

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

June 27, 2025

meeting Fishing Report

Statewide news:

- No new regulations to report.
- New online licensing link: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2025/06/24/new-md-outdoors-licensing-system-now-online/>
- *The online map highlights fishing opportunities for gamefish species in reservoirs, lakes, and ponds with public access.*
 - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>

Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface water temperatures have increased to or slightly below 80's with river temperatures slightly cooler in the mid 70's.
- *Detailed & up-to-date fishing conditions in your area, refer to check out Eyes on the Bay's*
<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/clickbeforecast.cfm>

Upper Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish:

- Opened May 16th, recommend Anglers view an interactive [Striped Bass Regulation Map](#) on the Maryland DNR website to see when and where closures take place.
 - *Attached 2025 Striped Bass/Rockfish regulations and current DNR Map.*
 - *Once the season opens, anglers will be allowed to keep one fish per person per day with a slot limit of 19" to 24".*
 - At the mouth of the Patapsco River, the bridge piers of the Key Bridge and up into Baltimore Harbor anglers are enjoying good fishing for striped bass.
 - Some are casting [soft plastic](#) jigs or [live lining spot](#) near the Key Bridge piers; others are [live lining spot](#) along the channel edges.
 - Fish have also been found along shorelines with rip-rap.
 - *Jerkbaits fished along the rocks and Jigging three-to-five-inch soft plastics and straight tails are working well.*
 - *Jigging three to five inch White and Chartreuse tandems soft plastics are working well.*
 - The channel edges in the main part of the bay near Swann, Love and Podickory points are providing some striped bass action for those [live lining spot](#) or [trolling](#).

White Perch and Spots: Region's tidal rivers and from the Fort McHenry area and shallower ends of the Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor.

Spots are being found off Sandy Point State Park and the mouth of the Magothy River.

- Peeler crab has been an excellent bait, but small [spinnerbaits](#) and spin-jigs have also been effective.
- **Blue Catfish:** The mouth of the Susquehanna and the Chester River are excellent places to fish and the blue catfish can also be found to some degree in all the region's tidal rivers.
 - Various cut baits, chicken pieces and especially scented baits work very well on [fish finder rigs](#) and [circle hooks](#).

Snake Head: Grass beds have thickened up in the Upper Bay tidal rivers.

- The following areas are prime locations to target northern [snakehead](#).
 - The Bush River, Gunpowder River, Middle River, and Back River are all prime destinations to search for snakeheads.
 - While fishing thick vegetation and marsh shorelines, topwater frogs are excellent lure choices.
 - Areas of open water can be covered by throwing chatterbaits, spinners, and swimbaits.

Middle Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish:

- Opened May 16th, recommend Anglers view an interactive [Striped Bass Regulation Map](#) on the Maryland DNR website to see when and where closures take place.
 - *Attached 2025 Striped Bass/Rockfish regulations*
 - ***Once the season opens, anglers will be allowed to keep one fish per person per day with a slot limit of 19" to 24".***
- Reports from the [Bay Bridge](#), where anglers are still catching a fairly good number of fish (both jigging and [live-lining spot](#) were working).
 - *Live-lining spot and drifting them back towards the bridge pier bases is a good tactic. Drifting soft crab baits back towards the pier bases also works well.*
 - There have been a fair number of over slot fish being caught in this area, and we want to remind anglers that only fish between 19" and 24" can be kept.
 - Anything outside that slot must be released, and it is important to handle these fish with care when catching and releasing them.
 - [Live lining spot](#) is always a popular way to fish for striped bass this week and bluefish will be in the mix.
 - Searching along channel edges, Thomas Point, the Clay Banks near Sharps Island Light, the False Channel, the Diamonds, Breezy Point are all good places to look with depth finders.

- Striped bass anglers are urged to report their catches and fish they release on the [DNR Volunteer Angler Survey](#). The information from anglers is very important to the striped bass program biologists.

White Perch:

- White perch can now be found residing in their typical summer habitats which usually means some type of structure.
 - Docks and piers fit the bill for this type of structure and the white perch can be found under the docks or close by. In deeper waters oyster bars can be a good place to fish.
 - When fishing off docks, a simple bottom rig with a number 2 or 4 hooks, a one-ounce sinker and grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm for bait.
 - ***A mix of spot and small croaker*** can now be found on most hard bottom areas of the middle Bay and the lower sections of the tidal rivers.
 - Pieces of bloodworm or artificial bloodworm baits on a bottom rig is the ticket to collecting spot for live-lining bait.
 - During the morning and evening hours casting small [spinnerbait](#), spin-jigs, and [spinners](#) along promising looking shorelines is an excellent way to target the larger white perch on light tackle.
 - Chartreuse Clouser minnows on a light fly rod can offer a lot of exciting fishing action.

