

Mayor Sheila Dixon presents
The City of Baltimore Reservoirs

2009

**Pocket Guide to
Boating & Fishing**

Don't make excuses.

Make a difference.

ALERT: Zebra Mussels Found in Maryland

Maryland's first known zebra mussels have been found in the Susquehanna River. One was found on October 30, 2008 at Conowingo Dam in a sample from a cooling water strainer. The specimen was intact and alive. A second zebra mussel was found attached to a pontoon boat at the Glen Cove Marina in Harford County just upstream of Conowingo Dam. Four additional zebra mussels were found along the shoreline of Muddy Run Reservoir that drains into the lower Susquehanna River about 6 miles upstream from the Maryland-Pennsylvania border. It is anticipated that sightings will become more prevalent in 2009.

Zebra mussels are an exotic, invasive species that have invaded North America from Europe. They attach themselves in large numbers to any hard surface, including water supply intakes and pipelines. Zebra mussels have cost water utilities and industries billions of dollars in their efforts to keep their water supply lines clear.

Please act responsibly to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels into Liberty, Loch Raven, and Prettyboy Reservoirs. Do not use your watercraft in any other bodies of water except these three City reservoirs. Only use aquatic bait purchased from a MDNR-certified, zebra mussel-free bait store. Do not use live aquatic bait that you have caught yourself. Do not transfer bait water from one body of water to another.

The Department of Public Works thanks you for your cooperation.

Notice

This Pocket Guide includes a summary of Baltimore City's Watershed Regulations. To the extent that a conflict may exist between this Pocket Guide and the Watershed Regulations, the Watershed Regulations shall prevail. Thank you.

Inside

Your Pocket Guide to Boating and Fishing contains valuable information on boating and fishing at the City of Baltimore's reservoirs and their watersheds: Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy.

Inside you will find:

Watershed fishing and boating regulations,

Maps of the three reservoirs and their watersheds,

Species stocking,

Survey information,

A list of species sighted at each watershed and phone numbers for further information.

Contents

Notice.....	2
Inside.....	3
Special Thanks.....	5
A Message from the Director.....	6
Fishing.....	7
Boating.....	10
Reservoir Facts.....	14
Liberty Reservoir.....	15
Reservoir Species List.....	17
Loch Raven Reservoir.....	19
Prettyboy Reservoir.....	22
Prettyboy Dam Tailwater.....	24
Brown Trout Tagging Study.....	26
Maryland Fishing Report.....	27
Maryland Freshwater Fishing Records.....	28
Bathymetric Maps.....	29
Numbers To Call.....	30
Index.....	31
Violation of Watershed Regulations.....	33

Special Thanks



Much of the information presented here was initially gathered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Freshwater Fisheries' biologists Charlie Gougeon, Todd Heerd, and Mark Staley. Additional information was provided by Baltimore City Public Works' Watershed Manager Gene Scarpulla of the Reservoir Natural Resources Section.

The City also thanks the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, the Maryland Association of Mountain Bike Operators, the Mountain Club of Maryland, Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) and the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club. These groups conducted shoreline and woodland cleanups at the reservoirs in 2008.

If your organization is interested in conducting a cleanup at one of the City's reservoirs, please contact the Department of Public Works at 410-396-5004.

A Message From The Director



I am very happy to present the 2009 Pocket Guide to Boating and Fishing.

Baltimore's three reservoirs, Loch Raven, Prettyboy and Liberty, are the source of **your** drinking water. They are not parks, but they are open to the public for your enjoyment.

Since the reservoirs are so important to the well-being of the metropolitan region there are regulations which must be followed for their protection and yours. Those pertaining to boating and fishing are included in this handy booklet.

I hope you enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded by these protected lands and waters. Whether you hike, bike, watch birds or take photographs, these reservoirs are to be treasured. Please properly dispose of your litter and remember that swimming is illegal. Enjoy your stay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then loops back under the 'D'.

David E. Scott, P. E.
Director

Department of Public Works

Fishing



FISHING LICENSES

- Fishing at all three city reservoirs requires a valid Maryland State Fishing License.
- Fishing licenses are available at most Maryland sporting goods stores.
- Persons under 16 do not require fishing licenses.
- No fishing fees are charged by Baltimore City or Baltimore County.

