

An Anglers GUIDE



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO - LAND OR SEA

- Always check the weather for the day of your fishing adventure
- Let someone know where you are going and when you will return
- Carry a cell phone and/or marine radio
- Dress for the weather
- Life jackets aren't just for kids!

As of 2011 anglers need a license to fish all waters of Maryland, including freshwater, tidal and salt water. For information on licensing and current fishing regulations please call or visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Services. www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/

WORCESTER COUNTY



For more information on recreational fishing, licenses, fishing tackle and where to fish, visit one of our many helpful tackle shops located throughout Worcester County. www.visitworcester.org • 800-852-0335. Or try these links:

Maryland Fishing Guide

http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishing_guide/guide.pdf

Maryland Fishing Regulations

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp>

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M A R Y L A N D

The action starts here



“Young people, ... always keep your eyes open to what Mother Nature has to teach you. You will learn many valuable things every day of your life.”

~ George Washington Carver

If you have a passion for fishing, then welcome to Worcester County Maryland, where fishing is always in season.

THE ETHICAL ANGLER

Practicing catch and release can enhance species numbers and also teach kids about conservation.

- Know the current legal size limits of game fish
- Use circle hooks or non-stainless hooks
- Do not hold fish by the gills
- Use a net, unhook fish while in the water
- Catch what you can, but keep only what you need.

CHARTER BOATS, HEAD BOATS, FISHING GUIDES & BOAT RENTALS

Worcester County has a large assortment of for-hire fishing boats that can take you from the rivers to the coastal bays, to the ocean hot spots.

Ake Marine

410-213-0421 • www.akemarine.com

Bahia Marina

410-289-7438 • 888-575-3625
www.bahiamarina.com

Fisherman's Marina

410-213-2478 • www.ocfishermansmarina.com

Harbor Marine

410-213-2296 • www.harbormarineoc.com

Harbour Island Marina

410-289-3511

Ocean Pines Yacht Club & Marina

410-641-7447 • www.oceanpines.org

Pocomoke River State Park

Shad Landing Area
410-632-2566

Sunset Marina

410-213-9600 • 877-514-3474
www.ocsunsetmarina.com

Talbot Street Pier

410-289-9125 • www.talbotstreetpier.com

White Marlin Marina

410-289-6470 • www.whitemarlinmarina.com

SHORELINE PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

Beach – The beaches of Ocean City and Assateague are great places to surf cast for kingfish, spot, flounder, stripers, bluefish, red drum, sharks, and the ubiquitous skates or rays. Best times to fish are late spring and fall. During summer fishing is allowed in Ocean City before and after the life guards are on duty. Assateague charges an entrance fee.

Route 50 Bridge – This is a popular place to fish for striped bass, bluefish, tautog, weakfish, and spadefish. Best times to fish are during the evenings through early morning. Access is from both the east and west side of the bridge.

Ocean City Inlet – This easy access rock jetty area is best for tautog, flounder, bluefish, shad, spadefish and sheepshead. Evenings are good for striped bass and weakfish.

Bulkhead Dock -2nd Street to 4th Street – This family friendly fishing spot has plenty of room to spread out to fish for flounder, bluefish, croaker and tautog. Fast water with lots of hang-ups, so bring extra tackle.

“Do not tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly don’t tell them where they know the fish.”

~ Mark Twain



9th Street Pier – A small fishing pier accessible for catching bluefish, flounder, croaker, tautog, spot and blue crabs.

Convention Center – Waters are shallow here, but anglers can catch bluefish, croaker and crabs from the dock.

Northside Park – 125 Street – A good family recreation site that is good for perch fishing and crabbing.

Gudelsky Park – off Old Bridge Road – A good place to fish for flounder, croaker, spot, bluefish and kingfish. Stripers can also be taken during the evenings.

Ocean Pier – A daily fee pier located off the boardwalk. Spot, kingfish, flounder, bluefish and small sharks are targeted here.

Oceanic Pier – A daily fee pier, it is located at the south end of Philadelphia Ave on the inlet. A good spot for weakfish, bluefish, stripers, flounder, shad, croaker, and tautog.

