

# “E-Tools” for Anglers and & Rockfish/Bay Fisheries Update

By Erik Zlokovitz

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Fishing and Boating Services

Annapolis Anglers-updated photos

March 2019

# E-tools for Anglers



## Two main themes of today's presentation

- 1.) E-Tools on computer and phone, to keep the public informed on fishing activity, trends and fish movements, which will help Chesapeake anglers be better educated, and possibly catch more fish!
- 2.) Circle hook regulations review, and updates on weakfish, red drum and cobia.

# E-tools for Anglers 2018



- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Website
- Weekly Fishing Reports online, delivered by email and on App: Sent weekly from March through December, Keith Lockwood has written nearly 700 fishing reports since 2003
- “Click before you Cast” now added to weekly fishing reports, shows water quality and forecasts for fish location
- Angler’s Log online: Daily reports and photos from anglers, more than 6,778 entries have been logged in since 2010.
- Eyes on the Bay water quality stations and data buoys

# Maryland DNR Fishing and Boating Services

[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries)



## Fishing and Boating Services Home Page

- Public Notices
- Regulations
- Buy fishing license online
- Join email list
- Trout Stockings
- Tide Finder
- Fish facts
- Volunteer Angler Study
- State Records
- Invasive Species (Snakehead info!)
- And more

Maryland.gov Phone Directory State Agencies Online Services Translate

MARYLAND .gov DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Enter search term

FISHING REPORTS RECREATIONAL COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS MAPS

### Fisheries

- > Fisheries Home Page
- > Public Notices
- > Fisheries Regulations
- > Fishing Licenses
- > Join Our Mailing List

### More Resources

- > Tide Finder
- > Fish Facts
- > Trout Stocking
- > Volunteer Angler Survey
- > Invasive Species
- > Youth Fishing
- > Charter Boats & Guides
- > Free Fishing
- > State Records
- > River Levels
- > Espanol/Spanish Language
- > Fisheries Forms
- > Non-Fishing Permits

Maryland Warming up for Spring Trout Fishing

MARYLAND GUIDE TO FISHING AND CRABBING

MARYLAND SHARE YOUR ANGLER'S LOG CATCH!

Public Angler Access Map

Boating Information

# Weekly Fishing Report



## Fishing Report

- Starts in mid-March, online and by email
- Covers bay, ocean and freshwater, inland fisheries
- Index for recent reports
- Historical report archives
- Includes Click Before You Cast

The screenshot shows the Maryland Department of Natural Resources website. At the top right, there are links for Maryland.gov, Phone Directory, State Agencies, Online Services, and a Translate button. The main header features the Maryland.gov logo and the Department of Natural Resources name. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header is a navigation menu with categories: FISHING REPORTS, RECREATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMS, and MAPS. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is titled 'Fisheries' and includes links for Fisheries Home Page, Public Notices, Fisheries Regulations, Fishing Licenses, and Join Our Mailing List. Below this is a 'More Resources' section with links for Tide Finder, Fish Facts, Trout Stocking, Volunteer Angler Survey, Invasive Species, Youth Fishing, Charter Boats & Guides, Free Fishing, State Records, River Levels, Espanol/Spanish Language, Fisheries Forms, and Non-Fishing Permits. The middle column is titled 'Weekly Fishing Report' and features two images of anglers. Below the images is a section for 'weekly fishing report - Natural Resources News' with two entries: 'Weekly Fishing Report: February 28' and 'Midwinter Fishing Report: January 31'. The right column is titled 'Fishing Reports Links' and includes links for Fishing Reports, Anglers Log, Hot Spot Map, Recent Report Archives, Older Report Archives, and Click Before You Cast. At the bottom of the right column are two logos for 'MARYLAND Youth Angler's LOG' and 'MARYLAND ANGLER'S LOG SHARE YOUR CATCH.' with a small image of an angler. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

# Click Before You Cast

USING ONLINE FISHING RESOURCES TO CATCH MORE FISH

## "Where are the fish?"

Bay is very big with countless tidal creeks, rivers and bays stretching over 4,500 square miles and averaging 21 feet deep.

We all understand that fish are influenced by food, shelter, and water conditions. So where do we find this information?

# For Fishermen by Fishermen

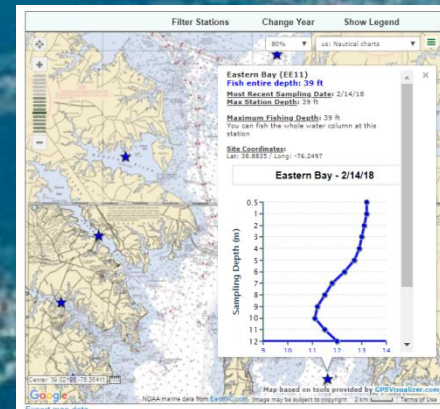
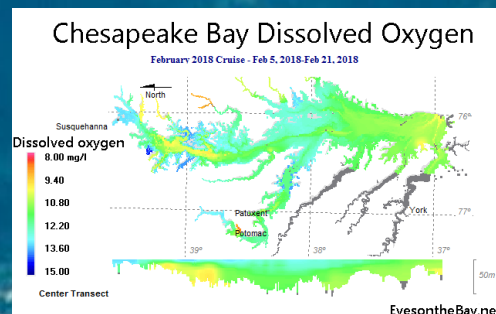
Follow these steps to find where fish are likely to be present on your next fishing trip:



# Features

Step by step process to help Maryland Chesapeake Bay fishermen find fish

- Most recent monitoring data
- Detailed tips
- Weekly bay fishing conditions forecast
- Don't fish below this depth maps
- Bay oxygen, temperature and salinity maps from surface to bottom
- Water clarity conditions
- Moving water





# Click Before You Cast

eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov



- Includes a weekly fishing conditions forecast
- Learn your fish species and optimum conditions
- Use current online monitoring data to find optimum areas
- Maps showing salinity, oxygen, habitat, water clarity and temperature
- Find moving water and structure, drop-offs, edges.

The screenshot shows the 'Eyes on the Bay' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Maryland.gov', 'Phone Directory', 'State Agencies', and 'Online Services'. Below this is a search bar labeled 'Search MD DNR' and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. The main header features the 'MARYLAND .gov' logo and the title 'EYES ON THE BAY'. A secondary navigation bar includes links for 'HOME', 'CURRENT CONDITIONS', 'FISHING', 'STATUS & TRENDS', 'HARMFUL ALGAE', 'SATELLITE MAPS', and 'DATA'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Eyes on the Bay Navigation:', lists various resources such as 'Monitoring News & Reports', 'Our Monitoring Explained', 'FAQs and Ask an Expert', 'Lesson Plans', 'Water Quality Links', 'Partners', 'Maryland Waters', and 'Site Map'. Below this is a section for 'Regional Data Providers:' which lists 'Chesapeake Bay Program', 'Washington, DC', 'Virginia', 'Pennsylvania', 'Delaware', and 'Other Data Sources'. The right column features a large heading 'Click Before You Cast: USING ONLINE FISHING RESOURCES TO CATCH MORE FISH'. Below this is a paragraph titled '"Where are the fish?"' which explains that Chesapeake Bay anglers ask this question and that the website provides information on food, shelter, and water conditions. A second paragraph states that the answer is just a few mouse clicks away, as the website provides environmental monitoring data to help protect and restore natural resources. A callout box with a hand icon pointing to a fishing hook icon contains the text: 'Our [Weekly Fishing Conditions Forecast](#) gives an overview of how current water conditions may affect your fishing, but for detailed and up-to-date fishing conditions in your area of the bay, be sure to fully explore the steps below'. Below this is a section titled 'Follow these steps to find where fish are likely to be present on your next fishing trip:' which includes a four-step process: 1. 'Know your fish to identify optimum conditions' (with a fish icon), 2. 'Next, use current, online monitoring information to identify these optimum areas on your fishing map' (with a hand icon pointing to a map), 3. 'Now find moving water at your fishing hotspots' (with a wavy water icon), and 4. 'Go fishing, catch fish!' (with a fish icon). Below the steps are icons for 'Salinity', 'Oxygen', 'Habitat', 'Water Clarity', and 'Water Temperature'. The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with icons for File Explorer, a media player, Google Chrome, and PowerPoint.

# Click Before You Cast: 8 Steps to catch more fish



## 8 steps to more fish:

1. "Think like a fish": Understand water conditions and habitat areas
2. Eliminate areas outside preferred salinity range
3. Eliminate poorly oxygenated areas
4. Eliminate areas outside of preferred temperature range
5. Eliminate areas with poor clarity
6. In the remaining area, identify preferred habitat
7. Find moving water, and...

**Step 8 - Go fishing and catch fish! Put in your time!**

Washington, DC  
Virginia  
Pennsylvania  
Delaware  
Other Data Sources

Water sampling conditions in your area or the bay. Be sure to fully explore the steps below.

