

<http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/13mdfw/striped-bass/> Go FEB MAR APR  
12 captures  
15 Feb 2015 - 30 Jul 2015  
2014 2015 2016  
About this capture

Fishing Hunting

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## Striped Bass

### IT IS ILLEGAL:

- To possess any cut up or filleted striped bass at any time aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland. Striped bass must be landed whole.
- To use more than 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 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.

To view maps of open catch-and-release and spring trophy season areas go to [www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps).

### Why Eels for Bait are Prohibited in the Spring

The use of eels as bait is prohibited during the Pre-season Catch & Release and Spring Trophy seasons because striped bass engulf eels and swallow the hooks. Deep hooked fish experience about 50% mortality. Shallow hooked fish have about 3.5% mortality over the course of the year and about 0.8% mortality in March and April.



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The following tables summarize striped bass fishing, harvest and possession regulations.

This is an abridged summary. Full information and updates are available at:

[www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations).

**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"> <li>Directed catch and release of striped bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks.</li> <li>Eels may not be used as bait.</li> </ul>
Spring Catch & Release Season March 1 – April 19	Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.	No harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stinger (trailing) hooks are prohibited.</li> <li>Barbless hooks are required when trolling.</li> <li>Non-offset circle hooks or J hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch are required when using natural bait.</li> <li>No more than 6 lines may be employed while trolling regardless of the number of anglers on board.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These restrictions apply in all open catch and release areas from March 1 until 5:00 a.m., April 19</li> <li>Spawning rivers and the Upper Bay spawning area are off limits until June 1 to striped bass fishing.</li> <li>Eels may not be used as bait</li> <li>See maps at: <a href="http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps">www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/sbmaps</a>.</li> </ul>

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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 Toms Wharf in Port Deposit; and the Northeast River	No harvest	Catch and release only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stinger hooks are prohibited.</li> <li>Barbless hooks are required when trolling.</li> <li>Non-offset circle or J hooks with less than ½ inch gap are required when using bait.</li> <li>No more than six lines per boat are allowed when trolling.</li> <li>Eels may not be used as bait.</li> </ul>
May 4 – May 15	Susq. Flats closed to striped bass fishing	Closed	Closed	No catch and release fishing
May 16 – May 31	Susq. Flats reopen to striped bass fishing	1 striped bass 18–26 inches per person per day inclusive		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 striped bass per person per day between 18–28 inches OR 1 fish between 18–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches inclusive		

## ATLANTIC COAST, COASTAL BAYS &amp; 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— No Closed Season	Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Tridelphia 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		No closed season



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