

## **FISHING IN NONTIDAL WATERS - Trout (Youghiogheny River)**

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

The Department is considering changing the trout fishing regulations on a portion of the Youghiogheny River, located near Friendsville, Maryland. The area described below would be removed from the delayed harvest (Group II) trout fishing areas and added to the 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.

The area being considered for the change is the Youghiogheny River mainstem (Garrett County) below Friendsville from a site located 50 yards downstream of Maple Street (at the confluence of Minnow Run) downstream 1.8 miles to the powerline crossing upstream of the Youghiogheny Reservoir.

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

The Department continuously evaluates put-and-take trout fishing areas and other stocked areas based on stocking access, angler access, the habitat of the receiving waterbody, and angler usage. Proposed stocking locations and management strategies are adjusted to maximize the recreational experience for anglers.

Observations by staff suggest that the area is underutilized, relative to surrounding put-and-take trout fishing areas. Removing the area from the delayed harvest requirements may increase angler use of the resource. The river is easily accessible in the town of Friendsville and it connects directly with the Bear Creek put-and-take trout fishing area.

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

This action will affect nontidal anglers that fish within the affected area.

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

1. This idea was discussed with the [Coldwater Fisheries Advisory Committee](#) at their April 2026 meeting and received general support.
2. The idea was 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. They noted that making this change will make the rules in this area consistent with the nearby Bear Creek put-and-take trout fishing area, which may increase utilization of the resource.

### **Additional Information**

Code of Maryland Regulations - [COMAR 08.02.11.01G](#) describes the areas and rules for Group II Delayed Harvest Trout Fishing Areas.

Code of Maryland Regulations - [COMAR 08.02.11.01B](#) describes the areas and rules for Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas.

[Public Angler Access Map](#) - an interactive map to locate fishing locations and the basic rules for each area.

### **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.