

The Cecil-Harford Watermen's Association along with the Baltimore County Watermen's Association wishes to review the underutilized portion of the established yellow perch quota. Our desired outcome would be for a reallocation which would more closely represent the reality of the harvest currently occurring in the yellow perch fishery.

- A. Definition- "Allocation" of fishing privileges is a direct and deliberate distribution of the opportunity to participate in a fishery among identifiable, discrete user groups or individuals, on the stock portion available for harvest.

In the past 10 years the fishery has changed.

Commercial Yellow Perch Fishing is very tightly managed and has complete accountability. A special harvest permit is needed, hail system reporting takes place and limited fishing areas with specific quotas are in place. A slot size limit allows both small and large fish to be released and a 3 Month Winter season is all that is allowed.

Recreational Yellow Perch fishing has no accountability. Managers have no updated reliable data on recreational Yellow Perch harvest. The Department of Natural Resources does not have the time, money or personnel to survey the recreational Yellow Perch fishermen. Recreational effort has decreased in recent years due to the access to fishing areas, popularity among younger fishermen and poor fishing conditions in January and February.

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This request follows all the guidelines set forth in the Department of Natural Resources policy, Fisheries Allocation Review Policy Number: 12:01

In conclusion, if this reallocation were to take place, the recreational fishery would not be impacted at all. The creel limit would remain at 10 fish per day. Fishing would still be enjoyed in all the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The fishery would continue to be open 365 days a year, and the size limit of 9" would remain.