Follow these steps to find where fish are likely to be present on your next fishing trip:

Click on each step below to view information and links. Follow the 'How To' tutorials in each step to learn how to put all this information into practice and find your best fishing locations:

- Step 1 - "Think like a fish": Understand water conditions and habitat areas your target fish prefers
- Step 2 - Eliminate areas outside preferred salinity range
- Step 3 - Eliminate poorly oxygenated areas
- Step 4 - Eliminate areas outside of preferred temperature range
- Step 5 - Eliminate areas with poor clarity
- Step 6 - In the remaining area, identify preferred habitat
- Step 7 - Find moving water
- Step 8 - Go fishing and catch fish!

Detecting and restoring your local waterways

# Click Before You Cast

## Step 2- Salinity example



### Salinity examples (Step 2)

1. **Bluefish and Spanish mackerel are high salinity (salty) species, avoid salinities less than 10 parts per thousand (ppt). Look for salinities in the 10-20 ppt range and follow the “salt wedge as it moves up the bay in summer.**
2. **Striped bass, white perch, and channel catfish tolerate low salinities (fresh/brackish) and may be attracted to freshwater flow (cooler fresh water) and nutrients/food from river mouths. You can find these species in salinities less than 10 parts per thousand.**

Click on each step below to view information and links. Follow the 'How To' tutorials in each step to learn how to put all this information into practice and find your best fishing locations:



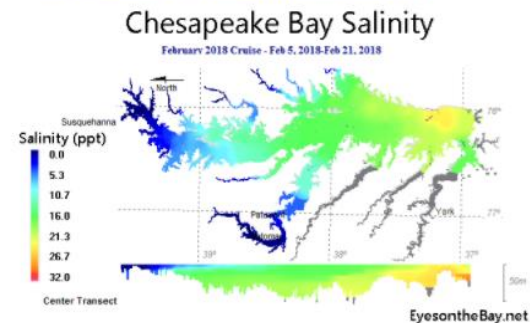
**Step 1 - "Think like a fish": Understand water conditions and habitat areas your target fish prefers**



**Step 2 - Eliminate areas outside preferred salinity range**

Some Chesapeake Bay fish are better than others at surviving over a range of salinity conditions. For instance, striped bass are found anywhere from freshwater to the ocean. For the fish with limited salinity ranges such as largemouth bass, their habitat will expand or contract with changing bay salinities. However, bay salinities in any spot, will vary greatly due to the amount of rainfall entering through the bay's rivers. During years of low rainfall amounts, saltier conditions will move further up the Chesapeake Bay. If you know what salinity your target gamefish prefers and compare it to current salinity maps, you can eliminate unproductive water.

>> [How To: Eliminate areas outside preferred salinity range](#) <<



Data source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources Eyes on the Bay.  
Funding for monitoring: US Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program and state sources.

**Salinity Preferences for Gamefish:** Choose a species to view it's salinity preference.

Click on a species below:

- Blue crab
- Bluefish
- Largemouth bass
- Spot
- Striped bass
- White perch
- Yellow perch



Select a fish from the list on the left.



**Salinity Links:**

[Eyes on the Bay: Current vs. historical salinity comparison](#)  
(real-time / near real-time / recent)

[Eyes on the Bay: Salinity monitoring stations](#)

# Maryland Angler's Log

## Updated daily, year round



Follow daily activity and fishing reports/photos on the Angler's Log

To participate, send in your log to:

[fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:fishingreports.dnr@maryland.gov)

Include:

- Your name
- Hometown
- Photos
- Location information
- Any additional content for your report to make it more informative and entertaining!

The screenshot shows the Maryland Angler's Log website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links for Fishing Reports, Recreational, Commercial, Management, Programs, and Maps. A sidebar on the left contains 'Fisheries' and 'More Resources' sections with various links. The main content area features a 'Maryland Angler's Log - Share Your Catch!' header, a welcome message, and a social media 'Like' button. Below this is a search bar and a list of reports. A report by Bill Hopps, titled 'Good Fishing in an Eastern Shore Pond', is highlighted, showing details like 'Type: Nontidal', 'Region: Eastern', and 'Location: Eastern Shore pond'. The report text describes a catch of bass and pickerel. Social media buttons for 'Like' and 'Tweet' are visible, along with a 'Tags' section listing 'Largemouth Bass' and 'Chain Pickerel'. At the bottom, there are two small images of anglers.

# Eyes on the Bay

## Water quality and conditions



### Eyes on the Bay Home Page

- Monitoring News and Reports
- Monitoring Explained
- FAQs and Ask an Expert
- Water Quality Links
- Partners
- Maryland Waters
- Site Map: Filter stations, turn data points on/off, change year, show legend, station markers, click to view data, zoom/pan

Navigation:

- › Monitoring News & Reports
- › Our Monitoring Explained
- › FAQs and Ask an Expert
- › Lesson Plans
- › Water Quality Links
- › Partners
- › Maryland Waters
- › Site Map

Regional Data Providers:

- › Chesapeake Bay Program
- › Washington, DC
- › Virginia
- › Pennsylvania
- › Delaware
- › Other Data Sources

**Eyes on the Bay Home**

Thank you for visiting Eyes on the Bay, your home for Maryland tidal water quality data and information. We hope that our data search and download pages will be useful tools. The map below displays all the stations where we collect water quality data, as well as partner stations.

**Explore the Station Map!**

- **Filter Stations:** check/uncheck the boxes for each water quality data type to turn data points on/off
- **Change Year:** use this dropdown to view what stations were sampled in different years
- **Show Legend:** mouseover this menu to display the legend for the station markers
- **Station markers:** click to view station details, and link to data and charts
- **Zoom/Pan:** zoom in & out using your mouse scroll button; click & drag to move the map around (mobile: pinch to zoom, touch & drag to move map)

For full-screen map view click [here](#)

For full functionality we suggest using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox.

Filter Stations Change Year Show Legend

Map showing Chesapeake Bay area with various data points and filters.

eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/index\_fullsizemap.cfm

7:01 PM 3/7/2018

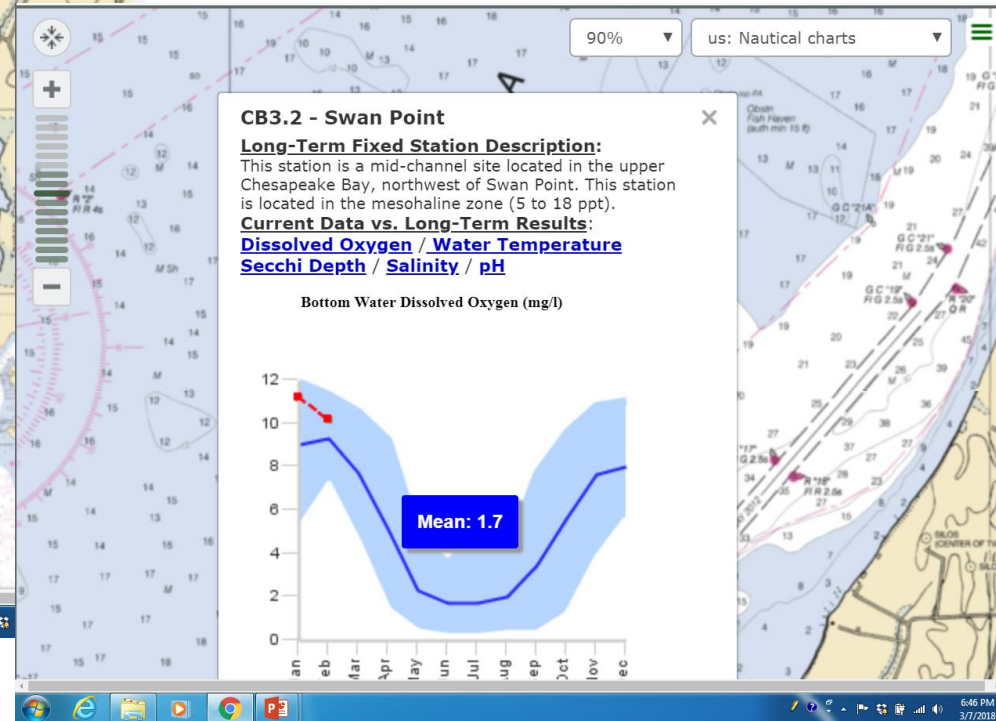
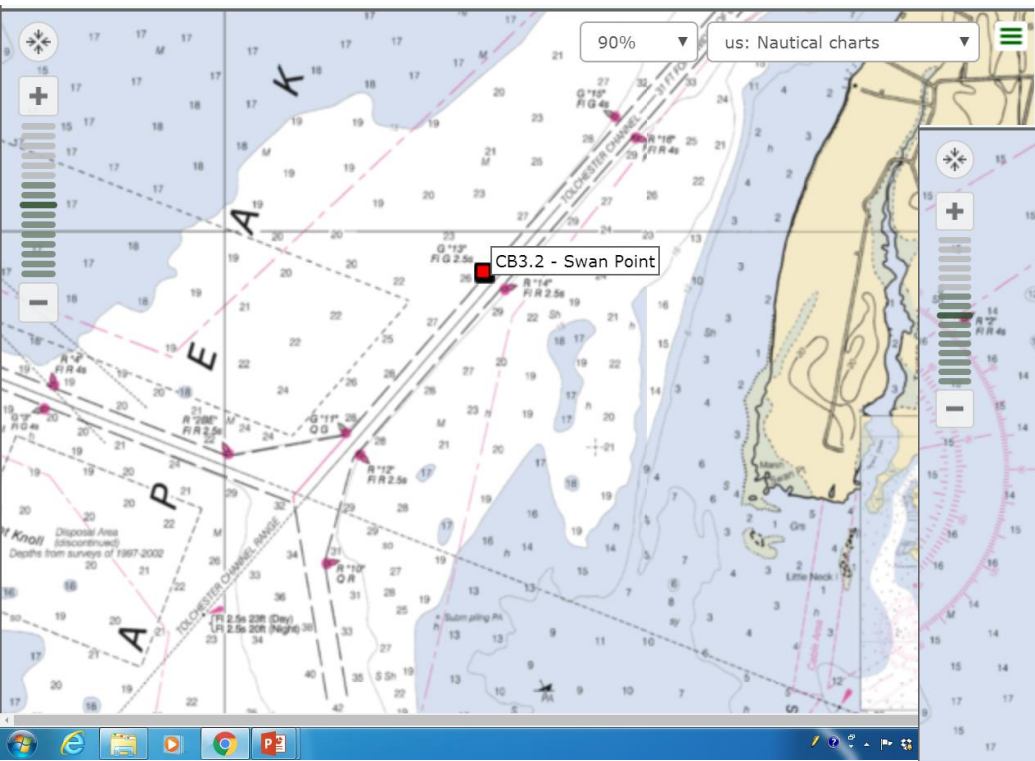
# Eyes on the Bay