Blue Catfish:

- Bite is still on from Sandy Point all the way down to Solomons.
 - Best fishing on the Choptank River from the town of Choptank to Denton.

Crabs:

- Crabs are on the move but in shorter supply per DNR's reports: more to come.

Fresh water

- Freshwater fisheries biologists have been busy surveying some of the lakes, reservoirs, and rivers recently. They routinely survey selected groups to assess fish populations and water quality conditions.
- Some of their findings revealed:
 - Good balanced fish populations in Deep Creek Lake.
 - The Savage River Reservoir was slated to be surveyed but excessive debris and turbid waters from recent storms caused biologists to reschedule to a later date.
 - Blairs Valley Lake was found to have a balanced population of largemouth bass with many bass measuring over 12" in length. Biologists also found healthy populations of bluegill and redear sunfish.

- **Good reminder:** DNR has introduced a monitoring database on your favorite freshwater fish species at your preferred fishing spots.
 - A new impoundment mapping tool is available on the [Freshwater Fisheries Fishing Lakes and Ponds webpage](#).
 - *The online map highlights fishing opportunities for gamefish species in reservoirs, lakes, and ponds with public access.*
 - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>

Walleye:

- Still a good mix of walleye and smallmouth bass is good this week at Deep Creek Lake and the upper Potomac River.
- The upper Potomac River is offering good fishing for the walleye and smallmouth bass this week.
 - Casting a variety of tubes, swimbaits, paddletails, and small crankbaits are a good way to target them along current breaks, mid-river boulders and submerged ledges.

Largemouth Bass:

- Largemouth bass are in a pre-spawn mode of behavior in the ventral, southern, and eastern regions of Maryland and this activity will increase in the next few weeks.

Crappie:

- Crappie are wrapping up their spawning activity and have begun spreading out to deeper structure such as stump fields, docks, bridge pilings, and shorelines with steep rip-rap.

INFORMATION NOTICE

Know Your Bass -- PROTECT OUR WATERS FROM INVASIVE FISH

The Problem: Alabama Bass

Alabama bass (*Micropetrus henshalli*) is an invasive species illegally introduced into several Virginia lakes and rivers. These fish can harm existing largemouth and smallmouth bass populations by outcompeting and reducing overall bass size in fisheries they invade. Luckily, they haven't been found in Maryland yet – and we want to keep it that way!



BAITs – Gear - Times

Rock Fish:

- *Jerkbait*s fished along the rocks and *Jigging* three-to-five-inch soft plastics and straight tails are working well.
- *Jigging* three to five inch White and Chartreuse tandems soft plastics are working well.
- [Live lining spot](#) or [trolling](#) are good.

White Perch:

- Fishing grass shrimp and pieces of bloodworm on a simple bottom rig fished close to a dock, or casting small spinners and soft plastic baits *during the early morning and evening hours along shorelines*.
 - When fishing off docks, a simple bottom rig with a number 2 or 4 hooks, a one-ounce sinker and grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm for bait.
- Peeler crab has been an excellent bait, but small [spinnerbaits](#) and spin-jigs have also been effective.

Blue Catfish:

- A variety of cut baits work well; white perch, gizzard shad, menhaden, and American eel are excellent baits, but chicken parts and scented baits also work well. *A fish finder rig or sliding sinker rig with a small float in front of a 5/0 to 7/0 circle hook is the most popular rig for fishing blue catfish.*

Snakeheads:

- Casting white paddletails and chatterbaits near emerging grass and shoreline submerged brush is a good tactic. *Often the sunny side of creeks during the afternoon hours is a good place to target fish seeking slightly warmer waters.*

Walleye:

- Casting a mix of swimbaits, flukes and small crankbaits with good results.

Largemouth Bass:

- A mix of spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, swimbaits, flukes, and jerkbaits are all good choices to use.

