

MARYLAND

FISHING GUIDE 2014



**WHAT'S NEW
for 2014**

See page 6

Maryland's Sportfishing Advocates



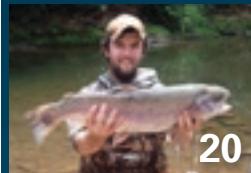
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- Youth Angler Club and Family Activities
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- Scholarship Foundation
- Legislative and Regulatory Representation

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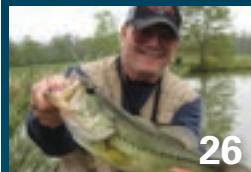
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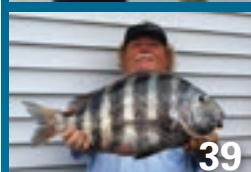
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Reefs



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Striped Bass



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Maryland Sport Fish State Records



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Shellfish



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Maryland Fishing Challenge



Martin O'Malley, Governor

Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor

Joseph P. Gill, Secretary

Frank W. Dawson, Deputy Secretary

Thomas J. O'Connell, Fisheries Service Director

Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission

The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission advises the Director of Fisheries Service on matters referred to the commission by the Director. 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 available online at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/management/?com=sfac.

Commissioners

Mr. William Goldsborough,
Chairman
Environmental Advocacy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Mr. David Sikorski
Vice Chairman/Tidal/Marine Fisheries, Coastal Conservation Association of MD

Ms. Kate Chaney
Tidal/Marine Fisheries

Mr. Micah Dammeyer
Nontidal/Tidal Fisheries - DC region, Freshwater Guide

Mr. Mark DeHoff
Nontidal/Tidal/Marine Fisheries

Ms. Beverly Fleming
Marine Fisheries, Ocean Surf Fishing, Assateague Mobile Sportsfishing Association

Mr. James Gracie
Nontidal Fisheries, Mid Atlantic Council of Trout Unlimited

Mr. Phil Langley
Tidal Fisheries, Carter Boat Industry Association

Mr. Valentine Lynch
Marine Fisheries, Ocean City Marlin Club

Dr. Raymond P. Morgan II
Nontidal Fisheries - Western MD

Captain Edward O'Brien
Tidal/Marine Fisheries, Statewide Charter Boat Industry Association

Mr. Vince Ringgold
Tidal/Marine Fisheries, Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association

Mr. Tim Smith
Tidal Fisheries, Fishing Guides

Mr. Roger Trageser
Nontidal/Tidal Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass Fisheries, MD Bass Federation Nation

Mr. James Wommack
Tidal/Marine Fisheries

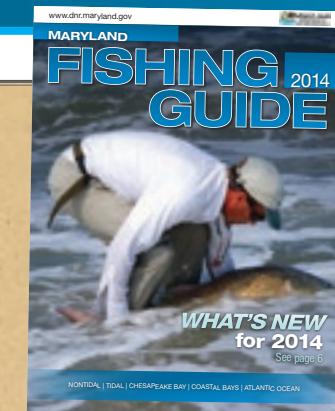
Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Avenue, B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401-2352
Out of state call: 410-260-8325
877-620-8DNR, ext 8325
www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries
customerservice@dnr.state.md.us

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

- **Laws:** www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/
 - **Regulations:** www.dsd.state.md.us/comar
- Stay up-to-date with regulatory proposals and other important DNR Fisheries topics by subscribing to the DNR Fisheries email list and following MDDNRFish on Twitter and Facebook:
- www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/emailcontact.asp
 - twitter.com/MDDNRFISH
 - www.facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService
 - www.facebook.com/MarylandFishing

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About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the Maryland Department of Natural Resources's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries programs!

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Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Evelyn Haddad, Erin Murphy, Chris Sobolowski, Dane Fay

Cover Photo: Allen Sklar of Ocean City, MD releases a Red Drum. Photo by Mac Simpson.



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MESSAGES



Joseph P. Gill and Martin O'Malley

Dear Anglers:

Renowned for our magnificent Chesapeake Bay, Maryland's vast network of waterways offers an exceptional array of sport fishing opportunities in every corner of the State. Whether fly fishing for Brook Trout along a quiet stream or battling a White Marlin on the Atlantic, Maryland waters are home to more than 60 recreational species... fish to tempt virtually every enthusiast's interest and palate.

Along with these extraordinary opportunities comes extraordinary responsibility to protect our natural and living resources. As anglers we are members of an extended community of committed stewards, who – through license and stamp revenues -- support fisheries research, management, education and conservation, expanded public access for everyone, hatchery production and stocking in public waters.

Perhaps our most important responsibility, however, is to share our great outdoor heritage, to inspire and encourage the stewards of tomorrow. To "Catch a fish," is one of 10 Maryland Children's Outdoor Rights. When we take one child fishing, we become part of a broader effort to ensure all of our young people have the opportunity to connect with their natural world and grow to become informed and responsible adults.

Thank you for being a part of Maryland's wonderful fishing tradition and for your contributions to a smarter, greener, more sustainable future.

Fish on!

The signature of Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland.

Martin O'Malley
Governor

The signature of Joseph P. Gill, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Joseph P. Gill
Secretary

Check out the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

www.dnr.maryland.gov/cin/images/BillOfRights.jpg



Dear Anglers:

As you head out for a day of fishing, please join me in considering how our lives on-shore affect our enjoyment on the water. Fishing success depends on mixed measures of preparation, skill, patience and faith that the fish will be there and in a cooperative mood. Of all these factors, the fish are the most critical component. Just like us, they need clean and healthy places to live, eat, reproduce, grow and survive.

Our daily habits, sensibilities, and plans for growth have everything to do with how our fish will flourish; or not.

Forests, wetlands, swamps, and marshes help store and filter harmful nutrients and other pollutants that we shed in the course of our modern ways of life. I encourage you to be aware of the human impact and our individual and civic powers to preserve and restore natural open spaces.

Please tune into local plans for growth and development to ensure that impacts to our waters and our fish will not be harmful.

Together with care, awareness, and community engagement, we can secure bright futures for our young anglers, their children to come, and the fish.

The signature of Thomas J. O'Connell, Director of the Fisheries Service.

Thomas J. O'Connell
Director, Fisheries Service

RISE & SAVE

A photograph of a single-story, yellow-painted house with a grey shingle roof and white trim around the windows and garage doors. The house has a prominent gabled roofline with decorative soffit lighting. A two-car garage is attached to the right side of the house. In the foreground, a white boat with a black motor is parked on a driveway. The house is surrounded by lush greenery, including palm trees and flowering shrubs.

See how much you could save.

GEICO
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NEW FOR 2014

- The upper boundary of the **Owens Creek** Put-and-Take/Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Area has been moved from Raven Rock Road to Buck Lantz Road — page 20.
- **Crossbows** are now legal projectile gears in both nontidal and tidal waters, so long as they are used in accordance with all projectile gear restrictions — page 14.
- **Minnow traps** are now legal gears in both nontidal and tidal waters. They must be attached to an undocked boat or to private property or a private pier and marked with a buoy or pole and sign. An individual may use one trap and it must be marked with their DNRid number — page 14.
- Up to 25 jugs may now be used for “**jugging**” so long as each jug is marked with the user’s DNRid number — page 14.
- **Finfish trotlines** may now be used in both nontidal and tidal waters so long as they are; no longer than 100 feet; they have no more than 25 hooks; are not made of metal; are not baited with scaled fish bait; and, are marked with the user’s DNRid number.
- **Recreational crabbers** using **crab pots** from private property must now obtain a free registration prior to setting their crab pots. Anyone using gear other than handlines or dipnets **needs a license** — page 12.
- Anyone who catches and keeps a **shark** must complete and submit a shark catch card and get a tag — page 40.
- New minimum sizes for **hammerhead**, **finetooth** and **blacknose** sharks — page 40
- An **invasive species** component has been added to the **Maryland Fishing Challenge** — page 42.

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE EN ESPAÑOL

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/espanol

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 (MDE) monitors Maryland 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.

MDE analyzes fish for two contaminants which can pose health risks and are known to accumulate in fish: PCBs and methylmercury. The information included in MDE 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 www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/CitizensInfoCenterHome/Pages/citizensinfocenter/fishandshellfish/index.aspx or contact MDE at 410-537-3906.

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ADDRESSES & PHONE NUMBERS

Licensing & Registration Service Centers

- Fishing License Call Center
855-855-3906
- Annapolis Service Center
1804 West Street, Suite 300
Annapolis, MD 21401
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-260-3220
866-344-8889 (toll free in Maryland)
- Central Maryland Service Center
2 S. Bond Street, Suite 101
Bel Air, MD 21014
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-836-4550
866-623-3187 (toll free in Maryland)
- Dundalk Service Center
7701 Wise Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21222
Hours: M,W,F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-284-1654
866-535-8319 (toll free in Maryland)
- Eastern Maryland Service Center
201 Baptist Street, #22
Salisbury, MD 21801
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-713-3840
866-812-1678 (toll free in Maryland)
- East Central Maryland Service Center
120 Broadway Avenue
Centreville, MD 21617
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-819-4100
866-439-1708 (toll free in Maryland)
- Southern Maryland Service Center
6904 Hallowing Lane
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
410-535-3382
866-688-3823 (toll free in Maryland)
- Rocky Gap Service Center
12500 Pleasant Valley Road
Flintstone, MD 21530
Hours: M–F 8:30am–4:30pm
301-777-2134
866-679-0906 (toll free in Maryland)

Natural Resources Police (NRP) Offices

24 Hour Natural Resources 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 Mon–Fri, 8am–4pm.

- 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

Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

410-573-4514

Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Safety & Environmental 24-Hour Hotline

877-224-7229 (toll free in Maryland)

Emergencies on Boats

VHF-CH 16

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

DNR Fisheries Service Information

410-260-8325, 877-620-8367 ext.8325

Trout Stocking Information

800-688-3467, press 2

Fisheries Service Offices

Tidal

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

Nontidal

- Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery
Hagerstown, 301-791-4736
- Allegany and Garrett Counties
Oakland, 301-334-8218
- Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties
Brandywine, 301-888-2423
- Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery Counties
Woodbine, 410-442-2080
- Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester Counties
Millington, 410-928-3604
- Frederick and Washington Counties
Thurmont, 301-898-5443 or 9724

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 Officer First Class Mance McCall at 866-430-0082, mmccall@dnr.state.md.us, or visit the Maryland Natural Resources Police Recruitment Facebook page.





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FISHING LICENSES, STAMPS & SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRATION

Term

Fishing licenses are valid from January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

2014 Licenses, Stamps , Fees & Registration

Resident Nontidal Sport Fishing License \$20.50

Resident 7-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License \$7.50

Resident Trout Stamp \$5.00

Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License \$5.00
(65 years or older in 2014)

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 \$5.00*

*Or the same fee charged to visiting Maryland anglers by a non-resident's home state, whichever is higher — http://dnr.maryland.gov/service/fishingcost_bystate.asp

Non-Resident Trout Stamp \$10.00

Resident Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License \$15.00

Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License \$6.00

Non-Resident Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License \$22.50

Non-Resident 7-Day Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License \$12.00

Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Boat License \$50.00

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 & Coastal Sport Fishing License and a complimentary individual crabbing license are included for the boat owner who purchases this license.

Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration Free Registration
Unless individually licensed, a free registration is required for:

- 1) Passengers on boats with Bay & Coastal Sport Boat License.
- 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 laws. 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 www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR. Individuals who are suspended for violating fishing laws in Maryland may also be suspended in other states under the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Who Needs A Maryland License or Trout Stamp?

Anyone 16 years of age or older.