## Water quality and conditions



Nautical Chart Version, Swan Pt. Station

Click on station for description and Oxygen, Temperature, Clarity, Salinity and pH.



Select Nautical Chart, zoom 90%  
Swan Pt. Station (CB3.2) Marked in Red

# Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System

buoybay.noaa.gov



## CBIBS Buoy Home Page

- Popular for water, wind and wave conditions
- Links to buoys from Susquehanna Flats to Virginia
- Buoy news
- Real-time observations
- Data downloads
- Graphics tools

# Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System Locations



## CBIBS Buoy Stations (North to South)

- Susquehanna (S)
- Patapsco (SN)
- Annapolis (AN)
- Gooses Reef (GR)
- Potomac River - National Harbor(UP)  
Point Lookout (PL)
- Virginia/Lower Bay- Stingray Pt., York Spit, Jamestown, “First Landing” near Cape Henry (FL)

The screenshot shows the website for the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System. The main content area features a map of the bay with buoy locations marked by letters. To the right of the map is a grid of buttons for each buoy, each with a 'GET DATA' and 'GET INFO' link. Below the map is a 'Buoy Status' table.

Buoy Status		
S	Susquehanna	Offline
SN	Patapsco	Offline
AN	Annapolis	Offline
UP	Upper Potomac	Offline
GR	Gooses Reef	Online
PL	Potomac	Online
SR	Stingray Point	Online
YS	York Spit	Online
J	Jamestown	Offline
FL	First Landing	Online

At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Government Sites' (NOAA.gov, chesapeakebay.noaa.gov) and 'Policies & Disclaimers' (FOIA, Privacy Policy). A Facebook link is also present with the text 'ARE YOU A FAN? See us on Facebook'. Navigation links at the bottom right include 'Home', 'Site Map', 'Feedback', and 'Contact Us'.



# Ocean City Data Buoy



## NOAA Data Buoy Off Ocean City

- Popular for Ocean City anglers fishing the coast or offshore
- Named “Delaware Bay”, but is actually in the ocean east of Fenwick Is, off MD/DE Line
- Google search-station 44009, or “26 NM Southeast of Cape May, NJ”
- Wind speed, barometric pressure, wave height and water temp

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's  
**National Data Buoy Center**  
 Center of Excellence in Marine Technology

Home News Organization Search

**Station 44009 (LLNR 168) - DELAWARE BAY 26 NM Southeast of Cape May, NJ**

Owned and maintained by National Data Buoy Center  
 3-meter discus buoy  
 AMPS payload  
 38.461 N 74.703 W (38°27'40" N 74°42'9" W)

Site elevation: sea level  
 Air temp height: 4 m above site elevation  
 Anemometer height: 5 m above site elevation  
 Barometer elevation: sea level  
 Sea temp depth: 0.6 m below water line  
 Water depth: 43 m  
 Watch circle radius: 69 yards

Right whales are active off Delaware Bay from November to April. Speed restrictions of 10 knots apply to vessels 65 feet or greater in specific areas along the mid-Atlantic coast. To learn more about right whales and rules protecting them, go to: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike>

Latest NWS Marine Forecast 1 and Latest NWS Marine Forecast 2

[Important Notice to Mariners](#)  
[Search And Rescue \(SAR\) Data](#)  
[Meteorological Observations from Nearby Stations and Ships](#)  
[Regional HF Radar Surface Current Observations](#)

Conditions at 44009 as of  
 (3:50 pm EST)  
 2050 GMT on 03/07/2018:

Unit of Measure:  Time Zone:

Click on the graph icon in the table below to see a time series plot of the last five days of that observation.

	Wind Direction (WDIR):	WNW ( 300 deg true )
	Wind Speed (WSPD):	27.2 kts
	Wind Gust (GST):	33.0 kts
	Wave Height (WVHT):	8.9 ft
	Dominant Wave Period (DPD):	6 sec

# Outreach – State Record Fish



## Recent state record fish

### Longnose gar, snakehead, sheepshead



Sheepshead  
(Chesapeake Bay)  
13.73 lbs., Holland Straits  
South Marsh Island



Snakehead (Invasive) 19.9 lbs &  
Gar (Native, Tidal) 17.9 lbs

Sheepshead (Coastal/Ocean)  
18.0 lbs., OC South Jetty

# Volunteer Angler Surveys



**CALENDAR**  
Choose a Month

**USEFUL LINKS**  
Fisheries Guidebook  
Public Notices  
Angler's Log  
Fishing Licenses  
Tide Finder  
Fishing Regulations  
Maryland Fishing Challenge



## The State of Maryland's Volunteer Angler Surveys

Recreational Anglers, here is your chance to participate directly in fisheries management. Help MD DNR characterize recreational catch and harvest by submitting data from your fishing trip.

MD DNR relies on data from your catch to manage the five following species: striped bass, summer flounder, bluefish, yellow perch, and blue crabs. Click on the species to the right to go to each survey and follow instructions carefully.

**Attention Muskie (muskellunge) fishermen!** Check out the new addition to our volunteer angler survey family, if you target muskie please [print off our survey form](#) and send back to [mullican@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:mullican@dnr.state.md.us) or mail in to address provided on form.



## Welcome to Angler Surveys

First Name: ERIC  
Email: [edurell@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:edurell@dnr.state.md.us)  
ID: 938



Striped Bass



Bluefish

**Navigation**

- [Volunteer Angler Survey Home](#)
- [Survey Results](#)
- [Horseshoe Crabs](#)
- [Trip Return Program](#)

## Striped Bass Survey

Welcome ERIC

### TRIP INFORMATION

For each trip, measure up to the first twenty striped bass caught, kept or released.

Note: \* Indicates required field.

Location code (see <a href="#">map</a> ): *	<input type="text" value="--Select the location code--"/>
Date Fished: *	Month <input type="text"/> Date <input type="text"/>
Hours Fished: *	Hours <input type="text"/>
Number of Anglers: *	Number of Anglers <input type="text"/>
Fished From:	From? <input type="text"/>
Method Used:	Method <input type="text"/>
Number of Striped Bass KEPT: *	<input type="text" value="- Kept -"/>
Number of Striped Bass Released: *	<input type="text" value="- Released -"/>

Trips Total: **This is your first trip for this year!!**

# Volunteer Angler Surveys



**CALENDAR**  
Choose a Month

**USEFUL LINKS**  
Fisheries Guidebook  
Public Notices  
Angler's Log  
Fishing Licenses  
Tide Finder  
Fishing Regulations  
Maryland Fishing Challenge


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**Welcome to Angler Surveys**

First Name: ERIC  
Email: [edurell@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:edurell@dnr.state.md.us)  
ID: 938



Striped Bass



Bluefish

**Navigation**

- Volunteer Angler Survey Home
- Survey Results
- Horseshoe Crabs
- Top Future Projects

### Striped Bass Survey

Welcome ERIC

**TRIP INFORMATION**

On each trip, measure up to the first twenty striped bass caught, kept or released.

Note: \* Indicates required field.

Location code (see map): \*

Date Fished: \*

Hours Fished: \*

Number of Anglers: \*

Fished From:

Method Used:

Number of Striped Bass KEPT: \*

Number of Striped Bass Released: \*

Trips Total: This is your first trip for this year!!

**QUARTERLY PRIZE DRAWINGS**

## New Volunteer Angler Survey for Striped Bass

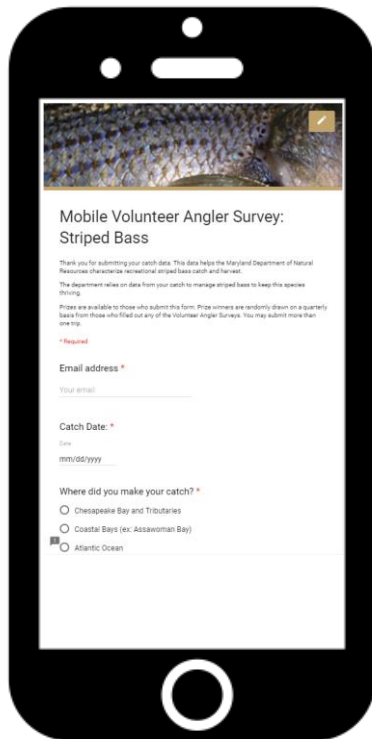
**Attention Striped Bass Anglers!** This is your chance to participate directly in fisheries management.

**Download the Access DNR app for iPhone or Android, select Volunteer Angler Surveys, then Striped Bass**

**Types of information collected:**

- Submit basic trip info (date, region)
- Lengths of striped bass you catch and indicate whether Kept or Released
- Report up to the first 20 striped bass caught in a trip

**Quarterly prize drawings using your e-mail address!**



# Next Steps... The future!



- Mobile friendly volunteer angler surveys to log your catch data and contribute to fisheries management efforts.
- Continue to integrate and improve Click before you Cast
- Fish Maryland – Year round fishing contest, log in your catch online

# ~~Recreational Striped Bass Fishery~~

*Circle Hooks, Bait Fishing, and Striped Bass:*



*Spring 2019 Update and Recent History*

*March, 2019*

## ~Recent Changes~

The following slides will highlight the recent changes to the recreational striped bass fishery. We will focus on 4 general topics:

### Emergency v. Proposed Regulations

*Timeline review of the 2 regulatory tracks 2018-2019*

### Time and Area of Proposed Changes

*Chesapeake Bay only, summer/fall 2018-2019*

### Minimum Size Limit Change

*20 inches reduced to 19 inches for summer/fall season*

### Definitions for Fishing Methods / Hooks



## ~Background~

Discard Mortality Increases - Addendum IV (20 inch min)

Recreational Stakeholders Engage with DNR  
*Ask us to work on solving the problem*

Conservation Equivalency Proposal - ASMFC  
*Looked at a wide range of management solutions*

ASMFC Approves Proposal in February 2018  
*Circle Hooks with Bait and a 19" min*

Implemented May 16, 2018

## ~Emergency v. “Proposed” Regulations~

### Emergency Regulations

AELR - 10 day min. for action

Approved on May 3

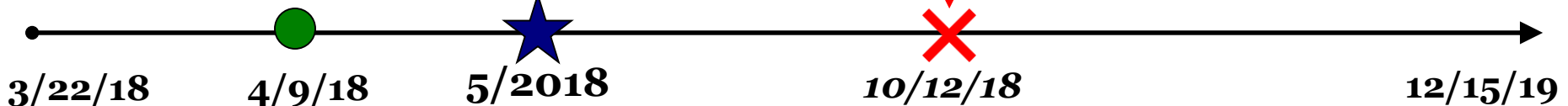
Regulations Effective: 5/16 – 10/12, 2018



### Proposed Regulations

Public Hearing in May, 2018  
Extends Rules for 2018 and 2019  
*(Extension past Oct 12)*

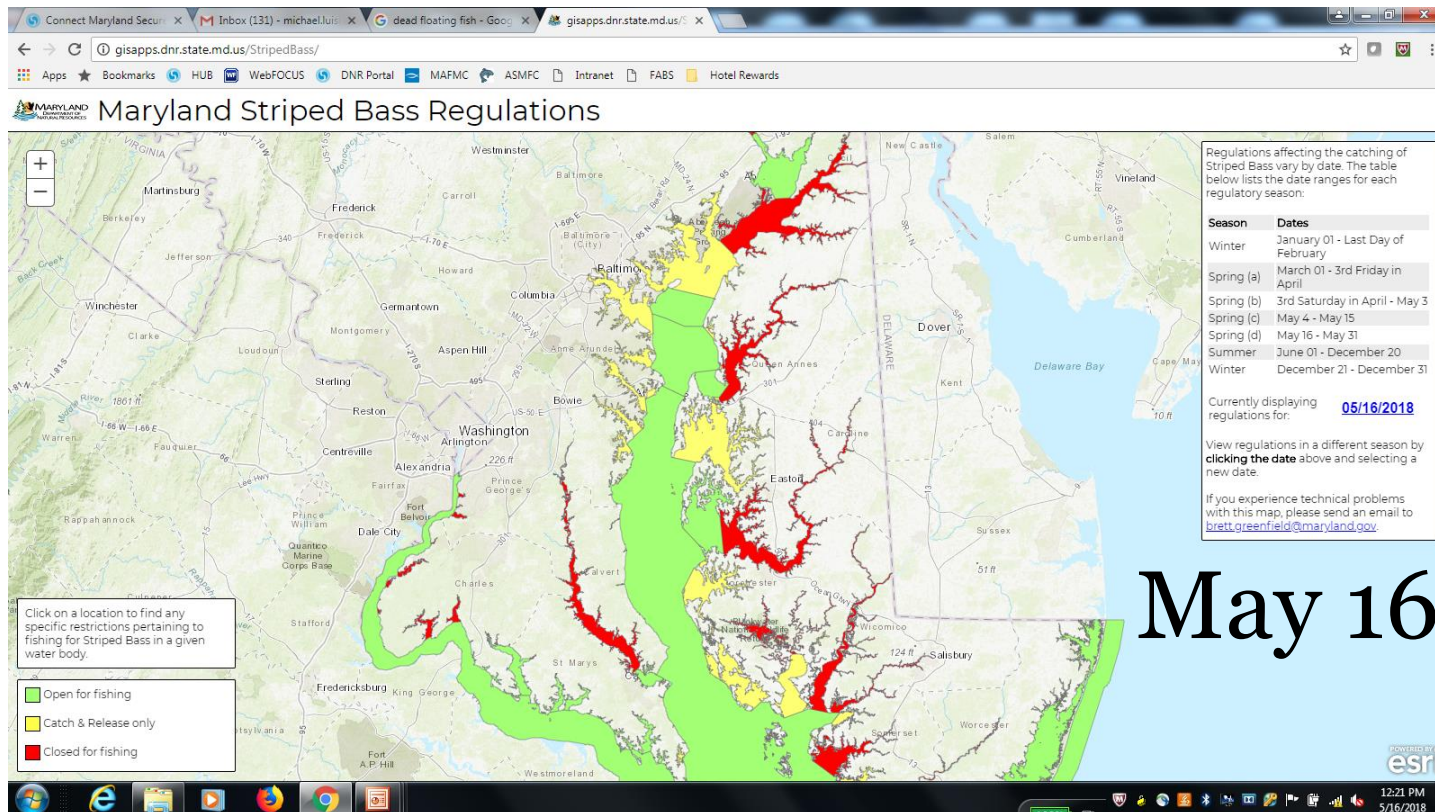
E/P resubmitted/modifications



## ~Time and Area Restrictions Map~

(Open Fishing Areas) Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries

**May 16 – December 15 (2018 & 2019)**



Connect Maryland Secur... x M Inbox (131) - michael.juli... x G dead floating fish - Goo... x gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/Str... x

gisapps.dnr.state.md.us/StrippedBass/

Apps Bookmarks HUB WebFOCUS DNR Portal MAFMC ASMFC Intranet FABS Hotel Rewards

**MARYLAND** Maryland Striped Bass Regulations

Regulations affecting the catching of Striped Bass vary by date. The table below lists the date ranges for each regulatory season:

Season	Dates
Winter	January 01 - Last Day of February
Spring (a)	March 01 - 3rd Friday in April
Spring (b)	3rd Saturday in April - May 3
Spring (c)	May 4 - May 15
Spring (d)	May 16 - May 31
Summer	June 01 - December 20
Winter	December 21 - December 31

Currently displaying regulations for: **05/16/2018**

View regulations in a different season by **clicking the date** above and selecting a new date.

If you experience technical problems with this map, please send an email to [brett.greenfield@maryland.gov](mailto:brett.greenfield@maryland.gov)

Click on a location to find any specific restrictions pertaining to fishing for Striped Bass in a given water body.

- Open for fishing
- Catch & Release only
- Closed for fishing

**May 16**

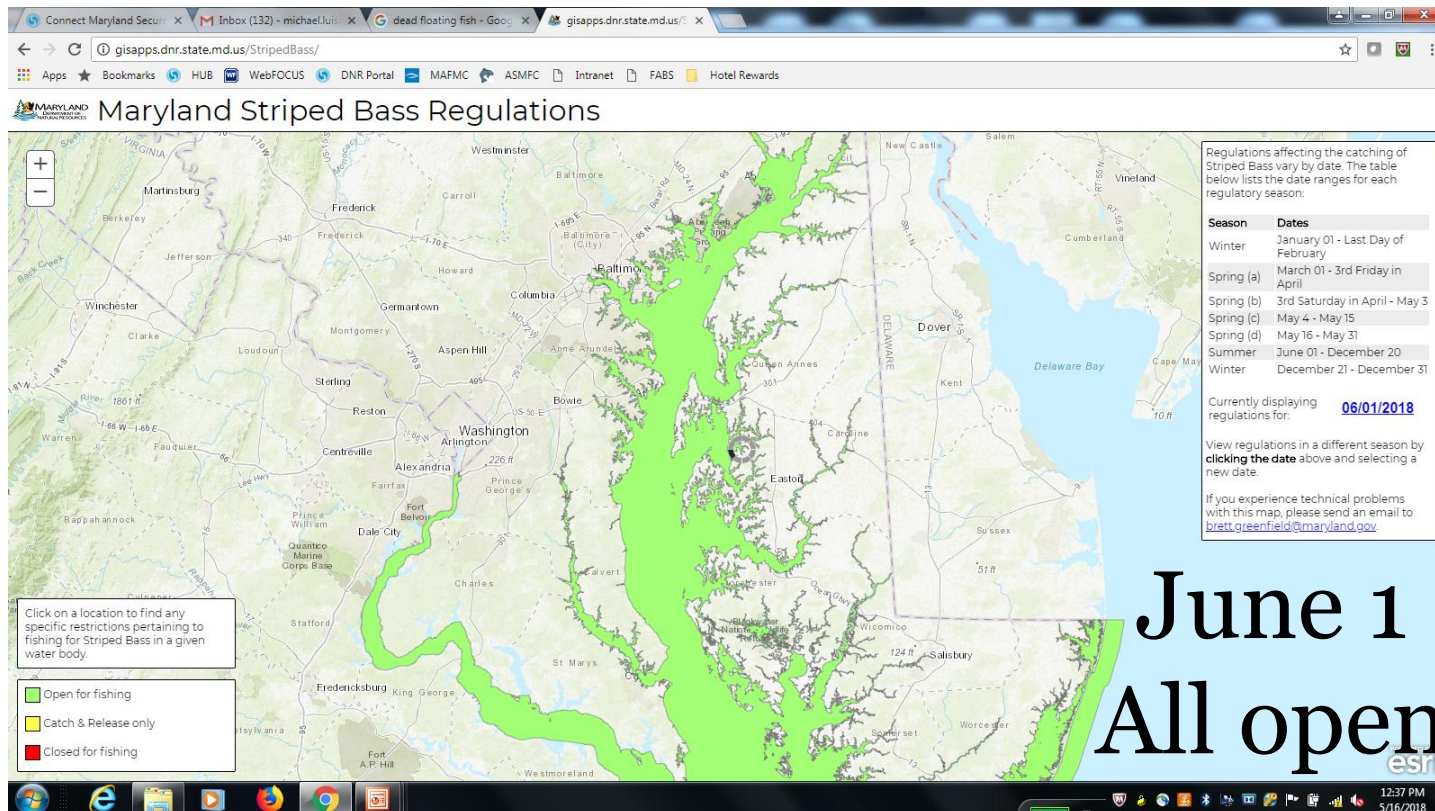
Powered by **esri**

12:21 PM 5/16/2018

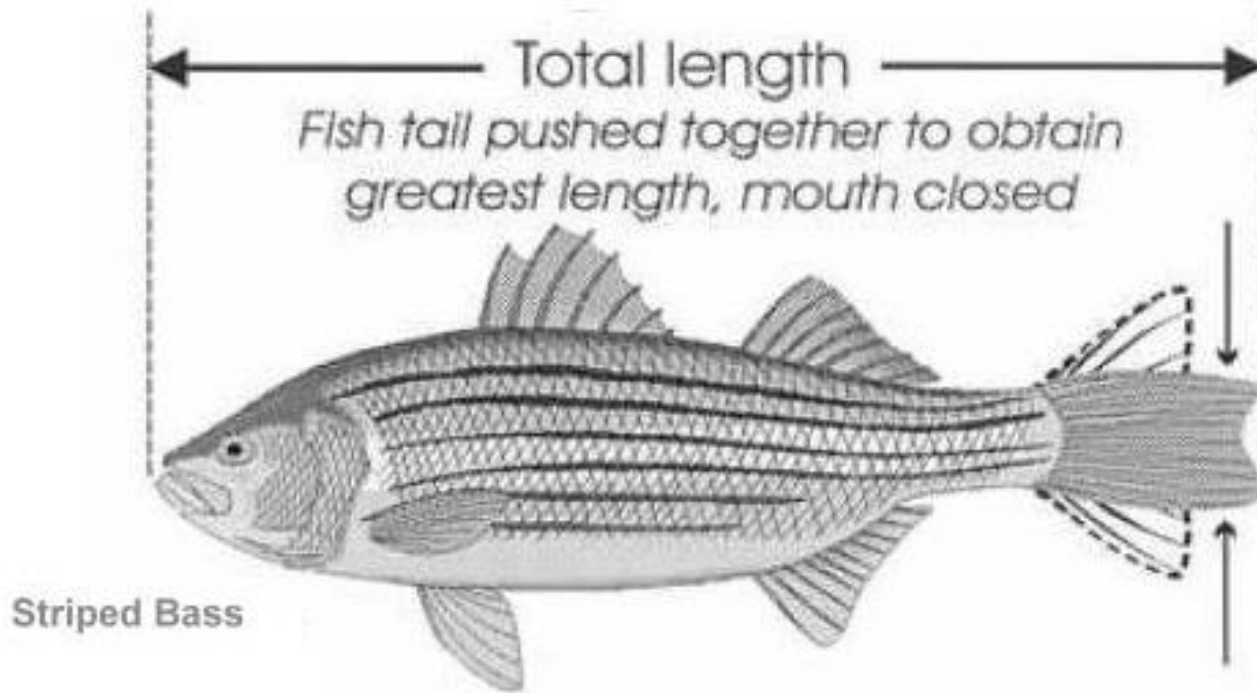
## ~Time and Area Restrictions Map~

(Open Fishing Areas) Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries

May 16 – December 15 (2018 & 2019)-All open June 1



## ~Minimum Size~



**19 Inches**

*Chesapeake Bay and Tidal Tributaries  
May 16 – December 15 (2018 & 2019)*

## ~Definitions / Fishing Methods~

### **Chumming**

...means placing fish, parts of fish or other natural or manmade attractants upon which fish might feed, in the water, not attached to a hook, for the purpose of attracting fish to a particular area so that they might be caught.

### **Live-Lining**

...means using a live finfish\* on a hook for the purpose of catching other fish with: (a) Hook and line; (b) Rod and reel; or (c) Handlines.

(\*Includes live fish/eels, NOT shrimp, crabs or worms)

## ~Definitions / Fishing Methods~

**When chumming or live-lining**, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries during the periods May 16, 2018 through December 15, 2018 and May 16, 2019 through December 15, 2019 *shall only use a non-offset circle hook.*



**A circle hook is defined as:** a non-offset (inline) hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank.



## ~Definitions / Fishing Methods~

**(Bait Fishing...but NOT Chumming or Live-Lining)...**when using fish, crabs, or worms as bait, or processed bait, a person recreationally angling in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries during the periods May 16, 2018 through December 15, 2018 and May 16, 2019 through December 15, 2019 *shall only use a: (a) Circle hook; or (b) "J" hook.*  
*(No treble hooks with bait)*

**Circle Hook**



**Treble Hook**



**J Hook**





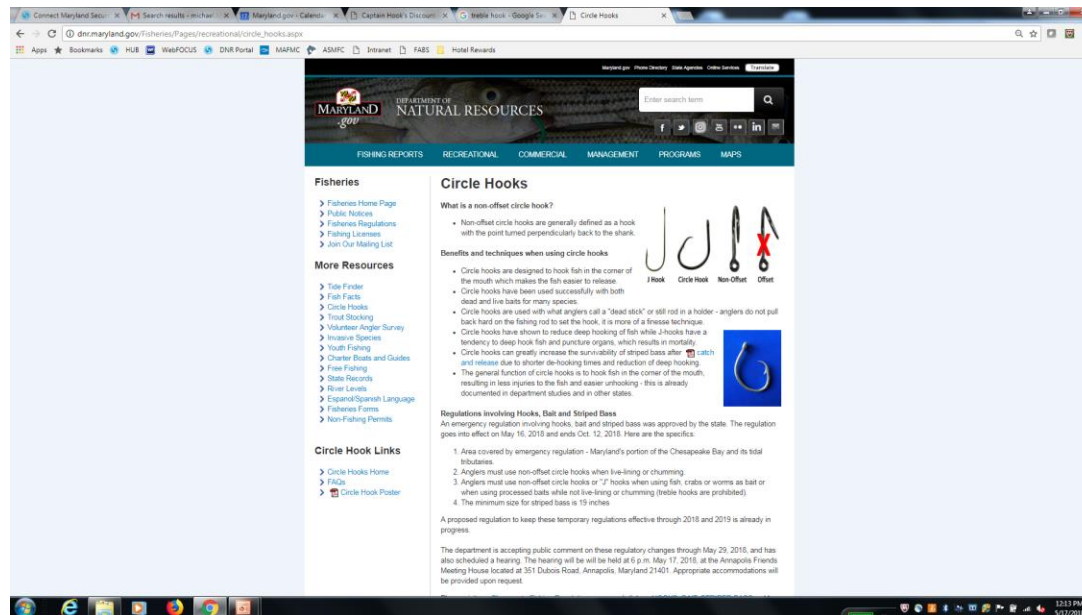
## ~Need More Information~

View the Proposed/Recent Regulation Change Online

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/regulations/changes.aspx#circle>

