

Program Flexibilities

- Blue Crab -

Flexible Day Off

- Pilot participants will observe a crabbing week from Wednesday through Tuesday.
- Pilot participants shall not crab on more than six (6) days during any crabbing week, except as otherwise specifically permitted by the department for holidays.
- Pilot participants are required to display the letters "EHR" on their vessel throughout their participation in the Pilot. The letters shall be painted or firmly attached to the port side near the stern of the vessel. The letters shall be plain vertical block characters of not less than 3 inches in height and shall contrast with the color of the background.

Early Start Time for Crab Pots

(June, July and August only)

- Pilot participants licensed to catch crabs for sale may remove crabs from crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay up to two (2) hours before sunrise by electing to start early in FACTS™ as part of their start hail for each trip during the months of June, July and August.
- Pilot participants will observe an eight hour workday so that if they elect to start early they must cease removing crabs from their pots six (6) hours after sunrise in the months of June, July and August regardless of their start time.
- Pilot participants licensed to catch crabs for sale may remove crabs from crab pots in the Chesapeake Bay up to three (3) hours before sunrise on July 3 and July 4 by electing to start early in FACTS™ on those days, and must cease removing crabs from their pots six (6) hours after sunrise.

- Finfish -

Commercial Striped Bass Fishery

- Pilot participants will have the flexibility to check-in harvest on the next day after a fishing trip. A previous day's harvest can be checked in either by itself, or can be combined with the next day's harvest at the end of the second fishing day.
- Pilot participants can designate authorized representatives to check harvest in under their license. Pilot participants will set up accounts (user name and password) for each authorized representative to use when checking harvest. Authorized representatives cannot check-in harvest the next fishing day after harvest.

Commercial Yellow Perch Fishery

- Pilot participants will be allowed to use box tags in place of individual tags for their harvest.
- Pilot participants are no longer required to call in daily to the Yellow Perch Hotline.

- Striped Bass Charter Fishery -

- Except as provided below, pilot participants operating under a Resident Fishing Guide License (FGR), Nonresident Fishing Guide License (FGN), Master Fishing Guide License (FGM) or Unlimited Tidal Fish License (TFL) will have the flexibility to possess up to two striped bass per passenger per fishing trip, including one striped bass greater than 28 inches, within the open recreational striped bass season after May 15. Due to restrictions in COMAR 08.02.01.10, all other fishing guides operating in Maryland waters are not eligible for this flexibility.
- Pilot participants may only possess one striped bass per passenger per fishing trip when fishing on open areas of the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Flats and Northeast River from May 16 through May 31.

Regulations Issues or Questions

Contact the department's Maryland Commercial Regulations Group for assistance:

Jacob Holtz: 410-260-8262

jacob.holtz@maryland.gov

E-Reporting with FACTS™

Simple. Fast. Accurate.



Program Participant's Information Guide

Program Contact Information

24 hour Helpline: 877-979-1820

For assistance with your FACTS™ account

24 hour Call Center: 855-390-2722

To report trip and harvest activity

E-Reporting Program: 410-260-8314

fisheriesreporting.dnr@maryland.gov

580 Taylor Avenue, B-2

Annapolis, MD 21401



dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries
4/2020



E-Reporting with FACTS™ Program Information

To access all account features:

maryland.fisheryfacts.com

- Account Preferences
- All Trip Activity (Start and End, plus history)
- Harvest Summary
- Messages
- Quota Status and Quota Share Transfers
- Request Pilot Program Permit(s)
- View/Print Pilot Program Permit(s)

To use on a mobile device:

maryland.fisheryfacts.com/mobile

- Account Preferences
- Start and End a Trip
- Request Pilot Program Permit(s)
- View Pilot Program Permit(s)

Blue Crab & Finfish License Authorized Users:

A commercial license holder can designate (at a service center), someone to harvest in their place as an authorized user for the license. If you have been designated as an authorized user on one or more licenses, you can use your own FACTS™ account to report your commercial harvest activity for each license.

Charter Non-Owner Operators: You must be permitted for Charter in FACTS™ before you can run trips for an owner. Vessel owners will use their FACTS™ account to link you to the vessel(s) that you use to run trips for them. Once you are linked to a vessel, you will be able to set-up your own account preferences for each vessel and owner.

Frequently Asked Questions & Troubleshooting

- **Forgotten Password:** Use the “Forgot Password?” option when you go to the login screen. This will let you answer your password question to retrieve it.
- **Forgot to Send Start Hail:** Send your hail as soon as you realize that you forgot to start your trip.
- **Landing Time:** The time you expect to come off the water and land your harvest.
- **Forgot to Send End Hail:** Send it as soon as you remember. If your mobile number is saved in your account preferences the system will send you hourly text messages to remind you. If it is the next day, or later, the system will prompt you the next time you log in to your account.
- **Remaining Striped Bass Quota:** Check stations cannot see your quota in FACTS™. It is displayed on your main account page at log in and, if your mobile number is saved in your preferences, it will be included with your text message receipt after check-in.
- **Error Message:** If you see a red error message, click on the “OK” box to read the instructions and fix the error.
- **Authorized Representative:** Participants with a striped bass authorization can use their account preferences to designate representatives (including username/password), to check-in their catch on the **same day** of harvest.

Striped Bass Check-ins

- All Maryland check stations are required to be able to use FACTS™ to check in striped bass.
- Each check station has their own FACTS™ account.
- At check-in, provide the license number so that FACTS™ can bring up your trip information.
- The check station operator will enter the count and weight of fish. Once these numbers are confirmed, the license holder (or their authorized representative) will enter their username and password to confirm and complete the check-in.
- FACTS™ account passwords are confidential and should not be shared with the check station operator.
- If you have your mobile number saved in your account preferences, a detailed check-in receipt will be texted to you with your remaining quota.
- **NOTE:** If you have any issues or questions while checking in your fish, please call the Helpline for assistance before you leave the check station.

If you experience any difficulty while using your FACTS™ account, please contact:

24 hour Helpline: 877-979-1820