

# Kayak Fishing in Local Waters



**Welcome Free State Members!**

# A little about me

- I am fortunate to have had excellent fishing mentors.
- I especially like kayak fishing and fly fishing.
- I like to share what I know about fishing.
- I'm still learning!



**Mark Bange**

# My Goals

**To show you that kayak fishing:**

- **Is safe if you make it so.**
- **Is a highly effective way to fish.**
- **Is an easy and relaxing way to fish.**
- **Grants you excellent access to local waters.**



**And...**

**...to encourage those of you who already kayak fish to do so more often...**




**and to convince those of you just thinking about it to join us!**

# The water cooler approach...

- **Let's make this conversational**
- **Ask questions as we proceed**
- **Feel free to add to the discussion**



# Today's Topics

1. Why fish from a kayak
2. Kayak choices
3. Gear: Tackle and Ancillary
4. Methods: Spinning, Casting, Fly 



....LUNCH....



5. What you'll catch locally
6. Kayak fishing tactics
7. Safety essentials
8. Local kayak fishing areas



# A thought before we start



*I view my kayak as an extension of my waders, taking me places I could not reach on foot. My kayak and my flyrod are perfect complements to each other.*

# Why Fish From a Kayak

- **Environmentally friendly**
- **Low cost/Low maintenance**
- **Scenic**
- **Relaxing**
- **Expands access to fish**
- **Great exercise**
- **Allows multiple fishing styles**
- **Individualistic (simple to complex)**
- **Makes you a better angler**
- **A year-round activity**
- **It's safe if you make it so**
- **Many sites locally**







**No one returns to the launch unhappy.**

**The Best Reason**

**IT'S FUN.**



# Choosing a Kayak



## Things to Consider

For boat number one or subsequent boats

# Choosing a Kayak

## Tradeoffs are many:

- Sit-on-top vs. Sit-inside
- Length and width and their impact on capacity, speed, stability, tracking
- Seating options to enhance comfort
- Space for gear and rigging
- Pedal vs. Paddle

There is no perfect fishing kayak.  
But there are many to choose from!

 bonafide



**JACKSON**  
kayak



*Old Town*



**perception**



**NATIVE**  
WATERCRAFT

# Choosing a Kayak



**Pedaling**

# Choosing a Kayak

## Hull Weight – An important consideration

- Storage – Ease of storage and removal for use
- Transporting – To, at, and from the launch
- Trailers – Good, but...



**FACT: If your kayak is too heavy it will deter you from using it.**

# Choosing a Kayak

## Where will you use it?

- Open water
- Rivers (Tidal or Fresh)
- Creeks and ponds
- All of the above



**Question: How many of you own more than one fly rod?**

# Choosing a Kayak

**Cost** – The ultimate criterion for most kayak anglers.



Hobie Pro Angler-14 (\$4,800)



The cost spectrum.



Walmart Sun Dolphin (\$180)

**Good News:** There are many excellent fishing kayak options in between.  
(Research the retail market on-line for prices and specifications.)

# Choosing a Kayak

## Think Used

- More bang for the buck
- Sources
  - Dealers
  - Craigslist
  - Snaggedline.com
- Often pre-rigged
- May include extras
  - Cart
  - Paddle
  - PFD
  - Electronics



Typical Craigslist ad

## What to Look For

- General condition
- Scratches are harmless
- Cracks are not
  - Check scuppers
  - Mid-hull
  - Bow and Stern
- Heavy wear on the keel
- Features



# Common Kayak Angling Gear

- **Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**
  - Required to be onboard by law
  - Required to be worn by common sense
  - Paddling PFDs available – High Back
- **Whistle or other noise making device**



# Common Kayak Angling Gear

## Paddle

- Length – depends on your height and your boat's beam
- 240 cm is common length
- Shaft -- Carbon vs. Fiberglass vs. Aluminum
- Blade – Plastic or Carbon (Adjustment of blade angle)
- Weight – generally, the lighter the paddle the more it costs
- 37 ounces to 21.5 ounces -- Light is good!
- May cost from under \$100 to \$400 plus
- Ideal paddle design is stroke dependent



Horizontal stroke



Upright stroke



**Buy the best paddle you can afford.**

# Common Kayak Angling Gear

## Carts

- Assists with on-land transport at some launches
- Even the lightest kayak may weigh 100 pounds fully loaded
- Multiple styles
- Stern wheels
- Homemade alternatives



**Note: You will need a cart for many of the local tidal launch sites.**

# Common Kayak Angling Gear

## VHF Handheld Radio

- Not a necessity but good to have
- NOAA Weather Updates
- Safety – Channel 16 (Distress Calls)



Keeping in touch with fishing buddies on the water via public channels – 68, 69, 71...short transmissions only.

- Waterproof/Floating
- Functionality – simple to complex
  - GPS
  - Bluetooth



A cell phone can serve same purpose, but a VHF radio is more convenient to use.  
However...remember your radio etiquette!

# Common Kayak Angling Gear

## Fish Finders

- Necessity? No
- Helpful? Yes
  - Depth
  - Structure
  - Temperature
  - Distance
  - Trails and Waypoints
  - Speed
- Requires wiring and battery
- Some kayaks are installation-ready



**LOWRANCE**

 **HUMMINBIRD**

**GARMIN**

# Miscellaneous Kayak Angling Items

- First aid
- Sunscreen
- Insect spray
- Food and drink
- Dry bag
- Waterproof Camera
- Towel



Vibrio



**Some of what you'll carry is seasonal.**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## (The fun stuff)

### Rods and Reels

- Ultra Light to Medium weight rods
- Depends on style of fishing and target species
- Most use:
  - Spinning rods 6 to 7 feet long
  - Bait cast rods 6 to 7 feet long
  - Fly rods 8.5 to 9 feet long, 4 to 8 weight



**Note: Avoid long handled rods.**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## (Conventional)

Generally, fresh water bass (or lighter) tackle will suffice for our local kayak fishing.



### Spinning rods and reels

Cast light lures well

Most cost less than baitcast rigs

Easy to use

### Baitcast rods and reels

More accurate in distance casting

Better control with heavier lures

Ergonomically comfortable

LH or RH cranking

Spinning rods are definitely the most commonly used fishing tackle among kayakers.



# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Line



### Braid

- Thin diameter
- Casts far
- No stretch
- Highly sensitive
- Long lasting
- Expensive



### Monofilament

- Elastic
- Has memory (coils)
- Abrasion resistant
- Good knot strength
- Degrades over time
- Inexpensive



### Fluorocarbon

- Low visibility
- Low stretch
- Abrasion resistant
- Sinks
- Stiffer than mono
- Expensive

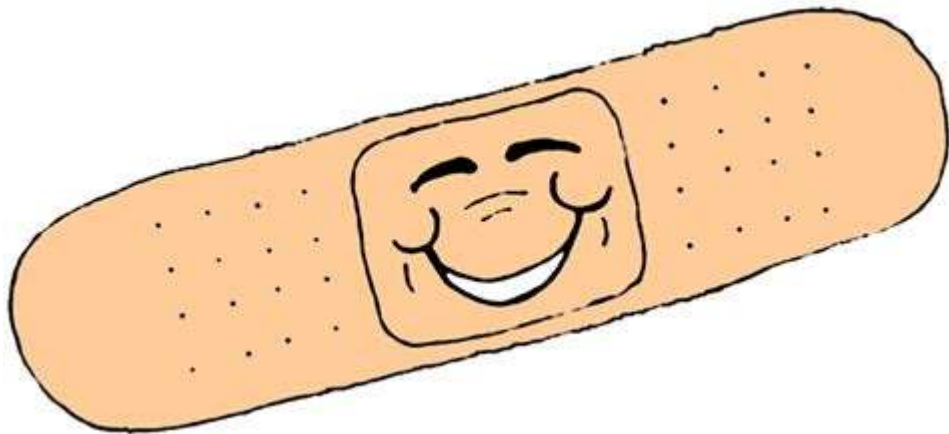
**Most kayak anglers use braid as main line and mono or fluorocarbon for leaders.**

**Note: We'll talk about fly line later.**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

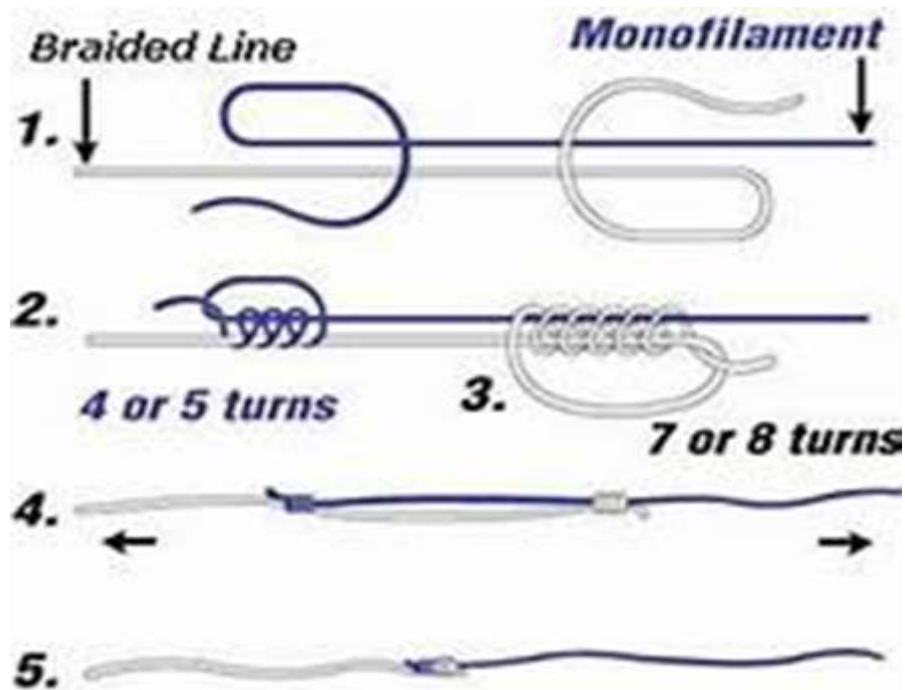
## Line

**Caution:** Braid may cut your hands if you grab it to subdue a fish boat-side. It's wise to tie a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader to the end of your braided line. Grab the leader, not the braid.

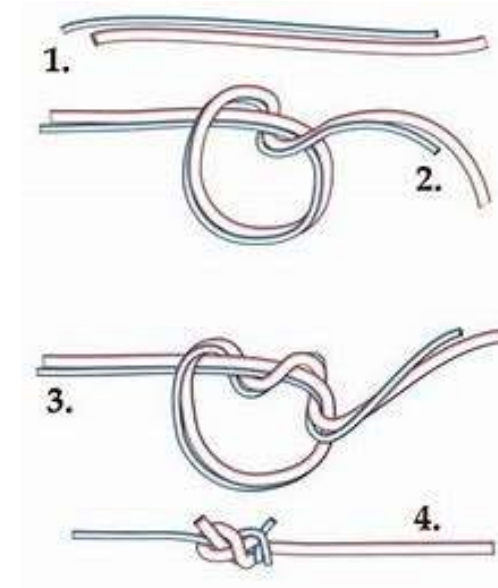


# While we're talking about line...

## Double-Uni knot



## Surgeon's knot



Good for tying leaders too.

Two useful fishing knots for connecting braid to leader.

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Rod Holders

- Critical due to space constraints
- Allow you to carry multiple rods
- Allow you to troll
- Various styles
  - Tube
  - Rod-specific commercial solutions
  - Homemade PVC solutions
- Must have solid foundation
  - On crate
  - Bolted to hull \*
  - Fastened to gear track



**\* CAUTION: Before drilling or permanently affixing any gear to your kayak, fish with your boat first.**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

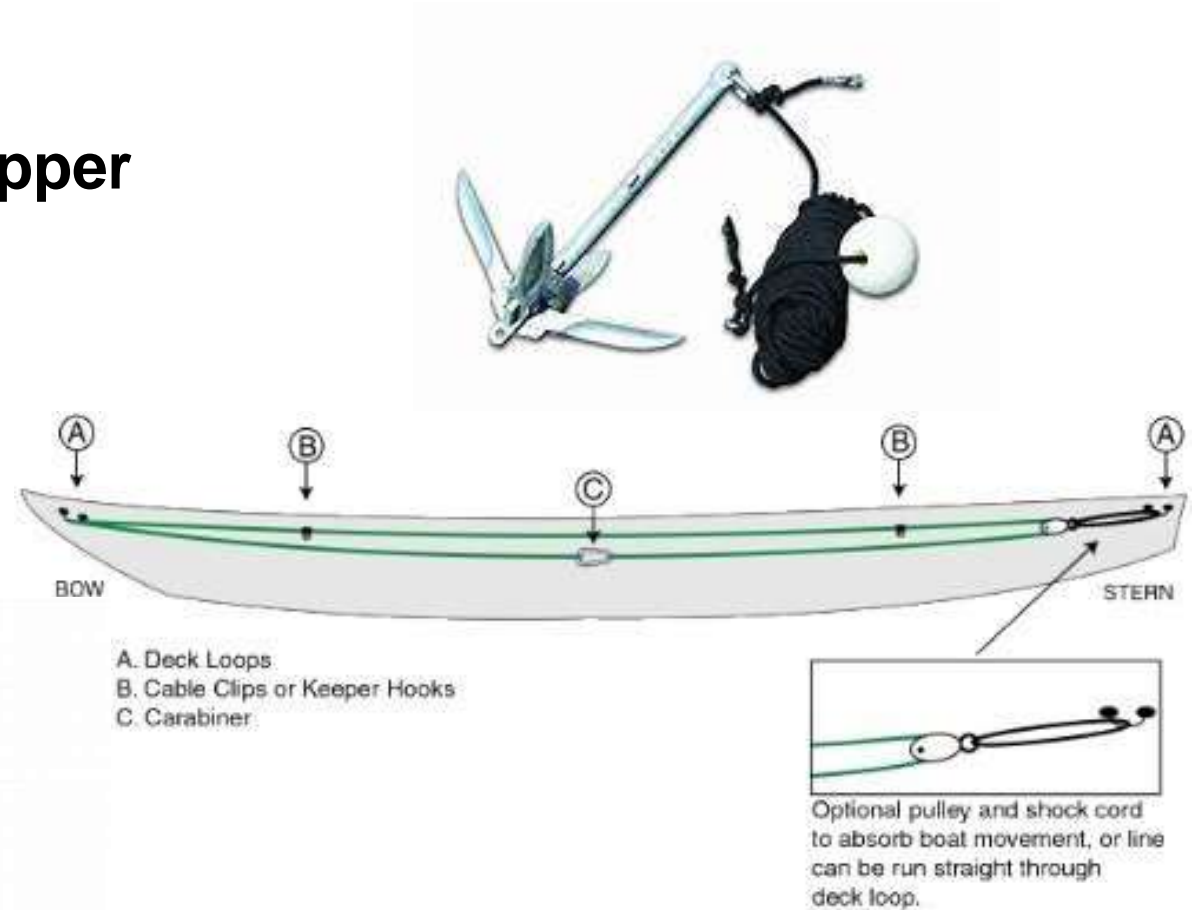
## Storage onboard

- **Highly Individualistic**
  - Your preferences will evolve
  - You will carry less tackle over time
- **Most anglers use some combination of:**
  - Milk Crate (May also serve as rod holder)
  - Bags
  - Dry boxes (Important – your items will get wet)
  - Ease of access is key
  - Keep everything in its place



# Kayak Fishing Tackle

- **Anchor with trolley**
  - Small anchor -- 1.5 to 3 pounds
- **Stick poles with trolley or scupper**
  - Storage may be a concern
- **Power poles**
- **Used in wind or current**
- **Must be used judiciously**
  - Quick release is essential



**You can also use nature's anchors...**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Tools

- Pliers/forceps
- Knife/scissors/snips
- Fish grips
- Hook file
- Hawg Trough
- Leatherman



**Look for stainless steel tools.**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle



## Lures and Flies

- Movement and sound are key
- Shape and size important
- Color sometimes matters
- Different kinds of retrieves will alter lure/fly effectiveness
- Learn to use a few lures/flyes well in lieu of trying many kinds
- Develop a “feel” for your lure

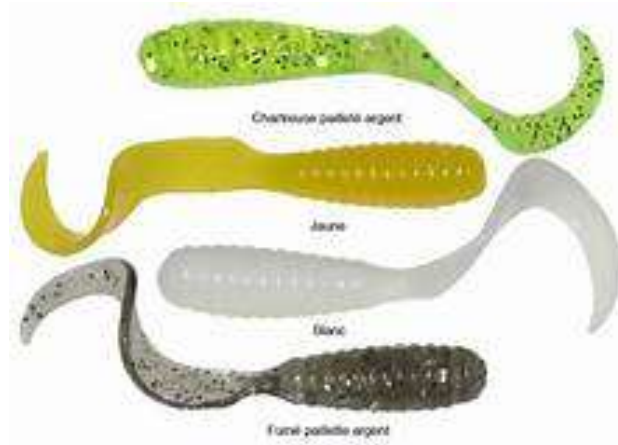


# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Lures -- Subsurface



Jigs



Twister tails



Paddletails

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Lures -- Subsurface



Crankbaits



Bucktails



Spinners

There are many more subsurface lure styles but these are very effective.

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Lures -- Topwater



**Popper**



**Walk-the-dog**



**Floating Diver**

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Lures -- Weedless



Frogs



Flukes

# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## Use the appropriate lure

- Weight and size -- species dependent
- Shape – to imitate bait
- Color (Dark day, dark lure theory)
- Clear water or stained?
- The importance of sound
- Size – when to downsize



## Vary your lure retrievals

- Subsurface
  - Constant fast/Constant slow
  - Start and Stop (Twitching)
  - Some combination of the above
- Surface
  - Hard/Subtle
  - Start and stop
  - Some combination of the above



# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## A few thoughts about treble hooks



- Common on commercial lures
- They're hard on fish
- They're potentially hard on you
- There is an alternative



Before



After



**In-line Hook**



For poppers a single in-line hook on the back will suffice.



# Kayak Fishing Tackle

## A few (more) thoughts about hooks

- Wide gaps are effective for the fish you'll pursue locally
- Keep them sharp with hook file
- Offsetting hook point will improve hookups



Inline vs Offset Circle Hook

**Exaggerated**

# Kayak Fly Fishing

## Effective and Enjoyable

Yes...it can be done

- Panfish to Stripers
- Topwater to Subsurface
- Big water to small



Note hookup in shade...more on this later.



# Kayak Fly Fishing

## An Ideal Setup



## Key Features

- Lightweight
- Comfortable
- Stable
- Open deck
- Configured for fly casting



# Gear in the kayak on flyfishing outing

- Rods -- 4 wt. to 8 wt.  
(Species dependent – Usually carry two rods)
- Floating or Intermediate WF Line
- Dry box for flies
- Leader wallet (Forget the X!)  
(Full convert to Joe Bruce leader system)
- Rod holders
- Truth board
- Anchor
- Fish grips/Jaw spreader/Forceps



# My preferred flies

Will catch any of the target fish in our local waters

- Foam Poppers
- Clouser Minnows
- Woolly Buggers
- Crystal Buggers
- Bendback Minnows
- Bullethead Darters

**Hint:**  
Learn to use a few well.  
You'll gain confidence.



**Hook Sizes: 6 to 2/0**

# Fly retrieval strategies

## Poppers/Sliders

- Seasonal – Generally not effective in cold water
- Usually better in low light or shady areas  
(Pickerel, bluegills & blitzing stripers are exceptions to that.)
- Find the right rhythm
- Sometimes subtle is best -- slider time



## Streamers

- Experiment until you find what works
- Slow down retrieve significantly in cold water
- Pause -- especially for pickerel
- Speed up in summer
- Go weightless



**IMPORTANT – Always keep rod tip low during retrieves.**

# Adding action to fly (or lure)...

## Perfection Loop

1.



