

FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURAL MANUAL

CHAPTER 2

FISHING REGULATIONS

	<u>PARAGRAPH</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS	2000	2-3
AUTHORIZATION TO FISH	2001	2-4
USE OF BOATS	2002	2-5
INSTRUCTIONS FOR FISHING AREAS	2003	2-5
FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY	2004	2-8
PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	2005	2-8
NUISANCE WILDLIFE	2006	2-8
FISH, REPTILE, AMPHIBIAN AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE REGULATIONS	2007	2-9
VIOLATIONS	2008	2-10

FIGURE

2-1	MARINE CORPS BASE, QUANTICO, FISHING AREAS	2-11
2-2	LUNGA RESERVOIR	2-12
2-3	MAP OF TIDAL FISHING WATERS	2-13
2-4	MAP OF DESIGNATED TROUT FISHING WATERS	2-14

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2000. LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Licenses

a. State License. Everyone who fishes aboard MCB, Quantico must have a valid VA fishing license for the fish being harvested. Valid Potomac River Fisheries Commission and MD Bay sport licenses will be honored in lieu of the VA fishing license in the Potomac River and the tidal freshwater tributaries adjacent to Quantico. These tidal tributaries include the waters of Quantico and Chopawamsic Creeks up to U.S. Route 1. This applies to both boat and bank anglers.

b. MCB Fishing License. Everyone who fishes aboard MCB must have a MCB, Quantico fishing license valid for the same period as the corresponding state fishing license, except as follows: persons under 16 years of age, persons 65 and over, and persons who possess the state totally disabled license to fish are exempt from the requirement to possess the MCB, Quantico fishing license. Anglers fishing from a boat in the tidal waters listed above are not required to have a MCB, Quantico fishing license. Anglers fishing from the shoreline or any structure attached to the shoreline (piers, docks, etc.) are required to have a MCB, Quantico fishing license.

c. Designated Trout Waters. Portions of Chopawamsic Creek included in the VA Trout Stocking Plan are considered designated stocked trout waters from 1 October through 15 June. During that period, dates inclusive, the VA license to fish in "designated stocked trout waters" is required in addition to the VA license to fish. A trout license is not required from 16 June through 30 September.

2. The MCB, Quantico fishing license costs \$10 for an annual license valid from 1 January through 31 December. The cost is \$2 for a 5-day license to be used in conjunction with a VA license to fish for 5 consecutive days. Licenses may be purchased at the following locations:

a. Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch at Bldg. 5-9 or 27007. Open seasonally. Call for hours and availability at 703-784-5810. VA fishing licenses are not sold at this location.

b. Marine Corps Exchange (MCX). The sporting goods counter is open year round for the sale of VA fishing licenses and the MCB fishing license. Civilians may purchase the MCB fishing license but are not entitled to shop in the MCX. For hours of sale, call 703-640-8800 and ask for the sporting goods counter.

c. Lunga General Store. Open seasonally for sale of VA and MCB fishing licenses. Call for hours and availability at 703-784-5270.

3. Lost MCB licenses will not be replaced. Individuals who lose their MCB license will have to purchase another one at the original cost.

2001. AUTHORIZATION TO FISH

1. Military and civilian personnel who have obtained the appropriate licenses stated in paragraph 2000 are authorized to use Base fishing facilities per the instructions specified in this Manual.

2. Fishing is allowed 365 days a year, 7 days a week, except as posted due to curfews or other restrictions issued subsequent to this Manual. Legal fishing hours are 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset except for Lunga Reservoir, designated trout waters, and tidal waters as stated in paragraph 2003.

3. Military training exercises may cause portions or all of a fishing area to be closed at a specific time. The Range Management Branch (RMB) is responsible for Training Areas west of Interstate 95. OCS has responsibility for the training area where Buffalo Pond and the OCS boat ramp are located. The RMB Range Control Office and OCS S-3 will coordinate with appropriate military OIC to ensure there are no conflicts between fishing and military training. The OIC will have the final authority to allow joint use and may lock range gates, post guards, or set barricades to close fishing access.