Some anglers are exempt from the license requirement — see License Exemption section.

A trout stamp is required for anyone 16 years of age or older to fish in a Special Catch-and-Return Trout Management Area or possess trout taken from 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.

Who Needs A Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration?

Anglers fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays, Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributaries must be licensed or 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
- You are fishing on a free fishing day – the first two Saturdays in June and July 4
- You are fishing from a licensed commercial fishing pier
- You possess a valid commercial tidal fish license
- You possess a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license

Complimentary Licenses

Any American veteran residing in Maryland who is 100% service-connected disabled or who is a former POW may apply for a free lifetime fishing license and trout stamp. Call 410-260-8325.

To register or obtain a license, go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/service or call the Fishing License Center—855-855-3906.

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE EN ESPAÑOL

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/espanol

GEAR RESTRICTIONS AND RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check with the Department's website for possible changes at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/proposedregulations.asp

License Exemptions

Maryland Sport Fishing License Exemptions

General 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 designated by DNR (first two Saturdays in June and July 4th)
- You fish a hook and line (rod and reel) from a public bridge or pier which has been designated by DNR as a license-free fishing area and have registered with the state. A list of license-free fishing areas is available at www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries.

Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

A person may fish for finfish without a license in Maryland's nontidal waters if the person is:

- A veteran hospitalized in a veteran's hospital for a service connected disability. Contact the Fisheries Service for permit information.
- A patient under treatment by a state-approved mental health facility or an individual who attends or resides in a state-approved health and mental hygiene facility. Contact the Fisheries Service for permit information.
- A caregiver, family member or designee of a mental health care facility or private group home, and is caring for a patient who is under treatment by a state-approved mental health facility. Contact the Fisheries Service for more information.
- 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 laws and regulations.

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 stocked with trout artificially propagated by, or purchased from, persons licensed by the state to sell fish.

Maryland residents holding valid Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing or Lifetime

Service Disabled Veteran or Former POW Licenses are not required to purchase a trout stamp. Call DNR Fisheries Service for information, 410-260-8325.

Maryland Tidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions

You may fish for finfish without a license in tidal waters of the state if you:

- Possess a valid commercial fishing license.
- Are fishing from a licensed charter boat.
- Are registered with the state and are fishing from a boat with a Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing Boat License.
- 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 and have obtained a Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration.

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.

Residents of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License may fish in Virginia tidal saltwater, 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.

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.

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 Maryland-Pennsylvania dividing line in the Conowingo Reservoir is from the Railroad Tunnel white marker in Cecil County to Michaels Run in Harford County.

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 & Coastal Sport Fishing License holder may fish any portion of the Potomac River mainstem downstream of the I-95 Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

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RECREATIONAL CRABBING LICENSES & CRAB POT REGULATIONS

Term

Crabbing licenses are valid from April 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

2014 Licenses & Fees

Maryland Resident	\$5.00
Non-Resident	\$10.00
Maryland Resident who possesses a Chesapeake Bay & Coastal Sport Fishing License or a Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License	\$2.00
Recreational Crab Boat License*	\$15.00
Waterfront Property Crab Pot Registration	FREE

An individual under 16 years of age may crab without a license in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and is restricted to the same limits as an unlicensed crabber.

*One individual license is issued to the individual who purchases this license.

Who Needs A Maryland Recreational Crabbing License?

Anyone who uses the following gear or takes the following quantity of crabs must possess a recreational crabbing license:

- Trotline
- Collapsible crab traps
- Net rings
- Seines
- Eel pots for own bait
- More than 2 dozen with a limit of 1 bushel male hard crabs
- More than 1 dozen with a limit of 2 dozen soft crabs or male peelers

Crabbing License Exemptions

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

- Dip net
- Handlines
- No more than 2 dozen male hard crabs
- No more than 1 dozen soft crabs and male peelers

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

Recreational Crab Pots

Registration

An owner, lessee, or tenant of a private shoreline property may use a maximum of 2 crab pots, regardless of the number of owners or lessees of the property, and must be 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.

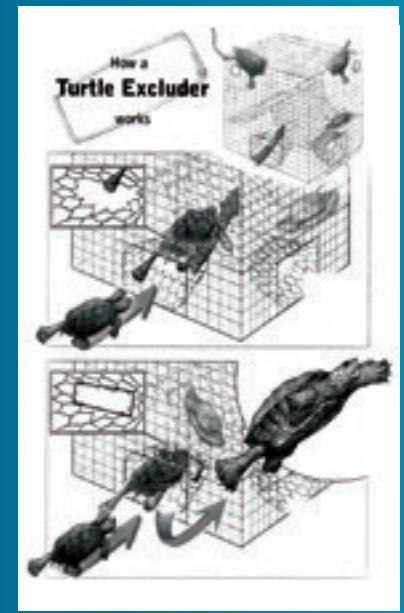
Private property crab pots set in the Atlantic Ocean, coastal bays, and their tributaries do NOT need to be registered.

Regulations

- Crab pots must be set in front of the private property within 100 yards of the shore and either be attached by a line to the property or marked by a buoy or pole and sign.
- Crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries must be marked with the owner's DNRid.
- Crab pots in the coastal bays and their tributaries must be marked with the owner's name and address.

TURTLE EXCLUDERS ARE REQUIRED

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 to make your own turtle excluder [www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/crabpot-trd/crabpot.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/crabpot-trd/crabpot.asp)



- Crab pots must have 2 cull rings, one measuring at least $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches and one at least $2\frac{5}{16}$ 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 $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches high by $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.



TAKE A CHILD FISHING

"To Catch a Fish," is one of the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, issued by Governor Martin O'Malley in April 2009 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 awarded to the angler for this first fish. My first fish anglers under the age of 16 will automatically be enrolled in the Maryland Youth Fishing Club, sponsored by Maryland DNR.

Youth fishing rodeos are a great way to introduce a child to fishing – even if you have never been fishing yourself. Fishing rodeos are typically held at small ponds or lakes and are aimed at helping beginners successfully catch a fish. For information on fishing go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing.



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.

Youth and Blind Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Carroll Creek, Frederick County — From the red post located 300 yards upstream of Baughmans Lane, downstream to the dam at College Avenue.
- George's Creek, Allegany County — Within Town Park in Westernport.
- Glades Park Pond, Garrett County — On Liberty Street in Oakland.
- Little Tonoloway Creek, Washington County — within Weidmeyer Park in Hancock.
- Little Antietam Creek, Washington County — At Keedysville, from Coffman Farms Road downstream to Maryland Route 34.
- Parkview Pond, Garrett County — Off Hershberger Lane in Grantsville

Restrictions:

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

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 WMA 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 these areas, also on the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing list, as many as 5 fish 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

SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Nontidal Sport Fishing

It Is Illegal

1. To use more than 3 rods at one time, except for ice fishing.
2. To use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks.
3. To use more than 5 rods (hand held devices) or tip-ups for ice fishing.
4. To cut a hole through the ice measuring more than 10 inches in any direction for the purpose of ice fishing.
5. To take any bait fish from any Put-and-Take Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
6. To use any projectile gear (spear, spear gun, bow and arrow, crossbow, or gig):
 - » Without a retrieval line attached to the projectile.
 - » Within 100 yards of any person, private or public swimming area, scuba diver's flag, (other than that used by the spear fisherman), occupied duck blind, or vessel in the water without specific advance permission.
 - » In Special Trout Management Areas, state-owned ponds and lakes or Put-and-Take Trout fishing areas.
 - » To shoot any frog, turtle, trout, Walleye, Striped Bass, Striped Bass hybrid, Northern Pike, Large and Smallmouth Bass, Muskellunge or Tiger Muskie in the nontidal waters of the state.
7. To use a trotline:
 - » Made of metallic material, or having more than 25 single hooks, or more than 100 feet long, or baited with scale bait.
 - » Not identified with the DNRRid of the person operating it.
8. 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.

9. Bush-bobs/bank poles:
 - » To use bush-bobs or bank poles except in the mainstems of the Potomac and Monocacy rivers within Carroll, Washington and Frederick Counties.
 - » For anyone other than a resident to use bush-bobs or bank poles.
 - » For residents to use more than 25 bush-bobs or bank poles, or any bush-bobs or bank poles having more than 1 hook to a pole or bob.
 - » To use bush-bobs or bank poles between sunrise and sunset.
 - » To use bush-bobs or bank poles on any streams stocked with trout.
 - » To use a bush bob or bank pole baited with scale bait or live bait to catch Suckers, catfish, Carp, eels, Gudgeons or any species of sunfish, including Bluegills and Rock Bass, commonly known as Redeye.
 - » To use a bush-bob or bank pole without the user's DNRRid number marked on it in some manner.
10. Jugs:
 - » To use more than 25 jugs or jugs having more than 2 hooks per jug.
 - » To use a jug that does not have the user's DNRRid number marked on or attached to the jug.
11. Dip net:
 - » For anyone other than a resident to use a dip net in the Susquehanna River in Cecil and Harford counties; anywhere in Allegany and Washington counties; and the Monocacy and Potomac rivers in Carroll and Frederick counties.
 - » To use a dip net from April 16 through December 31.
 - » To use a dip net within 50 yards of the mouth of a tributary or the base of any dam.
 - » To use a dip net in any trout-stocked waters, any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or any Special Trout Fisheries Management Area (landing nets used to land fish are not considered dip nets.)
 - » To use a dip net to fish for any trout species, Walleye, Striped Bass, Striped Bass hybrid, Northern Pike, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Muskellunge, or Tiger Muskie.
12. For a non-resident to fish in nontidal waters of the state with nets of any description. However, non-residents may use a net commonly known as a landing net to land fish caught by hook and line.
13. To snag fish with hooks.
14. Traps (minnow/bait)
 - » To use more than one trap in State waters.
 - » To use a trap not marked with the user's DNRRid number.
 - » To use a trap in any Special Trout Management Area.
 - » To set a trap in any waters if the trap is not attached to the user's property or a privately owned pier or dock and marked by a buoy or pole and sign or attached to an undocked boat.
15. 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.
16. To disturb, take, destroy or possess the nest or eggs of a terrapin or snapping turtle.
17. For a person to catch snapping turtles from waters of the state by hook and line, trotline, bow and arrow, net, seine, fish pot, or other fishing rig, spear, gig or iron or any device capable of piercing any part of the turtle.
18. To trespass or fish any waters closed to the public for fishing by the Department.
19. To operate any vehicle on any lands owned or controlled by the Fisheries Service without written permission from the Fisheries Service except on those roads, lanes or areas which are open to automobile traffic or which are specifically marked by the Fisheries Service.
20. To camp on lands owned and controlled by the Fisheries Service except on designated sites or with written permission.
21. To swim in any state-controlled lake except in designated areas.
22. To cut any brush, trees or shrubbery on the C&O Canal National Historical Park unless authorized by the National Park Service.
23. Battie Mixon Fishing Hole:
 - » To fish in Battie Mixon Fishing Hole

LEAVE NO TRACE

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be considerate of others.• Take trash with you.• Pack it in — pack it out.• Clean your fish at home. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid impacting stream banks and lake shores.• Do not dispose of unused bait on or near the water.• Secure and dispose of old lures and line.• Avoid discarding dead or moribund fish. |
|---|---|

- in Allegany County between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
- » To use boats propelled by gasoline or diesel power on the waters of Battie Mixon Fishing Hole.
- 24.** To throw, dump, deposit, or cause to be thrown, dumped or deposited, any refuse upon any of waters.
- 25.** To fish any streams or nontidal waters that contain trout between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. (This does not apply to nontidal impoundments of five acres or more.)
- 26.** To cull trout.
- 27.** To use a seine:
- » That exceeds six feet in length or four feet in depth or $\frac{1}{4}$ inch mesh to catch bait fish.
 - » Within 50 yards of the mouth of any river or tributary or the base of a dam.
 - » In state waters stocked with trout, any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.
- 28.** Regarding crayfish in the Susquehanna River, Middle Potomac River, Monocacy River and Upper Potomac River basins, to:
- » Catch 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.
 - » Possess any species of crayfish while fishing unless the head is removed behind the eyes.
 - » Catch and possess a female crayfish with eggs attached to the underside of the abdomen.
- 29.** To buy, sell, or offer to buy any fish harvested from the nontidal waters of the state.
- 30.** To use a cast net in nontidal waters.
- 31.** To feed any wildlife in a Fisheries Management Area.
- 32.** To use waders or boots soled with felt or any natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.

Tidal Sport Fishing

Chesapeake Bay & Tidal Tributaries and Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays & Tidal Tributaries

It Is Legal

1. To use projectile gear (spear, spear gun, bow and arrow, crossbow, and gig) to harvest all species of fish within the seasons and limits established by the Department except for American Lobsters, all species of shark, snapping turtles, Striped Bass,

and any species listed as threatened or endangered.

2. To use a finfish trotline that is no longer than 100 feet, with no more than 25 hooks, marked with the user's DNRid.
3. To use a seine up to 50 feet in length and 5 feet wide to obtain minnows for bait.
4. To use a cast net by hand with a radius of 10 feet or less in any tidal water of the Chesapeake Bay or its tributaries.
5. To keep any size White Perch if caught by hook and line.
6. To use an umbrella rig that has no more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks.
7. To catch and release American Shad, Hickory Shad, Blueback Herring or Alewife Herring.

It Is Illegal

1. To use a finfish trotline made out of metal, baited with scaled fish bait, or not marked with the user's DNRid number.
2. Traps (minnow/bait)
 - » To use more than one trap in State waters.
 - » To use a trap not marked with the user's DNRid number.
 - » To set a trap in any waters if the trap is not attached to the user's property or a privately owned pier or dock and marked by a buoy or pole and sign or attached to an undocked boat.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. To use more than 2 hooks or 2 sets of hooks for each rod or line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple hooks are considered 1 set of hooks. Sabiki rigs are not legal in Chesapeake Bay or in Chesapeake Bay tributaries. Multiple hook rigs including Sabiki rigs are allowed in the Atlantic Ocean.
6. To use a dip net in the Susquehanna River above the mouth of Deer Creek except to land a fish caught by hook and line.
7. To operate a boat within the area 400 yards below or 400 yards above the Conowingo Dam.
8. To take or have in one's possession American Shad, Hickory Shad, Blueback Herring, Alewife Herring, Atlantic Sturgeon, or Shortnose Sturgeon.
9. To use waders or boots soled with felt or any natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

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, doughballs, corn, cheese, bread, meat and marshmallows. The addition of any scent to an artificial lure or fly to make it smell like bait, makes it bait.

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.

IN AGGREGATE

A catch of related fish species counted together.

POSSESSION

Any condition where a fish cannot freely swim away.

STINGER HOOK

A hook which trails another hook, either by direct physical attachment to the lead hook or by a connective device such as a 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.

SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL & POSSESSION LIMITS

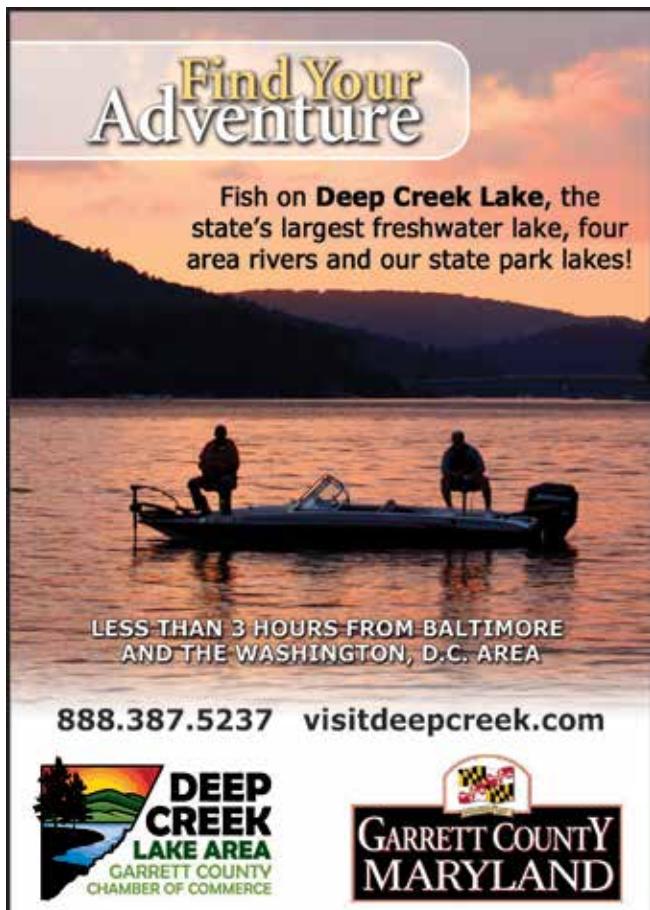
The following tables summarize rules governing the harvest and possession of fish species that anglers commonly catch in Maryland. This is an abridged summary and does not include all regulated species. Full information and updates are available at www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comar.aspx.

NONTIDAL HOOK & LINE

NONTIDAL HOOK & LINE					
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS	
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 25 Possession – 25	Eels may not be taken by gig in any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Area.	
BAITFISH (Including madtoms)	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 35 in aggregate Possession – 35 in aggregate		
BASS (Largemouth & Smallmouth)	12 inches or as provided for by special regulations.	CLOSED March 1–June 15	Daily – 5 in aggregate Possession – 10 in aggregate	Catch & Release is permitted at all times.	
BIVALVE/SHELLFISH (mussels & clams)		CLOSED			
CARP	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 15 Possession – 30		
CHAIN PICKEREL	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 5 Possession – 5		
CHANNEL CATFISH	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 5 Possession – 10		
CRAPPIE	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 15 Possession – 30		
HERRING (Alewife & Blueback)		CLOSED			
MUSKELLUNGE & TIGER MUSKIE	36 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1 Possession – 1		
NORTHERN PIKE	30 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 2 Possession – 2		
SHAD (American/white & Hickory)		CLOSED		Catch & Release is permitted.	
STRIPED BASS & 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.	Striped Bass and hybrid Striped Bass in nontidal waters may be taken only from Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Triadelphia Reservoir, Conowingo Reservoir, Broadford Lake, Jennings Randolph Reservoir and Rocky Gorge Reservoir. See table footer for contact information.	
SUCKERS	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 30 Possession – 60		
SUNFISH, including Bluegills & 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 – 2 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 – 5 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 the Route 42 bridge from March 1–April 15	Daily – 5 Possession – 5		
WHITE PERCH	None	Open Year Round	None		
YELLOW PERCH – statewide except as noted	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 10 Possession – 10	The possession of Yellow Perch eggs requires prior authorization from DNR.	
	Deep Creek Lake	None	Daily – 10 Possession – 20		
	Nontidal lakes and ponds	None	None		
The taking of American Shad, Hickory Shad, Alewife Herring, Atlantic Sturgeon, and Shortnose Sturgeon is prohibited.					
Special Closures:					
1. Magoty 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: Baltimore City Reservoirs — For Prettyboy and Liberty (boat permits required) information, rules, and regulations, call Watershed Control Division 410-795-6150 or Loch Raven Fishing Center 410-887-7692. Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Lakes — Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge fishing by permit only. For permits, rules and regulations call the information center at Brighton Dam 301-774-9124.					

SPECIAL FISHING AREA – YOUGHOGHENY RESERVOIR

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS		SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL (as bait fish)	9 inches		Open Year Round	25 per day	
BAITFISH, FISH BAIT (except mud bugs)	None		Open Year Round	Daily – 50 in aggregate	
BASS – Largemouth, Smallmouth & Spotted	Open Season	15 inches	Jan. 1 through the day before opening day of regular trout season and Nov. 1–Dec. 31	Daily – 4 in aggregate	
	No Harvest Season		The opening day of regular trout season through the first Friday after June 11.	None	Catch and immediate release only, no tournaments permitted.
	Summer/ Early Fall Season	12 inches	The first Saturday after June 11–Oct. 31	Daily – 6 in aggregate	
GIZZARD SHAD	None		Open Year Round	Daily – 50 in aggregate per day	
MUD BUGS (dragonfly nymphs)	None		Open Year Round	Unlimited if taken from lakes, ponds, swamps and adjacent areas. Daily - 50 if taken from rivers and streams.	
MUSKELLUNGE & TIGER MUSKIE	40 inches		Open Year Round	Daily – 1 in aggregate	
NORTHERN PIKE	24 inches		Open Year Round	Daily – 2	
PADDLEFISH			CLOSED YEAR ROUND		
PICKEREL	18 inches		Open Year Round	Daily – 4	
SAUER	12 inches		Jan. 1–March 14 and the first Saturday in May through Dec. 31.	Daily – 6	
STRIPED BASS & HYBRID STRIPED BASS	20 inches		Open Year Round	Daily – 2 in aggregate	
SUNFISH, YELLOW PERCH, WHITE PERCH, CRAPPIES, CATFISH, ROCK BASS, SUCKERS, CARP & WHITE BASS	None		Open Year Round	Daily – 50 in aggregate	
TROUT & SALMON (all species)	Regular Season	7 inches	8 a.m. the first Saturday after April 11 to midnight Labor Day.	Daily – 5 in aggregate	
	Extended Season	7 inches	Jan. 1 through the last day of February, and the day after Labor Day through Dec. 31.	Daily – 3 in aggregate	
WALLEYE	15 inches		Jan. 1–March 14 and the first Saturday in May through Dec. 31.	Daily – 6	



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SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL & POSSESSION LIMITS

CHESAPEAKE BAY & ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES				
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 25	
BASS (Largemouth & Smallmouth)	15 inches March 1–June 15 12 inches June 16 through last day in February	Open Year Round	Daily – 5 in aggregate	
BLACK DRUM	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1 Daily boat limit – 6	
BLACK SEA BASS	12.5 inches	Open May 19 through September 18 & October 18 through December 31	Daily – 15	
BLUEFISH	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 10	
CATFISH	None	Open Year Round		
CHAIN PICKEREL (pike)	14 inches	CLOSED March 15 – April 30	Daily – 10	
CROAKER (hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 25	
RED DRUM (channel bass or puppy drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1	
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 – 10	
STRIPED BASS				See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass section — page 38
SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)	16 inches	Open January 1 through December 31	Daily – 4	
WALLEYE	15 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 5	
WEAKFISH	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1	
WHITE PERCH	None if caught with hook & line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear	Open Year Round	No Limit	
YELLOW PERCH	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 10	

The taking of American Shad, Hickory Shad, Alewife Herring, Blueback Herring, Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon is prohibited.

