat Supply  
22 Washington St., Cambridge, MD 21613

**Store Hours**  
Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm  
Saturday 8am - 4pm • Sunday Closed

## Maryland residents may harvest oysters and clams for recreational purposes. No license is required.

Refer to maps of Maryland Shellfish Harvesting Areas for information on areas of restricted waters, closures, and coordinates of sanctuaries online via [mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/shellfishmaps.aspx](http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/shellfishmaps.aspx).

You may also call the Maryland Department of the Environment hotline 800-541-1210 to obtain information on conditional closures due to water quality or other environmental issues.

Recreational shellfish regulations for the Potomac River can be found at [prfc.us](http://prfc.us).

### It is Illegal

- To take oysters or clams for recreational purposes while aboard a vessel where any person is engaged in commercial oystering or clamming.
- To recreationally harvest oysters or clams within a leased area, harvest reserve area, sanctuary or any other area closed by the state.
- To harvest oysters or clams if you are not a resident of Maryland.\*

\* However, a nonresident may harvest clams in Worcester County.

## RANGIA CLAMS

The Rangia clam is often found in Maryland in low salinity water. Many of these areas, especially those within 200 feet of shore, have not been tested or approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment for shellfish harvest, and the consumption of these clams is not recommended.

Rangia clams should not be confused with the better-known hard clam found primarily in the Coastal Bays.



## Oysters

### Season

Oct 1–March 31

### Daily Harvest Restrictions

1 bushel/person/day

### Time of Day Restrictions

Harvest is only permitted:

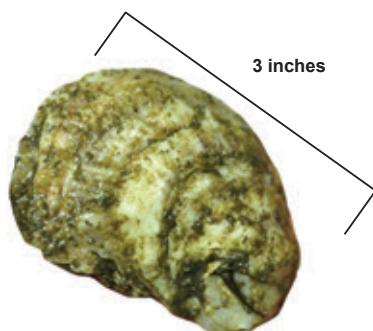
- Monday–Friday: Sunrise to 3 p.m.
- Saturday: Sunrise until noon

### Gear Restrictions

A person may catch oysters ONLY by:

- Culling
- Diving (includes SCUBA)
- Hand
- Shaft tongs
- All shell and undersized oysters shall be returned to the bar from which they were caught.

### HOW TO MEASURE OYSTERS



### Minimum Size Limits

Three inches measured from hinge to bill along the longest part of the shell.

## Hard Clams

### Daily Harvest Restrictions

250 clams/person/day

### Gear Restrictions

Limited to hand-operated gear only, including hand rakes. Mechanical harvesting is not allowed.

### HOW TO MEASURE CLAMS



### Minimum Size Limits

One inch transverse measurement

# HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

## Federal Highly Migratory Species Permits

Waters three to 200 miles offshore of state coastlines constitute the Exclusive Economic Zone and fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. If you are fishing in these waters for species such as sharks, tuna, marlin, swordfish or sailfish, someone on your vessel must hold a highly migratory species permit from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. Call 888-872-8862 or go to [nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/permits\\_reporting/](http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/permits_reporting/) to obtain a permit/Shark Endorsement.

Passengers fishing on the vessel who do not possess an highly migratory species permit or have a state saltwater fishing license must register with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Saltwater Angler registry. Anglers holding state saltwater licenses from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Virgin Islands are required to register.

To register, go to [countmyfish.noaa.gov/register](http://countmyfish.noaa.gov/register).

## Landing Requirements

All recreationally landed bluefin tuna, billfish (marlin, sailfish, swordfish and roundscale spearfish), and sharks (except spiny dogfish) must be tagged before being removed from the boat and reported by vessel owners to a reporting station.

A tag is provided for each completed catch card and the angler is required to place this tag around the tail of the fish before removing it from the vessel. Sharks caught from shore must be tagged before removal from the point of landing. Boats cannot be pulled from the water until the tag is in place. For information on obtaining tags, call the department at 410-213-1531.

