

Maryland Fish Consumption Advisories

for Recreationally Caught Fish in Dorchester County, MD

Guidelines for Recreationally Caught Fish Species in Maryland Fresh, Estuarine, and Marine Waters

Recommended Meal Size: 8 oz or 9 crabs - General Population and Women; 3 oz or 4 crabs - Children

Note: Consumption recommendations based on spacing of meals to avoid elevated exposure levels, fish contaminated

1 **Women** = women of childbearing age (women who are pregnant or may become pregnant, or are nursing)

2 **Children** = all young children up to age 6

♥ = Fish contains more than 1g beneficial fatty acids in a fillet the size of 2 decks of cards

✘ = Fish where all dark meat and/or Belly Fat has been removed, this leads to a reduction in PCB contamination

Contaminant present in fish: * Mercury Δ PCBs + Pesticides ◇ PFOS

Species	Waterbody		Recommended Meals/Month		
			General Population	Women ¹	Children ²
Atlantic Croaker	Lower Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries	Δ	4	4	4
American Eel	Choptank River	Δ	1	1	1
Black Sea Bass	Lower Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries	◇	2	2	1
Blue Catfish	Choptank River	15" - 24" ◇	No Limit	8	5
	Nanticoke River	15" - 24" Δ	7	7	6
	Nanticoke River: Marshy Hope Creek	15" - 24" Δ	No Limit	No Limit	7
Blue Crab	Back River, Middle River or Patapsco River	Δ	6	6	5
	Other Areas of the Bay	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
Blue Crab "Mustard"	Back River, Middle River or Patapsco River	Δ	Avoid	Avoid	Avoid
	Other Areas of the Bay	Δ	Eat Sparingly	Eat Sparingly	Eat Sparingly
Channel Catfish	Choptank River	Δ	2	2	2
	Nanticoke River	Δ	1 every other month	1 every other month	1 every other month
	Upper Choptank River: Tuckahoe Branch	Δ	2	2	2
Large and Smallmouth Bass ♥	Nanticoke River: Marshy Hope Creek	◇	No Limit	8	4
	Upper Choptank River: Greensboro Branch	◇	3	2	1
Northern Snakehead	Nanticoke River: Marshy Hope Creek	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	8
Rainbow Trout and Golden Rainbow Trout (Hatchery Raised)	All Hatchery Raised fish stocked in Anne Arundel County, Allegany County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Caroline County, Cecil County, Charles County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Washington County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
**For more information on put-and-take fish see https://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/put-and-take-trout-fishing-areas **For more information on Special Management Areas-Trout see https://www.eregulations.com/maryland/fishing/special-management-areas-trout					
Spot ♥	Choptank River	Δ	5	5	4
	Lower Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries	◇	3	3	2
	Nanticoke River	Δ	5	5	4
Striped Bass (Rockfish) ♥	Choptank River	< 28" ◇	No Limit	8	5
	Lower Chesapeake Bay and Tributaries	< 28" Δ ✘	No Limit	No Limit	7
		< 28" Δ	3	3	2
		> 28" Δ ✘	No Limit	No Limit	5
	> 28" Δ	1	1	1 every other month	
Nanticoke River: Marshy Hope Creek	< 28" ◇	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit	
Sunfish (including Bluegill)	Choptank River	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit



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Species	Waterbody		Recommended Meals/Month		
			General Population	Women ¹	Children ²
White Catfish	Nanticoke River	Δ	2	2	2
White Perch	Choptank River	◇	4	4	2
	Nanticoke River	Δ	8	8	7
	Northeast River	Δ	3	2	1
Yellow Perch	Choptank River	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
	Upper Choptank River: Greensboro Branch	◇	3	2	1
	Upper Choptank River: Tuckahoe Branch	Δ	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit