

MSSA FREDERICK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Working to Provide a Unified Voice to Preserve and Protect the
Rights, Tradition and the Future of Recreational Fishing!
No Unity, No Voice, No Fish



The Official MSSA Frederick Chapter VHF Channel is 71

President's Message

Finally, after all the anticipation of opening day, it was refreshing to get out on the water after a long cold winter. Many brave souls fished opening day in 30 mph gusts with 5 footers, rough seas and treacherous conditions to say the least. Unfortunately, a couple of these brave souls lost their lives. This brings up the point about boat safety. Although many of us make sure all our leaders, baits and our rods are in tip top shape, we neglect to do one of the most important things....Make sure our boats are safe. Before venturing out it is a good idea to check over the entire boat for safety. A coast guard inspection is generally free and will insure that all life saving equipment is in order. I implore each of us to make sure we have floatation devices, flares, a working VHF, and our motors are sound. Participation in our annual shake down cruise allows you to check out your boat before hand so that catastrophe can be avoided during the season.

The fish are here. The mouths of most of the rivers are stacked up full of spawned out females ranging from 36" up. Reports of fish in the 45-50" range have come from all over the bay. This should make for a great spring rockfish tournament for our chapter and for those of you participating in the Main MSSA tournament. Good luck to all. Make sure you get your weigh tickets to Chris Linetty before Tuesday, May 7 as we will be giving out our chapter winning prizes at the meeting on the 8th.

WE have a great meeting lined up featuring all you need to know about catching flounder for our upcoming annual flounder tournament. We have a great schedule of events, meetings and things to do within the chapter this year. Again, we are always looking for volunteers or board members. Step up and help the chapter. Please make sure you sell your fundraising tickets to help support our chapter.

Fish hard!

Next Meeting

May 8, 2013

**Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Meeting begin ~7:00 PM**

Speaker:

Lenny Rudow

Lenny will be speaking to us about Flounder Fishing. This should educational and fun.

Vendor:

Captain Steve's Bait and Tackle



April Raffle Winners:

Hand held VHF Radio - Mike Sissel
Shads and MSSA Cap - Damon Katlin
Tandem Parachute Rig – Eddie Blank
Diawa Spinning Reel - Chris Linetty
Umbrella Rig w/ Storage Bag - Calvin Kinna
Tandem Parachute Rig - Neil Ammerman
Umbrella Rig w/ Storage Bag - Roy Young
Sassy Shads- Justin Fleming
Fighting Belt - Bill Johnson
Line Counter - Dave King

50/50 Raffle

\$120 - Rick Thompson

**Attendance at the March Meeting:
73**

Directions To Meeting at the Frederick Moose Lodge: - [Map](#)

From Frederick, take **I-70** east to **exit 56**
(Rt. 144W). Turn slight right onto MD-144.
Go 0.8 miles to 828 E. Patrick St. on the left.

Chapter Flounder Tournament Chincoteague, Virginia May 17-19, 2013

The Chapter has secured discounted rooms at the Seahawk Motel starting at \$60 per night. Call Carey or Brenda at 757-336-6527 to make your reservations.

We will also host an you can eat buffet dinner at Maria's Friday night at 7pm. The cost is \$15/person and includes one raffle ticket.

This should be a great time and the big fish will be there. Expect 3lb + fish

Entry Fee:

\$85/ boat if paid April 11 - May 8

Optional Calcutta: Winner take all for heaviest single fish of the tournament

\$85/ boat if paid April 11 - May 8

Details and sign up forms will be at the meetings and on the website [flounder tournament sign-up](#)

Any questions call Roy Young 301-748-7211

N.C. King Mackerel Tournament October 5-12, 2013

We do have some rooms and efficiencies left but we will be sending in our request after the April meeting. If you want a room, it's a \$50 deposit and bring it to the meeting. It's a great time. We will show you everything you need. It will be the best week of fishing you have experienced. Any questions call Rob @ 301-606-0392.

Time to Order Fish Bags Again

If you would like a large bag (kingfish size) which works great for rockfish as well, please see Rob at the meeting. They are \$150 with our logo (got him to hold the old price) but they will be going up. We are not ordering extras so bring a \$50 deposit and we will have them by the end of the month, possibly sooner.

