

July 25, 2025
Highlight/Summary 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>

Rockfish:

- Anglers fishing the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are reminded that all [fishing and targeting of striped bass is closed from July 16 through July 31](#).

White Perch:

- *Many anglers are asking about the lack of white perch, and we know blue catfish are eating them along with other valuable fish, from examining their stomach contents.*

Bluefish:

- **Good fishing** on the west side of the Bay, the Chesapeake Beach area and Breezy Point are good places to fish.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

July 25, 2025

meeting Fishing Report

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Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface water temperatures have increased to the mid 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:

- Anglers fishing the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are reminded that all [fishing and targeting of striped bass is closed from July 16 through July 31](#).
- Striped bass fishing resumes Aug. 1 through Dec. 10 with a slot size of 19-24 inches and a limit of one fish per day per angler.
 - 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".*

White Perch and Spots:

- **White Perch** hot spots are on the tidal rivers and from the Fort McHenry area to the shallower ends of the Key Bridge in Baltimore Harbor.
 - Fishing with grass shrimp or peeler crab near docks and piers or casting small [spinnerbaits](#) along promising looking underwater structures along shorelines during the morning and evening hours are excellent ways to fish for white perch.

- **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.
 - ***Many anglers are asking about the lack of white perch, and we know blue catfish are eating them along with other valuable fish, from examining their stomach contents.***

Blue Catfish:

- The mouth of the Susquehanna, Elk River and Conowingo Dam pool 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/Chesapeake Channa:

- Located in the grass beds of the Susquehanna Flats, Bush River, Gunpowder River and Upper Bay Tidal Rivers are very popular fisheries.
 - While fishing thick vegetation and marsh shorelines, topwater frogs are excellent lure choices.
 - Most anglers are having good luck casting [topwater](#) lures during the early morning and late evening hours and [wacky rigged](#) plastics through the grass mats during the day.

Middle Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish:

- Anglers fishing the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are reminded that all [fishing and targeting of striped bass is closed from July 16 through July 31](#).
 - ***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".***

Bluefish:

- Are being caught along the edges of the main shipping channel on the east side from Buoy 83 south past Sharps Island Light to the mouth of the Little Choptank.
- On the west side of the Bay, the Chesapeake Beach area and Breezy Point are good places to fish.
 - Most of the bluefish are being caught by trolling red or green surgical tubes and Drone spoons behind inline weights.
 - At times lucky anglers are encountering breaking fish and enjoying fun casting action with metal [jigs](#).

Speckled Trout:

- Anglers are also finding a few speckled trout when drifting peeler crab baits at the mouth of the Little Choptank River and Slaughter Creek

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:

- Recreational crabbers are doing well in most regions of the Bay this week.
 - In the upper Bay tidal rivers such as the Gunpowder and Chester, most crabbers can catch a half bushel or more of large and heavy crabs.
 - ***Many are doing better with rings and collapsible traps. The best crabs tend to come from waters 6-12 feet deep.***
 - The catches increase per trip in the middle and lower Bay regions. Surface water temperatures are in the mid to upper 80s in most areas and crabs are falling off trotlines at the surface.
 - Blue crabs are reported to have moved far up some of the tidal rivers. In the Choptank, they can be found as far as the confluence of the Tuckahoe.

Fresh water

- **Good fishing locator:** 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 usually a summer focus for anglers and bass anglers are enjoying good fishing in the Susquehanna Flats.
 - The tidal Potomac and reservoirs and small ponds throughout the Maryland landscape also offer good fishing for largemouth bass.
 - Largemouth bass are holding to a typical summer mode of activity, feeding in the shallows at night and seeking cool shade during the heat of the day.

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.

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.

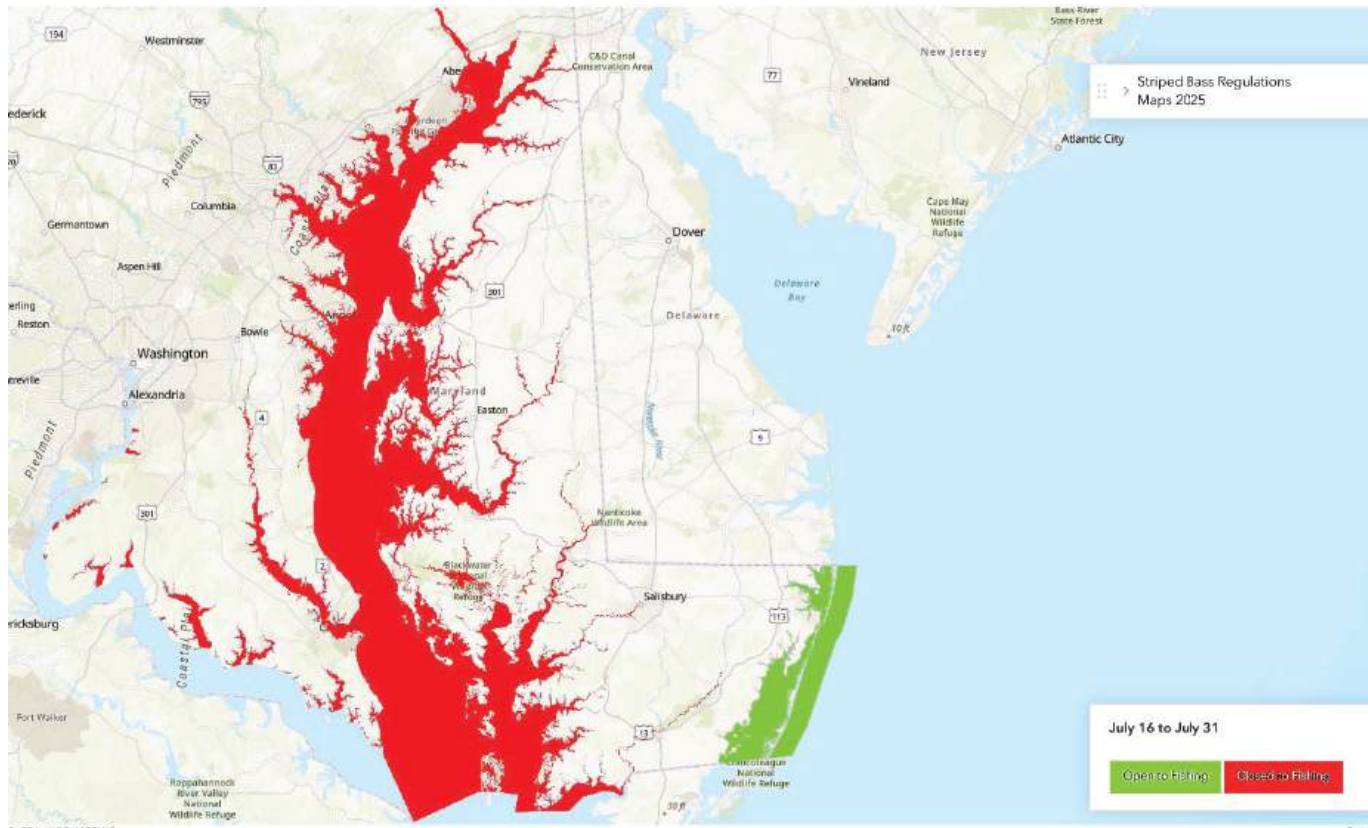
Crappie:

- 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

July 16th thru July 31st Striped Bass Regulations Map





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](#)