

Stoney Creek Fishing and Hunting Club

September 25, 2026

meeting Fishing Report

Statewide news:

- Striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries are open through December 5, 2026. **Refer to DNR map on page 2.**
 - Anglers may keep one striped bass per person, per day, with a minimum length of 19 inches and a maximum length of 24 inches.
- **NEW: From spring 2025 through May 2026, more than 450 snakeheads were tagged in tributaries of the upper Bay including the Bush, Elk, Gunpowder, Sassafras, and Susquehanna rivers.**
 - **Reporting a tag comes with a cash reward;** Fish were tagged with either a blue “high reward” tag worth \$200 or yellow tags worth \$10.
 - Anglers must harvest fish and report tags to the USFWS Maryland Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office by phone at 1-800-448-8322. *Anglers may report tagged fish for rewards through December 2026.*

Bay Forecast / Fishing Report

Chesapeake Bay Forecast Summary:

- Main Bay surface and river mouth water temperatures have dropped to the mid 70s. [Temperatures in smaller rivers and streams](#) have dropped to the mid 60s and will likely continue falling all week.
- *Detailed & up-to-date fishing conditions in your area, refer to checking out Eyes on the Bay's*
 - <https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/clickbeforecast.cfm>

Upper Chesapeake Bay

Rock Fish: In the *Upper part of the Bay*, Conowingo Dam pool and the lower Susquehanna River continue to provide some action during the early morning and evening hours.

- Live-lining spot continues to be the most popular way to fish for striped bass this week along channel edges along with those casting [paddletails](#) and topwater lures.
- **Love Point rocks** is a good place to live-line spot or eels this week or to work soft plastic jigs along the bottom during current flows. Watching depth finders

carefully when exploring channel edges can lead to finding striped bass suspended off the bottom.

Blue Catfish: A mix of blue catfish and channel catfish can be found in all the region's tidal rivers this week. Cooling water temperatures are causing them to be more active and to venture out of the deeper channels and move nearby shoal areas.

Snakeheads/Chesapeake Channa

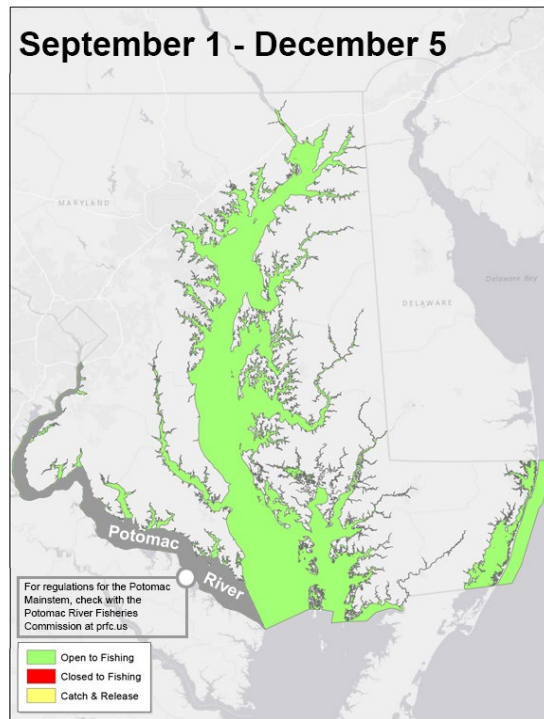
- Chesapeake Channa are active this week and fishing for them can offer fun and safe fishing in the more protected upper sections of the region's tidal rivers and creeks.
 - Casting a variety of soft frogs and [chatterbaits](#) over grass beds is an excellent way to target them this week.
 - Casting white or pearl colored [paddletails](#) in more open waters near the grass bed edges is another excellent way to fish for them.

Middle Chesapeake Bay

Middle part of the Bay around the Bay Bridge is holding striped bass this week, and anglers are drifting live spot, soft crab baits, and cut spot to the pier bases with good luck.

- The best fishing opportunities occur during the early morning and late evening hours on a strong current flow.
 - Casting skirted soft plastic jigs to the pier's bases is productive and live-lining spot along channel edges continues to be the most popular way to fish for them.
 - The channel edges off Kent Island, Buoy 83 south to the False Channel and Thomas Point, Breezy Point, and Parkers Creek edges have been holding striped bass.

DNR Link to above map: https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/sb_reg_maps.aspx



Rules regarding the use of Circle Hooks:

https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/recreational/circle_hooks.aspx

White Perch and Yellow Perch:

- **White Perch** can be found near structure such as submerged rocks, old piers, docks, bulkheads, and oyster bars near the mouths of the region's tidal rivers.
 - The Chester, Sassafras, Bush, Gunpower, and Magothy rivers are good places to look for spawning runs of white perch.
 - Small jig heads in the 1/16 to 1/8 size range tipped with a grass shrimp, lip-hooked minnow, or a piece of bloodworm.

Blue Catfish: Blue catfish can be found in all the region's tidal rivers and out in the Bay south to the Bay Bridge (Sandy Point).

- The largest blue cats can be found at the mouth of the Susquehanna River and Conowingo Dam pool, the lower Chester River, and out in the Bay.
- The point that locals call "the rip" at Sandy Point State Park is an excellent spot to fish for blue catfish with medium duty surf fishing gear.
 - Various cut baits, chicken pieces and especially scented baits work very well on [fish finder rigs](#) and [circle hooks](#).
 - Towards the evening hours the blue catfish have been moving to shallower shelves and flats of about 15 feet.

Freshwater news:

NEW - Maryland Freshwater Hot Spots link:

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>

Maryland's fall [trout stocking](#) season starts in October, refer to the DNR web-link below.

- <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/trout/stocking.aspx>

Chesapeake Channa, aka snakeheads, will also be found in the grass bed areas in tidal waters, and many are beginning to spawn. Noisy and disruptive [topwater lures](#) are a good choice to attract the attention of parent fish who may be protective of eggs or fry balls.

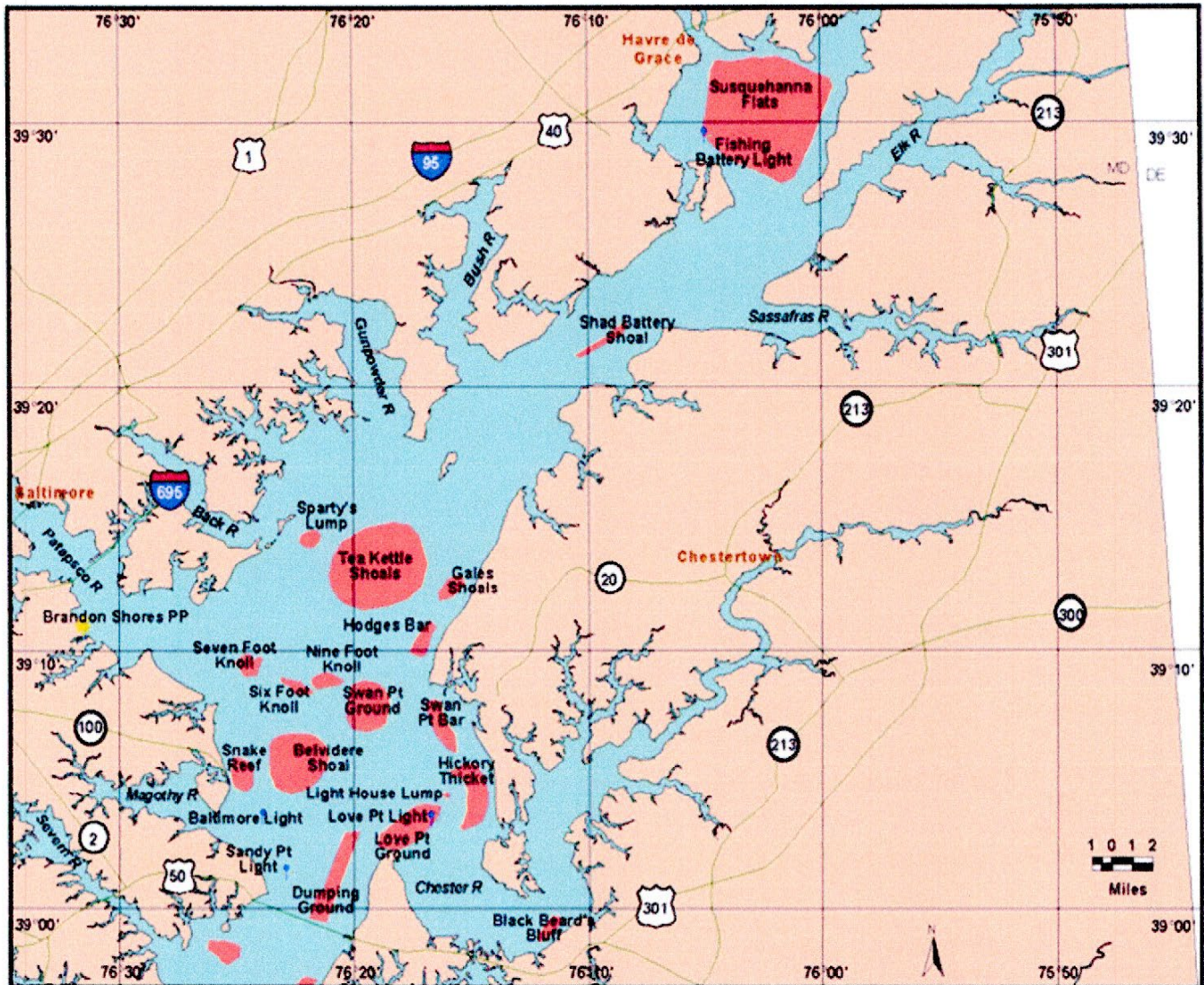
Reservoirs:

- Liberty and Triadelphia reservoirs hold true strain walleyes and a wide range of desirable fish species for anglers.

Deep Creek Lake:

- Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are still holding to a summer pattern and now that area waters are beginning to cool, the fish are becoming more active.
- *Other fish that are becoming more active in area reservoirs.* Crappie, chain pickerel, trout, tiger muskies, and in some select reservoirs, landlocked striped bass can be found.
- **Link to Eyes on Deep Creek:**
<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/dcl/DeepCreekLake.cfm>

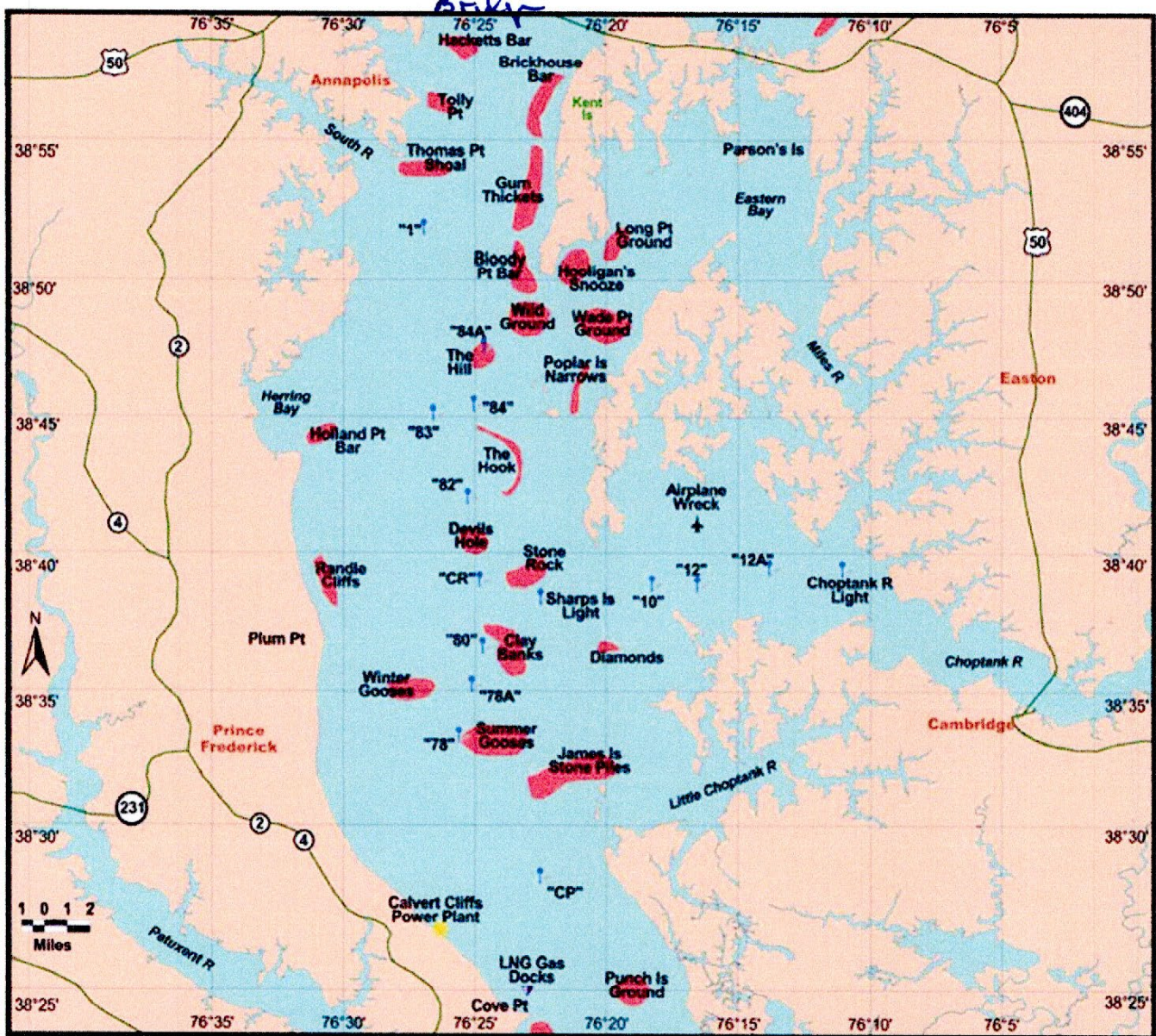
Fishing Locations – Upper Bay



Upper Bay

Fishing Locations – Middle Bay

Bay Bridge at TOP of the map



Middle Bay

BAITs – Gear - Times

Rock Fish:

- *Jerkbait*s fished along the rocks and Jigging three-to-five-inch soft plastics and straight tails are working well.
- ***Jigging three to five inch White and Chartreuse tandems soft plastics are working well.***
- [Live lining spot](#) or [trolling](#) are good.

White Perch:

- Fishing grass shrimp and pieces of bloodworm on a simple bottom rig fished close to a dock, or casting small spinners and soft plastic baits *during the early morning and evening hours along shorelines.*
 - When fishing off docks, a simple bottom rig with a number 2 or 4 hooks, a one-ounce sinker and grass shrimp or pieces of bloodworm for bait.
- Peeler crab has been an excellent bait, but small [spinnerbaits](#) and spin-jigs have also been effective.

Blue Catfish:

- A variety of cut baits work well; white perch, gizzard shad, menhaden, and American eel are excellent baits, but chicken parts and scented baits also work well. *A fish finder rig or sliding sinker rig with a small float in front of a 5/0 to 7/0 circle hook is the most popular rig for fishing blue catfish.*

