



Recreational Striped Bass Laws

CHAPTER 5 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, shark, 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, shark, 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, shark, oyster toads, swelling toads, sting rays or any other ray fish by means of hooks in the tidal waters of the State.

F. Upstream of a line drawn from the northernmost point of the mouth of Deer Creek in Harford County in a northeasterly direction to the intersection of US Route 222 and Canal Road in Cecil County, a person may not:

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

- (1) Take a fish by snagging;
- (2) Fish with a dip net; or
- (3) Harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, or attempt to catch striped bass except during an open striped bass season as designated in COMAR 08.02.15.

G. Bait. A person may not use eels as bait while fishing with hook and line in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, except for a recreational, charter, or commercial hook and line fisherman authorized to participate in, and fish during summer and fall striped bass seasons established in COMAR 08.02.15.

CHAPTER 11 FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS

08.02.11.03 Special Fisheries Management Areas.

G. Nontidal Striped Bass Fishing Areas.

- (1) For the purposes of this regulation, the term "striped bass" includes all species of striped bass, also known as rockfish, and all hybrids of striped bass.
- (2) The following special requirements for fishing for striped bass are in effect in the areas indicated:
 - (a) Minimum size: 18 inches;
 - (b) Daily limit: two fish per day, only one of which may be over 30 inches;
 - (c) Season: no closed season;
 - (d) The areas subject to these provisions are:
 - (i) Piney Run Reservoir,
 - (ii) Triadelphia Reservoir,
 - (iii) Loch Raven Reservoir,
 - (iv) Prettyboy Reservoir,
 - (v) T. Howard Duckett (Rocky Gorge) Reservoir,
 - (vi) Liberty Reservoir,
 - (vii) Conowingo Reservoir,
 - (viii) Broadford Lake,
 - (ix) Jennings Randolph Reservoir.

08.02.11.04 Statewide General Regulations.

A. Catching Fish by Gig.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a gig may be used to harvest fish, except for all trout species, frogs, walleye, **striped bass**, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, muskellunge, muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky, and largemouth and smallmouth bass.
- (2) Nonresidents may not gig at any time.
- (3) Fish may not be taken by gig in any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Fisheries Management Area for trout.

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.

C. Open Seasons, Creel, Possession, and Size Limits on Game and Fresh Water Fish in Nontidal Waters. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter for specific areas, the following apply Statewide:

(1) Open Seasons.

Species	Open Season
(k) Striped bass	Closed, except as provided for in Special Management Areas

(2) Creel and Possession Limits.

	Daily Creel	Possession
(k) Striped bass	Closed, except as provided for in Special Management Areas	

(3) Minimum Size from Tip of Nose to End of Caudal Fin or Tail.

(g) Striped bass	As provided for in Regulation .03G of this chapter.
------------------	---

D. Trotlines—Potomac and Monocacy Rivers Only.

- (1) Except during April, May, and June, a person may fish with a trotline for all fish species except walleye and largemouth and smallmouth bass in the nontidal waters of the Potomac and Monocacy Rivers, but not in the tributaries of these rivers.
- (2) A person may not fish with a trotline in the waters permitted under §D(1) of this regulation, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., E.S.T. of the same day.
- (3) A person may not use a trotline made of metallic material. Each trotline may not have more than 75 single hooks nor exceed 300 feet in length. A person may not use a trotline which has been baited with scale bait.
- (4) Each trotline shall be identified with a metal tag securely attached to it showing the name and address of the person operating it.
- (5) A person may not anchor a trotline from one shore to the other at any time.

E. Spearfishing.

- (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 a fish.
- (2) A person may take or shoot fish, except trout (all species), walleye, striped bass, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, muskellunge, muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky, and largemouth and smallmouth bass, with a spear gun and spear in the nontidal waters of the State during the period provided by Regulation .04C of this chapter.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(3) A person may not use a spear or spear gun within 100 yards of any private or public swimming area, scuba diver's flag, other than that used by the spear fisherman, vessel in the water, or human being without specific advance permission.

(4) A person may not fish or attempt to fish with a spear or spear gun in State-owned ponds and lakes or any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Fisheries Management Area for trout.

H. Ice Fishing in Nontidal Waters.

(1) A person may fish through the ice in any nontidal waters of the State during the lawful open season if an angler's license first is obtained.

(2) A person may not cut a hole through the ice for the purpose of ice fishing that measures more than 10 inches across in any direction.

(3) It will be lawful for any person who is ice fishing to use up to five tip ups or rods (hand held devices) when ice fishing.

(4) All tip ups and rods used by a person engaged in ice fishing shall be under the immediate control of the person.

J. State Fish Refuges and Fish Hatcheries. A person may not fish in any State fish refuge, fish hatchery, or fish propagation area except persons authorized by the Department.

K. Importation—Fish.

(1) For the purpose of this regulation, "indigenous" means any fish species that naturally occurs in, or has been artificially introduced into, the waters of the State, and has established self-sustaining populations for at least 10 years.

(2) So that the fish populations in the nontidal waters of the State may be protected from exotic species that might be harmful, a person may not introduce into the nontidal waters, or import or possess for introduction, any live fish not indigenous to the nontidal waters of the State.

(3) Insofar as indigenous fish species of the tidal waters have not been harmful to the nontidal waters, but exotic species pose a threat to nontidal fish populations, a person may not introduce into the tidal waters, or import or possess for introduction, any live fish not indigenous to the tidal waters of the State without first obtaining a permit to do so from the Inland Fisheries Division. This permit shall be granted only if satisfactory proof is presented to the Division that the specific fish intended to be imported will be free of any communicable disease at the time of importation and will not be harmful to the native flora and fauna in the nontidal waters. Application for the permit shall be filed with the Division not less than 60 days before the proposed date of importation.

(4) The provisions of this regulation with respect to importation and possession do not apply to fish for use in laboratories or exhibitions, or for use as pets. Any fish not indigenous to the waters of the State shall be held only in aquaria or other indoor facility from which escape into the waters of the State is impossible.

(5) The introduction of any indigenous fish species except bait fish on a hook for the purpose of angling into the nontidal waters of the State is prohibited without written approval of the Inland Fisheries Division.

L. Commercial Harvest and Sale of Fish. Except as provided in Natural Resources Article, §4-11A-02, Annotated Code of Maryland, requirements concerning aquaculture operations, a person may not buy, sell, or offer to buy or sell any fish harvested from the nontidal waters of the State.

R. Use of Dip Nets, Cast Nets, and Seines in Nontidal Waters.

(1) Cast nets may not be used in nontidal waters.

(2) A person may not use a dip net to fish for any trout species, walleye, **striped bass**, striped bass hybrid, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, or muskellunge hybrids including tiger musky.

(3) A person may use a net as a landing net.

(4) A person may not bait a net by attaching an attractant to the net material or frame.

(5) A person may not use a net, other than a landing net, on any Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Area or Special Fisheries Management Area for Trout.

(6) A nonresident may not fish in the nontidal waters of the State with nets of any description, except a landing net.

(7) Subject to the provisions of §R of this regulation, a seine not more than 6 feet in length nor more than 4 feet in depth or a dip net may be used by residents to catch bait fish.

T. License to Fish. A person may not catch or attempt to catch game or freshwater fish without first procuring an angler's license in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-604, Annotated Code of Maryland.

V. Public Notices.

(1) The Secretary may modify catch limits, size limits, and restricted areas, or open, close, or modify a season by publishing notice in a daily newspaper of general circulation at least 48 hours in advance, stating the effective hour and date.

(2) The Secretary shall make a reasonable effort to disseminate public notice through various other media so that an affected person has a reasonable opportunity to be informed.

08.02.11.06 Special Fishing Area, Youghiogheny Reservoir.

The portion of the Youghiogheny Reservoir lying within the State constitutes a special fishing area and is subject to the following seasons, minimum size limits, and creel limits as shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
J. Striped Bass and Striped Bass/White Bass Hybrids.	Open year round	20 inches	2 (combined species)

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.

B. Prohibited Bait. A person may not possess or use minnows for bait while fishing in Deer Creek and Swan Creek.

CHAPTER 15 STRIPED BASS

08.02.15.01 Scope.

A. Except in accordance with COMAR 08.02.05, 08.02.11, 08.02.14, and this chapter, it is illegal for a person to take, possess, transport, export, process, sell, offer for sale, or ship any striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*), including striped bass taken in the State's Territorial Sea and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), as defined by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 90 Stat. 331, 16 U.S.C. §§1801—1882, and which extends from 0 to 200 nautical miles from the coastline of the United States.

B. For purposes of this chapter, a hybrid of striped bass is deemed to be of the species striped bass.

C. The catching of striped bass is not a violation under this chapter if the fish is immediately returned unharmed to the water where taken.

08.02.15.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "Allocation" means pounds or numbers of striped bass which a user group or tidal fish licensee is allowed to harvest on a daily or seasonal basis.
- (2) "Authorization" means an endorsement, in addition to a tidal fish license, issued by the Department that entitles a licensee to engage in a particular fishing activity.
- (3) "Bycatch" means the numbers or pounds of striped bass caught, which are smaller or larger than legal size, or in excess of target harvest or allocation.
- (4) "Commercial tidal fish licensee" means a person licensed by the Department to catch and sell finfish.
- (5) "Facility" means a building or any part of a building, including a tank, refrigerator, or freezer.
- (6) "Fishing guide licensee" means a person who has a fishing guide tidal fish license and, when fishing in tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, a Maryland special charter boat license as provided under Natural Resources Article, §4-745, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- (7) "Harvest" means to take, kill, trap, gather, catch, or in any manner reduce any fish to personal possession or to attempt to engage in this conduct.
- (8) "Quota year" means a period of time beginning January 1 and ending the following December 31.
- (9) "Striped bass allocation permit" means a permit issued by the Department which allows a person to commercially harvest striped bass.
- (10) "Tag" means the device approved by the Department that is used to identify the harvest year, harvest gear, and individual that commercially harvested a striped bass.
- (11) "Target harvest" means pounds or numbers of striped bass allowed by the Department to be harvested in a quota year.
- (12) "Total length" means the distance from the tip of the snout to the end of the longest lobe of the extended tail of a fish.
- (13) "Whole fish" means the complete animal, including head, tail, gills, and viscera, not dismembered in any fashion.
- (14) "Year class" means striped bass born in a given year.

08.02.15.03 Spawning Rivers, Areas, and Reaches.

A. For purposes of this chapter, the designation of a spawning river, area, and reach includes all tributaries to the river, area, or reach.

B. The following waters are designated as striped bass spawning rivers and areas:

(1) Choptank River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Cook Point, defined by Lat. 38°37.73'N and Long. 76°17.35'W; then running approximately 317° True to a point at or near Blackwalnut Point, defined by Lat. 38°40.24'N and Long. 76°20.37'W;

(2) Nanticoke River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Stump Point, defined by Lat. 38°13.73'N and Long. 75°53.82'W; then running approximately 281° True to a point at or near Frog Point, defined by Lat. 38°14.21'N and Long. 75°56.90'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north shore of the Nanticoke River at the Maryland-Delaware line, defined by Lat. 38°33.68'N and Long. 75°42.10'W; then running approximately 176° True to a point at or near the south shore of the Nanticoke River at the Maryland-Delaware line, defined by Lat. 38°33.59'N and Long. 75°42.09'W;

(3) Patuxent River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Drum Point, defined by Lat. 38°19.14'N and Long. 76°25.27'W; then running approximately 119° True to a point at or near Hog Point, defined by Lat. 38°18.57'N and Long. 76°23.99'W;

(4) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.01.06B(6), Wicomico River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Mollies Point, defined by Lat. 38°13.75'N and Long. 75°53.03'W; then running approximately 92° True to a point at or near Wingate Point, defined by Lat. 38°13.71'N and Long. 75°51.62'W;

(5) Blackwater river upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the northwest end of Snake Island, defined by Lat. 38°21.27'N and Long. 76°00.62'W; then running approximately 311° True to a point at or near the opposite shore, defined by Lat. 38°21.36'N and Long. 76°00.74'W;

(6) Pocomoke River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east end of the Fair Island Canal, defined by Lat. 37°57.79'N and Long. 75°39.33'W; then running approximately 82° True to a point at or near Bullbegger Creek, defined by Lat. 37°57.86'N and Long. 75°38.77'W;

(7) Transquaking River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east side of the mouth where it enters Fishing Bay, defined by Lat. 38°22.18'N and Long. 75°59.69'W; then running approximately 260° True to a point at or near the west side of the mouth, defined by Lat. 38°22.10'N and Long. 76°00.26'W;

(8) Chester River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Love Point, defined by Lat. 39°02.40'N and Long. 76°18.16'W; then running approximately 83° True to a point at or near the northwest point of Eastern Neck Island, defined by Lat. 39°02.77'N and Long. 76°14.05'W;

(9) Manokin River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Hazard Point, defined by Lat. 38°04.54'N and Long. 75°52.73'W; then running approximately 307° True to a point at or near Pin Point, defined by Lat. 38°06.72'N and Long. 75°56.45'W;

(10) Potomac River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Point Lookout, defined by Lat. 38°02.25'N and Long. 76°19.34'W; then running approximately 155° True to a point at or near the shore on the north side of the north jetty at Smith Point, defined by Lat. 37°53.40'N and Long. 76°14.22'W; and

(11) The area of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Abbey Point, defined by Lat. 39°20.97'N and Long. 76°13.69'W; then running approximately 133° True to a point at or near Worton Point, defined by Lat. 39°19.14'N and Long. 76°11.13'W; including the Sassafraz River, the Bohemia River, the Elk River, the Northeast River, an area of the Susquehanna River downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the southwest end of Conowingo Dam, defined by Lat.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

39°39.39'N and Long. 76°10.53'W; then running approximately 22° True to a point at or near the northeast end of Conowingo Dam, defined by Lat. 39°39.89'N and Long. 76°10.26'W; the Susquehanna Flats, and the portion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal west of a line beginning at a point at or near the north side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at the Maryland-Delaware state line, defined by Lat. 39°32.20'N and Long. 75°46.77'W; then running approximately 176° True to a point at or near the south side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal at the Maryland-Delaware state line, defined by Lat. 39°32.08'N and Long. 75°46.76'W.

C. Within the spawning rivers and areas listed in §§A and B of this regulation, sections of these rivers and areas are established for special conservation actions and are known as striped bass spawning reaches, and are established as follows:

(1) Choptank River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Bow Knee point, defined by Lat. 38°40.43'N and Long. 75°57.01'W; then running approximately 139° True to a point at or near a point of land at Wrights Wharf, defined by Lat. 38°40.22'N and Long. 75°56.77'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lyford Landing, defined by Lat. 38°50.62'N and Long. 75°51.94'W; then running approximately 90° True to a point at or near the shore on the east side of the river, defined by Lat. 38°50.62'N and Long. 75°51.81'W; including the portion of the Tuckahoe River downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the southwest end of the MD Route 328 highway bridge, defined by Lat. 38°49.83'N and Long. 75°54.87'W; then running approximately 53° True to a point at or near the northeast end of the MD Route 328 highway bridge, defined by Lat. 38°49.87'N and Long. 75°54.80'W;

(2) Nanticoke River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Newfoundland Point, defined by Lat. 38°19.71'N and Long. 75°54.78'W; then running approximately 88° True to a point at or near Hatcrown Point, defined by Lat. 38°19.75'N and Long. 75°52.93'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north shore of the Nanticoke River at the Maryland-Delaware line, defined by Lat. 38°33.68'N and Long. 75°42.10'W; then running approximately 176° True to a point at or near the south shore of the Nanticoke River at the Maryland-Delaware line, defined by Lat. 38°33.59'N and Long. 75°42.09'W; including the portion of Marshyhope Creek downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the mouth of Little Indian Creek, defined by Lat. 38°32.15'N and Long. 75°45.86'W; then running approximately 132° True to a point at or near a point of land on the opposite shore, defined by Lat. 38°32.11'N and Long. 75°45.80'W;

(3) Patuxent River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Deep Landing, defined by Lat. 38°35.77'N and Long. 76°40.22'W; then running approximately 265° True to a point at or near the southerly side of the entrance to Summerville Creek, defined by Lat. 38°35.73'N and Long. 76°40.74'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Jackson's Landing, defined by Lat. 38°46.39'N and Long. 76°42.58'W; then running approximately 112° True to a point at or near the east side of the upstream end of Jug Bay, defined by Lat. 38°46.27'N and Long. 76°42.21'W;

(4) Wicomico River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Pine Beach, defined by Lat. 38°14.45'N and Long. 75°50.93'W; then running approximately 334° True to a point at or near Holland Point, defined by Lat. 38°14.85'N and Long. 75°51.18'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east side of the mouth of Rockawalking Creek, defined by Lat. 38°20.46'N and Long. 75°40.83'W; then running approximately 128° True to a point at or near the downstream side of the mouth of Stock Creek, defined by Lat. 38°20.37'N and Long. 75°40.69'W;

