



# Maryland Application for State Record Sport Fish Catch Consideration

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** To report a potential state record catch immediately call 1-877-620-8367 or email Customer Service at [customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov). Then, fill out this application and submit to [customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:customerservice.dnr@maryland.gov) or mail to the address located at the bottom (Attn: State Fishing Record).

Angler's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Species Caught: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Catch: \_\_\_\_\_

Region Caught (Circle One):                      Atlantic                      Chesapeake                      Freshwater

Specific Location Caught (As Best Described, Along with Name of Body of Water): \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Fish was Weighed: \_\_\_\_\_

Scale operator's name (Cannot be angler who caught fish): \_\_\_\_\_

Scale operator's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of establishment where fish was weighed: \_\_\_\_\_

Angler signature: \_\_\_\_\_

MDDNR biologist name and signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Submit signed application with clear photograph of fish to DNR within two weeks of catch.*

### Photo Release for Children Under 18 Years of Age

I hereby grant to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and to its employees, agents, and assigns the right to photograph my dependent and use the photo and or other digital reproduction of him/her or other reproduction of his/her physical likeness for publication processes, whether electronic, print, digital, or electronic publishing via the Internet.

Parent or Guardian's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Maryland Department of Natural Resources maintains state records for sport fish and awards a plaque to anglers whose catch exceeds the current state record or establishes a new species category. Keep the fish whole, positive identification of the species of fish is mandatory, the catch must be inspected in person by a fisheries biologist from the department. To preserve the weight, immerse the fish in ice water until it can be weighed. All possible state record fish will be reviewed under the official state record rules ([dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/staterecordrules.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/challenge/staterecordrules.aspx)).

State record fish are determined by weight. Most fishing tackle shops do not have certified scales, so call ahead. Establishments that sell products by weight such as grocery stores, seafood retailers and mailing/shipping outlets should have a certified scale and may be willing to help.

Except for fish in the invasive species category, all fish must be legally caught with rod and reel during its open season. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook and fight the fish without the aid of any other person. The reel must be operated manually. Once the leader is brought to the rod tip, one or more people may help land the fish. Fish that have been snagged, shot, gaffed\*, speared, scaled, or mutilated are not eligible. \*Gaffing is illegal in the Chesapeake Bay, but is allowed for securing and boating fish in ocean waters, after they have been brought to the side of the boat with rod and reel.

Fish designated as an invasive species (currently Northern snakehead, blue catfish and flathead catfish) may be caught and kept by all legal recreational fishing gear including rod and reel, bow and arrow, spear, trotline, jugline, etc.

Fish caught from privately-owned fee fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.

The fish must be considered trophy sized for the department to consider opening a new species category for state record recognition. Thresholds for trophy size are established by the department using the best data available to create a benchmark weight. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to investigate the methods used in catching the fish and the accuracy of the measuring and weighing process. The state reserves the right to reject any application based on the results of an investigation.