SEASONS AND TIMES

- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- Bank fishing is allowed at City reservoirs year-round.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs March 1st to December 31st.
- Boat fishing is allowed at Loch Raven Reservoir from the first Friday in April to the last Sunday in November (limited schedule after Labor Day).
- National Fishing and Boating Week is June 6st to June 14th.
- Maryland's free fishing days are the first two Saturdays in June and July 4th. On a Free Fishing Day, a person may catch and possess fish for recreational purposes without a fishing license, but shall otherwise observe all fishing laws and regulations.

METHODS OF FISHING

- Only fishing with rod, hook and line is allowed.
- Ice fishing, bow fishing and the use of nets or other devices is prohibited.
- Fishing is allowed from rowboats, runabouts, canoes and kayaks.
- Maryland State Fishing Regulations, including size and creel limits, must be obeyed at all times.
- Fishing is allowed from the south side of the Deer Park/Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty Reservoir. The south side of the bridge has been retrofitted with a fishing area.

PROHIBITIONS

- *No fishing* from steep banks, rock cliffs or other dangerous locations.
- *No fishing* at designated fish refuge areas.
- *No fishing* from rowing shells.
- *No fishing* within 1,500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *No fishing* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No fishing* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and the small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No fishing* from bridges (except designated platforms on the Dulaney Valley Road Bridge at Loch Raven and on the Deer Park/Nicodemus Road Bridge at Liberty).
- The use of float tubes, chest waders or hip boots is prohibited.

LIVE BAIT

- Live aquatic bait is prohibited *unless* purchased from a Maryland-certified zebra mussel-free bait store.
- Anglers using live bait must possess a receipt *less than 48 hours old* from the certified bait store where the bait was purchased.
- This prohibition applies to all live aquatic bait, including fish that have been caught in the reservoirs.

NOTICE

- *The City may alter any regulations or prohibit fishing altogether as it sees fit to protect the reservoirs.*



Boating

BOATING PERMITS

- Boating at all three City reservoirs requires a valid boating permit.
- Permits must be carried while boating.
- Permits are nontransferable.
- Permit stickers must be displayed on the outside the of boat - one on each side in line with the rear seat.
- Permits for Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs are only issued by the City of Baltimore. The cost of a City season permit is \$60.

BOAT PERMIT RENEWAL INFORMATION

Applications Available: February 1st

Renewal Processing: Third week of February

TO OBTAIN AN APPLICATION

Applications are available online at www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw/water/rnrs/index.php. Alternatively, you may obtain an application by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope to: **City of Baltimore, Reservoir Natural Resources Section, 5685 Oakland Road, Eldersburg, MD 21784-6828.**

For more information, please call the Reservoir Boating Information Line at 410-795-6150. (*City permits may only be obtained by mail.*)

● Permits for Loch Raven Reservoir are only issued by Baltimore County. For more information on County permits, please visit the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 12101 Dulaney Valley Road or call 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3871, off season.

SEASONS AND TIMES

- The reservoirs are open sunrise to sunset year-round.
- The boating season at Liberty and Prettyboy Reservoirs runs from March 1st to December 31st.
- The boating season at Loch Raven Reservoir runs from the first Friday in April to the last Sunday in November (limited schedule after Labor Day).
- Boats must be removed when the boating season ends, or they will be impounded and subject to an impounding fee.

REQUIREMENTS

- Reservoir boaters under 18 must be accompanied by a person 18 or older.
- All boats must be equipped with oars and oarlocks or paddles.
- Rowboats or canoes may use battery-powered electric motors.
- Kayaks are allowed on all three reservoirs.
- Rowing shells are allowed on all three reservoirs.
- All watercraft must be between 12' and 20' in length.
- Boats must have beams (widths) 48" or greater and depths 18" or greater.
- Canoes must have beams (widths) 35" or greater.
- Boats may only be launched and removed from designated ramps.
- Unoccupied boats must be kept securely locked at designated storage locations.
- Due to the potential for zebra mussel contamination, boaters on Liberty, Loch Raven and/or Prettyboy Reservoirs must sign an affidavit stating their boat will be used *only on these reservoirs*.
- Additional information/restrictions pertaining to kayaks, canoes, boats and rowing shells can be found in the Watershed Regulations.

SAFETY

- All boats must be seaworthy.
- Boaters must have one U.S. Coast Guard approved *wearable* personal flotation device for each occupant.
- Boaters must have some means of making an efficient sound signal such as a whistle, bell or horn.
- Rowboats over 16' must have one *throwable* personal flotation device.
- *Most* boats require fire extinguishers.
- Boats may not be operated with a greater number of occupants than specified by manufacturer.
- Operators born on or after July 1, 1972 must have in their possession a valid Certificate of Boating Safety Education.
- Recreational boaters are urged not to interfere with persons fishing.
- Wearing life preservers is strongly recommended.

PROHIBITIONS

- Gasoline-powered engines are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- Inflatable, collapsible, sail and pontoon boats are prohibited on the reservoirs.
- *No boating* between Liberty Road and Liberty Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Drive Bridge and Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* between Loch Raven Dam and small Loch Raven Dam.
- *No boating* within 1,500 feet of Prettyboy Dam.
- *Only* State registration number stickers are to be displayed on the forward section of the boat.
- Improper boat storage in spaces designated for handicapped boaters is prohibited.

NOTICE

- *Persons using boats on the reservoirs do so at their own risk.*
- *The City may immediately remove and/or impound any unsafe boats.*
- *Season permits will be revoked when any boat is removed by the City.*
- *Unclaimed boats will be considered City property and may be disposed of by the City.*
- *The City is not responsible for damage to or loss of any privately-owned boat whether or not it is being held by the City because of these violations.*
- *Permits will be revoked by the City whenever the holder has been found in violation of regulations.*
- *The City may refuse past permit violators further reservoir boating privileges.*
- *The City may reinstate the moratorium on boat use on any or all of its reservoirs at any time.*

Reservoir Facts

Liberty Reservoir

- Elevation above mean sea level: 420 feet
- Spillway length 480 feet; total length: 704 feet
- Height of crest above stream bed: 160 feet
- Length of shoreline at crest elevation: 82 miles
- Initial storage capacity: 43 billion gallons
- Area of watershed: 164 square miles
- Construction completed: 1953

Loch Raven Reservoir

- Elevation above mean sea level: 240 feet
- Spillway length 288 feet; total length: 720 feet
- Height of crest above stream bed: 82 feet
- Length of shoreline at crest elevation: 50 miles
- Initial storage capacity: 23 billion gallons
- Area of watershed: 303 square miles
- Construction completed: 1914-1922-2005

Prettyboy Reservoir

- Elevation above mean sea level: 520 feet
- Spillway length 274 feet; total length: 845 feet
- Height of crest above stream bed 130 feet
- Length of shoreline at crest elevation: 46 miles
- Initial storage capacity: 20 billion gallons
- Area of watershed: 80 square miles
- Construction completed: 1933