(5) Blackwater River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north shore of the river near Snake Island, defined by Lat. 38°21.36'N and Long. 76°00.74'W; then running approximately 131° True to a point at or near the south shore of the river at Snake Island, defined by Lat. 38°21.27'N and Long. 76°00.62'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east side of the mouth of the Little Blackwater River, defined by Lat. 38°26.19'N and Long. 76°05.21'W; then running approximately 268° True to a point at or near the west side of the mouth of the Little Blackwater River, defined by Lat. 38°26.19'N and Long. 76°05.55'W;

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(6) Pocomoke River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Bullbeggar Creek, defined by Lat. 37°57.86'N and Long. 75°38.77'W; then running approximately 258° True to a point at or near the north side of the east entrance of Fair Island Canal, defined by Lat. 37°57.79'N and Long. 75°39.33'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the west end of the U.S. Route 13 highway bridge in Pocomoke City, defined by Lat. 38°04.70'N and Long. 75°34.31'W; then running approximately 84° True to a point at or near the east end of the U.S. Route 13 highway bridge in Pocomoke City, defined by Lat. 38°04.71'N and Long. 75°34.25'W;

(7) Transquaking River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east side of the mouth where it enters Fishing Bay, defined by Lat. 38°22.18'N and Long. 75°59.69'W; then running approximately 260° True to a point at or near the west side of the mouth, defined by Lat. 38°22.10'N and Long. 76°00.26'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north side of the river at Beaverdam Pond, defined by Lat. 38°26.38'N and Long. 75°59.67'W; then running approximately 204° True to a point at or near the south side of the river at Beaverdam Pond, defined by Lat. 38°26.35'N and Long. 75°59.69'W; including the waters of the Chicamacomico River downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north side of the river at Brick House Landing, defined by Lat. 38°25.72'N and Long. 75°57.42'W; then running approximately 178° True to a point at or near the south side of the river at Brick House Landing, defined by Lat. 38°25.69'N and Long. 75°57.42'W;

(8) Chester River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the shore at Piney Grove, defined by Lat. 39°11.04'N and Long. 76°04.04'W; then running approximately 63° True to a point at or near the shore at Primrose Point, defined by Lat. 39°11.17'N and Long. 76°03.70'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the north end of the Maryland Route 290 highway bridge at Crumpton, defined by Lat. 39°14.73'N and Long. 75°55.51'W; then running approximately 175° True to a point at or near the south end of the Maryland Route 290 highway bridge at Crumpton, defined by Lat. 39°14.70'N and Long. 75°55.50'W;

(9) Manokin River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Sharps Point, defined by Lat. 38°09.30'N and Long. 75°45.36'W; then running approximately 356° True to a point at or near the shore on the north side of the river, defined by Lat. 38°09.37'N and Long. 75°45.36'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near a point of land on the north side of the river across from Taylor Branch, defined by Lat. 38°11.05'N and Long. 75°42.63'W; then running approximately 137° True to a point at or near the mouth of Taylor Branch, defined by Lat. 38°11.03'N and Long. 75°42.61'W;

(10) Potomac River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Upper Cedar Point, defined by Lat. 38°24.44'N and Long. 77°05.51'W; then running approximately 181° True to a point at or near the mouth of Chotank Creek, defined by Lat. 38°22.03'N and Long. 77°05.59'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Whitestone Point, defined by Lat. 38°41.08'N and Long. 77°07.39'W; then running approximately 106° True to a point at or near the east shore of the Potomac River, defined by Lat. 38°40.85'N and Long. 77°06.39'W;

(11) Susquehanna River upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Concord Point, defined by Lat. 39°32.44'N and Long. 76°05.09'W; then running approximately 79° True to a point at or near Stump Point, defined by Lat. 39°32.79'N and Long. 76°02.80'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the southwest end of Conowingo Dam, defined by Lat. 39°39.39'N and Long. 76°10.53'W; then running approximately 22° True to a point at or near the northeast end of Conowingo Dam, defined by Lat. 39°39.89'N and Long. 76°10.26'W; and

(12) All of the area of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries enclosed by a line beginning at a point at or near Worton Point, defined by Lat. 39°19.14'N and Long. 76°11.13'W; then running approximately 313° True to a point at or near Abbey Point, defined by Lat. 39°20.97'N and Long. 76°13.69'W; then running northeasterly along the shore to a point at or near the south entrance of Romney Creek, defined by Lat. 39°22.12'N and Long. 76°11.70'W; then running approximately 52° True to a point at or near Taylor Point, defined by Lat. 39°22.66'N and Long. 76°10.79'W; then running northeasterly along the shore to a point at or near Black Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.11'N and Long. 76°06.11'W; then running approximately 11°

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

True to a point at or near Mulberry Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.62'N and Long. 76°05.98'W; then running approximately 117° True to a point at or near Bear Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.20'N and Long. 76°04.93'W; then running northeasterly along the shore to a point at or near Sandy Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.87'N and Long. 76°03.65'W; then running approximately 87° True to a point at or near Turkey Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.97'N and Long. 76°00.56'W; then running northeasterly along the north shore of the Elk River, including Piney Creek and Plum Creek to a point at or near Scotland Point, defined by Lat. 39°34.68'N and Long. 75°50.60'W; then running approximately 164° True to a point at or near Frenchtown Wharf, defined by Lat. 39°34.56'N and Long. 75°50.56'W; then running southwesterly along the south shore of the Elk River, including Perch Creek, and easterly along the north shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to a point at or near the Maryland-Delaware line, defined by Lat. 39°32.20'N and Long. 75°46.77'W; then running approximately 176° True to a point at or near the intersection of the Maryland-Delaware line and the south shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, defined by Lat. 39°32.08'N and Long. 75°46.76'W; then running southeasterly along the south shore of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal and the Elk River, including Herring Creek to a point at or near Town Point, defined by Lat. 39°29.25'N and Long. 75°55.49'W; then running approximately 232° True to a point at or near Ford Landing, defined by Lat. 39°28.48'N and Long. 75°56.78'W; then running southwesterly along the shore, including Cabin John Creek, Pearce Creek, and Pond Creek to a point at or near Grove Point, defined by Lat. 39°23.40'N and Long. 76°02.47'W; then running approximately 251° True to a point at or near Howell Point, defined by Lat. 39°22.34'N and Long. 76°06.72'W; then running southwesterly along the shore to a point at or near Meeks Point, defined by Lat. 39°20.77'N and Long. 76°08.21'W; then running approximately 210° True to a point at or near Rocky Point, defined by Lat. 39°20.07'N and Long. 76°08.73'W; then running southwesterly along the shore to the point of beginning, defined by Lat. 39°19.14'N and Long. 76°11.13'W.

D. General Fishing Restrictions.

(1) Except as provided in Regulation .09 of this chapter, during the period March 1 through May 31, a person may not catch, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, or attempt to catch striped bass or striped bass hybrids in the striped bass spawning rivers and areas listed in §B of this regulation.

(2) Notwithstanding §D(1) of this regulation, during the period March 1 through May 3, inclusive, a person authorized in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-745, Annotated Code of Maryland, to recreationally angle for finfish may hook striped bass and shall immediately release the striped bass unharmed to the water from which the striped bass was taken in the following areas:

(a) Susquehanna Flats, upstream of a line from a point at or near Sandy Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.96'N and Long. 76°03.63'W; then running in an easterly direction to a point at or near Turkey Point, defined by Lat. 39°27.13'N and Long. 76°00.70'W and the Susquehanna River downstream from a line connecting a point at or near the Susquehanna State Park boat ramp in Lapidum, defined by Lat. 39°35.86'N and Long. 76°07.67'W; then running in a northeasterly direction to a point at or near Twin Rocks, defined by Lat. 39°36.17'N and Long. 76°07.56'W; then running in a northeasterly direction to a point at or near Tomes Wharf in Port Deposit, defined by Lat. 39°36.23'N and Long. 76°06.99'W; and

(b) Northeast River.

(3) Notwithstanding §D(1) of this regulation, during the period March 1 through May 31, inclusive, a person authorized in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-745, Annotated Code of Maryland, to recreationally angle for finfish may hook striped bass and shall immediately release the striped bass unharmed to the water from which the striped bass was taken in that area of the Chester River on the North side of Kent Narrows and bounded on the southern side by the southern most edge of the old Route 50 bridge and, on the northern side, by a line beginning at a point (east tip of Ferry Point) defined by Lat. 38°58.820'N and Long. 76°14.627'W; then running approximately 92° True to a point (NW tip of Long Point) defined by Lat. 38°58.798'N and Long. 76°13.825'W.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

E. Fishing Restrictions for the Period March 1 Through the third Friday in April. The restrictions in this section apply to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries that are not closed in accordance with §D(1) of this regulation. During the period from March 1 through the third Friday in April:

(1) A person recreationally angling:

(a) When using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, shall use:

(i) Circle hooks; or

(ii) "J" hooks with a gap of less than 1/2 inch between the point and the shank;

(b) May not use stinger hooks; and

(c) Shall use barbless hooks while trolling; and

(2) No more than six lines, regardless of the number of people on board a vessel, may be used for recreationally angling from a boat when trolling.