Catch cards and tags are available at the following reporting stations:

- Alltackle, Ocean City (shark tags only)
- Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin (shark kiosk only)
- Atlantic Tackle, Ocean City
- Bahia Marina, Ocean City
- Buck's Place, Berlin (shark tags only)
- Department of Natural Resources/Natural Resources Police, Col. Jack Taylor Boat-house, Ocean City (after hours dropbox)
- Fisherman's Marina, Ocean City
- Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City
- Ocean Pines Marina, Ocean Pines
- Pines Point Provisions and Seafood, Ocean Pines
- Sunset Marina, Ocean City
- Talbot Street Pier and Marina, Ocean City
- White Marlin Marina, Ocean City
- Catch cards can also be downloaded at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/tagging.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/tagging.aspx)

## Sharks

### SEASON, HARVEST RESTRICTIONS, MINIMUM SIZE AND DAILY CREEL/POSSESSION LIMITS

SHARK SPECIES APPROVED FOR RECREATIONAL HARVEST*	SEASON	MINIMUM FORK LENGTH	DAILY CREEL SHORE* (PER ANGLER)	DAILY CREEL VESSEL* (PER TRIP)
ATLANTIC SHARPNOSE SHARK BONNETHEAD SHARK SMOOTH DOGFISH**	Open Year Round	None	Each recreational shore angler is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per calendar day from this list of approved species.	Each recreational vessel is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per trip from this list of approved species.
BLACKNOSE SHARK BLUE SHARK COMMON THRESHER SHARK FINETOOTH SHARK OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK PORBEAGLE SHARK SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK**	Open Year Round	54 inches	In addition, each recreational shore angler may harvest 1 of each of the following species per calendar day: 1. bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. smooth dogfish	In addition, each recreational anglerl may harvest 1 of each of the following species per trip: 1. bonnethead 2. Atlantic sharpnose shark 3. smooth dogfish
BLACKTIP SHARK BULL SHARK LEMON SHARK NURSE SHARK SPINNER SHARK TIGER SHARK	Open Year Round Except May 15–July 15	54 inches		
GREAT, SCALLOPED, AND SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	Open Year Round Except May 15–July 15	78 inches		
SPINY DOGFISH	Open Year Round	None	None	None

\*Sharks that are transported by vessel are considered boat assisted, and regulated under the more restrictive vessel-fishing possession limits regardless of where they were caught. All species not listed in the above table, including sandbar and dusky sharks, are prohibited and must be released.

\*\* Subject to change in 2018. Refer to online regulations for updates — [eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/](http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)

Visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/billfish.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/billfish.aspx) to learn more about the various billfishes of Maryland.

## It is Illegal

- For an angler to sell, barter, or trade sharks or shark parts.
- For an angler to engage in shark finning. All sharks caught by an angler must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing.
- To fillet sharks at sea.
- For a highly migratory species angling, charter/headboat, and general category

(if participating in a registered Atlantic highly migratory species tournament) permit holder to possess hammerhead sharks or oceanic whitetip sharks simultaneously with billfish, tunas, or swordfish.

## Gear Restrictions

Anglers may use only handlines or rod and reel.

## New Requirements for Recreational and Commercial Shark Fishing 2018

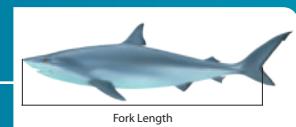
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/reminder-new-requirements-recreational-and-commercial-shark-fishing-take-effect>

## ROUNDSCALE SPEARFISH LOOK VERY SIMILAR TO WHITE MARLIN

For more information on identification of swordfish and billfish, please go to: [nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/billfish/documents/hms\\_swo\\_billfish\\_id\\_guide\\_aug\\_2012.pdf](http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/billfish/documents/hms_swo_billfish_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf)

## SHARK IDENTIFICATION "IF YOU DON'T KNOW, LET IT GO"

[nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/shark\\_id\\_placard.pdf](http://nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/shark_id_placard.pdf)



## Sharks Caught Fishing in state Waters (Listed species represent a sampling which may be encountered)

 - Stocky     - Skinny

Shark illustrations by Diane Rome Peebles

Source: Guide to Sharks, Tunas and Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico by Rhode Island Sea Grant and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. To learn more about coastal Sharks in Maryland go to [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/SharkFacts.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/SharkFacts.aspx)



### Atlantic Sharpnose Shark

No Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- White spots.
- Second dorsal fin begins above middle of anal fin.
- Long labial furrows around corners of mouth.