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

Tightlines.....

Ocean City Action

By Sue Foster

April 29th, 2013

Water Temp: 50.3

Fishing this week was fair. The flounder bit good on Friday and Saturday and slowed up on Sunday. Oceanic Pier saw a good amount of fish including flounder, tog, short stripers, bluefish, shad, skates, one trout and lots of blowfish. Skates were in the surf, along with a surprising amount of blowfish, a couple black drum, a few bluefish, nice sharks, but only a few stripers this past weekend. ANY DAY, the striper run will begin in earnest! Tog fishing was a little slow this weekend, but should pick back up as the water warms back up.

Chesapeake Bay Action

This past Saturday was of course the opening day of the trophy Striped Bass season and many veteran Striped Bass fishermen see it just as that; the "start"; the fishing will improve in the next week or so. The morning started out nice enough with flat conditions but by mid-morning that soon changed to whitecaps and very rough conditions that had many fishermen hanging on for dear life and some folks were chumming overboard. Unfortunately as many veterans know the open waters can be unforgiving and tragically two fishermen lost their lives when their boat foundered near Point Lookout. Please be careful out there.

Most fishermen described the trolling action as a "slow pick" on Saturday and Sunday and there were also reports of better action in the evenings. Surface water temperatures in the bay are around 56-degrees and about 10-degrees cooler down deep so most of the fish are swimming close to the surface in the shipping channel. Traditional locations along the steepest edges of the shipping channel tended to produce the best catches such as Bloody Point and the western edge from Chesapeake Beach south to Cove Point as well as Buoys 83 and 72. The channel edges in the lower Potomac River produced fish and fishermen are reporting very good success in Tangier Sound in the past three days. Laurie and Mandie are all smiles with their two big Striped Bass they caught near Tilghman Island.

Typically the best opportunities for catching a trophy Striped Bass occur around the last week of April and the first week of May.

Anyone who has been following the spring spawning runs of yellow and White Perch know that many things have been later than expected due to chilly water temperatures. This may hold true for the Striped Bass also since cooler weather has prevailed for the past couple of weeks. Rich Watts reported that he and his friends went out trolling on Monday near Thomas Point light in about 35' of water and caught a couple of big Striped Bass, one of which had five large menhaden in it's stomach. Rich also mentioned that they caught and released several fish in the 26" size range.

Despite a few false starts and pulses of Hickory Shad in the Susquehanna, Octoraro Creek and Deer Creek; the catch and release fishery there has been outstanding for the last week. Fishermen have been using shad darts, small flashy spoons and colorful flies and often catching two at a time on tandem rigs. A few fishermen have also reported catching an American Shad now and then in the Susquehanna. So far the American shad run has been sparse on the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers. Fisheries biologist Chuck Stence reported yesterday they have been out trying to collect brood stock and are only seeing a few fish. He reported that water temperatures are still a cool 51-degrees, which is a bit cool for American Shad. Jason Haney got to go Hickory Shad fishing with his dad recently and had a ball catching and releasing Hickory Shad at the mouth of Deer Creek.

Although the Susquehanna Flats catch and release fishery season is still open many fishermen have moved on to other fishing opportunities this week. There are still some Striped Bass in the area and locals are still finding some action on surface lures, spoons and shallow running crankbaits. An added bonus has been the chance to catch some bragging size Largemouth Bass and there are always the hungry Channel Catfish that are ready to hit most anything that comes by their way.

Fishermen are still following the White Perch either in the spawning reaches of the upper areas of the tidal rivers and creeks or farther down the rivers as post-spawn fish move back down the rivers. There were reports this past weekend that fishermen at the Red Bridges area of the upper Choptank even saw small Striped Bass in the 12" to 15" size range in the area. This time of the year you are likely to catch a wide variety of fish when fishing with small Beetle Spins, tubes or shad darts; White Perch, Yellow Perch, Crappie and other freshwater fish are always looking for a snack. Angelina Watts was fishing with her dad at the Wye Mills spillway recently and caught a variety of fish including this nice White Perch.

