

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

Well fellas, the fishing season is quickly winding down as the temperatures are dropping fast. I don't know how many of you fished the fall MSSA tournament, but the weather was miserable to say the least. Except for a short time Saturday afternoon, seas were nasty with 4-5 footers, with winds blowing 20-25 knots with gusts to 40 knots and the fish just weren't around in any numbers.

It's time to hunker down for the winter, start going over your gear for next year along with making plans to enjoy many of our chapter's winter activities.

January will be filled with some great events. We will begin the NEW YEAR with our annual dinner dance on January 11, 2014. This year's menu has been upgraded to include PRIME RIB, Chicken Chesapeake, Steamed Shrimp, Crab Dip and all the fixings. A new band will play many of your favorite Rock n Roll, Country and a host of other top hits. Tickets are only \$35.00 per person. We will raffle off (as always) some dynamite prizes valued at well over \$2,000. Please see Bob Pellicot at the meeting, as there will be NO ticket sales at the door.

We will be having our annual Fishing Expo at the Frederick County Fairgrounds on January 18, 2014 (see website for info). The show is going to be awesome with more vendors, great food, great deals and a new list of the areas prominent fishing experts talking on their tips and techniques of fishing the Mid Atlantic area. This will be an opportunity to gear up for next years fishing.

I was extremely disappointed last year in our membership attendance. Many of us work hard to put this together and it would be nice to see all of you out their supporting our chapter.

Stay tuned to for more information on the rest of our years activities because we are going to have a super year for our members. See you at the Dinner Dance and the EXPO.

Fish Hard!

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker:

Capt. Keith Jacobs

Getting your small boat ready for offshore fishing (safety gear covered as well)

Vendor:



Menu:

November Raffle Winners:

Penn 330/ Slammer Combo – Emory Conner
Shakespeare Trolling Reel – Jamie Beasley
Spankin Stripers Parachute – Mike Luzier
Misc. Tackle Assortment – Jim Bremer
Misc. Tackle Assortment – Tom King
Fighting Belt – Zack Ridgely
MSSA Frederick Hat – Troy Barrick

50/50 Raffle

\$132 – Emory Conner

Attendance at November Meeting:
60

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 News

January Dinner Meeting Frederick Moose Lodge January 11, 2014

Once again, it is time to start making plans for our Annual Dinner Dance. A time to join together and congratulate everyone for all the hard work and commitment put in to make the Chapter one of the best in the organization. It's also time to get out and enjoy the holiday festivities with family and friends, reminisce over the past years fishing trips and plan new adventures for the season to come. So mark you calendars now for another great evening of food and fun good times.

As always, we will have some great prizes to give away. We will have the usual 50/50 raffle, a Chinese Auction and maybe even a door prize or two.

The event will start at 6:30pm. Hors d'oeuvres including crab dip and steamed spiced shrimp will start the night

Dinner at 7:30pm will include PRIME RIB, Chicken Chesapeake along with potato, vegetable and salad.

Afterwards we will have a great band playing so everyone can kick up their heels after they have feasted.

Tickets for the event are just \$35.

**Tickets must be purchased in advance.
There will be no ticket sales at the door.
No exceptions!!!**

We look forward to seeing you all there

Do not forget the Saltwater Fishing Expo on January 18

This is going to be a huge event and we need everyone to step up. We need people to spread the "word". We need volunteers to help set up and break down along with just general help. Please everyone, offer a couple of hours to make this a successful event.

Contact Ed, Rob or one of the Board of Directors to volunteer.

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

A spectacular Red Drum bite occurred from late August till end of November all up and down the VA seashores and bayside all the way up to Crisfield around Smith Island and Tangier Sound. Puppy drum in the keeper size were abundant in every seaside and bayside backwater areas around the shallows of the marshes and off the surf. Limits could be caught in less than an hour some days if you hit the tides right. This has been the best Red Drum run in many a year the old timers are saying! But it seems they have moved south since the past weekend was an elkunko for Capt. Steves annual Surf tournament. A speckled Trout run occurred at the same time but the focus seemed to be on the spot tails.

Now the wait is on for the stripers on the surf and out to the three mile line. Not many have showed off the surf yet just some undersized ones. A few have been caught in the back bays but no real numbers of them yet! Some nice rock have been caught at the CBBT but the big run is still waiting to happen, going down Wednesday to give it a try. Usually the first week of December is the start of the cows making their way into the mouth of the bay.