Liberty Reservoir Watershed



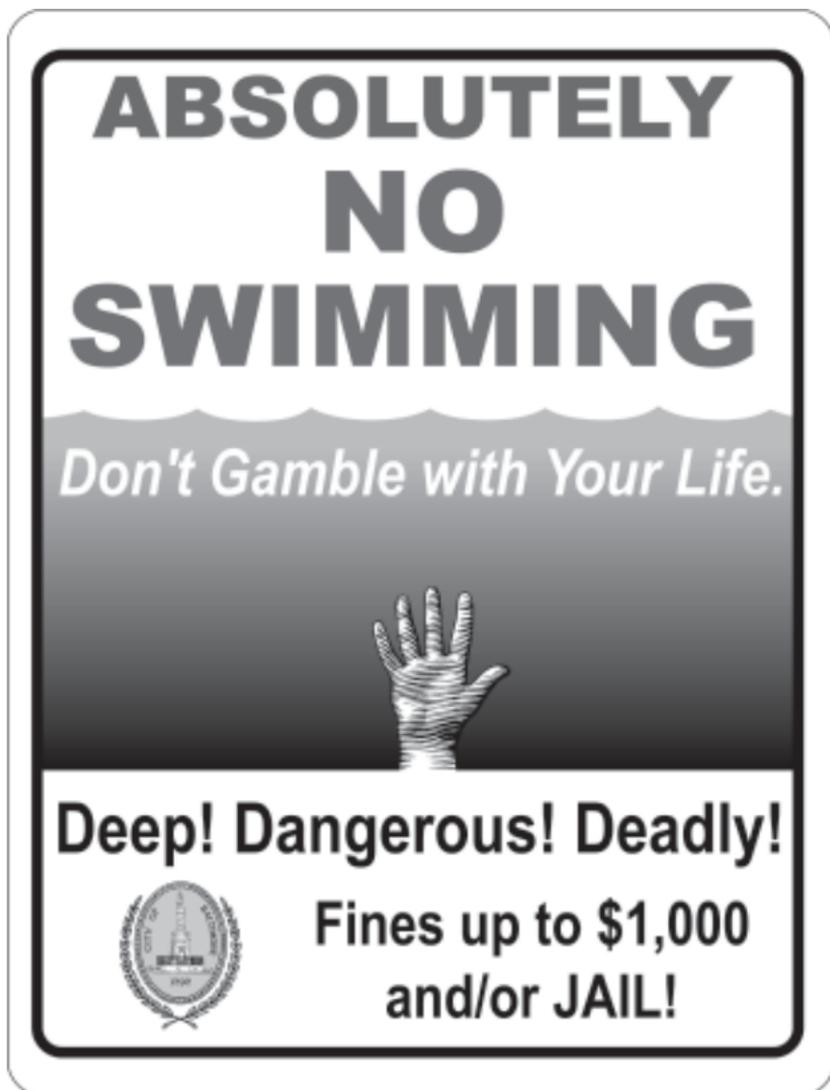
Liberty Reservoir

2008 ACTIVITIES:

No surveys were conducted.

2009 PLANS:

Collect data to assess the white perch population.



2009 Reservoir Species List

Species	Liberty	Loch Raven	Prettyboy	Prettyboy Tailwater
American Eel	✓	✓		✓
Banded Killifish	✓	✓	✓	
Black Crappie	✓	✓	✓	
Blacknose Dace		✓	✓	✓
Bluegill	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blueridge Sculpin				
Bluntnose Minnow	✓	✓	✓	
Brook Trout			✓	✓
Brown Bullhead	✓	✓		
Brown Trout	✓	✓	✓	✓
Central Stoneroller				
Chain Pickerel		✓		
Channel Catfish	✓	✓	✓	
Common Carp	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shiner				✓
Creek Chub	✓			✓
Cutlips Minnow	✓			✓
Eastern Mosquitofish		✓		
Fallfish		✓	✓	✓
Gizzard Shad		✓		
Golden Shiner	✓	✓	✓	
Green Sunfish	✓	✓	✓	
Largemouth Bass	✓	✓	✓	✓
Longnose Dace				✓
Margined Dace				✓
Mummichog	✓		✓	✓
Northern Hog Sucker	✓			

Loch Raven Reservoir Watershed



Loch Raven Reservoir

2008 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

A general night electrofishing survey of 15 stations throughout the reservoir was conducted in October. Largemouth and smallmouth bass were the focus of the collection but data was also collected on other fish species.

Largemouth Bass: 169 fish captured from young-of-year up to 18.5 inches. A good hatch of young-of-year (YOY). A proportional size distribution (PSD) of 72 and catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 48 fish (greater than or equal to 8 inches)/hour indicate an excellent fishery.

Smallmouth Bass: 12 fish captured from YOY up to 16 inches. A very low hatch. A small but healthy population.

Gizzard Shad: This species was first observed in Loch Raven in 2006 and is now very abundant throughout the reservoir. It was documented to range upstream to Monkton in the Gunpowder Falls in 2008.

Bluegill: Most abundant fish in Loch Raven Reservoir. A healthy population with good numbers of all sizes.