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball

26 Apr 2013

Despite the stiff winds over the past week, local saltwater temperatures continue to rise. But these same gusty conditions kept most anglers closer to shore. Once boats can get outside the inlets, the fish will be waiting.

Most interest is still centered around the emerging red drum bite. The full moon this week is priming conditions for drum activity among the breakers along the Eastern Shore barrier islands. Big reds ranging from 45 to 50-inches are providing decent early season action off Fisherman's Island on peeler crabs, blue crabs, and bunker.

Smallish black drum ranging to around 25-pounds are becoming more active in the Eastern Shore seaside inlets and near Latimer Shoal in the Bay, but larger fish will become more common in local waters soon.

The most cooperative species this week is still tautog, but you don't have to go far to target them. Boats braving the seas are still finding limits of keeper fish along the Bay Bridge Tunnel structure and inshore wrecks. Several Bay tog are pushing to over 9-pounds, with many 6 and 7-pounders around. These fish are favoring both fiddlers and blue crabs lately. If tautog is on your list this season, you only have until the 1st of May to get the job done, when the season closes. When boats can get out to reach them, good numbers of super-sized tautog are still active on deeper water wrecks, with the Triangle Wrecks a popular choice.

Although tautog become off limits on May 1st, the Bay's Spring Trophy Striped Bass season opens on the same day. Anglers can keep one fish per person at 32-inches or larger which need to be reported, so review the regulations carefully.

The flounder bite is still hit and miss, but the trend is on the upswing within lower Bay waters. Scattered keepers are rewarding anglers who put in their time, with the best luck coming from the Hump, buoy 36, the 1st, 2nd islands of the CBBT, and the Eastern Shore seaside inlets. Anglers are also hooking flatties up to 21-inches inside Lynnhaven River, with the outgoing tide producing the best results. A few bigger fish pushing to around 25-inches are also in the mix, with strip bait and gudgeons still performing best.

Depending on who you ask, the speckled trout action in the Elizabeth River is a challenge, especially in the Southern Branch. Dedicated anglers are finding scattered fish, but most of those fish are impressive, stretching to over 23-inches. A few trophies from the River even exceeded 30-inches this

week. The bigger fish are still responding to top water presentations, while puppy drum and small striped bass are also hitting in the same areas. Puppy drum are particularly active within Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets lately.

Lower Bay Rivers are still harboring the larger croaker, while the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and Ocean View areas are hosting decent numbers of medium-sized hardheads. Shrimp and bloodworms are working well right now. The folks at the Ocean View Fishing Pier report that anglers are hauling in croaker averaging to around 14-inches. Taylor bluefish are still hitting along the Oceanfront and within Rudee Inlet this week.

When boats can get out, deep dropping species such as tilefish and grouper are still available in water over 50 fathoms near the Canyon. As the dogfish begin to move out this month, more boats will venture out to try their luck.

Offshore action is heading our way. Yellowfin tuna action, along with some wahoo and dolphin are giving the Carolina fleet some decent days. Bluefin tuna are also a possibility, with some boats trying their luck with the migrating schools passing by on their way North.

www.drjball.com.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: April 26, 2013

DELAWARE BAY Rockfish continue to lead the parade with keepers recorded from Augustine to Broadkill beaches. Boaters are finding success at the Yellow Can, the Bull Pen, 4L and 6L buoys. Bloodworms and cut bunker have been the best bait in the upper bay with clams added to the list at Broadkill Beach. A few black drum were caught at Broadkill on clams.

Tog fishing in the bay is gradually improving with fish taken on crab bait at the Outer Wall. The ever blowing wind has made fishing here difficult. In the mid-bay, head boats are finding tog on reef sites.

We had the first report from the fishing pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. Wednesday saw a few flounder and rockfish taken. At least one flounder was a keeper, but all the rock were shorts.

Catfish continue to please anglers at Augustine and Woodland beaches. At least two citation cats were caught along with smaller ones and plenty of white perch. Bloodworms will work on cats and perch while cut bunker will attract a bigger class of catfish.

Many folks are anxious to catch flounder out of the Broadkill River and the Lewes and

Rehoboth Canal. Unfortunately, the flounder are not cooperating. The report of flounder from the Cape Henlopen State Park pier is encouraging.

INDIAN RIVER INLET It is still slow at the inlet. A few keeper tog out of the rocks on crab and a some keeper flounder at the VFW Slough on live minnows, shiners and squid.

INSHORE OCEAN Limit catches of tog continue to come from head and charter boats working inshore wrecks and reefs. Crab has been the best bait. The tog season will soon close so now is the time to get out and catch some of these tasty critters.

In spite of rockfish from the beach, I have no reports of any taken from boats. I did have reports of flocks of diving birds, but no rock willing to take a bait or lure were discovered under the bird activity.

SURF FISHING Surf fishing was very good over the weekend. Sunday was the better day with rock, blues and a few black drum caught from Herring Point to Fenwick Island. Cut fresh bunker and clams were the top baits. A hard northeast wind early in the week made for difficult conditions, but the weekend looks great.

Tips and Tackle

Trailer maintenance

By David Liscio

Don't let a bum trailer keep you and your boat off the water

John Kain has seen plenty of boat trailer tongues bent like rubber under a hot sun. He has witnessed broken axles resting on launch ramps, and the inevitable flat tires that dampen the celebratory mood at the start of each season.

"It's all about maintenance," says Kain, owner of The Boat Shop in Marblehead, Massachusetts, where each year he maintains or repairs about 50 boat trailers. "Trailers are things most people usually don't think about until it's time to use them. A lot of times the trailer sits under the deck, out of sight and forgotten about. The 23-foot boat sitting on it still has the plug in, and of course it fills up with thousands of pounds of water, a far heavier load than the trailer was made to take."

As boating season ramps up in the northeast, Kain anticipates plenty of knocks on his shop door, mostly customers who can't start their engines or are experiencing difficulties with their trailers. It doesn't have to be this way. Although Kain certainly isn't complaining about the flurry of business, he knows how to prevent such hassles and is willing to share that knowledge. Let's call it Boat Trailers 101.

Here are a few tips from a professional. First

of all, if the trailer wheels won't rotate, don't force them. As Kain puts it, "If you move the trailer and the wheels grind, it means the bearings are probably bad. How many times have you seen somebody pulling a trailer down the street and it's skidding the whole way? The bearings rust up a bit during the winter and it's possible to loosen them, but not like that."

Instead, Kain suggests jacking up the trailer and manually attempting to spin the wheel. If it won't budge, pop off the hub with a screwdriver and inspect it. A substance resembling black pepper is often present—a telltale that the bearings and cones need grease or replacement. If the grease appears milky, it probably has been compromised by water, so repacking the bearings is essential.

"You can do it yourself," says Kain, noting that bearing replacement kits are relatively inexpensive—under \$15.

Don't use lubricants like I Can't Believe it's Not Butter, despite what you may have read in publications written for boaters on a budget. Trailers require waterproof marine bearing grease, which usually comes packaged in a tube. Apply it by hand. You can pack it carefully into the bearings with a frosting knife.

When that's done, take a close look beneath the trailer. In other words, get down on your hands and knees to visually inspect the axle or axles. If the wheels are tilted, it could be a sign of a bent spindle, cracked axle or broken spring.

Inspect the tongue for rust and wear. Trailers are made to carry specific loads. If the boat has been filled with water or lots of gear for six months, there's a chance the trailer is weakened. Don't forget to pull the seacock plug before storing the boat for the winter. It sounds like a no-brainer, but Kain's experiences suggest a different story. Trailer tongues are known to collapse at the most inopportune moments. Check the tongue jack for wear as well.

Examine the leaf springs. When rusted, these metal bands begin splitting apart and it's difficult to judge when they might give way. Kain suggests leaving that part of the inspection or repair to a professional.

Test the lights. If the connectors are corroded, clean or replace them. When backing into the water, leave the connectors undone, which will allow them to dry faster.

Check the winch and especially the rope. Ultraviolet rays tend to break down rope fibers. Besides, trailer winch ropes are seldom given time to dry properly because

they are almost always wound onto the winch.

"You can get hurt if the rope breaks and the trailer lets go and you're standing on the ramp," says Kain. "And you can imagine what might happen if it let go on the highway."

Injuries can also occur when boat owners lean forward while cranking the trailer winch. Should the lock slip, the weight of the boat could force the winch handle to rapidly spin backward. Read this scenario as black eyes and busted teeth. The general advice: Don't put your head too close to the winch handle.

Before moving the boat from the trailer, inspect the rollers. According to Kain, worn rollers that are down to the metal can act like pizza cutters on the bottom of your boat. "I've seen it," he says. "It's not pretty."

When all these parts are given the OK, don't drive off until you've inflated the tires to their proper pressure. "Flat tires are probably the biggest thing I see with trailers," says Kain. "When people put a trailer in their back yard, they tarp it and forget it. The tires are in contact with the ground for the winter and that can cause problems."

Don't forget to examine the tire tread. Baloney skins won't do you much good on a slippery launch ramp. To check the tread, use the penny test. Insert a penny in the tire groove. The tread should touch the top of Abe Lincoln's head.

If possible, before storing the trailer, jack up the frame, remove the wheels and let the hubs rest on cement blocks. Lubricate the lug nuts and bolts with a silicone spray like WD-40 or coat them with Vaseline.

Risking oversimplification, here are a few more suggestions: Wash the trailer every time it has been immersed in saltwater; make sure the ball hitch is backed up by chains, the hooks crisscrossed to prevent bounce; use tie-down straps, especially inexpensive ratchet-style webbing to secure the boat; tarp the boat to shade trailer tires and reduce rotting from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

If on the highway, bring along a trailer emergency kit with spare wheel, lug wrench, grease, extra line, wheel chock and road flares. As one mechanic put it, the only certainties are death, taxes and trailer corrosion. By following these maintenance tips, you'll have better odds of delaying the latter, which means more time on the water, and that's what it's all about.

DNR in the News

Change Coming to Maryland's Commercial Striped Bass Fishery

DNR Sets a May 10 Striped Bass Commercial Control Date for Quota Allocation

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Service is making a significant management change to the commercial Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass fishery. DNR is working to meet fishing industry goals, create a more sustainable system, increase accountability and make it easier for police to enforce the law. The system will also comply with new Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requirements. These changes are the result of extensive meetings with the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission's Striped Bass Industry Workgroup over the past 18 months.

The proposed change is the allocation of individual quotas to fishing permit holders based on their Striped Bass catch histories from January 1, 2001 through February 29, 2012. New regulations will impact Striped Bass permit holders fishing in 2014.

DNR has set a cutoff (control date) of May 10, 2013 as the date when a waterman with a record of catching Striped Bass must possess a commercial Striped Bass permit in order to be eligible for a 2014 allocation.

"There are watermen who participated in the Striped Bass fishery in the 2001 to 2012 period but no longer have a Striped Bass permit. There are also watermen working with a temporary transferred permit who have accumulated a catch history, which could justify a quota allocation for them under the new management program," said Mike Luisi, director of DNR Fisheries Estuarine and Marine Division. "It's important that these watermen understand that their catch history will not be considered if they don't possess a Striped Bass permit on May 10."

"We are asking that any permit owner or potential buyer considering a permanent Striped Bass permit transfer after May 10th consult with us before committing to a sale. We want fishermen to be well informed regarding the allocation impacts when making this business decision," said Luisi.

Fishermen with any questions may contact Mike Luisi at 410-260-8341 or mluisi@dnr.state

Fishing Regulations

2013 Md. Flounder Season

Minimum Size - 16" Creel - 4 fish Season - March 28th - Dec 31st

2013 Va. Flounder Season

Minimum Size - 16" Creel - 4 fish per day
No closed season

Tournament News

Classified Ads

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
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JANUARY	12	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	26-27	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention, Annapolis, MD
	2	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
	13	- Frederick Meeting -
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-17	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	23	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
	23	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
28	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center	
MARCH	1-3	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-17	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	23-24	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	6	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	10	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
MAY	3-5	- 29th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	21-23	- 20th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17	- Chapter Lower Bay Charter Trip
	24	- 3rd Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	5-12	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	16	- Frederick Meeting
	23	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	23-24	- 19 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting