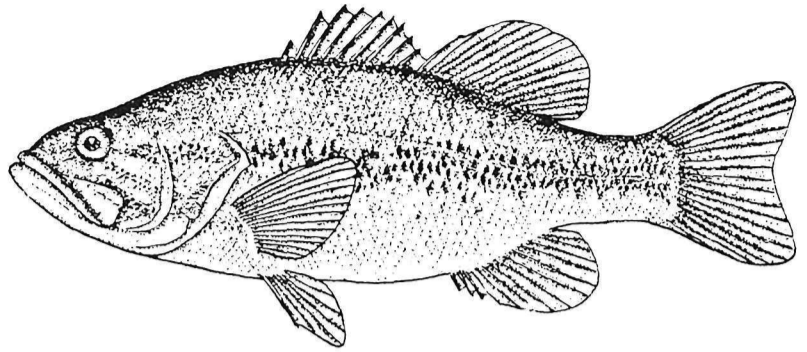


Potomac Sport Fishing

Washington, DC



Largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides*

Opportunities

Fishing is a sport for all ages. Whether you are the serious sportsman or want to fish just for fun, fishing can be a lifetime activity that never grows old.

A clean Potomac River has brought a resurgence of sport fishing in the metropolitan Washington area. The river boasts an abundance of some forty sport species, and the fish are safe to eat.

The official clean bill of health from the District of Columbia, Office of Environmental Standards and Quality Assurance found "no cause for concern for the public health relative to consumption of fish from the waters of the District if the fish are properly cooked."

Good fishing is possible between late February and November, but the peak is the spawning season, from mid-March through June.

Little Falls Dam divides the upper and lower fisheries. The upper fishery is the most productive with the best habitat between Seneca Pool and Great Falls. But the heaviest concentration of fishing is between Great Falls and Little Falls because of easy access. Smallmouth and the more prevalent largemouth bass and crappie are found here.

In the lower fishery within the District, all sections of the river are fished. Fishing derbies have become annual events due to success in fighting river pollution. Perch, catfish, crappie, sunfish, and bass provide action for anglers. The best fishing occurs on the moving tides. Fishing conditions are greatly affected by flows, tides, and heavy rainfalls.

No fishing license is required within the District of Columbia.

The following publications have additional information about sport fishing opportunities:

Potomac River Fishing Map
Alexandria Drafting Company
6440 General Green Way
Alexandria, VA 22312

Maryland Sport Fishing Guide
Information Division
Department of Natural Resources
Taxes Office State Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Fishing in Maryland (annual)
P.O. Box 201
Phoenix, MD 21131

Safety

Nowhere along the Potomac River is it safe to swim or wade.

For that reason swimming, water skiing, and scuba diving are prohibited. Most dangerous is the 11-mile stretch of white water from Great Falls to Chain Bridge above Georgetown. Danger signs posted along the river warn of strong currents and flash floods.

For your safety, please take advantage of the following

telephone numbers:

National Weather Service: 301-899-3210, has a recorded message about flood stages and hazards for key points throughout the Potomac River Basin.

Harbor Police: 202-727-4582, has river level information within the District of Columbia.

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Boating and Fishing Tips

National Capital Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

The Potomac River offers pleasant boating in the urban setting of metropolitan Washington, D.C. Informed boaters know about the hazards of the river as well as its potential for fun.

Above Chain Bridge the river is both placid and turbulent, suitable for canoes and kayaks. The turbulent water is extremely hazardous from Great Falls to below Chain Bridge.

The two main flatwater canoeing areas are: below Violets Lock to Swains Lock, one mile above Great Falls Dam; and below the Falls just above Cabin John, down to Sycamore Island at Brookmont, Md.

For canoes, rowboats, and rafts:

- Canoe Cruisers Association, 703-656-2586
- Mather Gorge Raft Trip, 966-9606
- Swains Lock Boat Rentals (C&O Canal), 301-299-9006

In the immediate Washington, D.C. area, boathouses, marinas, and other facilities are plentiful for rowboating, canoeing, and sailing.