On the flounder front, the numbers we have heard from the VMRC is that VA is well below our quota by 63%, not including the last two months of the year. That means next year we may see a 15" size limit in the mix of choices the VMRC puts out. The fish are out there from what I have seen from the trawlers bringing the flounder in at Reds Wholesale Dock here on the island.

Offshore wrecks are holding Seabass and Tog with limits being brought in by the few boats who catch the right weather to get out there to get to them. Don't put that boat away yet some prime fishing is happening and if the weather holds the bite on stripers, seabass and tog will continue

Tight lines.....

Ocean City Action

By Sue Foster

Dec. 2, 2013

Water Temp: 50.9

On Sunday, "Striper fisherman who hit the seas early had a better chance of their limit today with the best bite occurring between sunrise and 9:00 in the morning. After that, anglers picked away at them throughout the day. Water temperature hovered around 48.4 degrees. The top spots were around Little Gull down to the Sliver and further north off Sea Colony. Jeff Valdivia

caught a pair of stripers on the troll at Little Gull. Fish measured 36" and 41".

Sounds like most boats got their couple of fish early. Most struggled all day to find fish. Best concentration of bait seemed to be a mile or two south of Sea Colony between 2 and 3 miles off the beach. Stripers weren't as big as we have seen them over the past couple of weeks. Other spots with decent marks of bait were on the 3 mile line off Seacrets and also off 70th Street. Water temperature was around 48.4 degrees.

On Tuesday, "10:00 AM - Big Bird Cropper called in to report that he was catching stripers and red drum off the North Jetty this morning using lures. 1:00 PM - Mike Tryon caught a 17 lb. 4 oz. bluefish while trolling parachute rigs in the ocean off 49th Street. 2:00 PM - Steve Insley from Bishopville, MD caught a 44-inch striper that weighed 25 lbs. on the scale at Ake Marine. The fish was caught on a blue Stretch 25 in 40-foot of water off 70th Street, just inside the 3-mile line.

2:15 PM - Tim Romberger reported in that they fished from 7:30 AM to noon, pretty much straight out from the OC Inlet to about 2 miles. Very little bird activity and marks were sporadic. However, once he found them the fish were thick. Came home with 2 keepers. Largest measured 42-inches and weighed 27.5 lbs. at Ake Marine. 3:30 PM - Mark Hill, Morgan Huntzinger and Gary Campbell brought 4 stripers by the office that they caught while trolling mojo's and daisy chains between 49th Street and the Pyramid Hotel (95th St.). The fish were caught in 40 feet of water, 2 miles off the beach. Their largest fish measured 41-inches and weighed 30 lbs. 4 oz."

Chesapeake Bay Action

December 4, 2013

The upper bay region water temperatures have dropped to 40-degrees and fish are holding in deeper waters where temperatures near the bottom may be a couple of degrees warmer. Fishermen have been trolling deep with a variety of lures such as bucktails dressed with sassy shads, spoons and swim shads in medium sizes as well as a few large parachutes in hopes of running into a larger fish. Most fishermen are trolling along the edges of the shipping channel and channel edges in the lower sections of the Patapsco and Chester Rivers. One of the better places to try jigging in the upper bay area has been the steep channel edges near Podickory Point and the Bay Bridge Piers. The Bay Bridge Piers and Rock Piles are attracting both Striped Bass and White Perch and most fishermen are jigging with metal and soft plastics.

In the middle bay region fishermen are finding it hard to find Striped Bass in the lower sections of the tidal rivers in a mood to bite. Anglers are reporting marking fish on their recorders and having little success in getting them to strike a jig. Water temperatures are below 40-degrees now in

most areas and only a couple of degrees higher on the bottom in deeper areas so Striped Bass are becoming less active. Fishermen should note that often dense schools of Gizzard Shad can be spotted on depth recorders at the mouths of tidal rivers in deep water and can be confused with Striped Bass. Gizzard Shad, like striped Bass and White Perch, seek the deep waters of the bay to spend the cold winter months.

Boats can be seen trolling along traditionally productive steep edges of the shipping channel pulling flat lines and planer boards pulling a variety of medium sized lures and some of the big stuff in hopes of bumping into a really large Striped Bass. Most fishermen are describing the fishing action as a slow pick with fish up to 30". Anyone trolling along the edges of the shipping channel needs to keep a keen lookout for buoy flags marking drift gill nets since the Striped Bass Drift Gill Net Season opened on December 3rd. No one likes losing those expensive parachutes and umbrella rigs. At times trotlines of crab pots are also set in the deeper waters of the channel this time of the year and losing a trolling spread to one of these can ruin your day in a hurry.

