

# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION 22268 CEDAR POINT ROAD PATUXENT RIVER, MARYLAND 20670-1154

> NASPAXRIVINST 110157.M MAR 2 2007

# NAS PATUXENT RIVER INSTRUCTION 11015.7M

From: Commanding Officer

- Subj: FISHING, SHELLFISHING, AND CRABBING REGULATIONS
- Ref: (a) NAVFAC P-73, Volume 2
  - (b) Guides to Freshwater and Saltwater Sportfishing in Maryland (Annual)
- Encl: (1) Map of Station Fishing, Crabbing, and Shellfishing Areas, Naval Air Station (NAS) Map of Station Fishing, Crabbing, and Shellfishing Areas, Webster Field Annex (WFA) Map of Station Fishing and Crabbing Areas, Solomon's Recreation Center (SRC) Trophy Largemouth Bass Program

1. <u>Purpose</u>. To publish regulations and procedures governing fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing on the NAS Patuxent River, Maryland, NAS Webster Field Annex (WFA), ST. Inigoes, Maryland, and (SRC), Solomon's, Maryland, and to implement applicable provisions of references (a) and (b).

2. <u>Cancellation</u>. NASPAXRIVINST 11015.7L. This instruction has been revised and should be read in its entirety.

3. <u>Policy</u>. The Commanding Officer (CO) in accordance with all Federal and State of Maryland laws and regulations will control fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing on NAS, WFA, and SRC.

# 4. Regulations and Procedures.

a. <u>Definitions</u>. The following definitions shall apply to fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing in NAS, WFA, and SRC waters:

(1) <u>NAS</u>. For the purposes of authorization under this instruction, NAS includes only the NAS Patuxent River property located near Lexington Park, Maryland.

(2) <u>WFA</u>. For the purposes of authorization under this instruction, WFA includes the NAS Patuxent River property at St. Inigoes, Maryland, known as Webster Field Annex.

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of authorization under this instruction, SRC includes the Naval Recreation Center at Solomon's, Maryland.

(4) <u>Non-tidal Waters</u>. Non-tidal waters on NAS include freshwater streams and the five ponds identified in enclosure (1). Non-tidal waters on WFA include Finger Pond and fishing Ponds. Non-tidal waters at SRC do not exist. Non-tidal waters are also referred to as freshwater.

(5) <u>Tidal waters</u>. Tidal waters on NAS include the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, Goose Creek, Harper Creek, Pearson Creek, and Pine Hill Run (upstream to the hunter check station, Building 2497). Tidal waters on WFA include those portions of the St. Mary's River and St. Inigoes Creek shoreline, Chapel cove, Priest's Inlet, Langley Inlet, and Fort Point Cove as indicated in enclosure (2). Tidal fishing opportunities at SRC are available from the fishing pier only. Tidal waters are also referred to as saltwater.

(6) <u>Fishing</u>. Fishing refers to the harvest or attempted harvest of finfish species.

(7) <u>Shellfishing</u>. Shellfishing refers to the harvest or attempted harvest of clams, oysters, and mussels.

(8) <u>Crabbing</u>. Crabbing refers to the harvest or attempted harvest of the species known as blue crab.

b. <u>Authorized personnel</u>. Authorization to enter NAS, WFA, or SRC for business purposes does not necessarily authorize access for recreational purposes. Authorization for fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing on NAS, WFA, and SRC is as follows. Proper credentials must be presented to the permit-issuing clerk.

(1) <u>NAS</u>. The following personnel are authorized to fish, shellfish, or crab on NAS:

(a) Active duty military personnel with DD Form 2 (Active)

(b) Dependents of active duty military with DD Form 1173

(c) Retired military personnel with DD Form 2

(Retired)

(d) Dependents of retired military personnel with DD

Form 1173

(e) Reservists with appropriate identification card with DD Form 2 (Reserve)

(f) Active federal civil service employees assigned on board NAS or WFA with NAS ID badge or USCSC Optional Form 55 Dependents of civilian personnel described in (f) above. Sponsors must accompany dependents to permit-issuing clerk.

(g) Retired civil service personnel with valid Officer's Club or Civilian Recreation Association (CRA) ID badge. NAS fishing permit fees are separate from Officer's Club and CRA membership fees.

(h) Long term contractors, with NAS picture ID badge, may fish or crab only in tidal waters of the station. Due to the limited nature of the resource, contractors may not fish in non-tidal waters or harvest shellfish.

(i) Dependents of contractors described in (i) may fish or crab only in tidal waters of the station.

(j) Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Police with DNR uniform or DNR badge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service special agents with badge and credentials.

(2) <u>WFA</u>. All personnel listed in paragraph 4.b(1) that have a valid NAS Patuxent River badge and a valid NAS fishing permit are authorized to fish, shellfish, and crab aboard WFA. Long term contractors with NAS Patuxent River picture ID badge and a valid NAS fishing permit are authorized to fish in saltwater only.

(3) <u>SRC</u>. Persons authorized to fish and crab aboard Solomon's Rec. Center include:

(a) Active duty military personnel with DD Form 2 (Active)

(b) Dependents of active duty military with DD Form 1173

(c) Retired military personnel with DD Form 2

(Active)

(d) Dependents of retired military personnel with DD Form 1173

(e) Reservists with appropriate identification card with DD Form 2 (Reserve)

(f) Active DoD federal civilian emloyees

(g) Persons with a valid SCR Leisure Pass

(h) Dependents of civilian personnel described Sponsors must accompany dependents to permit-issuing above. clerk.

(4) Guests. Active duty military, retired military, civil service employees of NAS or WFA, or civil service employees that retired from either NAS or WFA may sponsor a quest(s). Persons authorized to fish at SRC may sponsor a guest(s). A sponsor must accompany their guest(s) at all times and shall assume responsibility for their actions. Guests may not shellfish.

(5) Exceptions to the above will be handled on a caseby-case-basis. Requests shall be submitted in writing to the Commanding Officer via the Natural Resources Manager.

c. Licenses and permits. All fishing activities require both a state license and either an NAS fishing permit or an SRC permit. NAS fishing permits are valid at NAS, WFA, and SRC. An SRC fishing permit is only valid at the Solomon's Recreation Center. Recreational crabbing requires only a base permit for the base where crabbing. Specific license and permit requirements are detailed in the chart which follows. During working hours, fishing permits may be obtained from the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department, Building 458, Supervisory Recreation Specialist's Office, Room 12 of the Drill Hall. After working hours, permits may be obtained from the Command Duty Office in Building 409. Fishing permits may also be purchased at the SRC Registration Desk and the information shack

at the fishing pier. All persons, including guests, 12 years old and older must obtain a Station fishing permit to fish in tidal water (including crabbing) or freshwater at NAS, WFA, and SRC. Permits must be in possession while fishing. Persons, including guests, between the age of 12 and 15 (inclusive) will be issued a permit free of charge. Under a reciprocal agreement between Maryland, Virginia, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the following licenses are acceptable for fishing in Maryland tidal waters (saltwater): Maryland State Recreational License, Virginia State Recreational Tidal Fishing License, or Potomac River Fisheries Commission Recreational Fishing License. Licenses and base permits are valid for a calendar year. License and base permit requirements are as follows:

Table 1.	Maryland	State	license	and	Station	fishing	permit
requireme	nts						

	Tidal Water		Freshwater		Crabbing		Shellfishing	
Age	State License	Station Permit	State License	Station Permit		Station Permit		Station Permit
	LICOUNG	1 91111 6	TTOETEC	- 92 m2 9	se		se	1 () 2 m2 ()
<12	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not	Not
1	Required	required	required	required	Requi red	Required	Requi red	Required
12-	Not	Fishing	Not	Fishing	Not	Fishing	Not	Fishing
15	required	permit	required	permit	Requi	permit	Requi	permit
	Í	issued		issued	red	issued	red	issued
3	1	free of		free of		free of		free of
 	}	charge		charge		charge		charge
16-	Chesapea	Fishing	Freshwater	Fishing	Not	Fishing	Not	Fishing
65	ke Bay	-	Sport		Requi		Requi	Permit
	Sport	required	-	Required	red	Required	red	Required
	Fishing		License					
<u> </u>	License							
>65	Consolid	-	Consolidat	_		~	Not	Fishing
	1	-	ed Senior	-	Requi		Requi	Permit
	4	required	Resident	required	red	Required	ređ	Required
	Resident		Sport					
	Sport		Fishing					
	Fishing		License					
	License							

(1) <u>Guests</u>. Guests must obtain all required licenses and permits. Guests are required to purchase a guest permit, valid only for the date(s) specified. Guests may

purchase either a daily guest permit or a weekly guest permit valid for seven consecutive days. Daily guest permits are valid for 24 hours from the time of purchase. Guests between the ages of 12 and 15 (inclusive) must also obtain a fishing permit, which will be issued free of charge. Multiple fishing days may be specified on a single daily guest permit; however, the guest will pay the daily fee for each date specified. A guest may not purchase more than five (5) seven-day guest permits or fifteen (15) daily permits in a single fishing season. When issuing guest permits for multiple fishing days, MWR will charge only a single permit-handling surcharge (\$1.00).

