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LICENSE FREE FISHING DAYS!
In Maryland, anyone may fish without a recreational fishing license on June 2, June 9 and July 4, 2018. All other fishing regulations apply.
This publication is intended as a guide only. Rules are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all rules. For statutes see the Natural Resources Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. For regulations see the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 08. Maryland statutes and regulations can be found at the following web sites:

• Statutes:
  lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/

• Regulations:
  dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html

GET INVOLVED!

• Subscribe to the department’s email list— dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/ Pages/email.aspx

• Follow the Department of Natural Resources:
  • Twitter— twitter.com/MDDNRFISH
  • Facebook—facebook.com/MarylandDNRFisheries/

• Share your fishing story on the Angler’s Log—dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers_log.aspx

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Dear Anglers,

Maryland is known for its great fishing and rich waterways, featuring brackish, fresh and salt waters — from Deep Creek Lake, to the beaches of the Eastern Shore, to piers near Baltimore or Cambridge. Even better, no location is more than three or four hours from your front door. And the fish are just as diverse: striped bass, white perch, walleye, largemouth bass and three species of trout await your line and lure. Recreational fishing benefits not only anglers like you, but also aids our conservation and management efforts, removing invasive species like snakeheads from Maryland waters. Indeed, Maryland anglers have long been guardians of our state’s aquatic resources. Together, we work to preserve and restore the health of our local waterways while also enjoying all that Maryland has to offer.

In addition to helping the environment, the sport also encourages active outdoor recreation and has a positive impact on the economy. Whether this is your first year fishing or your fiftieth, we’d like to thank you for buying a fishing license. It might seem like a simple act, but it’s vital to our conservation efforts. The revenue from your fishing license and trout stamp allows us to manage and maintain the fishing experience in all corners of our state for this generation and the next.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for a memorable year of fishing in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland

Mark Belton
Secretary of Maryland Department of Natural Resources
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FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Fish are recommended as part of a healthy and balanced diet. Most fish are safe to eat, but some have levels of contaminants which may be harmful.

The Maryland Department of the Environment monitors fish and provides consumption advisories with recommended limits about how often certain fish should be eaten to minimize health risks. These advisories are intended for people who eat Maryland fish on a regular basis.

The Maryland Department of the Environment analyzes fish for two contaminants which can pose health risks and are known to accumulate in fish: PCBs and methylmercury. The information included in Maryland Department of the Environment consumption advisories is of particular importance for women and children because of the potential harmful effect of these contaminants on developing brains.

To see fish consumption advisories and other information which will help you make the best choices about what fish you eat and how often to eat them, visit mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/fishconsumptionadvisory.aspx or call 410-537-3906.

Did you know that you no longer need to have a signed paper copy of your license with you?

You can now show an officer an electronic copy of your license. Use the PDF that is generated by the licensing system on your phone or other electronic device. You still need to carry a photo ID with you.

New State Records:
- **Muskellunge** - Nontidal Division, 32.5 lbs. by Tessa Cosens
- **Sheepshead** - Atlantic Division, 18.0 lbs. by Robert Martin
- **Sheepshead** - Chesapeake Division, 13.73 lbs. by Dave Alveberg
- **White Catfish** - Chesapeake Division, 8.27 lbs. by Jacob Vosburgh
- **White Perch** - Nontidal Division, 1.90 lbs by George Venker

Check the online version of this fishing guide for the most up-to-date information—eregulations.com/maryland/fishing

5/6/17 Tessa Cosens of Washington County broke the muskellunge record on the Upper Potomac River on May 6 with a 32.5-pound fish.
Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Learn more at TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation
ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Natural Resources Police Offices

24 Hour Assistance: 800-628-9944 or 410-260-8888

Use these phone numbers for emergencies, to report natural resources violations or ask questions on fisheries regulations.

All offices are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties
  32144 Mt. Olive Road
  Salisbury, MD 21804

- Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties
  3001 Starr Road
  Queen Anne, MD 21657

- Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties
  1070 East College Parkway
  Annapolis, MD 21409

- Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties
  2160 Old Washington Road
  Waldorf, MD 20601

- Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Montgomery counties
  3738 Gwynnbrook Avenue
  Owings Mills, MD 21117

- Frederic and Washington counties
  2011 Monument Road
  Myerstown, CO 21773

- Allegany and Garrett counties
  11701 Mountain Road N.E.
  Flintstone, MD 21530

Licensing and Registration Service Centers

Licensing and Registration Service Centers offer the following: boat dealer licenses, commercial fishing licenses, hunting licenses, off-road vehicle permits, recreational fishing licenses, vessel registration, vessel titles. Information about state parks and forests, other locations and activities and safety classes for hunters and boaters is also available. Public hours are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except state holidays. Learn more at: compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal

- Annapolis Service Center
  1804 West Street, Suite 300
  Annapolis, MD 21401
  410-260-3220
  866-344-8889 (toll free in Maryland)

- Bel Air Service Center
  501 West MacPhail Road #2
  Bel Air, Maryland 21014
  410-836-4550
  866-623-3187 (toll free in Maryland)

- Centreville Service Center
  120 Broadway Avenue
  Centreville, MD 21617
  410-819-4100
  866-439-1708 (toll free in Maryland)

- Essex Service Center
  CLOSED Tuesday and Thursday
  1338 Eastern Blvd., A
  Essex, MD 21221
  866-410-760
  866-535-8319 (toll free in Maryland)

- Frederick Service Center
  1601 Bowmans Farm Road
  Frederick, Maryland 21701
  (240) 236-9950
  866-688-3823 (toll free in Maryland)

- Prince Frederick Service Center
  6904 Hallowing Lane
  Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
  410-535-3382
  866-688-3823

- Salisbury Service Center
  251 Tilghman Road, Room #2
  Salisbury, MD 21801
  410-713-3840
  866-812-1678 (toll free in Maryland)

Fisheries

Fisheries Information
1-410-260-8300 or 1-868-3467

Trout Stocking Information
800-688-3467, press 1

- Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery
  Hagerstown, 301-791-4736

Fisheries Work Centers

- Cooperative Oxford Lab
  Oxford, 410-226-0078

- Matapeake Work Center
  Stevensville, 410-643-6776

- Ocean City Work Center
  Ocean City, 410-213-1531

Freshwater Fisheries Regional Offices

- Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties
  Millington, 410-928-3604

- Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties
  Brandywine, 301-888-2423

- Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Montgomery counties
  Woodbine, 410-442-2080

- Frederick and Washington counties
  Thurmont, 301-898-5443 or 9724

- Allegany and Garrett counties
  Oakland, 301-334-8218

CATCH A POACHER 24-HOUR HOTLINE

Poaching deprives the public of the opportunity to use and enjoy Maryland’s natural resources. Preserving our natural resources for present and future enjoyment is everyone’s responsibility. Citizens who use the poaching hotline to supply Maryland Natural Resources Police with information leading to the arrest and conviction of a poacher will be eligible to receive cash rewards. Please provide names, addresses, vehicle and boat descriptions and as much additional information as you can. Your anonymity is guaranteed.

800-635-6124

TO REPORT A FISH KILL
800-285-8195 or 877-224-7229

NATURAL RESOURCE POLICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have what it takes and the desire to serve, we’re interested in talking to you.

To begin your career as a Maryland Natural Resources Police officer, please contact Corporal Raymond Griggs at 443-221-8521, raymond.griggs1@maryland.gov, or visit the Maryland Natural Resources Police Recruitment Facebook page.
Fishing licenses, stamps and registrations are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase, unless otherwise specified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident Nontidal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$20.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident 7-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Trout Stamp</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Senior Consolidated Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Nontidal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$30.50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident 7-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$7.50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident 3-Day Nontidal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Trout Stamp</td>
<td>$5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Boat License</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Penalties

The department may suspend an individual’s fishing license or privilege if that individual is convicted of, or pays a fine for, violating certain fishing rules. A full copy of suspendable fishing violations can be found in the Code of Maryland Regulations 08.02.13.05. To view this regulation, visit dsd.state.md.us/COMAR. Individuals who are suspended for violating fishing rules in Maryland may also be suspended in other states under the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

Who Needs A Trout Stamp?
A trout stamp is required for anyone 16 years of age or older to catch, attempt to catch or possess trout in nontidal waters.

How Do I Know Whether I Need A Tidal or Nontidal Maryland Fishing License?
To see whether the area you are fishing requires a nontidal or tidal fishing license, please see Tidal/Nontidal Dividing Lines section on page 34.

Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration Exemptions
Anglers fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays, Chesapeake Bay or tidal tributaries must be registered with the state unless one of the following applies:
- You are under 16 years of age.
- You are fishing from a licensed charter boat or from a licensed commercial fishing pier.
- You are fishing on a free fishing day—the first two Saturdays in June and July 4.
- You possess a valid commercial tidal fish license.
- You possess a Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license.
- You possess a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License.

To Obtain A License or Saltwater Angler Registration:
Go to compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompass-portal, call 855-855-3906 (available 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 365 days a year) or visit a Department of Natural Resources Licensing and Registration Service Center or license agent (tackle shop or outdoor outfitter).

Purple Heart Recipient Discount
Any Maryland veteran who has received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained defending our nation now qualifies for a 50 percent discount on Maryland hunting and fishing licenses.

Veteran and Complimentary Licenses
Any American veteran residing in Maryland who is 100 percent service-connected

INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE EN ESPAÑOL

dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/espanol

RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Please check the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fishing and Boating Services regulations page for possible changes at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx

YOUR FISHING DOLLARS AT WORK

Fishing license and trout stamp revenue allows the department to assess, protect, conserve and manage Maryland’s fisheries.

To learn more, read the latest budget report here at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Annual_Budget_2018-Final.pdf
FISHING LICENSES, STAMPS AND SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRATION

License Exemptions

Statewide Sport Fishing License Exemptions
You may fish for finfish without a license if:
• You are under 16 years of age.
• You are a resident of Maryland, on active duty with Armed Forces, on leave with official orders.
• You fish on a free fishing day—the first two Saturdays in June and July 4.
• You fish in an area designated by Department of Natural Resources as a license free fishing area, and you have obtained a Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration (if required in that area.). A list of license free fishing areas is available on page 46 and online at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/license-free.aspx.

Tidal Sport Fishing License Exemptions
You may fish for finfish without a license in Maryland’s tidal waters if:
• You possess a valid commercial fishing license.
• You are fishing from a licensed charter boat or licensed commercial fishing pier.
• You are fishing from a boat displaying a Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing Boat License.
• You are an owner or tenant, their spouse, child or the spouse of their child residing on the property's shoreline.
• Anglers should confirm riparian ownership before fishing. Anglers with riparian shorelines must comply with all fishing rules.

Contact Fishing and Boating Services for license exemption information concerning:
• An individual who attends, resides, or is under treatment by a state approved mental health facility
• A nonprofit organization that works with individuals with physical or mental disabilities
• A governmental entity or nonprofit organization that works with individuals with physical or mental disabilities who are serving or have served in the armed forces
• The primary caregiver or the representative for any of the above categories

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302.365.6000

Delmar
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302.248.7070

Felton
54 Andrews Lake Rd/Rt 13
302.284.0123

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*For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power-hour (PH) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. Optional equipment may be shown. © Kubota Tractor Corporation 2018.
Virginia

- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia nontidal fishing license issued in that resident’s name may fish in nontidal waters of the mainstem of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Virginia.
- A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license issued in that resident’s name may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland, so long as they have obtained a Maryland Saltwater Angler Registration.
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License issued in that person’s name can fish from the Virginia banks of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Maryland without a Virginia fishing license.
- Any holder of a valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License may fish in Virginia tidal saltwater, regardless of residency, so long as they have obtained a Virginia Saltwater Angler Registration.

West Virginia

- A resident of West Virginia possessing a valid West Virginia fishing license issued in that resident’s name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River (mainstem only) opposite the shore of West Virginia, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir (opposite the shore of West Virginia).
- A resident of Maryland possessing a valid Maryland Nontidal Sport Fishing License issued in that resident’s name may fish the Western Virginia banks of the Potomac River, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir, without a West Virginia fishing license.

Pennsylvania

- A resident of Pennsylvania possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that resident’s name may fish any portion of the Conowingo and Youghiogheny reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Maryland without a Pennsylvania fishing license.
- Reciprocal fishing privileges extend from waters’ edge to waters’ edge. It does not include tributaries or fishing from shore.
- The Conowingo Reservoir extends from the Conowingo Dam in Maryland to Holtwood Dam in Pennsylvania. The Youghiogheny Reservoir extends from the red posts on the Youghiogheny River in Maryland downstream to Youghiogheny Dam in Pennsylvania.

