

## Program Flexibilities — Blue Crab

### Day off Flexibility:

- 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.

### Early Start Time Flexibility:

- Pilot participants may remove crabs from crab pots up to two (2) hours before sunrise by electing to start early in their start hail.
- 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 regardless of their start time
- Pilot participants may remove crabs from crab pots up to three (3) hours before sunrise on July 3 and July 4 by electing to start early in their start hail, and must cease removing crabs six (6) hours after sunrise.

## Program Flexibilities — 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. Authorized representatives cannot check-in harvest the next fishing day after harvest.

### Commercial Yellow Perch Fishery

- Pilot participants will be allowed to use (free) 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.

## [maryland.fisheryfacts.com](http://maryland.fisheryfacts.com)

This is the Portal version of FACTS for using on your computer. It provides access to all account features, including **easy striped bass Quota Share Transfers**, your complete trip history, and a customized Harvest Report Summary.

## [maryland.fisheryfacts.com/mobile](http://maryland.fisheryfacts.com/mobile)

This website address is for accessing FACTS on your mobile devices, like a smartphone or tablet. It is designed to make reporting your daily trip activity quick and easy, with large blue buttons to enter your information. On the mobile view you can set up your account preferences, view your program permit(s), and even watch the program's videos.

## Reporting Requirements

Participants use FACTS only on the days they engage in commercial harvest activity. If it is not a harvest day, FACTS will automatically submit a “No Harvest” report for you. This is true, whether it is for a day, week, month, or the entire season.

If you are not sure if you are going to harvest commercially on a trip (setting gear, etc.), you should start a trip in FACTS. If you do not engage in harvest activity you should cancel your start hail.

FACTS participants working together on the same vessel should both start trips, if they intend to split the harvest between their licenses that day.

For the program flexibilities to apply, all license owners reporting harvest on the vessel that day need to be FACTS participants in that fishery.

## Regulations Questions

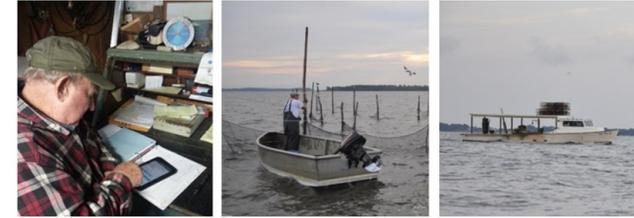
Contact the department's Maryland Commercial Regulations Group for assistance:

Jacob Holtz: 410-260-8262

[jacob.holtz@maryland.gov](mailto:jacob.holtz@maryland.gov)

## E-Reporting with FACTS™

Simple. Fast. Accurate.



## Information Brochure

## 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**

[fisheriesereporting.dnr@maryland.gov](mailto:fisheriesereporting.dnr@maryland.gov)

580 Taylor Avenue, B-2

Annapolis, MD 21401

[dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/e-reporting/index.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/e-reporting/index.aspx)



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# E-Reporting with FACTS™ Program Information

## Program Flexibility — Shellfish

- Participants **can designate authorized representatives** to take their harvest to dealers under their license. Authorized representatives must be commercially licensed individuals allowed to harvest shellfish and be participating in the Shellfish pilot program.
- Participants licensed to harvest shellfish in the Chesapeake Bay **can start harvesting up to 1/2 hour before sunrise** by electing to daily report using FACTS as part of their start hail for each trip.
- Participants will observe the same total hours workday as non-FACTS users so that if they elect to start early they must cease harvesting i) **Oysters** by 2:30 p.m. when using shaft tong, patent tong, dredge boat, diving apparatus, or power dredge; ii) **Oysters** at least 1/2 hour before sunset when using a dredge boat propelled by means of an auxiliary yawl boat; and iii) **Clams** at least 1/2 hour before sunset.

## Program Flexibility — Charter

- 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 for the captain and one mate to each possess up to one striped bass per person per day, within the open recreational striped bass season after May 15. All clients on board a vessel operated by a pilot program participant may possess up to one striped bass per person per day, 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.

## 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. Hailing should be done in real-time.
- **Landing Time:** The estimated time you expect to come off the water and land your harvest. This estimate can be revised in your end hail and is used to help coordinate the program’s roving monitor activity.
- **Forgot to Send End Hail:** Hailing should be done in real-time. 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 Representatives:** Participants with a striped bass authorization can use their account preferences to designate a representative(s) to check-in their catch on the same day of harvest.
- **Shellfish Dealers -** FACTS participants can sell to any certified shellfish dealer. Dealers participating in the pilot are able to issue electronic buy tickets to FACTS users.

## 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 you will provide your 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.
- If you have your mobile number saved in your account preferences, a detailed check-in receipt will be texted to you that shows 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**

**Authorized Users:** If you are listed as the authorized user on the license of a program participant, you can use your own FACTS account to report your harvest activity on that license.

This special license status needs to be renewed with the service center each year and does not include the ability to harvest the striped bass allocation of the license owner.