

# APG BOATER'S GUIDE

RESTRICTED  
WATER ZONE  
SURROUNDING  
ABERDEEN PROVING  
GROUND,  
MARYLAND

Revised August 2019

## 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 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. 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.

**Because of testing/training missions, unexploded (DUD) ammunition may be lying 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 at (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 (443) 861-6586 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.

**DANGER**

**NO TRESPASSING  
UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE  
U.S. ARMY PROPERTY  
KEEP OUT**

*Aberdeen Proving Ground shorelines are posted with danger signs similar to the one shown above.*

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 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).









# WATCH OUT FOR UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE.

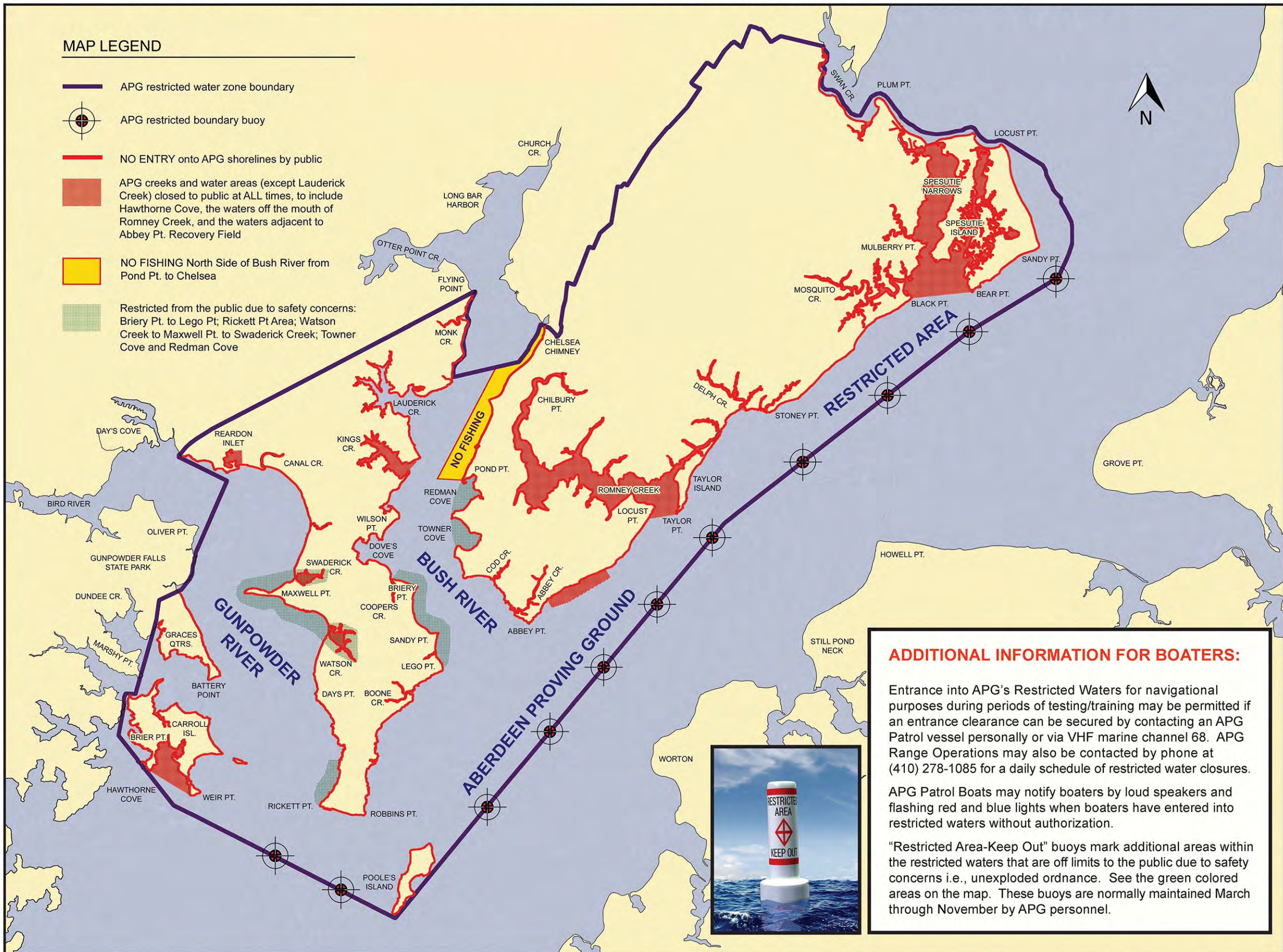




# ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND'S RESTRICTED WATER ZONES

## MAP LEGEND

-  APG restricted water zone boundary
-  APG restricted boundary buoy
-  NO ENTRY onto APG shorelines by public
-  APG creeks and water areas (except Lauderick Creek) closed to public at ALL times, to include Hawthorne Cove, the waters off the mouth of Romney Creek, and the waters adjacent to Abbey Pt. Recovery Field
-  NO FISHING North Side of Bush River from Pond Pt. to Chelsea
-  Restricted from the public due to safety concerns: Briery Pt. to Lego Pt.; Rickett Pt Area; Watson Creek to Maxwell Pt. to Swaderick Creek; Towner Cove and Redman Cove



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BOATERS:**

Entrance into APG's Restricted Waters for navigational purposes during periods of testing/training may be permitted if an entrance clearance can be secured by contacting an APG Patrol vessel personally or via VHF marine channel 68. APG Range Operations may also be contacted by phone at (410) 278-1085 for a daily schedule of restricted water closures.

APG Patrol Boats may notify boaters by loud speakers and flashing red and blue lights when boaters have entered into restricted waters without authorization.

"Restricted Area-Keep Out" buoys mark additional areas within the restricted waters that are off limits to the public due to safety concerns i.e., unexploded ordnance. See the green colored areas on the map. These buoys are normally maintained March through November by APG personnel.