Areas Closed to Fishing — February, March and April:

1. Magoty 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.

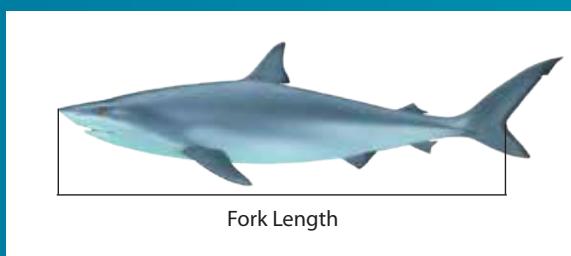
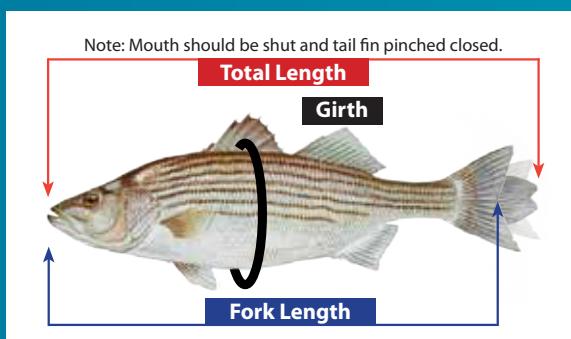
HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

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 —

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



COASTAL BAYS, COASTAL BAY TRIBUTARIES & ATLANTIC OCEAN

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS	
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 25		
BLACK DRUM	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1 Boat limit – 6		
BLACK SEA BASS Creel, minimum size, and season announced by public notice — www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/notices/notices.asp					
BLUEFISH	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 10		
CROAKER (hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 25		
DOLPHIN (fish)	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 10 Boat limit – 60		
GROUPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 1		
LOBSTER *Please see additional recreational lobster information below	3½–5½ inches carapace length	Open Year Round Except Feb. 1–Mar. 31	100 lobster/person/day or 500 lobster/trip for a 5-day trip when using gear other than lobster traps.	Must be landed whole. Spearing is prohibited.	
RED DRUM (channel bass or puppy drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1		
SCUP (porgy)	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 50		
SNAPPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 20 in aggregate	Snapper Species - www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm	
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 15		
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 10		
SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)	Creel, minimum size, and season announced by public notice— www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/notices/notices.asp				
STRIPED BASS	28 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 2	Striped Bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which stretches from 3 to 200 miles off the coast.	
TAUTOG	16 inches	Open Year Round Except Nov. 27–Dec. 31	Jan. 1–May 15 and Nov. 1–Nov. 26, Daily – 4 May 16–Oct. 31, Daily – 2		
TILEFISH SPECIES	None	Open Year Round Open Year Round	Daily – 7 in aggregate		
WAHOO	None	Open Year Round	Daily – 2		
WEAKFISH	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily – 1		

The taking of American Shad, Hickory Shad, Alewife Herring, Blueback Herring, Atlantic Sturgeon and Shortnose Sturgeon is prohibited.

***Gear: A lobster trap must have:**

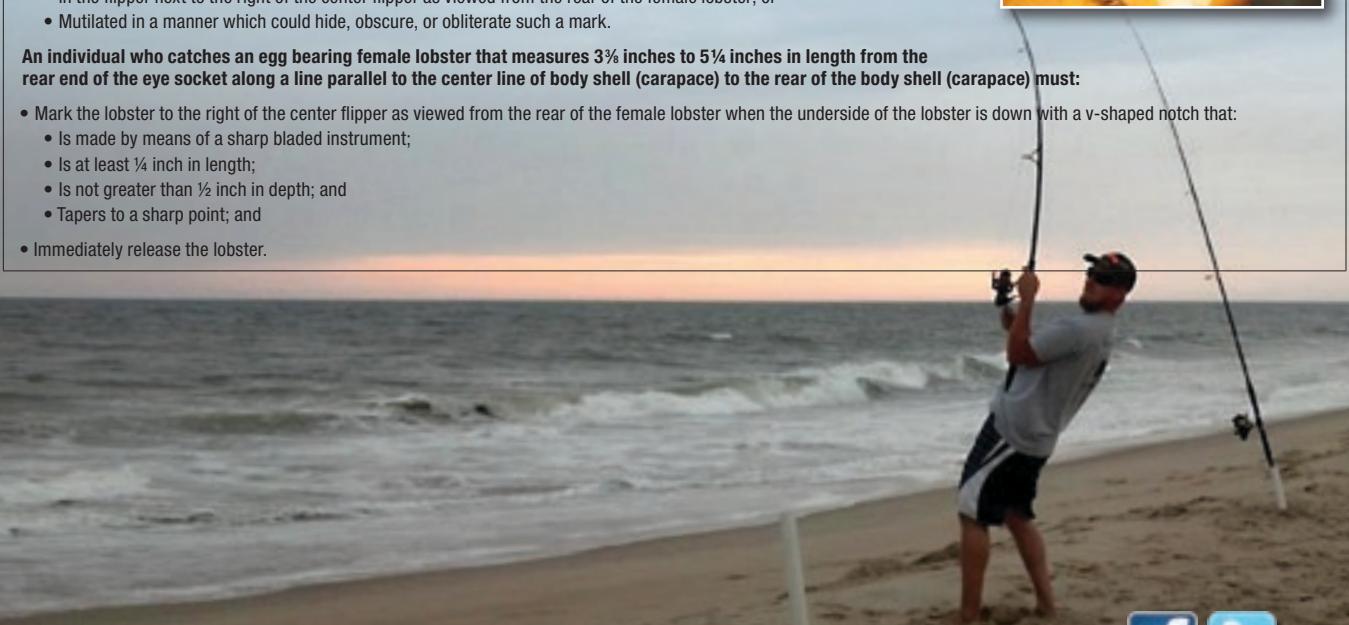
- A minimum of one rectangular escape vent which must be a minimum of 2 inches by 5 ¼ inches; or
- A minimum of two circular escape vents which must have a minimum diameter of 2 ½ inches

It is unlawful to catch, land, possess, sell, offer to sell, or transport any:

- Lobster that is egg-bearing or from which eggs have been intentionally removed;
- Female lobster bearing a V-shaped notch which is:
 - A straight-sided triangular cut with or without setal hairs, at least 1/8 inch in depth and tapering to a sharp point in the flipper next to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster; or
 - Mutilated in a manner which could hide, obscure, or obliterate such a mark.

An individual who catches an egg bearing female lobster that measures 3 ¾ inches to 5 ½ inches in length from the rear end of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of body shell (carapace) to the rear of the body shell (carapace) must:

- Mark the lobster to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the female lobster when the underside of the lobster is down with a v-shaped notch that:
 - Is made by means of a sharp bladed instrument;
 - Is at least ¼ inch in length;
 - Is not greater than ½ inch in depth; and
 - Tapers to a sharp point; and
- Immediately release the lobster.



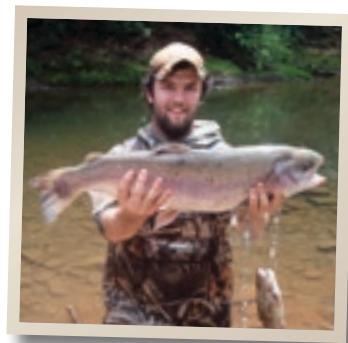
PUT-AND-TAKE TROUT FISHING AREAS

The following restrictions apply to the areas listed:

- a) Creel Limit (all species of trout) in aggregate—5 Daily / 5 Possession.
- b) Minimum Size—no minimum size.
- c) Season—areas are closed to all fishing from 10:00 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.

2014 Closure Schedule

- Closure 0 – No Closure
- Closure 1 – From the first Sunday after March 4 to the last Saturday in March.
- Closure 2 – From Sunday to Saturday of the last full week of March.
- Closure 3 – From the first Sunday after April 8 to the following Saturday.
- Closure 4 – From the first Sunday after April 15 to the following Saturday.



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, 3
Evitts Creek Ponds.....	0
Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed.....	1, 4
Flintstone Creek Watershed.....	1, 3
Georges Creek—mainstem from the upper boundary of Town Park in Westernport upstream to Neff Run	1, 3
Jennings Run—mainstem downstream of the confluence of North Jennings Run	2, 3
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 Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge in Westernport.....	0
North Jennings Run Watershed	2, 3
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, 3

Anne Arundel County

Severn Run—mainstem upstream of Maryland Route 3	1, 4
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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, 4
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of Maryland Route 7	1, 4

Gwynn Oak Park Pond	0
Gwynns Falls—mainstem below Maryland Route 140	0
Jones Falls—mainstem below Lake Roland ..	0
Little Falls—mainstem from Wiseburg Road upstream to Valley Mill Road	1, 4
Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Route 165 ..	1, 4
Patapsco River—mainstem from the B&O Viaduct upstream to Bloede Dam	1, 3
Stansbury Park Pond.....	0

Calvert County

Calvert Cliffs Pond.....	0
Hutchins Pond	0

Caroline County

Tuckahoe Creek.....	0
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Carroll County

Beaver Run—upstream of Maryland Route 91	1, 3
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, 3
Piney Run—mainstem downstream from Arrington Road	1, 3
Piney Run Reservoir	0
Robert's Mill Pond	0

Cecil County

Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at Maryland Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line.....	1,4
Howards Pond	0
Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of Maryland Route 7	1, 4

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, 4
Frank Bentz Pond	2
Friends Creek Watershed	1, 4
Hamburg Pond	2
Middle Creek—mainstem from the Maryland Route 17 bridge near the junction of Bittle Road upstream to the confluence of Spruce Run	1, 4
Middletown Pond	0
Owens Creek—mainstem from Buck Lantz Road downstream to Roddy Road (catch & return only from June 1 through last day of February).....	1, 4
Rainbow Lake	2
Urbana Lake	0
Whiskey Springs Pond	2
Woodsboro Community Pond	0

Garrett County

Accident Pond.....	1, 4
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, 3
Broadford Lake	0
Deep Creek Lake.....	0
Herrington Creek—mainstem	1, 4
Herrington Lake	0
Jennings Randolph Lake	0
Little Youghiogheny River—mainstem from Maryland Route 219 downstream to the Youghiogheny River	1, 4

TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE AND MAPS:

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking,
800-688-3467, press 2, and by email alert-
www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/emailcontact.asp



Mill Run—mainstem downstream of uppermost bridge on Mill Run Road	1, 4
Muddy Creek—mainstem.....	1, 4
New Germany Lake	1
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 ½ mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport U.S.G.S. 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 market Street.....	0

Harford County

Deer Creek—mainstem from 1 mile south of Rocks State Park upstream to the bridge at Maryland Route 23	1, 3
Forest Hill Pond.....	2
Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Maryland Route 165.....	1, 4
Centennial Lake	0
Lake Elkhorn	0

Howard County

Patuxent River—mainstem from base of Rocky Gorge Reservoir Dam in Laurel downstream to the B&O Railroad crossing....	1, 3
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, 3

Montgomery County

Great Seneca Creek—from Maryland Route 28 upstream to Maryland Route 355.....	1, 3
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

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, 3
Blairs Valley Lake	0
Greenbrier Lake	0
Indian Springs Pond	2
Israel Creek	0
Licking Creek Mainstem.....	1, 3
Sharpsburg Community Pond	0
Sideling Hill Creek Watershed	1, 4

Wicomico County

Beaverdam Creek—in Salisbury from Schumaker Dam downstream to the bridge crossing at Memorial Plaza Road	0
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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 Maryland Route 97 upstream to the crossing of Maryland 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 510 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 U.S.G.S. 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 approximately 1 mile to the upper boundary of Cunningham Falls State Park Manor Area.

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 scent capable of catching fish.

Trophy Trout Fishing Areas — Limited to the Use of Artificial 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.
- 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 Maryland 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 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 1/2 mile downstream of Maniford Road to a red post located approximately 1-3/4 miles downstream (Bull Ring Ranch).

