

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005-5001
1 April 2022

Installation

RECREATIONAL (NONCOMMERCIAL) FISHING RULES

Summary. This regulation prescribes policies, assigns responsibilities, and establishes procedures to be used in conjunction with the Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, AR 215-1: Military Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Programs and Non-appropriated Fund Instrumentalities, and AR 350-1: The Army Sustainable Range Program, for the use and navigation for recreational (noncommercial) fishing at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

Applicability. The policy and guidance prescribed by this regulation applies to all U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground (USAGAPG) and tenants. It also applies to all personnel engaged in fishing from APG shorelines or other activities not in the course of official Government duties, while in waters under the special maritime jurisdiction of APG.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works (DPW). Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms, directly to DPW, Environmental Division, 6504 Rodman Road, Building 4304, APG, MD 21005.

Distribution. This publication is intended for public release and is available on the Installation Management Community SharePoint Portal under [APG Policies and Regulations](#), and also available through the APG Directorate of Family & Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (DFMWR), Community Recreation Division, Outdoor Recreation Program and Hunting Facilities, and <https://aberdeen.armymwr.com/programs/marinas> under Boating and Fishing program page, Fishing at APG drop down.

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*This regulation supersedes APG Regulation 210-26, 15 July 1992.

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1. Purpose. This regulation establishes responsibilities, rules, and procedures for the use and navigation of the restricted waters of APG. It also includes procedures and permit requirements for the taking of fish, crabs, and other aquatic life for recreational (noncommercial) purposes.

2. References. See Appendix A.

3. Explanation of Abbreviations and Terms. Abbreviations and terms used in this regulation are explained in the Glossary.

4. Scope. This regulation applies to all personnel engaged in recreational boating, fishing, crabbing, or other activities not in the course of official Government duties while in waters under the special maritime jurisdiction of APG.

5. General.

a. Laws:

(1) Restricted waters are defined in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 334.140, and shown in detail on National Ocean Survey Chart 12273. This regulation implements the authority delegated to the Commander, APG, by the Secretary of the Army to control the restricted waters of APG. Entry into any waters or onto any lands closed to access by the public without the express written permission of the Commander, APG, is prohibited, and is punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. Nothing in this regulation will grant, or be construed to grant, the Commander's authorization for such entry into these closed areas.

(2) Federal and Maryland fishing laws and regulations apply at APG. These laws and regulations are found in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Laws and Regulations of the State of Maryland, and the U.S. Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service regulations relating to fisheries. These laws and regulations are enforced by the USAGAPG, Directorate of Operations (DoO), Conservation Law Enforcement Officers (CLEO). Violations of Federal, State or APG regulations will be cause to bar violators from use of restricted waters at APG. Criminal violations will be prosecuted in the U.S. Magistrate Court.

b. Safety: Due to the history of testing and training activities at APG, encountering unexploded ordnance (UXO) is a possibility. Objects encountered in fishing areas must be reported by calling 911.

6. Responsibilities.

a. ATC will:

(1) Chief, Range Operations will designate secure areas open or closed to fishing based on safety and security restraints and range operations in the installation's automated recreation management system for the following week and weekend.

(2) Commander will submit permanent area closure requests, to include justification, in writing, to the Garrison Commander for approval.

b. Director, DoO, USAGAPG, will:

(1) Enforce the APG recreational fishing regulations and all applicable laws.

(2) Provide personnel (e.g., DoO CLEO) to specifically enforce Natural Resources statutes and regulations. The DoO CLEO may observe daily operations to ensure established operational procedures are being followed.

(3) Recommend to the Director, Public Works, USAGAPG, the placement of signs on adjacent land areas, permanently displaying limits of restricted waters.

(4) Provide access to current UXO safety video for AIC requirements.

c. Director, Public Works, USAGAPG, will:

(1) Issue and publish the governing regulation.

(2) Provide professional guidance for all proposed fisheries projects, conduct fisheries studies, analyze harvest data and recommend methods of harvest, quotas, seasons and number of permits to be issued, in coordination with the Installation Conservation subcommittee.