#### Status

Legal



### Blacktip Shark

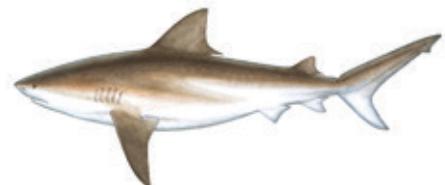
No Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- Anal fin white and other fins with black tips (fades with age).
- First dorsal begins above axil of pectoral.

#### Status

Legal



### Bull Shark

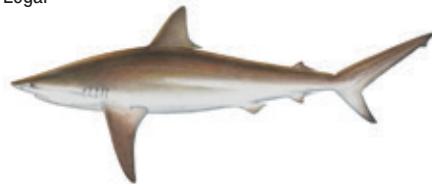
No Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- First dorsal fin large, triangular, rearward sloping, originating over or slightly behind pectoral insertion.

#### Status

Legal



### Dusky Shark

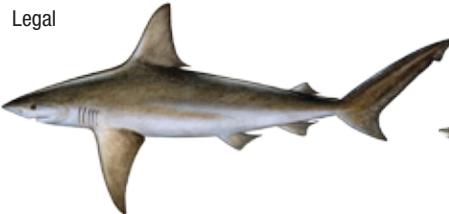
Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- First dorsal sloping and begins behind pectoral fin.

#### Status

PROHIBITED



### Sandbar Shark

Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- First dorsal fin tall, triangular, starts over or slightly before pectoral fin.
- Large, broad pectoral fins.

#### Status

PROHIBITED



### Sand Tiger Shark

No Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- Dorsal fins nearly equal in size.
- Small eyes.
- Large teeth sticking out of the mouth.

#### Status

PROHIBITED



### Scalloped Hammerhead

No Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- Hammer marked by prominent indentation at midline.
- Pelvic fins with straight rear margins.

#### Status

Legal



### Smooth Dogfish

Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- Dorsal fins nearly equal in size.
- Oval shaped eyes.
- Spiracles behind eyes.

#### Status

Legal



### Spiny Dogfish

Weak Interdorsal Ridge

#### Distinguishing features

- Dorsal spines.
- No anal fin.
- Body usually with white spots.

#### Status

Legal

## KEY CATCH AND RELEASE POINTS THAT MAXIMIZE SURVIVAL

- Leave sharks in the water
- Don't drag them onto the sand
- Don't sit on them
- Don't hold their jaws open
- Use circle hooks
- Minimize fight times by using the appropriate gear
- Know how to identify the species
- Know which species are legal and illegal
- Don't gaff a shark that is going to be released
- Have a release plan and make sure everyone knows their role
- Use a dehooker
- Don't place hands in the gills



Photo by Steve Peperak

Recreational fishing offers opportunities for families and friends to spend quality time together, enjoying the abundant natural resources Maryland has to offer. FishMaryland is Maryland's recreational fishing award program and is a fun way to explore year-round recreational fishing and enjoy Maryland's affordable, accessible, diverse and high quality fishing opportunities.

#### **Components:**

- **Angler Award (includes catch and release)**

—Any angler fishing legally in Maryland may catch and report a trophy sized fish by landing any of more than 60 eligible species in three categories at or above a

certain minimum size. If you catch a fish that meets or exceeds the official award size, simply lay the fish on a tape measure and photograph so that the species and size can be verified. Submit your catch through our online registration process. Once your catch is verified, you will receive your award certificate within 45 days.

- **Invasive Species Award**—Recognizes anglers for reporting their harvest of certain eligible invasive fish species. "Invasive" describes a species that, when introduced into an ecosystem, aggressively establishes itself and has the potential to negatively impact native plants, animals, or habitat. Currently there are

three invasive fish species which naturally reproduce or migrate into Maryland waters and are eligible for the Invasive Species Award: blue catfish, northern snakehead and flathead catfish. Fish must be kept to qualify.