(2) <u>Scouts</u>. Members of official scout units (including leaders) when registered through the NAS Scouting Liaison Officer, may fish or crab without station permits during the duration of their official stay (not to exceed one week). This privilege extends only to Gardiner Pond (#1) and all tidal waters. All state licensing requirements still apply.

(3) Permit Prices. Permit prices are as follow:

(a) <u>Fishing/Crabbing</u>. Fishing and crabbing permits are issued free of charge to persons between 12 and 15 years of age (inclusive). All authorized personnel purchasing a permit for NAS or WFA will be charged a fee of \$10.00, and authorized personnel purchasing a permit for SRC will be charged a fee of \$5.00, per calendar year.

(b) <u>Shellfishing</u>. NAS shellfishing permits are issued free of charge to persons between 12 and 15 years of age (inclusive). All other authorized personnel will be charged a fee of \$20.00. Shellfishing is not authorized at the SRC.

(c) <u>Guest permits.</u> NAS and SRC guest fishing permits are free to persons between the ages of 12 and 15 (inclusive) years of age. Daily (24 hour) NAS guest fishing permits are issued at the rate of \$5.00 per day. Weekly guest fishing permits (valid for seven consecutive days) are issued at the rate of \$15.00 per week. Daily (24 hour) SRC guest permits are issued at the rate of \$3.00 per day. Weekly guest fishing permits (valid for seven consecutive days) are issued at the rate of \$9.00 per week.

d. <u>Fishing, Shellfishing, and Crabbing Areas</u>. Freshwater fishing is authorized in the following areas:

(1) Freshwater fishing on NAS is authorized in all freshwater streams and the five (5) ponds shown in enclosure(1). Richneck Pond (pond 6) is closed to all fishing.

**NOTICE:** Due to low levels of PCB's and pesticides on NAS, consumption limits are in effect for all NAS ponds. To remain within the acceptable risk range, an average person (70 kg or 154 lbs.) should limit consumption of fish from all NAS ponds to not more than two eight-ounce portions per month, not more than 19 meals (8 oz. each) per year, and not more than 133 meals per lifetime. If you are consuming the maximum recommended meals per year, you should do so for no more than 7 years.

(a) Freshwater fishing on WFA is authorized inFinger Pond and Fishing Pond located on the map in enclosure(2).

(2) Saltwater fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing are authorized in the following areas:

(a) Only those portions of the NAS shoreline indicated on enclosure (1) as well as Harper, Pearson, and Goose Creeks, and Pine Hill Run (upstream to the hunter check station, Building 2497) are authorized areas. Boat fishing beyond 75 yards of the shore is subject only to State sportfishing regulations. Boat ramps at Harper's Creek and West Basin are authorized for use.

(b) The State of Maryland defines the Patuxent River as a line drawn from Drum Point in Calvert County to Hog Point in St. Mary's County. The Patuxent River is a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay and all associated State sportfishing regulations will be enforced.

(c) Residents of Quarters A, Quarters B, and Gold Coast housing units may fish, shellfish, and crab in front of their quarters with purchase of state licenses and base permit. These areas are off limits to all other recreational fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing.

(d) Special area restrictions for recreational fishing, crabbing, and shellfishing on NAS and WFA are as follows:

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<u>1.</u> Fishing and crabbing will not be permitted along the eastern section of the West Basin sea wall when surface effect ship launching or active docking operations are in progress. This area will be open to fishing or crabbing when ships are moored or absent.

2. All waters of Harper and Pearson Creeks north of the Harper's Creek Bridge are closed to shellfishing.

3. The large pier at WFA may be used for fishing and crabbing during periods when the airfield is inactive. Persons wishing to fish or crab from the pier should contact flight planning at (301) 342-3836 for airfield status. The boat ramp and pier at the WFA Coast Guard (CG) Facility is for official use only. Under no circumstances may vehicles be parked near the boat ramp or Coast Guard facility.

 $\underline{4.}$  The fishing pier at SRC is the only place fishing is allowed on the facility.

e. <u>Camping</u>. Camping, occupying RV's, or erecting temporary shelters while fishing is permitted in many areas, but may require additional permits and fees. Contact the MWR permit issuing clerk for details.

f. <u>Regulations</u>. All fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing at NAS, WFA, or SRC will be conducted per the State of Maryland regulations. There will be no open season on any fish, shellfish, crustacean, reptile, or amphibian, except as specified in reference (b). Many of the following regulations are derived directly from state laws or regulations, and are subject to change. Station regulations may be more restrictive, but not more permissive, than state regulations. In cases of apparent regulatory conflict or contradiction, the state law or regulation shall take precedence.

(1) Freshwater Fishing.

(a) An angler is limited to not more than three fishing rods at any one time.

(b) Creel and size limits:

<u>1.</u> A person may possess two (2) largemouth bass per day between 9 and 11 inches total length from 16 June to 28 February only.

<u>2.</u> A person may <u>not</u> possess largemouth bass between 11 and 15 inches total length at any time.

3. A person may possess one (1) largemouth bass per day over 15 inches total length from 16 June to 28 February only.

<u>4.</u> Largemouth bass of any size may not be possessed from 01 March to 15 June. Fish may be caught, but they must be released.

5. Station ponds are managed on a trophy bass fishery as detailed in enclosure (3).

<u>6.</u> A person may not possess a catfish under ten (10) inches total length. There is a daily limit of five (5) catfish per person.

7. A person may **<u>not</u>** possess more than 15 bluegill per day; 30 possession, in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for bluegill.

<u>8.</u> A person may <u>not</u> possess more than 15 crappie (black or white) per day; 30 possession, in aggregate. There is no minimum size limit for crappie.

(c) Gasoline engines may **<u>not</u>** be operated on the ponds. Electric trolling motors are permitted.

(d) Digging for bait in the vicinity of the ponds is prohibited to prevent erosion and siltation.

(e) In order to prevent the harmful introduction of exotic fish species, the use of live baitfish is restricted. Fishermen may use only native species caught from the body of water they are fishing. No other live fish may be released to any station waters without written permission from the NRB.

(f) No trotlines, fish traps, or chemicals may be placed in the ponds except under the direction of the Station

Environmental Department Conservation Division. Bush-bobs, bank-bobs, and jug rigs are not permitted.

(g) Vehicles may **<u>not</u>** be driven onto or across pond dams.

(h) Bullfrogs may be taken by hand from any station waters with gigs, rods, dip nets, etc. Shooting is prohibited. Frogs may not be taken from 01 May to 31 July. There is no limit on the number of bullfrogs that may be taken.

(i) It is lawful to shoot carp with a bow and arrow.

(j) Snapping turtles may be taken for personal consumption subject to the following methods. A person may not catch snapping turtles by the use of hook and line, trotline, bow and arrow, spear, gig or gig iron, or any other device capable of piercing any part of a turtle. Turtles may be taken with turtle traps, turtle nets, or by hand.

(2) Saltwater Fishing and Crabbing.

(a) Wanton Waste: Fish, such as skates and stingrays (including the locally common Cownose Ray), may not be deliberately killed and left in the field. Skates and rays that are incidentally caught must be released by cutting the line or removing the hook. Fishermen are encouraged to utilize as much of their catch as possible.

(b) An angler may use up to, but not more than three (3) fishing rods, except on the Goose Creek and SRC fishing pier where only two (2) rods are permitted.

(c) Defacing (or any other abuse of any government property) and littering, including the discarding of monofilament line, are expressly forbidden.

(d) Fish, crabs, and shellfish harvested on NAS, WFA, or SRC may not be sold.

(e) Crabbing season follows State of Maryland regulations (usually open from 01 April through 15 December). A recreational crabber, without a license, may possess two (2) dozen hard crabs per person and one dozen peeler and soft crabs per person.

(f) A recreational crabber, with a license, may possess one (1) dozen hard crabs per person and one dozen peeler and soft crabs per person.

(g) A recreational crabber, with a license, may possess one (1) bushel of hard crabs and two (2) dozen peeler or soft crabs.