Assateague Island State Park – There is a public fishing pier at the state managed marina and boat ramp. A good spot to crab and anglers can try for spot, croaker, striped bass and flounder.

Public Landing – Located off Route 12 on 365 east, this pier is good for crabbing and fishing for white perch, spot, and croaker.

Taylor’s Landing – Located off Taylor’s Landing Road this boat ramp area has room to fish and crab.

George Island Landing – Located on Georges Landing Road in Stockton, the boat ramp area has crabs and white perch.

SURF FISHING

Worcester County is fortunate to have beautiful beaches at both Assateague Island and Ocean City. Assateague is 37 miles long and traverses both Maryland and Virginia. Ocean City is located on Fenwick Island, which stretches all the way to Indian River, Delaware. Barrier island fishing hot spots can change with every storm. Because of this its best to “read” a beach during low tide, preferably during a full moon period, allowing you to see emerging sloughs, sandbars and rips, all hot spots for red drum, black drum, striped bass and sharks.

Best times to fish the beach are during the top of the high tide through the first 3 hours of the ebb or falling tide, especially during a light northeast or southeast wind, which holds bait up along the beach. Best surf baits include soft crab, bloodworms, squid, clam, mullet, cut menhaden or spot and artificial lures such as metal spoons, jigs and swimming plugs.

FRESHWATER FISHING

POCOMOKE RIVER

The Pocomoke River originates in a huge cypress swamp in Delaware and flows southwest for 60 miles, emptying into the Chesapeake Bay. This river has twice daily tides, with an average 3 foot rise and fall. Fishing in the river is excellent for largemouth bass, pickerel, channel catfish, white perch, yellow perch, crappie, bluegill, and shad. It is also an important spawning river for striped bass.

Shore bound anglers can fish the river from several parks located in and around both the towns of Pocomoke and Snow Hill. Some of these are listed under the Free Fishing section.

Fishing the Pocomoke is a year round event. Many anglers believe

that the best time to fish is during the top of the high through the first few hours of falling tide. Spring and fall are popular for catching crappie, pickerel, yellow perch, white perch, and largemouth bass. Summer months are good for catfish, longnose gar, sunfish and even carp. The Pocomoke is also an important habitat for the American eel.

NASSAWANGO CREEK

This creek, at 18 miles long, is the largest tributary on the Pocomoke. The stream is wild and scenic and offers idea fishing from either canoe or kayak. The best drop in point is at the bridge on Red House Road, which is located off Route 12. Nassawango Creek is host to largemouth bass, crappie, both yellow and white perch, catfish, shad and longnose gar. Striped bass use the creek for spawning.

OTHER CREEKS AND PONDS

There are numerous small tidal creeks found throughout the county, including those around the coastal bays. Because of their location, some host both saltwater and freshwater species. Several of these such as **Ayers Creek**, **Herring Creek** and the **St. Martin River** are better suited for small water craft such as kayaks, canoes or smaller class power boats.

Stevens Pond – Located in Pocomoke, this small pond is actually connected by a short canal to the Pocomoke River. It has a small boardwalk which you can fish from. This is a good place to catch crappie, sunfish, shad, largemouth bass and catfish.

