

September 10, 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>
- **NEW:** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has developed a [striped bass habitat conditions](#) mapping tool that uses our newly developed water temperature and dissolved oxygen-based thresholds for Maryland's resident striped bass.
 - <https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/StripedBassHabitatConditions.cfm>
- **NEW:** Inserted Upper and Middle Bay maps to help identify and/or locate the fishing areas mentioned in the report.

Rockfish:

- **Upper Bay:** Best location the *Conowingo Dam pool* using surf rods and braided lines and casting [soft plastic jigs](#) and [paddletails](#) into the turbine wash.
- **Middle Bay:**
 - **Bay Bridge East Side:** The Bay Bridge piers on the east side of the bridge, near the 30-foot contour and shallower, are producing catches on a good running tide.
 - **Bay Bridge West Side:** Thomas Point, Sharps Island Light, the Poplar Island rocks are reported as good places to fish during the morning and evening hours.

Snake Head/Chesapeake Channa:

- **Upper Bay:** Located in the grass beds of the *Susquehanna Flats*, *Bush River*, *Gunpowder River* and *Upper Bay Tidal Rivers* are very popular fisheries.

White Perch and Spots:

- **Upper Bay:** *Patapsco down to the Bay Bridge.*
- **Middle Bay:**
 - **White Perch** can be found in the tidal rivers near docks, piers, and oyster reefs.
 - **Spots** are being found off *Sandy Point State Park and the mouth of the Magothy River.*

Blue Catfish:

- **Upper Bay:** The mouth of the *Susquehanna, Elk River and Conowingo Dam pool* are excellent places to fish; the deep hole below the railroad bridge on the Susquehanna is a very popular location to target large blue catfish.
- **Middle Bay:** Sandy Point and the Bay Bridge drifting with live spot or soft crab/peelers baits down current to the bases of the piers at the 15 to 30-foot edge on the eastern side of the bridge.

Fresh Water:

- Largemouth Bass has picked up at Deep Creek during the day, try targeting floating docks and moored boats with a [wacky-rigged](#) stick worms or similar [soft plastics](#).
 - Also, drifting along deep grass edges with minnows will entice large yellow perch, crappie, and smallmouth bass.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

September 10, 2025

meeting Fishing Report

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Striped bass fishing resumed 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.*
 - *Anglers will be allowed to keep one fish per person per day with a slot limit of 19" to 24".*

Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface water temperatures are currently in the upper 70s but will be warming. River temperatures were slightly cooler in the 60s.
- *Detailed & up-to-date fishing conditions in your area, refer to checking out Eyes on the Bay's*
 - <https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/clickbeforecast.cfm>

Upper Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish:

- There has not been much striped bass action reported out in the main part of the Bay this week.
 - Fishing for striped bass has been very slow along the edges of the Susquehanna Flats and nearby channel edges.
- The only warm spots are at the *Conowingo Dam pool* using surf rods and casting [soft plastic jigs](#) and [paddletails](#) into the turbine wash, and the Patapsco River along channel edges and near structure by [live-lining](#) using spots.

White Perch and Spots:

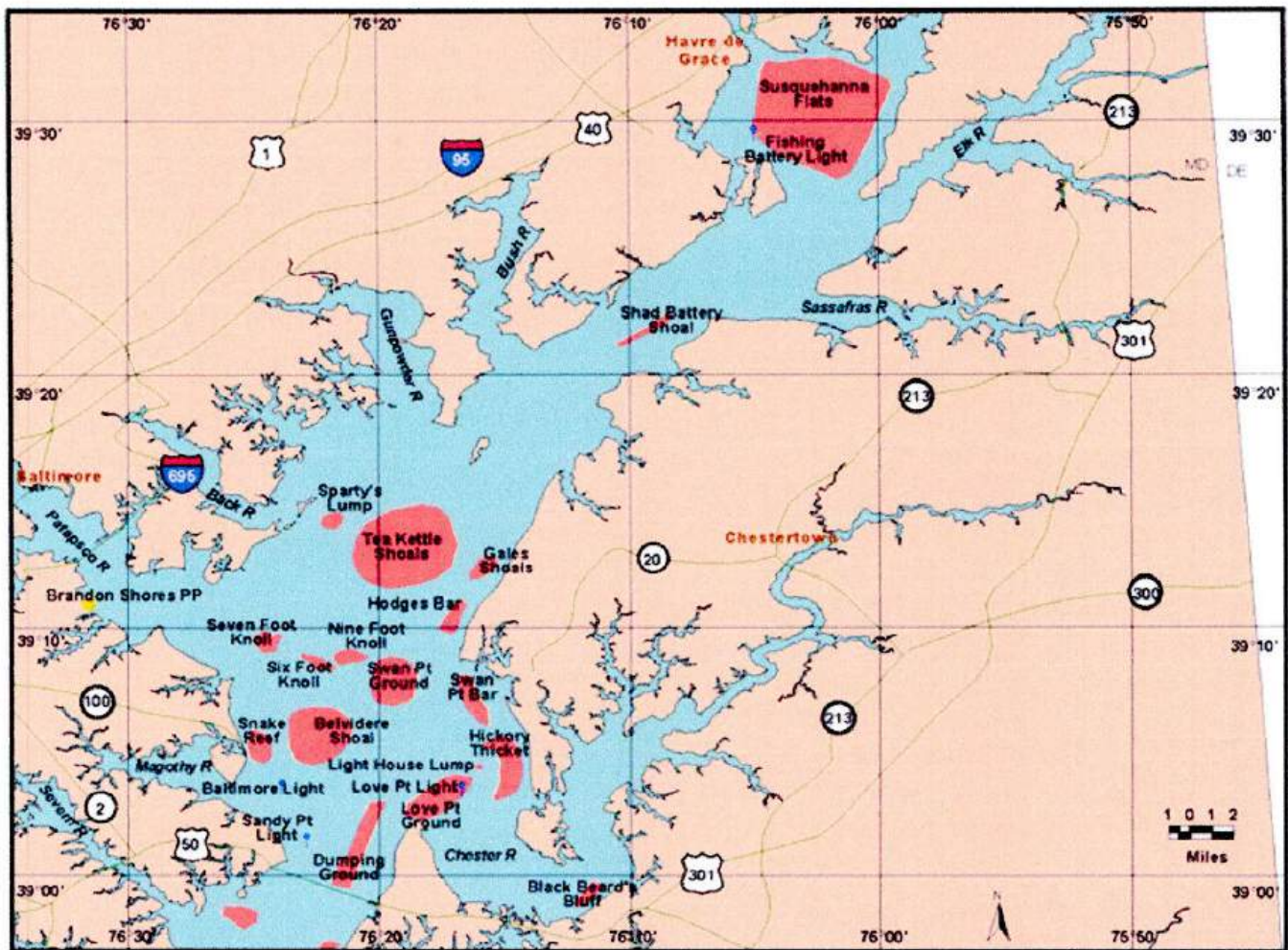
- **White Perch** hot spots from the mouth of the *Patapsco down to the Bay Bridge*, have been holding decent numbers of perch along with a lot of [spot](#) and [croaker](#).
 - Still there's good white perch fishing this week at Curtis Creek and near Fort Carroll on the Patapsco River.
 - Fishing with 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*.
 - Hotspots have included *Sandy Point and the mouth of the Magothy*. Peeler crab has been an excellent bait, but small [spinnerbaits](#) and spin-jigs have also been effective.

Blue Catfish:

- The mouth of the *Susquehanna, Elk River and Conowingo Dam pool* are excellent places to fish; the deep hole below the railroad bridge on the Susquehanna is a very popular location to target large blue catfish.
 - 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.
 - Casting [paddletails](#), soft frogs, and fishing large minnows are good ways to target them.
 - 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.



upper Bay

Middle Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish:

- **Eastern Bay:** The Bay Bridge piers on the east side of the bridge, near the 30-foot contour and shallower, are producing catches on a good running tide.
 - [Live lining](#) spot or fishing soft crab or fresh cut spot have been working when drifted up near the pier bases.
 - Casting [soft plastic](#) jigs at the pier bases also is worth the effort.
 - The morning and evening hours on a running tide tends to be the best time to fish.
- **Bay Bridge:** Thomas Point, Sharps Island Light, the Poplar Island rocks are reported as good places to fish during the morning and evening hours.
 - [Jigging](#) with [soft plastic](#) jigs in the deeper waters and casting [paddletails](#) and [poppers](#) in the shallower waters have been working well.
 - Drifting with live spot or soft crab/peelers baits down current to the bases of the piers at the 15 to 30-foot edge on the eastern side of the bridge is reported to give the best results.
 - Casting soft plastic jigs at the pier bases during the early morning hours is always a fun way to fish the bridge piers.