Crappie (Black and White): Both black and white captured. Population is mostly black crappie with a PSD of 75 indicating excellent fishing.

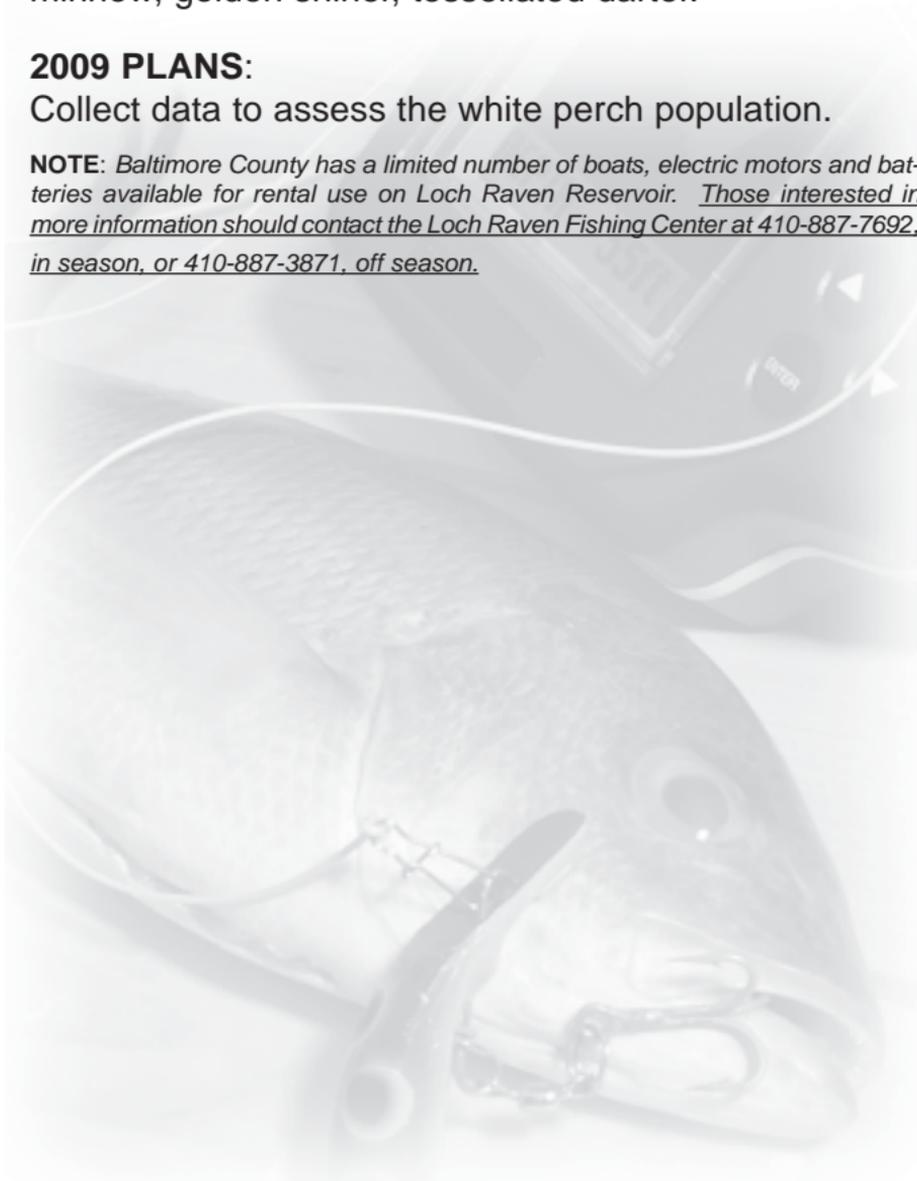
Yellow Bullhead: This is a newly documented species for Loch Raven.

Other Species Observed: northern pike, chain pickerel, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, yellow perch, white perch, brown bullhead, white sucker, common carp, American eel, swallowtail shiner, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, tessellated darter.