Snakeheads:

- Casting white paddletails and chatterbaits near emerging grass and shoreline submerged brush is a good tactic. *Often the sunny side of creeks during the afternoon hours is a good place to target fish seeking slightly warmer waters.*

Walleye:

- Casting a mix of swimbaits, flukes and small crankbaits with good results.

Largemouth Bass:

- A mix of spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, swimbaits, flukes, and jerkbaits are all good choices to use.

Crappie:

- Rigging small minnows or marabou jigs under a slip bobber and fishing close to structure.

2026 – Online Fishing Regulations:

https://www.eregulations.com/assets/docs/resources/MD/26MDFW_LR.pdf

- **NEW online licensing link:** <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2025/06/24/new-md-outdoors-licensing-system-now-online/>
- **NEW:** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has developed a [striped bass habitat conditions](#) mapping tool that uses our newly developed water temperature and dissolved oxygen-based thresholds for Maryland's resident striped bass. *Use Eyes on the Bay for the latest updates.*
 - **Eyes on the Bay:**
<https://eyesonthebay.dnr.maryland.gov/eyesonthebay/StripedBassHabitatConditions.cfm>

Public Access Map: Find Your Perfect Fishing Spot (NEW)

Anglers searching for a new spot should check out the [Public Angler Access Map](#), an interactive map that shows access locations, waterbodies, fish species available, amenities, as well as regulation and license

- Best viewed on desktop, filtering options can help to zero in on what you want to catch and where you can catch it.

NEW online map highlights fishing opportunities for gamefish species in reservoirs, lakes, and ponds with public access.