## DNR Website and FAQs

[http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/recreational/circle\\_hooks.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Fisheries/Pages/recreational/circle_hooks.aspx)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the DNR website page for Circle Hooks. The page title is "Circle Hooks" and the URL is "http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/recreational/circle\_hooks.aspx". The page content includes a search bar, navigation tabs (FISHING REPORTS, RECREATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, MANAGEMENT, PROGRAMS, MAPS), and a sidebar with links to Fisheries, More Resources, and Circle Hook Links. The main content area is titled "Circle Hooks" and contains the following text:

**Circle Hooks**

What is a non-offset circle hook?

- Non-offset circle hooks are generally defined as a hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank.

**Benefits and techniques when using circle hooks**

- Circle hooks are designed to hook fish in the corner of the mouth which makes the fish easier to release.
- Circle hooks have been used successfully with both dead and live baits for many species.
- Circle hooks are used with what anglers call a "dead stick" or still rod in a holder - anglers do not pull back hard on the fishing rod to set the hook, it is more of a finesse technique.
- Circle hooks have shown to reduce deep hooking of fish while J-hooks have a tendency to deep hook fish and puncture organs, which results in mortality.
- Circle hooks can greatly increase the survivability of striped bass after catch and release due to shorter de-hooking times and reduction of deep hooking.
- The general function of circle hooks is to hook fish in the corner of the mouth, resulting in less injuries to the fish and easier unhooking - this is already documented in department studies and in other states.

**Regulations Involving Hooks, Bait and Striped Bass**

An emergency regulation involving hooks, bait and striped bass was approved by the state. The regulation goes into effect on May 16, 2018 and ends Oct. 12, 2018. Here are the specifics:

1. Area covered by emergency regulation - Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.
2. Anglers must use non-offset circle hooks when live-lining or chumming.
3. Anglers must use non-offset circle hooks or "J" hooks when using fish, crabs or worms as bait or when using processed baits while not live-lining or chumming (treble hooks are prohibited).
4. The maximum size for striped baits is 15 inches.

A proposed regulation to keep these temporary regulations effective through 2018 and 2019 is already in progress.

The department is accepting public comment on these regulatory changes through May 29, 2016, and has also scheduled a hearing. The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. May 17, 2016, at the Annapolis Friends Meeting House located at 351 Dubois Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Appropriate accommodations will be provided upon request.

## ~Recent Actions/Next Steps~

Comment Period ran through May 29, 2018

[Fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:Fisheriespubliccomment.dnr@maryland.gov)

Mail: 580 Taylor Avenue – E4 (Attn: SB Regulations)

Fax: 410.260.8310

Submission of Final Regulation: June 22, 2018

Proposed Action Effective: July 2, 2018 extend into Dec, 2019

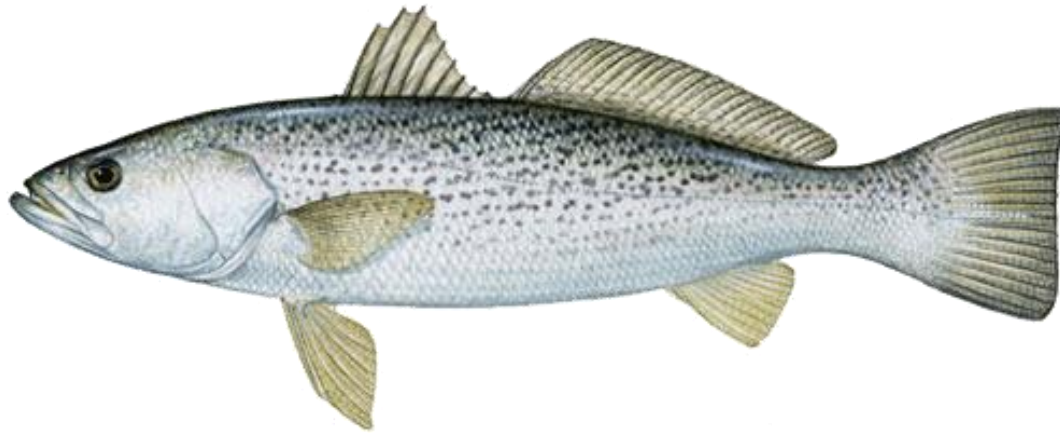
Annual Report / Review to ASMFC

Consider Extending Past 2019...Late 2019



# Weakfish/Grey Trout/Tiderunners

## *Historical Info and Recent Trends*



*Historical Info and Fall 2018 ASMFC Update*

*November, 2018*

# Weakfish/Grey Trout/Tiderunners

## *Historical Cycles, Part 1, 1790-1840s*

- Historical cycles of abundance of weakfish, dating back to the late 1700's were described in "The Complete Book of Weakfishing", by Lyman and Woolner, 1959.
- Weakfish were plentiful in northern waters between NY and MA at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (late 1700's).
- Weakfish became rare in New England in the early 1800's. One weakfish, caught off Providence, MA in June of 1838, was sent to Boston for an ID, because no local fishermen recognized the species.

# Weakfish/Grey Trout/Tiderunners

## *Historical Cycles, Part 2, 1850-1950s*

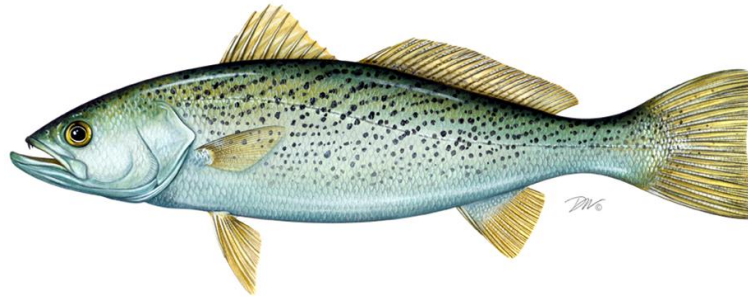
- Starting around 1850, supply of weakfish slowly increased, and from 1901-04 weakfishing was “the best in the history of the new world.”
- Another decline started around 1905, and by 1910, few weakfish were taken.
- Weakfish began to make a comeback in 1921, and increased steadily until 1949, when another slump occurred.
- A slight gain was reported around Peconic Bay, NY, in 1957-58, but not at the levels reported in 1901-04.

# Weakfish/Grey Trout/Tiderunners

## *Historical Cycles, Part 3, 1960s-2018*

- Fishing for large “tiderunner” weakfish, 8-15 lbs, improved through the 1970’s in Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, and Great South/Peconic Bays, Long Island, NY.
- Once again, numbers of large weakfish started to decline between 1982-85 as bluefish expanded to peak numbers along the east coast.
- Weakfish made another comeback in the late 90s and early 2000s, with good fall jigging action in deep water in Chesapeake Bay.
- 2010-2018 – weakfish slumped again, a few small ones caught in lower Bay near Point Lookout.

# Weakfish Life History and Current Stock Status



2018

# Range and Migration



- Range from Massachusetts to Florida, but are most common from New York through North Carolina.
- Migrate northward and inshore in spring and summer, and offshore and southward in fall.
- Are considered non-migratory in the southern most part of the range.

