



BOWFISHING SPECIFIC LAWS

COMAR:

CHAPTER 05 FISH

08.02.05.01 Methods of Fishing in Tidal Waters.

A. Use of Spear Gun or Spear.

(1) As used in this regulation, "spear gun" means any type of device used for propelling a spear under water by any means other than manual in order to catch fish.

(2) A person may not kill, try to kill, or otherwise injure fish by the use of a spear gun except as provided in this regulation.

(3) A person may take or shoot fish with a spear gun and spear in the tidal waters of the State from June 15 to December 31, inclusive, with the following exceptions:

(a) A person may not take or shoot striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) with a spear gun and spear in the tidal waters of the State;

(b) A person may take or shoot carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads, American eel, sea lamprey, sting rays, or any other ray fish with a spear gun and spear at any time.

(4) A person may not use a spear or spear gun without specific advance permission within 100 yards of any:

(a) Human being;

(b) Public or private swimming area;

(c) International diving flag; or

(d) Vessel other than that used by the spear fisherman.

B. Use of Bow and Arrow. A person may take or shoot carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads, sting rays, or any other ray fish with a bow and arrow, except a crossbow, in the tidal waters of the State. A person may not shoot an arrow without specific advance permission within 100 yards of any:

(1) Human being;

(2) Private or public bathing area;

- (3) International diving flag;
- (4) Occupied duck blind; or
- (5) Vessel other than that occupied by the archer.

C. Fish Snagging.

- (1) Except as provided in §C(2) of this regulation, a person may not snag fish in the tidal waters of the State.
- (2) A person may snag carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, oyster toads, swelling toads, sting rays or any other ray fish by means of hooks in the tidal waters of the State.

CHAPTER 06 SNAPPING TURTLES

08.02.06.01 Snapping Turtles.

C. Methods of Taking Snapping Turtles.

- (1) A person may not catch a snapping turtle from the waters of the State by the use of a hook and line, trot line, bow and arrow, spear, gig or gig iron, or any other device capable of piercing any part of a turtle.

CHAPTER 11 FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS

08.02.11.04 Statewide General Regulations.

B. Use of Bow and Arrow.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person may shoot fish with a bow and arrow, except for all trout species, walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, muskellunge, muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky, and largemouth and smallmouth bass.
- (2) A person may not shoot or attempt to shoot any fish with a bow and arrow in a Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Fisheries Management Area for trout at any time.
- (3) A person may not shoot or attempt to shoot any fish with a bow and arrow in State-controlled community ponds or lakes. However, the Department may permit the taking of carp in community ponds and lakes when it deems advisable.

08.02.11.08 Special Regulations for Deer Creek and Swan Creek.

A. Manner of Fishing. Subject to the provisions of §C of this regulation, a person may catch or attempt to catch fish in Deer Creek and Swan Creek only by hook and line, with the line held in hand, attached to a pole or rod held in hand, or attended in a manner that the fish voluntarily takes bait or lure in its mouth.

CHAPTER 13 Fishing Licenses – Point Assignment, License Revocation and Suspension Schedule and Criteria, and Hearing Procedure

08.02.13.05 Recreational Fishing Suspension and Revocation.

G. An individual who receives one of the following violations may be suspended for up to 365 days.

18)	COMAR 08.02.05.01B	Unlawfully Fishing with a Bow and Arrow
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08.02.13.08 Charter Boat/Fishing Guide Point Assignment Schedule.

F. Tier III. The following violations are Tier III violations. A fishing guide who receives a conviction for a Tier III violation receives 15 points.

(10)	COMAR 08.02.05.01B	Unlawfully Fishing with a Bow and Arrow
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CHAPTER 19 Nuisance and Prohibited Species.

08.02.19.06 Snakehead Prohibitions.

E. Taking of Snakeheads.

(1) Notwithstanding Natural Resources Article, §4-710(g), Annotated Code of Maryland, an individual may shoot and take snakeheads with a bow and arrow, but not a crossbow, and snag these fish by means of hooks.

MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE

§4-620.

(a) Under supervision, rule or regulation, and control of the Department, a person may catch carp with bow and arrow and by gig.

§4-704.

(a) (a) A person may not catch or attempt to catch finfish in the tidal waters of the State by the use of any net or other device except

§4-710.

(g) g) A person may take or shoot carp, garfish, skate, bullfish, shark, oyster toads, swelling toads, sting rays, or any other ray fish with bow and arrow, except a crossbow, and snag these fish by means of hooks in the tidal waters of the State under the supervision, regulation, and control of the Department. This subsection only applies to the fish referred to in it.

§4-714. Fishing Restrictions – Anne Arundel County

(4) In the waters of the Magothy, Little Magothy Rivers, and Bodkin Creek and their tributaries, a person may use an eel pot or minnow trap which does not exceed 30 inches in length, 11 inches in width and 11 inches in height. During February, March, and April, a person may use a “D” bow frame net with handle attached which does not exceed 36 inches in width or 36 inches in height in the waters of the Magothy and Little Magothy Rivers and Bodkin Creek. However, a person may not use a “D” bow frame net as a stationary or set net in the bodies of water named in this subsection.