

Invasive Catfish Workgroup: Maryland updates 2025

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May 27, 2025

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Fishery Management Plan



Fishery Management Plan for Tidewater Catfish

dictates management for catfishes in tidal waters, including blue catfish and flathead catfish

Objectives

1. Generate data streams
2. Promote fisheries
3. Solicit public input
4. Implement management strategies

1) Data Streams



- Tidal, freshwater electrofishing surveys (2025)
- Hoop net surveys for flathead catfish in lower Susquehanna River and Conowingo Reservoir
- Electrofishing surveys on non-tidal Potomac River

2) Promote Fisheries

- Blue Catfish Focus Groups to guide outreach efforts
- Grants to incentivize commercial harvesters (\$2,500 each, \$50,000 total)
- Support for invasive fish harvest tournaments and derbies (\$750 each, \$7,500 total)



Anacostia River's Reel Invasion is a free-to-enter public outreach and fishing derby event to educate and encourage harvest of invasive fish species introduced into Maryland and D.C. waters that cause ecological harm.

Public outreach activities include:

1. seeing and learning about aquatic nuisance species
2. making fish prints of invasives and other fish
3. learning how to get started in fishing
4. learning how to fillet blue catfish & northern snakeheads
5. touring the Aquatic Resource Education Center (AREC)
6. taking a guided kayak tour on the Anacostia River.

Questions?
Contact Daniel Ryan (DOEE):
daniel.ryan@dc.gov
or call (443) 458-3018

This event is organized by J. Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the DC Department of Energy & Environment.

Prizes and Divisions:
There will be three separate divisions for blue catfish, snakehead, and flathead catfish. First, second, & third place prizes will be awarded for each division based on the weight. There will also be a prize awarded for the smallest invasive fish caught.

Agenda:

- 8:00 am - Check-in & information (until 1 pm)
- 9:00 am - Making fish prints (all day)
- 9:30 am - Fishing Demonstration
- 10:00 am - Guided Kayak Tour*
- 10:30 am - Fishing Demonstration
- 11:00 am - Filleting Demonstration
- 12:00 pm - Guided Kayak Tour*
- 11:30 am - Tour of the AREC
- 12:00 pm - Filleting Demonstration
- 12:30 pm - Tour of the AREC
- 2:00 pm - Tournament weigh-in
- 2:30 pm - Derby winners and door prizes

*Availability is limited. Please register for kayak tours at check-in when you arrive. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice is requested. Limited fishing gear may be available to borrow.

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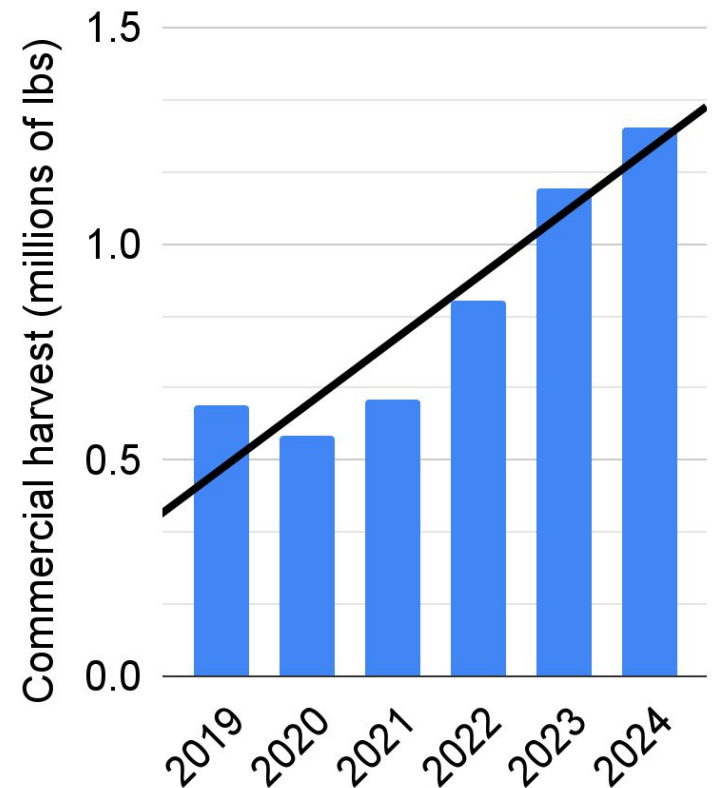
3) Public Input



- Created Invasive Catfish Advisory Committee in July 2024 (meets quarterly)
 - membership includes conservation groups, recreational and commercial fishers, processors, academia, and others
 - helped to implement Pilot Programs for commercial harvesters to expand fisheries and increase removals

4) Management via harvest

- Efficacy of recreational charters (hook-and-line, bowfishing)
- Economic value of recreational harvest fishery
- Commercial harvest removed over 1M lbs of blue catfish in 2024



Invasive Fishes Program



Scan the QR code for additional information on the department's Invasive Fishes Program



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