08.02.15.08 Recreational and Charter Boat Spring Fishery.

A. Season. Notwithstanding Regulation .03D(1) of this chapter, the recreational and charter boat spring season is the third Saturday of April through May 15 for the areas described in §D of this regulation.

B. Minimum Size. The minimum legal size for the spring season is 28 inches total length.

C. Harvest and Catch Limit. The daily catch limit for the spring season is one striped bass per individual.

D. Fishing Areas. An individual may fish for striped bass only in the following areas:

(1) North of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge northern span, with the following boundaries:

(a) Western boundary— east of a line beginning at a point at or near the west end of the north span of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge, defined by Lat. 39°00.52'N and Long. 76°24.24'W; then running northerly along the shore to a point at or near Persimmon Point, defined by Lat. 39°03.16'N and Long. 76°26.33'W; then running approximately 34° True to a point at or near Mountain Point, defined by Lat. 39°03.55'N and Long. 76°25.99'W; then running northerly along the shore to a point at or near Bodkin Point, defined by Lat. 39°07.98'N and Long. 76°25.83'W; then running approximately 358° True to a point at or near Buoy "2B" at the mouth of Patapsco River, defined by Lat. 39°10.71'N and Long. 76°25.95'W;

(b) Northern boundary—south of a line beginning at a point at or near Buoy "2B" at the mouth of the Patapsco River, defined by Lat. 39°10.71'N and Long. 76°25.95'W; then running approximately 111° True along the Brewerton Channel to a point at or near Buoy "10", defined by Lat. 39°10.35'N and Long. 76°24.74'W; then running approximately 110° True to a point at or near Buoy "8", defined by Lat. 39°10.00'N and Long. 76°23.51'W; then running approximately 112° True to a point at or near Buoy "6", defined by Lat. 39°09.61'N and Long. 76°22.30'W; then running approximately 111° True to a point at or near Buoy "4", defined by Lat. 39°09.25'N and long. 76°21.08'W; then running approximately 111° True to a point at or near Buoy "2BE" at the east end of the Brewerton Channel, defined by Lat. 39°08.92'N and Long. 76°19.98'W; then running approximately 90° True to a point at or near Buoy "12", defined by Lat. 39°08.91'N and Long. 76°19.15'W; then running approximately 91° True to a point at or near Swan Point, defined by Lat. 39°08.89'N and Long. 76°16.69'W; and

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(c) Eastern and Southern boundary—west of a line beginning at a point at or near Swan Point, defined by Lat. 39°08.89'N and Long. 76°16.69'W; then running approximately 141° True to a point at or near Huntingfield Point, defined by Lat. 39°07.13'N and Long. 76°14.85'W; then running southerly along the shore of Eastern Neck to a point at or near Wilson Point, defined by Lat. 39°03.19'N and Long. 76°13.66'W; then running approximately 216° True to a point at or near the northwest point of Eastern Neck Island, defined by Lat. 39°02.77'N and Long. 76°14.05'W; then running approximately 263° True to a point at or near Love Point, defined by Lat. 39°02.40'N and Long. 76°18.16'W; then running southerly along the shore of Kent Island to a point at or near the east end of the north span of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge, defined by Lat. 38°59.08'N and Long. 76°20.41'W; then running westerly along the north span of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge to a point at or near the west end of the north span of the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge, defined by Lat. 39°00.52'N and Long. 76°24.24'W.

(2) Between the William Preston Lane Jr. Memorial Bridge northern span and the Maryland-Virginia state line excluding all bays, sounds, tributaries, creeks, and rivers, except Tangier Sound and Pocomoke Sound.

(3) All of the Maryland waters of the Potomac River, and its tidal tributaries, downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the east end of the Nice Memorial Bridge (U.S. 301), defined by Lat. 38°21.55'N and Long. 77°00.90'W; then running approximately 80° True to a point at or near the west end of the Nice Memorial Bridge, defined by Lat. 38°21.81'N and Long. 76°59.00'W; and upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near the shore at the north side of the north jetty at Smith Point, defined by Lat. 37°53.40'N and Long. 76°14.23'W; then running approximately 335° True to a point at or near Point Lookout, defined by Lat. 38°02.25'N and Long. 76°19.34'W.

E. Bait Prohibited. A person may not use eels as bait while participating in the striped bass spring fishery.

.09 Recreational and Charter Boat Summer and Fall Fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries.

A. Early Season.

(1) The recreational and charter boat early summer and fall season for taking striped bass is May 16 through May 31.

(2) Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries.

(a) The areas subject to the provisions of §A(2) of this regulation are:

(i) The areas described in Regulation .08D(1) and (2) of this chapter;

(ii) All of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay enclosed by a line beginning at a point at or near North Point, defined by Lat. 39°11.71'N and Long. 76°26.53'W; then running approximately 156° True to a point at or near Buoy "2B" at the mouth of the Patapsco River, defined by Lat. 39°10.71'N and Long. 76°25.95'W; then running approximately 111° True to a point at or near Buoy "10", defined by Lat. 39°10.35'N and Long. 76°24.74'W; then running approximately 110° True to a point at or near Buoy "8", defined by Lat. 39°10.00'N and Long. 76°23.51'W; then running approximately 112° True to a point at or near Buoy "6", defined by Lat. 39°09.61'N and Long. 76°22.30'W; then running approximately 111° True to a point at or near Buoy "4", defined by Lat. 39°09.24'N and Long. 76°21.08'W; then running approximately 111° True to a point at or near Buoy "2BE", defined by Lat. 39°08.92'N and Long. 76°19.98'W; then running approximately 90° True to a point at or near Buoy "12", defined by Lat. 39°08.91'N and Long. 76°19.15'W; then running approximately 91° True to a point at or near Swan Point, defined by Lat. 39°08.88'N and Long. 76°16.69'W, then running northerly along the shore of Kent County to a point at or near the end of

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

Maryland Route 21 at Tolchester, defined by Lat. 39°12.91'N and Long. 76°14.63'W; then running approximately 282° True to a point at or near the south corner of the Hart-Miller Island dike, defined by Lat. 39°14.23'N and Long. 76°22.44'W; then running north and west along the Hart-Miller shoreline to a point at or near the west end of Hart-Miller Island, defined by Lat. 39°14.36'N and Long. 76°23.19'W; then running approximately 206° True to a point at or near the east end of Pleasure Island, defined by Lat. 39°14.23'N and Long. 76°23.27'W; then running southwesterly along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline to a point at or near the West end of Pleasure Island, defined by Lat. 39°13.85'N and Long. 76°23.65'W; then running approximately 245° True to a point at or near the east end of Patapsco River Neck, defined by Lat. 39°13.76'N and Long. 76°23.91'W; then running southwesterly along shore to a point at or near the east entrance of Shallow Creek, defined by Lat. 39°12.25'N and Long. 76°25.95'W; then running approximately 251° True to a point at or near the west entrance of Shallow Creek, defined by Lat. 39°12.19'N and Long. 76°26.20'W; then running southwesterly along shore to the point of beginning, defined by Lat. 39°11.72'N and Long. 76°26.53'W;

(iii) Chester River: All of the waters of Chester River and its tributaries upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Love Point, defined by Lat. 39°02.40'N and Long. 76°18.16'W; then running approximately 83° True to a point at or near the northwesterly point of Eastern Neck Island, defined by Lat. 39°02.77'N and Long. 76°14.05'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Hail Point, defined by Lat. 39°00.76'N and Long. 76°12.00'W; then running approximately 216° True to a point at or near Long Point, defined by Lat. 38°58.81'N and Long. 76°13.80'W; then running approximately 271° True to a point at or near Ferry Point, defined by Lat. 38°58.82'N and Long. 76°14.60'W;

(iv) Choptank River: All of the waters of the Choptank River and its tributaries upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Cook Point, defined by Lat. 38°37.73'N and Long. 76°17.35'W; then running approximately 317° True to a point at or near Blackwalnut Point, defined by Lat. 38°40.24'N and Long. 76°20.37'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Holland Point at the west entrance of Irish Creek, defined by Lat. 38°41.88'N and Long. 76°13.61'W; then running approximately 174° True to a point at or near a point of land at the west entrance of Chapel Creek, defined by Lat. 38°36.59'N and Long. 76°12.91'W; and

(v) Patuxent River: All of the waters of the Patuxent River and its tributaries upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Drum Point, defined by Lat. 38°19.14'N and Long. 76°25.27'W; then running approximately 119° True to a point at or near Hog Point, defined by Lat. 38°18.59'N and Long. 76°23.99'W; and downstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Point Patience, defined by Lat. 38°19.73'N and Long. 76°29.04'W; then running approximately 236° True to a point at or near the west point of land at the entrance of Little Kingston Creek, defined by Lat. 38°19.40'N and Long. 76°29.67'W.

(b) Catch Restrictions.

(i) A person may not catch or possess more than two striped bass per day.

(ii) A person may catch and possess two striped bass at least 18 inches total length, only one of which may be greater than 28 inches total length.

(3) Susquehanna Flats and Northeast River.

(a) Notwithstanding COMAR 08.02.15.03D(1), the areas subject to the provisions of §A(3) of this regulation are:

(i) Susquehanna Flats, upstream of a line from a point at or near Sandy Point, defined by Lat. 39°26.96'N and Long. 76°03.63'W; then running in an easterly direction to a point at or near Turkey Point, defined by Lat. 39°27.13'N and Long. 76°00.70'W and the Susquehanna River downstream from a line connecting a point at or near the Susquehanna State Park boat ramp in Lapidum, defined by Lat. 39°35.86'N and Long.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

76°07.67'W; then running in a northeasterly direction to a point at or near Twin Rocks, defined by Lat. 39°36.17'N and Long. 76°07.56'W; then running in a northeasterly direction to a point at or near Tomes Wharf in Port Deposit, defined by Lat. 39°36.23'N and Long. 76°06.99'W; and

(ii) Northeast River.

(b) Catch Restrictions.

(i) A person may not catch or possess more than one striped bass per day.

(ii) A person may catch and possess one striped bass between 18 and 26 inches inclusive, total length.

(iii) A person may not use eels as bait.

B. Summer and Fall Season.

(1) The recreational and charter boat summer and fall season for taking striped bass is June 1 through December 15.

(2) The areas subject to the provisions of §B(1) of this regulation are the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries except for the tributaries of the Potomac River.

(3) Catch Restrictions.

(a) A person may not catch or possess more than two striped bass per day.

(b) A person may catch and possess two striped bass at least 18 inches total length, only one of which may be greater than 28 inches total length.

C. General Restriction. When fishing in any area described in this regulation, all striped bass in possession shall meet the size and possession limits set forth in regulation for that area.

.10 Recreational and Charter Boat Summer and Fall Fishery for Maryland Tributaries of the Potomac River.

A. Season. The recreational and charter boat summer and fall season in the:

(1) Areas described in Regulation .08D(3) of this regulation is May 16 through May 31; and

(2) Maryland tributaries of the Potomac River downstream of Woodrow Wilson Bridge (I-95) is June 1 through December 31.

B. Catch Limit. A person may not catch or possess more than two striped bass per day.

C. Size Limit. A person may catch and possess two striped bass at least 18 inches total length, only one of which may be greater than 28 inches total length.

.11 Atlantic Coast Recreational and Charter Boat Fishery.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

A. Minimum Size. The minimum legal size for striped bass in the Atlantic Ocean, its coastal bays, and their tributaries is 28 inches.

B. Catch Limit. A person may not take or possess more than two striped bass per day.

.12 General Restrictions.

A. A person may not use a gaff or similar device to remove striped bass from the water. A person who catches striped bass shall remove it from the water only by hand or dip net.

B. Possession of Striped Bass.

(1) For purposes of this section, "cull" means that after a person has a striped bass in possession, the person discards or exchanges that striped bass to possess another striped bass.

(2) During a recreational striped bass season:

(a) Between 12 a.m. midnight and 5 a.m., a person may not possess striped bass while fishing on the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries; and

(b) An individual may not cull striped bass.

C. Filleting Striped Bass.

(1) Except as provided in §C(2) of this regulation, a person may only land striped bass dockside as a whole fish.

(2) A licensed charterboat captain or mate may fillet striped bass taken on a vessel displaying a current commercial charterboat decal under the following conditions:

(a) A striped bass carcass may not be mutilated to the extent that the total length or species of fish cannot be determined;

(b) All striped bass carcasses:

(i) Shall be retained, unmixed with any other material, in a separate container readily available for inspection until the vessel has docked and all passengers from that trip have left the vessel and the dock area; and

(ii) Are included in the possession limit; and

(c) All striped bass carcasses from any previous trip shall be disposed of before any person begins to fish on a subsequent trip.

D. Except in ponds, lakes, reservoirs, or impoundments or as authorized by the Secretary, a person may not:

(1) Conduct a fishing tournament or contest; or

(2) Offer or give a reward or incentive to a recreational or fishing guide led angler for catching striped bass.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

E. In addition to the requirements of this chapter, a person who fishes for striped bass shall be licensed in accordance with Natural Resources Article, §4-701 or 4-705, Annotated Code of Maryland.

F. Mycobacteriosis Tagging Study.

(1) A person licensed by the Department to fish in Maryland waters may catch and possess all striped bass captured with an attached fluorescent green tag that shows the toll-free number 866-845-3379 and either VIMS Gloucester Pt. VA or MD DNR Oxford, provided that person possessing the tagged striped bass immediately:

- (a) Places the striped bass on ice or in a cool shaded area;
- (b) Calls the toll-free number on the green tag; and
- (c) Provides the striped bass to a representative of the Department of Natural Resources.

(2) Striped bass tagged with the specified fluorescent green tag may be caught using legal fishing gear and possessed:

- (a) In excess of the daily catch limit;
- (b) Outside of the striped bass season;
- (c) Above or below the size limits; and
- (d) In those areas and times in which capture and possession are otherwise prohibited.

G. Restrictions for Charter Boats.

(1) During a chartered fishing trip, the captain or mate:

- (a) May not land or possess striped bass for personal consumption during the season described in Regulation .08 of this chapter;
- (b) May land and possess one striped bass per boat per trip during the seasons described in Regulation .09 of this chapter, to be retained for personal consumption only.

(2) A fishing guide licensee may not make more than two charter trips daily to fish for striped bass.

H. Season Limitations. The Secretary:

(1) May establish seasons in Regulations .07—.10 of this chapter for tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries according to the following:

- (a) The recreational and charter boat seasons are within the period April through November;
- (b) The season for pound net, haul seine, and commercial hook and line is within the period June through December;
- (c) The gill net season is within the period December 1 through the last day of February;

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(2) May close a season effective on the date which the Secretary determines, based on catch and effort data, that the quota for that user group is reached;

(3) May modify or extend a fishing season if the Secretary determines that there is quota available to be caught;

(4) May modify or close a season or catch limit or set a monthly catch limit or modify size limit by publishing notice in a daily newspaper of general circulation at least 48 hours in advance of the time of modification, stating the effective hour and date; and

(5) Shall make reasonable effort to disseminate public notice of modification through various other media so that an affected person has reasonable opportunity to be informed.

STATUTES

§4-601. “Angling” defined.

“Angling” means catching or attempting to catch fish 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.

§4-604. Angler’s license – In general.

(a) Intent of section.- This section provides a fund to pay the expense of protecting and managing game and freshwater fish and preventing unauthorized persons from fishing or attempting to fish for any game and freshwater fish without first procuring an angler's license.

(b) License required.- Any person 16 years old or older shall secure an angler's license to fish in the nontidal waters of the State. An angler's license entitles the holder to fish in the nontidal waters of the State only during the open season.

(c) Exemptions from license requirement.- An angler's license is not required of the following:

(1) The owner or tenant of land bordering on nontidal water, his spouse and children, or the spouse of any child who resides on the land with the owner or tenant when he fishes in nontidal water adjoining his land;

(2) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States, while on leave in the State, during his leave period, if, while angling, he possesses a copy of his official leave orders;

(3) A person who fishes in nontidal waters of the State on free fishing days designated by the Secretary;

(4) A person holding a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing license issued under § 4-216 of this title; or

(5) A person authorized by a disability exemption issued under § 4-217 of this title.

(d) How license obtained.- A person may apply for an angler's license to any person designated by the Department. The application shall be on a form the Department prepares and supplies. The applicant shall fill out, sign and submit the application to the person designated to issue an angler's license. A person may apply by mail.

(e) Applicant to provide all information requested.- An applicant for a license issued under this section shall provide all the information requested by the Department on forms issued by the Department.

(f) Schedule of license fees.-

(1) The following annual license fees shall apply:

(i) Resident \$20.50

(ii) Subject to paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from date of issuance \$7.50

(iii) Resident and nonresident blind persons No fee

(iv) Complimentary license No fee

(2) For a nonresident:

(i) The fee for an annual angler's license is the greater of:

1. \$30.50; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a similar license; and

(ii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 7 consecutive days from the date of issuance is the greater of:

1. \$7.50; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

(iii) The fee for a short-term license valid for 3 consecutive days from the date of issuance is the greater of:

1. \$5; or

2. A fee equal to the fee charged a Maryland resident by the nonresident's home state for a license that permits an equal number of days of fishing or the next higher number of days as permitted by the Maryland license.

(3) (i) All fees collected by the Department under this section may only be used in accordance with § 4-208 of this title.

(ii) The Department shall publicly report annually the amounts collected and the expenditures under this section.

(g) Issuance of license and collection of fees; procedure.- A person designated to sell an angler's license shall issue the license and collect the fee prescribed in subsection (f) of this section. The Department shall furnish the licenses to the designated persons. An angler's license shall bear the Secretary's facsimile signature and the countersignature of the issuing person. The person who issues the license shall enter the name and address of the licensee. The collected money shall be transmitted to the Department as prescribed by the Department. As compensation, the agent shall retain \$1 for each license issued.

(h) Duration of license; signature; nontransferability.-

(1) Every angler's license shall expire on December 31 of each year following the date of issuance.

(2) The licensee shall sign his name in ink on the license at the time of purchase.

(3) The license may not be transferred to another person, nor used or presented by any person other than the person to whom it was issued.

§4-606. Reciprocal angler's license for residents of Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(a) Residents of Virginia.-

(1) A resident of Virginia possessing a valid Virginia fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Virginia without obtaining a Maryland angler's license.

(2) This subsection is only effective if Virginia enters into and maintains a reciprocal agreement with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which allows a person possessing a valid Maryland angler's license issued in that person's name to fish from the Virginia banks of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Maryland without acquiring a Virginia fishing license.

(b) Residents of West Virginia.-

(1) A resident of West Virginia possessing a valid West Virginia fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in nontidal waters of the Potomac River opposite the shore of West Virginia, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir, without obtaining a Maryland angler's license.

(2) This subsection is only effective if West Virginia enters into and maintains a reciprocal agreement with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which allows a person possessing a valid Maryland angler's license issued in that person's name to fish from the West Virginia banks of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Maryland, including the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir, without acquiring a West Virginia fishing license.

(c) Residents of Pennsylvania.-

(1) A resident of Pennsylvania possessing a valid Pennsylvania fishing license issued in that resident's name may fish in the waters of the Conowingo and Youghiogeny Reservoirs without obtaining a Maryland angler's license.

(2) This subsection is effective only if Pennsylvania first enters into and maintains a reciprocal agreement with the Department, approved by the Secretary, which allows a person possessing a valid Maryland angler's license issued in that person's name to fish on the portion of the Conowingo and Youghiogeny Reservoirs lying within the boundaries of Pennsylvania without acquiring a Pennsylvania fishing license.

(d) Scope of privileges.-

(1) The reciprocal fishing privileges granted by this section to a Pennsylvania resident holding a valid fishing license from Pennsylvania are valid only for the Conowingo and Youghiogeny Reservoirs.

(2) The reciprocal fishing privileges granted by this section to a West Virginia resident holding a valid fishing license from West Virginia are valid only for the main stem of the Potomac River, the North Branch of the Potomac River, and the Jennings Randolph Reservoir opposite the shore of West Virginia.

(3) The reciprocal fishing privileges granted by this section to a Virginia resident holding a valid fishing license from Virginia are valid only for the main stem of the Potomac River opposite the shore of Virginia.

(e) Revocation of privileges.- If a state fails to maintain the reciprocal fishing privileges in accordance with an approved agreement, the Secretary may revoke the reciprocal

fishing privileges accorded to those holding licenses issued by that state by publishing a notice of revocation in the Maryland Register and notifying the head of the appropriate licensing agency for that state.

§4-617. Restrictions on fishing in nontidal waters.

(a) Use of rods, lines, and hooks.- Except when fishing through ice, a person may not angle with more than three rods and lines with two hooks to each line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple or gang hooks are considered one unit.

(b) Use of slat baskets for catching eels.- A slat basket, commonly known as the Chesapeake Bay eel pot, may not be used to catch eels.

(c) Use of dip nets.- A State resident who has secured a resident angler's license may fish by use of a dip net only from January 1 through April 15 only in the following nontidal waters:

(1) The Susquehanna River in Cecil and Harford counties;

(2) In Allegany and Washington counties; and

(3) The Monocacy and Potomac rivers in Carroll and Frederick counties. However, dip nets may not be used within 50 yards of the mouth of any tributary or the breast of any dam of these rivers. A dip net may not be used in any of the waters of the State which are stocked with trout.

(d) Restrictions on use of bush-bobs or bank poles.-

(1) Only a person with a resident angler's license may use a bush-bob or bank pole;

(2) Bush-bobs or bank poles not exceeding a total of 25 in all and not exceeding one hook to a pole or bob may be used only in the waters of the Potomac or Monocacy River within Carroll, Washington, and Frederick counties.

(3) Bush-bobs or bank poles may not be used on any streams stocked with trout.

(4) A bush-bob or bank pole which has been baited with scale bait or live bait may not be used to catch suckers, catfish, carp, eels, gudgeons and every species of sunfish, including bluegills and rock bass, commonly known as redeye.

(5) A bush-bob or bank pole may not be used except between sunset and sunrise.

(e) Ice-fishing.- The Department may regulate, supervise, and control ice-fishing.

§4-619. Use of certain equipment – Prohibited.

Except as provided in § 4-620 of this subtitle, a person may not use or attempt to use a gig, gig iron, net, seine, fish pot, or other fishing rig. If any person is found in possession of the devices prohibited by this section while catching fish, it is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

§4-620. Use of certain equipment – Exceptions.

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

(b) Certain nets permitted for catching bait fish.-

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a dip net or seine not more than 6 feet in length nor more than 4 feet in depth may be used to catch bait fish.

(2) A dip net or seine may not be used within 50 yards of the mouth of any river or tributary or the base of any dam.

(c) Snagging with hooks prohibited.- Fish may not be snagged by means of hooks.

§ 4-704. License to catch finfish

(a) Required. -- 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 hook and line, dip net operated by hand, spear gun, or bow and arrow pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle unless he possesses a valid license to catch finfish issued by the Department.

(b) Application. -- An applicant for a license to catch finfish shall furnish information the Department requires.

(c) Restrictions on licenses for pound nets. -- The Department may not grant a license to any person, under the provisions of this subtitle, to set a pound net on the location occupied by any other pound net or within 4,500 feet in the Chesapeake Bay or 1,500 feet in a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay measured at right angles to the line of stakes, unless the other licensee failed to apply for renewal of his license by the expiration date of the year for which it was granted.

4-714 -730 – county and river area specific laws with gill net implications:

§ 4-714. Anne Arundel County

(a) A person may only fish with a rod, or hook, and line in the waters of Coxes' Creek, Furnace Branch Creek, or Marley Creek above the B. and O. Bridge.

(b)(1) A person may not catch fish by any means in the headwaters of the Magothy River beginning at the base of Lake Waterford Dam and extending for a distance of 3300 feet downstream during February, March, and April.

(2) A person may fish only with rod, or hook, and line, in the waters of the Little Magothy River and its tributaries and in the Magothy River and its tributaries lying westerly of the mouth of the Magothy River and inside a line drawn 214 degrees true from extreme end of Mountain Point to Persimmon Point, referring to the last edition of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart No. 566.

(3) A person may fish only with rod, or hook and line, in the waters of Bodkin Creek and tributaries lying westerly and inside of a line drawn 340 degrees true from extreme end of Cedar Point to Old Landen Point, referring to the latest edition of the Coast and Geodetic Survey Chart No. 549.

(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

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

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.

(c)(1) During February, March, and April, a person may not catch fish by any means in the waters of the Severn River or Severn Run from the dividing line between tidal and nontidal waters to a point 2400 feet downstream.

(2) A person may fish only with rod, or hook and line in the waters of the Severn River or any creek, cove, tributary, or inlet of the Severn River. A line drawn from the extreme projection of Greenberry Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point of Horn Point, marks the mouth of the Severn River for the purpose of the title.

(d)(1) A person may not set a pound net or other similar device at any time in the waters of South River, or any creek, cove, or inlet of the South River above Saunders Point on the south side and Marsh Point on the north.

(2) A person may not set any net at any time except a gill net or a haul seine in any creek, cove, tributary, or inlet of the South River.

(3) A person may not set any net or equipment during February, March, and April in the headwaters of South River from a line drawn from Howards Point on the west side of the river to Brier Bottom on the east side, and in the headwaters of Beards Creek and in the headwaters of any of the creeks of South River for a distance of 1200 feet from its headwaters.

(e)(1) A person may not set a haul seine exceeding 50 feet in length in the following waters: Herring Bay from a line drawn from the extreme projection of Parker's Island Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point of Holland Point;

South River, Rhode River, and West River;

From a line drawn from the extreme projection from Thomas Point into the Chesapeake Bay to the extreme point of Curtis Point;

Within the headlands of Whitehall Creek; and

Within the headlands of Meridith Creek and Lake Ogleton.

(2) Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500 with costs imposed in the discretion of the court.

§ 4-715. Baltimore County

(a) A person may not fish with rod or hook and line from any kind of boat or float, or fish with nets of any kind within 1500 feet of any occupied duck blind for the period beginning two days prior to the open season, as promulgated by the Department of Interior of the United States for hunting wild waterfowl, and ending the day following the closing of the season in the following waters:

Back River, except in the portion lying west of a line drawn from Stansbury's Point on the south shore to Walnut Point on the north shore;

Bird River and its tributaries lying within Baltimore County;

Dark Head Creek, except in the portion lying north of a line drawn from Clark Point on the west shore directly across the creek to Sharp Point on Bull Neck Shore;

Frog Mortar Creek, except in the portion lying northerly of a line drawn from Strawberry Point on the west shore to Weiskettle's Landing on the east shore;

Gunpowder River and its tributaries lying within Baltimore County;

Hogpen Creek, except in the portion lying southwest of natural headlands marking entrance into the creek;

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

Middle River, except in the portion lying west of a line drawn from Clark Point, also known as Maryland Yacht Club Point, on the north shore to the point of shore directly south of Clark Point; Norman Creek, except in the portion lying west of a line drawn from Cape May Beach on the south shore to Barren Point on the north shore; Seneca Creek, except in the portion lying northwest of a line drawn from Gun Point on the north shore directly south to Blackberry or Flying Point on the south shore; Seneca River; Saltpeter Creek; Dundee Creek and in the waters of their tributaries; Stansbury's Creek, except in the portion lying northwest of a line drawn from Wilson Point on south shore to Strawberry Point on north shore; and Sue Creek, except in the portion lying west of a line drawn from the northeasternmost point of Sue's Island to extremity of Rockaway Beach Road at the southern tip of Turkey Point.

(b) A person may not set a pound net or any similar device in the waters of Back River and its tributaries.

(c) A person may not fish with rod, hook and line or a net in the waters of Bird River between November 1 and January 31, both dates inclusive. A person shall remove every net or stake used for taking fish before midnight on October 31.

(d) A person may not fish with a net of any kind in the waters of Dundee Creek west of a line drawn from Levering's Point on the north to Marshy Point on the south.

(e)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may not fish in the waters of Gunpowder River lying in Baltimore County, with nets, from May 15 to September 15, both dates inclusive.

(2)(i) Except in areas where it is prohibited by the Department, in the waters of the Gunpowder River lying in Baltimore County or Harford County, on prior notification to the Department a person may catch carp 6 weeks before and during Passover in each year and 4 weeks before and during Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur in each year. If a person catches any fish variety other than carp under this paragraph, the person shall return them immediately to the water unharmed.

(ii) The Department, by regulation:

Shall establish procedures for the prior notification required under subparagraph (2)(i) of this subsection; and

May prohibit fishing for carp and catfish in certain areas as provided in subparagraph (2)(i) of this subsection.

(f) A person may not fish with nets or seines of any kind in the waters of Middle River and its tributaries, defined as those waters northeast of a line drawn from Bowley Point southwesterly to the navigation light at the western end of Sue Island, between March 1 and June 1, both dates inclusive.

(g) A person may not fish with seines or nets of any kind in the waters of Sue's Creek west of a line drawn from the northeasternmost point of Sue's Island to extremity of Rockaway Beach Road at the southern tip of Turkey Point.

§ 4-716. Fishing restrictions -- Caroline County

A person may not haul a seine of any description to catch fish in the waters of the Choptank River and its tributaries in Caroline County from May 21 to July 31, both dates inclusive.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

§ 4-717. Cecil County

(a) A person may not set a pound net or stake net in the waters of the Susquehanna River in Cecil County.

(b) Unless the written consent of the owner is first obtained, a person may not set any pound net opposite the shore of any owner of land bordering on the waters of the Elk, Bohemia or Sassafras rivers and their tributaries, and on the water of the North East River from Turkey Point to the River's Head, or any part of it within the limits of Cecil County. A person, unless he is the owner of the fishing shore, may not set a pound net so that it obstructs the hauling of any seine on an established fishing shore on these waters.

(c) A person may not catch fish by means of hook and line in the tidal waters of the following tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay in Cecil County, Mill Creek, Furnace Bay, North East River, Elk River, or Bohemia River two days prior to and extending until the closing day of the regular ducking season as promulgated by the Department of Interior of the United States. This subsection does not prohibit ice fishing at any time nor catching fish by means of hook and line from the shore line, docks, or wharves, or fishing by any means on Sundays during the regular ducking season.

(d) A person may not set any net within 200 yards of the beach on the Turkey Point section of Elk Neck State Park. The area that is restricted by this subsection shall be set off with buoys by the Department.

§ 4-718. Charles County

(a) A person may not use a haul seine greater than 960 feet in length in the tributaries of the Potomac River, and not greater than 1800 feet in length in the St. Mary's County waters of the Wicomico River and its tributaries. Any person who possesses a seine greater than these lengths while actively engaging in seining in these waters is guilty of violating this subsection.

(b) A person may set a licensed haul seine and gill net at a distance greater than one third the distance across a river, creek, cove, or inlet in any of the tributary waters of Charles County only to catch carp and catfish, notwithstanding any other section of this subtitle. A person may not set the net to impede or obstruct navigation or block in any way the main channel of the river, creek, cove, or inlet. Any person who catches fish of a variety other than carp or catfish in any net shall return them immediately to the water unharmed. A person always shall attend a net for catching carp or catfish. Any person whose net is found more than one third the distance across the waters where it is set without a person in attendance is guilty of violating this subsection. The provisions of this subsection do not apply from March 1 through April 30 and September 1 through November 30 in each year.

(c) A person may not set a net of any description to catch fish in the Wicomico River proper above Woodland Point House in Charles County.

§ 4-719. Dorchester County

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(a) A person may not set a haul seine or seine of any description, or what is commonly called a put net, to catch fish in the following waters of Dorchester County: Transquaking River and Chicamacomico River and their tributaries, Big and Little Blackwater Rivers, White Hall Creek, Hurst's Creek, Shoal Creek, and Jenkins Creek.

(b) A person may not set a patent twine weir, or any other twine weir, a pound net and hauling seine of a length greater than 350 feet in Blackwater River and its tributaries except Little Blackwater River. A person also may not fasten or stick a stake in the part of Blackwater River lying between a line drawn from Grog Point to the opposite side of the river and a line drawn from Berg's Ditch to the opposite side of the river, except in the bends of the river where stake weirs now exist.

(c) A person may not set a gill net in the waters of Fishing Bay or Transquaking River north of a line drawn from Blackwater Point to Irish Creek, up the Transquaking River to Destroys Creek, or set any net whose farther end extends more than 1200 feet from shore or more than one third the breadth of the water at the place where the net is fished, or closer than 600 feet of another net in the Transquaking or Chicamacomico River. A person may not set any net whose farther end extends more than one half the breadth of the water at the place where the net is fished or closer than 600 feet of another net in the waters of the Transquaking River above Decourcey Bridge or placed in or across the channels of these rivers. In the waters of Fishing Bay south of a line drawn from Blackwater Point to Irish Creek and north of a line drawn from Roasting Ear Point to the northwesterly most point of the entrance to Duck Island Cove, a person may not set any weir more than 1200 feet from shore, or set any gill net or weir closer to each other than 1200 feet, or set any row of gill nets more than 1200 feet in length. A person may not set any weir beyond a depth of 18 feet in the waters of Fishing Bay south of the line from Roasting Ear Point to the northwesterly most point of the entrance to Duck Island Cove.

(d) A person may not place pound nets, weirs, or hedges less than one third of a mile apart in the northwest branch of the Nanticoke River, from Walnut Landing to the place known as Chimney Landing, on the west branch of this stream.

(e) A person may fish only with hook and line, eel pot, or gill net with at least a three-inch mesh in the following waters:

(1) Cabin Creek above a line drawn from the residence of Joseph Era in a northeasterly direction to the residence on the opposite side on what is known as the Travers Farm;

(2) Warwick River above a line drawn from the east end of a sand bar extending from the Hughlett Farm in a northerly direction across the river to the nearest point of marsh on Warwick Manor; and

(3) Goose Creek and Indian Creek.