Potomac River

- A Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational fishing license holder may fish any portion of the tidal waters of Maryland.
- A valid Maryland Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing License holder may fish any portion of the Potomac River mainstem downstream of the I-95/I-495 Woodrow Wilson Bridge.
Recreational Crabbing License

Anyone who uses the following gear:
- Collapsible crab traps
- Eel pots for own bait
- Net Rings
- Seines
- Trotline

Additionally, anyone who uses other legal gear to catch more than the following quantity of crabs:
- More than 24 with a limit of one bushel of male hard crabs
- More than 12 with a limit of 24 soft crabs or male peelers

A recreational crabbing license is not required in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays and their tributaries.

Crabbing License Exemptions
You do not need a license if you are using the following gear:
- Handlines
- Dip nets

If you are crabbing without a license using license-exempt gear, you are still limited to the unlicensed crabber limits of no more than 24 male hard crabs and no more than 12 soft crabs or male peelers crabs.

You also do not need a license if you are:
- Assisting another individual who has a recreational crabbing license
- Crabbing from a boat that is displaying a recreational crabbing boat decal

Waterfront Property Crab Pot Registration

An owner, lessee, or tenant of a private shoreline property may use a maximum of two crab pots, regardless of the number of owners or lessees of the property, and must be annually registered with the department. The registration is free and it does NOT count as a recreational crabbing license.

Private property crab pots set in the Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays and their tributaries do NOT need to be registered.

See page 40 and 41 for crab catch limits.
GENERAL FISHING DEFINITIONS

GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARTIFICIAL FLY
A lure constructed by winding natural or synthetic material such as feathers, fur, hair, tinsel, thread, fiber, wire, plastic, cork, or rubber on or around the hook, and designed to be cast by means of a fly rod.

ARTIFICIAL LURE
The following are considered artificial lures: spinners, spoons, plugs and molded facsimiles of worms, insects and fish. For the purposes of these regulations, artificial flies and streamers are considered to be artificial lures.

BAIT
Any item that emits an odor or scent such as worms, minnows, crayfish, insects, and food items. The addition of any scent to an artificial lure or fly to make it smell like bait, makes it bait.

BLACK BASS
Refers to both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

CATCH
Catch means to take, kill, trap, gather, harvest or in any manner reduce any fish to personal possession.

CIRCLE HOOK
A non-offset hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank. Circle hooks used in bait fisheries should be non-offset. That is, if the hook is laid on a flat surface, all parts of the hook lie flat on the surface.

CULL
After being in possession of a fish, to discard or exchange that fish to possess another fish of the same species.

DAILY CREEL
Daily creel is the maximum number of fish that an individual can keep after a single day of fishing.

EEZ
The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone is where the U.S. federal government has jurisdiction over natural resources it begins at 3 nautical miles and extends to 200 nautical miles from the Maryland coast.

IN AGGREGATE
A catch of related fish species counted together.

POSSESSION
Any condition where a fish is controlled with the angler’s intent of ownership. Possession limit is the maximum number of fish that an angler may have in their possession after two or more days of fishing.

STINGER HOOK
A hook which trails another hook or hook unit, either by direct physical attachment to the lead hook or hook unit, or by a connective device such as a line, swivel or chain, and is part of the same bait or lure.

TROLLING
The method of angling during which fish are attracted to a lure or bait being trailed from a boat which is moving forward or backward by mechanical, manual or wind power.

BASIC CATCH AND RELEASE

FISH HANDLING TIPS

HANDLING
• Don’t hold the fish out of the water for more than 30 seconds.
• Wet hands and hold fish by lip with one hand and support its body with the other hand.
• Hold fish over water in case it is dropped.
• For videos about safe handling, care and proper catch-and-release techniques visit dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/bass/videos.aspx

DE-HOOKING
• When removing the hook, use a soft rubber or small-mesh nylon landing net to hold fish, or firmly hold the fish with a wet rag or glove.
• Use a non-offset circle hook when using bait to reduce the potential for deep-hooking the fish.

RESUSCITATION
• Try reviving a fish that is not lively by opening its mouth and pulling it forward to force water over the gills.
• Additional information is available at http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/catch-and-release.aspx

A Guide to Skin Wounds and Water Contact

Vibrio are bacteria that occur naturally in brackish and salt waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries as well as coastal bays, especially when the water is warm. If Vibrio or other bacteria come into contact with an open wound they can cause serious infections, particularly for people with liver disease or a weakened immune system.

Protect Yourself

If you have any cuts or scrapes, avoid warm Chesapeake Bay and tidal tributary waters.
• If water contact cannot be avoided, cover wounds with waterproof bandages.
• Clean any cut or a scrape immediately with soap and clean water or hand sanitizer then wash as soon as possible.
• Wear shoes and gloves to avoid cuts and scrapes.

If you develop a wound with unusual redness, swelling or drainage, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY and let your health care provider know whether you came in contact with brackish or salt water.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
phpa.health.maryland.gov/oehfp/chs/pages/healthyswimming.aspx | toll-free 866-703-3266

MARYLAND HEALTHY BEACHES
marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html
SWIFT. SILENT. SECURE.

Power-Pole is the original shallow water anchor that delivers swift, silent and secure positioning at the push of a button. Now featuring heavy-duty hydraulic hose, new C-Monster 2.0 hydraulic pump and remote controls. For more information or to find a dealer near you, go to power-pole.com.

SWIFT. SILENT. SECURE.

Power-Pole is the original shallow water anchor that delivers swift, silent and secure positioning at the push of a button. Now featuring heavy-duty hydraulic hose, new C-Monster 2.0 hydraulic pump and remote controls. For more information or to find a dealer near you, go to power-pole.com.

SWIFT. SILENT. SECURE.

Power-Pole is the original shallow water anchor that delivers swift, silent and secure positioning at the push of a button. Now featuring heavy-duty hydraulic hose, new C-Monster 2.0 hydraulic pump and remote controls. For more information or to find a dealer near you, go to power-pole.com.
SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

RECREATIONAL GEAR—NONTIDAL
These are the ONLY types of gear you may use in nontidal waters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEAR</th>
<th>RULES AND EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAIT TRAPS</td>
<td>• Must be marked with the individual’s name and address or DN Rid number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Must be checked daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unless attached to a boat that is not docked, must be set within 100 feet of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shore and either be attached to the property/private pier/dock or marked by a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>buoy or pole with a sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If set on public property, must be set within 100 feet of the owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If set on private property, must have permission of the landowner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not be used in any trout management area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Only one may be used by each individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOOK AND LINE, ROD AND REEL</td>
<td>• Individual must be actively in control of the gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND HANDLINES</td>
<td>• Snagging is not legal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May use up to 3 active lines at a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not use more than 2 hook units per line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• When ice fishing, 5 tip ups or rods may be used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSH BOBS AND BANK POLES</td>
<td>• Must be marked with individual’s name and address or DN Rid number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rule changes pending as of publication. Online guide will be updated if changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>become effective. – see dnr. maryland.gov/fisheries-Pages/regulations/changes.aspx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NETS (general rules that</td>
<td>• May not bait nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apply to seines, dip nets</td>
<td>• Except for landing nets, nets may not be used in any Trout Management Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and landing nets)</td>
<td>• A non-resident may only use landing nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEINES</td>
<td>• Must have mesh no greater than ¼ inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Must not exceed 6 feet in width and 4 feet in height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Must only be used to catch minnows and bait fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not be used within 50 feet of a dam or the mouth of any river or tributary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Must be emptied on shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIP NETS</td>
<td>• May only be used in areas of the Potomac River, Monocacy River and Conococheague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creek that lie within Allegany, Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May only be used to catch carp, catfish, Northern snakehead, or suckers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not be used in any other area or to catch any other species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDING NETS</td>
<td>• May only be used to land a fish caught by other means</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOW, GIG, SPEAR AND SNARE</td>
<td>• Must have a retrieval line attached</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUN</td>
<td>• May not use projectile gear in any trout management area, or state-controlled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community ponds or lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not be used within 100 yards of any human being, private or public swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>area, international diving flag, occupied duck blind, or vessel other than the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vessel occupied by the individual using the projectile gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The distance restrictions will not apply if the individual receives permission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from the affected parties prior to using the projectile gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• May not be used to fish for any trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bass hybrids, northern pike, muskellunge, or muskellunge hybrids including tiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>musky, largemouth and smallmouth bass, snapping turtles and any threatened or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>endangered species</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAND AND NOODLING</td>
<td>• No special rules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nontidal Sport Fishing

It Is Illegal

1. To cut a hole through the ice measuring more than 10 inches in any direction for the purpose of ice fishing.
2. To take bait fish from Put-and-Take Fishing Areas or Special Trout Fisheries Management Areas.
3. In Deer and Swan creeks in Harford County:
   • For a person to catch or attempt to catch fish other than by hook and line, with line held in hand, attached to a pole or rod held in hand, or attended in a manner that the fish voluntarily takes bait or lure in its mouth.
   • For a person to possess or use minnows for bait while fishing.
   • For anyone to use a dip net baited by attaching an attractant to the net material or frame.
4. To remove the head and tail of fish in possession while at the fishing location, except for snakeheads. The head and tail shall remain attached in such a manner as to permit identification of fish species and total length. A person may take snakehead fish from Maryland waters by any legal means provided that the head of the snakehead fish is immediately removed, or the body is gutted, or the gills are removed from both sides of the fish, or the fish is filleted upon capture.
5. For a person to catch snapping turtles from waters of the state by hook and line, trotline, bow and arrow, net, seine, trap, fish pot, or other fishing rig, spear, gig or iron or any device capable of piercing any part of the turtle.
6. To operate any vehicle on any lands owned or controlled by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources without written permission from the department except on those roads, lanes or areas which are open to automobile traffic or which are specifically marked by the department.
7. To camp on lands owned and controlled by the department except on designated sites or with written permission.
8. To swim in any State-controlled lake except in designated areas.
9. In the Battie Mixon Fishing Hole:
   • To fish between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.
   • To use boats propelled by gasoline or diesel power.
10. To fish any streams or nontidal waters that contain trout between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. (This does not apply to nontidal impoundments of five acres or more.)
11. To cull trout.
12. Regarding crayfish in the Susquehanna River, Middle Potomac River, Monocacy River and Upper Potomac River basins, it is illegal to:
   • Catch or process any species of crayfish unless the head is immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture.
   • Use any species of crayfish as bait unless the head is removed behind the eyes.
   • Catch and possess a female crayfish with eggs attached to the underside of the abdomen.
## Tidal Sport Fishing

### Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries and Atlantic Ocean, Coastal Bays and Tributaries

**It is Legal**
1. To keep any size white perch if caught by hook and line.
2. To use an umbrella rig that has no more than two hooks or two sets of hooks.
3. To catch and release alewife herring, American shad, blueback herring, hickory shad and sharks.

**It is Illegal**
1. To have in one’s possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland any striped bass cut up or filleted at any time. Striped bass must be landed whole.
2. To have in one’s possession aboard any boat on the tidal waters of Maryland more than 15 cut up pounds of any fish upon which a size or weight limit is prescribed by law or regulations.
3. To use Sabiki rigs or mackerel trees in Maryland. (Multiple hook rigs including Sabiki rigs and mackerel trees are allowed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Atlantic Ocean.)
4. To operate a boat within the area 400 yards below or 400 yards above the Conowingo Dam.

Towns such as Ocean City may have special fishing ordinances. Be sure to check local jurisdictions’ websites for restrictions.

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### STATEWIDE RESTRICTIONS

**IT IS ILLEGAL**
- To buy, sell, or offer to buy any fish or crab harvested under a recreational license.
- To use waders or boots soled with felt or any natural or synthetic porous material capable of absorbing liquid.
- To disturb, take, destroy or possess the nest or eggs of a terrapin or snapping turtle.

