

Maryland Regulation Summary for Seafood Dealers 2026

Blue Crabs

Size:

Male Hard Crabs	Soft Crabs	Peelers
Bay 5" (4/1 – 7/14)	3 ½"	3 ¼" (4/1 – 7/14)
5 ¼" (7/15-11/30)		3 ½" (7/15 – 12/15)
Atlantic – 5"		

Season:

Bay – 4/1 – 11/30

Atlantic – 4/1 – 10/31

Female Importation:

Sponge crabs may be imported from 5/11 through 7/20

Striped Bass

Seasons:

Bay - pound net: 6/1 – 12/31; haul seine: 1/1 – 2/28 and 6/1-12/31;

gill net: 12/1 – 2/28; hook and line: 6/1 – 12/31

Atlantic - all gears: 10/1 – 5/31

Sizes:

Bay – Min. 18" & Max. 36"

Atlantic – Min. 24"

Tag Colors:

Chesapeake Bay: Light Blue

Atlantic: Yellow

Oysters

Season: All gears except power dredge: 10/1 – 3/31; Power dredge: 11/1 – 3/31

Sizes: 3" for wild caught and aquaculture oysters (submerged lease 10/1-3/31); 2" for aquaculture oysters (submerged lease 4/1 – 9/30 and water column lease year round)

*Each bushel of oysters must be tagged with the appropriate wild fishery tag or aquaculture tag.

Open Fishing Seasons (Most Commonly Sold Fish)

Yellow Perch: 12 /1 – 3/31

Summer Flounder: 1/1 – 12/31

Black Sea Bass: 1/1 – 12/31

Spiny Dogfish: 5/1 – 4/30

Tautog: 1/1 – 5/15 and 7/1 – 12/31

Spanish Mackerel: No closure

Red Drum: No closure

Black Drum: Not open in Coastal bays, No closure in Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean

Croaker: 3/16 – 12/31

Catfish: No closure

NOTE: Seasons may be subject to close by public notice (notices available [HERE](#))

Quick Contacts for Maryland Fisheries:

Regulations: Jacob Holtz 410-260-8262

Penalties: Karla Schaffer 410-260-8608

Legislation: Sarah Widman 410-260-8266

Natural Resources Police: 800-628-9944

Striped Bass: Casey Marker 410-279-8369

Crabs: Mandy Bromilow 443-221-8010

Oysters: Gina Hunt 410-948-9836

Aquaculture: Rebecca Thur 410-260-8252