2.



3.



# Kayak Fly Fishing

## Casting Tips

### Kayak Casting Myths

1. You'll "TURTLE"
  - \* Let rod do the work
  - \* Very smooth motion
  - \* Hardly a ripple on the water
2. You must cast far
  - \* You can get close to fish
  - \* 30 to 40 feet is plenty
3. You must stand to cast
  - \* You'll eventually fall
  - \* You may spook fish



**Note: I prefer a 9 ft. rod over shorter fly rods.**

# Kayak Fly Fishing

## Casting Tips

### Target Areas

- Position boat not your body
- Stow paddle
- Cast left of bow (Righties)
  - Stops flying elbow
  - Prevents shoulder fatigue
  - More natural motion
  - Good for working shorelines
  - Enables side-armed casts into wind, under cover
  - Avoids stored vertical rods behind seat



# Kayak Fly Fishing

## Casting Tips



### Heavy Streamers/Big Poppers

- Line up -- Use appropriate rod – there's no shame in that
  - Save the 5 wt. for bluegills
  - 7 wt. is the most common kayak fly rod I use
- Poppers may “dig in” at sudden start of back cast creating unwanted water disturbance
  - Don't “rip” fly from water
  - Pull popper forward slowly as you lift line
  - This will allow you to lift it quietly from water





# Kayak Fly Fishing

## Casting Tips

### Line Control



#### Drop on deck

- Must keep deck clear
- Good for distance



#### Drop overboard

- Easy to do
- May impede distance
- Not ideal for sinking lines
- You may tangle in vegetation or rudder



#### Hold in hand

- Difficult (for me)
- Situation dependent

# Lunch!



# The Fish You'll Catch

## Tidal

- Striped Bass
- White Perch
- Pickerel
- Bluefish
- Yellow Perch

## Freshwater

- Largemouth Bass
- Crappie
- Bluegill
- Pickerel
- Yellow Perch

## Less common catches

- Cownose Rays
- Channel Catfish
- Flounder
- Speckled Trout



# Tidal Fish



## Striped Bass



- MD state fish
- Anadromous
- Spawns in shallows in spring
- Retreats to deeper water in summer
- Fattens up in tidal creeks in fall
- Frequently caught by trolling

**Lures:** Jigs/Bucktails/Crankbaits/  
Surface

**Flies:** Streamers/Surface

# Tidal Fish

## White Perch

- Great summertime fish to pursue
- Leaves for deeper water in Sep./Oct.
- Returns to shallows in May/June
- Haunts shorelines and structure
- Loves shade on a hot day
- Fun on light tackle or fly
- Most are between 6 and 9 inches
- MD citation size is 13 inches

**Lures:** Spinners/Jig with grub

**Flies:** Streamers



# Tidal Fish

## Bluefish

- Prefers warm water
- Arrives in Bay in summer
- Leaves during fall
- Mostly found in open water
- Travels in schools
- Beware of teeth
- Destroys soft plastic baits and flies
- Frequently caught by trolling
- But will hit topwater

**Lures:** Jigs/Bucktails/Crankbaits/Surface

**Flies:** Streamers/Surface



**A sure sign blues are present.**

# Tidal/Freshwater Fish



**Great news: They're back in tidal waters.**

## **Pickerel**

- A fun cold water pursuit
- Tidal Creeks and Freshwater Ponds
- Likes shorelines and structure
- Likes vegetation
- Will move to deeper water in winter
- Likes sunshine
- Does not like wind-rippled water
- Fun on light tackle or fly
- Beware of teeth
- MD citation size is 24 inches

**Lures:** Spinners/Jigs with grubs/Flukes/  
Surface

**Flies:** Streamers/Surface

# Tidal/Freshwater Fish



## **Yellow Perch**

- Often a cold water pursuit
- Tidal Creeks
- Eastern Shore ponds
- Not as prevalent as white perch
- Fun on light tackle or fly

**Lures:** Spinners/Jigs with grubs

**Flies:** Streamers



# Freshwater Fish

## Largemouth Bass

- Freshwater Ponds
- Great fun in April and May
- Likes shorelines and structure
- Likes vegetation
- Will move to deeper water in heat
- Likes shade and low light
- Feeding frenzy in fall
- Fun on light tackle or fly
- Topwater favorite

**Lures:** Spinners/Jigs with grubs/Crankbaits/Poppers/Flukes

**Flies:** Streamers/Poppers/Sliders



# Freshwater Fish



## Crappie

- Freshwater Ponds
- Early spring bite
- Late fall bite
- Soft mouth
- Fun on light tackle or fly

**Lures:** Jigs with grubs, paddeltails

**Flies:** Streamers/Surface

# Freshwater Fish

## Bluegills

- Freshwater Ponds
- Great fun in April and May
- Topwater aggressive
- Will hit big bass poppers
- Generally slightly off shoreline
- Prefers quiet water coves
- Fly rod favorite
- Likes sun

**Lures:** Jigs with grubs

**Flies:** Poppers, streamers, specialty flies



# Less Common Catches



## These fish are:

- Mainly by-catches (Rays)
- Not abundant in our area (Trout)
- More apt to hit live/cut bait than lures (Catfish and Flounder)

**Note:** 2018 and 2019 were anomaly years for channel cats. Many were caught on lures by anglers pursuing stripers and white perch.



# Less Common Catches



**Northern Snakehead**

**Recent arrival...Bodkin, Severn, Magothy**



**Blue catfish**

- **Invasive species**
- **Often targeted by kayak anglers**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## Knowing where and what to cast

### Use the following:

- What you know
- What you see
- The shoreline terrain
- Structure
- The wind
- Stealth
- Bait and Switch
- Boating fish



# Kayak Fishing Tactics

**Use what you know**

- **Depth**
- **Water Temperature**
- **Lures that are working on the water now (Radio)**
- **Lures that have worked before**
- **Areas that have been productive before**
- **Recent reports**



# Kayak Fishing Tactics

**Use what you see**



**Structure & Tide**



**Current**

**Fish react predictably to structure, tide and current.**



# Kayak Fishing Tactics

**Use what you see**



**Working Birds**



**Sun vs. Shade**

**Wildlife activity and the degree of sunlight may predict your success.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

Observe shoreline terrain



Flat bank – Shallow water



Steep bank – Deeper water

A good depth estimation technique.

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

**Look for structure**



**Structure attracts fish. It will attract you if you want to become a better angler.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## Look for vegetative structure

### Lily Pads and Spatterdock

- Produce Oxygen during daylight
- Produce CO<sub>2</sub> at night
- Fish react accordingly
- Target edges during low light
- Target inside pads during day
- Or, draw them out with parallel casts on edges.



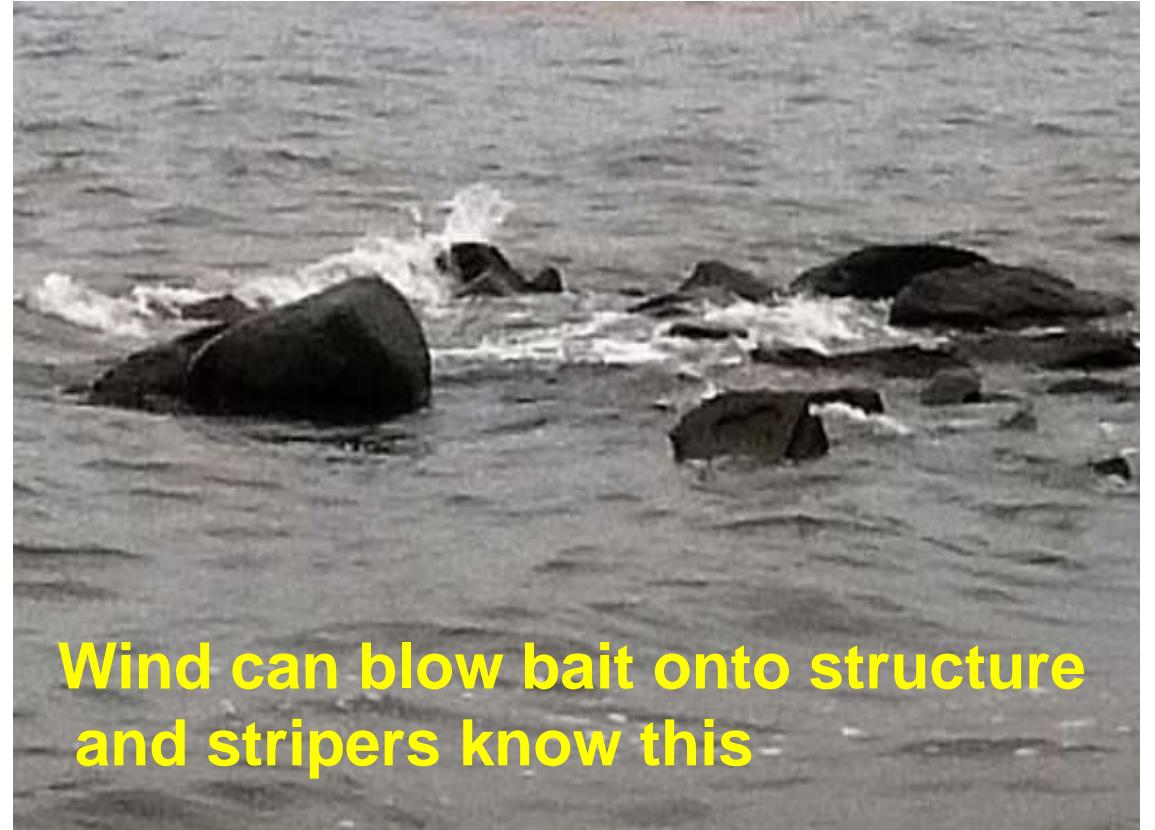
**Structure attracts fish. It will attract you if you want to become a better angler.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

**Use wind to find fish**



**Pickerel and white perch  
prefer calm surfaces**



**Wind can blow bait onto structure  
and stripers know this**

**Different fish species have different wind tolerances.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

Use the wind to your advantage



To travel along a shoreline



To anchor in position for casting

It's often advantageous to have wind at your back.