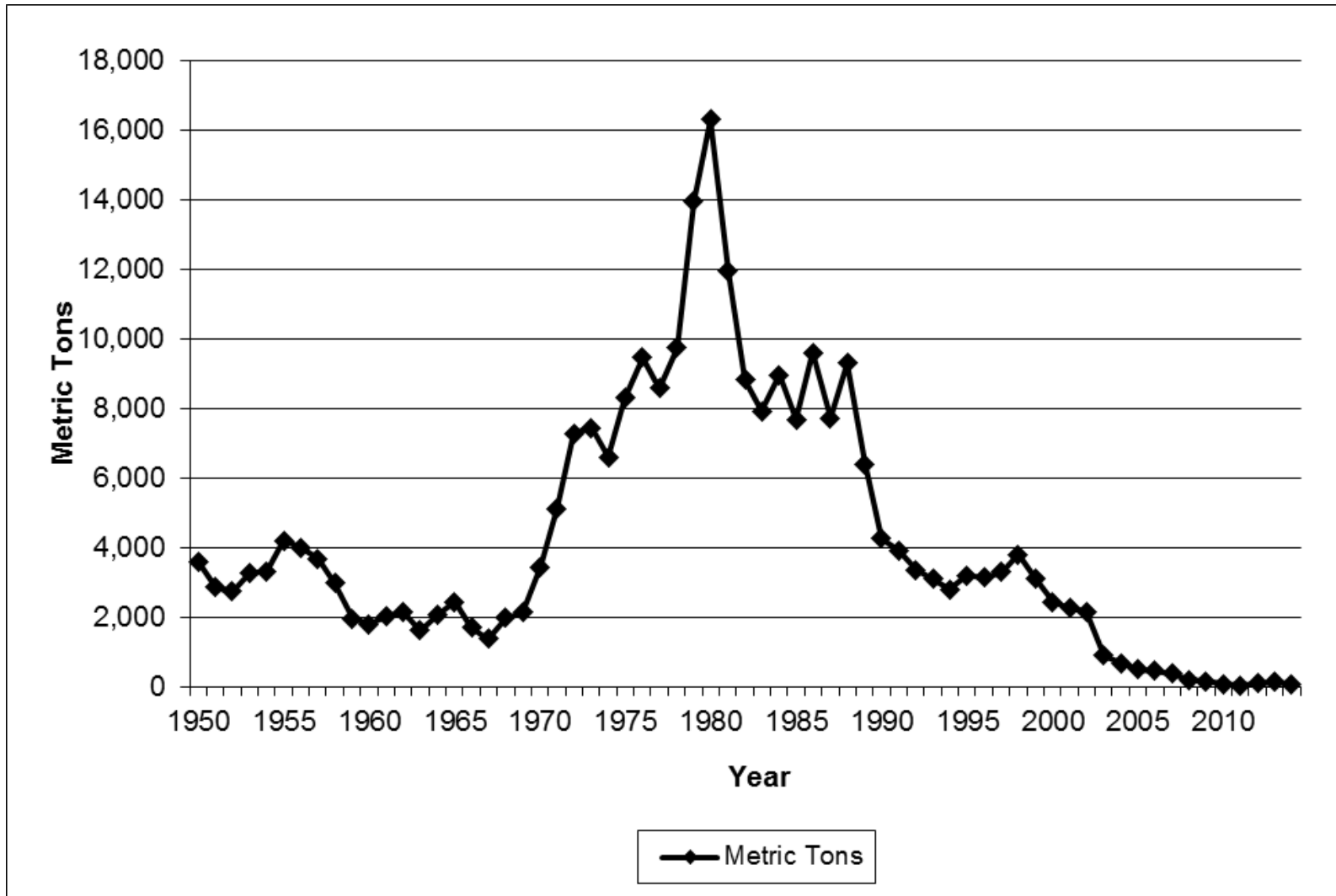


# Age and Growth

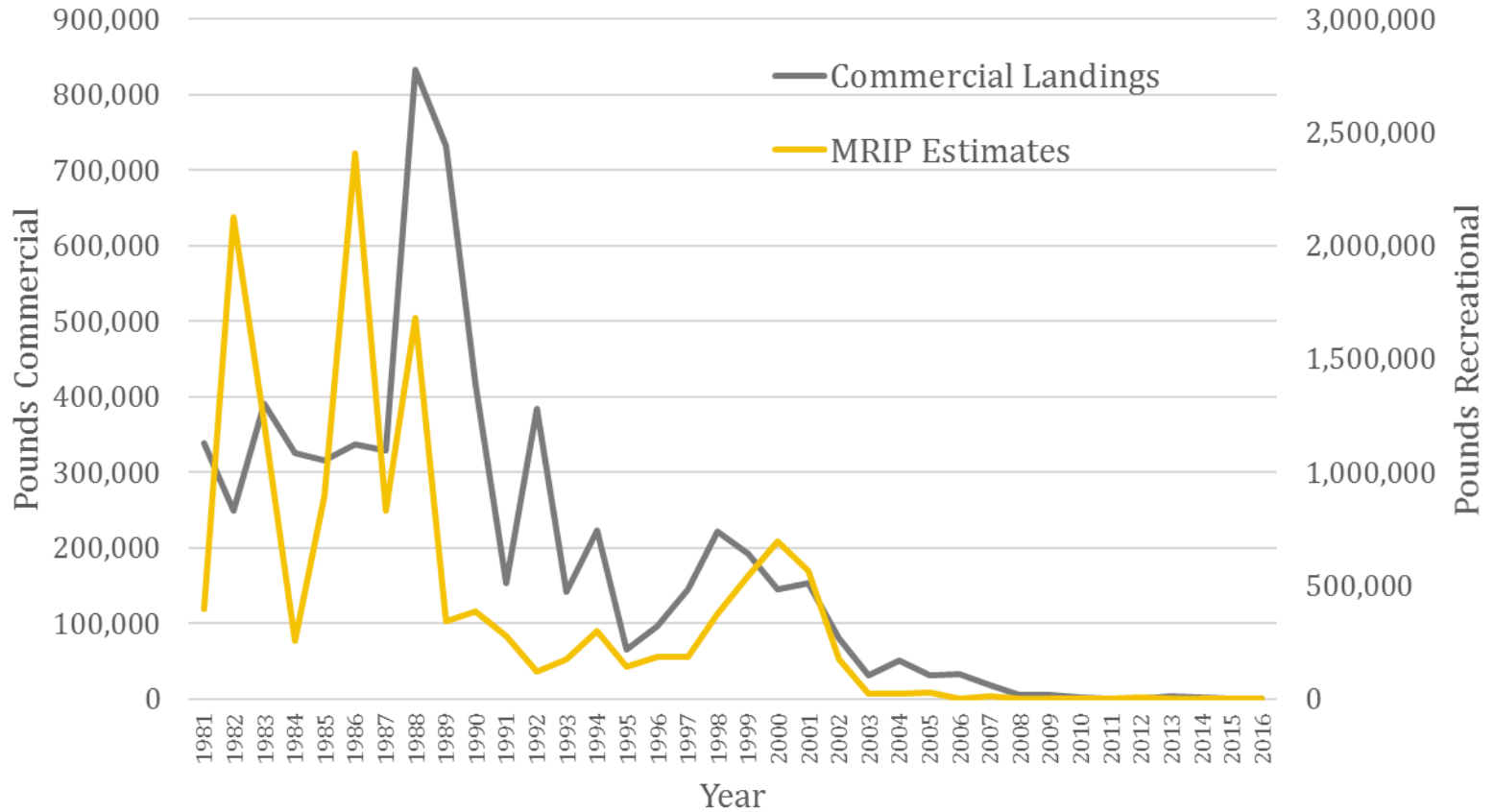
- Rapid growth rate and early maturity.
- 90% – 97% mature at age one.
- Maximum age 17 (Delaware Bay), fish over 12 years old are rare.
- Spawning occurs from March to September Coastwide (May- August in our region).
- Variable length at age due to long spawning season.



