

# Director of Fishing and Boating Service's Black Bass Conservation Awards

## Purpose

The Director of Fishing and Boating Services will annually recognize the efforts of tournament organizers to protect black bass resources. The award also recognizes organizers who include youth participants in their sportfishing tournament. The purpose of the award is to spread the knowledge of black bass conservation and watercraft safety, which preserve the sport for years to come.

## Eligibility

The award(s) is available each year, depending on funding, for a tournament with: 1) an organizer or co-organizer who is a resident of Maryland; 2) tournament participants who have a Maryland fishing license, if required by law; 3) at most 49 boats; and 4) at least 50% of angler participants who are between 16 and 25 years old, ages inclusive.

## Criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on three (3) criteria.

Criterion 1: Organizer or co-organizer should identify at least one best management practice when obtaining a permit for the tournament from Fishing and Boating Services.

Criterion 2: All tournament participants should complete and pass Fishing and Boating Services' on-line Bass Class, which includes boater safety videos and conservation related videos starring state and national leaders in bass conservation.

Criterion 3: The organizer or co-organizer should write a brief (100 words or less) narrative that describes the supply needs of the tournament and the reason for their need. Examples of supply needs could include: a waiver of DNR costs for re-distributing fish; on-board hand scales or rulers for on-the-water weigh-ins; non-piercing cull clips; barbless tackle for tournament participants; thermometers for live wells; life jackets; aerators; ice; mesh bags or bag systems for weighing bass; a shade canopy; cattle tank for offering highly oxygenated water conditions; rubber nets; or weigh-in systems that promote survival of largemouth bass.

## Application Process

1. Organizer or co-organizer should electronically submit application by May 1, 2025 to [ryan.gary@maryland.gov](mailto:ryan.gary@maryland.gov).
2. Organizer or co-organizer will be notified of their standing by June 1, 2025.
3. Supply purchases will be made by the department on behalf of the organizer or co-organizer beginning July 1, 2025.

## Awards

Applicants who are chosen to win the Director's Black Bass Conservation Award will receive a certificate and awarded supplies by August 1, 2025. Supply costs should not exceed \$500 and up to two awards are given per year. Participants who complete the on-line Bass Class will receive a certificate of completion from the department. This certificate can be used in the future if the group chooses to apply again for the award.



Larry Hogan, Governor | Mark Belton, Secretary

Fishing and Boating Services | 580 Taylor Ave B-2 | Annapolis, MD 21401  
Toll free in Maryland: 877-620-8367 | Out of state: 410-260 8257  
TTY Users call via the MD relay

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3/2018 DNR 17-021218-52 [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries)