

November 14, 2025

Highlight/Summary Report

Statewide news:

- *The fall trout stocking program has completed for the year and the latest stockings are posted each day by the crews at the [DNR trout stocking website](#).*
- Possible regulation change to the Rockfish Recreational Season is in the scoping stage.
- 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 season ends December 10th, 2025.**

Rockfish:

- **Upper Bay:**
 - Good reports from the Patapsco River, Pooles Island and Love Point rocks.
- **Middle Bay:**
 - Waters off the east side of the Bay Bridge near the 30-foot contour and shallower.

Snake Head/Chesapeake Channa:

- **Upper Bay:** Working 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:**
 - Deeper water off *Sandy Point State Park and the mouth of the Magothy River*.
 - **Middle Bay: Kent Narrows** is still a good place to look for large white perch this time of the year.

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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:

- ***The fall trout stocking program has wrapped up for the year and the latest stockings are posted each day by the crews at the [DNR trout stocking website](#).***
- DNR has introduced a two online links to show lakes and ponds locations/hot 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>
- Potomac River and Deep Creek are getting hot as the water temperature declines.
 - Smallmouth and Largemouth bass are roaming the middle depths to the shallower waters.

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

November 14, 2025

meeting Fishing Report

Statewide news:

- ***The fall trout stocking program is in the final phase and the latest stockings are posted each day by the crews at the [DNR trout stocking website](#).***
- ***Possible regulation change is in the scoping stage regarding Striped Bass/Rockfish Recreational Season:*** Department is considering moving forward with the Baseline Season Adjustment rather than keeping the current recreational season.▪
- ***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>***

Striped bass fishing 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 mid-50s and slowly declining. River temperatures were slightly cooler in the low-50s.
- *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:

- Reports of striped bass action are coming from the Patapsco River, Pooles Island, and near the Love Point rocks.
 - During the morning and evening hours casting soft plastic [jigs](#), [paddletails](#), and poppers near piers and rocks in the Inner Harbor area are producing striped bass..

White Perch and Spots:

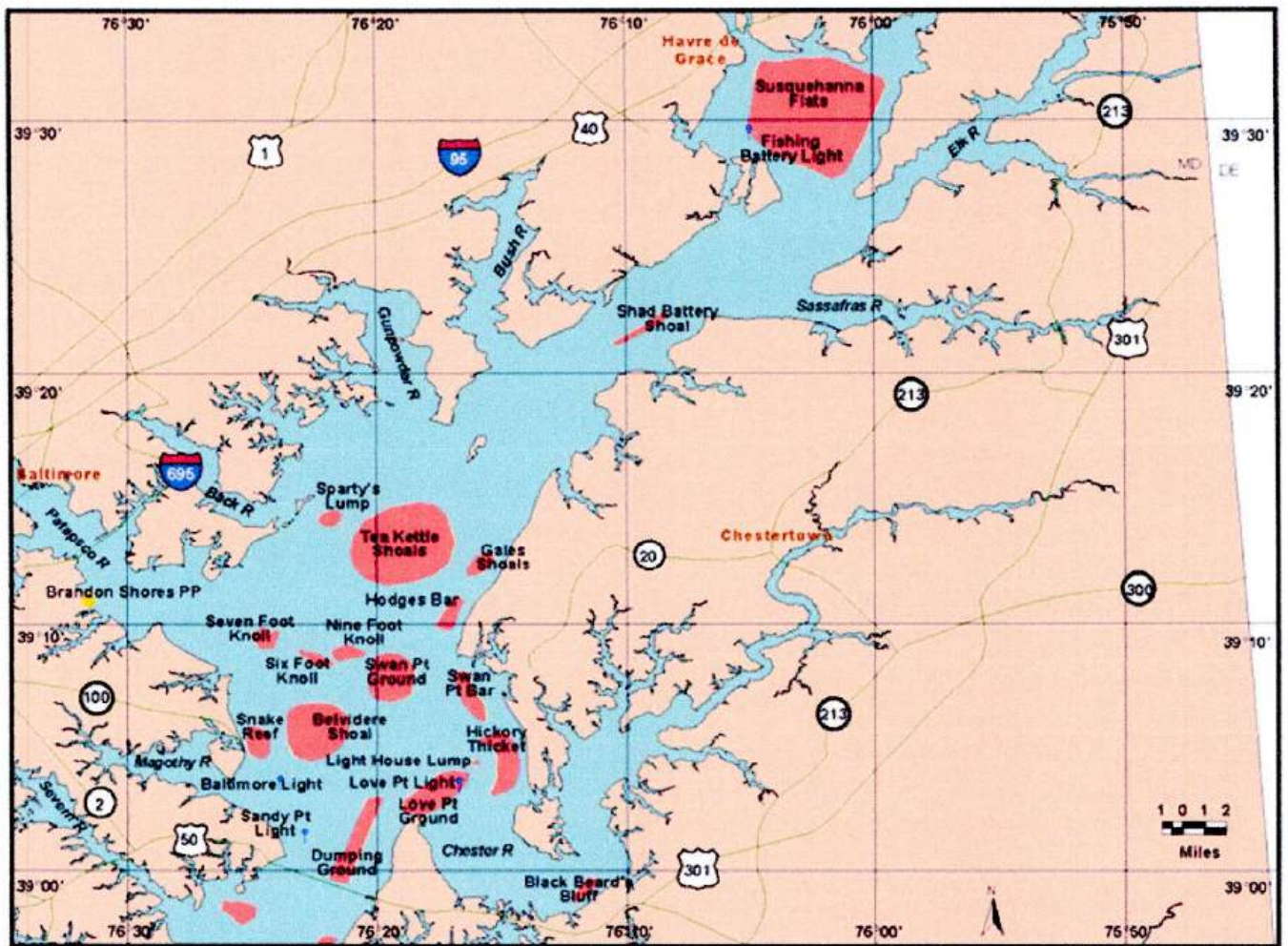
- **White Perch:** White perch are moving out of the region's tidal rivers and can be found on hard bottom areas at the mouths of the major tidal rivers and various knolls in the open waters of the Bay.
 - Fishing with bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm have been the most successful way to fish for them.

