

LFFA Objective:

Increase new participation in MD's recreational fishery



LFFA History

- 1985 – Department implemented saltwater sportfishing license requirement
- 1986 – Regulation established 17 sites (public bridges or piers) in areas where new Chesapeake Bay Sportfish License was required.
 - Based on concerns that new license limited opportunities for subsistence fishing
 - Goal was site for each county bordering tidal waters
- 1993 – 22 LFFAs had been created by regulation – all remain today

License Free Fishing Area Summary

LFFA History

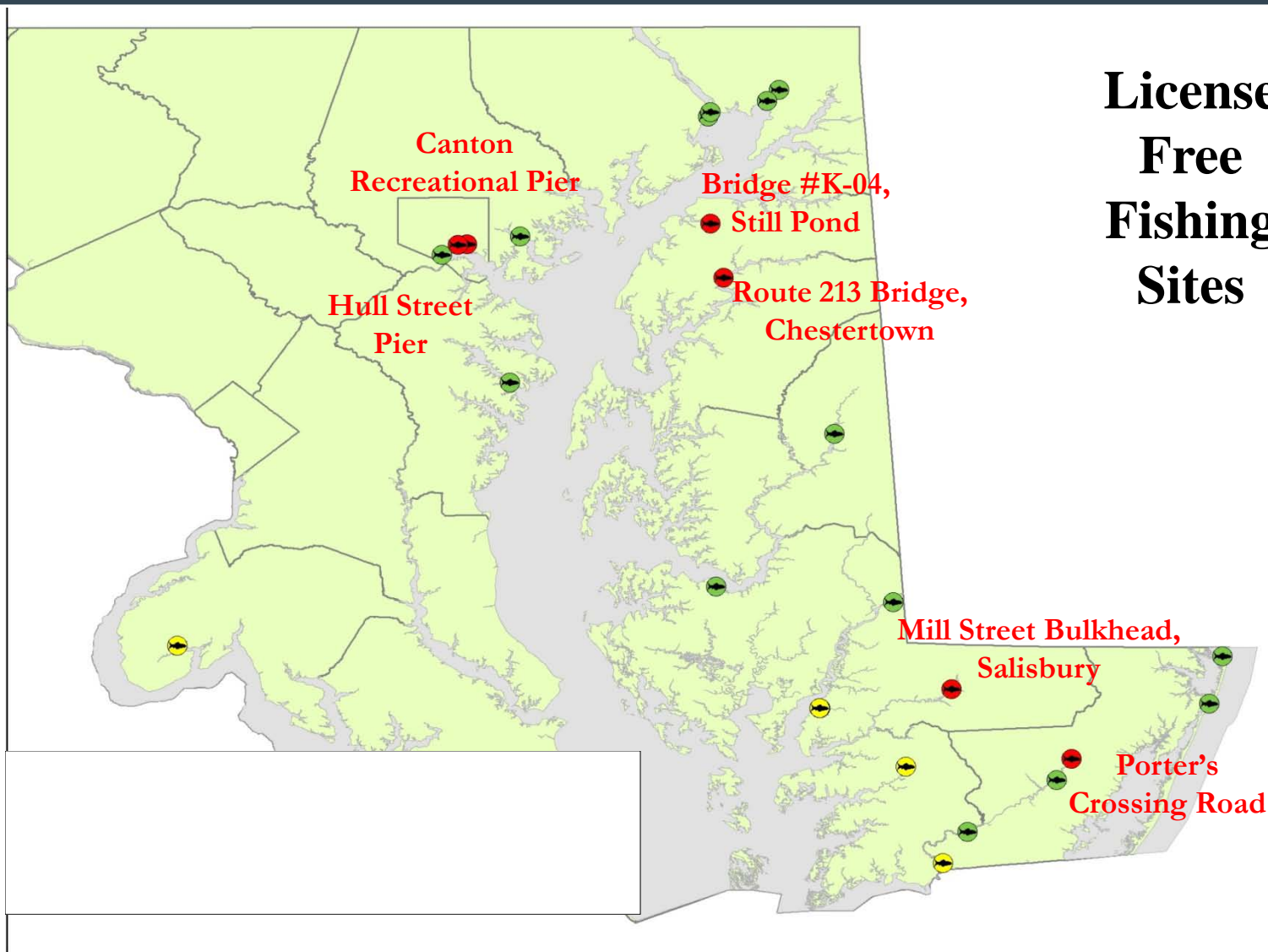
- 2011 – Department conducted review of all existing LFFAs & determined some were not accomplishing objectives (safety, accessibility, subsistence fishing).
 - Summary provided to SFAC at October meeting.
- 2012 – Law granting DNR authority for designating LFFAs was clarified to allow designation of area (not just bridge or pier) in tidal or nontidal waters.
 - March 2012 - SFAC approved modifying criteria to focus on increasing new participation with emphasis on family fishing as well as subsistence
 - 2 new sites in Ocean City proposed, scoped and adopted

LFFA Evaluation

Of the 24 areas currently designated LFFAs, 6 do not meet criteria for safety, accessibility and/or quality of fishing; and 4 marginally meet criteria