- **Governor's Striped Bass Conservation Award**—In addition to the Angler Awards, those who catch and release an award sized striped bass during the open season will be recognized with a Governor's Striped Bass Conservation Award at the end of the fishing season. The award recognizes any recreational angler who releases alive a striped bass catch of 40 inches or more while fishing Maryland waters during the open season.
- **Youth Angler's Log**—Members of the Maryland YouthFishing Club who submit their fishing reports to the Youth Angler's Log will be entered into a random drawing for prizes. Winners names will be posted online. Visit the Maryland Youth Fishing Club web site for additional information on how to become a member.

For information on FishMaryland, including rules and registration go to—[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/rules.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/rules.aspx).

#### **ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES**

NONTIDAL DIVISION	
Bluegill	11 inches
Brook Trout	12 inches
Brown Trout	21 inches
Bullhead Catfish	15 inches
Carp	36 inches
Chain Pickerel	24 inches
Channel Catfish	30 inches
Crappie	15 inches
Cutthroat Trout	20 inches
Largemouth Bass	21 inches
Muskellunge	40 inches
Northern Pike	38 inches
Rainbow Trout	20 inches
Redbreast Sunfish	8 inches
Redear Sunfish	11 inches
Rock Bass	10 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Striped Bass	36 inches
Tiger Muskie	40 inches
Walleye	26 inches
White Catfish	20 inches
White Perch	13 inches
Yellow Perch	14 inches

#### **CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION**

Black Drum	48 inches
Blue Crab	8 inches
Bluefish	34 inches
Carp	30 inches
Chain Pickerel	24 inches
Channel Catfish	30 inches
Cobia	44 inches
Crappie	15 inches
Croaker (Hardhead)	18 inches
Gar	36 inches
Largemouth Bass	21 inches
Northern Whiting (Kingfish)	14 inches

#### **ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES**

Red Drum* (Puppy Drum, Channel Bass, Redfish)	36 inches
Rock Bass	10 inches
Shad, American*	24 inches
Shad, Hickory*	18 inches
Sheepshead	24 inches
Smallmouth Bass	20 inches
Spanish Mackerel	22 inches
Spot	12 inches
Spotted Seatrout	24 inches
Striped Bass	40 inches
Summer Flounder	24 inches
Tautog	24 inches
Walleye	26 inches
Weakfish	24 inches
White Catfish	20 inches
White Perch	13 inches
Yellow Perch	14 inches

#### **INVASIVE SPECIES DIVISION**

Blue Catfish**	40 inches
Flathead Catfish**	34 inches
Northern Snakehead**	30 inches

#### **ATLANTIC COAST DIVISION**

Amberjack <sup>1</sup>	45 inches
Atlantic Cod	36 inches
Atlantic Spadefish	24 inches
Black Drum	48 inches
Black Sea Bass	20 inches
Bluefish	34 inches
Blueline Tilefish	25 inches
Blue Marlin*	any size
Cobia <sup>1</sup>	44 inches
Croaker (Hardhead)	18 inches
Dolphin Fish (Mahi-Mahi) <sup>1</sup>	45 inches
False Albacore <sup>1</sup>	24 inches
Golden Tilefish	35 inches

#### **ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES**

Grey Triggerfish	18 inches
King Mackerel <sup>1</sup>	40 inches
Northern Whiting (Kingfish)	14 inches
Red Drum* (Puppy Drum, Channel Bass, Redfish)	36 inches
Sailfish*	any size
Shad, American*	24 inches
Shad, Hickory*	18 inches
Shark, Blue*	any size
Shark, Hammerhead*	any size
Shark, Shortfin Mako <sup>1</sup>	90 inches
Shark, Sand Tiger*	any size
Shark, Thresher <sup>1</sup>	80 inches
Shark, Tiger*	any size
Sheepshead	20 inches
Snowy Grouper	31 inches
Spanish Mackerel	22 inches
Spot	12 inches
Spotted Seatrout	24 inches
Striped Bass	40 inches
Summer Flounder	24 inches
Swordfish <sup>2</sup>	47 inches
Tautog	24 inches
Tuna, Albacore (Longfin) <sup>3</sup>	36 inches
Tuna, Bigeye <sup>3</sup>	60 inches
Tuna, Blackfin <sup>3</sup>	30 inches
Tuna, Bluefin <sup>3</sup>	55 inches
Tuna, Yellowfin <sup>3</sup>	50 inches
Wahoo <sup>1</sup>	60 inches
Weakfish	24 inches
White Marlin*	any size
Winter Flounder	17 inches