Blue Catfish: **moving and feeding**

- 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:

- *As the water temperatures the bite has started to decline.*
- 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:

- The Bay Bridge on the east side of the bridge, near the 30-foot contour and shallower, are producing catches weather permitting.
 - 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.
- The channel edges that run from Bloody Point past Buoy 83 and down to the False Channel have been good for [trolling](#).
 - Tandem-rigged [bucktails](#) dressed with soft plastics and [umbrella rigs](#) using the same as trailers are a popular set up.

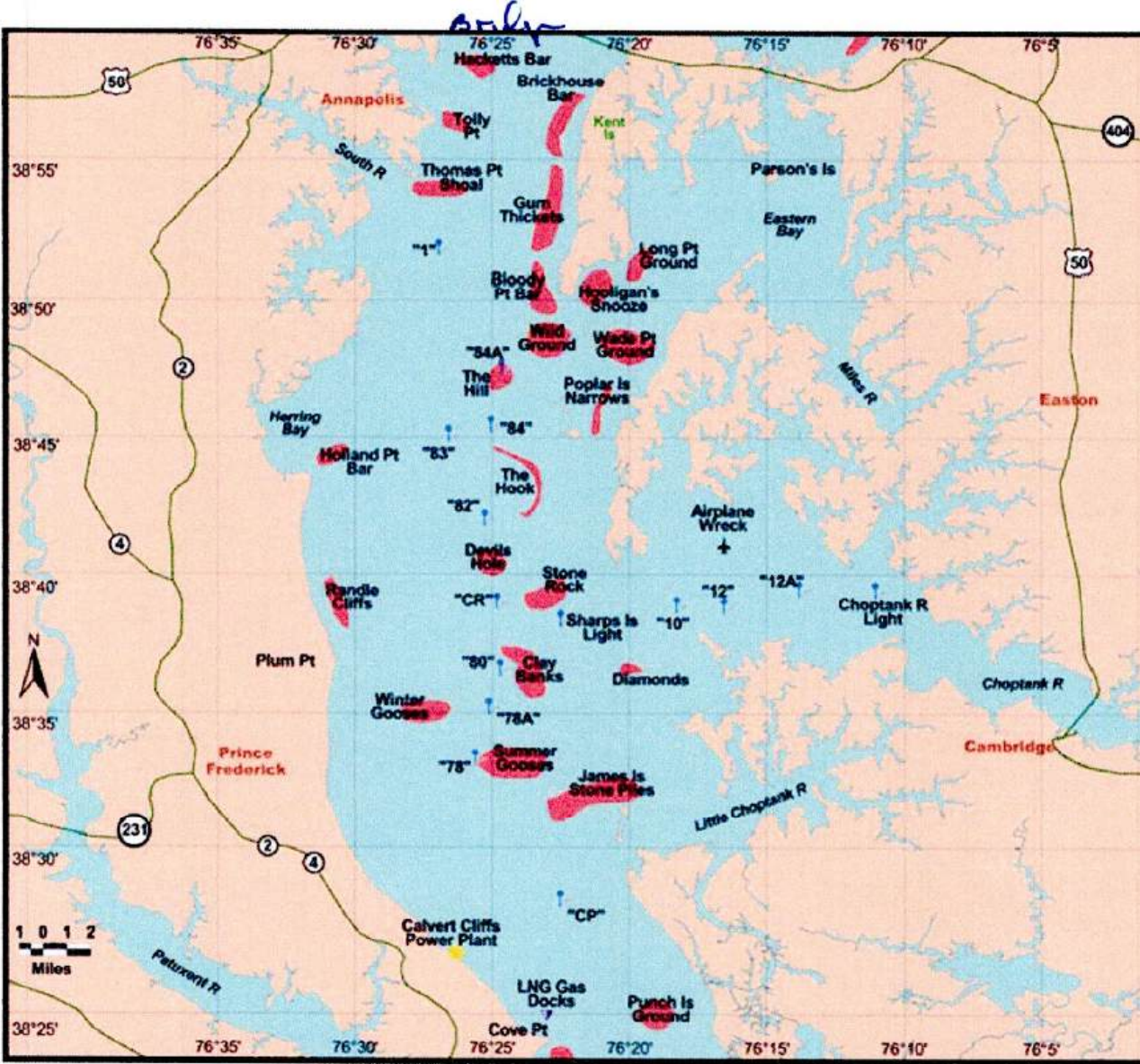
White Perch:

- White perch continues to school up over oyster lumps at the mouth of the tidal rivers, and some are beginning to venture out into the Bay seeking warmer water temperatures in deeper waters.
 - They can be spotted on depth finders and caught by using bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm.

