



Maryland Microfishing Survey Summary 2025

About the Microfishing Survey

Microfishing is a form of hook-and-line fishing by anglers who intentionally target small-bodied fishes that most people would consider minnows or baitfish. In recent years, the sport has received considerable media attention, highlighting its specialized tackle and focus on native fish species diversity. Despite the increase in attention, very little is known regarding angler attitudes and knowledge of microfishing in Maryland.

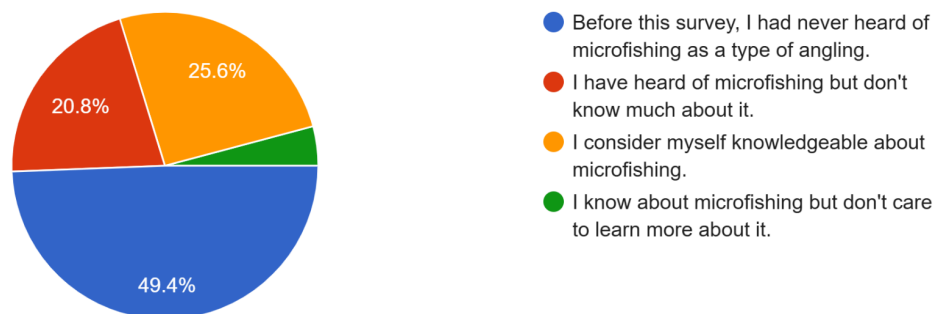
To learn more, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fishing and Boating Services conducted a survey of Maryland freshwater fishing license holders in May 2025. The survey was sent by email, advertised [on Facebook](#), and [highlighted by WBOC](#) during an evening news broadcast. The very simple goal of the survey was to gather baseline information about this emerging microfishing user group in Maryland.

Results Summary

There were **921 respondents** who completed the survey, representing a wide range of experience with and knowledge of microfishing. Although the majority of respondents do not intentionally target small-bodied fish, **25% stated that they are actively microfishing**. Of these respondents (n = 231), 18% appear to preferentially target small-bodied fish over larger gamefish, suggesting that there is a small but distinct microfishing community in Maryland.

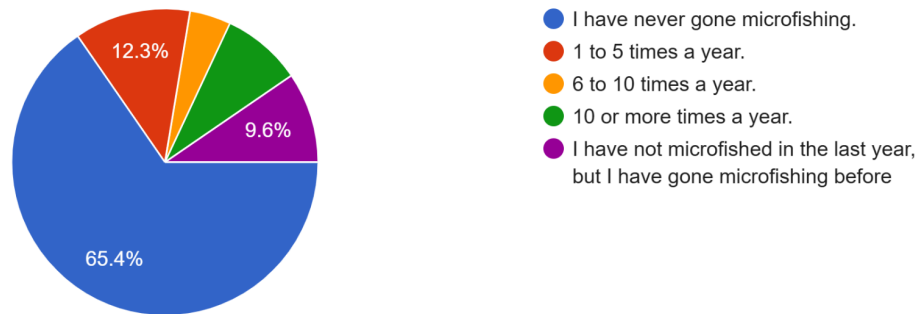
Which statement best describes your understanding of MICROFISHING as a type of angling?

921 responses



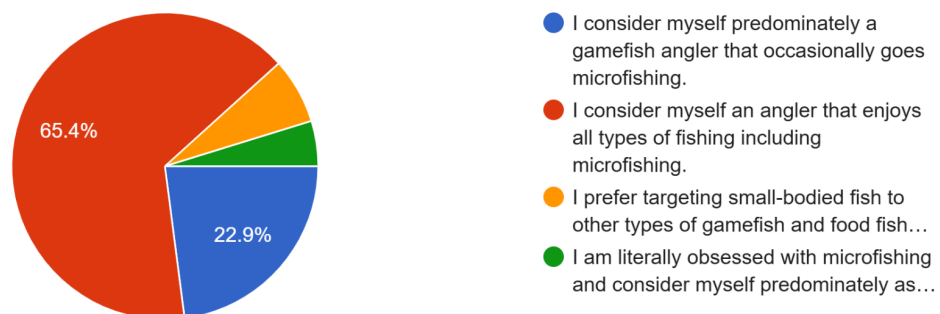
How often do you go microfishing by intentionally targeting small-bodied fishes while hook-and-line fishing?

921 responses



Which statement best describes you as an angler that at least sometimes intentionally targets small-bodied fish.

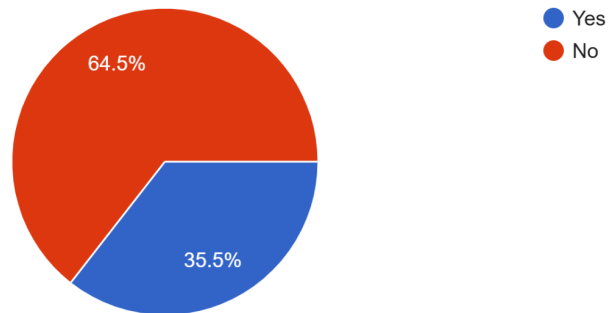
231 responses



Of the 602 respondents reporting to have never gone microfishing, **35% stated that they would consider going in the future if they knew more about it**, suggesting that the availability of additional resources may foster more interest and participation in the sport.

Would you consider going microfishing in the future if you knew more about it?

