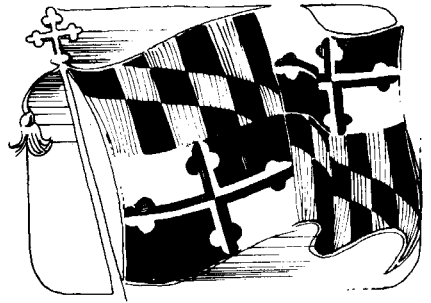


STATE FISH. The striped bass or rockfish (*Roccus saxatilis* 2) was designated the official fish of the State of Maryland in 1965 (Chapter 513, Acts of 1965; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-304). It is considered by many to be the premier sport and commercial species on the Bay. The silver-flanked, iridescent-striped rockfish is a challenge to catch and a delight to eat.

STATE FLAG. Maryland's flag bears the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. Calvert was the family name of the Lords Baltimore who founded Maryland, and their colors of gold and black appear in the first and fourth quarters of the flag. Crossland was the family of the mother of George Calvert, first Lord Baltimore. The red and white Crossland colors, with a Greek cross terminating in the foils, appear in the second and third quarters. This flag was first flown October 11, 1880, in Baltimore at a parade marking the 150th anniversary of the founding of Baltimore. It also was flown October 25, 1888, at Gettysburg Battlefield for ceremonies dedicating monuments to Maryland regiments of the Army of the Potomac. Officially, it was adopted as the State flag in 1904 (Chapter 48, Acts of 1904). Maryland law requires that if any ornament is affixed to the top of a flagstaff carrying the Maryland flag, the ornament must be a gold cross bottony (Chapter 862, Acts of 1945; Code State Government Article, secs. 13-201 through 13-204).



STATE FLOWER. The Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) has been the official Maryland flower since 1918 (Chapter 458, Acts of 1918; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-305). A yellow daisy, or coneflower, it blooms in late summer and is commonly found in fields and on roadsides.

STATE FOLK DANCE. In 1994, Square Dancing was designated the State Folk Dance (Chapter 707, Acts of 1994; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-313). This art form integrates dances from various cultures: the Morris and Maypole dances of England, ballroom dances of France, Church dances of Spain, and folk dances of Australia, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Russia, and other nations. Square Dancing has been a popular folk tradition since 1651.

