

September 26, 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:**
 - Striped bass fishing tends to be good near piers and bulkheads within the Baltimore Inner Harbor during the early morning hours for those anglers casting [topwater lures](#) and [paddletails](#).
- **Middle Bay:**
 - Shorelines along the main Bay, Eastern Bay, Poplar Island, Thomas Point, and the lower Choptank.

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:**
 - Perch and Spots off *Sandy Point State Park and the mouth of the Magothy River*.
- **Middle Bay:** Can be found in the tidal rivers near docks, piers, and oyster reefs.

Blue Catfish: *No Change*

- **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 are roaming the middle depths to the shallower waters. Also, drifting along deep grass edges with minnows will entice large yellow perch, crappie, and smallmouth bass.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

September 26, 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.
 - Striped bass fishing tends to be good near piers and bulkheads within the Baltimore Inner Harbor during the early morning hours for those anglers casting [topwater lures](#) and [paddletails](#).

White Perch and Spots:

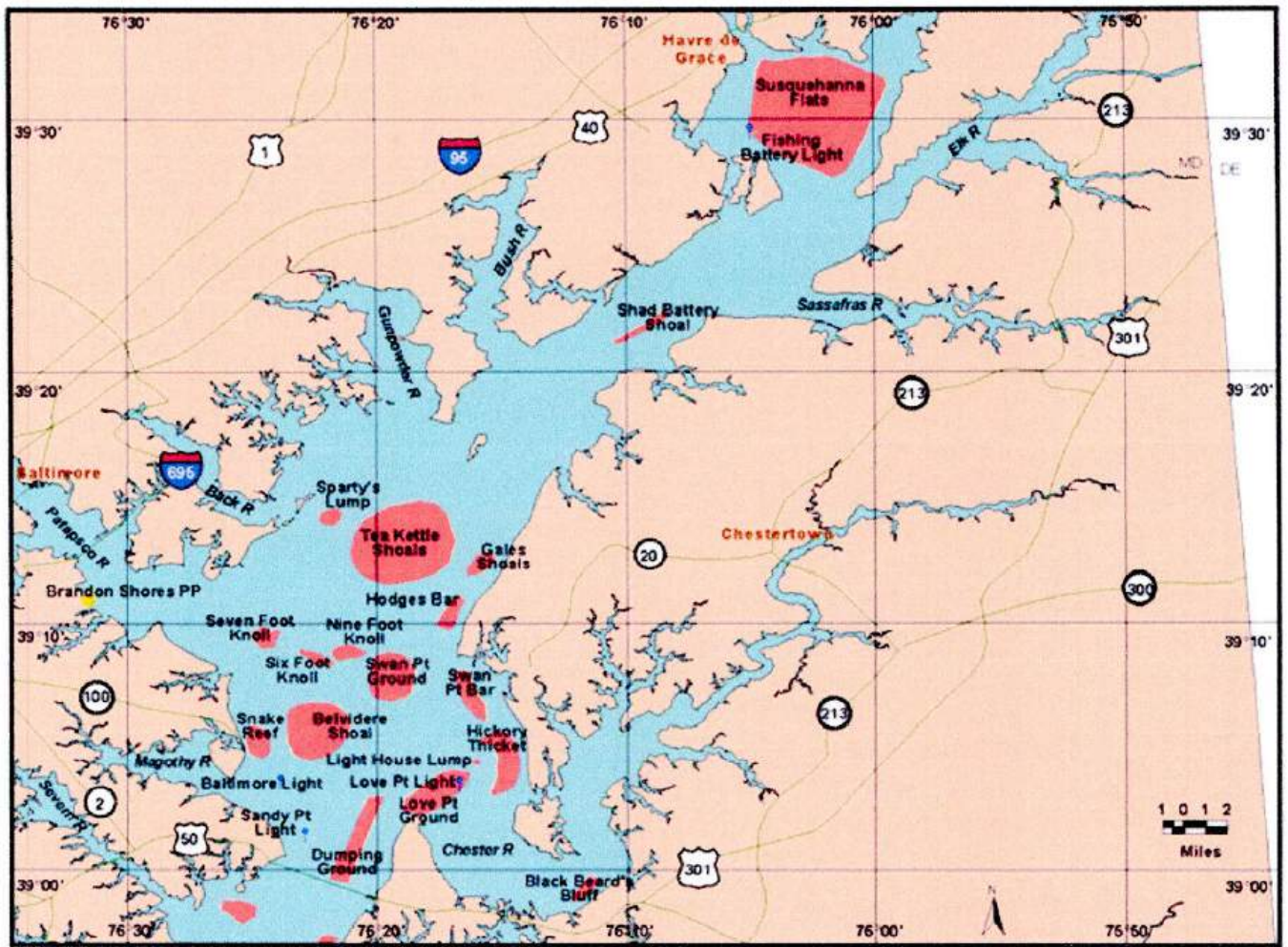
- **White Perch:** some of the better fishing for white perch is occurring out in the Bay on various knolls and lumps.
 - Anglers are having the best luck using bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp, pieces of bloodworm, or peeler crab and dropper rigs with shad darts.
- **Spots** are being found off *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:

- **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.
 - Casting soft plastic jigs at various pier bases has also been accounting for striped bass.
 - [Live lining](#) spot or fishing soft crab or fresh cut spot have been working when drifted up near the pier bases. The morning and evening hours on a running tide tends to be the best time to fish.
- Shallow-water striped bass fishing is one of the best options this week. Cooler water temperatures are holding the striped bass in the shallower waters longer into the morning hours and starting earlier during the evening hours.
 - [Poppers](#), jointed [jerkbaits](#), and [paddletails](#) are popular lures to use for casting in the promising looking shorelines of the main Bay, Eastern Bay, Poplar Island, Thomas Point, and the lower Choptank.

Bluefish:

- [Trolling spoons](#), umbrella rigs with [spoons](#) as teasers, and [surgical tube lures](#) behind planers and inline weights are a good way to catch bluefish this week along the channel edges from Buoy 83 south past the Sharps Island Light and the False Channel.

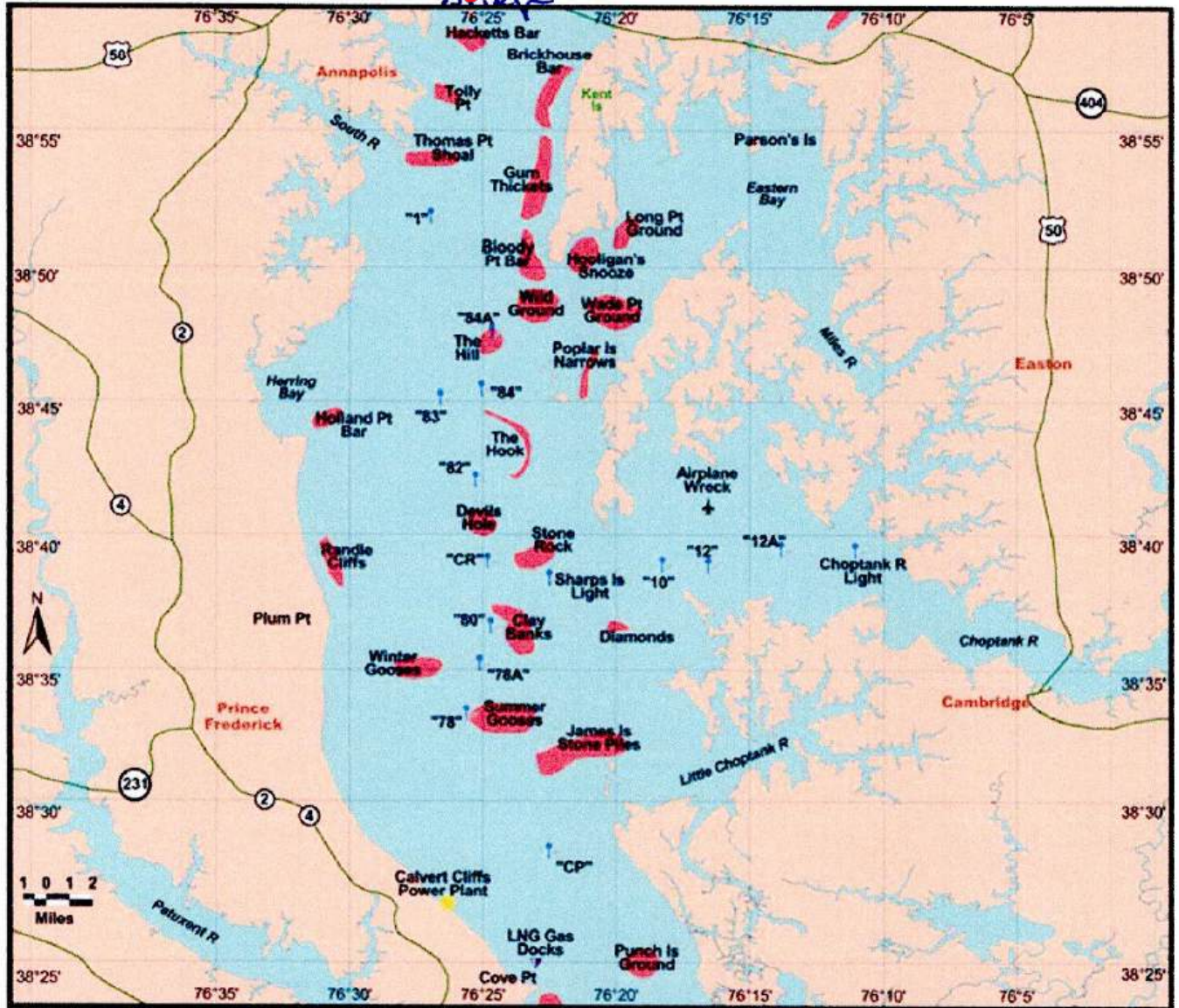
White Perch:

- White perch now be found residing in their typical summer habitats which usually means some type of structure.
 - 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.