# Coastwide Weakfish Landings



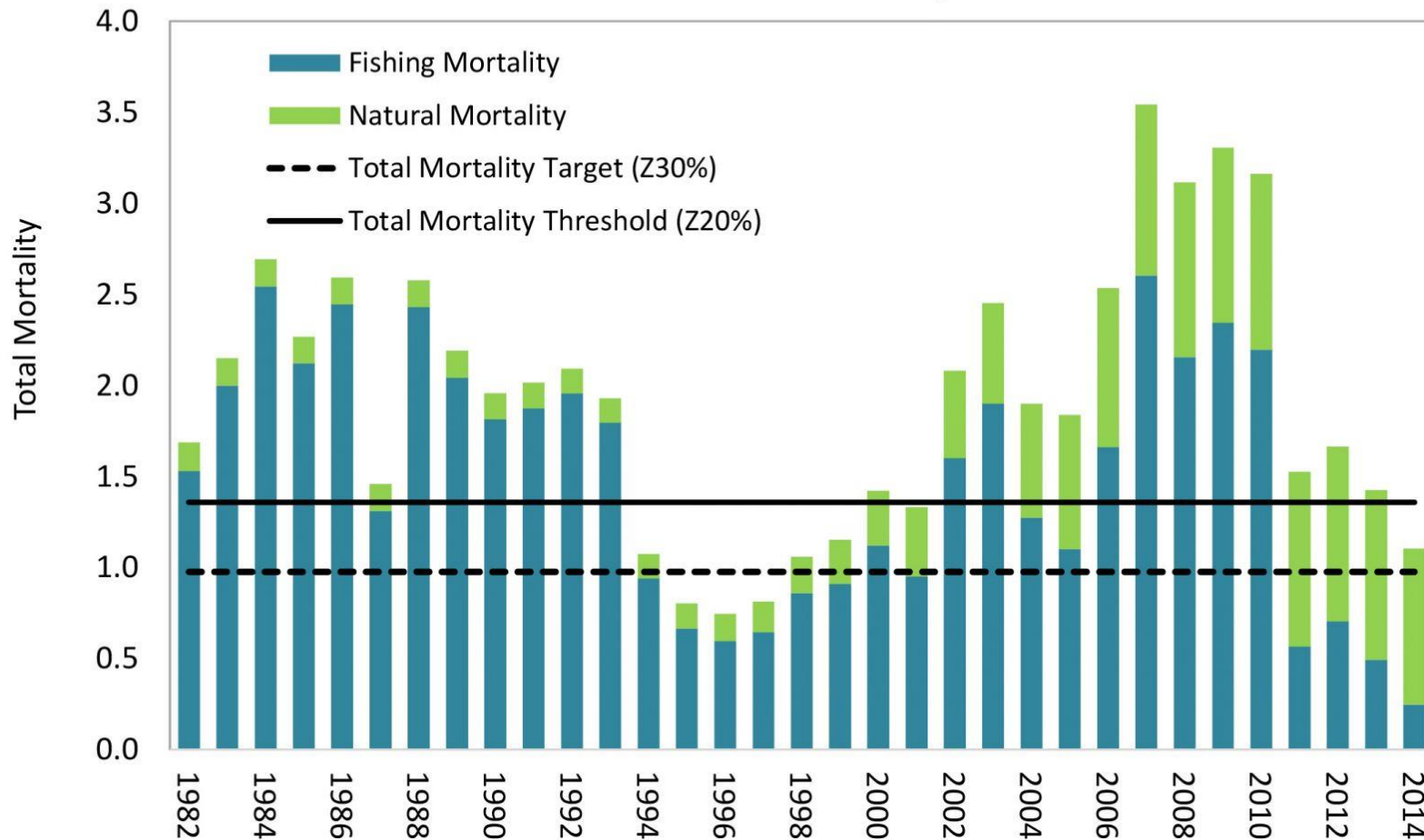
# Maryland Landings



# Total Mortality from 2015 Assessment



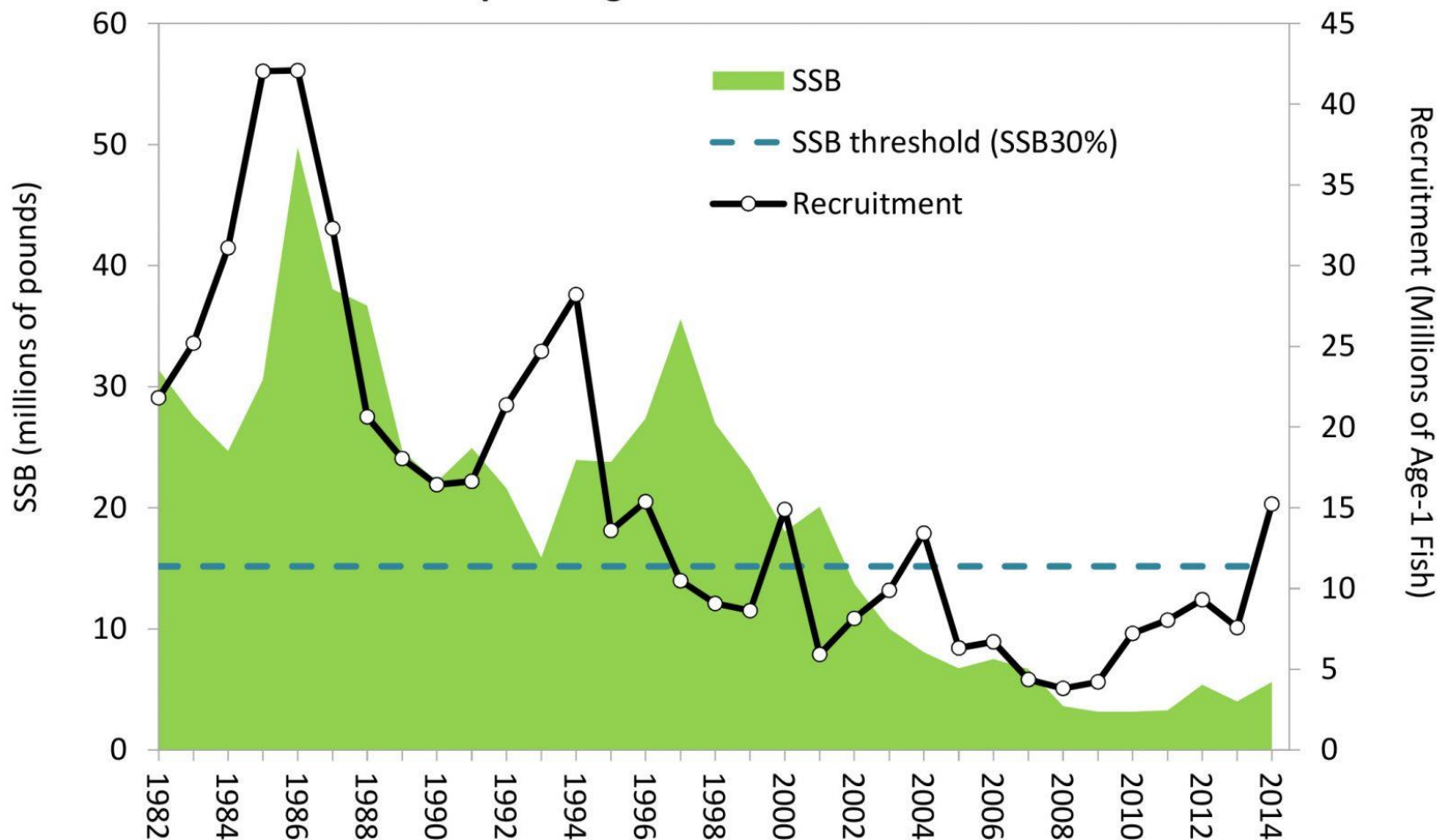
## Contributions of Fishing and Natural Mortality to Weakfish Total Mortality



# Spawning Stock Status from 2015 Assessment



## Weakfish Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment





# Status Summary



- Coastwide stock of Weakfish is currently depleted.
- Fishing mortality has been reduced to acceptable levels.
- Elevated natural mortality is preventing stock recovery.
- Weakfish availability in Maryland will increase when natural mortality decreases.

# Red Drum Life History

- Atlantic Migratory Stock: MA through FL
- Spawning
  - Season: August – October, Peaking earlier in north and later to the south.
  - Early maturing: males by age 1-4, females ages 3-6
  - Batch spawners (spawn multiple times season)
- Max observed age: 62 years
- Fast growing: reach 26” TL at age 3 and 33” TL at age 5
- Majority of adults remain offshore, Juveniles primarily remain inshore

# Current Stock Status



- Last stock assessment conducted in 2017
  - The stock is divided north to south at the NC/SC border.
    - Genetic differences found in adults during spawning season, but not outside of spawning season
  - Overfishing not occurring in the north, but Overfished status could not be determined.
    - Primarily due to lack of data on mature adults



# Current Regulations



- ASMFC adopted Amendment 2 in 2002
  - It established slot and bag limit combination that provide the same level of protection for juvenile red drum.
- Maryland recreational and commercial fishermen elected two different options
  - Recreational 18”- 27” TL and one fish
  - Commercial 18” – 25” TL and five fish
- There is prohibition on fish greater than 27” coast-wide, and the EEZ is closed to harvest

# Cobia Life History



- Atlantic Cobia Migratory Stock: GA through NY
- Spawning
  - Season: May-August w/ peaks in May in SC, June in NC, July in VA
  - Early maturing: males by age 2, females ages 2-4
  - Batch spawners (approx. every 4-6 days)
- Max observed age: 16 years
- Fast growing: reach 36" FL at age 4
- Evidence of winter migrations offshore or to the south (north of central east coast FL)

# Current Stock Status



- Last cobia stock assessment conducted in 2013
  - New stock boundaries
    - Based on tagging and genetic information
    - Atlantic Migratory Group: GA through NY
  - Stock not overfished, overfishing not occurring
    - Did show a decline in spawning stock since 2002
- Stock assessment currently in progress
  - Expected in fall/winter 2019
  - Updates on progress can be found on SEDAR 58 website

# Current Management Changes



- 2017: ASMFC develops complementary cobia fisheries management plan (FMP) to the South Atlantic FMP
- 2018: South Atlantic and Gulf States approve amendment for sole management authority to go to Atlantic States from FL to NY (ASMFC), dependent on approval by the Secretary of Commerce
- 2019: Amendment 1 to the ASMFC FMP is being developed and will eventually be open to public comment

# Current Regulations



- MD cobia regulations follow VA regulations
- Do not anticipate regulatory changes in the upcoming season
- Season: June 1-Sept 30
- Size: 40" TL min.
- 1 fish daily possession limit or 3 fish daily vessel limit (whichever is more restrictive)

# Questions?



Thanks for listening! Any questions?  
Erik.Zlokovitz@Maryland.gov or 410-260-8324