4. Anglers are prohibited from bypassing any kind of road obstruction. For any fishing area behind a locked gate, anglers must report to the Range Control Office. If it is safe to fish the area, RMB will issue the angler a walking pass.

5. Storm events may cause the temporary closure of certain fishing areas due to flooding, ice or other hazardous conditions.

2002. USE OF BOATS. Privately owned boats may be used for recreational fishing per the motor restrictions stated in paragraph 2003. All state boating regulations, including registration, personal flotation devices, lighting, etc., are in effect at MCB.

2003. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FISHING AREAS. Fishing areas aboard and adjacent to MCB, Quantico are shown at figure 2-1. Persons wanting to fish any Base waters west of Interstate 95 that are not listed below must in all cases obtain prior written permission from the Range Control Office.

1. Cedar Run (3.5 miles). This is a small stream suitable for wading and canoeing; the stream is too small to support motors and is difficult for canoeing during drought. It is accessible by parking on MCB property at State Route 611, State Route 646, or Camp Upshur Road. Large and smallmouth bass and sunfish can be caught. **Checkout at the Range Control Office is required if parking on MCB property.** Access from MCB does not authorize anglers to trespass on private lands adjacent to the stream.

2. Camp Upshur Pond (1.4 acres). Located within Training Area 17A, this pond gets very shallow during drought years. A marginal bluegill population exists. **Checkout at the Range Control Office is required.**

3. Dalton Pond (16.4 acres). This pond has a maximum depth of about 9 feet and supports largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, and bullheads. **A 12-15 inch bass slot limit is in effect;** see paragraph 2007.2. Electric motors are authorized; **gasoline motors may not be operated.** **Checkout at the Range Control Office is required.** Range Control will direct anglers to the best access route for Dalton Pond or else will advise anglers if all access roads are locked and the pond is closed for fishing. The pond will only be off-limits when training commitments make it unsafe to leave an access route unlocked.

4. Chopawamsic Creek Designated Trout Waters (4.7 miles). The stream is managed as a put-and-take fishery, with rainbow, brown and brook trout being stocked from January - May. The upper portion of the area, known as Secon Pool, is reserved for children 12 years of age and younger. **Anyone over the age of 12 caught fishing in Secon Pool may have their MCB fishing privileges suspended.** Fishing access is allowed from 0500 until 1 hour after sunset. The daily creel limit is six trout. It is unlawful to continue fishing after the daily creel limit has been obtained. It is also unlawful to use seines, nets or more than one rod and one hook in these waters, although it shall be lawful to use a hand-held landing net to land legally hooked trout.

5. Breckinridge Reservoir (47 acres). This is the primary drinking water supply for the Base. Largemouth bass, chain pickerel, crappie, bluegill, and catfish are present. **A 12-15 inch bass slot limit is in effect**; see paragraph 2007.2. Fishing access is allowed at New Breckinridge Road and a gravel boat launch is located there (see figure 2-1). Electric motors are authorized; **gasoline motors may not be operated**. During summer drought periods boating access can be difficult due to low water. Shallow draft and lightweight boats such as canoes are appropriate during those times. All other access is prohibited unless written permission has been obtained from the Range Control Office.

6. Lunga Reservoir (477 acres)

a. Fishing is Allowed 24 Hours a Day. Largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, crappie, catfish, walleye, and white perch are the primary fish caught at Lunga. **A 12-15 inch bass slot limit is in effect**; see paragraph 2007.2.

b. Access. The public may gain access to Lunga Reservoir by launching a boat at the Lunga Park boat ramp or by shoreline fishing in the vicinity of the reservoir dam (see figure 2-2). Trailered boats must be launched at the designated ramp. The launch ramp at the Rod and Gun Club is restricted to members only. Personnel authorized to use specific Lunga Park recreation areas, e.g. Maple, Oak, Cedar, Pine, Hickory, group camping, Rod and Gun Club, FBI/DEA, and Civilian Recreation and Welfare Association, may launch car-top boats or fish from the shoreline in the respective recreation areas. Written authorization from the Range Control Office is required to access Lunga Reservoir from the military training areas adjacent to the reservoir.