(3) Sell APG recreational fishing permits via the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>). Permit fees are deposited into the 21X5095 accounts to be administered by the DPW Environmental Integration Branch in partnership with the Installation Conservation subcommittee as managed by DPW's Wildlife Biologist, be used for natural resources conservation and management of the fisheries resources, to include support of DoO conservation law enforcement activities directly associated with fisheries conservation.

(4) Maintain an accurate and current register of the persons granted APG recreational fishing permits, to include APG permit and State license numbers.

(5) Ensure anglers are assigned only to areas opened by Range Operations, ATC and/or Garrison DoO.

(6) In coordination with the DoO, prepare, coordinate, approve, and effect publication and dissemination of recreational fishing regulations, maps, and required changes and operational procedures.

(7) Provide all recreational fisherman with link to a copy of APG Regulation (APGR) 210-26, and instruct all recreational fishers to become familiar with this regulation. Link can be found on <https://aberdeen.armymwr.com/programs/marinas>

under Boating and Fishing program page, Fishing at APG drop down and via the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>).

d. ISO, USAGAPG, will:

(1) Review periodic Risk Assessments for changes to established fishing areas and newly requested areas.

(2) Review and coordinate with applicable activities all recommended changes in established fishing areas. Applicable activities include, but are not limited to, DoO CLEO, ATC Range Operations, DPW Environmental, and Army Research Laboratory.

(3) Forward recommendations to the Commander for a decision on whether or not to accept any risks involved with opening fishing areas.

(4) Provide the requestor written notice of decisions on new areas.

(5) Provide DPW information on hazards affecting fishing area suitability.

(6) Approve or reject requests for changes in active fishing area(s) boundaries, without increasing the outside dimensions of the area, based on information provided by the tenant safety offices.

7. Eligibility

a. The following personnel are eligible to fish from shore on APG:

(1) Active duty military personnel and their immediate family members. Immediate family members are those individuals possessing a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173).

(2) Retired military personnel and immediate family members. Immediate family members are those individuals possessing a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card (DD Form 1173).

(3) Department of the Army Civilian (DAC) and fulltime non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees of APG and immediate family members. Spouses and immediate family members as defined by United States Public Law (USPL) 26, United States Code (USC) Section 152.

(4) Retired APG DAC, NAF, and immediate family members. Spouses and immediate family members as defined by USPL 26, USC Section 152.

(5) Maryland National Guard/Army Reserve personnel possessing a CAC who are U.S. citizens and retired Maryland National Guard/Army Reserve who are U.S. citizens with a DD214.

(6) Employees and family members of multi-year contractors (two or more fiscal years) at APG who directly support the military mission. Spouses and immediate family members as defined by USPL 26, USC Section 152.

(7) Sponsored guests:

(a) Guests must be U.S. citizens.

(b) The sponsor must be registered to fish at APG, and must be present at the purchase of the permit. The DPW will register sponsors after initial purchase of a permit.

(c) An AIC must accompany the guest at all times in the secured areas. A guest may fish with any AIC.

(8) The following personnel are authorized to sponsor guest anglers:

(a) Active duty military personnel.

(b) Retired military personnel.

(c) DAC and fulltime NAF employees of APG.

(d) Retired APG DAC and NAF employees.

(e) Multi-year contractors supporting APG or on-post mission requirements. The contract employee must obtain a Contractor Hunting Request Form from DFMWR to be validated by the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and the COR's Security Office indicating concurrence with the employee's request to fish.

b. Eligible individuals must comply with licensing, permit, and other requirements specified in this regulation, watch UXO safety video and sign assumption of risk agreement.

8. Angler-in-Charge Requirements

a. General. These requirements are for fishing in secured areas only. Eligibility to become an AIC requires the applicant to be authorized to fish and is a member of one of these categories:

(1) Active Duty Military and Retired Military.

(2) Active and Retired APG civilians and fulltime NAF employees.

(3) Active or Retired National Guard who are, or were, assigned to APG.

(4) Badged multi-year contractors supporting mission requirements with a written request and concurrence from the COR and the COR's Security Office.

b. AIC Responsibilities:

(1) All AICs have the responsibility and accountability for the party's actions and will escort the party in and out. AICs can either receive a proxy card for the duration of their fishing permit, or have credentials added to their CAC card for the duration of their fishing permit.

(2) All AICs are responsible for ensuring members of their party observe all provisions of this regulation.