- <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>
- The traditional [Trout Fishing](#) Opening Day is this **Saturday, March 28.**
 - The [creel limit for trout](#) in these areas (except for brook trout) is a combined five daily harvest and 10 possession.
 - **Go to links for more information.**
- **2026 SPRING trout stocking program schedule is out and located on the DNR trout stocking website – ATTACHED.**
 - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/trout/stocking.aspx>
 - Over 26K fish have been released over the past two weeks.
 - **Recommend everyone review the latest trout regulations.**
 - **Location opening dates, catch and release and limits.**

- *DNR has introduced a two online links to show lakes and ponds locations/hot spots.*
 - [Freshwater Fisheries Fishing Lakes and Ponds webpage.](#)
 - *The online map highlights fishing opportunities for gamefish species in reservoirs, lakes, and ponds with public access.*
 - <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx>
 - [Hotspots: https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/hotspots/index.aspx](#)

Maryland DNR News and Good to Know information:

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

Summary of notice notes below

- [2026 Summer Flounder Fishery](#)
 - [2026 Summer Flounder Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026](#)
 - 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026:
 - The season is open January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026
 - [RECREATIONAL MINIMUM SIZE](#)
 - January 1, 2026 – May 31, 2026: 16 inches
 - June 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026: 17-1/2 inches
 - RECREATIONAL CATCH LIMIT
 - 4 fish/person/day
- [2026 Recreational Bluefish Fishery](#)
 - [2026 Recreational Bluefish Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026](#)
 - Effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2026:
 - Recreational anglers fishing from shore or private boats can keep up to 5 bluefish per
 - person per day.

- Recreational anglers fishing from for-hire boats can keep up to 7 bluefish per person per day.
- The minimum size is 8 inches.
- There is no closed season.
- **2026 Yellow Perch Recreational Catch Limit**
 - **2026 Yellow Perch Recreational Catch Limit – Effective 1/8/2026**
 - Effective 12:01 a.m. January 8,
 - 2026, except for reservoirs, lakes, ponds, impoundments, and waters upstream of them, the recreational daily catch and possession limit for yellow perch is five fish per person per day. This notice supersedes any public notice affecting the yellow perch recreational catch limit issued prior to January 8, 2026.
 - WHY THIS IS NECESSARYcontinue on next page.
 - This action is necessary because yellow perch are experiencing a period of low recruitment that has occurred over the last six years. Reducing the harvest of larger females may improve the chance of spawning success. This action for the recreational fishery equitably manages the burden of reduced harvests experienced by the commercial fisheries reduction in quota
- **2026 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery**
 - 2026 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026
 - ***The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces the recreational season for black sea bass is closed from January 1, 2026 through May 14, 2026.***
 - A subsequent notice will establish the rules for the remainder of the season at a later date.
- **2026 Recreational Cobia Fishery**
 - **2026 Recreational Cobia Fishery — Effective 1/1/2026**
 - Effective 12:01 a.m.
 - **January 1, 2026: The season is open June 15, 2026, through September 20, 2026. It is closed all other dates.**
 - • Recreational anglers may keep:
 - 1 cobia per person per day; or
 - Up to 2 cobia per vessel per day if there are 2 or more individuals on the vessel.

- The recreational minimum size for cobia is 43 inches total length.



Step 8 - Go fishing and catch fish!

Putting it all together

The whole purpose of this process is to help you find the best places to fish.

1. First learn about where your fish live and preferred conditions.
2. Next, pull out your Chesapeake Bay charts and a marker.
3. Now visit your regional websites with current oxygen, salinity, temperature and water clarity conditions.
4. As you move through each step, continue to cross off unsuitable areas on your chart.
5. Now in the remaining areas on your chart, begin highlighting prime habitat.
6. At this point, find moving water by checking your tide charts, wind conditions and flow at these prime areas.

You have now identified the best places to find fish right now, not last week or last month, but **right now**.

The last step, and most fun, is to go fishing and catch a bunch of fish!

And when you do, don't forget to take photos and submit them to the Angler's Log!



Other great fishing resources from Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

- ↗ Fishing Access
- ↗ Boat Ramps / Water Access
- ↗ Fishing Report
- ↗ Angler's Log
- ↗ Fishing License Information
- ↗ Fish Consumption Advisory Map