

BOATER'S GUIDE

**Restricted Water Zone
Surrounding
Aberdeen Proving Ground,
Maryland**

Revised June 2003

APG'S EVOLUTION AND ITS RESTRICTED WATERS.....

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1917; this included the land and 36,734 acres of tidal water land, as illustrated in the centerfold of this brochure. Since then, APG has grown and evolved into one of the most diversified military installations in the United States.



APG is recognized around the world as a leader in the research, development, testing and evaluation of materiel, and the training of the officers and enlisted personnel to use it.

APG is unique in that the installation and surrounding waters fall within the "Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction" of the United States (US)

government and the U.S. Army. Because these waters, shorelines, and islands adjoining the installation are used in weapons and ammunition testing and training, and because of the inherent dangers associated with such missions, use of the waters surrounding the APG is restricted and, at times, closed when in use by the U.S. Army in accordance with Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(See website <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html> to get a copy of this document.) A fleet of APG patrol boats are positioned in restricted waters during testing/training to prevent unauthorized entry.



In addition, APG maintains a Federal Marine Law Enforcement presence in its waters to promote and ensure recreational boating safety, compliance with Maryland



State law and adherence to federal regulations. When doubt exists as to what is the status of the restricted water zone, boaters should request assistance from the APG patrol boats, the APG Marine Law Enforcement vessels, or contact APG Range Operations.



**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND'S
SHORELINES ARE POSTED WITH
DANGER SIGNS, SIMILAR TO
THE SIGN SHOWN ABOVE.**

Because of testing/training missions, unexploded (DUD) ammunition may be laying under water or in the sediments. Boaters are directed not to handle or attempt to remove any type of unrecognizable objects from the waters or beaches. These items may be extremely dangerous.

In the event that a suspect munition item or an unknown item is encountered, do not touch the item; move away from the item, mark the area if safely possible, and report the item to APG's Emergency Operations Center. If using a cellular telephone, dial (410) 676-0960 or (410) 278-7220.



The centerfold of this brochure contains an illustrated map of the APG restricted water zone and additional information for boaters.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING RESTRICTED WATERS

(Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations)

All tributaries, creeks, and shorelines within the territorial boundaries of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), with the exception of Lauderick Creek on the Bush River, are closed to the public at all times. Unauthorized entry into these areas is strictly prohibited and punishable by fine and/or imprisonment. The remaining restricted waters are normally open for "Authorized Use", including navigation and fishing during the following hours:

- (1) Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7:30 a.m..
- (2) Weekends, 5 p.m. Friday to 7:30 a.m. Monday.
- (3) Federal (not state) holidays, 5 p.m. the day preceding the holiday to 7:30 a.m. the day following the holiday.

When conditions require the CLOSING of APG waters (a portion or all) during regularly scheduled "Authorized Use" periods, Coast Guard Notification, as well as written notifications to various yacht clubs, boatyards, marinas, and other interested organizations and agencies, is promptly made, mission permitting. The Coast Guard then issues a Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF Marine channel 16.

Persons who enter the restricted waters without permission from APG authorities are subject to prosecution in federal court under 33 C.F.R. 334.140, 18 U.S.C. 1382, and other applicable statutes.

Fishing and crabbing in the restricted waters must be in accordance with federal, state, and county laws. Locally, APG Regulation 210-10, "Use and Navigation of Restricted Waters of APG and Control of Commercial Fishing and Crabbers" governs commercial fishing/crabbing and APG Regulation 200-6, "Recreational Hunting and Trapping on APG" governs recreational fishing/crabbing. Contact the APG Public Affairs Office at (410) 278-1147 to obtain copies of these regulations. Law enforcement questions regarding fishing or hunting in the restricted waters should be referred to one of APG's Special Agents at (410) 278-3305 or (410) 436-4357.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BOATERS

The following activities constitute Authorized Use of the Restricted Waters:

1. *Fishing from vessels.*
2. *Navigation in vessels to traverse the waters.*
3. *Anchoring in the waters.*
4. *Water skiing as long as no closer than 200 meters to any shoreline and no water skier touches any land - dry or subaqueous.*

The following activities are Prohibited in the Restricted Waters at all times:

1. *NO swimming or scuba diving.*
2. *NO persons getting out of a boat or outside any vessel (except for authorized water-skiing as outlined above).*
3. *NO touching land, docking, or grounding a vessel (this includes the shorelines, islands, or any land - dry or subaqueous).*