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

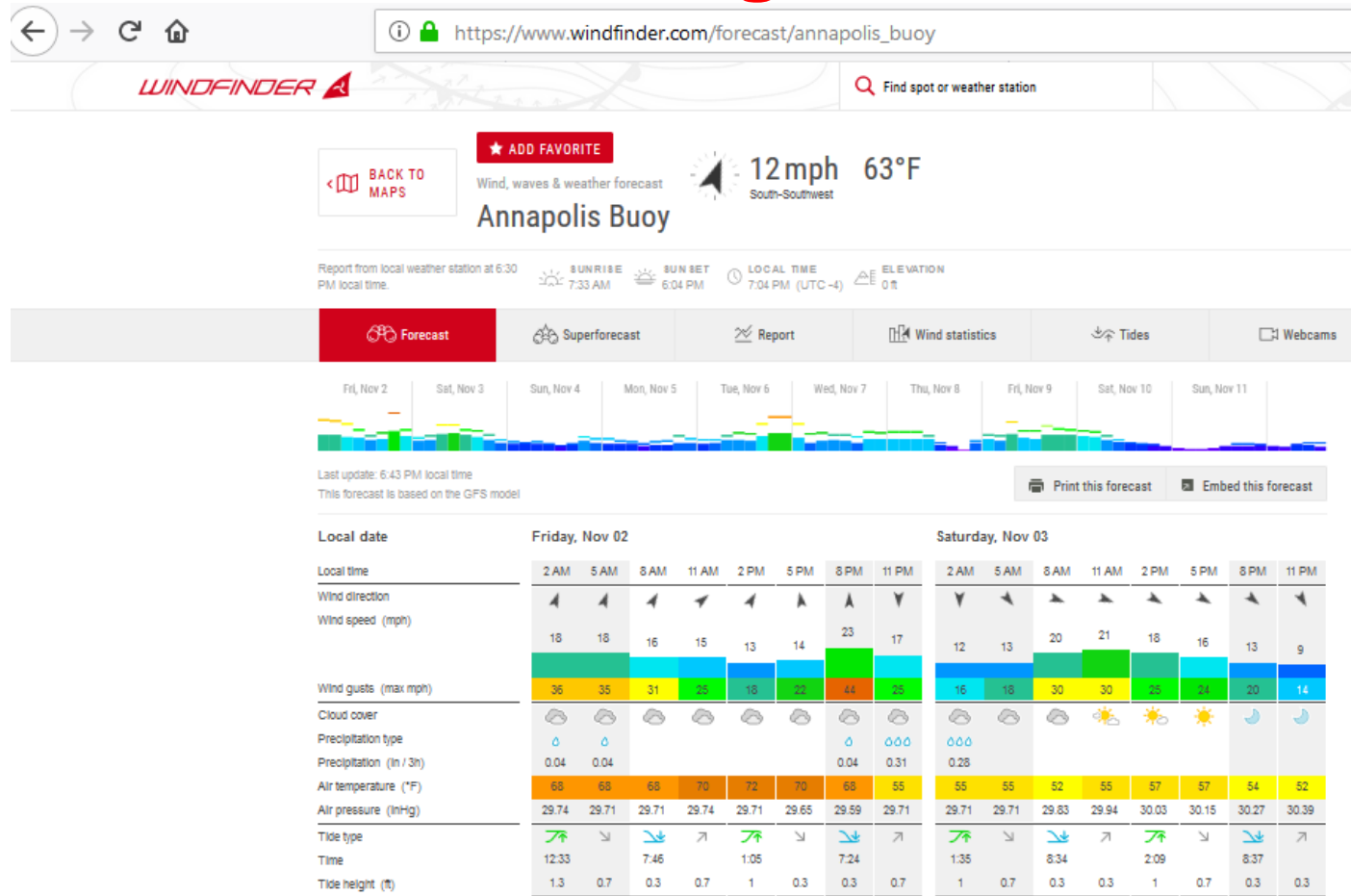
## Using leeward protection



**Plan your trips mindful of the wind's direction.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## Forecasting the wind



Use wind and weather forecasts to plan your trips.



# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## An Overhead View



Great for trip planning to:

- Scope out an new area
- Learn detail of an area you have already fished
- Determine geographical orientation
- Assess impact of projected wind
- Look for areas favorable to fish near launch site
- Measure distances
- Share information

**You'll see Google Earth images in the slides to come when we discuss launch sites.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## Use stealth

- Quietly approach tight areas
- Drift into position
- Make short accurate casts
- Avoid standing
- Avoid making sharp noises in kayak
- Paddle calmly; paddle low
- Be alert
  - Look for fish or signs of fish
  - Look ahead for targets



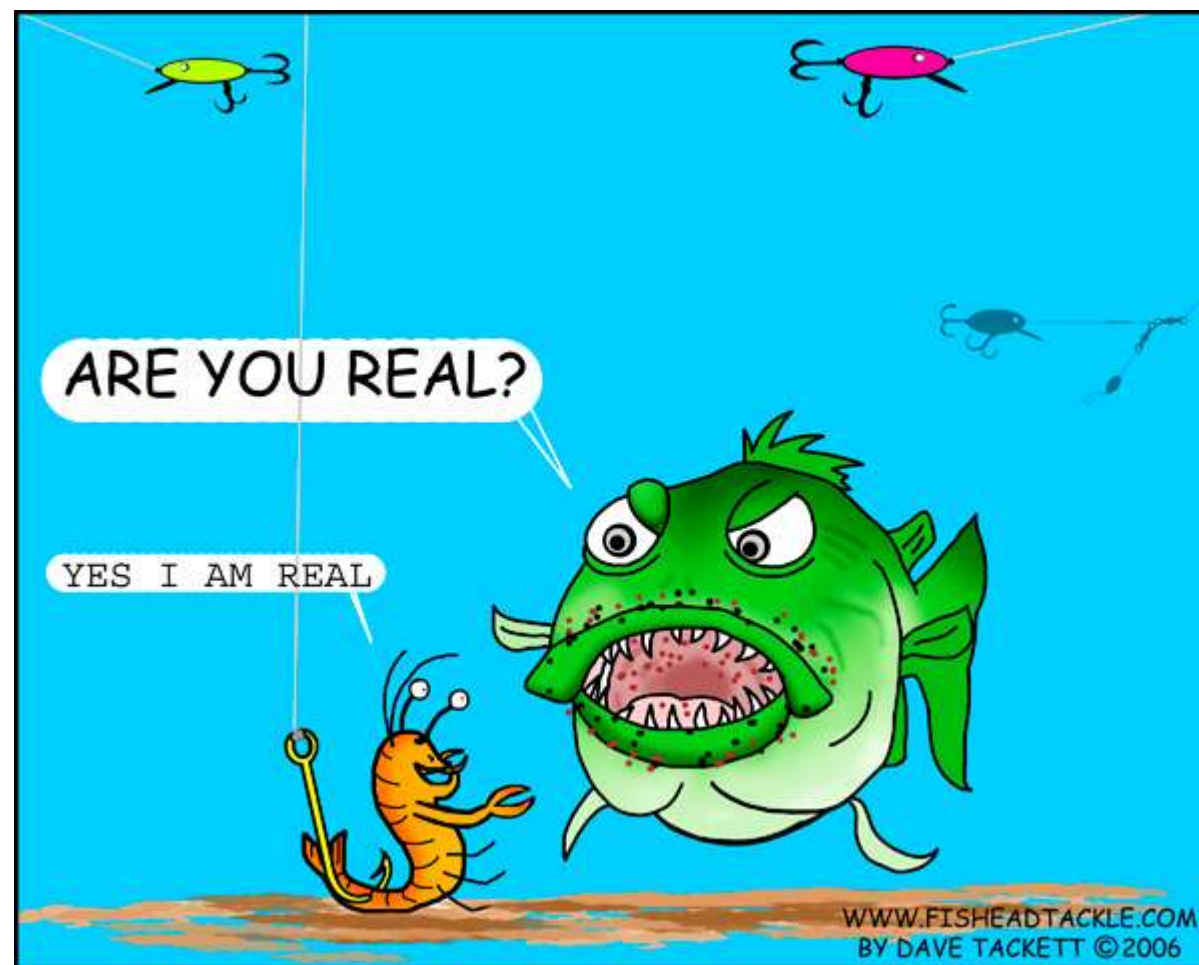
Low profile, quiet approach

**A major advantage of fishing from a kayak – Stealth.**

# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## Bait and Switch

- Did you miss a strike?
- Toss another kind of lure or fly immediately into swirl
- Often leads to hard strike
- Another reason to carry multiple rods, each with different lure or fly



# Kayak Fishing Tactics

## After you're hooked up

- **Kayak creates resistance**
  - Big fish will pull you
  - Breaking off big fish
- **Keep your weight centered in seat at all times**
- **As fish tires, reel in line, lift rod high**
  - Fish will come to side of boat
  - Run hand down leader
  - Lip fish, use grips or net
- **Handle it gently, photograph quickly and return it to water**



# Kayak Fishing Safety

## Gear to keep near

### Personal Floatation Device (PFD)

- Some are made for kayak fishing
  - High back
  - Pockets
- Some are made for summer use
  - Inflatable with CO2 Cartridge
- Required by DNR regulations to be in boat
- Much better to wear it.



### Protection from sun

- Sunscreen
- SPF clothing
  - Hats, shirts and pants
  - Buffs
  - Gloves
- It's not a fashion show!



# Kayak Fishing Safety

**Be aware and share**

## Protect yourself from other boaters

- Assume you are not seen
  - You sit low to water
  - You may disappear in even moderate waves
  - Use reflective tape on paddles and/or post a flag
- Be vigilant -- Know your surroundings at all times
- Yield – You cannot outrun a boat
- Stay out of shipping/boating channels
- Fish during low boat traffic times if possible



Flag aids visibility to others

## Share your outings and destinations

- Join fellow kayakers on outings
  - Snaggedline.com
  - Free State Fly Fishers
- Leave a float plan with friends or family  
(Tell them where you're going.)



