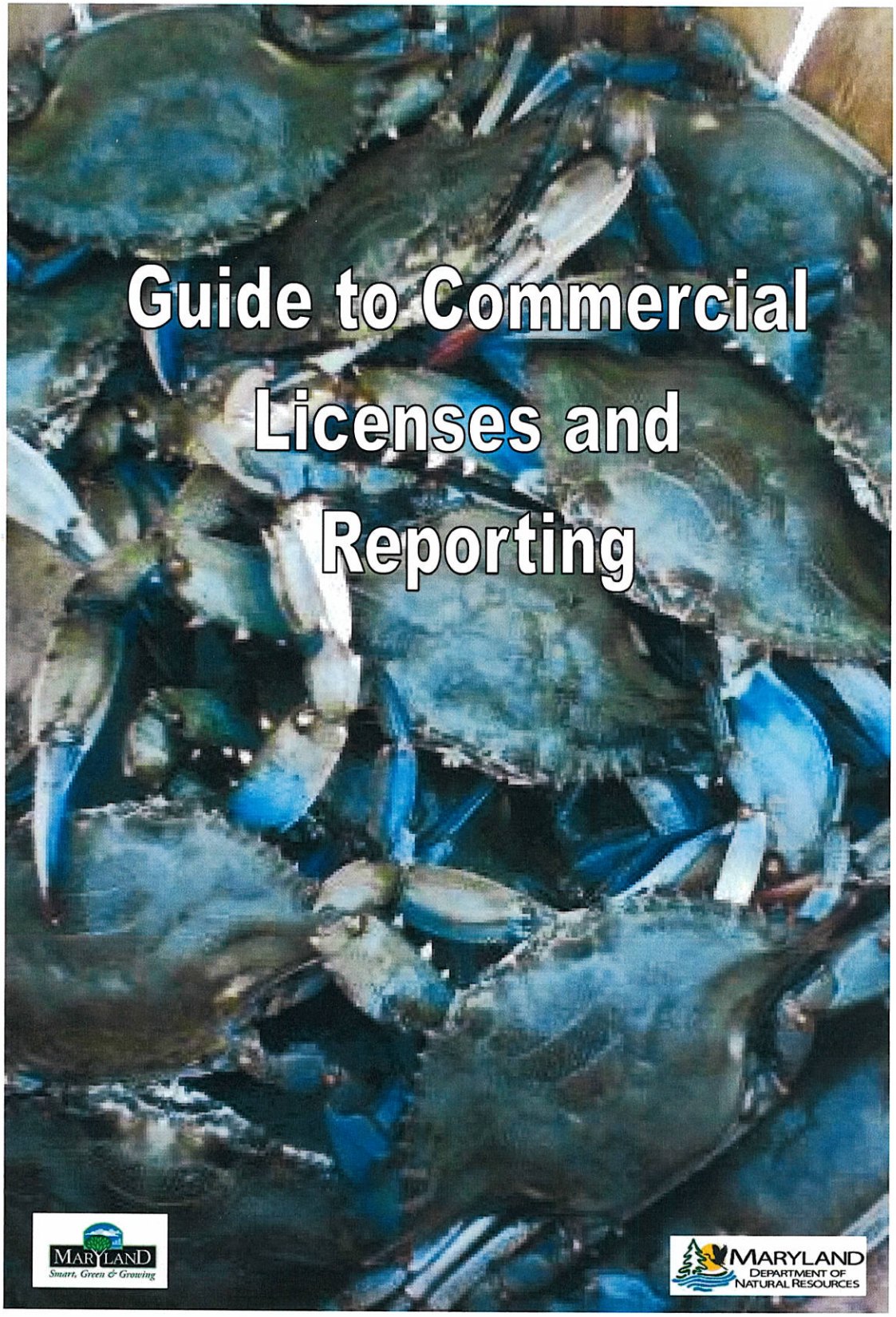

Guide to Commercial Licenses and Reporting

MARYLAND
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DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

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Helpful Contacts

Commercial Reporting
- Commercial Reporting Hotline: 1-800-893-2722
- FACTS Reporting: Stephanie Richards, 410-260-8314
- SAFIS Reporting: Connie Lewis, 410-260-8296

Permits and Compliance
- Permitted Species: Chris Jones, 410-260-8293

Regulations
- General Questions: 410-260-8300
- Oyster & Clam Regulations: Frank Marenghi, 410-260-8302

Visit the Commercial Fisheries webpage for more information:
http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/index.asp

