

# SHORT TAKES

For a complete list of events happening in Maryland State Parks, visit

[www.dnr.maryland.gov/calendar](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/calendar)

## Breaking the Ice

**Chester, Md.** — Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Hydrographic Operations crew broke ice this past winter aboard the A.V. Sandusky along the coastline of Kent Narrows.

“Our work of deicing Maryland’s waterways allows accessibility to a variety of people,” said Captain Shawn Orr. “If we let the ice build up on some of these areas for too long, it can

inhibit the daily lives of many that rely on our State’s iconic aquatic resources.” Deicing allows law enforcement units, such as the Maryland Natural Resources Police, commercial watermen using pound nets and public service vessels, such as fuel barges, to operate during winter conditions.

The Smith Island community of Maryland relies heavily upon this service to allow boats to transport students to school, the U.S. mail to be delivered and commerce on the island to occur.

The diesel-powered A.V. Sandusky has 700 horsepower and can operate in up to 8 inches of ice. The vessel was built in 1989 and is 80 feet long. When not performing this seasonally important responsibility, Hydrographic Operations manages about 2,500 floating and 360 fixed navigational and regulatory aids with a staff of 22 across the entire state of Maryland.

The three ice-breaking vessels serve as buoy tenders and their other tailored outboard boats mark safety hazards near dams, as well as state and county lines. ■



Kara Turner

## New Opportunities for Recreational Anglers

**Annapolis, Md.** — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently released new regulations designed to ensure sustainable yellow perch populations and create new opportunities for recreational yellow perch fishing.

Under the new laws, the daily recreational creel limit increased from 5 fish per day to 10 fish per day. The changes also opened some previously closed watersheds to recreational yellow perch fishing. The Patapsco, Magothy, Severn, South, and West River watersheds on the western shore, and the Nanticoke River watershed on the Eastern Shore are now open to recreational yellow perch fishing. ■



Duane Raver/USFWS

## Graduating Class of 2009

**Easton, Md.** — Earlier this year, the Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP), the law enforcement arm of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recognized the 51st graduating class of the Maryland Natural Resources Police academy. The last class to graduate from the academy was in January 2007.

“The Maryland Natural Resources Police are the protectors of our most important land and aquatic resources,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “Whether on the Bay ensuring that

anglers return home safely, or in our forests protecting our native wildlife, these men and women of law enforcement perform an irreplaceable service.”

DNR Deputy Secretary Eric Schwaab attended the ceremony along NRP Superintendent Col. George F. Johnson, IV, Maryland Park Service Superintendent Nita Settina, and other NRP and DNR officials. NRP Capt. Robert Davis was the emcee and Rev. Dartanyon Hines gave the invocation and benediction.

“You are the chosen few out of



James R. McKnight

many applicants,” Superintendent Johnson said. “We welcome you as a member of the Natural Resources Police family, and we look forward to your contributions as you protect Maryland’s citizens and preserve its natural resources.” ■