



DNR To Hold Public Meetings On Inland Fisheries Regulation Changes For 2009 and Future Proposals

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary John R. Griffin today announced a series of public meetings to discuss and hear comments on proposed regulations being considered for Inland Fisheries for 2009. In addition, the Inland Fisheries Division offers these meetings as an opportunity to discuss fisheries management with staff in an information exchange and learning experience.

Public meetings for 2009 changes and other discussion will be held at the following locations and times on the designated dates:

- April 1 at Appalachian Laboratory, Midlothian Road, Frostburg, Allegany County at 7 p.m.
- April 2 at Greenbrier State Park Visitor's Center, Route 40, Washington County at 6:30 p.m.
- April 3 at Patapsco Valley State Park, Hollofield Headquarters, Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City, Howard County at 7 p.m.
- April 8 at the Visitor's Center of Cedarville Natural Resource Area, Cedarville, Prince George's County at 7 p.m.
- April 10 at the Natural Resources Police Eastern Region Office, Area 2, Route 309 and 404, Hillsboro, Queen Anne's County at 7 p.m.

The following changes are being proposed for the Inland Fisheries Division for the year 2009.

- Change the lower boundary on the Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Area on the Youghiogheny River at Friendsville to the powerline crossing located 1.8 miles downstream of Maple Street above the full pool level on Youghiogheny Reservoir.
- Change the creel limit on Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas from two to 5 trout per day during the harvest period.
- Discussion: Inland Fisheries is considering three options for Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas to change the opening date of the harvest fishing period for the area

Option 1 – Harvest would be allowed from June 1 through September 30 for all Delayed Harvest Areas

Option 2 – Harvest would be allowed from June 16 through September 30 for all areas

Option 3 – Harvest would be allowed from June 1 through September 30 for Town Creek (Allegany County), Catoctin and Little Catoctin Creek (Frederick County), and Middle Patuxent River (Howard County)

Harvest would be allowed from June 16 through September 30 for Casselman River, Youghiogheny River and North Branch of the Potomac River all in Garrett County

- Change the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Closure period on Savage River from 1,3 closure to: **Option 1** – 0 closure; or, **Option 2** - 2,3 closure (a 2 closure is the week prior to opening day)
- Change the Maximum Size Bass Fishing Area on the Potomac River from Dam 3 to Dam 4 to statewide bass size regulations of minimum size of 12 inches
- Add Catoctin Creek and Little Catoctin Creek, from US Route 40 near State Route 17 downstream to the lower park boundary of Doubs Meadow Park near Myersville (Frederick County) to the list of Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas
- Prohibit people from catching, using for bait, or possessing crayfish while fishing in the Monocacy and Susquehanna Watersheds in order to prevent the spread of the highly invasive rusty crayfish

Inland Fisheries invites the public to discuss ideas for fisheries management of species and areas with staff. Ideas that may benefit the resource will be researched for possible inclusion in Inland Fisheries regulation proposals to be developed for 2010 and later.

DNR Inland Fisheries Division management activities are supported by the Sportfish Restoration Program (Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux) funds, and by fees from the sale of freshwater fishing licenses and trout stamps.

All interested parties are invited to attend and give their views. Sign Language interpreters and other appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. One-week advance notice for is requested and appreciated.

March 10, 2008

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency responsible for providing natural and living resource-related services to citizens and visitors. DNR manages more than 446,000 acres of public lands and 18,000 miles of waterways, along with Maryland's forests, fisheries and wildlife for maximum environmental, economic and quality of life benefits. A national leader in land conservation, DNR-managed parks and natural, historic and cultural resources attract 11 million visitors annually. DNR is the lead agency in Maryland's effort to restore the Chesapeake Bay, the state's number one environmental priority. Learn more at www.dnr.maryland.gov