(3) All AICs shall be experienced with fishing on APG and be familiar with APG specific requirements.

(4) All AICs can be penalized along with members of their party for violations of this regulation.

(5) An AIC must stay with party for duration of the fishing activity.

(6) An AIC shall ensure entire party enters and exits security area with entire party as required (appropriate Gate 24, Gate 1 and Range Control Post 10).

(7) The AIC shall ensure safety information is disseminated to their party.

(8) The AIC must know the most direct route to area and location of appropriate parking.

(9) The AIC must watch the current UXO safety video, provided via the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>).

9. Recreational Fishing Area Controls

a. Recreational fishing from the shorelines of APG are authorized only in the areas designated below and marked in the Appendix B with appropriate APG fishing permit.

(1) Participants are encouraged, but not required to use non-lead fishing tackle in order to protect APG's, Maryland's and migratory wildlife. Participants will remove all litter and refuse, to include spent fishing line, in the areas in which they are fishing. Individuals cited for litter/refuse violations will immediately lose their fishing privileges and be directed to leave the area.

(2) Under no circumstances will anglers attempt to pick up, move, or otherwise disturb items of ammunition, exploded or unexploded, or other ordnance materiel which may be in fishing areas. All fishermen will report any ordnance sighting by immediately calling 911. Locations of questionable items will be noted on the back of the STEAP-SS Form 46.

(3) Any area in which a discovered item of ordnance is reported will remain closed until declared safe.

(4) Prohibited fishing equipment includes:

(a) Bows.

(b) Spear-guns.

(c) Trot Lines.

(d) Cast nets are prohibited in secure areas.

(e) Vessels.

b. Non-Security Areas. Fishing is permitted in the following locations, by area numbers:

(1) Aberdeen Cantonment Swan Creek – easterly from Installation perimeter to Building 2403 (NS1).

(2) Woodpecker Point Area – easterly along the shore to Spesutie Island security area fence line and from causeway to Dipple Creek; the Spesutie Island side of the causeway (not in restricted area) from causeway to 200 meters south; the causeway (NS2).

(3) Gunpowder River from Westwood to Security Gate – from Installation boundary at Reardon Inlet to security area fence (NS5).

(4) Lauderick Creek by Skippers Point Boat Launch – 200 meters north of Skipper's Point south to security area fence (NS6).

c. Security Areas. Fishing in APG security areas will be controlled in the following ways and are only available to eligible AICs.

(1) Fishing will be permitted only in designated portions of the security area with appropriate APG fishing permit (Appendix B). All other areas in the security area are closed. Fishing areas will be opened and closed via the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>). Weekends and holidays will be open to fishing all day when mission requirements permit access.

(2) Only personnel with current and valid restricted area badges may fish in security areas. AICs may have gate access credentials added to common access cards by contacting the DPW biologist at usarmy.apg.usag.mbx.dpw-natural-resources-team@army.mil. Guests must be sponsored by an AIC. Personnel who do not have a current access badge and meet eligibility need to sign for access badge from DFMWR. The behavior of family members will be controlled by a sponsor as required by paragraph 7.a (7).

(3) Anglers will enter and leave the security area using Gate 24 or Gate 1. Anglers will sign in and out at the Gate 24. In APG South, anglers will use the Range Control Post 10 gate to access secure fishing areas and sign in. Anglers will access the area using the normal security schedule for APG South. The angler will designate the area assigned to the individual as part of the sign in procedure.

(4) Anglers will use the most direct route to reach the designated fishing area and to return to the same gate used for entrance to leave the security area. Sightseeing diversion in route is not permitted.

(5) The ATC Range Operations will provide available fishing areas by 1300 hours on Friday for the following week via installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>).

(6) Fishing in closed areas is evidence of a violation. The violator will forfeit fishing privileges on APG for a minimum of one year from the date of conviction.

(7) Appeals to loss of privileges will be submitted to the Commander, USAGAPG.

(8) Fishing from a military boat dock or bridge in the secure area is prohibited. Use of any NAF organization boat dock is authorized only at the discretion of ATC Range Operations for secure areas and Garrison DoO for non-secure areas.

(9) Fishing areas are selected using the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>).

(10) The vehicle pass generated via Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>) must be displayed in a conspicuous position in the windshield of the angler's vehicle so it can be easily read.

d. Catch and Release Areas:

(1) APG North Post Office Pond (NS4).

(2) APG North Rodman Building Pond (NS3).

(3) Phillips Army Airfield Pond (S10).

(4) Bunker Row Pond (S2).

(5) In these catch and release areas, if Northern Snakeheads and/or Blue Catfish are caught, they may be removed from the pond at no penalty to the angler. These invasive fish shall not be relocated to another water body.

e. Movement Restrictions:

(1) Fishing outside the boundaries of an established assigned area is prohibited. Security and UXO safety requirements mandate restricting anglers to specified areas.

(2) Anglers may not depart for their fishing areas 60 minutes prior to the start (sunrise) or end (sunset) of legal fishing hours.

(3) Individuals will use the most direct road route to and from assigned areas and will travel only on roads.

(4) Test roads are closed to all fishermen privately owned vehicles (POV).

(5) Activities conducted in APG restricted waters will comply with the 33 CFR Section 334.140.

10. Other Requirements - Recreational Fishing

(a) Recreational fishing on APG is an activity administered by DPW.

(b) All personnel desiring to do recreational fishing in the non-secure and/or the secure areas on APG must have an APG Fishing Permit sold by DPW. Fishing Permit Fees at APG are set by the Installation Conservation Sub-Committee and published annually by the DPW Program Manager via the Installation's automated recreation management system (<https://aberdeen.isportsman.net/>). Children under 16 are not required to have a Maryland issued fishing license.

(c) All fishing permits issued by DPW shall be stamped with the appropriate locations that the angler is authorized to fish.

(d) No fish are allowed to be gutted or cleaned at the fishing area. Violators will be denied fishing privileges and directed to leave the area.

(e) The U.S. Army and APG are not liable for any ill effects resulting from the consumption of wild game, including finfish.

(f) All personnel will report illegal fishing practices, poachers, and trespassers to DoO Dispatch (410-306-0509) or DoO CLEO immediately, giving the names and registry numbers of violator's boats or vehicles, if any, and other available information.

(g) Any person who shields, or conspires with another in the commission of a violation of any provision of this regulation, or who upon inquiry withholds information from enforcement officers, or who hinders, obstructs, or interferes with, or attempts to hinder, obstruct, or interfere with any officer charged with the administration of this regulation will have their fishing privileges suspended indefinitely in APG waters.

(h) All POV requiring towing will be towed at the owner's/AIC's expense.

(i) The U.S. Army and APG tenants are not liable for accident or injury while fishing. It is strongly recommended fishing parties carry a first-aid kit and cell phone.

(j) During Bald Eagle nesting season (December 15th - June 15th, as per Garrison Eagle Compliance Officer), fishing areas maybe partially or completely closed.

(k) No pets allowed in secured area.

11. Suspension and Revocation of APG Fishing Privileges

1. General.

a. This regulation does not preempt or replace applicable Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), State laws, or Federal laws regarding fishing. Violations of the provisions of this regulation, UCMJ, State laws, or Federal laws may result in severe disciplinary and administrative penalties.

b. As a result of a violation, individuals may lose fishing privileges and have their personal equipment confiscated. Additionally, individuals may face criminal charges in U.S. Magistrate Court or District Court. In these cases, in addition to the loss of fishing privileges, individuals may have to pay a fine and/or appear before the United States District Court and face more serious penalties.

c. Individuals violating any regulation or law relating to fishing will have their fishing privileges suspended immediately and their permit revoked. The DoO will inform DFMWR of the violation via email and DFMWR will inform the violator of the period of suspension. The violator will also be notified of the time limit to, and procedures for, appeal.

d. If the individual disagrees and believes they did not commit an offense, they may, within 10 calendar days from the date cited, file a written appeal via email to the DPW Biologist at usarmy.apg.usag.mbx.dpw-natural-resources-team@army.mil. The Biologist will contact the DoO to provide case information and forward the appeal to the Garrison Commander with recommendation for concur/non-concur.

(1) Failure to contact the DPW Biologist within ten calendar days will constitute waiver of the right to appeal and the suspension shall stand.

(2) If an individual files an appeal, he/she may request an office appointment to give an explanation of the incident and present evidence to show good cause for the request to reconsider or modify the suspension.

(3) If an appeal is filed, the individual's fishing privileges shall remain suspended until the matter is decided. The decision of the Garrison Commander is final.

(4) If an individual is cited for committing any criminal offense, violations will be properly annotated by a Police Report (DA 3975); privileges shall immediately be suspended and/or revoked until the case is decided by forfeiture of collateral or pending trial in U.S. Magistrate Court or District Court.

2. Authority.

a. The DoO, USAGAPG, Director, or their designated agents, will enforce applicable laws and regulations concerning natural resources and has the authority to immediately suspend the violator's privileges to fish on APG.

b. The DoO, USAGAPG designated agents will notify the violator when cited their privilege will be suspended. Violators shall exit the area immediately. The DoO will enforce the suspension and notify the angler about procedures to appeal.

3. Violations.

a. Violations of this regulation need only to be proven by preponderance of the evidence in order to impose administrative action. The suspension of fishing privileges is an administrative action in conjunction with any judicial or punitive actions.

b. If a suspension of privileges occurs at or near the end of the license year (APG fishing season), then the remaining suspension period will be carried over to the next license year (APG fishing season). Any suspension imposed for a violation will not be shortened except through filing an appeal.

c. Any violation/offense may result in suspension or revocation of privileges to fish on APG. A list of common violations and the minimum suspension of privileges is provided at Appendix D. Longer suspensions or permanent revocation of privileges may be applied based on the severity of the matter and/or multiple violations.



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Appendix A References

Section I Required Publications

APGR 190-4 (1 July 2009)
Movement Control within the Installation

APGR 210-10 (1 December 2018)
Use and Navigation of Restricted Waters of Aberdeen Proving Ground and Control of Commercial Fishing and Crabbing

AR 200-1 (13 December 2007)
Environmental Protection and Enhancement

Section II Related Publications

APGR 385-1 (1 April 2014)
Range Administration

Section III Referenced Forms

IMNE Form 1249 APG Hunting/Fishing Request

DA 3975 Police Report

STEAP-SS Form 46 Special Fishing and Crabbing Application/Permit

DA Form 2028 Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms

DD Form 1173 Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card

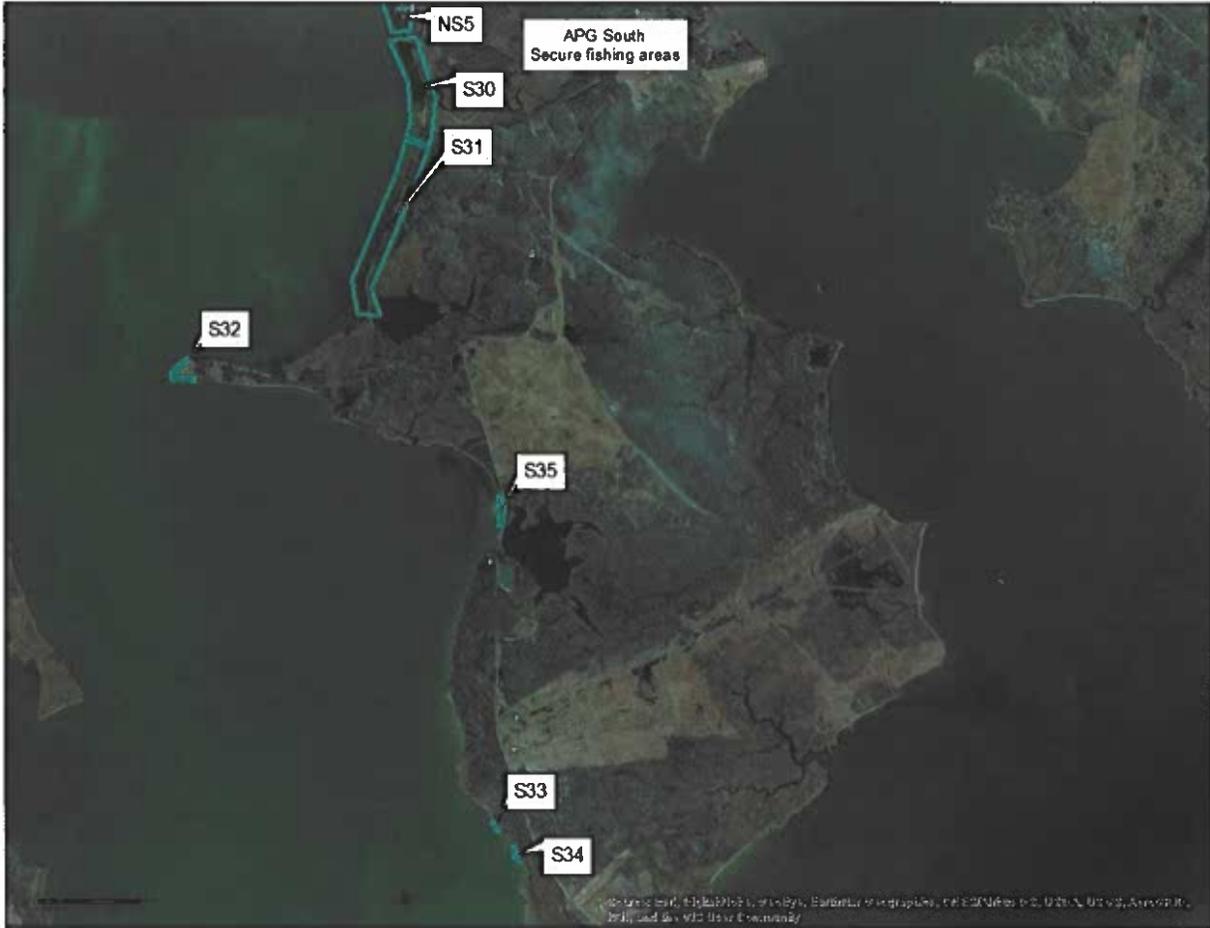
Contractor Hunting Form (FMWR Form)

Appendix B
Authorized Fishing Area Maps









Appendix C

Seasons, Hours, and Creel Limits

1. General: Fishing seasons, hours of fishing and creel limits will conform to State laws and regulations. If exceptions to these have been granted by the state, the changes will be provided by the DPW-ED Natural Resources Team. They will be announced by DPW each year prior to the beginning of the respective seasons.

2. Fishing on Holidays - The following rules are specific to APG:

(a) Fishing on December 25th is prohibited.

(b) Fishing after 1200 on Thanksgiving and December 24th is prohibited. All anglers will clear authorized fishing locations by that time.

**Appendix D
Common Violations/Suspension of Privileges**

Common Violations/Offenses	Minimum Period of Administrative Suspension of Privileges
Failure to have APG permit validated prior to fishing	10 Days
Failure to have photo identification in possession	10 Days
Failure to display vehicle identification tag conspicuously in the vehicle	10 Days
Failure to record all fish harvested on the back of vehicle tag and return it to DFMWR	10 Days
Failure to sign in and out when accessing fishing areas	10 Days
Parking within 50 feet of any ammunition storage area or magazine	10 Days
Parking where it prohibits or affects traffic	10 Days
Failure to use the most direct route to and from assigned area	30 Days
Driving POV on test roads	60 Days
Fishing in other than assigned area	90 Days
Littering	365 Days
Use or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or narcotics	365 Days
Withholding information, or conspiring with another to withhold information, hindering or otherwise obstructing DoO/CLE	365 Days
Failure to comply with safety and/or security requirements	365 Days

GLOSSARY

Section I Abbreviations

AIC

Angler in Charge

APG

Aberdeen Proving Ground

APGR

Aberdeen Proving Ground Regulation

AR

Army Regulation

ATC

Aberdeen Test Center

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations

CLEO

Conservation Law Enforcement Officer

DA

Department of the Army

DAC

Department of the Army Civilian

DoO

Directorate of Operations

DFMWR

Directorate of Family & Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

DPW

Directorate of Public Works

ED

Environmental Division

ISO

Installation Safety Office

NAF

Non-appropriated fund

MDDNR

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

POV

Privately Owned Vehicle

UCMJ

Uniform Code of Military Justice

USAGAPG

U.S. Army Garrison Aberdeen Proving Ground

USC

United States Code

USPL

United States Public Law