

1999 TOURNAMENT TIMES

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Tournament Manager: Angel Bolinger
customerservice@dnr.state.md.us



Number Crunch

Since 1994, the Maryland Sport Fishing Tournament has had a steady increase in angler participation; 1999 was no different. In 1999, 6,455 entries were received for the tournament; an increase of 1,228 entries from 1998. Of those 6,455 entries, 4,163 citations were issued and 2,292 received patches in addition to a citation. Once again, striped bass was the most popular species in the Chesapeake Bay division with 2,818 entries. That is an amazing increase of 1,114 entries from 1998! In the freshwater division, largemouth bass remains the most popular species receiving 149 entries,

which is 13 less than in 1998. Flounder was the top species in the Atlantic division in 1999 with 150 entries, which is an increase of 20 entries from 1998.

Catch & Release

The Department of Natural Resources sponsored its 9th annual Catch and Release program. This program is designed to award fishermen for releasing "keepers" for future generations. In addition, it promotes conservation and good fishing ethics. In 1999, 309 entries qualified to receive the special catch and release citation and patch. White marlin (all billfish and sharks must be released) was the most popular species entered into the program with largemouth bass coming in second. Congratulations to Blue Marlin Tackle for sending in the most Catch and Release entries!

Citation Center Data

Once again Breezy Point Fishing Center, Chesapeake Beach, MD, topped the ranks with 788 entries surpassing Bunky's Charter Boats in Solomons, MD, by only 6 entries! Johnny's Bait House on Deep Creek Lake, continues to be the dominant citation center for the freshwater division sending in 345 entries. Oceanside, Buck's Place sent in 174 entries. On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, I would like to thank all the citation centers for your hard work and cooperation in 1999. I look forward to working with each center in 2000.

All Maryland Angler

Nine people qualified as an All Maryland Angler in 1999. They include:

- Ray Crouse II
- Robert Devereaux
- Steve Eccleston
- Donald Fountain
- Bobby Graves
- Jayne M. Queer
- Will Smith

- Morris E. Williams
- Thomas M. Wilson.

These anglers entered at least 5 different **patch** sized species into the tournament. Congratulations!

All Maryland Angler Trivia

- Bobby Graves, Robert Devereaux, Steve Eccleston, and Morris E. Williams have attained the status of All Maryland Angler each year since 1997.
- Will Smith and Thomas M. Wilson both qualified in '97 and '99.

Angler Highlight

Ray Crouse, II not only qualified as a 1999 All Maryland Angler with 10 different patch size species, but he also will receive 9 of the freshwater division species plaques! In addition, Mr. Crouse had 8 entries in the Catch and Release program. Mr. Crouse was also a 1998 All Maryland Angler. Congratulations Mr. Crouse!

Tournament Changes for 2000

- Lower Catch and Release size requirements on 12 species!
- Walleye has been added to the Chesapeake Bay division. Minimum size requirements are 20 inches for a citation and 26 inches to receive a patch.
- In the Atlantic Division, the citation minimum size requirement for Spotted seatrout and weakfish has changed to 20 inches so that it corresponds to the Chesapeake Bay division. The patch size requirement remains the same.
- **New Category:** My 1st Fish

This program will recognize an angler of any age that catches a fish in fresh or tidal waters of the State of Maryland, for the first time in their life. A special certificate will be awarded. All catches must comply with Department regulations or must be immediately released.

- Special citations will be awarded upon approval of the tournament director in the case of unusual catches or extenuating circumstances.

Biggest Fish of Each Species per Division

Sixty-four people will receive a species-specific plaque in recognition of catching the biggest fish of that particular species in the tournament. The following is a list of the winner(s) separated by division.

ATLANTIC

SPECIES	WINNER	LENGTH (in.)
Albacore	John V. Weidler	51.5
Black Drum	Endre Pasztor	46

Bluefish	Scott M. Grasser	42
Croaker	Michael Smyth	19.5
Dolphin	John "Jake" McCuen	52
False Albacore	Scott Peters	28
Flounder	Darwin D. Young	28.75
Northern Whiting	Terry Townsend	15.25
Red Drum	Carroll Hastings	48
Seabass	Toby Seiders	22.25
Sheepshead	Rob Baldwin	26
Spanish Mackerel	Brent Garland and David D'Aurora	24
Spot	Edward Kirk	11.5
Spotted Seatrout	Kevin Brack	31
Striped Bass	Chris Vasquez	49
Tautog	Joseph F. Schaffer	27.875
Bigeye Tuna	Robert Todd Cannady and Chet Phillips	54
Bluefin Tuna	Robert S. Poole	65
Yellowfin Tuna	Lucius Lamar	52
Wahoo	George Antellas, Jr.	74.5
Weakfish	Ben Esham	

CHESAPEAKE BAY

SPECIES	WINNER	LENGTH (in.)
Black Drum	Jacob Adam Henderson	56
Bluefish	Patrick Hogan	38.5
Carp	Hillard H. Head	43
Channel Catfish	Robert Gannon	34
Chain Pickerel	Eric Freeman	24.5
Cobia	Will Smith	54
Crappie	Dan Downer, Sr.	14.5
Croaker	Francine I. Coleman	22
Flounder	Richard A. Scott	28

Largemouth Bass	Dave Ziegler	24.5
Red Drum	Merritt Robbins	50.25
Sheepshead	Tom Horan	24
Smallmouth Bass	Nicholas Lynch	23
Spanish Mackerel	Peg Gerding	34
Spot	Linda L. Causey	14
Spotted Seatrout	Dennis McClelland, Jr.	31
Striped Bass	Donald Berezoski	53
Weakfish	Mike Hester	31
White Perch	Andrew Kelley	15.5
Yellow Perch	Robert Mason and Robert T. Mason, III and Clayton C. Sherrill, III	

FRESHWATER

SPECIES	WINNER	LENGTH (in.)
Bluegill	Larry W. Shifflett	13.5
Brook Trout	Mike Fiorita, Jr.	22.5
Brown Trout	Scott McFarland	29
Carp	Ray Crouse, II	44
Channel Catfish	Ray Crouse, II	38.375
Chain Pickerel	Tracy Riley	27
Crappie	Ray Crouse, II	19
Largemouth Bass	Ray Crouse, II	27.75
Muskellunge	Keith Imes	45.5
Northern Pike	Shawn Jacobson	46
Rainbow Trout	Ray Crouse, II	28.5
Redear Sunfish	Ray Crouse, II	11.25
Rock Bass	Ray Crouse, II	12.5
Striped Bass	Dean Barrett	45.5
Smallmouth Bass	Ray Crouse, II	23.75
Walleye	Matthew Hill	32.25
White Perch	Bryan L. Rees	13.25
Yellow Perch	Ray Crouse, II	15.75

New State Records

Eight state records were broken in 1999!



Mike Fiorita, Jr. from Falling Waters, WV, was fishing the North Branch of the Potomac River below Randolph Dam on April 10, 1999. Fiorita reeled in a 6 lb, 1.75 oz, 22.5 inch brook trout using corn for bait.



Mary Godfrey of Ownings Mills, MD, was fishing Liberty Reservoir on May 1, 1999 when she established the freshwater state record for white perch. The 1 lb., 12 inch perch was lured in with a worm.



Dean Barrick, of Westminster, MD, was trolling crankbaits in Liberty Reservoir on May 23, 1999 when he hooked this 44 lb., 8 oz striped bass measuring 45.5 inches.



Donnie Simon of Annapolis, MD established

the thresher shark state record for the Atlantic division.

Simmons landed the 585 lb. thresher on June 4, 1999 while fishing the 20th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament. The shark was 15 feet, 11 inches and was caught using a whole false albacore. Photo courtesy of Dale Timmons.



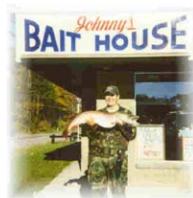
Donald Wilson of Fort Washington, MD, was fishing at Fort Washington off the Potomac River on August 8, 1999 when he caught this 39 lb., 4 oz, 41.625 inch blue catfish. Wilson was using herring for bait.



Tom Horan of Clarksville, MD was bottom fishing the Chesapeake Bay Middle Grounds on September 25, 1999 when he landed this 6 lb., 5.92 oz, 24 inch sheepshead. The sheepshead was caught using squid for bait.



Joseph E. Haller, of Lusby, MD, broke the Spanish mackerel state record on October 10, 1999. Haller was trolling a parachute rig off Kenwood Beach when he reeled in the 9 lb., 6.4 oz, 32 inch mackerel.



Shawn Jacobson, of Phoenix, MD, was bottom fishing Deep Creek Lake when he caught this 24 lb., 12 oz, 46.5 inch

northern pike. Jacobson was fishing a live shiner in 6 feet of water.