

I'm Roger Trageser, former president and a current Region Director with the Maryland Bass Nation. The Nation is comprised of anglers with a passion for targeting Black Bass. There are two varieties of black bass in the state of Maryland, largemouth and smallmouth, and they are the most sought-after game fish in this state. Our black bass waters continue to receive national recognition. The Potomac and Upper Chesapeake are rated as two of the top black bass fisheries in the country. These are revenue generating engines, attracting tournament events and anglers from all over the country and the world.

Fisheries Service is charged with overseeing the quality of all black bass waters in the state, a task that comes at ever increasing costs.

In 2009 I received an appointment with the Maryland Sport Fish Advisory Commission, an appointment that I fortunately still maintain. As a Commission member I developed a close relationship with the people at Fisheries Service.

The sixteen-year relationship that I have with Fisheries Service has given me an opportunity that many anglers do not possess. An opportunity to observe the dedication and determination that these individuals put forth to deliver the best product possible.

When the Department was asking for volunteers from Sport Fish to sit on the fee assessment work group I jumped on board. I needed to be involved. To offer what advice I could and to become a source of detailed information to my fellow anglers regarding the need for these fee adjustments.

Eighteen years ago, I sat before House and Senate committees, campaigning for the same revenue need.

The Department has even more demand now. Increased fishing pressure, water quality and habitat issues, impact of climate change and maintaining successful stocking programs. The Department must focus on all the above to maintain and improve our world-class fisheries and all now at a much higher cost than eighteen years ago.

What did any of us purchase in 2007 that still costs the same now?

We had a favorable outcome with this legislation in 2007 and with this committee's support, seeking the same in 2025

Thank you,

Roger Trageser