Restrictions:

- From June 1 through September 30, the daily creel limit and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From October 1 through 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 eastbound 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 through September 30, the daily creel limit and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From October 1 through 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 through May 31:
 - » No bait, lure or tackle restrictions are in effect
 - » Put-and-Take Trout Area regulations apply.
- From June 1 through 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.



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FISH IDENTIFICATION

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● Coastal Bays & Atlantic Ocean

● Nontidal

● Chesapeake Bay



American Eel ● ● ●

9" minimum, creel limit 25



Chain Pickerel ● ●

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



Black Crappie ● ● ●

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



Channel Catfish ● ●

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



Black Drum ● ● ●

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



Largemouth Bass ● ● ●

See tables pages 16, 17, & 18
Angler Award Size 21"



Black Sea Bass ● ● ●

Check website for updates
Angler Award Size 20"



Muskellunge ● ●

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



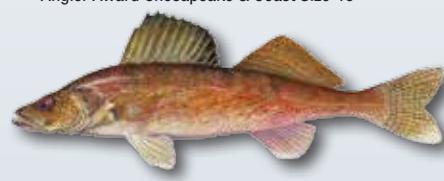
Smallmouth Bass ● ● ●

See tables pages 16 -18
Angler Award Tidal & Nontidal Size 20"



Striped Bass (rockfish) ● ● ● ●

See Striped Bass section for size,
creel limit and season regulations
Angler Award Nontidal Award Size 36"
Angler Award Chesapeake & Coast Size 40"



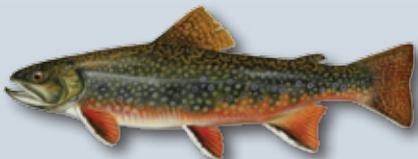
Walleye ● ● ●

15" minimum, (20" max from Jan. 1–April 15),
creel limit 5. Angler Award Size 26"



White Perch ● ● ● ●

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



Brook Trout ● ●

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



Northern Pike ● ●

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



Yellow Perch ● ● ●

9" minimum, creel limit 10 (tidal); no minimum size or
creel limit in nontidal lakes except limit of 10 in Deep
Creek Lake. Angler Award Size 14"



Brown Trout ● ●

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



Rainbow Trout ● ●

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



Bluefish ● ● ●

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



Croaker (hardhead) ● ●

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



Spanish Mackerel ● ●

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



Summer Flounder (fluke) ● ●

Check website for updates
Angler Award Size 24"



Spotted Seatrout ● ●

14" minimum, creel limit 10
Angler Award Size 24"



Red Drum ● ●
(channel bass, puppy drum)

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



Tautog ●

16" minimum, size and seasons on page 19
Angler Award Size 24"



Scup ● ●
(porgy)

8" minimum, creel limit 50



Weakfish ● ●

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

* except where otherwise indicated in nontidal limits

Fish illustrations by Duane Raver and Diane Rome Peebles

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.



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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-Return Bass Fishing Areas

Areas:

- Potomac River — From Dam No. 2 (Seneca Breaks) upstream to the mouth of the Monocacy River.
- 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).
- 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.

BLACK 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 tidal bass information and tournament registration, go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/bass.

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

TIPS FOR LIVE RELEASE TOURNAMENTS

- Wipe down live wells before using them. Remove debris that can clog lines or intake systems. Remove algae or plant material that could promote bacterial growth.
- Don't overload the live well.
- Use a minimum 750gal/hour pump.
- Use ice and water exchanges to keep live well water temperatures 5–7° F below the ambient water temperature.
- In hot weather, circulate the water every two minutes and exchange the water every two to three hours.
- On cooler days, circulate the water every two to nine minutes and exchange the water every half to one hour.
- Act quickly if the live well stops working! Oxygen can be rapidly reduced in a live well leading to lethal levels for fish within an hour. Bucket in fresh water every 10 minutes, use a spare pump, transfer fish to a working live well, or release them.
- Rough water and warm conditions can increase the stress on fish and require more of your attention to keep the fish alive.
- Use an effective strategy that minimizes wounding the fish.
- Remove dead fish from live wells and store in an ice chest.
- When transporting fish in a bag, be sure that there is enough water to cover the fish, and frequently refresh the bag with well-oxygenated water.

BASIC CATCH & 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.

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 dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/articles/catch_release.html.

Regulations

A person aboard a vessel, raft or tube must wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while on the upper Potomac River and its tributaries, during the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. each November 15, and ending at 12 midnight each succeeding May 15. This regulation is in addition to class III, IV, and VI White Water Stream segment regulations which require PFDs to be worn.

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 personal flotation device 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. 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

- Jennings Randolph Lake (North Branch Potomac) and Savage River Dam projected releases — 410-962-7687 or online: www.nab-wc.usace.army.mil/mapserver/index.html
- Potomac River flow at Hagerstown — 301-223-6377
- Youghiogheny River white water release schedule—315-413-2823 or online: www.deepcreekhydro.com
- Susquehanna riverflow at Conowingo — 888-457-4076
- Conowingo Dam spill hotline — 877-457-2525
- U.S. Geological Survey flow information for all Maryland waters—<http://md.water.usgs.gov>



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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		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
BATTIE MIXON FISHING HOLE	MD Route 51 at Oldtown	33
COTTON COVE POND	Lion's Park Glendening Recreational Complex in Frostburg	1
DAN'S MOUNTAIN POND	MD Route 36 two miles east of Lonaconing	1
EVITTS CREEK COMMUNITY PONDS	I-68, Exit 46 four miles east of Cumberland	4
LIONS PARK POND	Frostburg (subject to user restrictions by the city of Frostburg)	1
ORCHARD POND	MD Route 51 Green Ridge State Forest	2
* ROCKY GAP LAKE (LAKE HABEEB)	I-68, Exit 50 five miles northwest of Flintstone	243
WHITE SULPHUR COMMUNITY POND	I-68, Exit 62 Green Ridge State Forest, 12 miles east of Flintstone	1
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY		
FRIENDSHIP PARK POND	Route 778, Friendship	1
FRIENDSHIP POND	MD Route 170	1
LAKE WATERFORD	Route 648 near Severna Park	11
PATUXENT PONDS	Patuxent Road near Conoway	3.2
WATERWORKS PARK	by permit only	1.5
BALTIMORE COUNTY		
AVALON POND (LOST LAKE) GLEN ARTNEY AREA	within Patapsco Valley State Park, entrance on South St. off MD Rt.1	1
GWYNBROOK COMMUNITY POND	off U.S. Route 140 near Owings Mills	1.3
HILLCREST POND	MD Route 144 at Lansdowne	4
LAKE ROLAND	MD Route 139 Baltimore	98.2
* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	MD Route 26 near Ward's Chapel	3100
* LOCH RAVEN RESERVOIR	MD Route 146; Dulaney Valley Road	2400
* PRETTYBOY RESERVOIR	off MD Route 25 and U.S. Route 111, Beckleysville Road	1500
CALVERT COUNTY		
CALVERT CLIFFS PARK POND	Route 4, near Lusby	1
HUTCHINS POND	off Mt. Harmony Road, off Route 2, near Sunderland	2.3
CAROLINE COUNTY		
CHAMBERS LAKE	MD Route 306 in Federalsburg	6
* SMITHVILLE LAKE	U.S. Route 404 east to Noble Road	40

CARROLL COUNTY		
PROPERTY	LOCATION	ACREAGE
BENNETT CERF POND	off MD Route 27 within Random House Industrial Park	1
FARM MUSEUM POND	west of MD Route 32 near Westminster	4.7
LAKE HASHAWHA	off Rinehart Road	1
* LIBERTY RESERVOIR	Route 26 near Wards Chapel	3100
NORTH CARROLL COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 30 at Manchester	1.2
* PINEY RUN RESERVOIR	MD Route 32 near Eldersburg	300
ROBERT'S MILL POND	east of Taneytown, north of Route 140	2
UPPER JOHN OWINGS	John Owings Road	0.5
WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY POND	U.S. Route 140 at Westminster	1.3
CECIL COUNTY		
* CONOWINGO RESERVOIR	U.S. Route 1 at Conowingo	4000
ELKTON COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 281 east of MD Route 213	1.3
RISING SUN COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 273 in Rising Sun	1
* STEMMERS LAKE	Stemmers Run Road at MD Route 282 — telephone 410-356-9272 for permission	90
CHARLES COUNTY		
* GILBERT RUN PARK (WHEATLEY LAKE)	MD Route 6; east of Oliver's Shop	75
HUGHESVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 5 at Hughesville	1
* MYRTLE GROVE LAKE	MD Route 225 near Ripley	23
DORCHESTER COUNTY		
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'S 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
CHURCHVILLE COMMUNITY POND	MD Route 155 at Glenville Road	1.5
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 KITAMAQUNDI	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	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
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 — Maryland Route 2
- Patuxent River
 - a) Mainstem: bridge on Maryland Route 214
 - b) Lyons Creek: Maryland 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 — Maryland Route 10
- Severn River — bridge on Maryland Route 3
- South River and its tributaries:
 - a) North River: Rutland Road
 - b) Bacon Ridge Branch: Chesterfield Road
 - c) Beards Creek: Maryland Route 214
 - d) Broad Creek: Harry S. Truman Parkway

Baltimore County

- Big Gunpowder Falls — three-fourths of a mile south of Maryland Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge
- Little Gunpowder Falls — three-fourths of a mile south of Maryland 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 Maryland Route 4
- Hellen Creek — Mill Branch Road, near Solomons
- Hunting Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 263 about 100 yards west of Maryland Route 4
- Island Creek — Ross Road, near Brooms Island
- Lyon's Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 4

- Mills Creek — Maryland Route 760
- Parkers Creek — Maryland Route 765
- Plum Point Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 263
- Quaker Swamp — Maryland Routes 2/4
- St. Johns Creek — Maryland Route 4
- St. Leonard's Creek — Parran Road

Caroline County

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

Cecil County

- Big Elk Creek — Maryland 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 — Maryland Route 7
- Octoraro Creek — bridge on U.S. Route 222
- Principio Creek — Amtrak crossing below Maryland 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 — Maryland Route 6
- Mattawoman Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 225
- Nanjemoy Creek and its tributaries:
 - a) Mainstem: Maryland Route 6
 - b) Mill Run (Burgess Creek): Maryland Route 6
 - c) Hill Top Fork: Maryland Route 6
 - d) Wards Run: Maryland Route 6
- Oxon Creek (Run) — Maryland Route 210
- Patuxent River and its tributaries:

- a) Swanson Creek: Maryland Route 381
- b) Mataponi Creek: St. Thomas Church Road

- c) Spice Creek: Maryland Route 382, Croom Road

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

- e) Black Swamp Creek: Maryland Route 382, Croom Road

- Piscataway Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 224 (Livingston Road)
- Pomonkey Creek — Fenwick Road
- Port Tobacco Creek — bridge on Maryland Route 6
- Potomac River — Little Falls at man-made dam
- Western Branch — bridge on Maryland Route 4
- Wicomico River — Allens Fresh, bridge on Maryland 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 Maryland 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 Maryland Route 7
- Winter's Run — dam located one half mile south of Maryland 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 — Maryland Route 299
- Morgan Creek — Wallis Road
- Red Lion Branch — at its confluence with the Chester River
- Sassafras River — Maryland Route 299
- Unicorn Branch — U.S. Geological Survey weir just east of Maryland Route 313
- Wye East River — Wye Mills Lake dam

St. Mary's County

- Budds Creek — Maryland Route 234
- Chaptico Run — Chaptico Bridge on Maryland Route 234
- Dynard Run — Maryland Route 242
- Eastern Branch — Maryland Route 5
- Gilbert Swamp Run — Maryland Route 234
- Great Mills Run — bridge on Maryland Route 5
- McIntosh Run — Maryland Route 5
- Park Hall Run — Maryland Route 5
- St. Clements Creek — Maryland Route 234 bridge at town of Clements
- Tomakokin Creek — Maryland Route 470
- Town Run — bridge on Maryland Route 5

Susquehanna River

- Conowingo Dam — at U.S. Route 1

Wicomico and Worcester Counties

- 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

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER ANGLER SURVEY

Support effective fisheries management by joining the Volunteer Angler Survey



Bluefish



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



Striped Bass



Blue Crab



Yellow Perch



Summer Flounder



Muskellunge



Potomac River
Smallmouth Bass Survey



Artificial Reef
Program Survey

Participation is easy! Visit our website: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/survey/

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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. To report the illegal transport or unauthorized introduction of invasive species, contact the Natural Resources Police—800-635-8124.

Crayfish



Crayfishes are popular bait in Maryland. However, some of the crayfishes used for bait are non-native and don't belong here. If released alive, they can eliminate native species and cause irreparable damage to aquatic ecosystems - affecting everything from algae to sport fishes. Five non-native species are now established in Maryland waters. To prevent the spread of non-native, invasive crayfishes, anglers should: 1) never transport crayfish collected in one place to another; 2) never release live crayfish; and 3) inform other anglers of the threat of these invasive species to their favorite fishing spots.

DNR reminds anglers that it is illegal to dump unused crayfish or live bait of any kind into Maryland waters. The use and possession of all crayfishes are prohibited in the Upper Potomac, Middle Potomac, and Lower Susquehanna River basins unless the head is immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture. The possession and transfer of several non-native crayfishes are prohibited. To learn more about non-native, invasive crayfishes in Maryland, visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/streams/pdfs/invasiveCrayfishThreat.pdf.

Snakehead



Please Catch and Keep Northern Snakeheads

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. The capture and possession of dead snakeheads is not subject to any season, creel limit or size limit.

DNR 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.state.md.us or call 410-260-8325 to help DNR 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 & Wildlife Service at 800-448-8322.

Blue & Flathead Catfish

Blue and Flathead Catfish are invasive species that have spread rapidly around 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 \$1,000. Anglers are encouraged to catch and keep Blue and Flathead Catfish. There is no minimum size or creel limit for these catfish.

Blue Catfish and Channel Catfish are similar. Please understand and recognize the difference to avoid the inadvertent spread of the invasive Blue Catfish.



Blue Catfish

Anal Fin Squared with 30 to 36 Fin Rays



Channel Catfish

Anal Fin Rounded with 24 to 29 Fin Rays

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

The 2013/2014 Maryland Fishing Challenge includes a new Invasive Species Component. Anglers who report their catch and harvest of a Blue Catfish, Northern Snakehead or Flathead Catfish will be entered into a special Invasive Species drawing to be held at the Maryland Fishing Challenge Finale event in September 2014. To learn how to enter and see contest rules, go to <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge/index.asp>

FISH IMPORTATION

It is illegal to introduce any fish species into Maryland waters except bait fish on a hook for angling.

This prevents the introduction of disease and the spread of fish that could compete with native species.

Do not release aquarium fish to the wild, and never transfer fish from one area to another.

To import or stock fish in Maryland, suppliers must register with the Department and comply with Maryland fish health requirements to ensure that stocked fish do not impact resident fish.

A permit is required to stock fish into any Maryland waters, including private ponds. Contact customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-260-8325 for more information on registering and obtaining a permit.



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 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.

Paid Advertisement

New electronic lure may catch too many fish; one state bans it.

A bass every seven minutes.

by Mike Butler

NEWARK, DE—A new fishing technology that set a record for catching bass in Mexico is now showing its stuff in the U.S. It has out-fished shrimp bait in Washington State and beat top-selling U.S. lures three to one in Florida. The new technology is so effective one state, Wyoming, has banned its use.

The breakthrough is a tiny, battery-powered electrical system that flashes a blood-red light down a lure's tail when its moved in water. Fish think it's an injured prey and strike. Some fishing authorities, like those in Wyoming, think that gives fishermen too much of an advantage.

They may be right. Three fishermen using a flashing lure in Mexico caught 650 large-mouth bass in just 25 hours. That's a bass every seven minutes for each person, and a record for the lake they were fishing. They said the bass struck with such ferocity they hardly lost a strike.

In Florida two professionals fished for four hours from the same boat. One used a flashing-red lure; the other used some top-selling U. S. lures. The new, "bleeding"

lure caught three times as many fish.

Before reporting this, I asked a veteran fisherman in my office for his opinion. Monday morning he charged into my office yelling "I caught six monster fish in an hour with this thing! Where did you get it?"

Then I phoned an ichthyologist (fish expert).

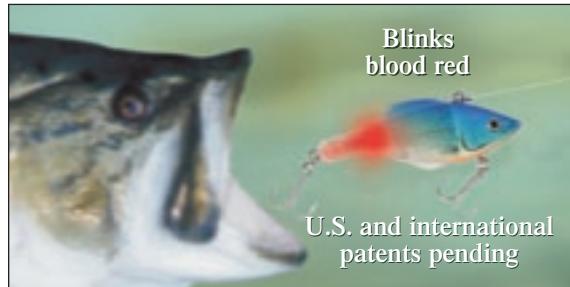
"Predators - lions, sharks," he said, "will always go for the most vulnerable prey. Fish are predators, so if a fish sees a smaller fish bleeding, it knows it's weakened and will strike."

"If a lure could appear to be a live, bleeding fish, a few fishermen could probably empty a lake with it."

I told him three almost did.

Fishes top, middle and deep

There is a U.S. company that offers a kit of three blinking lures (one each for shallow, middle and deep water) called the Bite Light®. Each lure is a different color. They work in fresh or salt water, contain rattle attractants



New Bite Light® lure uses a blinking red light to create appearance of a live, bleeding prey. Triggers strikes.

inside and last 300 hours in the water.

One kit of three Bite Lights® costs \$29.95, two or more kits cost \$25.00 each. Each kit has the same three models, but in different colors: S/h is only \$7.00 no matter how many kits you buy.

To order, go to www.FishingTechToDay.com or call 1-800-873-4415 anytime or day and ask for the Bite Light® lure (Item #kbl). Or send your name, address and a check to Scientific Edge LLC (Dept. LL-112), 40 E. Main Street, Suite 1416, Newark, DE 19711.

The company gives your money back, if you don't catch more fish and return your purchase within 30-days.

BL-14H © Scientific Edge LLC 2013 Dept. LL-119

BLUE CRABS – CHESAPEAKE BAY & ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

Season

April 1 through December 15.

Harvest Restrictions

The recreational harvest of female hard crabs or peelers is not permitted.

Time of Day

- Time restrictions in rivers, creeks and tributaries:
 - » April and October through Dec. 15—One half hour after sunrise to sunset.
 - » May through September—One half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Time of day restrictions in Chesapeake Bay:
 - » April and October through Dec. 15—One half hour after sunrise to 5:00pm.
 - » May through September—One half hour before sunrise to 5:00pm.
- It is illegal to set, place or fish crabbing gear prior to or after the prescribed time restrictions.
- Using properly registered crab pots on private property, dip nets or handlines is permitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Day of Week

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.

Daily Creel/Possession Limits

The recreational harvest of female hard crabs or female peeler crabs is not permitted.

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

Minimum Size Limits

(measured from tip to tip of spikes)

- Male Hard Crab
 - » April 1 to July 14 — 5 inches
 - » July 15 to December 15 — 5½ inches
- Male Peeler Crab
 - » April 1 to July 14 — 3¼ inches
 - » July 15 to December 15 — 3½ inches
- Soft Crab
 - » April 1 to December 15 — 3½ inches

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.

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 registered crab pots per property regardless of the number of owners or lessees.	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
LICENSED	Unlimited	For additional information on registration, labeling, pot dimensions and turtle excluder devices see the Crab Pot Section – page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1200ft* • Must have floats of the same color, size, shape on each end • Floats must be marked with your DNRIid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 30 traps, rings or combination of both* • Must be marked with a buoy bearing your DNRIid unless attached to a pier, wharf or boat • Traps must have a flat bottom measuring no more than 20 inches by 15 inches and have no more than four articulated sides • Net rings must have a diameter less than or equal to 30 inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesh cannot be greater than ¼" • Cannot exceed 50' in width and 5' in height • Must be emptied from shore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 10 eel pots for catching your own bait • Must be labeled with your DNRIid and may not be set in a buoy-free channel

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

BLUE CRAB IDENTIFICATION



SALLY

An immature (adolescent) female Blue Crab, known as a Sally or She-Crab, is easily identified as having an inverted "V" or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



SOOK

A mature (adult) female Blue Crab, known as a Sook is identified as having an inverted "U" or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.



JIMMY

A mature male Blue Crab, known as a Jimmy, has a long, narrow, inverted "T" shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

Steven C. Zinski (www.bluecrab.info) (3)

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BLUE CRABS – COASTAL BAYS, TRIBUTARIES & ATLANTIC OCEAN



Season

Recreational crabbing is allowed from April 1 through December 31.

Harvest Restrictions

There are no license requirements or time of day restrictions.

Minimum Size Limits

(measured from tip to tip of spikes)

- Hard Crabs — 5 inches
- Soft Crabs — 3½ inches
- Peeler Crabs
 - » April 1 through July 14 — 3¼ inches
 - » July 15 through December 31 — 3½ inches
- Mature Female Crabs — no minimum size

The taking of sponge crabs is prohibited.

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

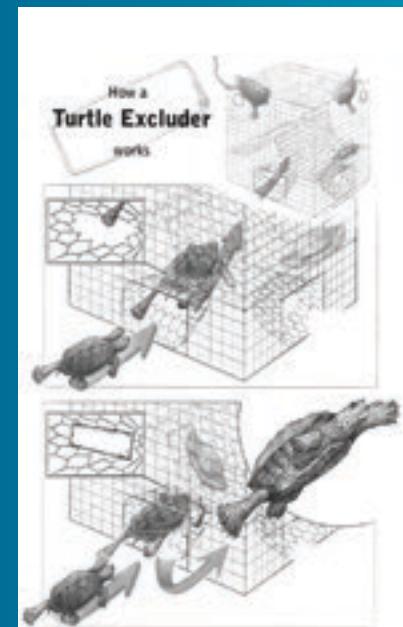
- To crab in the Coastal Bays of Maryland's Atlantic Ocean and coastal tributaries using:
 - » No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
 - » No more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or
 - » Dip 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 DNRIid number; and
 - » Pot cull rings must be closed from April 23 through May 31.

For additional information on pot dimensions, see the crab pot section - page 12.

TURTLE EXCLUDERS ARE REQUIRED

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 to make your own turtle excluder visit www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/crabpot-trd/crabpot.asp



ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Maryland has artificial reef sites located in both Bay and ocean waters. These are collaborative projects with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the partner organizations of the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI) and the Ocean City Reef Foundation (OCRF).

MARI is a volunteer organization including more than 60 private, state, and federal partners dedicated to preserving, restoring and creating fish habitat in tide-water Maryland. MARI acts as a 501-C-3 funding mechanism under an agreement with CCA-MD using private and corporate donations for reef development. If you would like to donate to MARI, go to www.ccamd.org.

OCRF works to build the reefs off Ocean City and, in partnership with MARI, accepts donations as a non-profit 501-C-3 at www.ocreeffoundation.com.

For more general information on artificial reef projects and to view the MARI and OCRF reef coordinates, go to dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/reefs/.



© Michael Eversmier

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

- Call the hotline 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 (Maryland Department of Natural Resources Sea Turtle and Marine Animal Program).
 - For more information, visit aqua.org/care/national-aquarium-animal-rescue

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



Photo courtesy of the National Aquarium Marine Animal Rescue Program, Baltimore, MD.

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 2 hooks or 2 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 through 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 12 a.m. 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 through May 31.
- To intentionally snag a Striped Bass.

WHY ARE EELS PROHIBITED AS BAIT IN THE SPRING?

Striped Bass return to Maryland each spring to spawn.

Striped Bass engulf eels and swallow the hooks. Deep hooked fish experience about 50% mortality.

To view maps of open catch-and-release and spring trophy season areas go to www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.

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 the Fisheries Service at 800-688-3467. Please record the tag number, capture date, fishing location, and total length.



The following tables summarize Striped Bass fishing, harvest and possession regulations. This is an abridged summary.

CHESAPEAKE BAY & TIDAL TRIBUTARIES (excluding the Susquehanna Flats, Lower Susquehanna River & Northeast River)

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
JAN. 1 – FEB. 28	All MD portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directed catch and release of Striped Bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks.• Eels may not be used as bait.
SPRING CATCH & RELEASE SEASON MARCH 1 – APRIL 18	Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.	No harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stinger (trailing) hooks are prohibited.• Barbless hooks are required when trolling.• Non-offset circle hooks or J hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch are required when using natural bait.• No more than 6 lines may be employed while trolling regardless of the number of anglers on board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These restrictions apply in all open catch and release areas from March 1 until 5:00 a.m., April 19• Spawning rivers and the Upper Bay spawning area are off limits until June 1 to Striped Bass fishing.• Eels may not be used as bait• See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
SPRING TROPHY SEASON APRIL 19 – 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	One fish per person per day 28 inches or longer.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eels may not be used as bait• See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
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 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angler CANNOT have 2 fish longer than 28 inches in possession.• See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
SUMMER/FALL SEASON JUNE 1 – DEC. 15	All Maryland Chesapeake Bay waters and tributaries open to fishing	2 fish per person per day between 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches, and 1 fish over 28 inches per person per day		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angler CANNOT have 2 fish longer than 28 inches in possession.• See maps at: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps.
DEC. 16 – DEC. 31	All MD portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only	No Harvest	Catch and release only	

Striped Bass tournaments in tidal waters require authorization. To request authorization, contact the Fisheries Service at customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or 410-260-8325.

SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER & NORTHEAST RIVER

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
DEC. 16 – 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	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stinger hooks are prohibited. Barbless hooks are required when trolling. Non-offset circle or J hooks with less than ½ inch gap are required when using bait. No more than six lines per boat are allowed when trolling. Eels may not be used as bait.
MAY 4 – MAY 15	Susquehanna Flats closed to Striped Bass fishing	Season Closed	Season Closed	No catch and release fishing
MAY 16 – MAY 31	Susquehanna Flats reopen to Striped Bass fishing	1 per person per day between 18-26 inches		Eels may not be used as bait
JUNE 1 – DEC. 15	Susquehanna Flats and all Bay waters including tributaries open to Striped Bass fishing.	2 per person per day between 18-28 inches OR 1 fish between 18-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches		An angler may not possess two fish longer than 28 inches.

ATLANTIC COAST, COASTAL BAYS & THEIR TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
JAN. 1 – DEC. 31	No area restrictions	28 inches or larger; 2 per person per day		

RESERVOIRS

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

SPORT FISH STATE RECORDS

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Maryland DNR maintains state records for sport fish and awards a plaque to anglers 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 fisheries biologist from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Immerse the fish in ice water until it can be weighed in order to preserve the weight.

Call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8325 to report a potential state record catch.

State record fish are determined by weight. Make every effort to quickly obtain an accurate certified weight, since dead fish lose weight. If you take your catch to an Angler Award center that does not have a Maryland Department of Agriculture-certified scale, a grocery store, mailing and shipping store, or other establishment that sells products by weight may have a certified scale and be willing to help.

A Maryland State Record application form (www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/records/srapPLICATION.pdf) listing the species, the date of catch, the certified weight, the date the fish was weighed, the witnessing scale operator's signature, and the name of establishment must be submitted to DNR within two weeks of when the catch was made.

Fish must be a species commonly fished for with rod and reel and caught by legal methods during an 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 caught from privately-owned fee-fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.

The fish must be considered trophy sized for DNR to consider opening a new species category for recognition. Thresholds for weight are established by DNR using the best data available to create a benchmark.

It is the angler's responsibility to provide all of the information and a clear photograph of the catch.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources 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 www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/records/index.asp.



HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

Federal Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permits

Waters three to 200 miles offshore of state coastlines constitute the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 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 HMS permit from NOAA Fisheries. To obtain a permit, call 888-872-8862 or go to hmspermits.noaa.gov.

Passengers fishing on the vessel who do not possess an HMS permit or have a state saltwater fishing license must register with NOAA'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, call 888-MRIP-411 (4 a.m. – midnight) or go to www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/register/.

Tagging Program

All recreationally landed Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT), billfish (marlin, Sailfish, Swordfish and Roundscale Spearfish), and sharks landed in Maryland must be tagged before being removed from the boat and reported by vessel owners to a reporting station. Nine marinas in the Ocean City area qualify as ABT/billfish reporting stations. Anglers are responsible for completing a catch card for each ABT and billfish on board the vessel when they return to port. 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 Maryland DNR at 410-213-1531.

Note: Roundscale Spearfish look very similar to White Marlin. For more information on identification of Swordfish and billfish, please go to: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/Billfish/hms_swo_billfish_id_guide_aug_2012.pdf

Tags

Shark anglers must complete a shark catch card and obtain a free shark tag for each fish they keep.

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

- Ake Marine, Ocean City
- Bahia Marina, Ocean City
- Fisherman's Marina, Ocean City
- Ocean Pines Marina, Ocean Pines

Sharks

SEASON, HARVEST RESTRICTIONS, MINIMUM SIZE & 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 SPINY DOGFISH	Open Year Round	None		
BLACKNOSE SHARK BLUE SHARK COMMON THRESHER SHARK FINETOOTH SHARK OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK PORBEAGLE SHARK SHORTFIN MAKO SHARK	Open Year Round	54 inches	Each recreational shore angler is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per calendar day from this list of approved species. 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	Each recreational vessel is allowed a maximum of 1 shark per trip from this list of approved species. In addition, each recreational vessel 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, & SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD SHARKS	Open Year Round Except May 15–July 15	78 inches		

*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.

- Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City
- Talbot Street Pier & Marina, Ocean City
- White Marlin Marina, Ocean City
- Sunset Marina, Ocean City
- Pines Point Provisions and Seafood, Ocean Pines
- Buck's Place, Berlin (shark tags only)
- Alltackle, Ocean City (shark tags only)

It is Illegal:

- For an angler to use any gear other than handlines or rod & reel. Spear guns, spears, and bows and arrows are specifically prohibited for shark fishing.
- 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.

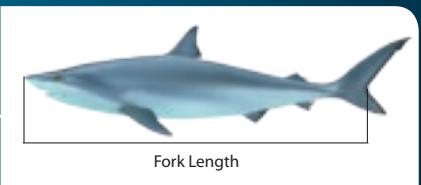
- To fillet sharks at sea.
- To harvest any shark species not listed on the table.
- For a highly migratory species (HMS) angling, charter/headboat, and general category (if participating in a registered Atlantic HMS tournament) permit holder to possess Hammerhead Sharks or oceanic Whitetip Sharks simultaneously with billfish, tunas, or Swordfish

Gear Restrictions

Anglers may use only handlines or rod & reel.

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

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/sharks/2008/Rec_shark_ID_placard.pdf



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 the DNR Shellfish Program webpage under related links: www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/oysters/index.asp.

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 www.prfc.state.va.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 clamping.
- 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.

OYSTERS

Season

October 1–March 31

Daily Harvest Restrictions

1 bushel/person/day

Time of Day

Harvest is only permitted:

- Monday–Friday: Sunrise to 3 p.m.
- Saturday: Sunrise until 12 p.m.

Gear Restrictions

A person may catch oysters ONLY by:

- Hand
- Shaft tongs
- Rakes
- Diving (includes SCUBA)

Minimum Size Limits

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

HARD CLAMS

Daily Harvest Restrictions

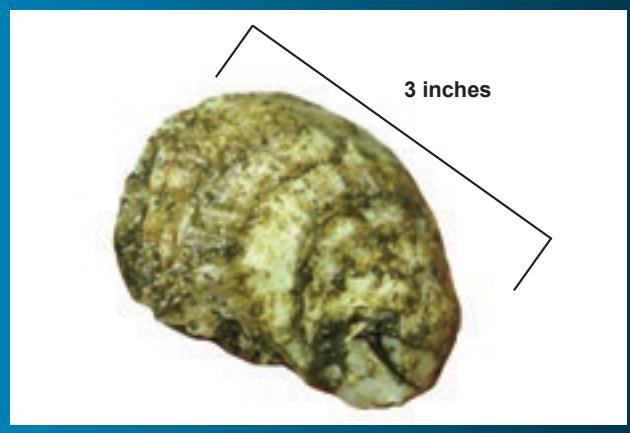
250 clams/person/day

Minimum Size Limits

One inch transverse measurement

HARD SHELL CLAM GEAR	HARD SHELL CLAM LOCATIONS ALLOWED	OPEN SEASONS	HARVEST TIMES	CLOSED DAYS	ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS
HAND DREDGE	Pocomoke & Tangier Sounds	9/15–5/31	Sunrise–Sunset	Sunday	
PATENT TONGS	Somerset County	10/1–3/31	Sunrise–Sunset	Sunday	
HAND SCRAPE & SHINNECOCK RAKE	Worcester County	9/16 -5/31	Any	None	May not clam within 300 feet of shore or any wharf without owner's permission. May not use mechanical means of power
HAND, SHAFT TONGS, DIVING	All Locations	No closed season	Any	None	

HOW TO MEASURE OYSTERS



HOW TO MEASURE CLAMS




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THE GALLAGHER CHARTER LAKES ADVANTAGE

Gallagher Charter Lakes represents the largest, most financially sound domestic underwriters in the industry (all rated "A" or better by AM Best). Our account executives will evaluate your coverage and quote multiple underwriters to find the best overall insurance value. It's easy- We do all the work for you!

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MARYLAND FISHING CHALLENGE

2014 Maryland Fishing Challenge



The Maryland Fishing Challenge is a free, year-round fishing contest, which showcases Maryland's affordable, accessible, diverse, and high quality fishing opportunities.

Recreational fishing offers opportunities for families and individuals to spend quality time together, enjoying the wonderful natural resources which Maryland has to offer.

The Maryland Fishing Challenge would not be possible without the businesses, individuals, and fishing organizations who donate prizes and fishing trips. The contest is funded by fishing license revenue, a marine fuel sales surcharge, and a Federal excise tax on sport fishing tackle and related equipment. Therefore, the Maryland Fishing Challenge also depends on anglers. Thank you all for your generous support!

Contest Components:

The Maryland Fishing Challenge has four components:

- **Angler Award Program** – Any angler fishing legally in Maryland may catch and record an award-winning fish by landing any of more than 60 eligible species in three categories above a certain minimum size. If you catch a fish that meets or exceeds the official award size, simply submit your catch to an official award center to receive your entry ticket and instructions on how to complete the required online registration process. You will receive your award certificate within 45 days, and your invitation to the September 2014 Grand Finale will be sent to you in August 2014. Prize winners will be randomly selected from the attendees at the Finale. Qualifying anglers are limited to one chance per person, regardless of the number of Angler Awards they receive. Catch and Release anglers may participate by bringing a clear photograph of their fish to an award center. Lay the fish on a tape measure to photograph so that the species and size can be verified. Submit your photo at an official award center to receive your entry ticket.
- **Invasive Species Award** – This component 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 only for Invasive Species Awards: Blue Catfish, Northern Snakehead and Flathead

Catfish. Fish must be kept to qualify and there are three ways for anglers to enter their catch:

1. Angler Award – fish (must be kept) meeting minimum award size are eligible;
2. State Record – fish (must be kept) exceeding the existing state record weight are eligible;
3. Angler’s Log – fish (must be kept) harvested at any size are eligible if posted on the DNR Angler’s invasive Log – www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/invasive.asp.

Multiple entries are allowed, but each fish can only be entered once. Prize winners will be randomly selected from Invasive Species Component entrants in September 2014.

- **Diamond Jim** – The Diamond Jim component of the Maryland Fishing Challenge celebrates Maryland's state fish — the Striped Bass. The original Diamond Jim Contest, sponsored by a Baltimore brewery in 1956, featured a single, tagged Striped Bass worth \$25,000 to the angler who could catch it. In the modern rendition of the Diamond Jim Challenge, many fish are tagged and released with one fish designated each summer month as the authentic Diamond Jim. If this fish is caught and verified by DNR, it is worth up to \$25,000 to the angler who catches it. The remaining tagged Striped Bass are known as imposters, and they are each worth at least \$500.

If you catch a Striped Bass with a bright yellow-green tag marked “2014 Diamond Jim Fishing Challenge,” be sure to leave the tag in the fish and call the number printed on the tag to leave a message. If the tag is removed from the fish, the fish becomes ineligible, and you will not be entered into the contest.

- **Maryland Youth Fishing Club** – In 2014, twelve members of DNR’s Maryland Youth Fishing Club (MYFC) will be selected to come to the Maryland Fishing Challenge Finale where they will be awarded guided fishing trips. These lucky young anglers will be selected from those who submit posts to the Youth Angler’s Log (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/kids.asp>). Each month, there will be a random drawing from the monthly entries and the winners names will be posted on line. Visit the MYFC for additional information on how to become a member.— www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/keepfishing/

For complete Maryland Fishing Challenge rules and online registration go to — <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge/index.asp>





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MARYLAND FISHING CHALLENGE

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 Catfish***	40 inches
Blue Crab	9 inches
Bluefish	34 inches
Carp	30 inches
Chain Pickerel	24 inches
Channel Catfish	30 inches
Cobia	44 inches
Crappie	15 inches
Croaker	18 inches
Flathead Catfish***	34 inches
Gar	36 inches
Largemouth Bass	21 inches
Northern Snakehead***	30 inches
Northern Whiting Kingfish	14 inches
Red Drum*	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

ATLANTIC COAST DIVISION

Albacore (Longfin)	36 inches
Amberjack	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	44 inches
Croaker	18 inches
Dolphin	45 inches
False Albacore	24 inches
Golden Tilefish	35 inches
King Mackerel	40 inches
Northern Whiting Kingfish	14 inches
Red Drum*	36 inches
Sailfish*	any size
Shad, American*	24 inches
Shad, Hickory*	18 inches

ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES

Shark, Blue*	any size
Shark, Hammerhead*	any size
Shark, Mako*	any size
Shark, Sand Tiger*	any size
Shark, Thresher*	any size
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

ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES

Swordfish*	any size
Tautog	24 inches
Tuna, Bigeye**	60 inches
Tuna, Blackfin**	30 inches
Tuna, Bluefin**	55 inches
Tuna, Yellowfin**	50 inches
Wahoo	60 inches
Weakfish	24 inches
White Marlin*	any size

*Only released fish are eligible.

**Use curved fork length measurements.

***Invasive — Fish must be dead to be eligible for an Angler Award

THANK YOU!

The Maryland Fishing Challenge would not be possible without the sponsors, individuals, and fishing organizations who donate prizes and fishing trips. The contest is funded via revenue from fishing licenses, gasoline sales surcharges and a federal excise tax on sport fishing tackle and related equipment; and therefore it also depends on contributions from anglers like you. Thanks to everyone for your generous support!

ANGLER AWARD CENTERS

ALLEGANY

Bassin Box, Lavale

Orleans Grocery, Little Orleans

ANNE ARUNDEL

All Tackle, Annapolis

Angler's Sport Center, Annapolis

Bass Pro Shops, Hanover

Cobe Sport & Marine Center, Pasadena

Fishbone's Bait & Tackle, Inc., Pasadena

Marty's Sporting Goods, Edgewater

Tri-State Marine, Deale

BALTIMORE

Bluefin's Bait & Tackle, Dundalk

Bowley's Bait & Tackle, Baltimore

Clark's Sports Shop, Baltimore

Clyde's Sport Shop, Baltimore

Fearls Bait and Tackle, Baltimore

Set's Sport Shop, Towson

Tochterman's, Baltimore

Trophy Bait & Tackle, Baltimore

Deer Park Garden Center

CALVERT

Bay Pro Shop, Dunkirk

Breezy Point, Chesapeake Beach

Bunkys Charter Boats, Solomons

Rod n' Reel Dock, Chesapeake Beach

Tyler's Tackle Shop, Chesapeake Beach

Tiki Bar, Solomons

CAROLINE

Tuckahoe Sportsman, Denton

CARROLL

Piney Run Park, Sykesville

CECIL

Herb's Tackle Shop, North East

Sarge's Market, Elkton

CHARLES

Shymansky's Marina, Cobb Island

DORCHESTER

Taylor's Island Campground, Taylor's Island

Chesapeake Classics, Cambridge

Taylor's Island Campground @ Slaughter Creek, Taylor's Island

FREDERICK

Catfish Nation Bait & Tackle, Thurmont

Fox's Sport and Bait Shop, Frederick

GARRETT

Bill's Outdoor Center, Deep Creek Lake

Deep Creek Outfitters, Deep Creek Lake

ANGLER AWARD CENTERS

KENT

Millington Hardware, Millington

River Rock Outdoors, Rock Hall

MONTGOMERY

WSSC Watershed Police, Brookeville

QUEEN ANNE'S

Chesapeake Outdoors, Chester

Kentmoor Harbour, Stevensville

SOMERSET

Dave's RV, Crisfield

L.E. Hitch & Sons, Eden

ST. MARY'S

Kellum's Seafood, Ridge

The Tackle Box, Lexington Park

Bob's Sunoco, That Fishing Place, Calloway

TALBOT

Gateway Marina, Trappe

Harrison's Chesapeake House, Tilghman

Shore Sportsman, Easton

WASHINGTON

Battleview Market, Sharpsburg

Dugan's Sporting Goods, Hancock

WORCESTER

All Tackle, Ocean City

AKE Marine, Ocean City

Assateague Market, Berlin

Bahia Marina, Ocean City

Lucky Angler Bait & Tackle

Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City

Ocean City Fishing Pier, Ocean City

Ocean Pines Provisions, Ocean Pines

Oceanic Pier, Ocean City

Oyster Bay Tackle, Ocean City

Sea Hawk Sport Center, Pocomoke City

Talbot Street Bait & Tackle, Ocean City

Sunset Marina, Ocean City

White Marlin Marina, Ocean City

DELAWARE

Capt. Mac's Bait and Tackle, Selbyville

Eastern Marine, Newark

VIRGINIA

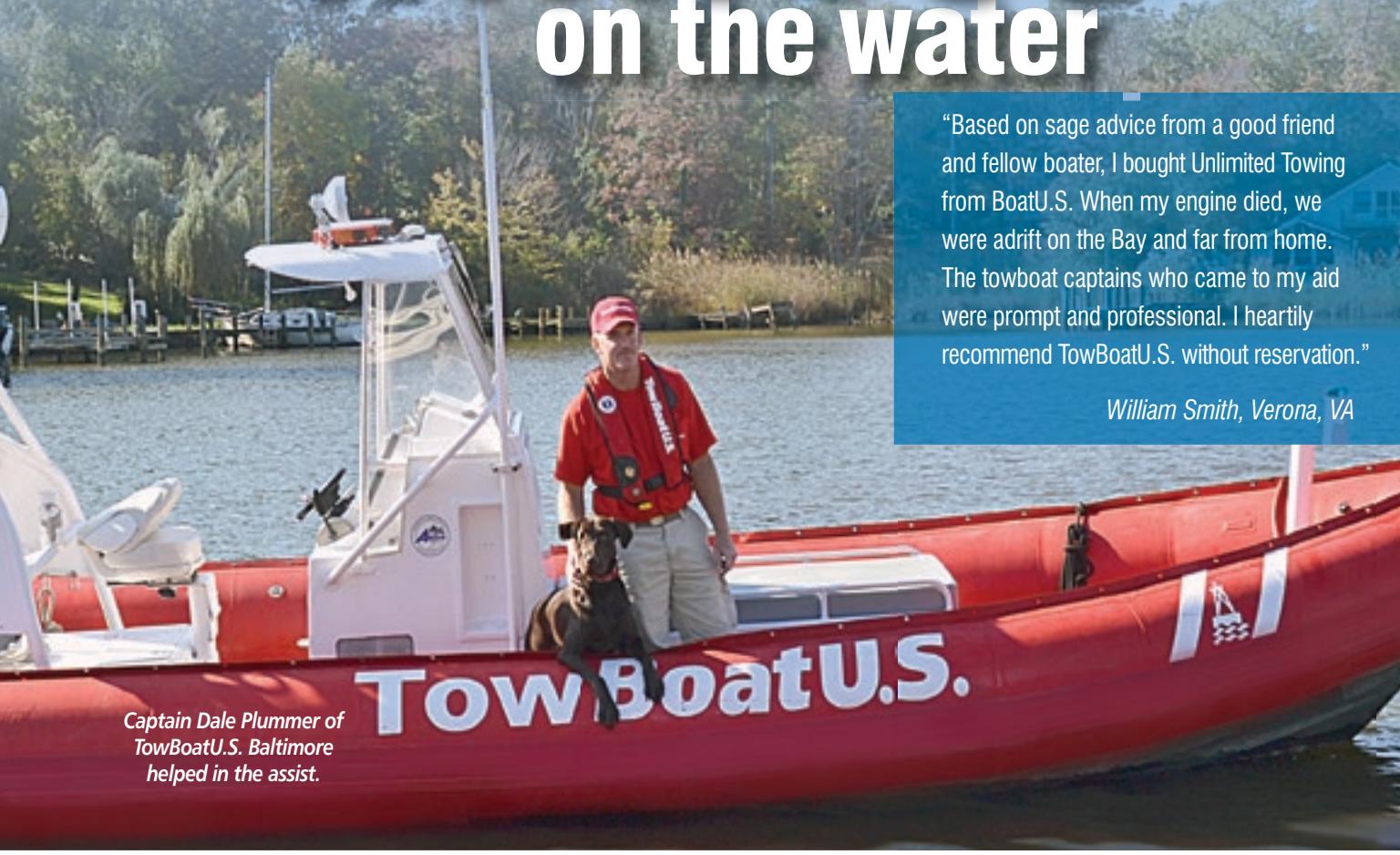
R.W.'s Sport Shop, Calao

Smith Point Marina, Reedville

Complete addresses and phone numbers for Angler Award Centers are available at:

www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/challenge

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