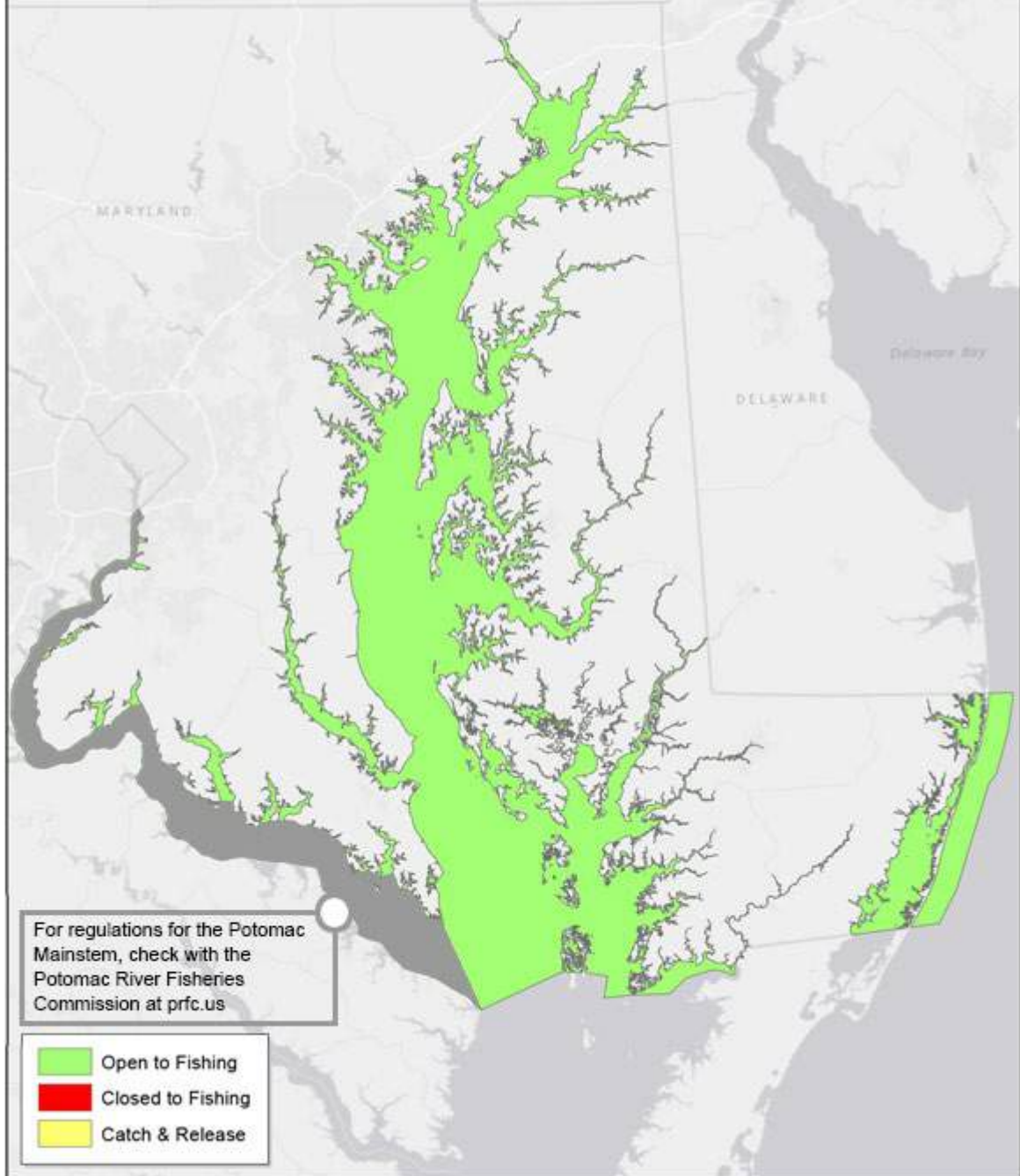
Crappie:

- Rigging small minnows or marabou jigs under a slip bobber and fishing close to structure.

DNR Striped Bass 2025 Regulations

https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/PublishingImages/StripedBassRegs05-16_05-31P.jpg

June 1 - July 15





Step 8 - Go fishing and catch fish!

Putting it all together

The whole purpose of this process is to help you find the best places to fish.

1. First learn about where your fish live and preferred conditions.
2. Next, pull out your Chesapeake Bay charts and a marker.
3. Now visit your regional websites with current oxygen, salinity, temperature and water clarity conditions.
4. As you move through each step, continue to cross off unsuitable areas on your chart.
5. Now in the remaining areas on your chart, begin highlighting prime habitat.
6. At this point, find moving water by checking your tide charts, wind conditions and flow at these prime areas.

You have now identified the best places to find fish right now, not last week or last month, but **right now**.

The last step, and most fun, is to go fishing and catch a bunch of fish!

And when you do, don't forget to take photos and submit them to the Angler's Log!



Other great fishing resources from Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

- ↕ [Fishing Access](#)
- ↕ [Boat Ramps / Water Access](#)
- ↕ [Fishing Report](#)
- ↕ [Angler's Log](#)
- ↕ [Fishing License Information](#)
- ↕ [Fish Consumption Advisory Map](#)