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.

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>

Smallmouth Bass:

- Smallmouth bass and walleye are very active in the upper Potomac River and Deep Creek Lake this week.
- In the upper Potomac casting tubes, swimbaits, and small [crankbaits](#) near current breaks and ledges is a good tactic.

Largemouth Bass and Chain Pickerel:

- Largemouth bass tend to be found patrolling transition waters between the shallower and deeper waters hoping to intercept small baitfish and crayfish seeking winter cover.
- Chain pickerel can be found holding near sunken wood and will strike almost any lure that comes along their 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:

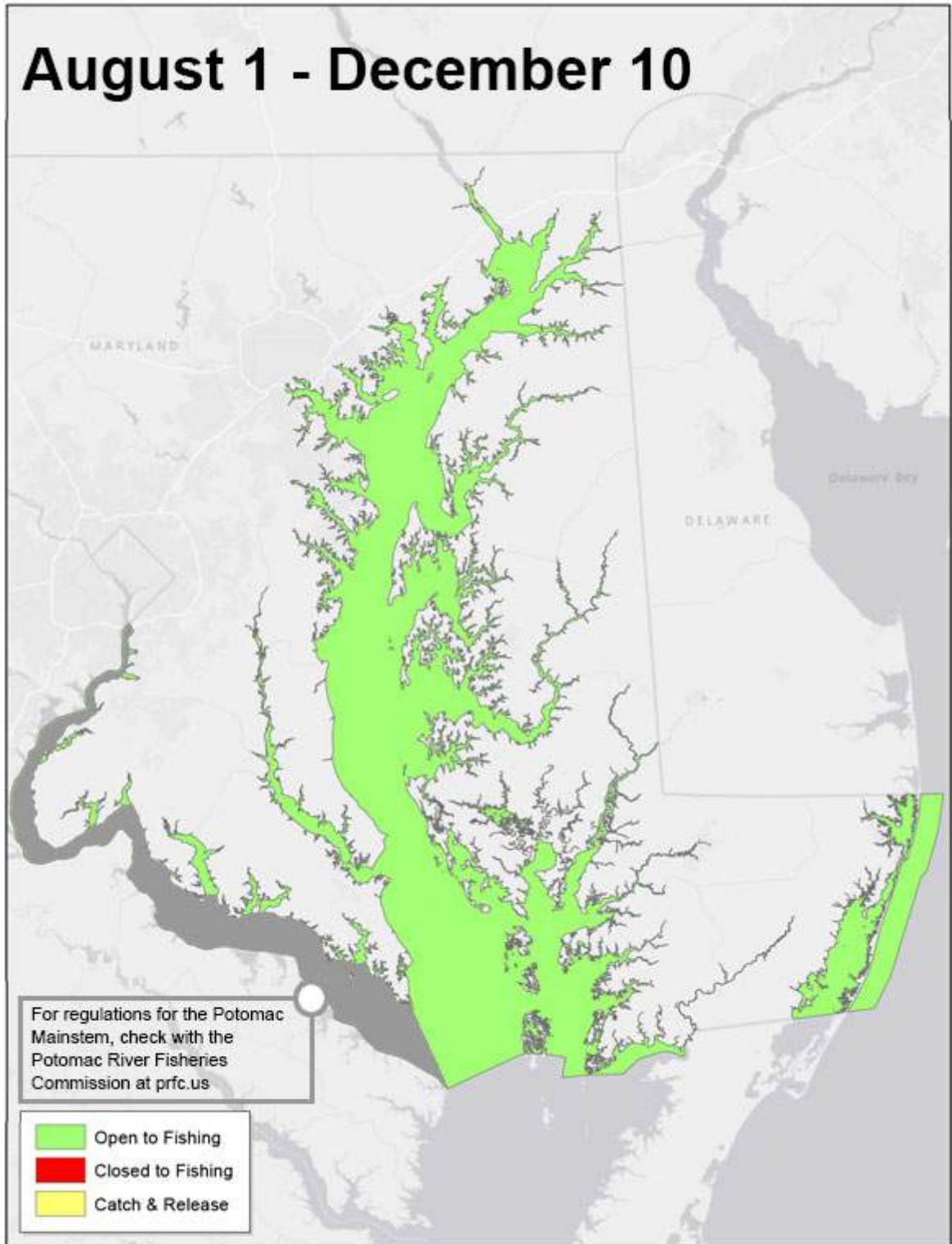
- A mix of spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, swimbaits, flukes, and jerkbaits are all good choices to use.

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/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](#)