



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For release: May 16, 1991

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### CASH LAKE OPENS TO ANGLERS

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a new fishing opportunity for anglers in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area with the June 15 opening of a 54-acre lake on the grounds of the agency's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland.

"Cash Lake is small, but its location in the Baltimore-Washington urban corridor gives the Fish and Wildlife Service an opportunity to help bring the fun of fishing to a great many people," said Service Director John Turner. "In particular, I am pleased this program will focus on special ways to enable the young, the elderly, and the physically challenged to enjoy the outdoors."

Cash Lake has been closed to fishing since 1957 in order to conduct waterfowl and fisheries research. Because these studies have been phased out, the Service decided to open the lake to recreational fishing. Working with state biologists, the Service will evaluate the Cash Lake fishing program to ensure the lake is not overharvested.

Fishing will open next month and continue through October 15. Day permits are required and applications are now being

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accepted. The free permits will allow the holder and another licensed angler, or up to two accompanying children under 16 years old, to fish for bass, pickerel, sunfish, and catfish.

The lake will be open to anglers from 6 a.m. to sunset. Maryland fishing and boating rules will be in effect, along with additional restrictions on harvest and boating. Bass and pickerel fishing is catch-and-release only, except that one bass over 15 inches and one pickerel over 15 inches may be kept. The total daily sunfish and catfish harvest limit is 15. Legal fishing methods include hook-and-line tackle and baits permitted by Maryland law, but no live minnows or other fish may be used. Anglers may use boats, but gasoline motors are not permitted. Boats other than canoes must be no longer than 14 feet, and sailboats and kayaks are prohibited.

To apply for a permit, anglers must be at least 18 years of age and licensed to fish in Maryland. The application must be by letter only and include name, address, phone number (including area code), vehicle information (make, model, year, and license plate number), and dates for which permits are desired. Applications should be received at least one week prior to requested fishing days.

Applications should be sent to Fishing Program, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, Maryland 20708. A total of 25 permits will be issued for each day. If necessary, a random drawing will be held to allocate permits. Successful applicants will be notified of the date or dates for which they have been selected, and will receive their permit along with a location map and regulations.