Safety in numbers

# Kayak Fishing Safety

## Don't Overload Your Kayak



Maybe this person should get a boat.

**This can happen:**

DNR: Lake Superior kayaking tragedy caused by overloaded ...

<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2018/12/17/dnr-lake...>

DNR: Deadly Lake Superior kayaking accident due to overloaded boat, inexperience. ... RELATED:  
Loyal rallies behind mom who lost husband, 3 kids in kayak tragedy.

**Know its weight capacity**

- It's posted in the kayak

**Leave room so you can:**

- Fish freely
- Re-enter in an emergency

**Be sensible**

- Carry only what you really need

# Kayak Fishing Safety

## Staying right-side up

### Maintaining stability on the water

- Face waves head-on or at a 45 degree angle when possible
- Use paddle (reach out on water with blade) to stabilize
- Keep weight centered in boat. (Butt in seat!)
  - When reaching back to rods or milkcrate
  - Do not lean over side to land fish
  - Raise rod tip to bring fish to side of boat.



Proper landing technique

**Most Important: Don't launch or get to shore fast in deteriorating conditions.**



# Kayak Fishing Safety

**Yes, you can kayak fish safely in cold water.**



**But, definitely not for the inexperienced kayak angler!**

# Kayak Fishing Safety

## Dress the part

### Protective clothing in cold water

- Dry pants and dry tops
- Full dry suits
- Waders and boots
- Neoprene shoes and gloves



**Surprise: The goal is to stay dry and comfortable inside the kayak!**

# Kayak Fishing Safety

Be smart

## Modify your kayak fishing behavior in cold water

- Dress the part
- Fish calm water ponds or creeks, not big water
- Be critically selective of weather conditions
- Do not fish alone
- Hypothermia threat is serious

Hypothermia Chart		
If the Water Temp is (F):	Exhaustion or Unconsciousness:	Expected Time of survival is:
32.5	Under 15 Minutes	Under 15 - 45 Minutes
32.5 - 40.0	15 - 30 Minutes	30 - 90 Minutes
40.0 - 50.0	30 - 60 Minutes	1 - 3 Hours
50.0 - 60.0	1 -2 Hours	1 - 6 Hours

## Don't become a headline!

Autopsy: Lisle man found in Lake Michigan drowned and had ...  
[www.chicagotribune.com/.../news/ct-lisle-kayaker-autopsy...](http://www.chicagotribune.com/.../news/ct-lisle-kayaker-autopsy...) v  
Sep 16, 2015 · The Lisle man whose body was found floating in Lake Michigan following a weekend kayak fishing tournament died from **drowning and hypothermia** a Wisconsin ...

Kayarchy - kayaking safely (1) real hazards  
[kayarchy.com/html/.../010kayakingsafely/001coldshock.htm](http://kayarchy.com/html/.../010kayakingsafely/001coldshock.htm) v  
Kayaking safely (1) ... swim failure & **hypothermia** Sea temperatures Cold shock Swimming failure **Hypothermia Drowning** Getting run over Heavy ... His kayak was found ...

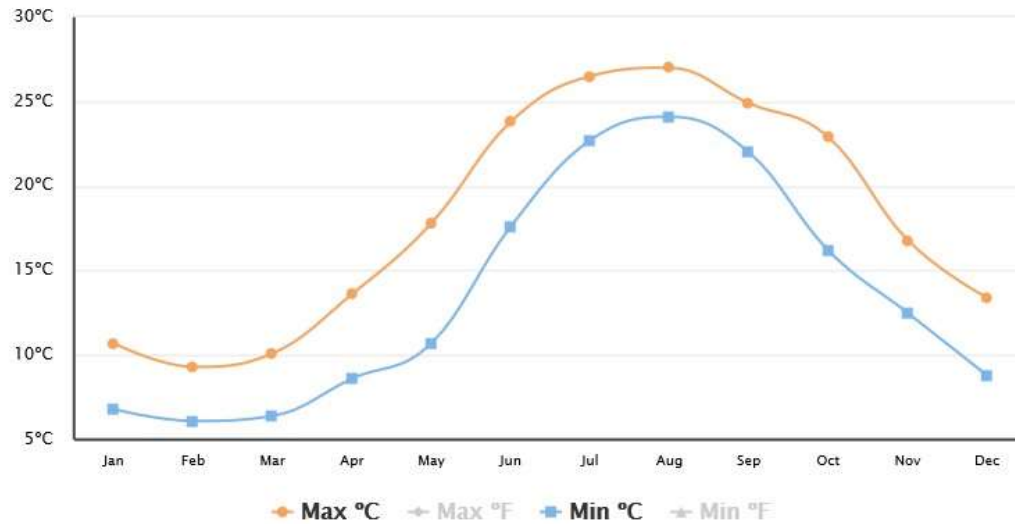
PARIS TN: Puryear man drowns after falling from kayak | Local ...  
[www.parispi.net/news/local\\_news/article\\_02ccdd02-07c4-11...](http://www.parispi.net/news/local_news/article_02ccdd02-07c4-11...) v  
A fisherman in a kayak drowned Wednesday near the Stewart County side of Kentucky ... Puryear man drowns after falling from kayak ... **He had hypothermia** ..

Wearing a PFD is a given in all water but an absolute necessity in cold water.

# Average monthly Chesapeake water temperature

## Monthly average max / min water temperatures

The graph below shows the range of monthly Naval Academy water temperature derived from many years of historical sea surface temperature data.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Min °C	6.8	6.1	6.4	8.6	10.7	17.6	22.7	24.1	22	16.2	12.5	8.8
Max °C	10.7	9.3	10.1	13.6	17.8	23.8	26.5	27	24.9	22.9	16.8	13.4
Min °F	45.8	44.3	45	49.5	54.1	66.2	74.4	76.5	72.7	63.8	56.2	49.7
Max °F	49.7	47.5	48.7	54.5	61.2	72.4	78.2	79.4	75.6	70.5	60.5	54.3



30 to 60 mins.

1 to 2+ hrs.

30 to 60 mins.

Time to exhaustion



# Kayak Fishing Safety

## Bottom Line...

Your most important defense against cold water is this.

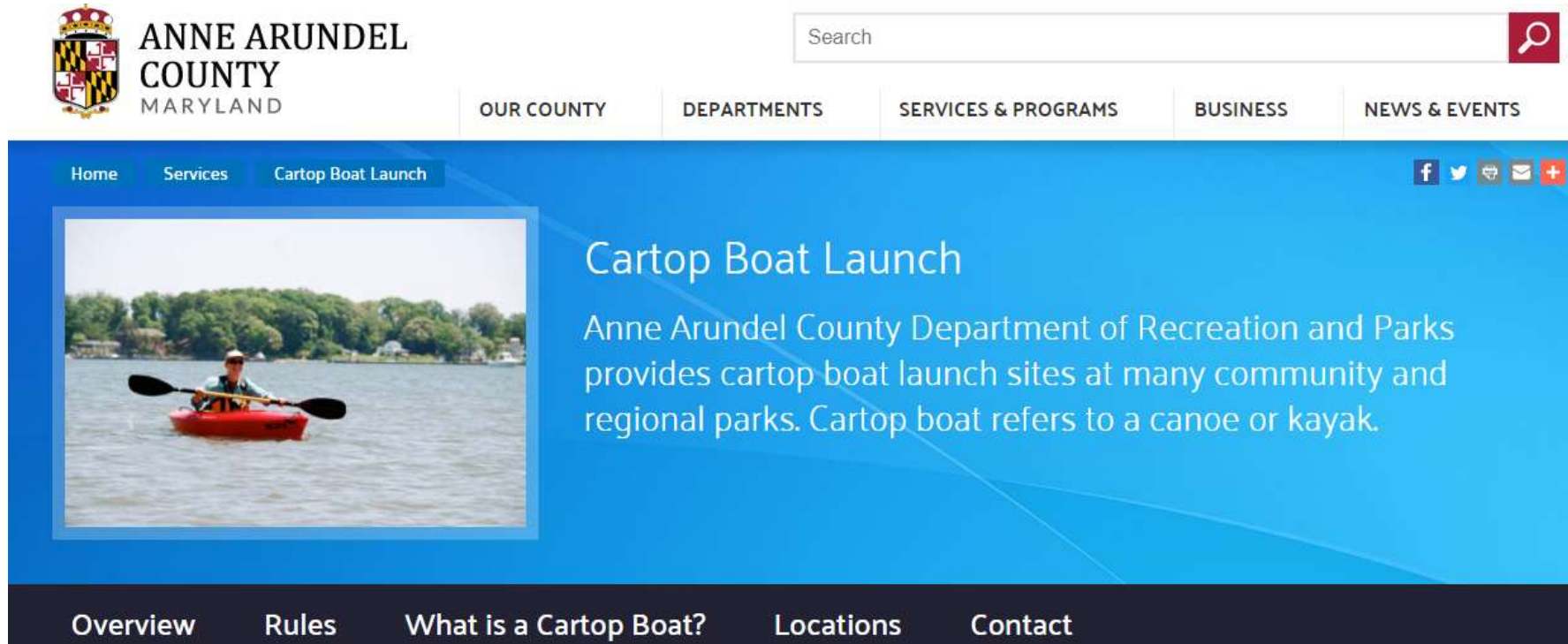


**Use it!**

You know the facts. Make wise decisions on when, where, how you prepare and your readiness to kayak fish in cold water.

# Where to Kayak Fish

<http://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/cartop-boat-launch>



The screenshot shows the website for Anne Arundel County's Cartop Boat Launch service. At the top left is the Anne Arundel County Maryland logo. To its right is a search bar with the word "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the logo and search bar are navigation tabs: "OUR COUNTY", "DEPARTMENTS", "SERVICES & PROGRAMS", "BUSINESS", and "NEWS & EVENTS". The "SERVICES & PROGRAMS" tab is selected. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with "Home", "Services", and "Cartop Boat Launch". The "Cartop Boat Launch" tab is selected. On the right side of this bar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Email, and a plus sign. The main content area has a blue background. On the left is a photo of a person in a red kayak on a body of water. To the right of the photo is the title "Cartop Boat Launch" and a paragraph: "Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks provides cartop boat launch sites at many community and regional parks. Cartop boat refers to a canoe or kayak." At the bottom of the page is a dark blue footer with navigation links: "Overview", "Rules", "What is a Cartop Boat?", "Locations", and "Contact".

