

Maryland 2017 Fishing Regulations

SEASONS, MINIMUM SIZES, DAILY CREEL & POSSESSION LIMITS

ATLANTIC OCEAN & COASTAL BAYS

ATLANTIC OCEAN, COASTAL BAYS & TRIBUTARIES				
SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS	SEASON	CREEL LIMIT	REMARKS
AMERICAN EEL	9 inches	January 1 - August 31, except open year round for spears and baited traps or pots	Daily—25	
BLACK DRUM	16 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1 Boat limit—6	
BLACK SEA BASS	Subject to change. Refer to online regulations for updates— www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/			
BLUEFISH	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—10	
COBIA	None	Open Year Round	None	
CROAKER (Hardhead)	9 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—25	
DOLPHINFISH (Mahi-Mahi)	None	Open Year Round	Daily—10 Boat limit—60	Only applies to federal waters.
GROUPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—1	Grouper species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm
LOBSTER *Please see additional recreational lobster information below	3½–5¼ inches carapace length	Open Year Round Except Feb. 1 – March 31	100/person/24 hour period or 500 for a 5-day or longer trip when using gear other than lobster traps	Must be landed whole. Sparring is prohibited. No egg-bearing females. Refer to online regulations for details— www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/
RED DRUM (Channel Bass or Puppy Drum)	18–27 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	
SCUP (Porgy)	8 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—50	
SHARKS	See Highly Migratory Species Section—page 44			
SNAPPER SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—20 in aggregate	Snapper species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm
SPANISH MACKEREL	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—15	
SPOTTED SEATROUT	14 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—4	
STRIPED BASS	See Updated Striped Bass and Flounder Regulations Below.			
SUMMER FLOUNDER (Fluke)				
TAUTOG	16 inches	Jan. 1–Nov. 26	Jan. 1–May 15 and Nov. 1–Nov. 26, Daily—4 May 16–Oct. 31, Daily—2	
TILEFISH SPECIES	None	Open Year Round	Daily—7 in aggregate	Tilefish species— www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=08.02.05.29.htm
WAHOO	None	Open Year Round	Daily—2	Only applies to federal waters.
WEAKFISH	13 inches	Open Year Round	Daily—1	

The taking of American shad, hickory shad, alewife herring, blueback herring, Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon is prohibited.

Striped Bass Regulations

SEASON	FISHING LOCATIONS ALLOWED	CREEL & SIZE LIMITS	REGULATIONS	RESTRICTIONS & REMARKS
JAN. 1–DEC. 31	No area restrictions in state waters	2 fish per person per day. Must be between 28 inches and 38 inches, inclusive, or greater than or equal to 44 inches.		Striped bass may not be caught, harassed or possessed in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which stretches from 3 to 200 miles off the coast.

2017 Summer Flounder Season, Size Limit and Creel Limit – March through December

- Effective 12:01 a.m. April 1, 2017, the recreational minimum size for summer flounder is 17 inches in all Maryland state waters.
- According to regulation, an individual licensed to catch fish for commercial purposes may not catch or possess a summer flounder that is less than the recreational size limit if caught by hook and line. Therefore, the commercial hook and line minimum size for summer flounder is 17 inches in all Maryland state waters.

Season and Creel Limits established by Public Notice (issued 12/20/16, effective 1/1/17) are still in effect:

- The season is open through December 31, 2017.
- Recreational anglers may keep up to 4 summer flounder per person per day.
- All other rules remain the same.