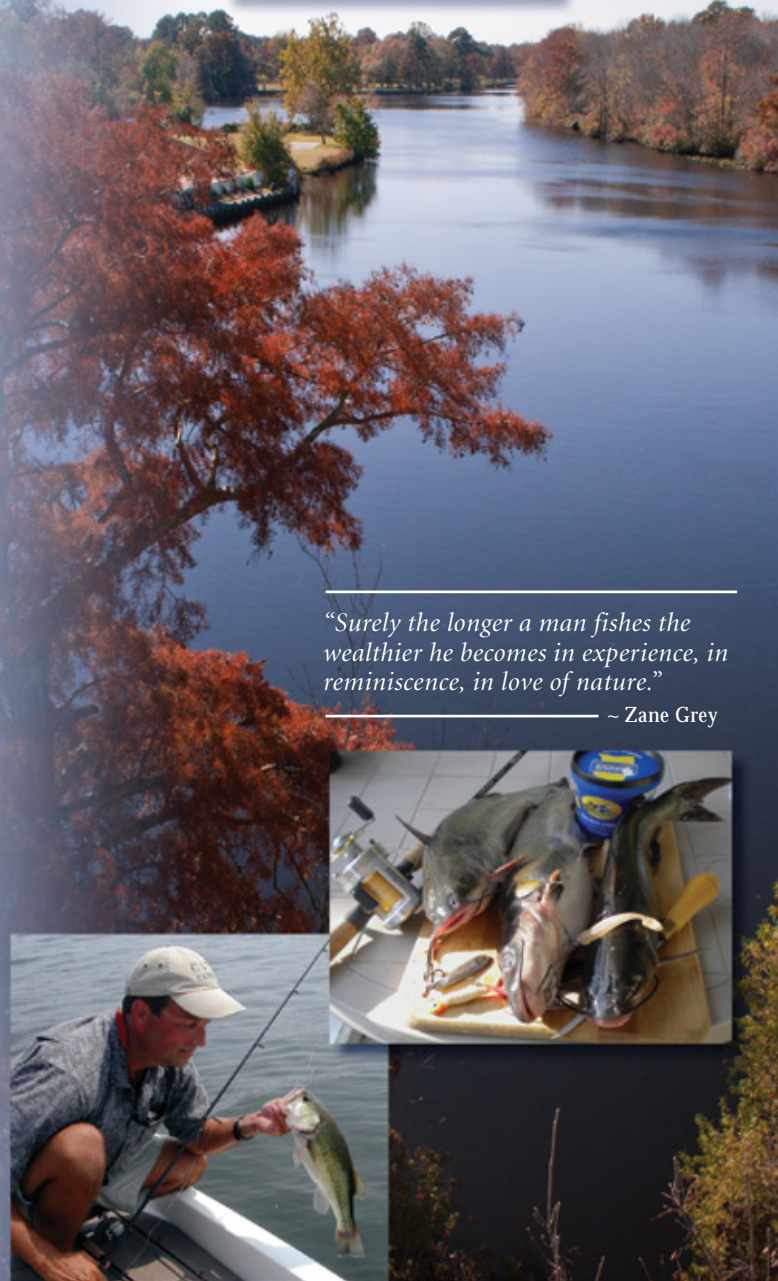
Big Mill Pond – It's actually small in size, at just 10 acres, with most of it filled in by spatterdock plants during the summer months. But there are sunfish and big bass here. Located off of Route 12 near the Virginia line.

LICENCE FREE FISHING AREAS

- **Pocomoke City** – County dock and boat ramp at Cedar Hall Landing on Route 371 on Pocomoke River.
- **Pocomoke City** – City owned docks from Laurel Street boat ramp, north to Winter Quarters dock on Pocomoke River.
- **Snow Hill** – County bridge on Pocomoke River at Porters Crossing Road, located west of Route 113 and east of Route 354.
- **Snow Hill** – All city owned Pocomoke River waterfront property which includes Byrd Park, Sturgis Park, and all city bulkheads on either side of the Route 12 bridge.
- **Cedar Hall Landing** – County owned dock and boat ramp on Pocomoke River. Located off of Route 371.

“All men are equal before fish.”

~ Herbert Hoover



“Surely the longer a man fishes the wealthier he becomes in experience, in reminiscence, in love of nature.”

~ Zane Grey

Ocean And Coastal Bays

PUBLIC BOAT RAMPS

Coastal Areas:

Shell Mill Landing – off Route 368 – Shell Mill Road
Gum Point Landing – off Route 589- Gum Point Road
West Ocean City – Golf Course Road
Assateague State Park – Verrazano Bridge
South Point – Off Route 611 – South Point Road

Mason Landing – off Route 113 – Marshall Creek Road
Harmon Landing – Newark – Harmon's Landing Road
Public Landing – off Route 365 east
Taylor's Island Landing – Girdletree – off Taylor's Landing Road
Georges Island Landing – Stockton – off Route 366

FISH FACTS – SALTWATER SPECIES



Summer Flounder – (fluke) A good fighter, flounder can be caught from spring through late fall. Hot spots include along channel edges, inside the OC inlet, the beach and offshore wrecks. Fish live minnows, squid strips and cut fresh baits strips along the bottom.



Sea Bass – (black will) Live from the coastal bays to offshore wrecks and reefs. They are black and gray in color with flecks of blue and green along their fin edges. They can be caught on clam, squid, crab and heavy jigs, primarily during the late spring through fall.



Tautog – (blackfish) Are found primarily offshore inhabiting wrecks and artificial reefs, also along the rocks at the OC inlet. They prefer baits of mole crab, blue crab, or fresh clam. Characterized by a wide, dark body, thick lips, and large front teeth.



Speckled Trout – (spotted trout) Beautiful fish with dark round spots on a silver gray upper body, with a greenish dorsal fish. They frequent back bays, channels and near shore areas, including the surf, feeding on crabs, baitfish, and small squid. They will hit lures such as jigs or swimming plugs fished near shorelines and around structure.



Striped Bass – (rockfish, stripers) Maryland's official state fish, belongs to the true bass family. Found around ocean shoals, surf, OC Inlet, coastal bays, Pocomoke River and Chesapeake. Spawns in brackish water areas. Will hit fresh cut baits and lures such as bucktails, swim shads, swimming plugs and jigs. Good fighter and excellent eating.



Atlantic Croaker – (hardheads) Light silver, gray body up to 4 pounds. Large schools move into coastal bays, ocean shoals, surf and Chesapeake in summer season. Bottom feeder hits squid, soft crab, bloodworms and small jigs. Good fighter on light tackle.



Black Drum – (drum fish) Deep, short body with soft barbs under chin. Found along coastal shoals, beach and Chesapeake. Bottom feeder likes crab, clam, cut baits. Can reach over 100 pounds. Smaller class fish are better eating.

Red Drum – (redfish) This hard fighting



fish can be found along ocean shoals, surf, tidal bays, and Chesapeake. Will bite fresh cut baits, soft crab, and lures such as jigs, swim shads, swimming plugs, and gold spoons. Only fish with black spot on tail. Hard fighting and excellent eating.

Sharks – There is a large assortment of sharks which seasonally inhabit both back bays and ocean waters. Local shark species include the prized mako, thrasher, hammerhead, sand shark, sandbar, dusky, and the ubiquitous smooth dogfish. Can be caught offshore or from the beach. Use fresh cut baits.

Kingfish – (whiting) These great eating fish can be caught from the surf or in coastal bays on small hooks baited with bloodworms, squid, crab or clam. Kingfish can be caught from late spring through fall and prefer to feed along sandy bottom areas.

Bluefish – (blues) A tough fighting fish, with a mouthful of teeth, they can be caught in the surf, the OC inlet, coastal bays and offshore shoals and wrecks. They have a greenish-blue color and will often travel in age class schools. Bluefish will hit live baits, cut baits, trolled lures, and cast jigs. Smaller size fish are good eating when fresh.

Yellowfin Tuna – Target species of the offshore fleet out of OC. These beautiful fish sport long pectoral fins and yellow highlights along their fin lines. They travel in large schools and can be caught offshore from May through October. They will hit trolled squids, ballyhoo, and various colorful lures.

Bluefin Tuna – These highly migratory brutes are usually the first seasonal tuna to arrive off Maryland. They have a robust body with a dark blue back, silver colored sides and small yellow finlets located behind the dorsal fin. These hard pulling fish feed on bluefish and squid among offshore haunts, including the canyons. They will hit trolled feathers, cedar plugs, and various jigs.

Dolphin – (mahi mahi) Has bright greens, yellow and purple along its body. Dolphin offer all the best of gamefish including beauty, fighting, acrobatics, and great table fare. A fast growing species, it can be caught trolling or jigging in deep waters far offshore.

White Marlin – This fish is an obsession for many offshore anglers and is highly regarded in OC. It has a high dorsal fin and its body is blue-green, with silver- white, along with a white belly. Its bill is long and distinguished. This tail walking battler can be caught from May until October trolling the azure blue waters of offshore canyons and hills.