\* Only released fish

\*\* Invasive species division—only dead fish are eligible

1 Use fork length measurement.

2 Use lower jaw fork length measurement.

3 Use curved fork length measurement.

STATE RECORDS ATLANTIC COAST DIVISION			
Albacore (longfin)	74 lbs.	Victor W. Gardner II	7/17/2004
Atlantic Cod	24 lbs.	Fred Brungart	5/31/2013
Atlantic Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz	Noel Lohr	9/2/2004
Black Seabass	8lbs.	Hayward Madison	6/1/1978
Bluefish	23 lbs., 8 oz	Lillian Morris	10/30/1974
Cobia	94.6 lbs.	Emma Zajdel	6/30/2016
Dolphin	67 lbs., 8 oz	Kim Lawson	7/21/1985
Drum, Black	79 lbs.	Stanley Ilyes	9/7/1985
Drum, Red	70 lbs.	Robert Light	9/24/1977
False Albacore	22 lbs., 8 oz	Kevin Sheckells	6/25/1995
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs.	Anthony Vacari	10/3/1974
Flounder, Winter	5 lbs., 2 oz.	Kevin Twilley	6/23/2015
Gray Triggerfish	5 lbs., 2 oz.	Wayne Gower	10/31/2014
King Mackerel	47 lbs.	Gerald Kauffman	10/18/1985
Kingfish	2 lbs., 8 oz	Grace Walker	10/1/1975
Marlin, Blue	1,062 lbs.	Robert Farris	8/7/2009
Porgy	6 lbs., 3 oz	Pearl Hopple	7/4/1966
Shark, Black Tip	193 lbs.	Brian Zysk	8/4/1991
Shark, Blue	280 lbs.	Martin Waltman	9/13/1997
Shark, Dogfish, Smooth	15 lbs., 5 oz.	Gregg Bacchien	5/22/1993
Shark, Dogfish, Spiny	11 lbs., 8 oz.	Meyels Sampson	5/17/1993
Shark, Dusky*	469 lbs.	Jim Liberto	7/1/1982
Shark, Great White	467 lbs.	Jack Holmes	6/11/1992
Shark, Hammerhead, Scalloped	266 lbs 8oz	Scott Cusick	8/8/2012
Shark, Hammerhead, Smooth	375 lbs.	George Wilson Ford V	6/17/2004
Shark, Shortfin Mako	876 lbs.	Jim Hughes	6/20/2009
Shark, Sand Tiger*	334 lbs	Billy Leidner	9/8/1983
Shark, Sandbar*	235 lbs	Mark Sampson	7/8/1983
Shark, Thresher	642 lbs.	Brent Applegit	6/19/2009
Shark, Tiger	1,210 lbs.	Grace Czerniak	7/9/1983
Sheepshead	18.0 lbs.	Robert Martin	9/22/2017
Snowy Grouper	66 lbs	Gregory Benn	7/30/2012
Spotted Seatrout	13 lbs.	Jack Miller	8/21/1973
Striped Bass	57.2 lbs	Gary Smith	5/6/2006
Tautog	28.8 lbs	Kenneth Westerfeld	1/2/2015
Tilefish, Blueline	20 lbs	Robert Purcell	9/12/2012
Tilefish, Golden	62 lbs.	Steve Doctor	10/22/2009
Tuna, Bigeye	375 lbs., 8 oz	Cecil Browne	8/26/1977
Tuna, Blackfin	32 lbs.	Bob Zang	9/20/1998
Tuna, Bluefin	625 lbs.	James Daniels, IV	8/3/1975
Tuna, Yellowfin	236.5 lbs.	Mark Bennett	9/22/2002
Wahoo	131 lbs.	John Schaar	6/30/2014
Weakfish	16 lbs.	Donald Cannon	9/11/1976
White Marlin	135 lbs.	George Pierson	8/29/1980
White Perch	1.65 lbs.	Ryan Timmons	7/30/2016
CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION			
Atlantic Spadefish	10 lbs.	Charlie Barron	7/15/2007
Black Drum	103 lbs., 8 oz	Robert Messik Jr.	9/23/1973
Bluefish	22lbs.	Thomas R. Talbott	5/8/1991
Bluefish	22lbs.	Ronald Raffo	5/31/1986

