

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

December 12, 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>
- **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>
- **The 2025 striped bass season closed after midnight December 10, 2025.**

Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface water temperatures are currently in the mid-40's and slowly declining. River temperatures were slightly cooler in the mid to upper -30's.
- *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:

- **The 2025 striped bass season closed after midnight December 10, 2025.**

White Perch and Spots:

- **White Perch:** White perch can be found holding deep out in the bay or at the mouths of the tidal rivers.
 - Once located on depth finders, bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm will be a popular way to catch them.
- **Yellow perch** will be in deeper waters of the tidal rivers and deep-water holes near the Northeast River and the lower Susquehanna River.
 - Dropper rigs baited with small minnows or small soft plastic jigs and shad darts set up with just enough weight to hold close to the bottom will be popular choices.

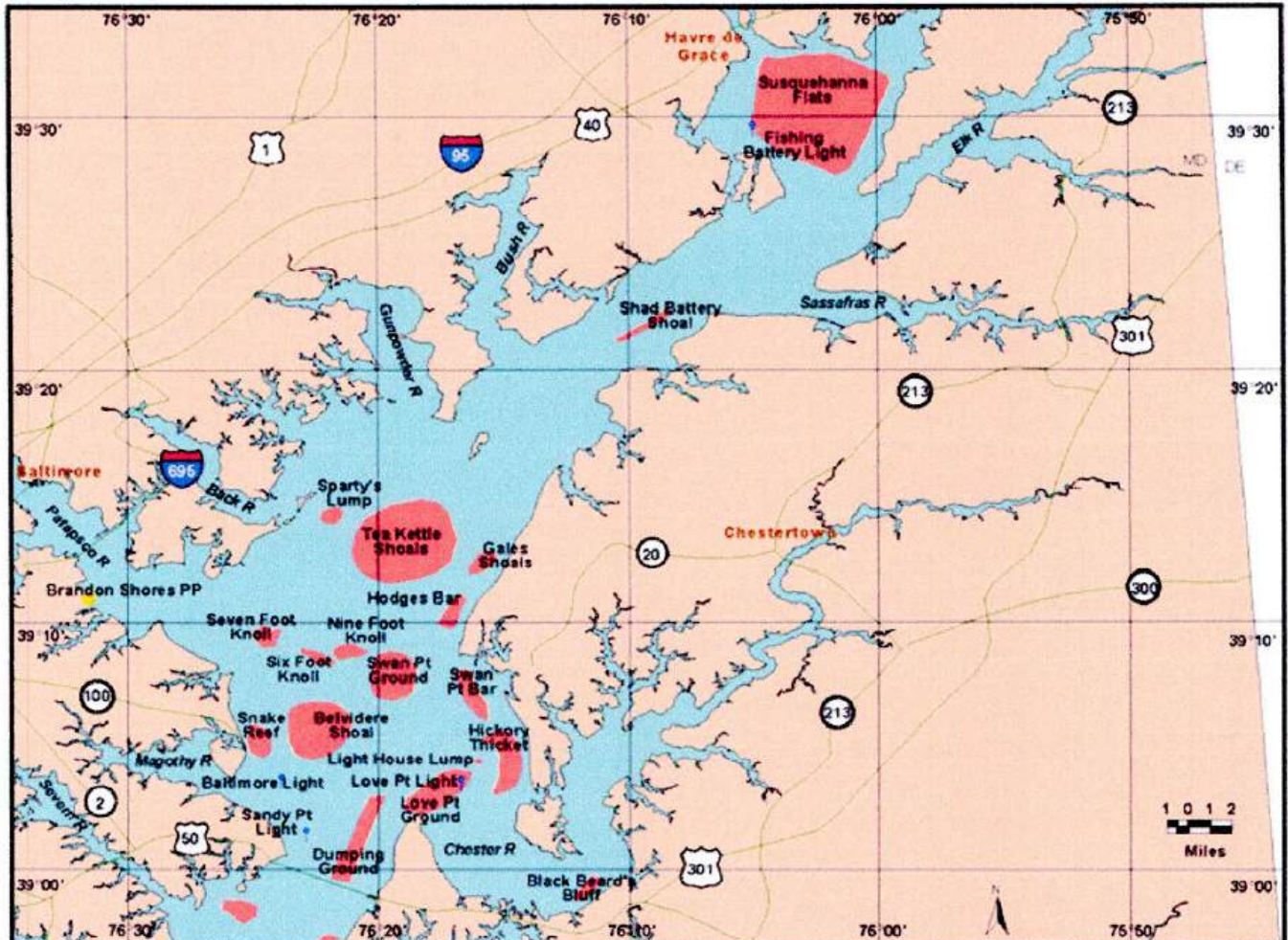
Blue Catfish: **moving and feeding** at the Conowingo Dam pool and the deeper waters of the Susquehanna River.

- Near the mouth of the river, the deep hole just below the Railroad Bridge will be holding blue catfish during the winter.
- Various cut baits, chicken pieces and especially scented baits work very well on [fish finder rigs](#) and [circle hooks](#).

Snake Head/Chesapeake Channa:

- *No reports as the water temperatures have dropped below the 40's.*

Smallmouth bass and walleye: Anglers working [paddletails](#) and small [crankbaits](#) close to the bottom on the Conowingo Dam pool and the deeper waters of the Susquehanna River.



