

Fish Habitat Improvements For Western Maryland Lakes

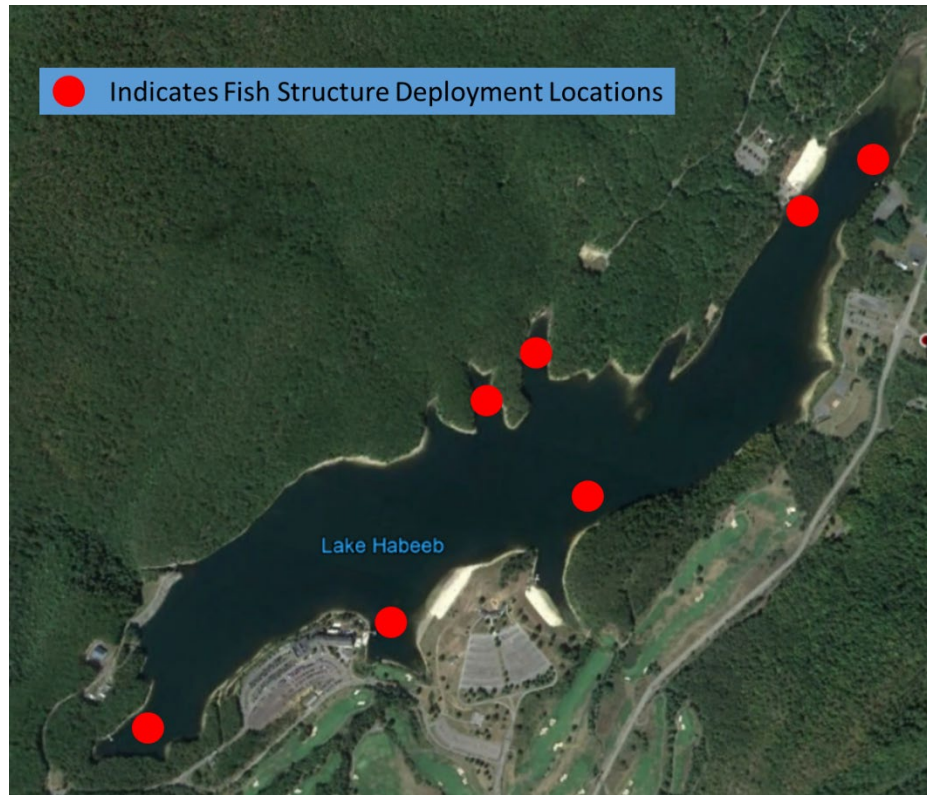
Fish habitat enhancement projects are underway in three state owned lakes located in western Maryland. Fishing and Boating Service's Freshwater Fisheries Program secured grant funding from the "State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund" (<https://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/state-lakes.aspx>) to purchase and deploy 150 concrete reef balls to enhance fish habitat in Lake Habeeb, Hunting Creek Lake, and Blairs Valley Lake. Last week, the first 50 reef balls were delivered to Rocky Gap State Park and deployed in Lake Habeeb. The structures were placed in seven popular fishing locations around the lake. The project used "mini-bay" reef balls that are approximately two times the size of a normal bushel basket and weigh approximately 300 pounds each. The structures were maneuvered and loaded using heavy equipment operated by Rocky Gap State Park staff. The structures were deployed using a buoy-tending boat captained by Hydrographic Operations staff within Fishing and Boating Services. Many thanks to the staff of Rocky Gap State Park and Hydrographic Operations for their cooperation and assistance with the project. It could not have been completed without their help.



Offloading the reef balls



Reef ball deployment



Map of Lake Habib