



Chesapeake Bay Seasons, Sizes & Limits



CHESAPEAKE BAY and ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES				
Species	Minimum Size Limits	Season	Creel Limit	Remarks
American Eel	9 inches	Jan 1–Aug 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
Bass (Largemouth and Smallmouth)	15 inches March 1–June 15	Open Year Round	Daily—5 in aggregate	
	12 inches June 16 through last day in February			
Black Drum	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat Limit —6	
Black Sea Bass	12.5 inches	May 15–Dec 31	Daily—15	
Bluefish	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)			
Catfish	None	Open Year Round	None	
Chain pickerel (Pike)	14 inches	CLOSED March 15–April 30	Daily—10	
Cobia	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)			
Croaker (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
Northern Snakehead	None	Open Year Round	None	Illegal to possess live snakehead fish.
Red drum (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	

Sharks	New Rules – See Highly Migratory Species (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/highly-migratory-species/)			
Sheepshead	None	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
Snapper species (includes many species, please see list)	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)		Snapper species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://www.dsc.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm	
Spanish Mackerel	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	Must be landed with head and fins intact.
Spot	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/ (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/)			
Spotted seatrout	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
Striped Bass	See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Section, Striped Bass (https://web.archive.org/web/20200210045605/http://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/striped-bass/)			
Summer Flounder (Fluke)	16.5 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
Tautog	16 inches	CLOSED May 16–June 30	January 1–May 15: Daily—4 July 1–October 31: Daily—2 November 1–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 and line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear	Open Year Round	None	
Yellow perch	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
Alewife Herring, American Shad, Atlantic sturgeon, Blueback Herring and shortnose STURGEON	CLOSED			
Areas Closed to Fishing—Feb, 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.				