License Free Fishing Area Summary



**License
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Fishing
Sites**

License Free Fishing Area Summary

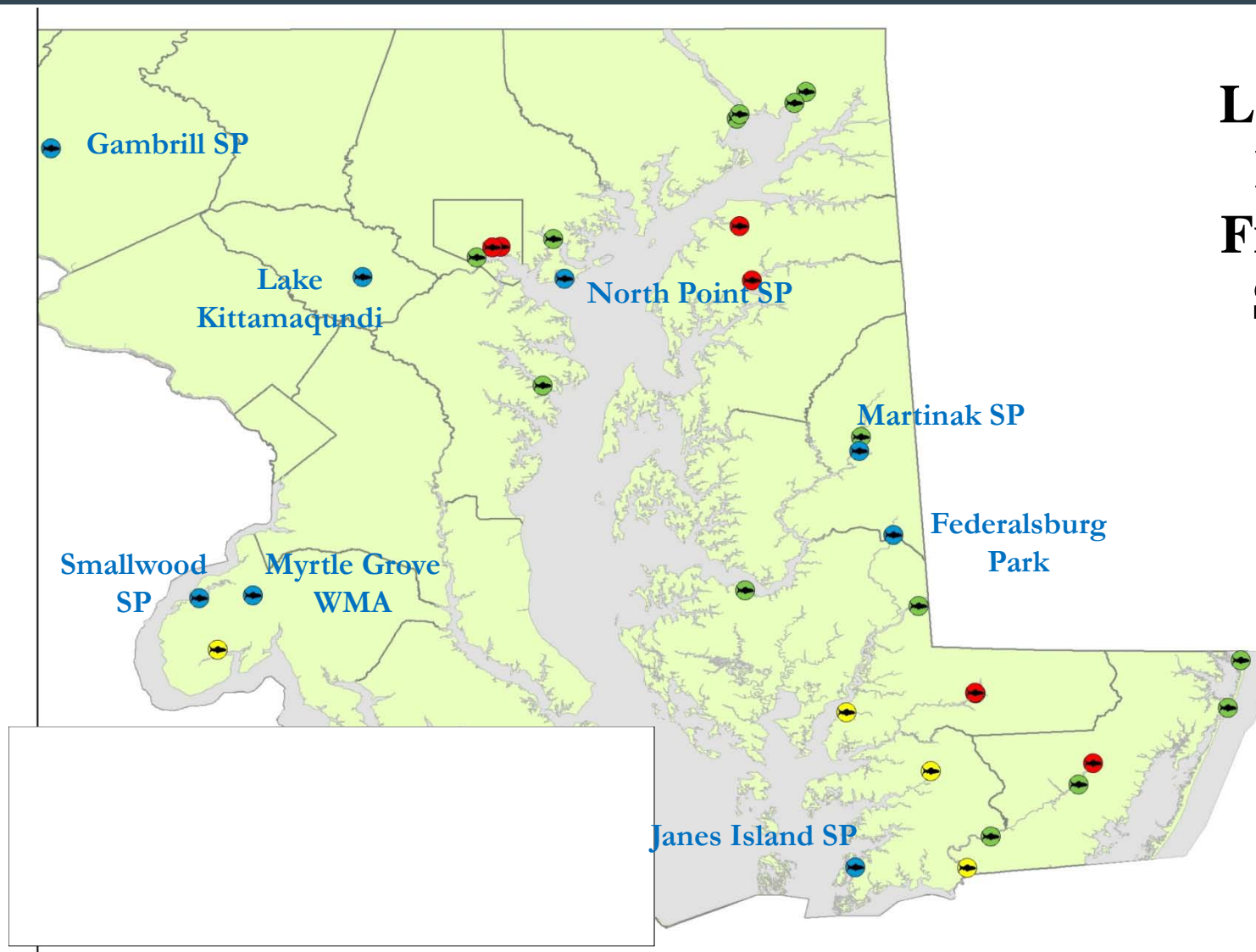
2013 LFFA Survey

- Fall 2013 – conducted survey of regional Fisheries Service and MD Park Service staff
- Requested ID of potential new areas for high quality, safe, accessible and geographically equitable opportunities for families and subsistence anglers.
 - Considerations included safety concerns (e.g. traffic & parking) and quality of experience (e.g. ease of accessibility, fishing success, amenities, cleanliness)

2013 LFFA Survey Summary

- The following are areas that should be considered for potential as new LFFAs:
 - Western Region – Gambrill S.P.
 - Central – (1) Kittamaquindi Lake; and (2) North Point S.P.
 - Southern – (1) Smallwood S.P.; and (2) Myrtle Grove WMA
 - Eastern – (1) Federalsburg Municipal waterfront; (2) Jane's Island S.P.; and (3) Martinak S.P.

License Free Fishing Area Summary



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License Free Fishing Area Summary

Next Steps

- Awaiting final feedback and approval from Maryland Park Service regarding potential new areas in State Parks.
- Fisheries is seeking stakeholder input on removal or potential new areas listed; or ID of any other new areas we should consider. **SFAC feedback requested by 2/18/14.**
- Fisheries will evaluate input and scope potential changes in spring 2014.
- Fisheries will proceeding regulatory proposal as appropriate based on scoping.