§ 4-720. Cecil and Harford Counties

A person may not use a haul seine in the water area west of a line from Locust Point to the pumping station at Perry Point. This section does not prohibit catching fish for conservation or scientific purposes under the supervision of the Department, or prohibit catching carp. If 25 or more rockfish are found in a seine or net, there is a violation of this section, and the exception stated does not apply. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction is subject to a fine of at least \$100 and not more than \$1,000 with costs imposed in the discretion of the court.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

§ 4-721. Harford County

(a) A person may not fish with a hauling seine or stake net in the waters of Swan Creek from July 15 to September 15, both dates inclusive, and in the waters of the Gunpowder River lying in Harford County from May 15 to September 15, both dates inclusive.

(b) A person may not fish at any time with a haul seine in the waters of Bush River or any of its tributaries in Harford County.

(c)(1) A person may not fish a pound net in any part of the Gunpowder and Bush rivers lying in Harford County further than 1,500 feet from the shoreline of the Gunpowder River below Maxwell Point at mean low water tide and 750 feet from the shoreline of the Bush River at mean low water tide.

(2)(i) Except within the boundaries of the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, a person may not set a fyke net in the Bush River within 300 feet of another fyke net or 750 feet of a pound net, measured at right angles to existing nets or line of nets for enforcement purposes.

(ii) An owner, tenant, or lessee of the riparian rights of any property bordering the Bush River may maintain a single fyke net that is closer than 300 feet to another fyke net or pound net set in front of an adjacent property.

(d) A person may not use a pound net or stake net in the waters of the Susquehanna River.

(e)(1) A person may not set or maintain a commercial drift gill net, stake gill net, or anchor gill net so that any portion of the net is closer than 500 feet from any portion of any other commercial drift gill net, stake gill net, or anchor gill net in the designated striped bass spawning area of the Susquehanna River north of Concord Point and Stump Point.

(2) South of the line outlined, in paragraph (1) of this subsection, to Bears Point and Turkey Point, a person may set a commercial drift gill net only as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection and may set and maintain a stake gill net or anchor gill net only as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

§ 4-722. Fishing restrictions -- Kent County

A person may set a pound net in the waters of Sassafra River and its tributaries lying in Kent County from Luke's Point to the head of this river from August 1 to May 31 following, both dates inclusive. A pound net may not be set so as to obstruct the haul of any seine on any established fishing shore on these waters, unless set by the owners of the fishing shore.

§ 4-723. Saint Mary's County

(a) A person may not fish with any kind of seine or net in the waters of Chaptico Bay and the Wicomico River within the limits of St. Mary's County, within 1500 feet of any established duck blind during the open season for shooting ducks or other wild fowl.

(b) A person may not set a fish trap, net, or haul seine in the waters of St. Catherine's Sound in St. Mary's County. However, a gill net not exceeding a length of 90 yards is permitted.

§ 4-724. Fishing restrictions -- Somerset County

A person may not drag or set any haul seine to catch fish in the waters of Monie Bay and its
Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

tributaries easterly of a straight line drawn from Long Point to Wingate Point in Somerset County.

§ 4-725. Talbot County

In the waters of Talbot County, a person may set only the following types of nets in the areas and during the times prescribed:

- (1) Any net at any time in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay bordering Talbot County;
- (2) Any net at any time in the waters of the Choptank River southeast of a straight line drawn from Benoni's Point to Chlora's Point;
- (3) Gill nets and fyke nets at any time in any of the waters of Talbot County; and
- (4) Haul seines in Harris Creek southerly and downstream from a straight line drawn between Station Hawk on the west side and Indian Point on the east side if the mesh in all seines is in bar not less than one and one-half inches.

§ 4-727. Worcester County

(a) A person may not fish with a stationary net extended completely across the middle third of the waters measured in a straight line from the east to west shoreline of Sinepuxent Bay north of South Point, Isle of Wight Bay, Assawoman Bay and St. Martin's River.

(b) A person may not haul or fish with any haul or set seine, or leave or permit to remain setting, any set seine in the waters of Sinepuxent Bay and its tributaries north of South Point, during the period between 6 o'clock p.m. Saturday, and 6 o'clock a.m., of the following Monday.

(c) A person may only fish with a rod, or hook and line in the waters of Herring Creek which lie south of the State Road Bridge.

(d) A person may not fish in the waters of Sinepuxent Bay or its tributaries within the limits of Worcester County with any seine or net of any description having meshes less than one and one-half inches square. However, during the months of July, August, September, and October, a person may fish for fat backs and croakers with any seine or net of this description.

§ 4-728. Chesapeake Bay

(a) Use of nets generally.-

(1) In this subsection, "connected line of nets" means a series of connected nets set in single file.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person may not set:

(i) A fish pot, fyke net, or connected line of fyke nets within 500 feet in any direction of any other net or connected line of nets;

(ii) A fyke net or connected line of fyke nets that exceeds 1,500 feet in length, including the net's leaders, hedges, or wings; or

(iii) A fish pot, fyke net, or connected line of fyke nets at a distance greater than one-fourth the distance across the bay, measured from the low water mark.

(3) In the waters in the part of the Chesapeake Bay which lies between a straight line drawn from Drum Point Lighthouse in Calvert County to Hog Point in St. Mary's County, and a straight line drawn from Cove Point Lighthouse in Calvert County to Cedar Point Lighthouse in St. Mary's County, a person may not set any kind of net:

(i) Nearer than 500 yards in every direction from any other net;

(ii) Of a total length of more than 550 yards including the net's leaders, hedges, or wings; or

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(iii) At a greater distance than one-fourth the distance across these waters measured from the low water mark on either side.

(b) Use of any pound net or stake net in headwaters.- A person may not set any pound net or stake net in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay, except those areas within 2,400 feet from the natural shoreline in Cecil County, the bay shore of Kent County up to Howell Point, and those areas within 2,400 feet from the shore on the west side of the bay from Pooles Island north to one-half mile north of Spesutie Island. For the purpose of this subsection the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay are defined as the waters embraced in the area marked by the following line:

Beginning at Concord Point and running in a northeasterly direction, crossing Susquehanna River to Stump Point, then to Carpenter's Point, then to Turkey Point, then to Grove Point, all in Cecil County, then to Howell Point, Kent County, continuing in a straight line from Howell Point in a southwesterly direction across the bay to Abbey Point, the northernmost point at the entrance of Bush River, then northerly by a line following the bay shore of Harford County to Mulberry Point, then to Bear Point, Sandy Point, and to Locust Point on Spesutie Island, then to the southernmost point at the entrance of Swan Creek, and then crossing Swan Creek and continuing in a northerly direction following the bay shore to Concord Point, the place of beginning.

(c) Use of anchored gill nets.-

(1) A person may not set an anchored gill net in the area of Chesapeake Bay bounded on the north by a line drawn from Turkey Point on the eastern shore to Sandy Point in Harford County, and on the south by a line drawn from Abbey Point to channel buoy Number 29, following the channel northward to buoy Number 1, off Grove Point, thence to Grove Point. This paragraph does not apply to the commercial fishing area within the Aberdeen Proving Grounds as specified by the Proving Ground.

(2) A person may not set or fish with any gill net within 1,200 feet of any pier that supports either span of the William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge between May 1 and October 31, inclusive.

(3) A person may not set or fish with any gill net in the Chesapeake Bay, excluding its tributaries, south of a line drawn from Howell Point to Taylor Island Point in the upper bay to a line drawn from Kent Point to Curtis Point in the mouth of West River between June 1 and October 31, inclusive.

§ 4-729. Fishing restrictions -- Choptank River

A person may not set a haul seine of any description in the waters of the Choptank River and its tributaries from May 21 to July 31, both dates inclusive.

§ 4-730. Patuxent River

(a) A person may not set, nor construct any kind or description of net in the Patuxent River from Queen Anne Bridge to the mouth of the river, within 1,500 feet in every direction from any other net, without the permission of the owner of the other net. In addition, a person may not set, nor construct, any net more than 425 feet in length, including the net's leaders, hedges, or wings, below a straight line from Holland's Cliffs across the river to a point on the shore directly opposite Holland's Cliffs, or more than 150 feet in length including the net's leaders, hedges, or wings, above the straight line from Holland's Cliffs. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to floating gill nets or seines.

Last Update 4/20/2011. For any recent regulatory changes, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.html>

(b) A person may not set or haul any seine or gill net in any creek, cove or tributary of the Patuxent River if the mouth of the creek or tributary is less than 200 feet wide.

(c) A person may not set or haul any drifting gill net in the Patuxent River south of the Patuxent River Bridge or in any creek, cove, or tributary of the river south of the Patuxent River Bridge at any time.

§4-733. Possession of fish whose size or weight cannot be determined.

A person may not possess aboard any boat on the tidal waters of the State more than 15 pounds of any fish for which a size or weight limit is prescribed by law, or rule or regulation in a condition that the size or weight of the fish cannot be determined.