

FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS – Brown Trout Creel Limit in Beaver Creek

What is being considered?

The Department would like to reduce the creel limit of brown trout in Beaver Creek to zero, from the confluence with Antietam Creek upstream to the Albert Powell State Trout Hatchery.

Why is this change necessary?

A severe fish kill greatly reduced the brown trout population in Beaver Creek. The most productive spawning and juvenile nursery habitat occurs within the Put and Take Trout Fishing Area. Allowing the harvest of the few remaining or transplanted adult brown trout would limit the ability of the population to recover.

Who will this affect?

This would affect anglers that want to harvest brown trout in Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is stocked with adult hatchery rainbow trout that would remain available for harvest.

When would this be effective?

The Department projects that this change could be effective in the late fall of 2023. However, the exact date cannot be determined. The Department will follow our normal proposal procedures if this concept moves forward.

Has this change been discussed with advisory commissions?

The fish kill occurred on August 7 - 8, 2023, with fishery assessments occurring shortly thereafter. The Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission held their most recent meetings on July 18 and 20, respectively. Rather than wait for the next commission meetings, the Department has decided to begin the public scoping process so the regulation may be able to go into effect and be included in the 2024 Maryland Guide to Fishing and Crabbing before the spring stocking season when most harvest occurs.