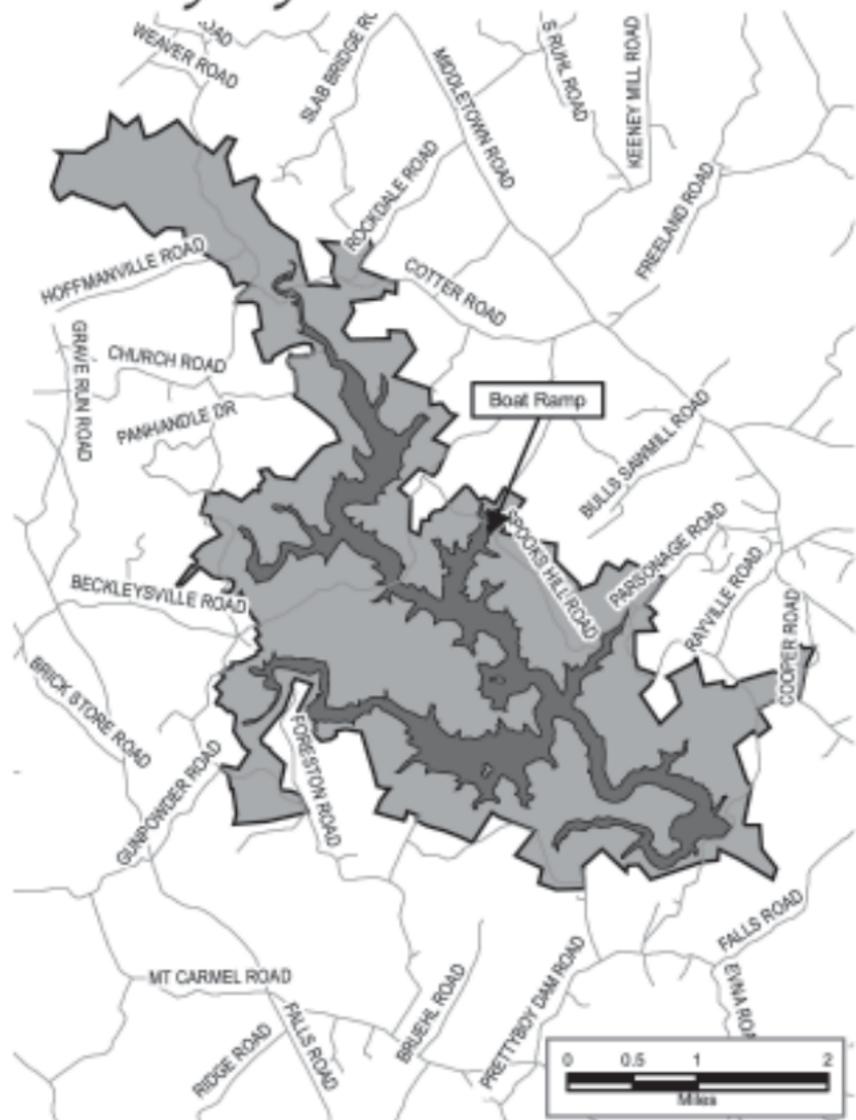
2009 PLANS:

Collect data to assess the white perch population.

NOTE: *Baltimore County has a limited number of boats, electric motors and batteries available for rental use on Loch Raven Reservoir. Those interested in more information should contact the Loch Raven Fishing Center at 410-887-7692, in season, or 410-887-3871, off season.*



Prettyboy Reservoir Watershed



Prettyboy Reservoir

2008 ACTIVITIES:

No surveys were conducted.

2009 PLANS:

Collect data to assess the white perch population.



Prettyboy Dam Tailwater

2008 ACTIVITIES:

The Gunpowder Falls was surveyed at the Dam/Falls Station, the Masemore Road Station and the Blue Mount Station as part of the annual MDNR fall trout survey. A large number of volunteers showed up to assist or just observe.

Dam/Falls Station: The Dam/Falls Station was estimated to have 164 pounds of adult brown trout/acre and 4321 adult brown trout/mile. The numbers were a bit lower this year as compared to last. The Dam/Falls estimate in 2007 was 189 pounds of adult brown trout/acre and 5,036 adult brown trout/mile. Two adult rainbow trout were collected during the survey as well as 14 rainbow trout fingerlings that were stocked into the tailwater in May 2008 from the Albert Powell Hatchery in Hagerstown. The fingerlings grew into beautiful specimens and had grown from an average of 3.5 inches in length when stocked to a range of 7 to 9 inches.

Masemore Station: The Masemore Road Station was estimated to have 44 pounds of adult brown trout/acre and 954 adult brown trout/mile. The estimates of 49 pounds of adult brown trout/acre and density of 1,104 adult brown trout/mile numbers were a bit higher in 2007. The Masemore Road Station exhibited excellent brown trout recruitment in 2008. A total of 472 young-of-year (YOY) brown trout were collected and resulted in a density estimate of 2,680 YOY/mile. This was significantly higher than numbers of YOY estimated there in 2007 (1,676 YOY/mile).

Blue Mount Station: The Blue Mount Station was estimated to have 32 pounds of adult brown trout/acre and 783 adult brown trout/mile. Estimates of standing crop for adult brown trout were lower at this station in 2007 at 24 pounds/acre. Adult brown trout density was higher in 2007 at 911 adult brown trout/mile; however, the adults were smaller in average size than those observed in 2008. The Blue Mount Station demonstrated fair recruitment in 2008. A total of 74 YOY brown trout collected translated into an estimate of 436 brown trout YOY/mile). Recruitment in 2007 was much lower with an estimated density of 224 brown trout YOY/mile.

Summary: Overall, anglers will encounter excellent numbers of wild trout when fishing the Gunpowder Falls tailwater and they will find trout in fatter condition this year as compared to last.

Acknowledgements: Thanks are extended to staff from the Central Region of MDNR Inland Fisheries Division, Western Region of MDNR Inland Fisheries Division, Gunpowder Falls State Park, Baltimore County Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, City of Baltimore Reservoir Natural Resources Section, Maryland Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and other volunteers who provided assistance during the surveys.

2009 PLANS:

Trout hatch survey in spring to determine hatching success; adult and YOY electrofishing survey in late September/early October; water temperature monitoring near Falls Road and Blue Mount Road; continuation of a quantitative fish survey for species other than trout at the Masemore and Blue Mount electrofishing stations.

Brown Trout Tagging Study Below Prettyboy

Since 1998, 1,500 fish have been tagged behind the left eye with a green or orange letter/number code (e.g., H16). Signs along the Gunpowder ask anglers to report tagged trout by noting tag color, letter/number code, location caught, date caught and whether the fish was kept or released. Please call 410-442-2080 or 410-260-8287 if you catch a tagged fish.



Maryland Fishing Report

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service publishes the weekly "Fishing Report." The report is available on-line at the web address listed below.

www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/fishingreport/freshwater.asp

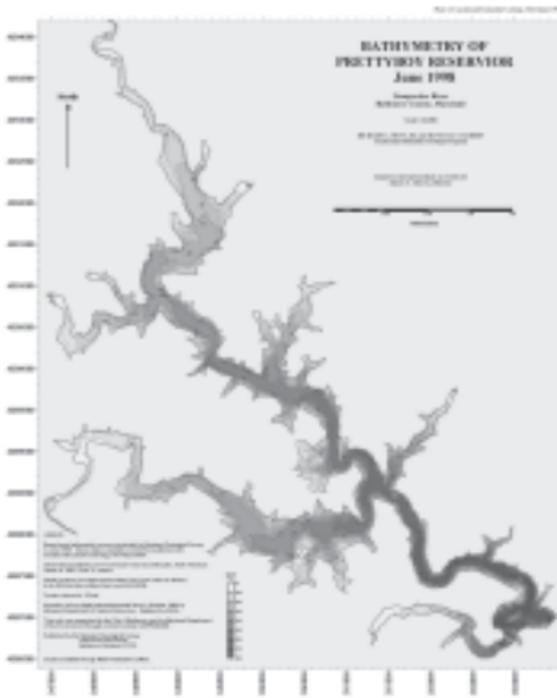


Maryland Freshwater Fishing Records

(These state record fish were caught in the
Baltimore City Reservoirs.)

Bullhead Catfish	3 lbs., 6 oz. Zeljko Koretic August 11, 2007 Loch Raven
Rock Bass	1 lbs., 3 oz. Andy Grosko October 26, 1998 Liberty
Smallmouth Bass	8 lbs., 4 oz. Gary Peters October 4, 1974 Liberty
Striped Bass	47 lbs., 2 oz. Bob Bruce September 14, 2000 Liberty
White Perch	1.62 lbs. John Williams August 5, 2008 Loch Raven

Bathymetric Maps



The Maryland Geological Survey has produced bathymetric maps showing the bottom contours of Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs. The maps are currently only available on-line and can be obtained by going to the following websites.

Loch Raven Reservoir Bathymetric Map:

www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/index.html

Prettyboy Reservoir Bathymetric Map:

www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/prettyboy.html

Liberty Reservoir Bathymetric Map:

www.mgs.md.gov/coastal/maps/lr/liberty.html

Numbers To Call

City of Baltimore Reservoir Natural Resources Section:

General Boating Information Line

410-795-6150

Other

410-795-6151

Watershed Rangers (non-emergency)

410-795-2014

Loch Raven Fishing Center:

In Season

410-887-7692

Off Season

410-887-3871

TDD/Deaf

410-887-5319

Emergency:

911

Index

Boats and boating 10-13

- age restrictions 11
- display of city stickers 10
- fishing from 8
- gasoline-powered engines 12
- notice 13
- permits 10
- prohibitions 12
- requirements 11
- safety 12
- seasons and times 11
- storage 11-12
- zebra mussel precautions 1, 9, 11

Fish 16-18, 20-21, 23-28

- brown trout tagging 26
- reservoir species list 17-18
- stocking 24-25
- survey 16, 20-21, 23-25

Fishing 7- 9, 20-21, 27-28

- Liberty Reservoir 7- 8
- Loch Raven Reservoir 7- 8, 19-21
- Prettyboy Dam Tailwater 24-25
- Prettyboy Reservoir 7- 8
- bank fishing 7- 8
- boat fishing 7- 8
- bridge fishing 8
- licenses 7
- live bait 1, 9
- methods of 8
- prohibitions 8
- seasons and times 7

Liberty Reservoir 6-8, 10-12, 14-18, 28-29

bathymetric maps 29

boating 10-12

fishing 7-8

facts 14

map 15

species list 17-18

survey 16

Live Bait 1, 9

Loch Raven Reservoir 6-8, 10-12, 14, 17-21, 28-30

bathymetric maps 29

boating 10-12, 21

fishing 7-8

facts 14

map 19

species list 17-18

survey 20-21

Maryland Fishing Report 27

Maryland Freshwater Fishing Records 28

Numbers To Call 30

Prettyboy Dam Tailwater 24-25

Prettyboy Reservoir 6-8, 10-12, 14, 17-18, 22-24, 29

bathymetric maps 29

boating 10-12

fishing 7-8

facts 14

map 22

species list 17-18

survey 23

Violation of Watershed Regulations 33

Violation of Watershed Regulations

The City reserves the right to immediately remove any boat when its occupants violate Watershed Regulations. Violators shall be subject to a fine in addition to the storage fee of \$50 per month or part thereof before the boat is returned to its owner. When any boat is removed for a violation, the permit for the season will be revoked and any fee paid to the City will not be refunded.

Destruction of public or private property is strictly prohibited. Violators are subject to fines, incarceration and loss of their boating privileges.

Watershed Regulations are adopted by the City of Baltimore pursuant to Article VII, Section 33 of the Baltimore City Charter (1996 Edition); Article 24, Subtitles 1, 21 of the Baltimore City Code (2000 Edition); Article 27, Sections 576 through 578 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1996 Replacement Volume) and Title 10 "Wildlife" Natural Resources Volume of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1990 Replacement Volume). Violations of these provisions are misdemeanor criminal offenses under both City and State law which subjects violators to fines ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 as well as periods of incarceration upon conviction.

The City of Baltimore reserves the right to deny access to persons violating any of the Watershed Regulations.



Notes

Prepared by the Office of Media Communications
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www.baltimorecity.gov



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