Bluefish:

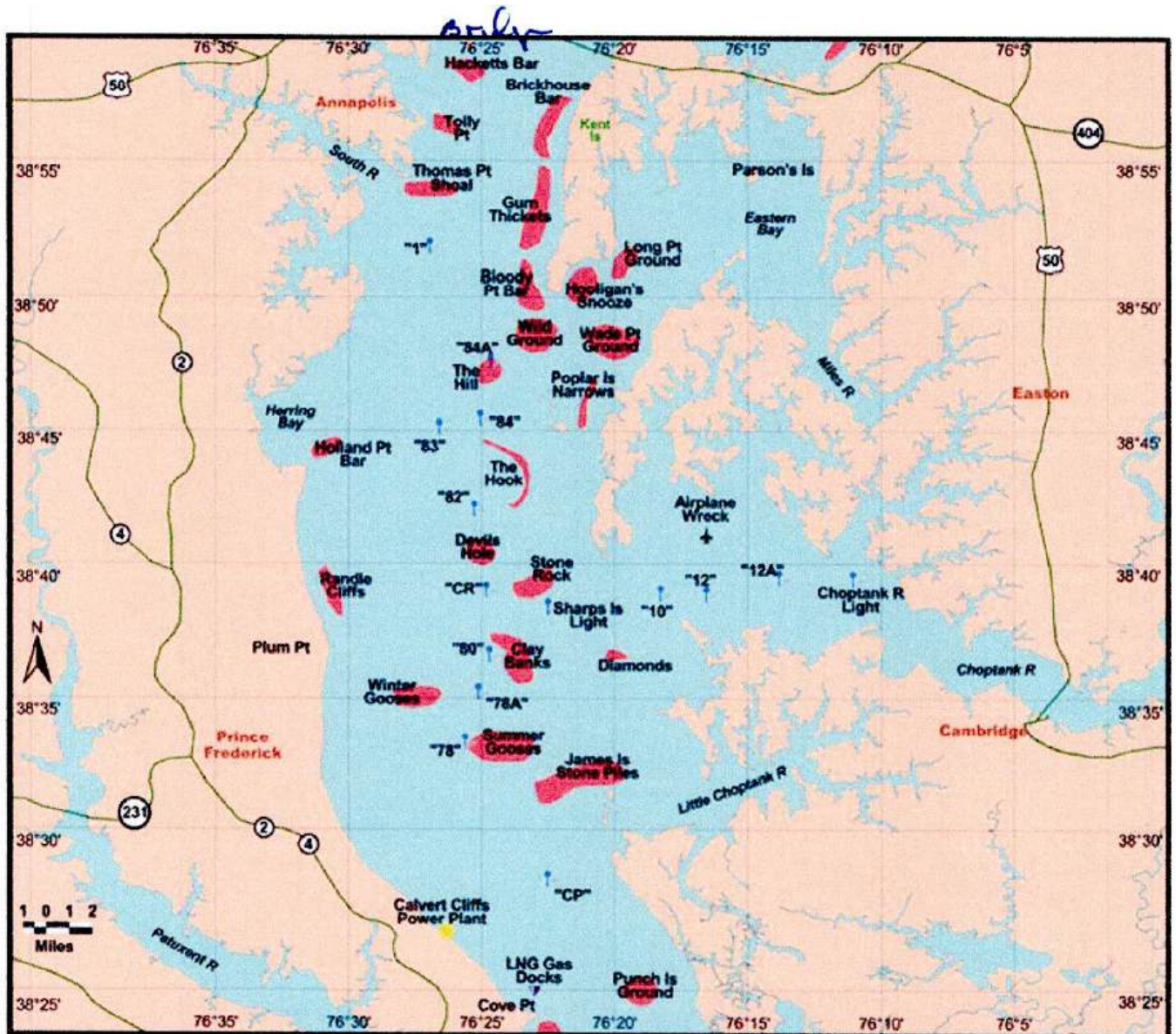
- Bluefish of various sizes can be found in the middle Bay, mostly on the eastern side.
 - The area around the Sharps Island Light and the False Channel area are reported to be good places to troll a mix of surgical [tube](#) lures and small [spoons](#) behind inline weights and planers.

White Perch:

- White perch 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.
 - Grass shrimp and peeler crab make good bait. Casting small [spinnerbaits](#) and [spin jigs](#) during the morning and evening hours along promising shorelines is a fun option.
- **Blue Catfish:**
- Bite is still on from Sandy Point all the way down to Solomons.
 - Best baits are chicken liver and live or cut-up spots.