In the lower bay region fishermen are out trolling large lures in search of the elusive large fall migrant Striped Bass; to date only a handful have been caught. Most fishermen will attest to the fact though that it only takes one big fish to make your day.

The big story in the lower bay region last week was the appearance of a very nice grade of Striped Bass in the Cornfield Harbor/ Point Lookout area that were in the 28" to 38" size range. According to those who were present it was a real melee with pelicans and gannets joining in on the action as fishermen enjoyed some outstanding jigging action. Generally speaking the lower Potomac River has been offering some of the best and most consistent Striped Bass action for most of November. An added bonus to all of this is also the fact that recreational Striped Bass fishing in the Potomac River below the Wilson Bridge is open until December 31st giving fishermen additional time after the Maryland Chesapeake closure date of December 15th.

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball

December 6, 2013

As we brace for yet another weather event rolling through our weekend, anglers watch anxiously for openings to dart to the Eastern Shore side of the Bay. Luckily, the inshore scene is still providing an excellent alternative when the wind blows.

The big news flash is that the really big rockfish moved into the lower Bay this week. The influx of the big boys became evident with several catches topping 50-pounds this week. So now the chase is on! Anglers are flocking to local tackle shops to load up on eels and lures to target these popular game fish. Most of these slobbs are coming from the Eastern Shore side of the Chesapeake Bay. Boats fishing from Plantation Light to the Bayside of Cape Charles while drifting with eels for bait are finding the best luck. This popular fishing technique is very effective, resulting in fewer but larger fish.

Anglers are also hooking big fish while dunking live eels at various depths from the 4th island to the high rise section of the Bay Bridge Tunnel. Rockfish of all sizes are still responding all over the lower Bay. School-sized fish are available to casters working the lower bridge pilings, while boats using live bait over the tubes and casting near the islands of the CBBT, are finding a nice class of fish ranging to around 20-pounds this week.

Speckled trout anglers continue to experience excellent fishing. Rudee Inlet, Lynnhaven River, and Little Creek Inlet are giving up good numbers of nice fish, with some fish topping 6-pounds coming from Rudee Inlet this week. The Elizabeth River is on fire with many catches of big specks reported lately, where some gators topping 9-pounds inhaled lures for anglers fishing the River lately. Remember to check the regulations, starting this week anglers can keep up to five fish, with one of the fish stretching to over 24-inches. Either way, limits of nice trout with many pushing to over five pounds are hitting the dock. But if speckled trout are not enough to draw you to protected waters, then maybe some hefty puppy drum in the same locations will change your mind. The puppy drum action is still on, with many fish taking the lures intended for trout. School sized stripers are also hitting in many of these same protected areas.

Tautog are biting all over the lower Bay and on most inshore and coastal wrecks. Any available structure along the CBBT is producing limits of quality fish when anglers can reach them. When the wind is blowing too hard for boating, anglers can hit the Seagull Fishing Pier or the Concrete Ships off Kiptopeke, for a chance at keeper fish. Folks are also catching tog off the Lesner Bridge and Great Neck Bridge in Lynnhaven by casting bait to the crossing and bridge pilings from land.

Wreck fishing is pretty good right now. Nice seabass pushing to around 3 and 4-pounds are hitting most any offering, while 4-pound triggerfish and respectable flounder averaging to five pounds are taking drifted

baits around many offshore structures. Chopper bluefish are also a possibility around some of the deeper wrecks, with the Triangle Wrecks a favorite. Plenty of false albacore are also entertaining anglers in the same areas this week. These fish offer a great fight on light tackle.

The offshore scene is still an unknown off Virginia since few boats are making the run. Yellowfin tuna are a possibility, along with bluefin tuna. Although some smaller class bluefins were caught recently, anglers are watching with interest for any word on the giants, although some rumors of sightings are trickling in. The giants can pop up on most any inshore seamount right now, or even inshore and out to the Chesapeake Light Tower vicinity. Finding them is the hardest part, since they are often on the move. If targeting these big fish, be prepared. Check the regulations carefully and use the appropriate class of heavy gear and tackle. Overnight trips may result with decent swordfish action in deeper water in the Canyon.

Deep droppers are still finding nice blueline tilefish and seabass, but a variety of pesky dogfish and sharks are beginning to move into the same areas. David Cohn of Virginia Beach became our newest local World Record angler. David's 20.5-pound blueline tilefish was recently approved by the IGFA as the new All-Tackle World Record for the species.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: December 6, 2013

DELAWARE BAY The rockfish bite continues, but for how long it goes, nobody knows. As of Wednesday they were still feeding at the Eights, Overfalls Shoal and Brown Shoal. Stretch 25 or 30 plugs are doing most of the damage. A few folks are drifting with eels or live spot and there has been some chunking in the upper bay around the 6L Buoy out of Collins Beach. My reports for that area were not as good as the action around the mouth of the bay.

Most of the fish I have seen were in the 20 to 30-pound class with a few 40 pounders mixed in the catch. Some boats have limit catches, others have a few fish and still others get skunked.

No report on tog fishing as everyone we spoke with is targeting rockfish. Once the rock head south, tog will be back on the menu.

White perch and catfish continue to bite in the tidal creeks and rivers feeding the bay. The same areas have not produced any keeper rockfish over the past week.

Bloodworms for the perch and cut bunker for the catfish.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Still no rockfish of any number or size from the inlet. A few keepers have been taken at night on bucktails, shads and long-lined flies with most of the catch made up of shorts.

Tog fishing has also been slow. Those that are caught fall for green crabs fished in the rocks..

INSHORE OCEAN More and more rockfish are showing up along the ocean front. The Condos off of Bethany Beach, Hen and Chicken Shoal and at least one 42 pounder was caught a mile or less off of Three Rs Road. Trolling with Stretch plugs has been the ticket to success.

My tog reports were not very good last weekend because of the strong current produced by the new moon. I don't know why, but the tides were unusually high and low during this moon.

Sea bass were caught offshore on a long range trip aboard the head boat out of Fisherman's Wharf. If you want to catch a limit of these great fish to put up for the winter you will have to get out there before December 31

SURF FISHING Over the weekend, while I was out of state, rockfish were caught in decent numbers from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island. Since then it has been a slow pick for rock and a few puppy drum. Cut bunker has been the most productive bait.

Partners Program Don't have a boat? Want to fish?

Many of us who have boats go fishing and have vacancies. Get your name on the list and we will give you a call when we are going fishing if we have vacancies.

Stan Mordensky - 301-639-8584

To get your name on the list, send your contact information to Clyde Hunt at clyde.hunt@verizon.net

Tips and Tackle

Saltwater Fishing Tackle Maintenance Tips

By Fred Everson

Fishing with a new spinning reel is a treat. Even the cheapest reel works well when it's new, but unfortunately they don't hold up very well for very long -- this is especially true if it's used in saltwater. However, even the most expensive equipment requires maintenance or it won't last either. Here are some saltwater fishing tackle maintenance tips.

When I buy a new reel the first thing I do is add some grease. A tackle shop owner once told me that reel manufacturers use a minimal amount of grease in new reels because reel boxes with grease stains don't sell. I don't know whether that's fact or myth, but I give every new reel a shot of grease before I use it, and my reels hold up exceptionally well.

I buy the little tubes of reel grease you find in sporting goods stores, and a small tube lasts a long time. On most reels you don't even have to take the side plate off; on the reels I use, there is an access hole in the back of the reel, covered by a gold colored plastic plate.

Coil springs have mostly replaced the leaf-style bail springs and I have yet to break one, so spring replacement is no longer a concern. The area on the bail that is subject to failure is the line roller. I like to lube the roller on a regular basis with 3-in-1 oil, and I check them every time I use them. If the roller sticks it is going to increase line wear, and if you fish with microfilament it may even cut into the roller. If that happens, you have to replace the roller because it will eventually shred your fishing line -- especially under strain. And that's absolutely the worst way to lose a good fish.

After every fishing trip I give my rods and reels a light spray with fresh water. You don't want to blast it with a garden hose full force, as that will put water where it's not supposed to be, and even fresh water can be corrosive. I keep a can of silicone spray on hand and give the reels a light spray. This will displace water and keep the handle from chirping like a bird. I also keep a small can of spray in my tackle box, along with a container of oil and a tube of reel grease, because there is nothing like fishing with a smooth functioning reel.

The rods also need a butt-to-tip light rinse after every trip. Even stainless steel guides can rust due to the interaction with the aluminum oxide that's used in most guide rings on store bought rods. A light rinse and an occasional spray with silicone will keep them in service for years. It will also help to keep the blank looking like new. However,

even a sun-bleached blank can be made to look new again with a light coat of oil, or car wax, or even furniture polish.