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MARYLAND

Search

OUR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS SERVICES & PROGRAMS BUSINESS NEWS & EVENTS

Home Services Cartop Boat Launch

Cartop Boat Launch

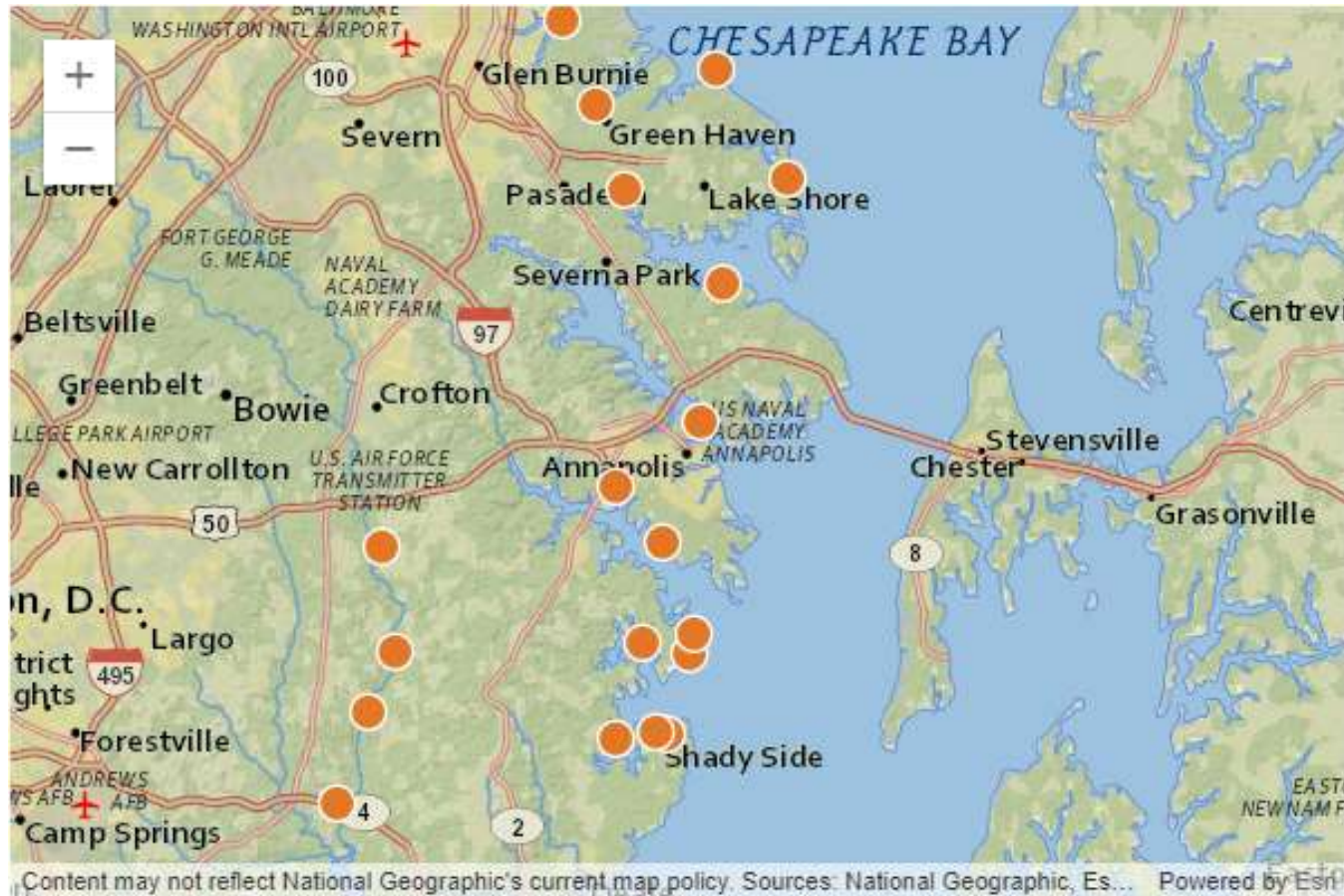
Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks provides cartop boat launch sites at many community and regional parks. Cartop boat refers to a canoe or kayak.

Overview Rules What is a Cartop Boat? Locations Contact

**Public Water Access – 533 miles of shoreline**

# Where to Kayak Fish

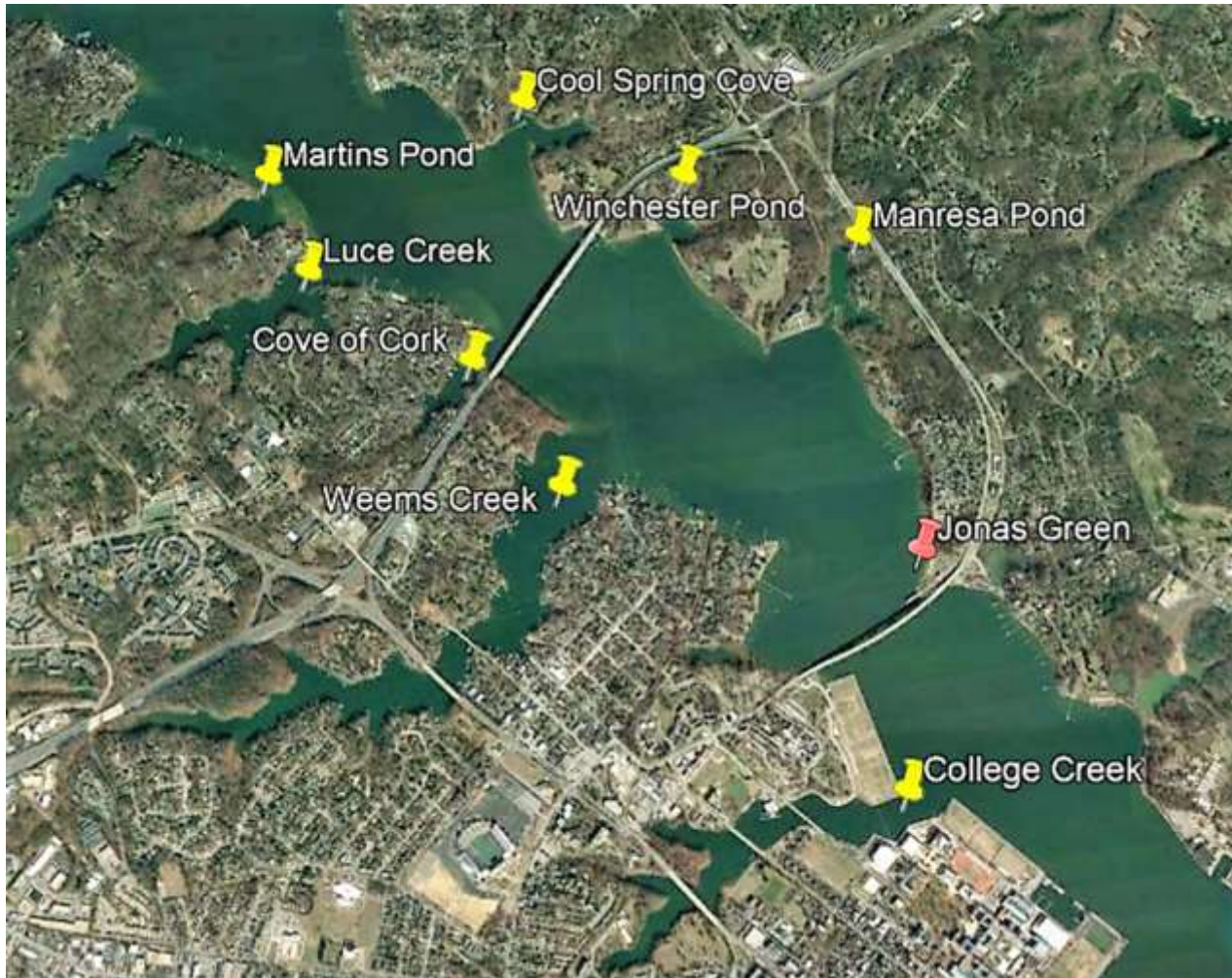
Twenty Anne Arundel county kayak launch sites



## Favorites

- Jonas & Catharine Green Park
- Ft. Smallwood Park
- Beachwood Park
- Downs Park
- Tucker Street

# Jonas and Anne Catharine Green Park Annapolis



1. Manresa Pond
2. Winchester Pond
3. Cool Spring Cove
4. College Creek
5. Weems Creek
6. Cove of Cork
7. Luce Creek
8. Martins Pond



# Jonas and Anne Catharine Green Park

2001 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd  
Annapolis, MD 21409



# Fort Smallwood Park Pasadena, MD



1. Big water
2. On Patapsco River
3. Subject to winds
4. Relatively shallow
5. Parking near launch
6. Good striper site

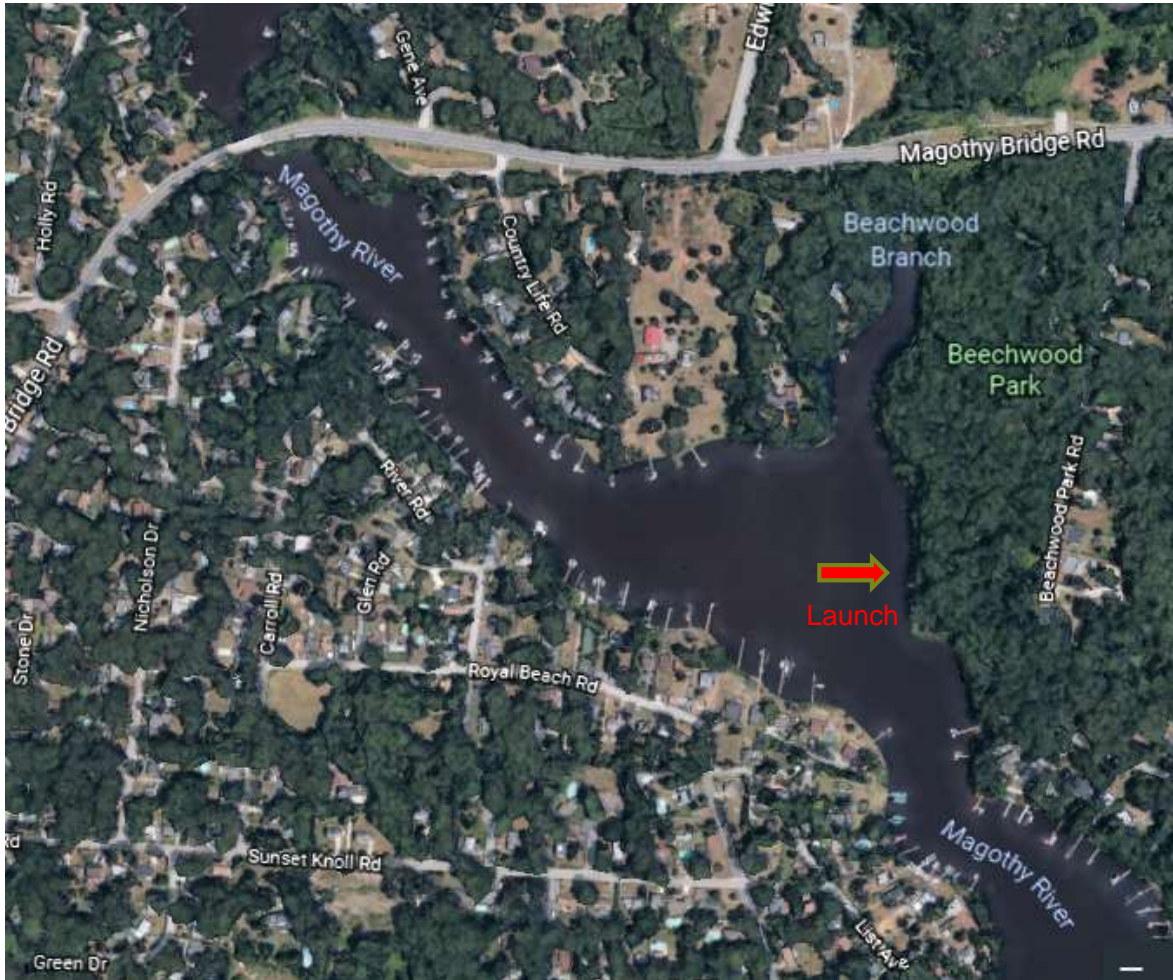


# Fort Smallwood Park

9500 Fort Smallwood Road  
Pasadena, MD 21122



# Beachwood Park Pasadena, MD



- Upper end of Magothy
- Freezes quickly
- Largely protected from wind
- Yellow perch site in February
- White perch and stripers later
- Long path to water
- Hill



# Beachwood Park

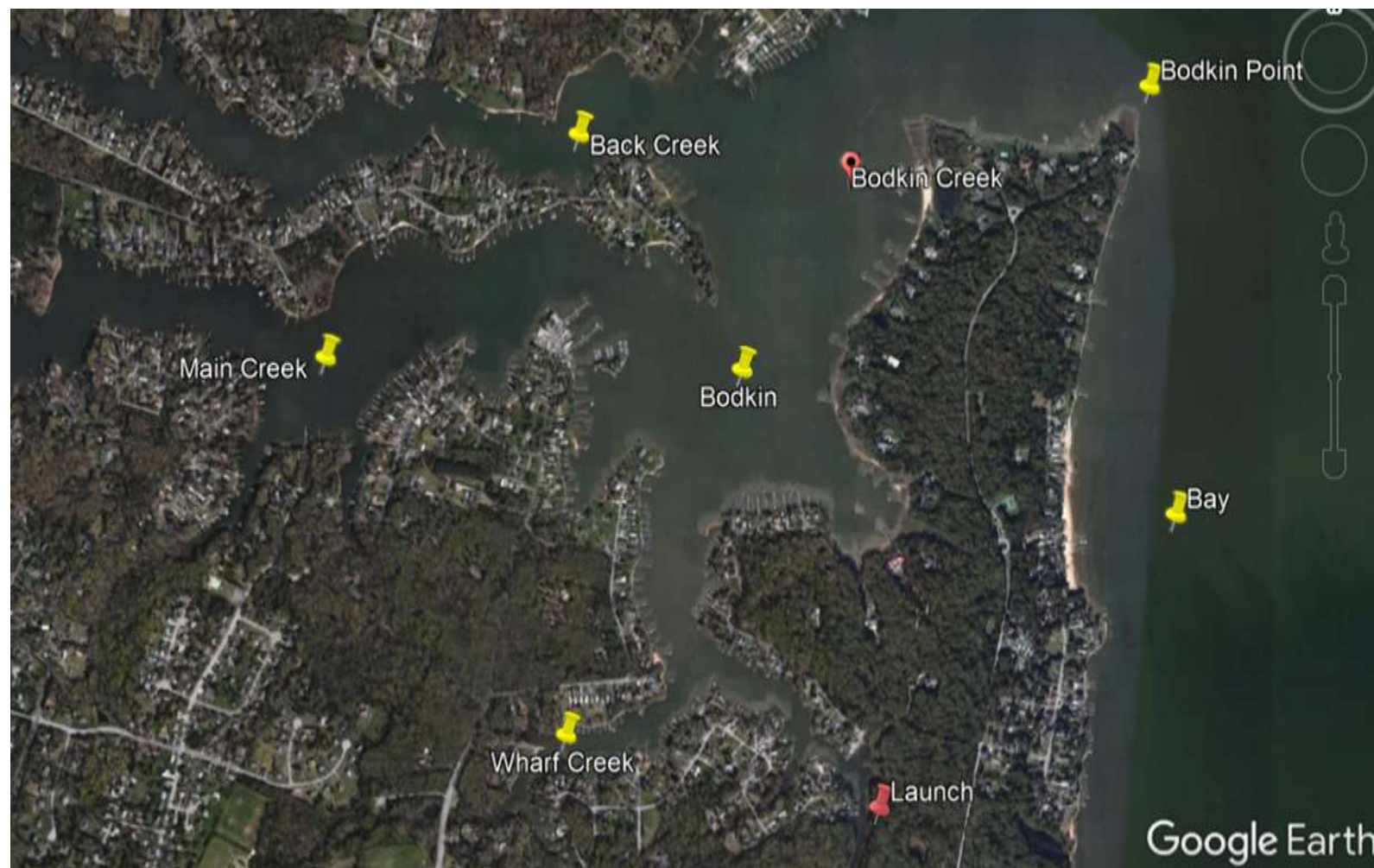
8320 Beachwood Park Road  
Pasadena, MD 21122



# Downs Park (Locust Cove)

8311 John Downs Loop, Pasadena, MD 21122

- **Access to 4 creeks + Bay and Patapsco**
- **Protected from wind**
- **Multiple environments**
  - High density to natural
- **Scenic**
- **Flat walk to launch**
- **Good species variety**
  - Channel cats
  - Yellow perch
  - White perch
  - Pickerel
  - Stripers



# Downs Park (Locust Cove)



# Weems Creek

## Tucker Street

### Annapolis, MD



- **Convenient launch**
  - Access to other Severn sites
- **Protection from NW wind**
- **Long and varied shorelines**
  - Natural
  - Manmade
- **1.5 miles long**
- **White perch haven**
- **Stripers in fall**





# Weems Creek Tucker Street Annapolis, MD



# Other good places to launch and fish in A.A. County

## Annapolis

- Truxton Park
- Back Creek Nature Park

Spriggs Farm Park (Magothy River)

Homeport Farm (South River)

Beverly Triton Park (Mayo Peninsula)



**Remember: A.A. County has 533 miles of shoreline.**

# Where to Kayak Fish

## Eastern Shore Ponds





# Eastern Shore Ponds Delaware

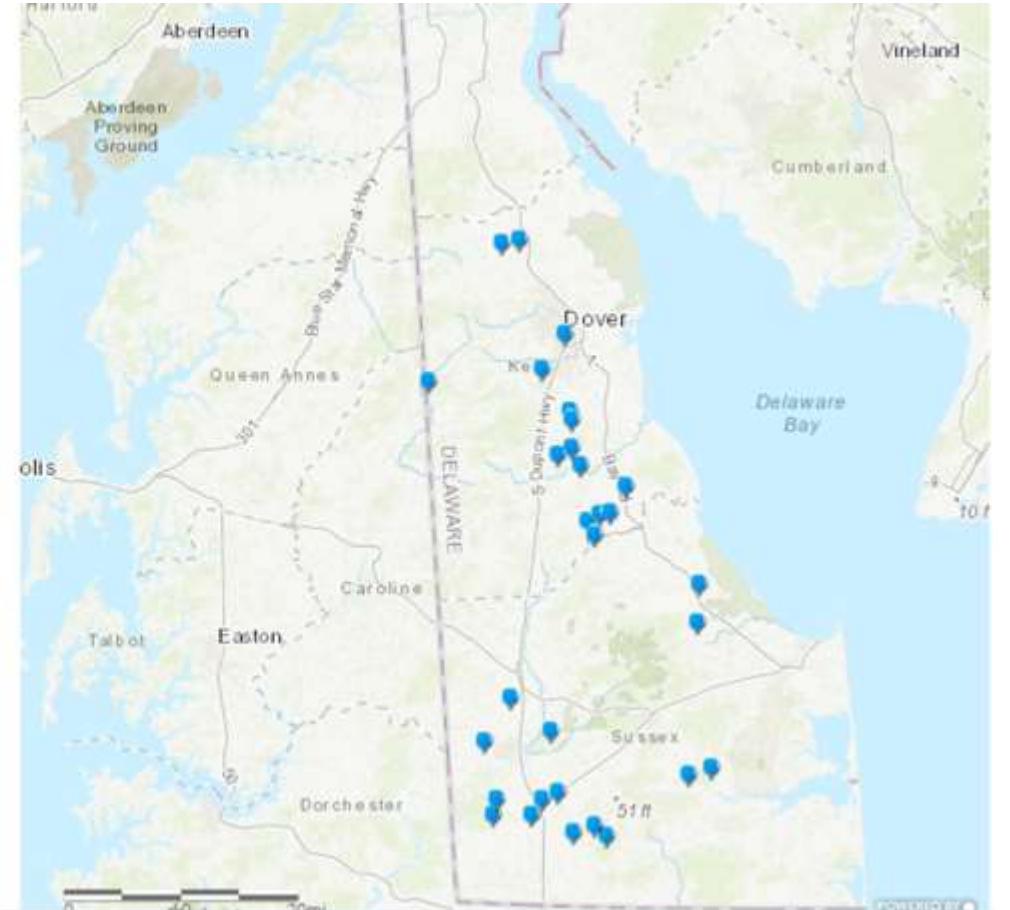
Google: Delaware Fishing Ponds



**Turtles at Trap Pond**

## Sussex County

- [Abbotts Pond](#)
- [Blairs Pond](#)
- [Chipman Pond](#)
- [Concord Pond](#)
- [Craigs Pond](#)
- [Griffith Lake](#)
- [Haven Lake](#)
- [Hearns Pond](#)
- [Horsey Pond](#)
- [Ingrams Pond](#)
- [Millsboro Pond](#)
- [Portsville Pond](#)
- [Raccoon Pond](#)
- [Records Pond](#)
- [Trap Pond](#)
- [Trussum Pond](#)
- [Tussock Pond](#)
- [Wagamons Pond](#)
- [Waples Pond](#)



<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/fishing-ponds/>



# Eastern Shore Ponds Maryland

Search for Eastern Region “hotspots” on MD DNR site.



Feeder creek at Tuckahoe

Eastern region

**Caroline county**

- **Smithville Lake** - Located in Federalsburg, this 30 acre lake offers anglers a wide variety of fish species including large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, white and black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, chain pickerel, brown bullhead catfish, gizzard shad, golden shiners and chub suckers.

**Cecil county**

- **Rising Sun Pond** - This one-acre pond in Rising Sun is a popular fishing spot. It has a good variety of species including bass, bluegill, white and black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, common carp and seasonal stocked spring trout.

**Dorchester county**

- **Tranquaking River** - Dorchester County; largemouth bass, striped bass, chain pickerel, crappie, channel catfish, yellow and white perch, bluegill, and carp. For information - [410-228-2926](tel:410-228-2926).

**Kent county**

- **Urleville Lake** - Kent County, in Kennedyville, Maryland; 35 acres; bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullhead catfish, golden shiners, and common carp. [410-928-3643](tel:410-928-3643).

**Queen Anne's county**

- **Tuckahoe Lake** - Queen Anne and Caroline County; in Tuckahoe State Park near Hillsboro, Maryland; 19 acres; bass, bluegill, chain pickerel, white and black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow perch, brown bullhead, carp, golden shiners, and chub suckers. [410-928-3643](tel:410-928-3643).
- **Unloom Lake** - Queen Anne's County in Millington, Maryland; 43 acres; largemouth bass; bluegill, chain pickerel, pumpkinseed sunfish, green sunfish, channel catfish, brown bullhead catfish, black crappie, yellow perch, white perch, American eel, creek chubsucker, margined madtom, eastern mudminnow, pirata perch, and blacknose dace. The Unicorn dam tailrace provides excellent spring fishing for bluegill, white perch, blueback herring, and yellow perch.
- **Wye Mills Lake** - 50 acres; in Wye Mills, Maryland; largemouth bass, bluegill, white and black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullhead catfish, common carp, yellow perch, gizzard shad and golden shiners. [410-928-3643](tel:410-928-3643).

**Wicomico county**

- **Adkins Mill Pond** - Near Fowlerville this 4 acre-pond offers anglers a variety of species including; bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullhead catfish, golden shiners, creek chubsucker, black crappie, chain pickerel and common carp, bluespotted sunfish, and American eel.
- **Johnson's Pond** - The largest freshwater impoundment on the eastern shore, this 104-acre lake near Salisbury is a Special Bass Management Area. Anglers can fish for; largemouth bass, chain pickerel, crappie, bluegill sunfish, yellow and white perch. Special regulations do apply.
- **Leonard's Mill Pond** - A 30-acre Special Bass Management Area outside of Salisbury, Leonard's Mill Pond offers excellent largemouth bass fishing. Other species such as, pumpkinseed sunfish, yellow bullhead catfish, golden shiners, creek chubsucker, black crappie, chain pickerel and common carp are also found here. For more information call [410-928-3643](tel:410-928-3643).

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/hotspots/index.aspx>

# Where to Kayak Fish

## Favorite Eastern Shore Ponds



Wye Mills (29) (50)  
Tuckahoe (36) (20)  
Unicorn (52) (43)  
Smithville (54) (43)

Concord (70) (78)  
Trap (78) (90)  
Millsboro (85) (100)  
Ingrams (85) (24)



**Red = Miles from Annapolis**  
**Blue = Acres**

# Where to Kayak Fish

## Eastern Shore Pond Scenes



# Kayak Fishing Throughout the Year

## Tidal

Winter/Early Spring -- Pickerel, Yellow Perch

Spring to Summer -- White Perch and Stripers

Fall -- Bigger Stripers; Perch leave, Pickerel re-establish their areas

## Freshwater Ponds

Winter/Early Spring -- Crappie, Pickerel

Spring -- Bedding Bass, Bedding Bluegill

Summer -- **GREEN POND SCUM** 

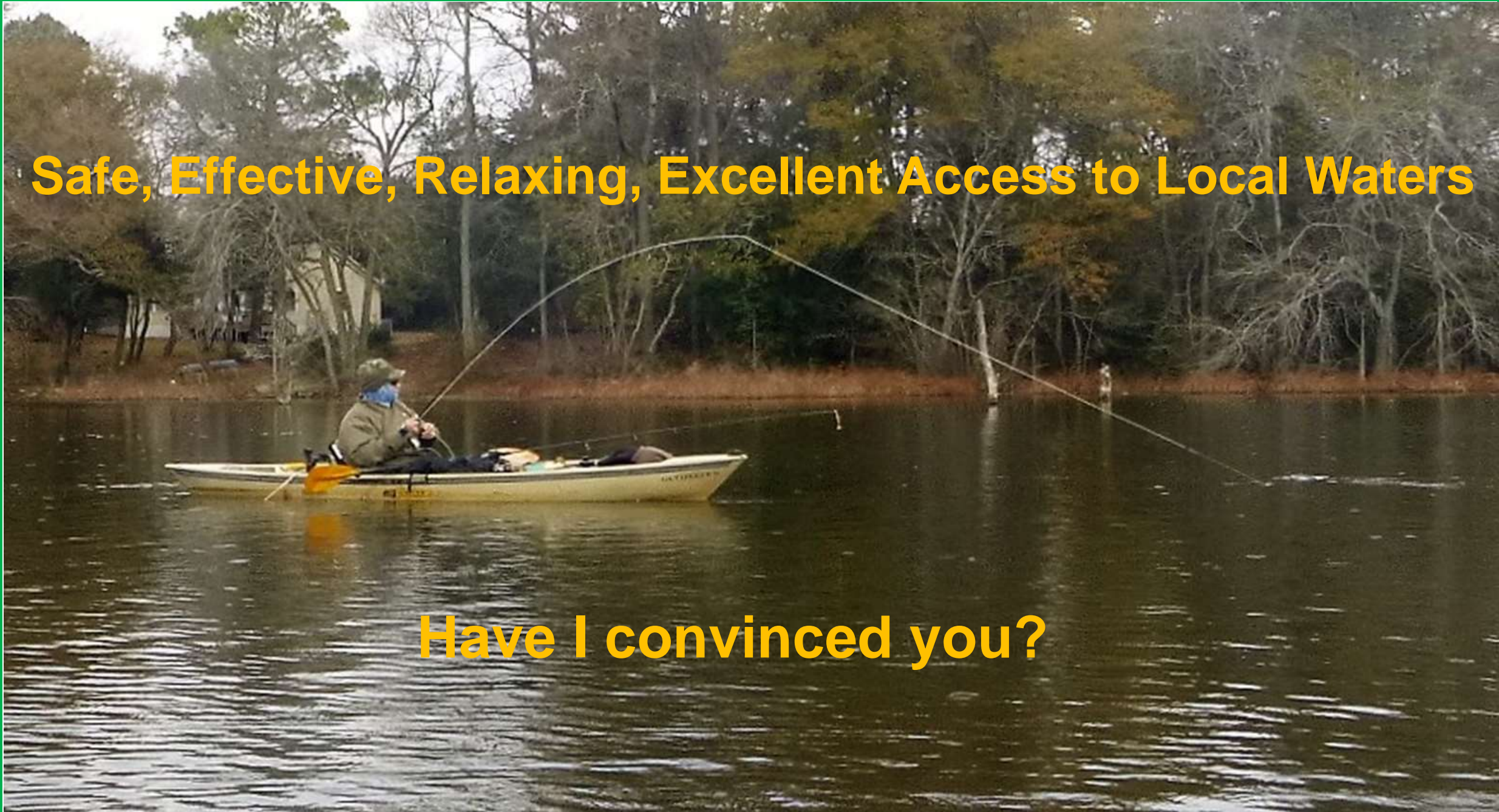
Fall -- Bass Feeding Frenzy; Pickerel fun starts





**Safe, Effective, Relaxing, Excellent Access to Local Waters**

**Have I convinced you?**



# More Information

[mbange54@gmail.com](mailto:mbange54@gmail.com)

Anne Arundel Community College  
(Kayak fishing course, April 4, 2020)



[Snaggedline.com](http://Snaggedline.com)



Fellow FSFF club members



# Kayak Fishing in Local Waters

Thank you for  
your attention.

