

# OVERVIEW OF YELLOW PERCH FISHING IN MARYLAND

## RECREATIONAL

9" - unlimited  
10 Fish  
365 days a year  
All Chesapeake Bay and  
Tributeries  
50% of quota  
0-None

## COMMERCIAL

8 1/2" - 11 Slot Limit  
10 Fish  
Jan. 1 - April 1 or until quota is caught  
Upper Bay - Chester River - Patuxent River - Not in  
head of rivers  
50% of quota  
\*Purchase special yellow perch fishing permit  
\*Call for permit card and tags in late December  
\*Pre-determined quota for each of three fishing areas  
  
\*Buy tags from DNR and tag each fish sold  
\*Call DNR every day of the season to report catch  
\*End of season overage subtracted from next year's  
quota  
\*Quota not harvested lost  
\*Unused tags must be returned to DNR

## TAGGING YELLOW PERCH

- 1) Over the past seven years, commercial yellow perch fisherman have had to tag each legal fish before bringing the fish ashore.
- 2) This unnecessary regulation is overly time consuming and costly to all parties involved. Waterman spend many hours sitting in their boats tagging fish in the cold, in the dark, in the snow and rain. Waterman must buy the tags--not by the hundreds, but by the thousands. DNR currently supplements the purchase price of the tags because the price of the tags creates too great a financial burden on the waterman.
- 3) The lack of local demand and low price of yellow perch does not promote an atmosphere of illegal activity for the fishery.
- 4) Lack of access to tags has caused many problems in the past. One year, tags arrived three (3) weeks late to DNR. Another year or two, DNR ran out of tags. Shipping of tags from DNR to waterman on a three (3) day turnaround has been costly to waterman.
- 5) Buyers either refuse tagged fish or pay less for them because the fish cannot be run thru a filet machine without the extra labor of removing the tags.
- 6) Once warmer weather begins, our fish begin dying more quickly. These fish need to be off the boat, and either to the market or refrigeration, as quickly as possible. The fresher the fish, the more money they are worth.

In summary, it's time to stop tagging 5 ounce fish worth 50 cents. I would like this committee to challenge DNR to create an alternative accountability method to replace the tagging of each fish. In previous yellow perch meetings with DNR, box tags or a hail system have been discussed.