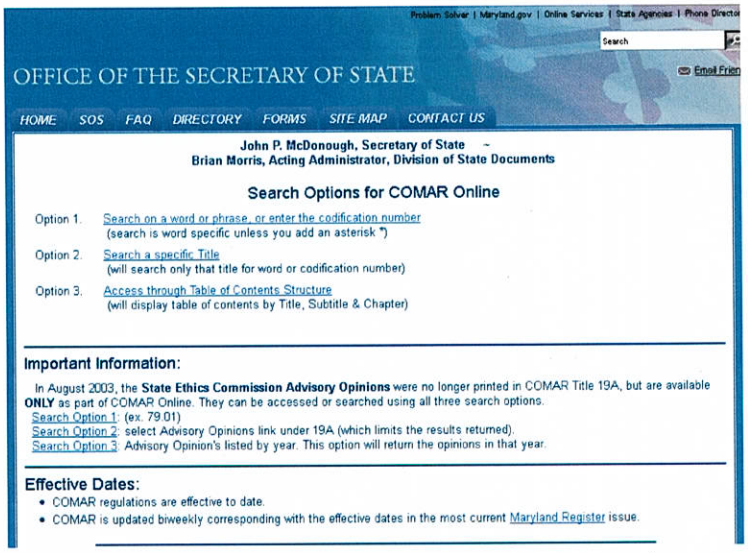
Updated May 2016

Commercial Regulations

Regulations change throughout the year. The best way to learn about applicable regulations is to search the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) at http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html. Visit the DNR Fisheries Regulations webpage at http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/regindex.asp for regulations summaries by species and gear type as well as proposed or draft regulations.

COMAR Online:
There are three different ways to search for regulations in COMAR.

1. The first is a keyword search that brings up all regulations with that keyword, or search for a specific codification number. Some species have many common names, so if one name produces no results, try the other name (i.e. use striped bass instead of rockfish).
2. The second option is a keyword search within a specific title. Select the title "08" for the Department of Natural Resources and search for a keyword or codification number within that title.
3. The third option is to navigate through the Table of Contents. Choose "Title 08" for the Department of Natural Resources. From there, choose the subtitle "02 Fisheries Service". Select one of the chapters to view a list of all the regulations in that chapter.



Maryland Annotated Code
In addition to COMAR, read the Maryland Annotated Code online at http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/mdcode/. Scroll down to "Natural Resources" and click + then click + for "Title 4: Fish and Fisheries". Choose the + next to the applicable subtitle to view the laws.

Public Notices
For certain species, DNR may modify catch limits, size limits, quotas, or open or close a season by public notice. To view these public notices, visit http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/notices/notices.asp.

Still have questions about regulations? Call 410-260-8300

License Types

License Name	Abbreviation	Annual Fee	Description
Limited Crab Harvester	LCC	$100	Allows the use of up to 50 crab pots to harvest crabs.
Crab Harvester - 300 pots	CB3	$150	Allows the use of up to 300 crab pots to harvest crabs.
Crab Harvester - 600 pots	CB6	$100	Allows the use of up to 600 crab pots to harvest crabs. Must already have a CB3 or TFL
Crab Harvester - 900 pots	CB9	$150	Allows the use of up to 900 crab pots to harvest crabs. Must already have a CB3 or TFL
Finfish - Hook & Line	HLI	$100	Allows the use of hook and line to harvest finfish.
Unlimited Finfish Harvester	FIN	$150	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest finfish.
Unlimited Tidal Fish	TFL	$300	Comprehensive license. Includes CB3, FIN, OYH, ODB, CLM, CTL, and FGR. Must pay oyster surcharge of $300 to harvest oysters.
Oyster Harvester	OYH	$100	Allows the use of diving, tonging, or hand-scraping to harvest oysters. Must pay an oyster surcharge of $300 to harvest oysters.
Oyster Dredge Boat	ODB	$250	Allows the use of a dredge boat to harvest oysters. Must pay an oyster surcharge of $300 in order to harvest oysters.
Clam Harvester	CLM	$100	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest clams.
Conch, Turtles & Lobster	CTL	$100	Allows the use of all legal equipment to harvest conch, turtles, and lobsters.
Resident Fishing Guide	FGR	$100	Allows a Maryland resident to provide services as a fishing guide in the tidal waters of Maryland. Must have U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Captain's license.
Nonresident Fishing Guide	FGN	$200	Allows a nonresident to provide services as a fishing guide in the tidal waters of Maryland. Must have USCG Captain's license.
Master Guide	FGV	$100	A per vessel charge. Allows licensee to hire a captain without a fishing guide license, but who posses a USCG Captain's license.
Seafood Landing	SFL	$350	Allows the landing and selling in Maryland of fish, scallops, and certain shellfish harvested outside of state waters.
Seafood Dealer	FDL	$250/$50	Allows the buying and selling of seafood caught in Maryland waters. $250 for non-harvesters; $50 for harvesters.
Northern Snake-head Bowfishing License	NSB	$15	Allows the use of bowfishing gear to harvest Northern snakehead

These licenses allow harvest from Maryland tidal waters, excluding the Potomac River. Individuals who would like to obtain a commercial tidal fish license are put on a waiting list until a license becomes available. The waiting lists are maintained by the DNR Service Centers. To find the nearest Service Center, visit http://dnr2.maryland.gov/Pages/service_centers.aspx.