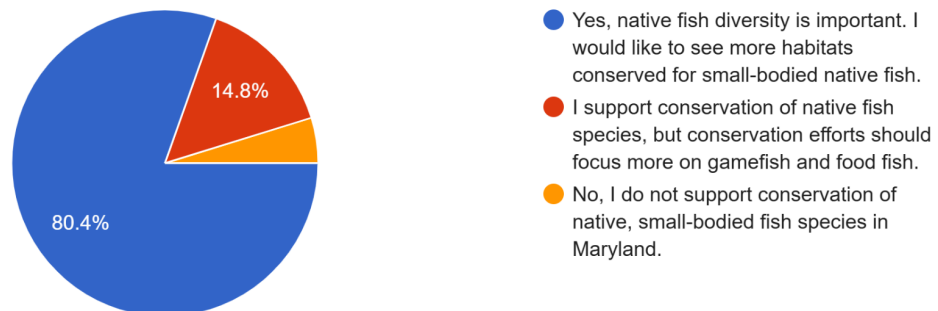
602 responses



Consistent among respondents was an emphasis on the **conservation of native fishes**. Seventy-eight percent of all respondents (n = 719), regardless of participation in microfishing, expressed support for Maryland's efforts to conserve small-bodied fishes in Maryland, highlighting the importance of native fish diversity.

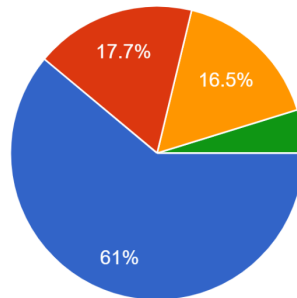
As an active microfisher, do you support efforts to conserve native, small-bodied fish species in Maryland? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

230 responses



As an active microfisher, are opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland important to you? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

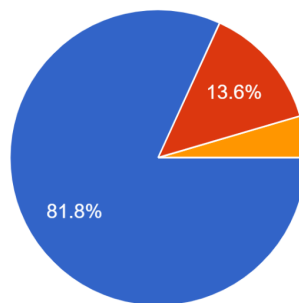
231 responses



- Yes, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are important.
- I like that there are opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland, but it is not that important to me.
- Yes, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are important, but opportunities to catch larger gamefish...
- No, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are not important.

Even though you have not gone microfishing recently, do you support efforts to conserve native, small-bodied fish species in Maryland? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

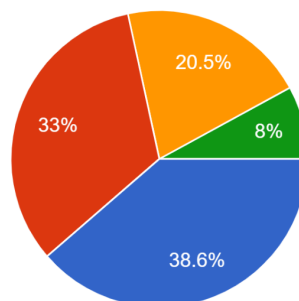
88 responses



- Yes, native fish diversity is important. I would like to see more habitats conserved for small-bodied native fish.
- I support conservation of native fish species, but conservation efforts should focus more on gamefish and food fish.
- No, I do not support conservation of native, small-bodied fish species in Maryland.

Even though you have not gone microfishing recently, are opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland important to you? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

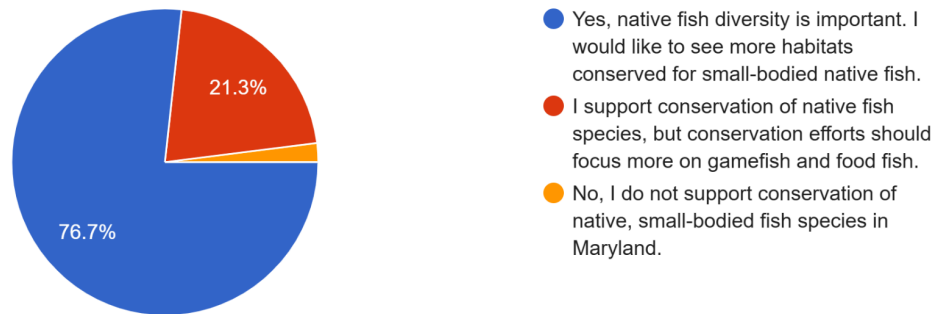
88 responses



- Yes, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are important.
- I like that there are opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland, but it is not that important to me.
- Yes, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are important, but opportunities to catch larger gamefish...
- No, opportunities to microfish for native species in Maryland are not important.

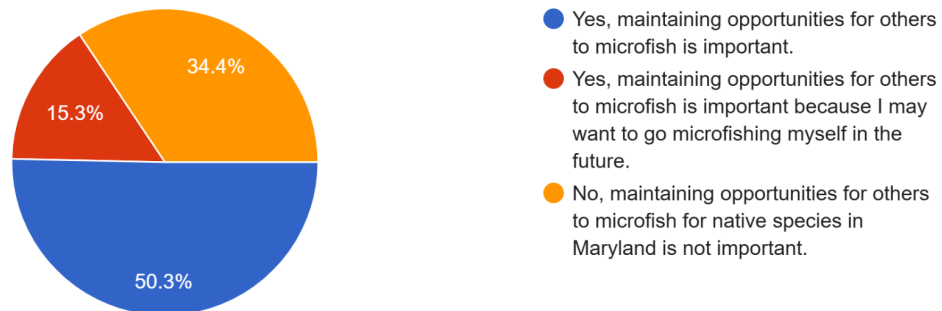
Even though you have never gone microfishing, do you support efforts to conserve native, small-bodied fish species in Maryland? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

602 responses



Even though you have never gone microfishing, is maintaining opportunities for others to microfish for native species in Maryland important to you? (Choose the answer that best reflects your opinion)

602 responses



Thank you to everyone who responded to this survey and the time took to help the department learn more about this niche fishery.