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### LEAVE NO TRACE

- Be considerate of others.
- Take trash with you.
- Pack it in. Pack it out.
- Clean your fish at home.
- Avoid impacting stream banks and lake shores.
- Do not dispose of unused bait on or near the water.
- Recycle or dispose of old lures and line.
- Avoid discarding dead or moribund fish.
- Respect private property.
The following tables summarize rules governing the harvest and possession of fish species that anglers commonly catch in Maryland. This summary does not include all regulated species. Full information and updates are available at dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>CREEL LIMIT</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN EEL</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—25</td>
<td>Possession—25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAITSFISH (Including Madtoms)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—35 in aggregate</td>
<td>Possession—35 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)</td>
<td>12 inches or as provided for by special regulations.</td>
<td>CLOSED March 1–June 15</td>
<td>Daily—5 in aggregate</td>
<td>Possession—10 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Catch and Release is permitted at all times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARP</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—15</td>
<td>Possession—30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—5</td>
<td>Possession—10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANNEL CATFISH</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—5</td>
<td>Possession—10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAPPIE</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—15</td>
<td>Possession—30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERRING (Alewife and Blueback)</td>
<td></td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>Catch and Release is permitted at all times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSKELLINGE AND TIGER MUSKIE</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td>Possession—2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN PIKE</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—2</td>
<td>Possession—4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAD (American/White and Hickory)</td>
<td></td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>Catch and Release is permitted at all times.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRIPED BASS and HYBRID STRIPED BASS</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>2 striped bass/striped bass hybrid per day, only one of which may be over 30 inches.</td>
<td>Possession—4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUCKERS</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—30</td>
<td>Possession—60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNFISH, including Bluegills and Rock Bass (commonly known as Red Eye or Goggle-Eye)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—15 in aggregate</td>
<td>Possession—30 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TROUT—statewide (all species of trout)</td>
<td>None—Except as provided in Special Trout Management Area Regulations.</td>
<td>Open Year Round— Except as provided in Special Trout Management Area Regulations.</td>
<td>Daily—2 in aggregate</td>
<td>Possession—4 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TROUT: Put-and-Take Areas (all species of trout)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—5 in aggregate</td>
<td>Possession—10 in aggregate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLEYE</td>
<td>Minimum Size: 15 inches year round, and during January 1–April 15 the minimum size is 15 inches with a maximum size of 20 inches, in the Potomac River mainstem approximately 0.5 miles upriver from Chain Bridge to the spillway in Cumberland.</td>
<td>Open year round— Except on Deep Creek Lake and the Youghiogheny River downstream of Route 42 bridge where it is closed from March 1 through April 15.</td>
<td>Daily—5</td>
<td>Possession—10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE PERCH</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>The possession of yellow perch eggs requires prior authorization from the department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW PERCH</td>
<td>Nontidal rivers and streams 9 inches Nontidal lakes and ponds None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td>Possession—20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Closures:
1. Magothy River from the base of Lake Waterford Dam downstream for 3,300 feet is closed to all fishing during February, March and April.
2. Severn River and Severn Run from the Route 3 Bridge downstream for 2,400 feet during February, March and April.

## SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>CREEL LIMIT</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Eel</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Shad</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baitfish, Fish Bait</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50 in aggregate</td>
<td>No Harvest (Catch and Release) all other dates; No tournaments during closure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass – Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
<td>Jan 1–April 14 and Nov 1–Dec 31</td>
<td>Daily—4 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crayfish</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50</td>
<td>Head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gizzard Shad</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mud Bugs (dragonfly nymphs)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskegon and Tiger Muskie</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Herring</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauger</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
<td>Jan 1–March 14 and May 5–Dec 31</td>
<td>Daily—6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—2 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Crappies, Catfish, Rock Bass, Suckers, Carp and White Bass</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout and Salmon (all species)</td>
<td>7 inches</td>
<td>8 a.m. April 14–Sept 3</td>
<td>Daily—5 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 1–Feb 28 and Sept 4–Dec 31</td>
<td>Daily—3 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye and Hybrids</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
<td>Jan 1–March 14 and May 5–Dec 31</td>
<td>Daily—6 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddlefish, Mussels, Clams, and Threatened and Endangered Species</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### How to Measure a Fish

Size limits are generally based on the total length of a fish. The total length of a fish is the maximum length with the mouth closed and the tail pinched together measured from the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this straight line measurement is to push the fish’s snout against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and with the fish lying along a tape measure and then pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length.

Fork length refers to the length from the snout of a fish to the end of the middle caudal fin rays. This is the measurement for determining the legal size of a shark.

The girth of a fish is best measured with a fabric ruler. Measuring the girth is helpful in trying to determine if you have a possible record fish, which is determined by total weight. By using the total length and girth of a fish in inches you can get a rough estimate of the weight in pounds with this formula:

\[
\text{Approximate weight in pounds} = \frac{((\text{Girth in inches} \times \text{Girth in inches}) \times \text{Length in inches})}{800}
\]

### CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>CREEL LIMIT</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN EEL</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>Jan 1–Aug 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots</td>
<td>Daily—25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASS (Largemouth and Smallmouth)</td>
<td>15 inches March 1–June 15</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—5 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 inches June 16 through last day in February</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK DRUM</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK SEA BASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUEFISH</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATFISH</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIN PICKEREL (Pike)</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>CLOSED March 15–April 30</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBIA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROAKER (Hardhead)</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED DRUM (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)</td>
<td>18–27 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHARKS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAPPER SPECIES</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—20 in aggregate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH MACKEREL</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPOTTED SEATROUT</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRIPED BASS</td>
<td></td>
<td>See Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Section, page 38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER FLOUNDER (Fluke)</td>
<td>17 inches</td>
<td>Jan 1 - Dec 31</td>
<td>Daily—4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAUTOG</td>
<td></td>
<td>Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates — eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALLEYE</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAKFISH</td>
<td>13 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE PERCH</td>
<td>None if caught with hook and line; 8 inch minimum if caught with other gear</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YELLOW PERCH</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Areas Closed to Fishing—Feb, March and April:
1. Magoby 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.

### HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

Size limits are generally based on the total length of a fish. The total length of a fish is the maximum length with the mouth closed and the tail pinched together measured from the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this straight line measurement is to push the fish’s snout against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and with the fish lying along a tape measure and then pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length.

Fork length refers to the length from the snout of a fish to the end of the middle caudal fin rays. This is the measurement for determining the legal size of a shark.

The girth of a fish is best measured with a fabric ruler. Measuring the girth is helpful in trying to determine if you have a possible record fish, which is determined by total weight. By using the total length and girth of a fish in inches you can get a rough estimate of the weight in pounds with this formula:

\[
\text{Approximate weight in pounds} = \frac{((\text{Girth in inches} \times \text{Girth in inches}) \times \text{Length in inches})}{800}
\]
### SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

#### ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYs AND TRIBUTARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>CREEL LIMIT</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMERICAN EEL</td>
<td>9 inches</td>
<td>January 1–August 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots</td>
<td>Daily—25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK DRUM</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1 Boat limit—6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUEFISH</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td>Only applies to federal waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBIA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td>Subject to change. New regulations to be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOLPHINFISH (Mahi-Mahi)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—10</td>
<td>Only applies to federal waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUPIER SPECIES</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td>Grouper species—<a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOBSTER</td>
<td>3 1/2–6 1/4 inches carapace length</td>
<td>CLOSED Feb. 1–March 31</td>
<td>100/person/24 hour period or 500 for a 5-day or longer trip when using gear other than lobster traps</td>
<td>Must be landed whole. Spearing is prohibited. No egg-bearing females.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED DRUM (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)</td>
<td>18–27 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCUP (Porgy)</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAPPER COMPLEX (includes: sheepshead and spadefish)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—20 in aggregate</td>
<td>Snapper species—<a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH MACKEREL</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPOTTED SEATROUT</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRIPED BASS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>See Atlantic Striped Bass Section—Page 38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER FLOUNDER (Fluke)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Subject to change. New regulations to be announced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAUTOG</td>
<td>16 inches</td>
<td>Season: January 1 - May 15 (new regulations to be announced)</td>
<td>4/person/day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TILIFISH SPECIES</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—7 in aggregate</td>
<td>Tilefish species—<a href="http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm">www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAHOO</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—2</td>
<td>Only applies to federal waters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEAKFISH</td>
<td>13 inches</td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
<td>Daily—1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SUMMER FLOUNDER HOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Undersized summer flounder must be released and there are two things anglers can do to maximize survivability.

- **Use a size three or larger hook.** A lot of mortality associated with hooking is caused by the fish swallowing the hook and being lodged in the gills or organs. Larger hooks can help to prevent this from happening.

- **Be ready to release a fish once it is caught.** Having the right tools such as a wet rag, pliers and a measuring board will enable you to return the fish to the water quickly. Which will improve the odds of survival.
The following restrictions apply to the areas listed:

a) Creel Limit (all species) combined—5 Daily / 10 Possession.
b) Minimum Size—no minimum size.
c) Season—areas are closed to all fishing from 10 p.m. of the first date, to 5:30 a.m. of the second date, except as provided for by special regulation or where more restrictive fishing hours are posted.

### Areas Subject to Provisions of this Section:

#### Allegany County
- Battle Mixon Ponds ............................................. 0
- Cotton Cove Pond in Glendening Recreational Complex at Frostburg……………………………. 2
- Dans Mountain Pond ............................................. 0
- Evitts Creek—mainstem upstream of Interstate Rt. 68………………………………………………… 1
- Evitts Creek Ponds ................................................... 0
- Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed ............................. 0
- Flintstone Creek Watershed ..................................... 0
- Georges Creek—mainstem from the upper boundary of Town Park in Westernport upstream to Neff Run…………………………………………………………… 0
- Jennings Run—mainstem downstream of the confluence of North Jennings Run…………………. 2
- Lake Habeeb (Rocky Gap Lake) .............................. 0
- Lions Park Pond, Frostburg (area subject to user restrictions by the City of Frostburg) 0
- North Branch Potomac River mainstem—
  from Allegany County line downstream to
  the upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge in Westernport…… 0
- North Jennings Run Watershed .............................. 2
- Orchard Pond……………………………………………… 0
- White Sulfur Pond ………………………………………….. 0
- Wills Creek—mainstem upstream of the US Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Project at The Narrows above Cumberland……….. 1

#### Anne Arundel County
- Severn Run—mainstem upstream of MD Route 3………………………………………………………… 1

#### Baltimore County and Baltimore City
- Avalon Pond (Lost Lake) ............................................ 0
- Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from the red post located 1.6 miles downstream of Corbett Road downstream to the hiker/biker bridge located approximately one mile downstream of Phoenix Road; and from Cromwell Bridge downstream to the Interstate Rt. 95 bridge……………………………………………………………………………………………………………. 1
- Gwynn Oak Park Pond ................................. 0
- Gwynns Falls—mainstem below MD Route 140………………………………………………………… 0
- Jones Falls—mainstem below Lake Roland0
- Little Falls—mainstem from Wiseburg Road upstream to Valley Mill Road …………………….. 1
- Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Route 165 ....................... 1
- Patapsco River—mainstem from the B&O Viaduct upstream to Bloede Dam .......................... 1
- Stansbury Park Pond ............................. 0

#### Calvert County
- Calvert Cliffs Pond ............................................. 0
- Hutchins Pond ………………………………………….. 0

#### Caroline County
- Tuckahoe Creek & Lake …………………………………….. 0

#### Carroll County
- Beaver Run—upstream of Maryland Route 91 …………………… 1
- Farm Museum Pond ................................. 1
- South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem from West Friendship Road (Howard County side) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at Sykesville downstream to its confluence with the North Branch Patapsco River…………………. 1
- Pinney Run—mainstem downstream from Arrington Road ……………………………………….. 1
- Pinney Run Reservoir …………………………………….. 0
- Robert’s Mill Pond ……………………………………….. 0

#### Cecil County
- Big Elk Creek—mainstem from the bridge at MD Route 277 upstream to the Pennsylvania state line ……………………………………………………………………………………. 1
- Howards Pond ...................................... 0
- Principio Creek—mainstem upstream of MD Route 7 .......................... 1

#### Charles County
- Hughesville Pond …………………………………………. 0
- Myrtle Grove Wildlife Management area—all ponds………………………………………………… 0
- Wheatley Lake …………………………………………. 0

#### Frederick County
- Cunningham Falls Lake …………………………………….. 0
- Fishing Creek—mainstem upstream of Fishing Creek Reservoir including left fork (Steep Creek)…………………………………………………………………………………. 1
- Frank Bentz Pond ………………………………………….. 2
- Friends Creek Watershed ………………………………….. 1
- Hamburg Pond ………………………………………….. 2
- Middle Creek—mainstem from the MD Route 17 bridge near the junction of Little Road upstream to the confluence of Spruce Run 1 Middletown Pond……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….. 0
- Owens Creek—mainstem from Buck Lantz Road downstream to Roddy Road (catch and return only from June 1 through last day of February)…………………. 1
- Rainbow Lake ………………………………………….. 2
- Urbana Lake ………………………………………….. 0
- Whiskey Springs Pond …………………………………….. 2
- Woodsboro Community Pond ……………………………. 0

#### Garrett County
- Accident Pond ………………………………………….. 0
- Bear Creek—mainstem from the corner of Fish Hatchery Road and Rabbit Hollow Road downstream to the confluence with the Youghiogheny River at Friendsville…… 1
- Broadford Lake ………………………………………….. 0
- Deep Creek Lake ………………………………………….. 0
- Herrington Creek—mainstem ……………………………. 0
- Herrington Lake ………………………………………….. 0
- Jennings Randolph Lake ……………………………. 0
- Little Youghiogheny River—mainstem from MD Route 219 downstream to the Youghiogheny River ……………………………………………………………………………………. 0

### 2018 Closure Schedule

- Closure 0—No Closure.
- Closure 1—Sunday March 11, 2018 to Saturday March 31, 2018.

**Your purchase of fishing equipment and motorboat fuel supports boating access and Sport Fish Restoration.**

Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing 2018-2019

Photo by Joe Evans
TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE AND MAPS:

dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/stocking,
800-688-3467,
press 1, and by email alert—dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/email.aspx

Mill Run—mainstem downstream of uppermost bridge on Mill Run Road .......... 1
Muddy Creek—mainstem ....................... 0
New Germany Lake ................................... 0
North Branch Patapsco River—mainstem—
from Jennings Randolph Lake upstream
approximately 6 miles to the lower boundary
of Patapsco State Forest; from the uppermost
boundary of Patapsco State Forest at Wallman upstream approximately 8.5 miles
to the bridge at Old Wilson Road; from
the red post located approximately 100 yards
above the upstream concrete abutments at
Barnum, West Virginia, downstream to the
red post located below a pool known as Blue
Hole, approximately 1/8 mile upstream of
Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport United
States Geological Survey Quadrangle, and
from Piney Swamp Run downstream to the
Allegany County line .................................. 0
Piney Reservoir ......................................... 0
Savage Reservoir ....................................... 0
Savage River—mainstem from Savage Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick ............ 2
Snowy Creek—mainstem ......................... 0
Youghiogheny River—mainstem upstream
of the junction of Muddy Creek and from
the upstream side of the Maryland Route 42
bridge downstream 0.4 miles to the confluence
of Minnow Run, 50 yards downstream
from Maple Street ................................. 0

Harford County
Deer Creek—mainstem from 1 mile south
of Rocks State Park upstream to the bridge
at Maryland Route 23 ............................. 1
Forest Hill Pond ....................................... 2
Little Gunpowder Falls—mainstem from Jericho Road upstream to Maryland Route 1651 .... 0

Howard County
Centennial Lake ....................................... 0
Lake Elkhorn .......................................... 0
Patuxent River—mainstem from base of
Rocky Gorge Reservoir Dam in Laurel down-
stream to the Railroad crossing ............... 1

South Branch Patapsco River—mainstem
from West Friendship Road (Howard County sidé) and Main Street (Carroll County side) at
Sykesville downstream to its confluence with
the North Branch Patapsco River ............ 1

Montgomery County
Great Seneca Creek—from Maryland Route
28 upstream to Maryland Route 355 ........ 1
Izaak Walton Pond ................................... 2
Lake Needwood ....................................... 0
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Pond .......... 2
Northwest Branch Watershed—upstream of
Maryland Route 410 to Norwood Road .... 2
Pine Lake ............................................. 2

Prince George's County
Allen's Pond ........................................... 0
Cosca Lake .......................................... 0
Greenbelt Lake ....................................... 0
Lake Artemesia ....................................... 0
Laurel Lakes .......................................... 0
Melwood Pond ....................................... 0
Schoolhouse Pond ................................... 0
Tucker Pond ......................................... 0

Washington County
Antietam Creek—mainstem from upstream boundary of Devil’s Backbone Park to the
mouth of Beaver Creek ............................. 0
Beaver Creek—from the downstream side of
the bridges on the private farm lane located
below the Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery
downstream to Black Rock Creek, and from
Beaver Creek Road downstream to the confluence
with Antietam Creek ............................... 1
Blairs Valley Lake ................................... 0
Greenbrier Lake .................................... 0
Indian Springs Pond ............................... 2
Israel Creek .......................................... 0
Licking Creek Mainstem ......................... 1
Sharpsburg Community Pond ................ 0
Sideling Hill Creek Watershed ............... 0

Wicomico County
Beaverdam Creek—in Salisbury from Schu-
maker Dam downstream to the bridge crossing
at Memorial Plaza Road ......................... 0

Worcester County
Shad Landing Pond ................................. 0

TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE AND MAPS:

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SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS—TROUT

Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to Artificial Fly Fishing

Areas:

- Big Hunting Creek, Frederick County—all waters of Big Hunting Creek and its tributaries within Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Mountain Park except Owens Creek, Little Hunting Creek, Cunningham Falls Lake and Frank Benz Pond.
- Beaver Creek, Washington County—from the confluence with Black Rock Creek downstream approximately 1 mile to the red post located 0.1 mile above Beaver Creek Road.
- Patuxent River, Montgomery and Howard Counties—from red bank posts located on both sides of the river, approximately 400 yards below Brighton Dam downstream to Mink Hollow Road.

Restrictions:

- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All trout caught must be immediately released and returned to the water.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and fishing tackle (fly rods, fly reels, and fly lines with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached). Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited.
- You may only fish with conventional fly fishing tackle, fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached. Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with scent capable of catching fish.
- You may not possess trout while fishing in these areas.
- All trout caught must be immediately released and returned to the water.

Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures

Areas:

- Patuxent River, Howard and Montgomery counties—the mainstem of the Patuxent River from the crossing of MD Route 97 upstream to the crossing of MD Route 27 and Cabin Branch from its confluence with the Patuxent River upstream to Hipsley Mill Road.
- Morgan Run, Carroll County—from bridge on London Bridges Road upstream to bridge on Maryland Route 97.
- Paint Branch and tributaries, Montgomery County—upstream of Fairland Road.
- Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore County—mainstem from Prettyboy Reservoir Dam downstream to Bluemont Road.
- North Branch Potomac River—from an overhead cable and red bank post located approximately 345 yards below the Jennings Randolph Reservoir spillway downstream approximately one mile to a red post, located approximately 100 yards above the upstream concrete abutments at Barnum, West Virginia, and from a red post located below a pool known as Blue Hole, approximately 1/3 mile upstream of Bench Mark 1110 on the Westernport United States Geological Survey Quadrangle, downstream approximately 4 miles to the confluence of Piney Swamp Run.
- Youghiogheny River, Garrett County—mainstem beginning at the red post approximately 100 yards upstream of the Deep Creek Lake tailrace and extending downstream 4 miles to the Sang Run Bridge.
- Little Hunting Creek, Frederick County—mainstem from the red post located approximately 0.25 mile downstream of Route 806, upstream to include all waters of Little Hunting Creek within the boundaries of Cunningham Falls State Park.

Restrictions:

- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Artificial lures are restricted to single hooks with single hook points.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.
- Two fish creel and possession limit for all species of trout combined.
- Minimum Sizes:
  - Brook trout—12 inches
  - Brown trout—18 inches
  - All other trout species—no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with conventional fly fishing tackle (fly rods, fly reels, and fly line with a maximum of 18 feet of leader or monofilament line attached). Any method of angling when the fly is cast directly from the reel is prohibited.

Trophy Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to the Use of Artificial Lures and Flies

Area:

- Savage River mainstem from the downstream side of the Rt. 135 Bridge upstream for a distance of approximately 2.7 miles to the lower suspension bridge ( Allegany Bridge).

Restrictions:

- Two fish creel and possession limit for all species of trout combined.
- Minimum Sizes:
  - Brook trout—12 inches
  - Brown trout—18 inches
  - All other trout species—no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Artificial lures are restricted to single hooks with single hook points.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

Trophy Trout Fishing Areas—Limited to Use of Artificial Flies

Area:

- Savage River mainstem from the Savage River Reservoir Dam downstream to the lower suspension bridge ( Allegany Bridge).

Restrictions:

- Two fish creel and possession limit for all species of trout combined.
- Minimum Sizes:
  - Brook trout—12 inches
  - Brown trout—18 inches
  - All other trout species—no minimum size
- You may not possess any trout smaller than the minimum size limit.
- You may only fish with artificial lures, including artificial flies.
- Treble hooks are prohibited.
- Artificial lures are restricted to single hooks with single hook points.
- You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

We urge anglers to respect property rights and seek permission before attempting to park, fish or enter private property. The privilege of fishing and right of entry to private property is at the owner’s discretion. Respect for landowners and their property helps to ensure continued fishing access. Poor behavior encourages landowners to post their property to prevent access. Remember that every angler pays for the improper actions of a few. Always be courteous and respectful.
• The use of spinning, spincast, and casting reels is prohibited.
• You may not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

**Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas**

**Group I Areas:**
- Catoctin and Little Catoctin Creek, Frederick County—from U.S. Route 40 near its intersection with MD Route 17 within Doubs Meadow Park downstream to the lower park boundary near Myersville.
- Catoctin Creek, Frederick County—within the boundaries of Catoctin Creek Park.
- Middle Patuxent River, Howard County—from U.S. Route 29 downstream to Murray Hill Road.
- Town Creek mainstem, Allegany County—within Green Ridge State Forest, from a red post located approximately ¾ mile downstream of the upper ford on Lower Town Creek Road, just south of the Wagner Road intersection, downstream to the red post located just upstream of the lower ford on Lower Town Creek Road (Mallory Place), and from a red post located approximately ½ mile downstream of Maniford Road to a red post located approximately 1¾ miles downstream (Bull Ring Ranch).

**Restrictions:**
- From June 1–Sept 30, the creel and possession limit is five trout (all species of trout combined), with no tackle restrictions.
- From Oct 1–June 15, you:
  - May not possess trout in these areas.
  - Must immediately release any trout caught to the water from which the trout was taken.
  - May not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

**Put-and-Take/Catch-and-Return Trout Fishing Area**

**Area:**
- Owens Creek, Frederick County—mainstem from Buck Lantz Road downstream to Roddy Road.

**Restrictions:**
- From March 1–May 31:
  - No bait, lure or tackle restrictions are in effect.
  - Put-and-Take Trout Area regulations apply.
- From June 1–the last day of February, you:
  - May not possess trout in these areas.
  - May not possess or use any natural bait, live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

**Zero Creel Limit Area—Brook Trout**

**Area:**
- Savage River mainstem and tributaries upstream of the Savage River Reservoir dam, excluding the impoundments and Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas—Savage River Reservoir, Savage River from Savage River Reservoir upstream to Poplar Lick Run, and New Germany Lake.

**Restrictions:**
- Zero creel and possession limits for brook trout.
- Two fish creel and possession limit for all other trout species combined.
- You may only fish with artificial flies and artificial lures.
- You may not possess or use natural or live bait, or any device enhanced with a scent capable of catching fish.

**Zero Creel Limit Area—All Species of Trout**

**Area:**
- North Branch of the Potomac River from the Upper Potomac River Commission Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge at Westernport downstream to the Route 956 bridge at Pinto.

**Restrictions:**
- Zero creel and possession limits for all trout species.
- No tackle restrictions.

The online Public Angler Access Map includes color codes to illustrate special management areas, gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html

The most up-to-date regulations online.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS—ALL SPECIES

TAKE A CHILD FISHING

“To Catch a Fish,” is one of the Maryland Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights, issued as part of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, an initiative to ensure all Maryland young people have the opportunity to connect with their natural world and grow to become informed and responsible stewards.

Maryland’s My First Fish Program recognizes an angler that catches his or her first fish in Maryland. A special certificate is available online to an angler for this first fish.

Fishing rodeos are typically held at small ponds or lakes and are aimed at helping beginners successfully catch a fish, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/youth/rodeo.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/youth/rodeo.aspx).

Share your fishing story on the Anglers Log! [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers_log.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/Anglers_log.aspx)

The Youth Fishing Club is open to everyone between the ages of 5 and 15. Membership is free.

For more information on youth fishing or to join the Maryland Youth Fishing Club, visit [dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/youth/index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/youth/index.aspx).

Photo by Paul Strackbein

Youth, Senior and Blind Angler Fishing Areas

Areas:
- Jones Falls, Baltimore County—Jones Falls and tributaries above Stevenson Road.
- Laurel Run (Moscow), Allegany County.
- Pangborn Pond, Washington County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County—restrictions in effect from March 1 through May 15. On May 16, the area returns to limited harvest with no age restriction.
- Boonsboro Pond, Washington County—behind Boonsboro Free Library.

Restrictions:
- Fishing is limited to anglers who are under 16 years old, 65 years and older, or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.

Youth and Blind Fishing Areas

Areas:
- Carroll Creek, Frederick County—from the red post located 300 yards upstream of Baughmans Lane, downstream to the dam at College Avenue.
- George’s Creek, Allegany County—within Town Park in Westernport.
- Glades Park Pond, Garrett County—on Liberty Street in Oakland.
- Little Tonoloway Creek, Washington County—within Weidmeyer Park in Hancock.
- Little Antietam Creek, Washington County—at Keedysville, from Coffman Farms Road downstream to Maryland Route 34.
- Parkview Pond, Garrett County—off Herschberger Lane in Grantsville.

Restrictions:
- Limited to anglers who are under 16 years old or blind.
- Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area regulations apply in these areas.

Limited Harvest Fishing Areas

Areas:
- Allens Pond, Prince George’s County.
- Bowie Town Center Pond, Prince George’s County.
- Cosca Lake, Prince George’s County.
- Farm Museum Pond, Carroll County.
- Governor’s Bridge Natural Area Pond, Prince George’s County.
- Greenbelt Lake, Prince George’s County.
- Hughesville Pond, Charles County.
- Hutchins Pond, Calvert County.
- Lake Artemesia, Prince George’s County.
- Merkle Wildlife Management Area, Prince George’s County—all ponds located within the Merkle area boundaries.
- Milltown Landing Pond, Prince George’s County.
- Myrtle Grove Pond, Charles County.
- Pemberton Pond, Wicomico County.
- Rising Sun Pond, Cecil County—age restricted March 1 through May 15.
- Roberts Field Pond, Carroll County.
- Robert’s Mill Pond, Carroll County.
- South Germantown Park Pond, Montgomery County, in South Germantown Park.
- Tucker Pond, Prince George’s County.
- Westminster Community Pond, Carroll County.

