



## CALVERT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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# News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** | April 21, 2009  
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### **Area Anglers Celebrate a New Season for Striped Bass**

**PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. – April 21, 2009** – Call them rockfish, rock, stripers or striped bass, but *Morone saxatilis* is back to spawn in the Chesapeake Bay and area anglers are out in force for the striped bass season that began Saturday, April 18.

During the trophy season that runs through May 15, anglers may catch one striped bass per day measuring over 28 inches in the lower Potomac River and throughout much of the Chesapeake Bay.

The striped bass, named the official fish of the State of Maryland in 1965, gets its name from the seven or eight dark stripes that run from head to tail. The fish has an olive green back, fading to light silver on its sides, with a white underside. Known for its size and ability to put up a good fight, the striped bass is considered by many to be the premier sport fish on the Bay. It is also mighty tasty.

While adult striped bass swim in the ocean, they lay their eggs in fresh water. Between April and June, they move up into tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay to spawn. The Bay and its tributaries are the primary spawning area for up to 90 percent of Atlantic coast striped bass. The young striped bass spend three to five years in the Bay before migrating out to the Atlantic, where they may live up to 30 years. The record for a striped bass caught on the Chesapeake Bay is 67 pounds, 8 ounces for a fish caught in 1995.

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Sport fishing has made Calvert County the home of the Bay's largest charter boat fleet. Anglers from across the East Coast and beyond visit the county to chase the big ones with guidance from the area's savvy boat captains. The sport has been a boon for local outfits like Bunky's Charter Boats, a Solomons Island institution that runs three charter boats and is celebrating 20 years in business.

"This is always an exciting time of year for the charter boat business," said Kathy Conner, co-owner of Bunky's Charter Boats. "The trophy season is very big for us. Folks are anxious to get out and land that big rockfish. Our captains have decades of experience and our fishing parties almost always go home with a full creel."

To learn more about Calvert County's sport fishing opportunities, visit <http://www.ecalvert.com/content/tourism/visitorsguide/boating/charterboatfishing.asp>.

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*Calvert County is Maryland's smallest county in land area with 213 square miles. It is home to over 90,000 people and has one of the highest standards of living in Maryland. There are more than 4,000 businesses in the County and a labor force of at least 1.8 million resides within a one-hour drive. Major industries include defense contracting, information technology, tourism, utilities, light manufacturing and administrative services.*