

**March 27, 2026**  
**Highlight/Summary Report**

**Statewide news:**

- The traditional [Trout Fishing](#) Opening Day is this **Saturday, March 28**.
  - The [creel limit for trout](#) in these areas (except for brook trout) is a combined five daily harvest and 10 possession.
  - **Go to links for more information.**
  
- **2026 SPRING trout stocking program** schedule is out and located on the [DNR trout stocking website](#) – ATTACHED. -  
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/trout/stocking.aspx>
  - *Click each NOTICE below to view the full details, which will open the NOTICE off the DNR website.*

**Rock Fish:** **The 2026 striped bass season opens January 1–April 30: Catch and Release in the bay only, everywhere else is CLOSED.**

**White Perch and Yellow Perch:**

- **White Perch** spawning has started and moving into the rivers as local waters temperature reaches the upper 40's.

**Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club**  
**March 27, 2026**  
**meeting Fishing Report**

**Statewide news:**

- The traditional [Trout Fishing](#) Opening Day is this **Saturday, March 28**.
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  - **Go to links for more information.**
- **Rockfish 2026 Season for recreational in the Chesapeake Bay will be:**
  - **January 1–April 30: Catch and Release**
  - May 1–July 31: Harvest
  - August 1–31: Closed
  - September 1–December 5: Harvest
  - December 6–31: Catch and Release
  - Website link: <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2026/03/12/maryland-set-to-adopt-changes-to-chesapeake-bay-recreational-striped-bass-season/>
- **2026 – Online Fishing Regulations:**  
[https://www.eregulations.com/assets/docs/resources/MD/26MDFW\\_LR.pdf](https://www.eregulations.com/assets/docs/resources/MD/26MDFW_LR.pdf)
- **NEW online licensing link:** <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2025/06/24/new-md-outdoors-licensing-system-now-online/>
- **NEW 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. *Use Eyes on the Bay for the latest updates.*
  - **Eyes on the Bay:**  
<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/StripedBassHabitatConditions.cfm>

## Freshwater news:

- The traditional [Trout Fishing](#) Opening Day is this **Saturday, March 28**.
- **2026 SPRING trout stocking program schedule is out and located on the [DNR trout stocking website](#) – ATTACHED.** -  
<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/trout/stocking.aspx>
  - Over 26K fish have been released over the past two weeks.
  - **Recommend everyone review the latest trout regulations.**
  - **Location opening dates, catch and release and limits.**
- *DNR has introduced a two online links to show lakes and ponds locations/hot spots.*
  - [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>
  - **Hotspots:** <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>

## Chesapeake Bay Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface water temperatures are currently in the low to mid-50's and slowly increasing. River temperatures were slightly cooler in the low 40'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/Middle Chesapeake Bay

**Rock Fish: The 2026 striped bass season opens January 1–April 30: Catch and Release in the bay only, everywhere else is CLOSED.**

## White Perch and Yellow Perch:

- **White Perch** spawning has started and moving into the rivers as local waters temperature reaches the upper 40's.
- **Yellow perch** are now moving into the upper sections of several of the region's tidal rivers and should start to spawn when the water temperature reaches the upper 40's.
  - The Bush, Northeast, Sassafra, Chester, and Magothy rivers are good locations to fish right now.
    - Fishing in shallower, more confined waters, lip-hooked minnows, Beetle-spins, small jigs, and shad darts tipped with grass shrimp or a

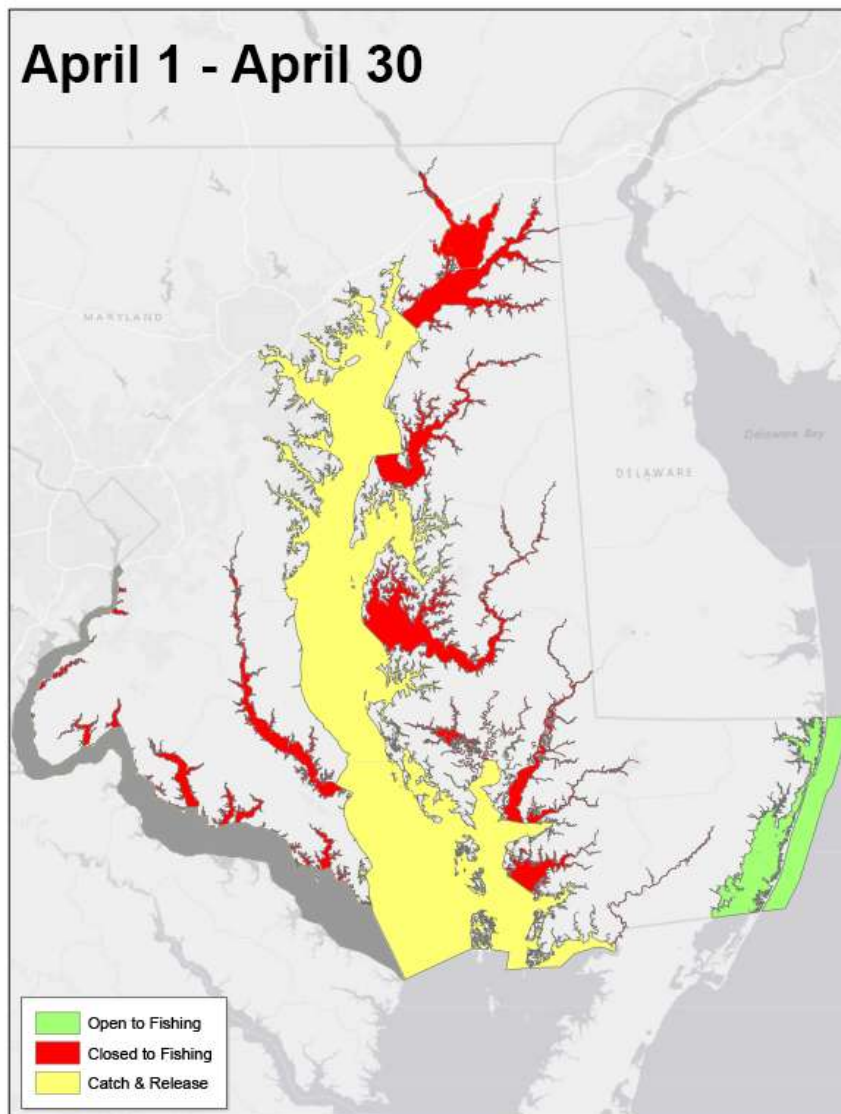
small minnow or piece of a minnow will work well when worked slowly close to the bottom. +

- Deeper waters will require bottom rigs baited with lip-hooked minnows or grass shrimp.

- **Blue Catfish:** **moving and feeding** at the Conowingo Dam pool and the deeper waters of the Susquehanna River and off Sandy Point.
  - 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 are still too cold, below the 40's.*



# Fresh water

- The traditional [Trout Fishing](#) Opening Day is this **Saturday, March 28**.
- **2026 Trout stocking operations are still underway.** For the most up to date information, visit the Maryland DNR [trout stocking website](#)
- **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>

## Maryland DNR News and Good to Know information:

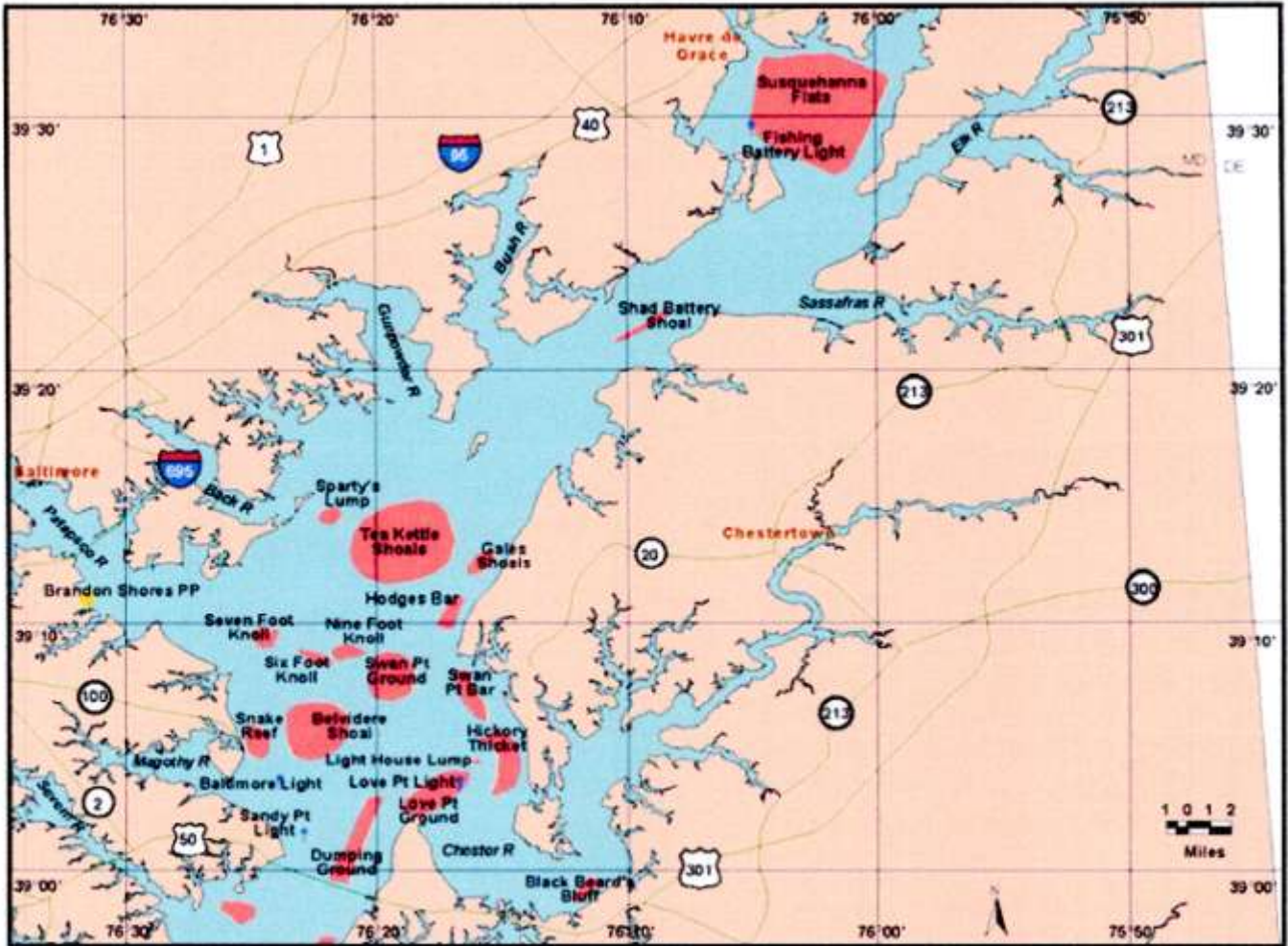
- The Secretary of the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) announces the following seasons, catch limits, size limits and commercial quotas for 2026. These notices will become effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026.
  - *Click each NOTICE below to view the full details, which will open the NOTICE off the DNR website.*

### Summary of notice notes below

- [2026 Summer Flounder Fishery](#)
  - **2026 Summer Flounder Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026**
  - 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026:
  - The season is open January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
  - **RECREATIONAL MINIMUM SIZE**
    - January 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026: 16 inches
    - June 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026: 17-1/2 inches
  - **RECREATIONAL CATCH LIMIT**
  - 4 fish/person/day
- [2026 Recreational Bluefish Fishery](#)
  - **2026 Recreational Bluefish Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026**
  - Effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026:

- Recreational anglers fishing from shore or private boats can keep up to 5 bluefish per person per day.
  - Recreational anglers fishing from for-hire boats can keep up to 7 bluefish per person per day.
  - The minimum size is 8 inches.
  - There is no closed season.
- [2026 Yellow Perch Recreational Catch Limit](#)
  - **2026 Yellow Perch Recreational Catch Limit – Effective 1/8/2026**
  - Effective 12:01 a.m. January 8, 2026, except for reservoirs, lakes, ponds, impoundments, and waters upstream of them, the recreational daily catch and possession limit for yellow perch is five fish per person per day. This notice supersedes any public notice affecting the yellow perch recreational catch limit issued prior to January 8, 2026.
  - WHY THIS IS NECESSARY ....continue on next page.
    - This action is necessary because yellow perch are experiencing a period of low recruitment that has occurred over the last six years. Reducing the harvest of larger females may improve the chance of spawning success. This action for the recreational fishery equitably manages the burden of reduced harvests experienced by the commercial fisheries reduction in quota
- [2026 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery](#)
  - 2026 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026
  - ***The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the recreational season for black sea bass is closed from January 1, 2026 through May 14, 2026.***
  - A subsequent notice will establish the rules for the remainder of the season at a later date.
- [2026 Recreational Cobia Fishery](#)
  - **2026 Recreational Cobia Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026**
  - Effective 12:01 a.m.
  - **January 1, 2026: The season is open June 15, 2026, through September 20, 2026. It is closed all other dates.**
  - • Recreational anglers may keep:
    - 1 cobia per person per day; or

- Up to 2 cobia per vessel per day if there are 2 or more individuals on the vessel.
- The recreational minimum size for cobia is 43 inches total length.



Upper Bay

## 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](#)