Restrictions:
- You may not possess more than 10 fish.
- You may not possess more than one largemouth bass, not to exceed 15 inches in length.
- For areas that are also on the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing list, only five of the 10 fish limit may be trout species.
- There is no minimum size for largemouth bass in these areas.

Impoundments Limited to Catch-and-Return Fishing

You may not possess any fish in these areas:
- Lake Hashawa, Carroll County.
- Upper John Owings Pond, Carroll County.
- Waterworks Park, Anne Arundel County—City of Annapolis.
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Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

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LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS

Trophy Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass Fishing Areas

Areas:
• Blairs Valley Lake, Washington County.
• Centennial Lake, Howard County.
• Chesapeake Ranch Estates, Calvert County—all ponds.
• Johnson Pond, Wicomico County.
• Leonard Mill Pond, Wicomico County.
• Little Seneca Lake, Montgomery County.
• Patuxent Naval Air Test Center, St. Mary’s County—all ponds.
• St. Mary’s Lake, St. Mary’s County—located on Maryland Route 5.

Restrictions:
• You may not possess more than five bass (largemouth and smallmouth bass combined) per day while fishing in these areas.
• No bass in possession can measure between 11 and 15 inches long.
• Only one bass in possession may be 15 inches or longer.

Catch-and-Release Bass Fishing Areas

Areas:
• Monocacy River—from the Potomac River upstream to Buckeystown Dam.
• North Branch Potomac River—from the spillway in Cumberland upstream approximately 25 miles to U.S. Route 220 Bridge at Keyser, West Virginia.
• Patapsco River—from Interstate 70 downstream to Maryland Route 144 (Frederick Road).
• Potomac River—from Dam No. 2 (Seneca Breaks) upstream to the mouth of the Monocacy River.
• Wheatley Lake, Charles County.

Restrictions:
• You may not possess largemouth or smallmouth bass in these areas.
• You must immediately release any largemouth or smallmouth bass into the water where it was caught.

LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT PERMITS

A black bass tournament permit is required if all of the following conditions apply:
• The tournament has 10 or more boats participating.
• The tournament has a specific location where fish are weighed, measured, counted or otherwise entered.
• The tournament provides anglers an offer, reward or incentive for catching black bass.

For bass information and tournament registration, go to dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/charters/tournaments.aspx. The application deadline is either 15 days prior to the tournament if the contest will have 10–50 boats, or 30 days prior for tournaments with 50 or more boats.

TIPS FOR LIVE RELEASE TOURNAMENTS

• Use a big enough live well; one pound fish per gallon of water.
• Use a minimum 750 gal/hour pump.
• Use ice and water exchanges, and keep the live well water temperatures 5–7 degrees F below the river water temperature.
• Take extra care when fishing summer tournaments. Extreme heat can be a killer.
• Use continuous circulation and frequent water exchanges, and periodically lift the lids of live wells to expel carbon dioxide. This may require more of your attention during periods of rough water when bass experience increased stress.
• Act quickly if the live well stops working! Bucket in fresh water every 10 minutes, use a spare pump, move your fish to a working live well, or release them.
• Use an effective culling strategy that prevents tearing the lips or tissue of bass.
• Remove dead bass from live wells; do not discard harvested species at boat ramps or near parking lots. In many cases, harvested fish can be consumed or donated for consumption.
• Clean and remove algae or plant material from live well and intake systems.

BOWFISHING

Bowfishing has become increasingly popular. Species that are often targeted with a bow include carp, gar and snakeheads. It is illegal to use a bow to hunt some popular sportfishes, such as largemouth bass, striped bass, trout and all sharks. Please review other rules in the Recreational Gear section of this Guide (Pages 16–17).

Photo by Jim Thompson
Regulations
A person aboard a vessel, raft or tube must wear a U.S. Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket at all times while on the upper Potomac River and its tributaries, between November 15 and the following May 15. This regulation is in addition to class III, IV, V, and VI White Water Stream segment regulations, which require life jackets to be worn at all times.

Class III rapids (hazardous)
Dam #3 to Knoxville Falls.

Class IV rapids (significant hazard to life)
Great Falls (foot of falls) to Chain Bridge.

Class VI rapids (extreme risk to life)
Great Falls area from the base of the aqueduct dam to a line from the foot of the main falls on the Virginia shoreline to the Maryland shoreline below Olmstead Island.

Safety Tips
ALWAYS wear an approved life jacket while on the Potomac. Leave a float plan with someone at home describing where you are going, who you’re with and when you expect to return.

Know the weather predictions for the area.
REMEMBER the river currents are strong and unpredictable, especially after heavy rains.
Wading should NOT be attempted when the river levels exceed the normal level.

River Flow Information
- Conowingo Dam spill hotline—877-457-2525.
- Jennings Randolph Lake (North Branch Potomac) and Savage River Dam projected releases—410-962-7687 or online—nab-wc.usace.army.mil/mapserver/index.html.
- Potomac River flow at Hagerstown—301-223-6377.
- Susquehanna riverflow at Conowingo—888-457-4076.
- Youghiogheny River white water release schedule—315-413-2823 or online—deepcreekhydro.com.

Cast your line in Somerset County….and discover some of Maryland’s premier fishing! With 600 miles of shoreline on the bountiful Chesapeake Bay, easy access to the Tangier Sound and our professional Charter Boat Captains, everything you need is waiting for you here!

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Experience the fun of FISHING without the maintenance, cleaning or hassles

The affordable alternative to boat ownership!

Enjoy unlimited boating from our two Chesapeake Bay locations!

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www.FreedomBoatClub.com
FISH IDENTIFICATION

For the most up-to-date Maryland Fishing Information—dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries

Atlantic Coast  Nontidal  Chesapeake Bay

For information on more species of fish go to: dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/fishfacts-index.aspx
To learn more about some of Maryland’s species of sharks go to page 45 of this guide.

American Eel  9” minimum, creel limit 25

Atlantic Spadefish  No minimum size, creel limit 20 in aggregate
Angler Award Size 24”

Black Crappie  No minimum size, nontidal creel limit 15
Angler Award Size 15”

Black Drum  16” minimum, creel limit 1
Angler Award Size 48”

Black Sea Bass  See online version for season and limits
Angler Award Size 20”

Brook Trout  No minimum size*, creel limit 2* (combined)
Angler Award Size 12”

Brown Trout  No minimum size*, creel limit 2* (combined)
Angler Award Size 21”

Chain Pickerel  14” minimum, creel limit 5 (nontidal); 10 (tidal)
Angler Award Size 24”

Channel Catfish  No size limits, nontidal creel limit—5; no tidal creel limit
Angler Award Size 30”

Chesapeake Bay

Croaker (hardhead)  9” minimum, creel limit 25
Angler Award Size 18”

Fallfish  No minimum size or creel limit

Red Drum  18” minimum & 27” max slot limit, creel limit 1
Angler Award Size 36”, Catch & Release Only

Scup (porgy)  8” minimum, creel limit 50

For the most up-to-date Maryland Fishing Information—dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries

Atlantic Coast  Nontidal  Chesapeake Bay

For information on more species of fish go to: dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/fishfacts-index.aspx
To learn more about some of Maryland’s species of sharks go to page 45 of this guide.
The “Angler Award” is part of FishMaryland. To find out more go to page 46 or go to dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/index.aspx

**Sheepshead**
- No minimum size, creel limit 20 in aggregate
- Angler Award Size 24”

**Summer Flounder (fluke)**
- See online version for season and limits
- Angler Award Size 24”

**Smallmouth Bass**
- See tables pages 17–19
- Angler Award Tidal & Nontidal Size 20”

**Tautog**
- See online version for season and limits
- Angler Award Size 24”

**Spanish Mackerel**
- 14” minimum, creel limit 15
- Angler Award Size 22”

**Walleye**
- See pages 18 and 20 for season and limits
- Angler Award Size 26”

**Weakfish**
- 13” minimum, creel limit 1
- Angler Award Size 24”

**White Perch**
- No minimum size or creel limit if caught hook & line; 8” minimum if caught with any other gear
- Angler Award Size 13”

**Striped Bass (rockfish)**
- See striped Bass section for season and limits.
- Angler Award Nontidal Award Size 26”
- Angler Award Chesapeake & Coast Size 40”

**Yellow Perch**
- 9” minimum in tidal waters and nontidal rivers and streams; no minimum size in lakes and ponds; creel limit 10
- Angler Award Size 14”

**Spot**
- No minimum size, no creel limit
- Angler Award Size 12”

**Spotted Seatrout**
- 14” minimum, creel limit 4
- Angler Award Size 24”

**Walleye**
- See online version for season and limits
- Angler Award Size 26”

* except where otherwise indicated in nontidal limits

Fish illustrations by Dianne Raver and Diane Rome Peebles
The use of boats or motors on ponds and lakes is subject to local restrictions. Consult with local authorities before making your trip.

* Designates locations with boat ramp facilities.

**HELP SAVE MARYLAND’S ENDANGERED HELLBENDERS—PLEASE DO NOT KILL**

The hellbender is a large, dark, aquatic salamander that can live for more than 30 years and grow to over two feet long. Hellbenders can bite, and their protective coating of slime makes them difficult to handle. If you catch a hellbender on your fishing line, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let the animal go.

If you have seen or caught a hellbender, we would like to hear from you. Please call DNR’s Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.

