

## Summary of Maryland Tidal Recreational Fisheries Regulations

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

This is an abridged version of the regulations and does not include all regulated species. May not include Emergency Amendments, Quota Closures/Modifications or Proposed Amendments. Consult the Maryland Register, Code of Maryland Regulations and Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for full legal text For additional information call DNR Fisheries Service, 410 260-8260 or 1-800-688-FINS or e-mail Carol Pelli at [cpelli@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:cpelli@dnr.state.md.us).

Species	Minimum Size	Season, Days, Times, Creel Limits	Special Conditions/Comments
Bass, Black Sea	9"	Closed Aug 1 - Aug 15	
Bass, Black Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth	12" 15" Mar - Jun 15	Open year round 5/person/day	Pocomoke and its tributaries Closure Jul 15- Aug 31
Bass, Striped (Bay) Hook & Release		Hook and Release allowed in certain areas, at various times. Please use Circle hooks when bait fishing	<a href="#">See map</a>
Bass, Striped (Bay) No permit required	18"	Jun 14 -Nov 30-2/person/day	Charter boat captain and mate 1/Boat/Day <a href="#">For more information</a>
Bass, Striped Potomac River and Md Tribs	18"	Jul 1-Dec 31-2/person/day	Permit and Reporting REQUIRED For more information call the Potomac River Fisheries Commission at 800-266-3904
Bass, Striped (Ocean)	28"	Open year round 2/person/day	
Bluefish	8"	Open year round 10/person/day	
Catfish: Blue,Channel,White	10"	Open year round	
Pickrel, Chain	14"	10/person/day	CLOSED Mar 15 - Apr 30
Pike, Walleyed	None	Open year round 5/person/day	By rod, hook and line only
Clam, Hard	7/8"	Open year round 1 bushel/person/day	
Crab, Blue Without License	5" Hard  3½" Soft  3" Peeler	Apr 1 - Nov 30 Closed Wednesdays Except handlines, dip nets, pots at private piers  5:30 AM-5:00 PM main bay, 5:30 AM-sunset in tributaries,  1 bushel/person-2 bushels if 2 or more on boat  1 dozen peeler and soft shell/person	Combination of up to 10 Traps/Rings/Person. Traps/Rings not attached to wharf, pier or boat shall be marked with a buoy bearing the owner's name.  Combination of up to 25/Traps/Rings/Boat if 2 or more on boat  600' Trotline/Person. Floats same color, shape and size.  2 Trotlines of 600' per Boat if 2 or more on boat, no line may exceed 600'.  2 Crab Pots/Private Pier with a turtle reduction device attached to each entrance or funnel in lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape with dimensions no larger than 1¾" x 4¾".  float information: crab pots . owner's name and address trotlines . have floats of the same color, size and shape at each

			end. floats round or spherical must be at least 12 " in diameter. floats not round or spherical must be at least 10 " in width and 12 " in length. No written information is required.
Crab, Blue With Non-commercial License CHESAPEAKE BAY and Tributaries	SEE ABOVE	SEASON AND TIMES SAME AS ABOVE  2 bushel/person/day-3 bushel/boat/day if 2 or more on boat and 1 has license  3 doz peeler and soft shell/person	Combination of up to 30 Traps/Rings/Person. Traps/Rings not attached to wharf, pier or boat shall be marked with a buoy bearing the owner's name.  1,200' Trotline/person. Floats same color, shape and size No line may exceed 1200'.
Croaker	9"	Open year round 25/person/day	
Drum, Black	16"	1/person/day & not more than 6/boat/day	
Drum, Red	18"	Open year round 5/person /day-1 fish over 27"	
Eel, American	NONE	If pot mesh less than 1/2" x 1/2" escape panel required	With a non-commercial crab license-10 pots for bait. (License is required to set pots)
(Bay) Flounder, Summer	15"	8 fish/person/day May 8 - Dec 31	
(Ocean) Flounder, Summer	15½"	8 fish/person/day Apr 15 - Nov 30	
Herring	NONE	CLOSED Jun 6 - Dec 31	
Lobster	3 1/4" carapace	Open year round	
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open year round 10/fish /person/day	
Oysters	3"	Oct 1-Mar 31--1 Bushel/day Mon-Fri sunrise-3 PM Sat sunrise to noon	CLOSED AREAS shaft tongs, rakes, hand and diving
Perch, White	NONE HLI 8" Dipnet	Open year round	
Perch, Yellow	8½" 9" Select Rivers	Single Barbless Hooks Required Feb 1-Mar 15 5 fish/per/day	CLOSED Watersheds: Magothy, Nanticoke, Patapsco, Severn, South and West Rivers 9": Miles, Wye, Patuxent, Choptank and Chester Rivers
Scup	7"	Open year round	
Sea Trout, Spotted	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	
Shark (Not Including Dogfish)	NONE	2/vessel/trip +2 Atlantic Sharpnose/vessel/trip	NO finning, NO longlining
Tautog	14"	Open year round 5/Person/Day	
Tuna, Bluefin	47" <a href="#">See Note</a>	1/Boat/day 27"-73" 1/boat/year>73"	Mandatory Tagging - <a href="#">See Note</a> National Marine Fisheries Service Quota Information (301) 713-2347
Tuna, Yellowfin	27"		National Marine Fisheries Service Quota Information (301) 713-2347
Weakfish	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	

## **THE TAKING OF SHAD AND STURGEON IS PROHIBITED.**

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**Tidal Sport Fishing License Required for all finfish in the Chesapeake Bay.**

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