UPPER Bay

Middle Chesapeake Bay

- **Rock Fish:** The 2025 striped bass season closed after midnight December 10, 2025.

White Perch:

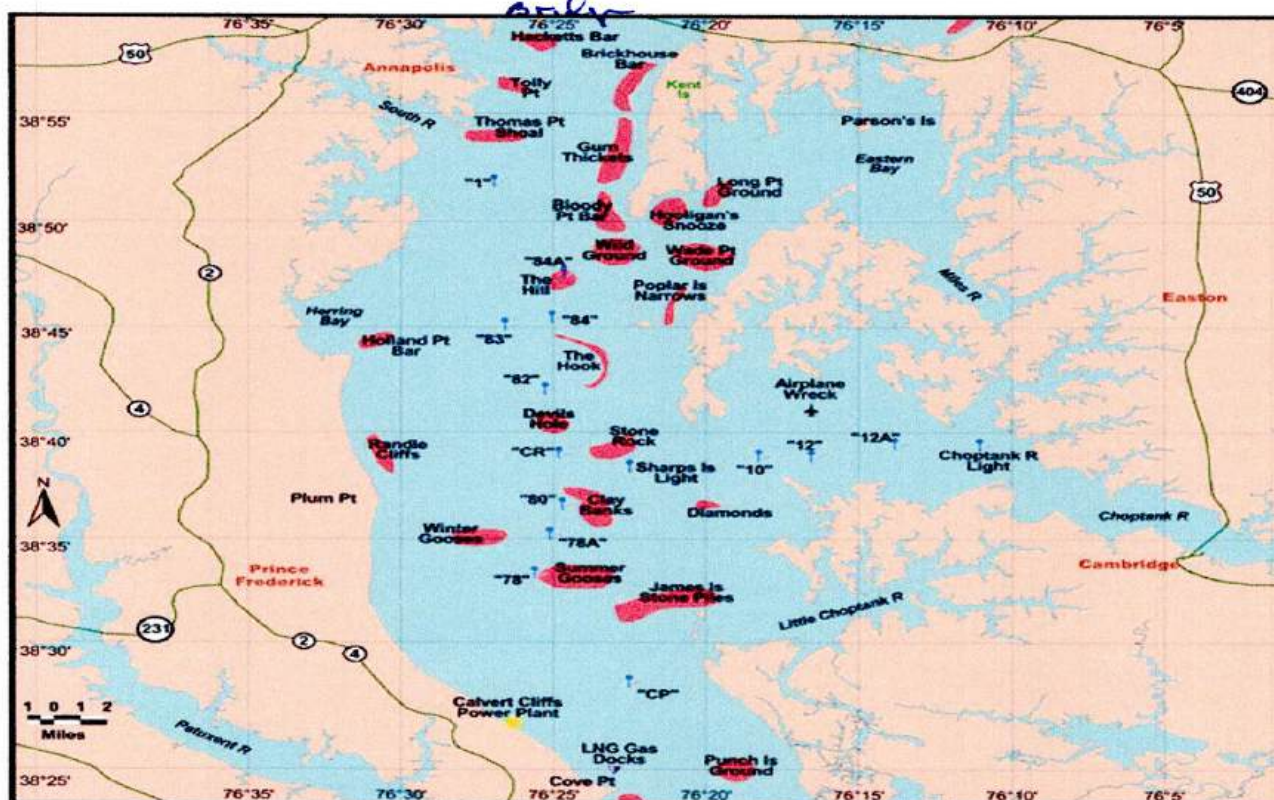
- White perch are holding the deeper waters near the mouth of the Choptank River, near Bloody Point, and off Matapeake.
 - Once the fish are located on depth finders, using bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm will be the most popular way to fish for them.

Yellow perch: Available in the upper reaches of the tidal rivers this month and offer good fishing opportunities.

Blue Catfish:

- No reports from Sandy Point all the way down to Solomons.
- Blue catfish have moved into the deeper channel areas of the Choptank River.
 - The Denton area will offer some of the better fishing opportunities.

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 and Walleye:

- Anglers will find good fishing for a mix of smallmouth bass and walleye in the upper Potomac River this month and through the winter.
 - Working swimbaits, tubes, and small [crankbaits](#) in the deeper pools near current breaks and underwater ledges will be a good tactic.
- At Deep Creek Lake, northern pike and walleye will be at the top of the list for anglers.
- If this cold weather continues, anglers may be treated to some ice fishing at Deep Creek Lake, Piney Run Reservoir, Cunningham Fall Reservoir, and Rocky Gap State Park.

The pre-season stocking of trout usually begins in January, and anglers will need to check the [trout stocking website](#) to see which areas have been stocked. The pre- season trout stockings are often based on ice conditions and water levels.

Anglers will be fishing for a variety of freshwater species in waters across the state. Largemouth bass will be deep and near structure, but still accessible for those fishing with blade lures, [wacky rigged](#) soft plastics, small [crankbaits](#) and [spinnerbaits](#) that are worked slowly across the bottom. [DNR's freshwater fishing webpage](#) offers a wealth of information for anglers to explore.

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.



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](#)