

## 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 Dianne Samuels at [dsamuels@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:dsamuels@dnr.state.md.us).

Species	Minimum Size	Season, Days, Times, Creel Limits	Special Conditions/Comments
Bass, Black Sea	10"	Open Year Round	
Bass, Black Bass, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth	12" 15" = Mar - Jun 15	Open Year Round 5/person/day Please use Circle Hooks	Pocomoke and its tributaries Closure Jul 15- Aug 31
Bass, Striped (Bay)	28"  18"-28"	<b>Apr 25-May 31</b> 1/person/day Please use Circle hooks when bait fishing May not possess striped bass while fishing between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.  <b>Jun 1 - Nov 30-2 @18" - 28" OR</b> 1@ 18" - 28" and 1 larger than 28"/person/day May not possess striped bass while fishing between 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m.	No Eels, restricted to the mainstem Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the Maryland/ Virginia Line, Tangier & Pocomoke Sounds (no Tributaries)  Charter boat captain and mate = 1/boat/day  <a href="#">To see more details of the proposed regulations</a>
Bass, Striped  Potomac River and Md Tribs	28"  18"-28"	<b>Apr 22-May 31</b> = 1/person/day  <b>Jun 1 - Dec 31</b> - 2 @18" - 28" OR 1@ 18" - 28" and 1 larger than 28"/person/day	Downstream of the Harry W. Nice Bridge (US 301), including the Maryland and Virginia tributaries downstream of the bridge  Downstream of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95), including the Maryland and Virginia tributaries downstream of the bridge 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	Apr 1 - Nov 30 Closed Wednesdays Except handlines, dip nets and pots at private piers  5:30 AM-5:00 PM main bay, 5:30 AM-sunset in tributaries,	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.

	3" Peeler	1 bushel/person- 2 bushels if 2 or more on boat  1 dozen peeler and soft shell/person	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". Pots must be set in front of property within 100 yds of shore & attached by line to property or privately owned pier or dock or marked by buoy or pole and sign with owner's name and address.
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
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"	PROPOSED 8 fish/person/day May 15 - Dec 31	Effective date of emergency regulations will be April 15
(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 for hook and line 8" Dipnet		
Perch, Yellow	9"	PROPOSED Single, barbless hooks required Feb 1 - Mar 15 5/person/day	CLOSED watersheds: Magothy, Nanticoke, Patapsco, Severn, South and West Rivers
Scup	7"	Open year round	
Sea Trout	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	
Tautog	14"	Open year round 5 fish/person/day	
Weakfish	14"	Open year round 10 fish/person/day	

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

THE TAKING OF SHAD AND STURGEON IS PROHIBITED.

**Shark and Tuna** are Federally Managed Species. Call National Marine Fisheries Service.

Shark - (301) 713 -2347

Tuna (888) 872-8862 <http://www.nmfspermits.com/>