---

### ALLEGANY COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battie Mixon Fishing Hole</td>
<td>MD Route 51 at Oldtown</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton Cove Pond</td>
<td>Lion’s Park Glendening Recreational Complex in Frostburg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan’s Mountain Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 36 two miles east of Lonaconing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evitts Creek Community Ponds</td>
<td>I-68, Exit 46 four miles east of Cumberland</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Park Pond</td>
<td>Frostburg (subject to user restrictions by the city of Frostburg)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchard Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 51 Green Ridge State Forest</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Rocky Gap Lake (Lake Habeed)</td>
<td>I-68, Exit 50 five miles northwest of Flintstone</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Sulphur Community Pond</td>
<td>I-68, Exit 62 Green Ridge State Forest, 12 miles east of Flintstone</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Park Pond</td>
<td>Route 778, Friendship</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 176</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Waterford</td>
<td>Route 646 near Severna Park</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patuxent Ponds</td>
<td>Patuxent Road near Conoways</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterworks Park</td>
<td>by permit only</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
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### BALTIMORE COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avalon Pond (Lost Lake)</td>
<td>within Patapsco Valley State Park, entrance on South St. off MD Rt.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwynbrook Community Pond</td>
<td>off U.S. Route 140 near Owings Mills</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillest Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 144 at Lansdowne</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Roland</td>
<td>MD Route 139 Baltimore</td>
<td>98.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Liberty Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 26 near Ward’s Chapel</td>
<td>3100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Loch Raven Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 146; Dulany Valley Road</td>
<td>2400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Prettyboy Reservoir</td>
<td>off MD Route 25 and U.S. Route 111, Beckleysville Road</td>
<td>1500</td>
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### CALVERT COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calvert Cliffs Park Pond</td>
<td>Route 4, near Lusby</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hutchins Pond</td>
<td>off Mt. Harmony Road, off Route 2, near Sunderland</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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### CAROLINE COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chambers Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 306 in Federalsburg</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Smithville Lake</td>
<td>U.S. Route 404 east to Noble Road</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
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### CARROLL COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bennett Cerf Pond</td>
<td>off MD Route 27 within Random House Industrial Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Museum Pond</td>
<td>west of MD Route 32 near Westminster</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Hashawha</td>
<td>off Rinehart Road</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Liberty Reservoir</td>
<td>Route 26 near Wards Chapel</td>
<td>3900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carroll Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 30 at Manchester</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Piney Run Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 32 near Eldersburg</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert’s Mill Pond</td>
<td>east of Taneytown, north of Route 140</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper John Owings</td>
<td>John Owings Road</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westminster Community Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 140 at Westminster</td>
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### CECIL COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Conowingo Reservoir</td>
<td>U.S. Route 1 at Conowingo</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkton Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 281 east of MD Route 213</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Sun Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 273 in Rising Sun</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stemmers Run Reservoir</td>
<td>Stearmers Run Road at MD Route 282—call 410-356-9272 for permission</td>
<td>90</td>
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### CHARLES COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Gilbert Run Park (Wheatley Lake)</td>
<td>MD Route 6; east of Oliver’s Shop</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughesville Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 5 at Hughesville</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Myrtle Grove Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 225 near Ripley</td>
<td>23</td>
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### DORCHESTER COUNTY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Galestown Lake</td>
<td>Galestown Road east of MD Route 313</td>
<td>16</td>
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### FREDERICK COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick Community Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 79 at Brunswick House Industrial Park</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Cunningham Falls Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 77 west of Thurmont</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmitsburg Reservoir (Rainbow Lake)</td>
<td>Hampton Valley Road near Emmitsburg—Town Permit Required</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Bentz Memorial Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 77 west of Thurmont</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambrill Community Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 40 near Frederick</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libertytown Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 75 at Libertytown</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbana Community Pond</td>
<td>Dixon Road off Route 80 at Urbana</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrett County</td>
<td>Accident Community Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 219 Accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Broadford Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 135 at Mt. Lake Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Deep Creek Lake</td>
<td>U.S. Route 219, McHenry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Herrington Manor Lake</td>
<td>U.S. Route 219 five miles north of Oakland</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* New Germany Lake</td>
<td>I-68, Exit 22 six miles south of Grantsville</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piney Reservoir</td>
<td>U.S. Route 40 Alt. north on Piney Run Road east of Grantsville</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Valley Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 495 twelve miles south of Grantsville</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Jennings Randolph Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 135 south on Mt. Zion Road five miles from Kitzmiller on West Virginia Route 46</td>
<td>952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Savage Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 135 on Savage River Road</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Youthsogheny Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 42 two miles north of Friendsville</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harford County</td>
<td>Bynum Run Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 22 at Bel Air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Conowingo Reservoir</td>
<td>Broad Creek Landing and Glen Cove Marina—Darlington, MD</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin Dell Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 136 in Dublin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Branch Park</td>
<td>Joppotowne, Foster Branch Road</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Hill Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 23 at Forest Hill</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard County</td>
<td>* Centennial Lake</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Lake Elkhorn</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford Park Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 32 off Interstate 95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Kittamaundni</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilde Lake</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent County</td>
<td>Millington Wildlife Management Ponds (4)</td>
<td>Massey Delaware Line Road, east of Massey—telephone 410-928-3650 for permission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Sassafras NRMA Pond</td>
<td>Kennedyville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Urieville Community Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 213 north of Chestertown</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>Clopper Lake</td>
<td>within Seneca State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Duckett Reservoir</td>
<td>MD Route 198 and U.S. Route 29 Burtonsville</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kings Community Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 355 and MD Route 121 Clarksburg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Frank</td>
<td>MD Route 115 near Norbeck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Needwood</td>
<td>MD Route 115 near Norbeck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Little Seneca Lake</td>
<td>near Boyds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Pond</td>
<td>1120 Jackson Road, Silver Spring</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 97 near Wheaton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Triadelphia Reservoir</td>
<td>off MD Route 650 near Brighton Temporarily closed to fishing and boating keep up to date on the closure by checking <a href="http://www.wsscwater.com/brighton">www.wsscwater.com/brighton</a>.</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince George’s County</td>
<td>Allens Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 197 near Bowie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Bowie Town Center Pond</td>
<td>off Mitchellville Road, Bowie</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedarville Pond</td>
<td>off Cedarville Road in Cedarville State Forest</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cosca Lake</td>
<td>Thrift Road south of Clinton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 193 and Adolph Road in University Hills Park</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor Bridge Natural Area Pond</td>
<td>Governor Bridge Rd, Bowie</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenbelt Lake</td>
<td>off Crescent Road in Greenbelt Park</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Artemesia</td>
<td>Branchville Road, Berwyn Heights</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel Lake</td>
<td>Route 1 and Cherry Lane, Laurel</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melwood Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 223, Woodward Road between MD Routes 4 and 5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merkle Ponds</td>
<td>Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, off Ferno Road</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milltown Landing Pond</td>
<td>Patuxent River Park, off Milltown Landing Road</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoolhouse Pond</td>
<td>across from County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tucker Pond</td>
<td>Tucker Road near Oxon Hill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Anne’s County</td>
<td>* Tuckahoe Lake</td>
<td>Rt. 404 east to Rt. 480 to Ewell Rd to Crouse Mill Rd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Unicorn Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 313 south of Millington</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Wye Mills Community Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 662 south of U.S. Route 50</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Mary’s County</td>
<td>* St. Mary’s Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 5, Calloway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>* Big Pool</td>
<td>I-70, exit 12 MD Route 56 east of Fort Frederick State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Blairs Valley Lake</td>
<td>Blairs Valley Road north of Clear Spring</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville Community Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 67 at Brownsville</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Greenbrier Lake</td>
<td>Greencrater State Park, U.S. Route 40 near Hagerstown</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Springs Community Pond</td>
<td>Mooresville Road eight miles west of Clear Spring</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Pool</td>
<td>off MD Route 615 east of Hancock</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicomico County</td>
<td>* Johnsons Lake</td>
<td>Isabella Street at U.S. Route 50 to Lake Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Leonard Mill Lake</td>
<td>U.S Route 13 north of Salisbury</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powellville Pond</td>
<td>MD Route 354 in Powellville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shumaker Lake</td>
<td>MD Route 12 in Salisbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcester County</td>
<td>Big Mills Lake</td>
<td>Big Mills Road west of MD Route 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore’s Pond</td>
<td>U.S. Route 13 near Pocomoke City</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following boundaries are designated as dividing lines for tidal and nontidal waters. These boundary lines identify whether a nontidal fishing license or Chesapeake Bay and Coastal Sport Fishing license is required. If you are fishing upstream of the location listed, nontidal fishing regulations apply. If you are fishing downstream of the location listed, tidal regulations apply.

**Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties**
- Anacostia River:
  a) Northeast Branch Bridge at northbound lane of Alternate Route 1 Bladensburg Road.
  b) Northwest Branch Bridge at southbound lane of Rhode Island Avenue.
- Furnace Branch—MD Route 2.
- Patuxent River:
  a) Mainstem: bridge on MD Route 214.
  b) Lyons Creek: MD Route 4.
  c) Sockeyts Run: confluence with the river.
  d) Rock Run: confluence with the river.
  e) Ferry Branch: confluence with the river.
- Magothy River—Catherine Avenue.
- Marley Creek—MD Route 10.
- Severn River—bridge on MD Route 3.
- South River and its tributaries:
  a) North River: Rutland Road.
  b) Bacon Ridge Branch: Chesterfield Road.
  c) Beards Creek: MD Route 214.
- Broad Creek: Harry S. Truman Parkway.

**Baltimore county**
- Big Gunpowder Falls—three-fourths of a mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge.
- Little Gunpowder Falls—three-fourths of a mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road at the B&O Railroad Bridge.
- Stansbury Park Pond—base of dam.
- Steemers Run—Golden Ring Road Bridge.

**Baltimore and Howard counties**
- Patapsco River—B&O viaduct at Relay.

**Calvert county**
- Battle Creek—bridge about two miles east of Bowens (Sixes Road).
- Fishing Creek—one and one-half miles upstream from the mouth of the creek at Chesapeake Beach.
- Hall’s Creek—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Hellen Creek—Mill Branch Road, near Solomons.
- Hunting Creek—bridge on MD Route 263 about 100 yards west of MD Route 4.
- Island Creek—Ross Road, near Brooms Island.
- Lyon’s Creek—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Mills Creek—MD Route 760.
- Parkers Creek—MD Route 765.
- Plum Point Creek—bridge on MD Route 263.
- Quaker Swamp—MD Routes 2/4.
- St. John’s Creek—MD Route 4.
- St. Leonard’s Creek—Parran Road.

**Charles, Montgomery and Prince George’s counties**
- Henson Run—bridge on Old Broad Creek Road.
- Hogh hole Run—MD Route 6.
- Mattawoman Creek—bridge on MD Route 225.
- Nanjemoy Creek and its tributaries:
  a) Mainstem: MD Route 6.
  b) Mill Run (Burgess Creek): MD Route 6.
  c) Hill Top Fork: MD Route 6.
  d) Wards Run: MD Route 6.
- Oxon Creek (Run)—MD Route 210.
- Patuxent River and its tributaries:
  a) Swanson Creek: MD Route 381.
  b) Mataponi Creek: St. Thomas Church Road.
  c) Spice Creek: MD Route 382, Croom Road.
- d) Full Mill Branch: MD Route 382, Croom Road.
- e) Black Swamp Creek: MD Route 382, Croom Road.
- Piscataway Creek—bridge on MD Route 224 (Livingston Road).
- Pomonkey Creek—Fenwick Road.
- Port Tobacco Creek—bridge on MD Route 6.
- Potomac River—Little Falls at man-made dam.
- Western Branch—bridge on MD Route 4.
- Wicomico River—Allens Fresh, bridge on MD Route 234.

**Dorchester county**
- Chicamicomico River—U.S. Route 50.
- Transquaking River—dam at Higgins Mill Pond.

**Harford county**
- Bynum Run—Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on MD Route 7.
- Deer Creek—railroad bridge located at the mouth of Deer Creek.
- Gray’s Run—CSX Railroad crossing upstream of U.S. Route 40.
- James Run—Old Philadelphia Road Bridge on MD Route 7.
- Winter's Run—dam located one half mile south of MD Route 7, the Old Philadelphia Road.

**Kent and Queen Anne’s counties**
- Chester River—500 yards upstream from the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge at Millington at the point where the Cypress Branch empties into the Chester River.
- Herring Branch—MD Route 299.
- Morgan Creek—Wallis Road.
- Red Lion Branch—at its confluence with the Chester River.
- Sassafras River—MD Route 299.
- Unicorn Branch—U.S. Geological Survey weir just east of MD Route 313.
- Wye East River—Wye Mills Lake dam.

**St. Mary’s county**
- Budds Creek—MD Route 234.
- Chaptico Run—Chaptico Bridge on MD Route 234.
- Dynard Run—MD Route 242.
- Eastern Branch—MD Route 5.
- Gilbert Swamp Run—MD Route 234.
• Great Mills Run—bridge on MD Route 5.
• McIntosh Run—MD Route 5.
• Park Hall Run—MD Route 5.
• St. Clements Creek—MD Route 234 bridge at town of Clements.
• Tomakokin Creek—MD Route 470.
• Town Run—bridge on MD Route 5.

Susquehanna River
• Conowingo Dam—at U.S. Route 1.

Wicomico and Worcester counties
• Barren Creek—US Route 50 Bridge
• Beaverdam Creek—dam just upstream of U.S. Route 13 (Business).
• Nassawango Creek—Furnace Road.
• Pocomoke River—bridge on Whiton Crossing, three miles south of Powellville.
• Wicomico River—Isabella Street in Salisbury.
The introduction of invasive and non-native species can cause irreversible changes in the food web. Several invasive species of concern are listed below. For information on other invasive and non-native species, and to see a list of species prohibited from transport, visit dnr.maryland.gov/invasives. To report the illegal transport or unauthorized introduction of invasive species, contact the Natural Resources Police—800-635-6124.

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

Snakehead

It is against Maryland, Virginia, and federal laws to possess, import, or transport live northern snakehead.

If you catch a snakehead and want to keep it, you must immediately kill the fish by removing its head, gutting it or removing its gill arches. Anglers are encouraged to catch and keep northern snakeheads year round. There is no minimum size or creel limit for snakeheads.

The Department of Natural Resources asks anglers to report snakeheads caught outside of the Potomac River and its tributaries or upstream of Great Falls. Send catch information to fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov or call 410-260-8300 to help the department track the range of the species.

If you catch a northern snakehead with a blue or red tag, please report the tag number and the location, date and time of day when the fish was caught to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 800-448-8322.

Blue & Flathead Catfish

Blue and flathead catfish are invasive species that have spread rapidly throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. These catfish have few natural predators, eat a wide variety of native fish and shellfish, and may cause ecological harm.

It is illegal to move live blue or flathead catfish from one body of water to another and is punishable by a fine of up to $2,500. Anglers are encouraged to catch and keep blue and flathead catfish year round. There is no minimum size or creel limit for these catfish.

**Zebra Mussels**

Zebra mussels are an aggressive invasive species and reproduce at a very prolific rate, out-competing native species for needed resources. These mussels quickly overtake and cover all available areas to such an extent that they can clog water intake structures, boats, moorings, ropes, fishing lines, traps, and even dams and power plants. Zebra mussels are established from the Susquehanna River and Flats to the upper Bay. Additionally, The Department of Natural Resources recently confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in tributaries of the upper Western Shore near Middle River in Baltimore County.

More information on zebra mussels is available at dnr.maryland.gov/Invasives/Pages/zebra_mussels.aspx, including a fact sheet and reporting form. The department asks citizens, to report any suspected sightings to invasivemussels.dnr@maryland.gov.

**HARVEST AN INVASIVE FISH AND HELP DNR TO MONITOR THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

Questions on what gear is legal to harvest invasive species? Check out the gear tables in the Sport Fishing Regulations section on pages 16 and 17.
INVASIVE SPECIES

• Catfish, Blue — 84 lbs., Ed Jones, 8/13/2012, Near Fort Washington, Potomac River
• Northern Snakehead — 18.42 lbs., Emory (Dutch) Baldwin III, 5/20/2016, Potomac River

Photo Courtesy of Ed Jones

STATE RECORDS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

STOP Maryland’s
MOST UNWANTED

Non-native species can invasively colonize our waters and push out native species leading to negative impacts on water quality, fish habitat, and recreation.

Prevent the spread of harmful species:

REMOVE and dispose of aquatic plants, mud, and debris from your boat, motor, trailer and gear before launching and after haul out.

DRAIN all water from live wells, bilge, bait buckets, coolers, and motor immediately after use.

DISPOSE of all unused bait far away from the water. Immediately remove the heads of crayfish in the Upper and Middle Potomac, Monocacy River and Susquehanna River Basin.

RINSE boat, motor, trailer, tackle, buckets and all gear, including SCUBA gear, with hot or high-pressure water.

DON’T STOCK fish in any waters. The importation, introduction and transport of aquatic species without a permit is prohibited by law.

DON’T TRANSFER live fish from one area to another.

DON’T RELEASE aquarium fish into the wild.

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donr.maryland.gov
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 two hooks or two 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–May 31 inclusive, in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
- To cull striped bass.
- To possess striped bass while fishing in the Chesapeake Bay or its tidal tributaries from midnight 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–May 31.
- To intentionally snag a striped bass.

Striped bass tournaments held prior to May 1 must be catch & release. Each tournament is provided a data sheet to record all striped bass caught. Tournament organizers are responsible for submitting the completed data sheet to the department.

Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which stretches from 3–200 miles off the coast.

### Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries (excluding the Susquehanna Flats, Lower Susquehanna River and Northeast River)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Fishing Locations Allowed</th>
<th>Creel and Size Limits</th>
<th>Regulations</th>
<th>Restrictions and Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 1–Feb. 28</td>
<td>All Maryland portions of Bay and Potomac are open to catch and release fishing only</td>
<td>No harvest</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>Directed catch and release of striped bass in the Potomac requires barbless hooks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING CATCH AND RELEASE SEASON</td>
<td>Chesapeake Bay from the Brewerton Channel to the Virginia line including Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds.</td>
<td>No harvest</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>Eels may not be used as bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING TROPHY SEASON</td>
<td>Chesapeake Bay from Brewerton Channel to the MD-VA Line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers, except Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound</td>
<td>1 fish per person per day Minimum size 35 inches</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>Eels may not be used as bait. See maps at: dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/striped-bass-maps.aspx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 16–MAY 31</td>
<td>Chesapeake Bay downstream from a line drawn from the south corner of Hart-Miller Island Dike to the end of MD Route 21 at Tolchester and south to the MD-VA line, excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks and rivers. EXCEPT: Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound; Chester River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Little Point to Long Point to Ferry Point; Patuxent River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Point Patience to the west point of land at the entrance of Little Kingston Creek; and Choptank River and its tributaries downstream of a line drawn from Holland Point to a point of land at the west entrance of Chapel Creek are open.</td>
<td>2 fish per person per day between 20-28 inches OR 1 fish between 20-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>See maps at: dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/striped-bass-maps.aspx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER/FALL SEASON</td>
<td>All Maryland Chesapeake Bay waters and tributaries open to fishing</td>
<td>2 fish per person per day between 20-28 inches OR 1 fish between 20-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td>See maps at: dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/striped-bass-maps.aspx.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC. 21–DEC. 31</td>
<td>All Maryland portions of Chesapeake Bay are open to catch and release striped bass fishing</td>
<td>No harvest</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Striped Bass Tournament Authorization Required

Striped bass tournament organizers need department authorization to hold a tournament. Submit requests including name of the tournament, date(s), location of check-ins, qualifying area, expected number of participants, and charity (if applicable) to fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov.

The success of tagging studies relies on anglers like you. If you catch a tagged fish, please follow the instructions printed on the tag, or call Fishing and Boating Services at 800-688-3467. Please record the tag number, capture date, fishing location, and total length.


### SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND NORTHEAST RIVER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED</th>
<th>CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>REGULATIONS</th>
<th>RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC 20–MAY 3</td>
<td>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 Tomes Wharf in Port Deposit; and the Northeast River</td>
<td>Catch and Release only</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Stinger hooks are prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Barbless hooks are required when trolling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-offset circle or J hooks with less than ½ inch gap are required when using bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• No more than six lines per boat are allowed when trolling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Eels may not be used as bait.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 4–MAY 15</td>
<td>Susquehanna Flats closed to striped bass fishing</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
<td>No catch and release fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 16–MAY 31</td>
<td>Susquehanna Flats reopen to striped bass fishing</td>
<td>1 fish per person per day between 20–26 inches</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eels may not be used as bait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 1–DEC 20</td>
<td>Susquehanna Flats and all Bay waters including tributaries open to striped bass fishing</td>
<td>2 fish per person per day between 20–28 inches OR 1 fish between 20–28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED</th>
<th>CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>REGULATIONS</th>
<th>RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN. 1–DEC. 31</td>
<td>No area restrictions in state waters</td>
<td>2 fish per person per day. Must be between 28 inches and 38 inches, inclusive, or greater than or equal to 44 inches</td>
<td></td>
<td>Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which stretches from 3–200 miles off the coast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESERVOIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED</th>
<th>CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS</th>
<th>REGULATIONS</th>
<th>RESTRICTIONS AND REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESERVOIRS</td>
<td>Broadford Lake, Conowingo Reservoir, Jennings Randolph Reservoir, Liberty Reservoir, Piney Run Reservoir, Rocky Gorge Reservoir, and Tridelphia Reservoir.</td>
<td>18 inch minimum size; 2 fish per person per day—only 1 of those fish may be larger than 30 inches</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Year Round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Find Licensed Charter Boats and Fishing Guides

Use the map and table to locate licensed charters and fishing guides throughout the State.

dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/charters/map.aspx
BLUE CRABS—CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS TIDAL TRIBUTARIES

Crabbing License/Registration
See page 13.

Season
April 1–Dec 15.

Time of Day Restrictions
Rivers, creeks and tributaries:
• April and Oct through Dec. 15—one half hour after sunrise to sunset.
• May through Sept—one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Chesapeake Bay Mainstem:
• April and October through Dec. 15—one half hour after sunrise to 5 p.m.
• May through September—one half hour before sunrise to 5 p.m.

Using properly registered crab pots on private property, dip nets or handlines is permitted 24 hours a day.

Day of Week Restrictions
No recreational crabbing is allowed on Wednesdays except:
• When using crab pots from private property;
• When using handlines or dip nets;
• During a week when a state or federal holiday falls on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Minimum Size Limits
(measured from tip to tip of spikes)
Male hard crab:
• April 1–July 14—5 inches
• July 15–Dec 15—5¼ inches
Male peeler crab:
• April 1–July 14—3¼ inches
• July 15–Dec 15—3½ inches
Soft crab:
• April 1–Dec 15—3½ inches

Daily Creel/Possession Limits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL / POSSESSION LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MALE HARD CRABS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNLICENSED INDIVIDUAL</td>
<td>From shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 dozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICENSED INDIVIDUAL</td>
<td>From shore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 bushel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOAT LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE</th>
<th>DAILY CREEL / POSSESSION LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MALE HARD CRABS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNLICENSED BOAT</td>
<td>With 2 or more unlicensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With 1 licensee and any number of unlicensed individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With 2 or more licensees and any number of unlicensed individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICENSED BOAT</td>
<td>With 1 or more unlicensed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With 1 licensee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With owner and any number of unlicensed individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With a licensee who is not the owner and any number of unlicensed individuals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is Illegal for a Recreational Crabber:
• To sell crabs.
• To possess an egg-bearing (sponge) crab or any female hard or peeler crab.
• To set or fish a trotline, collapsible trap or crab net ring within 100 feet of another individual’s set gear.
• To fish crab gear which belongs to another person.
• To harvest crabs while SCUBA diving.
• To use gear other than the gear listed in the table below.

Additional Crab Pot Rules
• Crab pots must have two cull rings, one measuring at least 2½ inches and one at least 2¾ inches located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
• Crab pots must have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.
• Annual registration required.

The Amount of Gear Allowed for Unlicensed and Licensed Recreational Crabbing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LICENSE STATUS</th>
<th>HANDLINES AND DIP NETS</th>
<th>CRAB POTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY</th>
<th>TROTLINE</th>
<th>COLLAPSIBLE TRAPS AND NET RINGS</th>
<th>SEINE</th>
<th>EEL POTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNLICENSED</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>A maximum of 2 annually registered crab pots per property regardless of the number of owners or lessees. These pots must be:</td>
<td>Not Allowed</td>
<td>Not Allowed</td>
<td>Not Allowed</td>
<td>Not Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LICENSED</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
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<td><em>Up to 1200ft</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Must have floats of the same color, size, shape on each end</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Set in front of private property within 100 yards of shore</td>
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<td>• Attached by a line to the property or marked by a buoy or pole and sign</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Registered annually</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Up to 30 traps, rings or combination of both*</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Must be marked with a buoy bearing your DNRid unless attached to a pier, wharf or boat</td>
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<td>• Traps must have a flat bottom measuring no more than 20 inches by 15 inches and have no more than four articulated sides</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Net rings must have a diameter less than or equal to 30 inches</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mesh cannot be greater than ¼”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Cannot exceed 50’ in width and 5’ in height</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Must be emptied from shore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Up to 10 eel pots for catching your own bait</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Must be labeled with your DNRid and may not be set in a buoy-free channel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The amount of gear is per boat regardless of the number of licensees or individuals on board.
Season
April 1–Dec 31.

Harvest Restrictions
• There are no license or registration requirements.
• There are no time of day restrictions.
• The taking of sponge crabs is prohibited.

Minimum Size Limits
(measured from tip to tip of spikes)
• Hard crabs—5 inches.*
• Soft crabs—3½ inches.
• Peeler crabs
  • April 1–July 14—3¼ inches
  • July 15–Dec 31—3½ inches
• Mature female crabs—no minimum size.

Recreational Crabbing Daily Catch Limits
The daily catch limit in the waters of the Coastal Bays of the Atlantic Ocean and their tidal tributaries is:
• One bushel per person.
• Two bushels per boat if two or more individuals are on the boat.

It is Legal
To crab in the Coastal Bays of Maryland’s Atlantic Ocean and coastal tributaries using:
• No more than 600 feet of baited trotline, with floats of the same color, size and shape attached to each end; or
• No more than two 600-foot trotlines if two or more persons are in the boat; or
• Dip nets and any number of handlines; or
• No more than 10 or a combination of 10 collapsible crab traps or crab net rings per person from docks, piers, bridges, boats or shoreline; or
• No more than 25, or a combination of 25, collapsible crab traps or crab net rings, if two or more persons are in a boat.

For waterfront property owners to set a maximum of two crab pots at their property, provided that:
• Pots are marked with the owner’s name and address or DNRid; and
• Crab pots must have two cull rings, one measuring at least 2¾ inches and one at least 2⅝ inches, located in the exterior side panel or the top panels of the pot.
• Pot cull rings must be closed from April 23–May 31.
• Crab pots must have a turtle excluder device attached to each entrance or funnel in the lower chamber constructed of wire or plastic, rectangular in shape not larger than 1¾ inches high by 4¾ inches long.

Turtle Excluders Are Required by Law
Turtle excluders are required in recreational crab pots in Maryland. These devices prevent terrapins from entering a crab pot without hindering blue crab entry. Without turtle excluders, terrapins can enter crab pots and drown. To get instructions for making your own turtle excluder, visit dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/crabpot.aspx

Blue Crab Identification

Sally
An immature (adolescent) female blue crab is easily identified as having an inverted “V” or triangular shaped apron and red-tipped claws.

Sook
A mature (adult) female blue crab identified as having an inverted “U” or bell-shaped apron and red-tipped claws.

Jimmy
A mature male blue crab with a long, narrow, inverted “T” shaped apron and blue-tipped claws.

*Soft crabs may be kept as a bycatch. Soft crabs may not be set out on the water prior to April 1. Refer to Crabbing, page 46, for details.
Maryland has artificial reef sites in both bay and ocean waters. These are collaborative projects between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the partner organizations of the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative, and the Ocean City Reef Foundation.

The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative is a volunteer organization including more than 60 private, state, and federal partners dedicated to preserving, restoring and creating fish habitat in tidewater Maryland. It acts as a funding mechanism under an agreement with the Coastal Conservation Association Maryland using private and corporate donations for reef development.

The Ocean City Reef Foundation works to build reefs off of Ocean City and, in partnership with The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative, accepts donations as a non-profit 501(c)(3) at ocreefs.org.

For more general information on artificial reef projects and to view the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative and The Ocean City Reef Foundation reef coordinates, go to dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/reefs/index.aspx.
Maryland residents may harvest oysters and clams for recreational purposes. No license is required.

Refer to maps of Maryland Shellfish Harvesting Areas for information on areas of restricted waters, closures, and coordinates of sanctuaries online via mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/fishandshellfish/Pages/shellfishmaps.aspx.

You may also call the Maryland Department of the Environment hotline 800-541-1210 to obtain information on conditional closures due to water quality or other environmental issues.