c. Restricted Areas. Buoys are placed along the arms of Lunga Reservoir to mark the extreme limits of Surface Danger Zones (SDZ) that impinge upon the reservoir (see figure 2-2). The areas beyond the buoys are off-limits except when the SDZs are inactive. To determine whether access beyond the buoys is authorized, call the Lunga Park Office at 703-784-5270 or the Range Control Office (703-784-5321). **Personnel who bypass the buoys without authorization are endangering their lives and are subject to punitive action.**

d. Motors. Gasoline motors less than 10 horsepower may be used without restriction. The use of electric motors is encouraged for the protection of water quality. Gasoline motors 10 horsepower or larger may only be used at idle speed (low wake) for the protection and safety of small watercraft and the environment. **Boat operators who violate this regulation may have their MCB, Quantico fishing privileges suspended.** Motor restrictions do not apply to government watercraft on official business.

e. Rental Equipment. Military personnel and Base civilian employees may rent motorboats and the necessary equipment to operate them from Lunga Park. Information concerning the rental of equipment can be obtained at the Lunga Park Office at 703-784-5270.

7. R-6 Pond (6.6 acres). Because the pond is located downrange from a firing position, a locked gate controls access. **Checkout at the Range Control Office is mandatory** to obtain written permission to fish R-6 Pond. Gate keys will not be checked out; there is a 1-mile walk along a gravel road from the gate to the pond. R-6 Pond supports largemouth bass and bluegill. **A 12-15 inch bass slot limit is in effect**; see paragraph 2007.2.

8. Smith Lake (295 acres). Stafford County manages Smith Lake for the production of drinking water. Largemouth bass, walleye, crappie, bluegill, redear, and catfish are the primary game fish. The MCB slot limit on bass does not apply. Electric motors are authorized; **gasoline motors may not be operated**. Fishing access is allowed at two MCB launch sites on Smith Lake Road (see figure 2-1) and the MCB, Quantico fishing license is required to use these launch sites. The fishing docks at both sites are wheelchair accessible. All other access from Marine Corps property is prohibited unless written permission has been obtained from the Range Control Office.

9. Barrett Pond (1.0 acre). This pond has largemouth bass and bluegill and is located behind the asphalt parade deck at TBS. **Checkout at the Range Control Office is required**.

10. Ponderosa Pond (0.75 acre). This pond is **closed** to public fishing access.

11. Buffalo Pond (5.5 acres). Fishing access is allowed on days that OCS trails are open for public use. When trails are open, anglers may drive Engineer Road and Buffalo Road to get to Buffalo Pond. When OCS trails are closed, Buffalo Pond is off-limits. OCS trail status is posted daily at the OCS entrance. This pond is designated for trophy bass management. **Bass may not be kept unless they exceed 18 inches in length and a limit of 1 per day**. Bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish are also present. Electric motors are authorized; **gasoline motors may not be operated**.

12. Potomac River and Tidal Chopawamsic and Quantico Creeks

a. Carp, catfish, largemouth bass, white and yellow perch, bluegill, shad, herring, and striped bass can be found in these waters. Anglers have access to the Potomac River, Chopawamsic and Quantico Creeks from off Base launch sites in MD and VA. The DON owns Chopawamsic Creek; boaters should be aware that upon entering Chopawamsic Creek from the Potomac River they have entered Marine Corps property.

b. Boating access to tidal waters from MCB, Quantico is provided by concrete boat ramps located at Hospital Point and the OCS area (see figure 2-3). Beware the sharp drop-off at the end of the Hospital Point ramp. The Wildlife Viewing Area has a gravel launch site for small boats (canoes and kayaks) and is open 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset, except for authorized duck hunters, who are given an extra 30 minutes before and after sunrise to proceed to and from the blinds. Boaters should be aware that during low tide, and especially during sustained northwest winds, Chopawamsic and Quantico Creeks become extremely shallow.

c. Wheelchair accessible shoreline fishing has been developed along Chopawamsic Creek at the MCAF (see figure 2-3). At the MCAF site, anglers and their vehicles must stay in the designated fishing/parking area. The runway approach zone is off-limits. Open/closed status and fishing hours for the creek channel from the OCS boat launch east to the Potomac River will be posted onsite.

d. The Base Marina, located on the Potomac River, is operated by Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Division and allows public fishing during hours that the pier is open. Outside of those hours, the pier is off-limits for fishing. A MCB, Quantico fishing license is required.

2004. FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY. Tidal Chopawamsic and Quantico Creeks and Quantico embayment are included in a VA Department of Health advisory recommending that no more than one 8-ounce meal per month of channel catfish larger than 18 inches be consumed due to possible contamination with polychlorinated biphenyl.

2005. PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. Water bodies and the associated natural resources are important to MCB and the Nation. All users must take measures to prevent environmental degradation such as littering, chemical, oil or gas spillage, and shoreline erosion. The dumping of litter, trash, or other substances upon the grounds or waters of this Installation are violations punishable through judicial proceedings. Persons observing such violations should report these observations immediately to the Range Control Office at 703-784-5321 or the Game Warden at 703-784-5218 ext. 251.

2006. NUISANCE WILDLIFE. Leave wildlife alone! Resident Canadian geese become a nuisance at developed recreation areas such as Lunga Reservoir. Patrons are prohibited from feeding the geese. Do not attempt to handle any wild mammal; bites and scratches from wild mammals may transmit serious viruses such as rabies. Ticks transmit diseases such as Lyme disease and are abundant on the grounds around the fishing areas. Avoidance and use of appropriate repellents and clothing is recommended.

2007. FISH, REPTILE, AMPHIBIAN AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE REGULATIONS

1. VA regulations for the possession of game and non-game fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates are applicable and enforced at MCB. Consult VA freshwater fishing regulations for size and creel limits, except as noted below. Consult Potomac River Fisheries Commission regulations for size limits, closed seasons, etc., in the Potomac River.
2. Bass Slot and Creel Limits. In MCB impounded waters, a slot limit is in effect for bass. **All bass 12-15 inches in length, inclusive, must be returned to the water.** Others may be kept up to the daily limit of five bass, although catch and release is recommended. The one exception is **Buffalo Pond, which has a minimum size length of 18 inches and daily limit of one bass.**
3. Bullfrogs and Snapping Turtles. The daily limit for bullfrogs and snapping turtles is 15; these species may not be taken from designated trout waters. Taking bullfrogs with a gig or bow and arrow is permitted subject to compliance with other regulations concerning access to MCB waters. Frog gigging requires a hunting license. Taking turtles by hook and line requires a fishing license.
4. Fish Bait. "Fish bait" possessed in compliance with VA regulations may be used in MCB waters. There are no restrictions on the use of earthworms and crickets.
5. Trotlines. The use of trotlines in MCB impounded waters is prohibited.
6. Commercial Fishing. Commercial fishing is not allowed in MCB impounded waters.
7. Seines. Seines may not be used in MCB impounded water except as authorized for scientific study. Seines may be used in MCB streams to catch minnows for private use as bait so long as approval to access the waters has been obtained in writing from the Range Control Office.
8. Bow Fishing. Game fish may not be taken by bow and arrow. Carp and gar may be taken by bow and arrow in the tidal area of Chopawamsic Creek during daylight hours. Crossbows, spearguns, and poisoned arrows are prohibited.
9. Dip Netting. Dip nets may be used to take carp, shad, and herring in the tidal Chopawamsic Creek. An MCB fishing license is required per paragraph 2000. The user and all helpers (regardless of age) must have either county dipnet permits or a valid VA fishing license.

2008. VIOLATIONS. Violations of these regulations shall be immediately reported to the Game Warden, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch, G-5, at 703-784-5218, extensions 248, 249, 250, or 251. Violators of fishing regulations, safety regulations, or principles of good sportsmanship are subject to administrative curtailment of fishing privileges, possible judicial proceedings in state or federal courts, and military disciplinary action for military personnel.