(h) Crab minimum size requirements, from shell tip to tip, are as follows:

<u>1.</u> Male hard crabs five (5) inches, 01 April -14 July

<u>2.</u> Male hard crabs five (5) and one quarter (1/4) inches, 15 July - 15 December

3. Mature female crabs no minimum size limit

4. Soft crabs - three and one half (3 ½) inches, 01 April - 15 December

5. Peeler crabs - three and one quarter inches (3  $\frac{1}{4}$ ), 01 April - 14 July

<u>6.</u> Peeler crabs - three and one half  $(3 \frac{1}{2})$  inches, 15 July - 15 December.

(i) recreational crabbers may not use crab traps or baskets on Wednesdays. Only dip nets, hand lines, and pots at private piers are permitted on Wednesdays.

(j) An individual may use a maximum of five (5) collapsible crab traps.

(k) One trotline, measuring a total length of 600 feet, may be used per boat to catch crabs. However, an individual may not set or fish a trotline within 100 feet of another person's trotline.

(1) No crab pots may be used on Station except for residents of coastal housing areas, who may set up to two (2) crab pots, attached by rope or line to a pier, dock, or shoreline without a crab pot license.

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(m) Monofilament cast nets may be used to catch baitfish.

(n) It is unlawful to possess an egg bearing female (sponge) crab.

(o) An individual may catch crabs with a crab seine not exceeding 50 feet in total length, which must be hauled up in the water and not on shore.

(p) Baitfish collection: The collection of baitfish from all Station waters shall be subject to the following limits:

<u>1.</u> A seine up to 50 feet in total length and five (5) feet wide may be used to obtain bait minnows.

<u>2.</u> Baitfish is defined as non-game fish that are used whole or in part as bait for other game fish. Non-game fish are those without established seasons, size or creel limits. The only baitfish that may be harvested on Station include minnow, spot, alewives, menhaden, and herring.

<u>3.</u> Minnows including killifish (otherwise know as bullminnows), mummichogs, sheepshead, shiners, anchovies, and silversides may be caught with nets or minnow traps. A combined total of 25 minnows may be caught per licensed/permitted fisherman per day. The possession limit - the total of which may be kept on hand at any one time shall be 25 minnows.

<u>4.</u> Spot may be caught by net, trap, or hook and line. A total of 50 spot may be caught per licensed/permitted fisherman per day. The possession limit (the total of which may be kept on hand at any one time) shall also be 50 spot.

5. Alewives, menhaden, or herring may be caught by net or trap. A combined total of 10 gallons (or 100 pounds whichever is less) may be caught per licensed/permitted fisherman per day. The possession limit (the total of which may be kept on hand at any one time) shall also be 10 gallons or 100 pounds.

<u>6.</u> No fish, crab, or shellfish may be caught and sold for commercial purposes from waters of the Naval Air Station or Solomon's Recreation Center. Reference (b) contains creel and size limits for saltwater fish.

(3) Shellfishing.

(a) The annual shellfishing season opens on 15 December and closes 28 February. Water and/or oyster quality tests may be conducted by the Station Environmental Department Conservation Division prior to 15 December each year. The season opening date may be delayed if these tests indicate the need. There is no shellfishing authorized at SRC.

(b) Shellfish harvested on NAS/WFA may not be sold.

(c) The limit of oysters or clams is one (1) bushel each per family per day. A bushel container is not capable of holding more that 6,237 cubic inches.

(d) Oysters may be taken only by hand with tongs, nippers, rakes, or by diving **without** tanks. Dredging is prohibited.

(e) Per State law, oysters may be harvested only from sunrise to 1500 hours on Monday through Friday and from sunrise to noon on Saturday. Shellfish may not be harvested on Sunday.

(f) All oysters taken must be at least three (3) inches in length from hinge to mouth. A person may possess a marketable size oyster that has undersize oysters or spat less than one inch in length from hinge to bill attached to them that cannot be separated without destroying the small oyster.

(g) All waters of Harper's and Pearson Creeks, north of the Cedar Point Road bridge, are closed to shellfishing.

g. <u>Violations</u>. Violations of applicable Federal and State of Maryland statues (Annotated Code of Maryland - Natural Resources) may result in criminal prosecution before States Magistrate for NAS, WFA, and SRC fishing privileges. The following is a list of common violations and administrative actions that may be taken against personnel who violate applicable State statues and/or provisions of this instruction. Additionally, the sponsor assumes all responsibility for their guest(s) and will receive the suspension for any violations. Permit suspensions may be in addition to criminal prosecution

and/or prosecution through the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Penalties for the first offense are listed. A repeated violation within 12 months of the first violation will result in a one-year suspension of privileges. Reinstatement of fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing privileges is at the discretion of the Commanding Officer.

- MAXIMUM SUSPENSION VIOLATION
- 1 year Fishing with trotlines, fish traps, or chemicals in ponds, Vehicles operated on dam
- 1-year Wanton waste
- 90 Days/permit purchase Fishing without a permit, if a guest, sponsor receives suspension
- 90 Days Fishing with live baitfish
- 90 Days Violation of any State statute
- 90 Days Defacing or destroying government property and littering
- 60 Days Operation of gasoline powered motor in pond
- 60 Days Violation of station limit, but not State limit
- 60 Days Fishing, shellfishing, or crabbing in an unauthorized area

30 Days Digging in the vicinity of the ponds

5. Action. The Environmental Department Conservation Division, is assigned the responsibility of controlling fishing, shellfishing, and crabbing on NAS, WFA, and SRC. The Station Police will enforce all applicable Federal, State, and Station regulations. Angler's must show their permits and government identification and/or identify their sponsor upon request of any police officer, Auxiliary Security Force, or Master-at-Arms.

6. <u>Review Authority</u>. The Conservation Division Director shall review this instruction annually and make changes as necessary.

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#### TROPHY LARGEMOUTH BASS PROGRAM

1. The freshwater ponds on NAS Patuxent River, have been designated "Trophy Bass Fishing Areas" by the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Resources Conservation Service. This designation affects the harvest of largemouth bass from station freshwater ponds. The following size and creel limits for largemouth bass are in effect for NAS freshwater ponds:

a. A person may possess two (2) largemouth bass per day, between 9 and 11 inches total length, from 16 June to 28 February only.

b. A person may <u>not</u> possess largemouth bass between 11 and 15 inches total length, from 16 June to 28 February only.

c. A person may possess one (1) largemouth bass per day, over 15 inches total length, from 16 June to 29 February only.

d. Largemouth bass of any size may not be possessed from 1 March to 15 June. Fish may be caught, but they must be released.

2. In a study of NAS fishing ponds, performed jointly by the Natural Resources Branch and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), heavy fishing pressure was cited as the apparent cause for development of an unnatural bass age class structure in all ponds. To resolve this problem, the USFWS recommended policy changes that protect the species from overharvest. These changes are reflected in the Station's intensive fisheries management practices.

3. Establishment of new size and creel limits was determined to be the best management plan. In doing so, the resource is offered greater protection while providing the angler ample recreational opportunities. This management plan is evidenced by the Station limit of only three (3) largemouth bass per day during the open seasons, as opposed to the State of Maryland limit of five (5) bass per day during the same season. By protecting individual size classes, the following goals should be met:

a. Improve the bass-bluegill population structure in each pond.

b. Ultimately increase the numbers and size of bass.

c. Increase the average size of bluegill and red-eared sunfish available to anglers.

4. Will protecting individual size classes actually help work toward these goals? Extensive research has shown that bass can be much more easily overharvested than once believed. In turn, this leads to depleted bass stocks, reduced bass production, and overabundance of stunted panfish populations. When bass are overharvested the following occurs:

Less bass mean fewer bass preying on panfish. Panfish a. will overpopulate and become stunted with a majority of fish falling in the 2-5 inch size class. (Fact: Bass can eat panfish no larger than one-third their size. Therefore, with few bass reaching over 12 inches, there is little predation upon panfish in the 3-5 inch size range.) As panfish become crowded, they shut down their own reproductive cycle and as competition increases among themselves, they will inflict heavy losses on (Fact: Panfish are notorious bass egg eaters.) bass eggs. What bass do survive to fingerling size will consequently have insufficient numbers of panfish fry to feed upon. (Fact: The major food of young bass is panfish fry.) This results in poor bass growth and high mortality in the late summer through winter.

b. By taking this measure to protect the bass population, the listed goals will hopefully be met. If bass can control panfish populations, there will be less competition among panfish and better growth within panfish species. This should result in more bass eggs hatching. There will be more panfish reproduction and therefore more food for young bass. If you have any questions concerning Trophy Bass Fishing Areas, or the Station regulations pertaining to largemouth bass, please call the Environmental Department's Conservation Division at 301-342-3670.







# FISHING AREAS SOLOMON'S RECREATION CENTER SEPTEMBER 2006