Recreational shellfish regulations for the Potomac River can be found at prfc.us.

It is Illegal

- To take oysters or clams for recreational purposes while aboard a vessel where any person is engaged in commercial oystering or clamping.
- To recreationally harvest oysters or clams within a leased area, harvest reserve area, sanctuary or any other area closed by the state.
- To harvest oysters or clams if you are not a resident of Maryland.*

* However, a nonresident may harvest clams in Worcester County.

Oysters

Season
Oct 1–March 31

Daily Harvest Restrictions
1 bushel/person/day

Time of Day Restrictions
Harvest is only permitted:
• Monday–Friday: Sunrise to 3 p.m.
• Saturday: Sunrise until noon

Gear Restrictions
A person may catch oysters ONLY by:
• Culling
• Diving (includes SCUBA)
• Hand
• Shaft tongs
• All shell and undersized oysters shall be returned to the bar from which they were caught.

Minimum Size Limits
Three inches measured from hinge to bill along the longest part of the shell.

Hard Clams

Daily Harvest Restrictions
250 clams/person/day

Gear Restrictions
Limited to hand-operated gear only, including hand rakes. Mechanical harvesting is not allowed.

Minimum Size Limits
One inch transverse measurement

Rangia Clams

The Rangia clam is often found in Maryland in low salinity water. Many of these areas, especially those within 200 feet of shore, have not been tested or approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment for shellfish harvest, and the consumption of these clams is not recommended.

Rangia clams should not be confused with the better-known hard clam found primarily in the Coastal Bays.
Federal Highly Migratory Species Permits

Waters three to 200 miles offshore of state coastlines constitute the Exclusive Economic Zone and fall under the jurisdiction of the federal government. If you are fishing in these waters for species such as sharks, tuna, marlin, swordfish or sailfish, someone on your vessel must hold a highly migratory species permit from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. Call 888-872-8862 or go to nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/compliance/permits_reporting/to obtain a permit/Shark Endorsement.

Passengers fishing on the vessel who do not possess an highly migratory species permit or have a state saltwater fishing license must register with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Saltwater Angler registry. Anglers holding state saltwater licenses from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Virgin Islands are required to register.

To register, go to countmyfish.noaa.gov/register.

Landing Requirements

All recreationally landed bluefin tuna, billfish (marlin, sailfish, swordfish and roundscale spearfish), and sharks (except spiny dogfish) must be tagged before being removed from the boat and reported to vessel owners to a reporting station.

A tag is provided for each completed catch and the angler is required to place this tag around the tail of the fish before removing it from the vessel. Sharks caught from shore must be tagged before removal from the point of landing. Boats cannot be pulled from the water until the tag is in place. For information on obtaining tags, call the department at 410-213-1531.

Catch cards and tags are available at the following reporting stations:

- Alltackle, Ocean City (shark tags only)
- Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin (shark kiosk only)
- Atlantic Tackle, Ocean City
- Bahia Marina, Ocean City
- Buck’s Place, Berlin (shark tags only)
- Department of Natural Resources/Natural Resources Police, Col. Jack Taylor Boathouse, Ocean City (after hours dropbox)
- Fisherman’s Marina, Ocean City
- Ocean City Fishing Center, Ocean City
- Ocean Pines Marina, Ocean Pines
- Pines Point Provisions and Seafood, Ocean Pines
- Sunset Marina, Ocean City
- Talbot Street Pier and Marina, Ocean City
- White Marlin Marina, Ocean City
- Catch cards can also be downloaded at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/tagging.aspx

Visit dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/billfish.aspx to learn more about the various billfishes of Maryland.

It is Illegal

- For an angler to sell, barter, or trade sharks or shark parts.
- For an angler to engage in shark finning. All sharks caught by an angler must have heads, tails and fins attached naturally to the carcass through landing.
- To fillet sharks at sea.
- For a highly migratory species angling, charter/headboat, and general category (if participating in a registered Atlantic highly migratory species tournament) permit holder to possess hammerhead sharks or oceanic whitetip sharks simultaneously with billfish, tunas, or swordfish.

Gear Restrictions

Anglers may use only handlines or rod and reel.

New Requirements for Recreational and Commercial Shark Fishing 2018

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/bulletin/reminder-new-requirements-recreational-and-commercial-shark-fishing-take-effect

**ROUNDSCALE SPEARFISH LOOK VERY SIMILAR TO WHITE MARLIN**


**SHARK IDENTIFICATION "IF YOU DON'T KNOW, LET IT GO"**

nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/species/sharks/shark_id_placard.pdf
Sharks Caught Fishing in state Waters (Listed species represent a sampling which may be encountered)

- Stocky
- Skinny

Source: Guide to Sharks, Tunas and Billfishes of the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico by Rhode Island Sea Grant and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries. To learn more about coastal Sharks in Maryland go to dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/coastal/SharkFacts.aspx

**Atlantic Sharpnose Shark**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - White spots.
  - Second dorsal fin begins above middle of anal fin.
  - Long labial furrows around corners of mouth.
- Status
  - Legal

**Dusky Shark**
- Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - First dorsal sloping and begins behind pectoral fin.
- Status
  - PROHIBITED

**Blacktip Shark**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Anal fin white and other fins with black tips (fades with age).
  - First dorsal begins above axil of pectoral.
- Status
  - Legal

**Sandbar Shark**
- Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - First dorsal fin tall, triangular, starts over or slightly before pectoral fin.
  - Large, broad pectoral fins.
- Status
  - PROHIBITED

**Scalloped Hammerhead**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Hammer marked by prominent indentation at midline.
  - Pelvic fins with straight rear margins.
- Status
  - Legal

**Smooth Dogfish**
- Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Dorsal fins nearly equal in size.
  - Oval shaped eyes.
  - Spiracles behind eyes.
- Status
  - Legal

**Spiny Dogfish**
- Weak Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Dorsal spines.
  - No anal fin.
  - Body usually with white spots.
- Status
  - Legal

**Bull Shark**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - First dorsal fin large, triangular, rearward sloping, originating over or slightly behind pectoral insertion.
- Status
  - Legal

**Sand Tiger Shark**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Dorsal fins nearly equal in size.
  - Small eyes.
  - Large teeth sticking out of the mouth.
- Status
  - PROHIBITED

**Blacktip Shark**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - First dorsal fin large, triangular, rearward sloping, originating over or slightly behind pectoral insertion.
- Status
  - Legal

**Sandbar Shark**
- Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - First dorsal fin tall, triangular, starts over or slightly before pectoral fin.
  - Large, broad pectoral fins.
- Status
  - PROHIBITED

**Scalloped Hammerhead**
- No Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Hammer marked by prominent indentation at midline.
  - Pelvic fins with straight rear margins.
- Status
  - Legal

**Smooth Dogfish**
- Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Dorsal fins nearly equal in size.
  - Oval shaped eyes.
  - Spiracles behind eyes.
- Status
  - Legal

**Spiny Dogfish**
- Weak Interdorsal Ridge
- Distinguishing features
  - Dorsal spines.
  - No anal fin.
  - Body usually with white spots.
- Status
  - Legal

**KEY CATCH AND RELEASE POINTS THAT MAXIMIZE SURVIVAL**

- Leave sharks in the water
- Don’t drag them onto the sand
- Don’t sit on them
- Don’t hold their jaws open
- Use circle hooks
- Minimize fight times by using the appropriate gear
- Know how to identify the species
- Know which species are legal and illegal
- Don’t gaff a shark that is going to be released
- Have a release plan and make sure everyone knows their role
- Use a dehooker
- Don’t place hands in the gills
Recreational fishing offers opportunities for families and friends to spend quality time together, enjoying the abundant natural resources Maryland has to offer. FishMaryland is Maryland’s recreational fishing award program and is a fun way to explore year-round recreational fishing and enjoy Maryland’s affordable, accessible, diverse and high quality fishing opportunities.

Components:
- **Angler Award (includes catch and release)** —Any angler fishing legally in Maryland may catch and report a trophy sized fish by landing any of more than 60 eligible species in three categories at or above a certain minimum size. If you catch a fish that meets or exceeds the official award size, simply lay the fish on a tape measure and photograph so that the species and size can be verified. Submit your catch through our online registration process. Once your catch is verified, you will receive your award certificate within 45 days.
- **Invasive Species Award** —Recognizes anglers for reporting their harvest of certain eligible invasive fish species. “Invasive” describes a species that, when introduced into an ecosystem, aggressively establishes itself and has the potential to negatively impact native plants, animals, or habitat. Currently there are three invasive fish species which naturally reproduce or migrate into Maryland waters and are eligible for the Invasive Species Award: blue catfish, northern snakehead and flathead catfish. Fish must be kept to qualify.
- **Governor’s Striped Bass Conservation Award** —In addition to the Angler Awards, those who catch and release an award sized striped bass during the open season will be recognized with a Governor’s Striped Bass Conservation Award at the end of the fishing season. The award recognizes any recreational angler who releases alive a striped bass catch of 40 inches or more while fishing Maryland waters during the open season.
- **Youth Angler’s Log** —Members of the Maryland YouthFishing Club who submit their fishing reports to the Youth Angler’s Log will be entered into a random drawing for prizes. Winners names will be posted online. Visit the Maryland Youth Fishing Club website for additional information on how to become a member.

For information on FishMaryland, including rules and registration go to—[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/rules.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/rules.aspx).

### ANGLER AWARD MINIMUM SIZES

**NONTIDAL DIVISION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>11 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook Trout</td>
<td>12 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Trout</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead Calfish</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Calfish</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutthroat Trout</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskelunge</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>38 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redbreast Sunfish</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish</td>
<td>11 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Bass</td>
<td>10 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiger Muskie</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>26 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Calfish</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Perch</td>
<td>13 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHESAPEAKE BAY DIVISION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>48 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Crab</td>
<td>8 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chain Pickerel</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Calfish</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>44 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>15 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croaker (Hardhead)</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>21 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Whiting (Kingfish)</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INVASIVE SPECIES DIVISION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Catfish*</td>
<td>40 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead Catfish**</td>
<td>34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Snakehead**</td>
<td>30 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ATLANTIC COAST DIVISION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack¹</td>
<td>45 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Cod</td>
<td>36 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Spadefish</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Drum</td>
<td>48 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
<td>20 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefish</td>
<td>34 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluefin Tuna</td>
<td>25 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Marlin*</td>
<td>any size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia¹</td>
<td>44 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croaker (Hardhead)</td>
<td>18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolphin Fish (Mahi-Mahi)³</td>
<td>45 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Albacore¹</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Tilefish</td>
<td>35 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Only released fish
² Invasive species division—only dead fish are eligible
³ Use fork length measurement.

* Use fork length measurement.
* Use lower jaw fork length measurement.
The department maintains sport fish state records and awards a plaque to an angler whose catch exceeds the current state record or establishes a new species category. Positive identification of the species of fish is mandatory for record consideration. You must submit a report to the Department of Natural Resources to consider opening a new species category for recognition. Thresholds for trophy size are established by the department using the best data available to create a benchmark weight.

The department reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of measuring and weighing. It also reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of the investigation.

To check current state records visit dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/state-records.aspx

STATE RECORDS

CATCHES THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR A STATE RECORD

The fish must be considered trophy sized, commonly available and sought after for the Department of Natural Resources to consider opening a new species category for recognition. Thresholds for trophy size are established by the department using the best data available to create a benchmark weight.

The department reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of measuring and weighing. It also reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of the investigation.

To check current state records visit dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/state-records.aspx

STATE RECORDS

CATCHES THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR A STATE RECORD
MARYLAND’S SEA TURTLE AND MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING
24-HOUR HOTLINE: 800-628-9944

- Call 800-628-9944 to report all (live or dead) stranded sea turtles or marine mammals including manatees, dolphins, whales, porpoise and seals.
- Do not touch, harass, feed or handle live or dead marine animals. Marine mammals and sea turtles are protected by federal and state laws that specify fines of up to $50,000, imprisonment, and/or vessel confiscation.
- Record your location using latitude/longitude, a street address, and a detailed description of your location including landmarks.
- Estimate and record the length, size, color, noticeable body parts, and any movement of the animal.
- Take photos of the animal.
- If possible, after reporting a stranding, stand by until a staff person contacts you.
- If calling from outside Maryland, please use:
  - **Live animals:** 410-373-0083 (National Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Program)
  - **Dead animals:** 443-758-6607 (Department of Natural Resources Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Project)
- For more information, visit [aqua.org/care/national-aquarium-animal-rescue](http://aqua.org/care/national-aquarium-animal-rescue)

Sea turtles in Maryland include: Kemp’s Ridley, Loggerhead, Green and Leatherback

---

Find Maryland Fishing Spots

- Interactive
- Mobile
- Searchable
- Species Info
- Tidal/Nontidal Dividing Lines
- Parking Info
- Boating Info
- Special Regulations
- Accessibility
- Amenities

[gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html](http://gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/PublicFishingAccess/index.html)

More than 500 locations...and counting!
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