HWY 50 / Bay Bridge



Middle Bay

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:

- Largemouth bass are roaming the middle depths to the shallower waters in search of prey that can come in the form of baitfish, crayfish, and even frogs and small snakes that decide to go for a swim.
- 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:

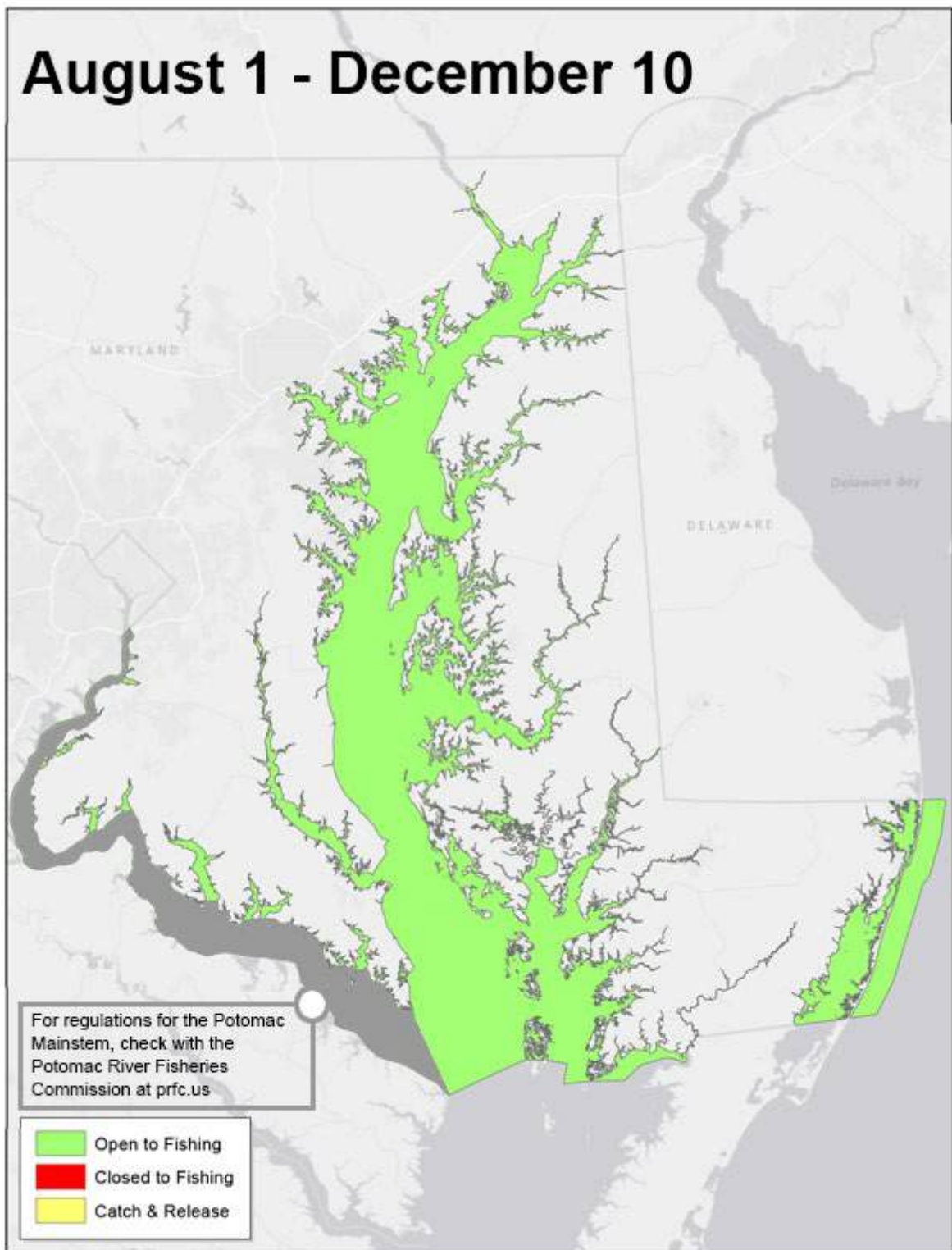
- A mix of spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, swimbaits, flukes, and jerkbaits are all good choices to use.

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](#)