

Fishing

Hunting

Main General Info Licensing Info General Regulations Nontidal Fishing Tidal Fishing Crabbing

Tidal 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.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp.

CHESAPEAKE BAY & ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

Species	Minimum Size Limits	CLOSEd Season	Creel Limit	Remarks
Black drum	16 inches		Daily – 1 Daily boat limit – 6	
Black Sea Bass	12.5 inches	October 15 – 31	Daily – 20	
Bluefish	8 inches		Daily – 10	
Catfish	None			
Chain pickerel (pike)	14 inches	March 15 – April 30	Daily – 10	
Croaker (hardhead)	9 inches		Daily – 25	
Eels	6 inches		Daily – 25	
Summer Flounder (fluke)	16 inches		Daily – 4	
Bass (largemouth & smallmouth)	15 inches March 1–June 15		Daily – 5 in aggregate	
	12 inches June 16 through last day in February			
Red drum (channel bass or puppy drum)	18–27 inches		Daily – 1	
Spanish mackerel	14 inches		Daily – 15	Must be landed with head and fins intact.
Spotted seatrout	14 inches		Daily – 10	
Striped bass				See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass section — page 40
White perch	None if caught with hook & line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear			
Walleye	15 inches		Daily – 5	
Weakfish	13 inches		Daily – 1	
Yellow perch	9 inches		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. Magothy River from Lake Waterford dam downstream for 3,300 feet.
2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet.

COASTAL BAYS, COASTAL BAY TRIBUTARIES & ATLANTIC OCEAN

19 captures

15 Feb 2013 - 11 May 2014

Go JUN AUG SEP 06 2012 2013 2014 About this capture

Black drum	16 inches		Daily – 1 Boat limit – 6	
Black sea bass	12.5 inches	October 15 – 31	Daily – 20	
Bluefish	8 inches		Daily – 10	
Croaker (hardhead)	9 inches		Daily – 25	
Dolphin (fish)	None		Daily – 10 Boat limit – 60	
Summer Flounder (fluke)	16 inches		Daily – 4	
Grouper species	None		Daily – 1	
Lobster *Please see additional recreational lobster information below	33 $\frac{1}{4}$ –5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches carapace length	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		Daily – 1	
Scup (porgy)	8 inches		Daily – 50	See www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp for a list of species.
Snapper COMPLEX species	None		Daily – 20 in aggregate	Snapper complex species list — www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp
Spanish mackerel	14 inches		Daily – 15	
Spotted seatrout	14 inches		Daily – 10	
Striped bass (rockfish)	28 inches		Daily – 2	Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which stretches from three to 200 miles off the coast.
Tautog	16 inches	Nov. 27– Dec. 31	Jan. 1–May 15 and Nov. 1– Nov. 26, 4 per day May 16–Oct. 31, 2 per day	
Tilefish species	None		Daily – 7 in aggregate	
Weakfish	13 inches		Daily – 1	
Wahoo	None		Daily – 2	

The taking of American shad, hickory shad, alewife herring, blueback herring, Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon is prohibited.

*Gear: A lobster trap shall have:

- A minimum of one rectangular escape vent which shall be a minimum of 2 inches by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; or
- A minimum of two circular escape vents which shall have a minimum diameter of 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 33 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 shall:

- 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length;
- Is not greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in depth; and
- Tapers to a sharp point; and

- Immediately release the lobster.

19 captures

15 Feb 2013 - 11 May 2014

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