

## **FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS - Trout (Governors Bridge Pond and Waterworks Park Pond)**

### **What is being considered?**

The Department is considering:

1. **Governors Bridge Pond (Prince George's County)**  
The Department would like to add this area to the list of put-and-take trout fishing areas. Currently, the area has a limit of two fish per person per day. Adding it as a put-and-take trout fishing area will change the limit to five trout per person per day. The area would be open to trout fishing year round (no closure).
  
2. **Waterworks Park Pond (Anne Arundel County)**
  - a. The Department would like to add this area to the list of put-and-take trout fishing areas. The area would be open to trout fishing year-round (no closure) and an individual would be able to keep five trout per person per day.
  - b. Currently, the area is designated as a catch and return area for all species, however, the Department would like to allow the harvest of trout. If the change is made, an individual would be able to keep their limit of trout, but all other species would need to be returned to the pond.

### **Why is this change necessary?**

By designating Governors Bridge Pond and Annapolis Waterworks Pond as put-and-take trout fishing areas, law enforcement will be simplified by making the regulations consistent with all other trout-stocked ponds in the region and will give anglers in those urban areas an increased opportunity to harvest trout.

### **Who will this affect?**

This action will affect nontidal anglers fishing in the affected area.

### **Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies or other interested or impacted individuals?**

1. These changes have been discussed with representatives from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, owners of Governors Bridge Pond and the City of Annapolis Parks and Recreation, owners of Waterworks Park Pond. Both groups support the changes.
2. The ideas were presented to the Coldwater Fisheries Advisory Committee at their April 2026 meeting and received general support.
3. The ideas were presented to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Committee (SFAC) and the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission (TFAC) at their April 2026 meetings. The commissioners did not raise any concerns.

### **Regulatory Process**

Fishing rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Department. When the Department creates a fishing rule, it is called a regulation. When the General Assembly creates a rule, it is called a statute. The Department often has to create a regulation to

implement a statute. The regulatory process begins with scoping and the Department follows normal [procedures](#) as concepts move forward.

During the scoping process, the Department gathers suggestions and ideas from stakeholders and others about how to solve a fishery problem or address a need. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the Department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

**When could this be effective?**

The Department projects that this change could be effective January 1, 2027. However, the exact date cannot be determined at this time.