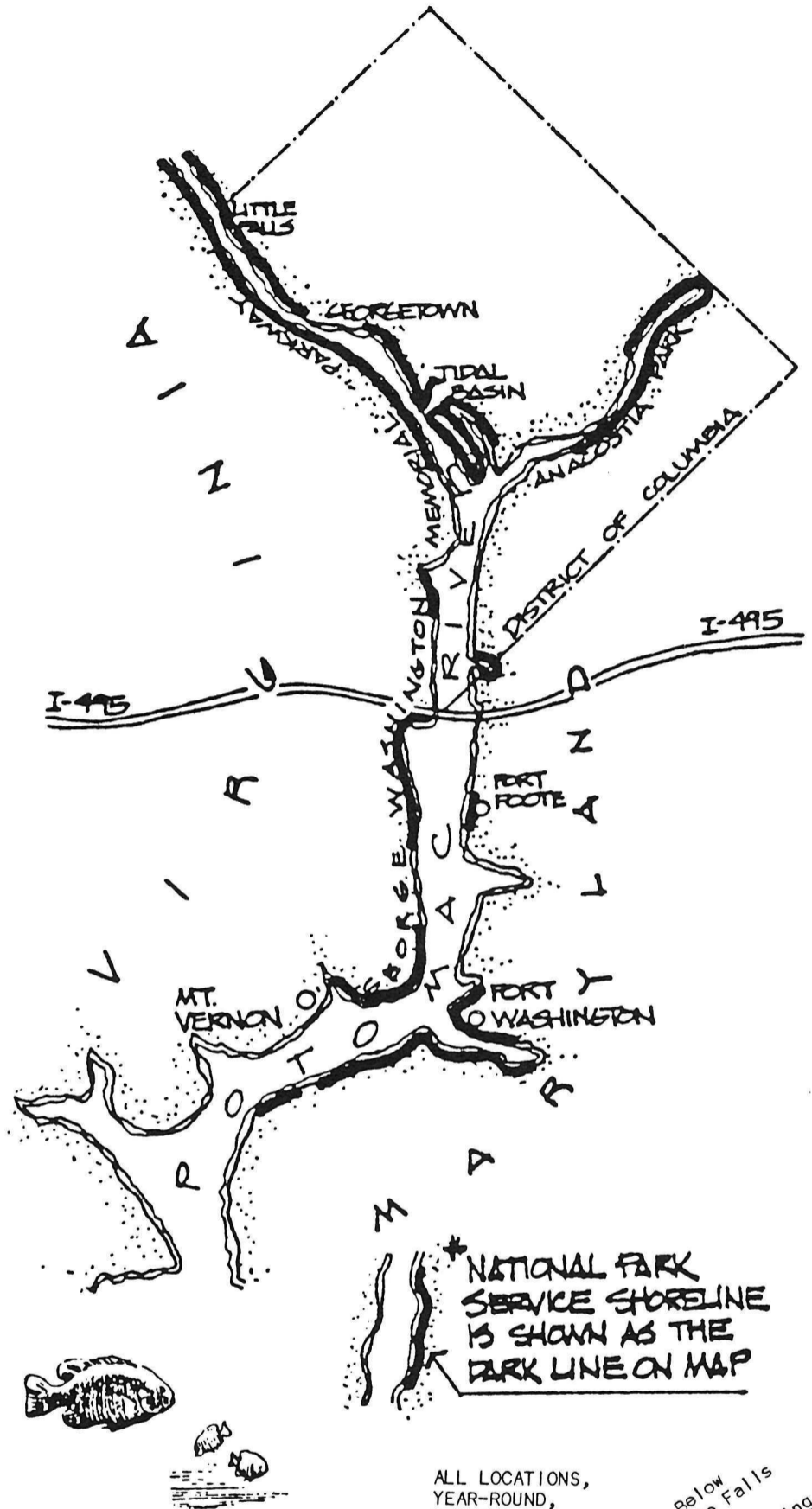
For rowboats and canoes:

- Fletcher's Boathouse, 244-0461
- Thompson Boat Center, 333-9711

The paddleboats at the Tidal Basin remain popular. For marina facilities, sailboat and windsurfing rentals, and classes on the Washington Channel, Anacostia River, and south of Alexandria, Va.:

- The Belle Haven Marina, 768-0018
- The Buzzard Point Marina, 488-8400
- The Capital Sailboat Agency, Oxon Hill, Md., 301-292-2227
- The Daingerfield Island Cruising Fleet, 527-6899
- The Gangplank Sailing Assn., 244-5633
- The Mariner Sailing School, Alexandria, Va., 703-768-0018
- The Potomac River Sailing Assn., 301-840-1708
- The Sailing Club of Washington, 972-0906
- The Washington Marina, 554-0222
- The Washington Sailing Marina, 548-0001
- The National Yacht Club, 525-0694

- For classes in boating skills, sailing, and seamanship call: The Foundation for Boating Safety, 823-9550



Fishing Tips

Seasoned anglers in the Washington, D.C. area offer a number of tips for good fishing. The Washington Channel is good almost year-round, but spring is best. Use lures or brown rubber worms, cut meat, liver, earthworms, bloodworms, crawfish or live minnows. Bass is a popular catch at this spot.

To catch carp, use doughballs made from bread or flour paste. Some anglers add cornmeal and fruit jam to the doughballs. Earthworms and bloodworms also work well.

ALL LOCATIONS, YEAR-ROUND, EXCEPT WHERE NOTED:

	Below Little Falls	Spring Only
American Shad	X	X
Bass (smallmouth, largemouth, rock)		
Carp		
Catfish (channel, bullheads)		
Crappie		
Eel		
Gizzard Shad	X	X
Herring	X	X
Hickory Shad	X	X
Pickereel		
Striped Bass	X	X
Sunfish*		
Walleye		
Yellow Perch	X	

*Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Warmouth, Green, Redbreast, Redear.

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