\*Currently Prohibited

STATE RECORDS CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION			
Bluefish	22 lbs.	John Davidson	10/18/1979
Carp	44 lbs., 6 oz	Jimmy Lake	4/28/1978
Catfish, Channel	29 lbs., 10 oz	Kevin Kern	4/26/1997
Catfish, White	8.27 lbs.	Jacob Vosburgh	6/1/2017
Chain Pickerel	6lbs., 8 oz	James Grant	5/19/1965
Cobia	97 lbs., 12 oz	John Scheifele	9/12/1969
Crappie	4lbs.	Sid Stollings	3/30/2007
Croaker	6.52 lbs.	Russell Knapp	9/4/2006
Flounder, Summer	15 lbs.	Kenneth Grimes	10/14/1978
Hickory Shad	4 lbs.	John Schaeffer Jr.	7/23/1971
Largemouth Bass	11.18 lbs.	Justin Riley	1/26/2008
Longnose Gar	17 lbs.	Justin Kelley	7/31/2011
Norfolk Spot	2 lbs.	Parlett Moore	9/5/1978
Red Drum	74 lbs., 6 oz	Earnest Hutchinson	5/15/1977
Rock Bass	1 lb	Timothy A. Adams	5/4/1997
Sheepshead	13.73 lbs	Dave Alveberg	8/17/2017
Smallmouth Bass	6 lbs.	Charles Janes	7/23/1979
Spanish Mackerel	12.4 lbs.	Dean Mitchell	10/6/2007
Spotted Seatrout	16 lbs., 6 oz	John Phillips	5/15/1977
Striped Bass	67 lbs., 8 oz	Devin Nolan	5/13/1995
Tautog	9 lbs.	Gary Halbeisen	10/29/2005
Weakfish	16 lbs., 8 oz	Wayne Lappe	5/8/1979
White (american) Shad*	8 lbs., 2 oz	Vance Carter	5/3/1975
White Perch	2 lbs., 10 oz	Sid Stollings	5/18/1979
Yellow Perch	2 lbs., 3 oz	Niles Pethel	11/21/1979
NONTIDAL DIVISION			
Bluegill	3 lbs., 7 oz	Sarah Brenneman	8/9/1998
Carp	47 lbs., 8 oz	Wayne Longenecker	6/11/1997
Catfish, Bullhead	3 lbs. 6oz	Zelijko Koretic	8/11/2007
Catfish, Channel	27.92 lbs.	Steven Trent Abell	7/5/2004
Catfish, White	Min Wt 7 lbs	Vacant	
Chain Pickerel	8 lbs.	Lee Haile III	1/2/2015
Crappie	4 lbs. 7 ozs	Jason D. Morrison	5/30/2004
Largemouth Bass	11 lbs. 6 oz.	Colton Lambert	7/31/2013
Muskellunge	32.5 lbs.	Tessa Cosens	5/6/2017
Northern Pike	24 lbs., 12 oz	Shawn Jacobson	10/16/1999
Redbreast Sunfish	Min Wt 14 oz	Vacant	
Redear Sunfish	2 lbs., 5 oz	Vittie Alkocius	6/4/1985
Rock Bass	1 lb., 8 oz	Earl Jenkins IV	3/22/2010
Smallmouth Bass	8 lbs., 4 oz	Gary Peters	10/4/1974
Striped Bass	47 lbs., 2 oz	Robert Bruce	9/14/2000
Tiger Muskellunge	29 lbs., 4.75 oz	Kevin Conner	2/14/1997
Trout, Brook	6lbs., 1.75 oz	Mike Fiorita, Jr.	4/10/1999
Trout, Brown	18 lbs., 3 oz	Gary Kuhn	8/3/2001
Trout, Cutthroat	7 lbs. 9 oz	David G. Martin	5/20/2000
Trout, Rainbow	14 lbs., 3 oz	Dave Schroyer	10/21/1987
Walleye	14 lbs., 4 oz	John McCarley	5/16/1998
Warmouth	9.76 oz	Don Perantonio	8/7/2009
White Perch	1.90 lbs	George Venker	4/7/2017
Yellow Perch	3 lbs., 5 oz	Philip Deere IV	3/12/2006

## SPORT FISH STATE RECORDS

### RULES AND PROCEDURES

The department maintains sport fish state records and awards a plaque to an angler whose catch exceeds the current state record or establishes a new species category. Positive identification of the species of fish is mandatory for consideration of state record applications. The catch must be inspected in person by a department fisheries biologist. Immerse the fish in ice water until it can be weighed in order to preserve the weight.

Call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8300 to report a potential state record catch. You must submit a state record application within two weeks of the date you catch the fish.

State record fish are determined by weight. Most fishing tackle shops do not have certified scales, so call ahead. Other establishments that

sell products by weight such as a grocery, deli or shipping store may have a certified scale and be willing to help.

Except for fish in the invasive division, all fish must be legally caught with rod and reel during its open season. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person. The reel must be operated manually. Once the leader is brought to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to help land the fish.

Fish designated as eligible for the Invasive Division (currently northern snakehead, blue catfish and flathead catfish) can be caught and kept by all legal recreational fishing gear including rod and reel, bow and spear.

Fish caught from privately-owned fee fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.

The fish must be considered trophy sized, commonly available and sought after for the Department of Natural Resources to consider opening a new species category for recognition. Thresholds for trophy size are established by the department using the best data available to create a benchmark weight.

The department reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of measuring and weighing. It also reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of the investigation.

### STATE RECORDS

To check current state records visit [dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/state-records.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/state-records.aspx)

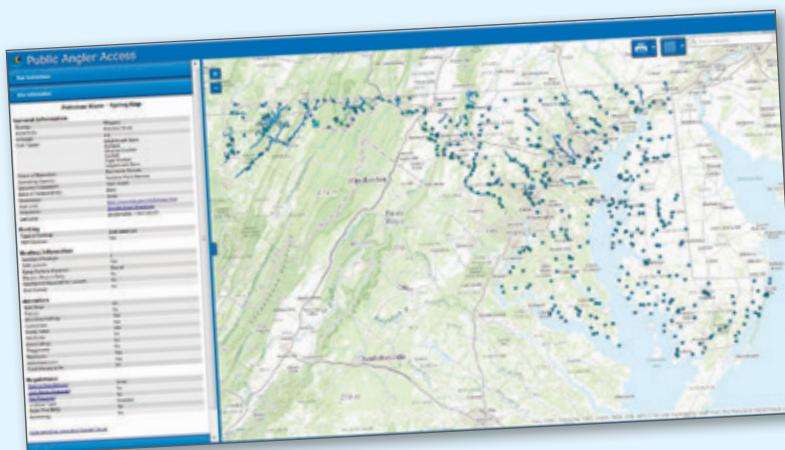
## MARYLAND'S SEA TURTLE AND MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING 24-HOUR HOTLINE: 800-628-9944

- Call 800-628-9944 to report all (live or dead) stranded sea turtles or marine mammals including manatees, dolphins, whales, porpoise and seals.
- Do not touch, harass, feed or handle live or dead marine animals. Marine mammals and sea turtles are protected by federal and state laws that specify fines of up to \$50,000, imprisonment, and/or vessel confiscation.
- Record your location using latitude/longitude, a street address, and a detailed description of your location including landmarks.
- Estimate and record the length, size, color, noticeable body parts, and any movement of the animal.
- Take photos of the animal.
- If possible, after reporting a stranding, stand by until a staff person contacts you.
- If calling from outside Maryland, please use:
  - **Live animals:** 410-373-0083 (National Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Program)
  - **Dead animals:** 443-758-6607 (Department of Natural Resources Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Project)
- For more information, visit [aqua.org/care/national-aquarium-animal-rescue](http://aqua.org/care/national-aquarium-animal-rescue)

Sea turtles in Maryland include:  
Kemp's Ridley, Loggerhead, Green  
and Leatherback



## Find Maryland Fishing Spots



[gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html](http://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html)

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