

## What Can You Do to Make a Difference and Be Involved?

- Visit Fisheries Service's website to comment on fishing rule ideas or to learn about making a public comment on a proposed fishing rule.
- Attend meetings and hearings discussed in this brochure and speak with Fisheries Service staff.
- Call or email us with your questions or comments.

### Stay Updated

The Fisheries Service's website is a source for information on:

- Regulatory scoping and advisory group meetings,
- Maryland fishing rules and notices, and
- Links to federal fishing rules.

For current fisheries information visit our website at: [www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries)

For current Maryland fishing rules visit: [www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp)

For current information about legislation relating to fishing and how to be involved with that process visit the Maryland General Assembly website: [mgaleg.maryland.gov](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov)

Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council: [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org)

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: [www.asmfmc.org](http://www.asmfmc.org)

The Maryland Department  
of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Service  
580 Taylor Ave., B-2  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
Phone: 410-260-8300

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH FISHERIES RULEMAKING



## SETTING RULES FOR MARYLAND FISHERIES

Fishing rules in Maryland may be created by either the General Assembly or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service. When the Fisheries Service creates a fishing rule, it is called a regulation.

This pamphlet provides you with information about:

- where regulation ideas come from,
- how to stay informed, and
- ways to get involved in the regulatory process

## Where Regulation Ideas Come From

### General Public Interaction

Public suggestions can generate ideas for fishing rules. The Fisheries Service maintains contact with the public through:

- Public meetings and open houses
- Field work and outreach events
- Phone, mail, email, website and social media
- Attending meetings of fishing clubs, environmental groups, watermen's organizations and concerned citizens

### State Management

The research by Fisheries Service biologists may also generate ideas for fishing rules. Our biologists work collaboratively with other scientific peers to better understand our fish resources. This information has led to fishing rule changes that improve fisheries management and sustainability of the resources.

### Interstate Management

Maryland works with other states in our region of the country to manage migratory fish species. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council are two interstate groups that Maryland works with when managing some migratory saltwater species. These groups may make

decisions that affect Maryland's fishing rules. These groups' meetings are open to the public.

### Legislature

The Maryland General Assembly may also make fishing laws called statutes. Legislative hearings on proposed fishing law changes are open to the public and may also be available to view on the internet.

## How to Stay Informed About Fisheries Rules

### Advisory Groups

Fisheries Service citizen advisory groups include:

- Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission;
- Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission,
- Oyster Advisory Commission;
- Coastal Fisheries Advisory Committee;
- Aquaculture Coordinating Council;
- Seafood Marketing Advisory Commission; and
- Artificial Reef Committee

Advisory groups represent a variety of stakeholders. **All advisory meetings are open to the public. There is public comment time at the meetings.** Fisheries Service or advisory group members present and discuss possible fishing rules.

### Web-page

<http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp> This page allows you to view summaries of regulations, draft regulations, proposed regulations and other fishing law information.

### E-mail Interest List

Fisheries Service has an e-mail interest list that the public can subscribe to and receive fisheries news and regulatory updates. To subscribe to the DNR Fisheries Regulatory Information e-mail list, simply sign up at [www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/emailcontact.asp](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/emailcontact.asp).

### Facebook and Twitter

The public can follow Fisheries Service news through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService](http://www.facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService) and through Twitter @MDDNRFISH.

## Public Meetings

Fisheries Service consults with its advisory commissions to determine if a public meeting is needed for a regulatory idea. These meetings are used for issues where verbal comment seems appropriate and adds a useful dialogue for the Department to learn of concerns and comments.

## Ways to Get Involved in the Regulatory Process

### Public Scoping

Fisheries Service uses a scoping process to inform the public of potential regulatory changes and provide an opportunity for input before regulations are submitted. You can view and comment on current draft regulations by visiting: <http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/draftregulations.asp>.

Additionally, Fisheries Service may hold a public meeting or open house on a potential regulatory change in order to receive more feedback. These meetings are posted on the scoping regulation webpage along with the information about the regulatory idea.

### Regulatory Process

All state agencies follow the Maryland Administrative Procedures Act when proposing a regulation, an emergency regulation process also is provided for under this act. The regulatory process includes the following:

- A Maryland legislative committee reviews proposed regulations.
- Agencies publish proposed regulations in the Maryland Register.
- Agencies accept public comments for 30 days.

**Provide Fisheries Service with your comments online or by email, mail, fax or attending any scheduled hearings. Fisheries Service uses comments to assess public reaction to a proposed regulation.**

- When an agency adopts a proposed regulation it publishes notice in the Maryland Register.
- Adopted regulations are effective 10 days after appearing in the Maryland Register or on a later date.