



Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
580 Taylor Ave. B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Application for State Record
Sport Fish Catch Consideration

APPLICATION PROCESS: Immediately Call or text 443-569-1398 or email Erik.Zlokovitz@maryland.gov to report a potential state record catch. Then, submit this filled out application to Erik.Zlokovitz@maryland.gov, FAX to 410-260-8279, or mail to the address above (Attn: Erik Zlokovitz).

Angler's Name: Phone:

E-mail:

Address:

Species Caught: Date of Catch:

Region Caught (Circle One): Atlantic Chesapeake Freshwater

Specific Location Caught (As Best Described, Along with Name of Body of Water):

Certified Weight: Date Fish was Weighed:

Scale Operator's Name (Cannot be Angler Who Caught Fish):

Scale Operator's Signature:

Name of Establishment Where Fish was Weighed:

Angler Signature:

Name of Biologist Identifying Species:

Submit signed application with clear photograph of fish to DNR within two weeks of catch.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources maintains state records for sport fish and awards a plaque to anglers whose catch exceeds the current state record or establishes a new species category. Keep the fish whole, positive identification of the species of fish is mandatory, the catch must be inspected in person by a fisheries biologist from the department. To preserve the weight, immerse the fish in ice water until it can be weighed. All possible state record fish will be reviewed under the official state record rules (dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/staterecordrules.aspx).

State record fish are determined by weight. Most fishing tackle shops do not have certified scales, so call ahead. Establishments that sell products by weight such as grocery stores, seafood retailers and mailing/shipping outlets should have a certified scale and may be willing to help.

Except for fish in the invasive species category, all fish must be legally caught with rod and reel during its open season. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person. The reel must be operated manually. Once the leader is brought to the rod tip, one or more people may help land the fish. Fish that have been snagged, shot, gaffed*, speared, scaled, or mutilated are not eligible. *Gaffing is illegal in the Chesapeake Bay, but is allowed for securing and boating fish in ocean waters, after they have been brought to the side of the boat with rod and reel.

Fish designated as an invasive species (currently Northern snakehead, blue catfish and flathead catfish) may be caught and kept by all legal recreational fishing gear including rod and reel, bow and arrow, spear, trotline, jugline, etc.

Fish caught from privately-owned fee fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.

The fish must be considered trophy sized for the department to consider opening a new species category for state record recognition. Thresholds for trophy size are established by the department using the best data available to create a benchmark weight. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of the measuring and weighing process.

The state reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of an investigation.