Permit Types

You MUST have a permit to catch certain species in Maryland. These include:

- American Eel
- Black Sea Bass*
- Horseshoe Crab*
- Snapping Turtle
- Spiny Dogfish
- Striped Bass
- Summer Flounder*
- Yellow Perch

*Permitted species with bycatch allowances. For details, visit http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/regulations/table.asp?c=commercial or search the Code of Maryland Regulations.

Below is a table that shows which license types are eligible to receive each permit.

	License Required						
Permit Type	TFL	FIN	HLI	CTL	SFL	LCC	CB3
American Eel	X	X	X		X	X	X
Black Sea Bass	X	X	X		X		
Horseshoe Crab	X	X			X		
Snapping Turtle	X			X			
Spiny Dogfish	X	X	X		X		
Striped Bass	X	X	X				
Summer Flounder	X	X	X		X		
Yellow Perch	X	X	X				

Limited Entry Fisheries:

- **Black Sea Bass:** Individuals need a federal permit and a federally registered vessel in addition to a Maryland permit. Permit holders are assigned a certain percentage of the annual quota at the beginning of the season, whereby they have all year to catch their assigned percentage.
  Fee: $25
- **Horseshoe Crab:** A daily catch limit is assigned to permit holders based on historical catches from previous years.
  Fee: $25
- **Spiny Dogfish:** A daily catch limit is assigned to permit holders based on historical catches from previous years.
  Fee: $25
- **Striped Bass:** Individuals are assigned a share and choose to enter those allocated pounds into either the Common Pool or Individual Transferable Quota fishery.
  Fee: $150 (with TFL), $200 (with FIN or HLI)
- **Summer Flounder:** Individuals need a federal permit and a federally registered vessel in addition to a Maryland permit. Permit holders are assigned a certain percentage of the annual quota at the beginning of the season, whereby they have all year to catch their assigned percentage.
  Fee: $25

Unlimited Entry Fisheries:

- **American Eel:** Season and catch limits set by public notice. Free permit.
- **Snapping Turtle:** Season open year-round.
  Fee: $25
- **Yellow Perch:** Regulations are area specific: Upper Bay, Chester River, and Patuxent River.
  Fee: $25

Menhaden Bycatch Landing Permit:

Individuals who meet certain criteria may receive a Menhaden Bycatch Landing Permit, which allows permit holders to continue harvesting menhaden after the fishery is closed. Catch limits are announced by public notice.

Commercial Reporting

The following commercial reports must be sent to DNR each month during the time period listed:

- Daily Commercial Fisheries Catch Log (Finfish Report)
  Due January through December
- Daily Record of Commercial Crabbing (Crab Report)
  Due April through December
- Commercial Charter Boat Captain's Daily Log (Charter Report)
  Due April through December
- Maryland Monthly Oyster Report (Oyster Report)
  Due October through March
- Maryland Monthly Clam Report (Clam Report)
  Due September through August
- Maryland Report of Seafood Buying Activity (Dealer Report)
  Due January through December

Report Due Dates

Monthly reports are due to DNR no later than the 10th day following the end of the reporting month (i.e. the April report is due by May 10th). If DNR has not received a report by that time it is considered LATE. The names of those individuals with late reports appear on the "Late Reports" list on the commercial fisheries webpage at http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/commercial/index.asp. If the report is still not received by DNR 50 days after the report due date, the licensee receives an official violation. Two or more official violations for any of the report types in a 12 month period may result in a license suspension.

The table below lists which reports each license type is responsible for.

		Common Report Name				
License Type	Abbreviation	Finfish Report	Crab Report	Charter Log	Oyster Report	Clam Report
Limited Crab Harvester	LCC		X			
Crab Harvester - 300/600/900 pots	CB3/CB6/CB9		X			
Finfish - Hook & Line	HLI	X				
Unlimited Finfish Harvester	FIN	X				
Unlimited Tidal Fish	TFL	X	X	*Y	*Z	*O
Oyster Harvester	OYH				*Z	
Oyster Dredge Boat	ODB				*Z	
Clam Harvester	CLM					*O
Conch, Turtles & Lobster	CTL	X				
Resident Fishing Guide	FGR			*Y		
Nonresident Fishing Guide	FGN			*Y		
Master Guide	FGV			*Y		
Northern Snakehead Bowfishing	NSB	X				

*O - Only required if the licensee has declared for either hard, soft, razor clams.

*Y - Only required from a licensee with a registered charter vessel.

*Z - Only required if the licensee has paid the oyster surcharge.

Ways to Submit Reports

Mail paper reports to:

Fisheries Service Attn: Fisheries Statistics Program 580 Taylor Avenue B-2 Annapolis, MD 21401

Email to FisheriesHarvestReport.DNR@maryland.gov

Fax to 410-260-8279, Attn: Fisheries Statistics Program.

Find blank reports online at http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/commercial-reporting.aspx

Electronic Reporting Options

FACTS Electronic Reporting

Reporting crab and finfish harvest– including striped bass and yellow perch– is available through the FACTS electronic reporting system. This program allows participants to report through a website accessed from a smartphone, tablet, or computer, or by calling into a call center. Individuals only report on the days that they work. Special incentives are available to participants, including a flexible day off for crabbers, and using box tags for yellow perch. For more information, visit http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/e-reporting/index.aspx or call Stephanie Richards at 410-260-8314.

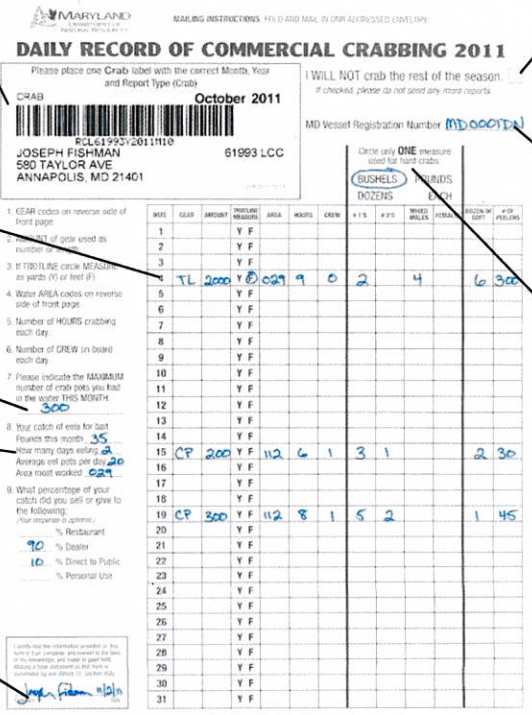
SAFIS Online Reporting

The SAFIS online reporting system is only for those who already have an account. If you have any questions, contact Connie Lewis at 410-260-8296.

Questions about reporting? Call the Commercial Reporting Hotline at 1-800-893-2722

Turn to the back cover for instructions on how to fill out a crab or finfish report.

How to fill out Crab and Finfish reports



Place the CRAB barcode for the appropriate month on the report. Please use only one label per report.

Check the box if you are finished for the year. Please do not send any more reports for the rest of the season.

Write your vessel registration number or documentation number on the line.

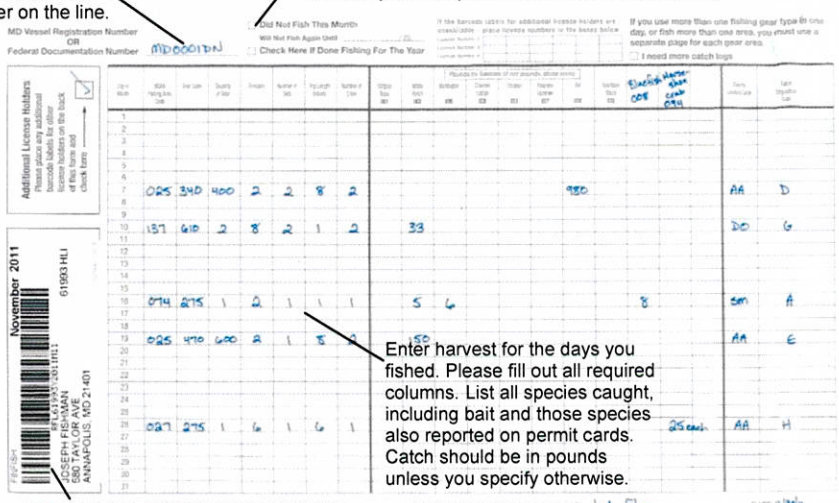
Enter harvest for the days you crabbed. Please fill out all information for the gear type & amount, area, hours, and crew. Crew is the number of non license holders.

Circle only one measure used for hard crabs. Convert all hard crab amounts to the measure you chose. Soft crabs must be in DOZENS, peelers must be in EACH.

Record the maximum number of crab pots in the water that month. If you catch eel for bait, record that in the appropriate spaces.

Be sure to sign your report.

DNR Copy - Return to DNR



Check the box if you did not fish. Write in a month when you will continue fishing. Check the bottom box if you are finished for the year. Please do not send any more reports for the rest of the season.

Write your vessel registration number or documentation number on the line.

Enter harvest for the days you fished. Please fill out all required columns. List all species caught, including bait and those species also reported on permit cards. Catch should be in pounds unless you specify otherwise.

Place the FINFISH barcode for the appropriate month on the report. Place additional barcodes on the back of the form.

Be sure to sign your report.