

Summary of Maryland Recreational Fisheries Regulations

December 1998

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[Commercial Regulations](#) may differ.

Does not include all regulated species. May not include Emergency Amendments and Quota Closures. Consult the Maryland Register, Code of Maryland Regulations, and Natural Resources Article for full legal text. For additional information call Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Service, Marguerite Whilden at 410/260-8269 -or- mwhilden@dnr.state.md.us

[Recreational Fishing Licenses](#)

Listing of Species

- [Bass, Largemouth](#)
- [Bass, Black Sea](#) CLOSED AUG 1 - AUG 15, 1998
- [Bass, Striped \(Rockfish\)](#) No landing with gaff [Rockfish Fact Sheet](#)
- [Bluefish](#) [Bluefish Fact Sheet](#)
- [Catfish: Blue, Channel, White](#) [Catfish Fact Sheet](#)
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- [Drum, Black](#)
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- [Eel, American](#) [American Eel Fact Sheet](#)
- [Flounder, Summer](#) NEW 15" size limit - 8 fish creel effective 8/28/98 [Summer Flounder Fact Sheet](#)
- [Hard Clam](#)
- [Herring](#)
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- [Mackerel, Spanish](#)
- [Oysters](#) [Oyster Fact Sheet](#)
- [Perch, Yellow](#) [Yellow Perch Fact Sheet](#)
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- [Pickerel](#)
- [Scup](#)
- [Shad, American & Hickory](#)
- [Shark](#) (See list in [Regulations](#))
- [Spot](#) [Spot Fact Sheet](#)
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Bass, Largemouth

Tidal Regs

- **Recreational Minimum Size Limit:** 15" min size March 1 through June 15, 12" all other times
- **Recreational Season, Days and Times:** OPEN YEARROUND
- **Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day:** 5 fish/person/day

Non-tidal Regs

- **Recreational Season:** Closed Season March 1 to June 15
- **Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day:** 5 fish/person/day
- **Size Limits:** 12"
- **Catch and Release areas and other restrictions are listed in the 1998 Maryland Freshwater Sportsfishing Guide**

Bass, Black Sea

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 10" minimum size(effective Oct 19, 1998)

Recreational Season, Days and Times: CLOSED August 1 - August 15, 1998

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: No Creel Limit

Bass, Striped (Rockfish) No landing with gaff

Recreational Striped Bass Permits REQUIRED

1998 Recreational Season, Days and Times: CLOSED

APPROVED BAY SEASON:

Bay Hours are 5:00 AM to 12 Midnight Possession of Striped Bass Prohibited Midnight to 5:00 AM

April 24-June 14, 1998 (28" min size), 1 fish/person/day, no live eels, fishing is restricted to the mainstem of Chesapeake Bay and Tangier & Pocomoke Sounds(no tributaries)from April 24 through May 31

June 15-July 12, 1998 18" min size, 2 fish/person/day

August 15-November 30, 1998 18" min size, 2 fish/person/day

OCEAN SEASON:

Jan 1 - Dec 31, 1998 28" min size, 2 fish/person/day

POTOMAC RIVER 98 SEASON:

April 25-May 10, 1998 Aug 15-Dec 13, 1998 Recreational Striped Bass Permits and REPORTING REQUIRED

Call the Potomac River Fisheries Commission at 800 266-3904)

[Virginia Regulations](#)

Bluefish

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 8" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 10 fish/person/day

Catfish: Blue, Channel, White

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 10" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Crabs, Blue

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 5" hard, 3.5" soft, 3" peeler

Recreational Season, Days and Times: April 1 - November 30, 1998, Closed Wednesdays, hours: 0530-1700 main bay, 0530-sunset in tidal tributaries, no time limit for hand lines, dip nets, pots at private piers

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 1 bu/person/day Not to Exceed 2 bu/boat/day,

Recreational Gear Limits:

From docks & shorelines: No more than 10 traps/rings or combination thereof per person

From boats: No more than 25 traps/rings or combination thereof per boat (regardless of number of people on the boat)

Not more than 1000 feet of baited trotline per person, if more than one person on a boat not more than 2000 feet of baited trotline per boat

The use of Crab Pots is RESTRICTED to two pots per private waterfront property/parcel

A collapsible crab trap or crab net ring which is not attached to a pier, wharf, or boat shall be marked with a buoy bearing the name of the owner.

Reinstatement of Non-Commercial Crabbing License Effective 1999

Crabs, Horseshoe

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: NO Size Limit

Recreational Season, Days and Times: Emergency Regulations Pending OPEN July 1 - March 31, 1998

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NO Creel Limit

Croaker

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 9" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 25 fish/person/day

Drum, Black

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 16" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND As of April 1998 Black Drum is no longer a commercial fishery

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 1 fish/person/day, 6 fish/boat/day

Drum, Red

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 18" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 5 fish/person/day only 1 fish over 27"

Eel, American

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 6" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 25 eels less than 6"/person/day

Flounder, Summer

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 15" minimum size EFFECTIVE 8/28/98

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 8 fish/person/day EFFECTIVE 8/28/98

Hard Clam

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 1" thick

Recreational Season, Days and Times: In Worcester County Clamming Hours are between 1 hour before

sunrise and 1 hour after sunset

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: Hand tools ONLY 1 bu/person/day Jun 1 - Sept 15

Herring

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: NO Size Limit

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN January 1 - June 5

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NO Creel Limit

Lobster

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 3 1/4" carapace measurement

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NO Limit

Mackerel, Spanish

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 14" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 10 fish/person/day

Oysters

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 3" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: CLOSED Re-OPEN Oct 1, 1998 - Mar 31, 1999 Select Bars are Closed

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 1bu/person/day

Perch, Yellow

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 8.5" minimum size in some areas, 9" in others

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING TRIBUTARIES: MAGOTHY RIVER WATERSHED, NANTICOKE RIVER, PATAPSCO RIVER, SEVERN RIVER, SOUTH RIVER WATERSHED, WEST RIVER WATERSHED.

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: barbless hooks required Feb 1 - March 15 5 fish/person/day

Perch, White

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: NO Size Limit

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NO Creel Limit

Pickrel

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 14" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN May 1 1998 - March 14, 1999

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 10 fish/person/day

Scup

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 7" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NONE

Shad, American & Hickory

Recreational Season, Days and Times: CLOSED INDEFINITELY

Shark (See list in Regulations)

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 58" minimum size applies to Shark landed for Commercial purposes

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 1 shark/person/day

Spot

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: NO Size Limit

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: NO Creel Limit

Spotted Sea Trout

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 14" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 10 fish/person/day

Sturgeon, Shortnose & Atlantic

Recreational Season, Days and Times: CLOSED

Tautog

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 14" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 5 fish/person/day

Tuna

Federal Regulations in Effect, Click Here to go to Federal Site [***USA TUNA***](#)

Recreational Season, Days and Times: CATEGORY CLOSURES IN EFFECT Federal regs subject to change
CALL 301 713-2347

Weakfish

Recreational Minimum Size Limit: 14" minimum size

Recreational Season, Days and Times: OPEN YEAR ROUND

Recreational Creel Limit Per Angler Per Day: 10 fish/person/day

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