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.



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>

Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:

- Deep Creek during the day, try targeting floating docks and moored boats with [wacky-rigged](#) stick worms or similar [soft plastics](#) is a good tactic.
- Drifting along deep grass edges with minnows will entice large yellow perch, crappie, and smallmouth bass.

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:

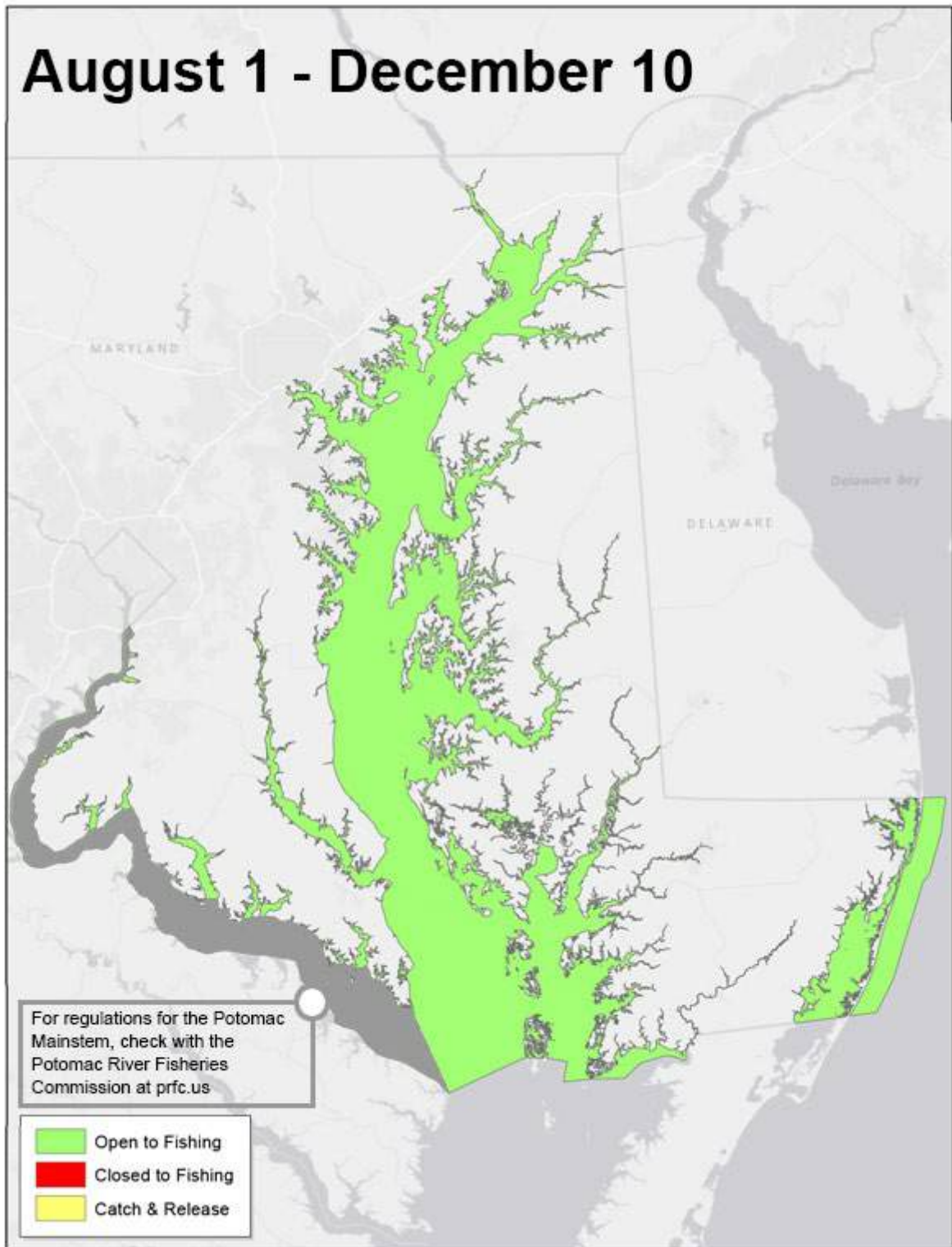
- A mix of spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, swimbaits, flukes, and jerkbaits are all good choices to use.

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/StripedBassRegs08-01_12-10P.jpg





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](#)