

**Note: A fishing license is not needed to fish Maryland's Coastal Bays or the Atlantic.**

(However, a Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing license is necessary to fish the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.)

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. Under State Govt. Article, Section 7-217, Annotated Code of Maryland, the printed version of COMAR is the official and enforceable text. Only the official text may be judicially noticed under Courts and Judicial Proceedings, Section 10-203, Annotated Code of Maryland. Consult the Maryland Register, Code of Maryland Regulations and Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for full legal text.

<b>Summary of Maryland Coastal Bays Recreational Fisheries Regulations</b>				
<b>Species</b>	<b>Minimum Size</b>	<b>Season, Days, Times,</b>	<b>Creel Limits</b>	<b>Special Conditions/Comments</b>
Black Drum	16"	Open year round	1/person/day	
Black Sea Bass	12"	Open year round	25/person/day	
Bluefish	8"	Open year round	10/person/day	
Clam, Hard	Transverse 1"	Open year round	250/person/day	
Croaker (Hardhead)	9"	Open year round	25/person/day	
Eel, American	6"	Open Year Round		
Lobster	3 3/8" carapace	If pot mesh less than 1/2" x 1/2", escape panel required.	100 lobster/person/day or 500 lobster/trip for 5 day trip	5 1/2" max. size for females Must be landed whole
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open Year Round	15/fish/person/day	
Red Drum (Channel Bass)	18" - 27"	Open year round	1/person/day	
Striped Bass (Rockfish)	28"	Open year round	2/person/day	
Scup (Porgy)	8"	Open year round	50/person/day	CLOSED Mar 1-Sep 17 and Dec 1-Dec 31 in EEZ.
Shad, American & Hickory		PROHIBITED		
Sharks	Federal Regulations governing the Atlantic Ocean and its tributary Coastal Bays. Fishermen are prohibited from possessing white, dusky, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, whale, basking bignose, Galapagos, Night, Caribbean reef, narrowtooth, Caribbean sharpnose, smalltail, Atlantic angel, longfin mako, bigeye thresher, sevengill, sixgill and bigeye sixgill. Except for those sharks that are prohibited, recreational fisherman are allowed to possess one shark per vessel per trip with a minimum size of 54-inches and one Atlantic sharpnose shark or one bonnethead shark per person per trip with no minimum size.			
Spotted Seatrout	14"	Open year round	10/person/day	
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose		PROHIBITED		
Summer Flounder	15 1/2"	Open Year Round	4/person/day	
Tautog	14"	Jan 1 thru Nov 30	5/person/day	Closed month of December
Weakfish	13"	Open year round	6 fish/person/day	

**[Click Here for a Summary of Maryland Coastal Bays Recreational Crabbing Regulations.](#)**

**[Click here for Dolphin and Wahoo.](#)**

**[Click here for HMS Species permits and regulations.](#)**