



Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary
Allan Fisher, Deputy Secretary

Instructions for the Use of Box Tags for the 2023 Yellow Perch Season

Thank you for participating in the E-Reporting with FACTS™ Program. As a current participant in the finfish program, you are eligible to use box tags (provided free by the department), for your yellow perch harvest.

The tags will require you to provide the following information (see example in **RED**):

HARVESTER LICENSE #: **11111**

HARVEST DATE: **01/11/23**

AREA FISHED (UB, CHESTER, PAX): **UB**

NUMBER OF FISH: **200**

ESTIMATED WEIGHT: **100 lbs**

ACTUAL WEIGHT: **92 lbs**

THIS TAG IS TO BE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTMENT AT THE END OF EACH MONTH DURING AND AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON.

Instructions for using box tags correctly:

- 1) A box tag will be attached to each individual tote, box, crate or other storage container with the information provided for that particular container.
- 2) All fields except actual weight are to be filled out prior to landing the fish. The sum of all containers for both numbers of fish and estimated weight are the numbers you will provide for your end haul.
- 3) The actual weight for each container is to be provided once those fish are weighed. The sum of the actual weights is the number you will provide for your revised end haul in FACTS™.
- 4) Once the fish from each container are weighed and packed for transport, the box tag is to be removed and retained by the fisherman.
- 5) Used box tags are to be mailed back to the department at the end of each month during the season. At the season's closure, any additional used tags and any unused tags will also have to be returned. The mailing address to return both used and unused tags, also found on the envelope in which the tags were provided, is:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fishing and Boating Services
Matapeake Work Center
301 Marine Academy Drive
Stevensville, MD 21666

Any questions regarding the proper use of the box tags or to request additional box tags can be directed to Butch Webb or Paul Piavis at (410) 643-6776.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Reviewing Total Allowable Catch (TAC) - Remaining:

Please be sure to confirm the season's remaining Total Allowable Catch (TAC) per management region, before submitting your Trip Start Hail.

- ❖ For those accessing their FACTS account using a computer or mobile device, the remaining TAC can be viewed by using the Alerts and Notifications feature (select: Yellow Perch Quota).
- ❖ If you plan to use the Call Center to report your yellow perch harvest information in FACTS, you can get the most current information about the remaining quota by:
 - Calling the Yellow Perch Hotline at (410) 260-8322 and listening to the recorded message
 - Visiting the Yellow Perch Harvest webpage at:
dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/yellow-perch/harvest.aspx

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Information:

DNR Fishing and Boating Services has been working with APG to ensure that there is a smooth transition with the pilot program rules. We are providing a list of the E-Reporting Program participants who will be using FACTS to report their yellow perch harvest to APG staff. Those watermen will be exempt from individually tagging fish while transporting them through APG waters. However, box tags must be filled out and affixed to the containers. APG may be provided with FACTS enforcement accounts (similar to NRP) in the future, to verify a waterman's participation. If there is any change to how you've been conducting your fishing business with APG in the past, the department will notify you.