Rod tips fail more often than the rest of the guides because they take the most punishment. I have spares in my tackle box, and a tube of super glue for emergency repairs. Sometimes a guide will separate from the wrap. When that happens all you need is a drop of glue on the guide foot, slide it back under the wrap and it's good to go.

I store my rods in a homemade ceiling rack. This keeps them in sight, but out of the way and off the floor. Rods and reels should be kept out of direct sunlight when not used for fishing. Direct sunlight is particularly tough on monofilament, and it's also hard on guide wraps and blank finishes. But the biggest benefit of storing rods on the ceiling is they can't get stepped on or run over up there.

Take care of your equipment, and it will take care of you!

DNR in the News

Suspected Rockfish Poachers Indicted After Two-Year Investigation

Conservationists, watermen and anglers are applauding efforts by the Maryland Natural Resources Police and its federal law enforcement partners in obtaining indictments of four Talbot County watermen accused of running a striped bass poaching ring that spanned four years and was worth nearly a half million dollars on the wholesale market.

The 26-count indictment handed down Thursday provides the link between the actions of the four men and the discovery of illegal gill nets filled with fish found off Kent Island in February 2011. The incident triggered a massive police enforcement effort, generated a series of tough laws from the General Assembly and closed the commercial striped bass season three weeks early to prevent overfishing.

"Marylanders can be proud of these officers, whose hard work, long nights and nonstop investigative efforts have paid off," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Poachers steal from honest anglers, watermen, and all of us who responsibly enjoy our State's natural riches and respect the livelihoods of the hardworking men and women who rely on this fishery."

The indictments by a federal grand jury in Baltimore came after a more than two-year joint investigation by NRP officers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Justice Department, who painstakingly shifted through thousands of documents and reports to construct a paper trail of the crimes.

"We hope that Maryland citizens are beginning to realize that these are crimes against the State," said Tony Friedrich, executive director of Coastal Conservation Association Maryland. "All of our best science is based on reliable catch reports. By falsifying data and poaching Maryland's State fish, they are not only putting the entire stock at risk but making a mockery of our combined efforts to conserve the striped bass population."

Beginning in January 2007, Michael D. Hayden, Jr. and William J. Lednum, both of Tilghman Island, and unnamed others conspired to overharvest striped bass and falsify records submitted to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Their illegal catch was sold to wholesalers in Maryland, New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

In addition, the grand jury found that in 2011, Hayden, Lednum and two other watermen — Kent Sadler, of Tilghman Island, and Lawrence "Daniel" Murphy, of St. Michaels — attempted to catch about 20,000 pounds of striped bass before the start of the 2011 commercial season using gill nets illegally set and left unattended in the Chesapeake Bay.

Hayden also was indicted on one count of witness retaliation and two counts of witness tampering in connection with the grand jury probe.

Billy Rice, chairman of the Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission, expressed his gratitude on behalf of the commercial fishing industry for law enforcement efforts.

"Poaching does not reflect a majority of our industry," Rice said. "It hurts our livelihood and our image. We hope these indictments send a strong message."

Bill Goldsborough, chairman of the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission, praised the State and federal partnership that led to the indictments.

"Egregious fishing violations are major challenges for fisheries management," said Goldsborough, also a senior scientist with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "Effective enforcement like this is essential to healthy fisheries."

As part of any sentence should the watermen be convicted, the federal government will seek to seize Hayden's 38-foot work boat, his 2009 pick-up truck and all his fishing gear and Lednum's 46-foot work boat and his fishing gear.

If these watermen are found guilty they could permanently lose their Maryland commercial fishing privileges.

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

Classified Ads

Indoor Boat Storage - \$150 month in Frederick 14' door
Call Rob @ 240-586-5201

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	11	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	25-26	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	23-26	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention, Annapolis, MD
	1	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
	12	- Frederick Meeting -
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	15-16	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	22	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
22	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD	
MARCH	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	15-16	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	22-23	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	6	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
MAY	2-4	- 30th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	7	- Frederick Meeting
	14	- Frederick Board Meeting
	15-18	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	20-22	- 21th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	23	- 4rd Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	10	- Frederick Meeting
	13	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	4-11	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	15	- Frederick Meeting
	22	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	22-23	- 19 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting