

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

As many of you know by now, it is with great regret, that we have had to postpone our annual dinner dance due to circumstances beyond our control. Unfortunately, weather related issues caused the roof to leak at the Moose and the decision was made to change the date to Saturday, March 1, 2014. For those of you who have tickets they will be honored on that date. For those of you who still would like to attend and have not yet purchased your tickets they are still available by contacting Bob Pellicot at 301-606-6200 or purchasing them at the February 12th meeting. For those of you who may have conflicting schedules and cannot attend on March 1st a refund will be given at the February meeting as well. I apologize for the inconvenience. I hope that you will still support our chapter by attending the dinner on the new date.

On a more positive note, we are excited about the upcoming Fishing Expo on January 18th at the Frederick Fairgrounds. Even with increased vendor space we have accomplished a huge feat by selling out all of the available booths and tables. Many new and exciting vendors will be there with many different products to supply us with our needs for the upcoming fishing or boating season. Please make sure your signs are out, help with passing out fliers to any local establishments and spread the word. Our goal is to have at least 1500 people attend this year. Guys, I really need your help to make this event a huge success. C'mon out, swallow a few oysters, check out all the new exciting products and support our chapter.

Finally, we have a lot of exciting new ideas for our meetings this year. Our monthly meetings should be packed with informative speakers some new or loyal vendors and of course, great raffle prizes. Hope to see you all at the meetings. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fish Hard!

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

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

Speaker:

Vendor:

Menu:

December Raffle Winners:

Penn 310GT Reel – Jeff Townsend
RDI Rod Rack – Terry Hopkins
Cabelas "Catch" Bag – Rob Pellicott
Rapala Filet Knife– Jim Bremer
Misc. Tackle Assortment – Jim Scott
MSSA Frederick Hat and Tee- Jim Johnson
Hook Remover – Bob Lowery

50/50 Raffle
\$75 – Jim Scott

Attendance at the December Meeting:
35

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 Postponed until March 1, 2014

The repairs to the roof of the Moose Club will not be complete in time for the January Dinner dance. Therefore we had no alternative but to postpone the event.

The dinner has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2014 at the same time and place. If you have tickets and can't make the rescheduled date, please see Bob Pellicott for the refund.

Do not forget the Saltwater Fishing Expo 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 Members to volunteer.



5th Annual Saltwater Fishing Expo
January 18th 2014 • 8am - 4:30pm

Frederick County Fairgrounds
797 E Patrick St. • Building #9 • Frederick, MD 21701
One Of The Best Shows Of The Year!

Schedule	Bottom Fishing	9:00am	Captain Lenny Rudow
	Offshore Fishing	10:15 am	Capt Mark Hoos (Marli)
	Light Tackle Jigging	11:30am	Captain Shawn Kimbro
	Extreme Jet Ski Fishing	12:45pm	Captain Brian Lockwood
	Bay Trolling	2:00 pm	Capt Wayne Morgan

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For More Information Contact:
Rob Pellicot: 301-606-0392 • Ed Susa: 301-252-0233

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Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

As is sit here on the first day of 2014 I think back to the past year and am kind of glad 2013 is gone. The weather really never cooperated for a great charter season until middle of August. We seen flounder numbers even less than then 2012. And the croaker were here but we did not see any larger than 10 - 12 inches. Seems the flounder and larger croaker held on or near the inshore wrecks but no large numbers made it into the back bays. Keeper ratio was up but throwbacks were way down. Good for the freezer I guess! Now the ASMFC is meeting with all the states to discuss a Flounder Regulations. This is from the ASMFC newsletter: "Based on the recreational harvest limit of 7.01 million pounds, the council and Board recommended the use of conservation equivalency for the recreational summer flounder fishery in 2014. Conservation equivalency allows individual states or voluntary regions to develop recreational measures that achieve a region- or state-specific harvest target. The combination of region- or state-specific measures would be equivalent to the council- and Board-approved non-preferred coast wide measures of an 18-in TL minimum fish size, a 4 fish possession limit and a May 1 - September 30 season". More to come on this next month!

We did see a great Red Drum fishery that is still going on even with the cold snaps, but mostly off the surf. With duck hunting season fishing the back marshes is a little dangerous. The stripers never really showed up off the surf but some were caught trolling close to the EEZ Line. If fishing for them this winter off the coast be very careful not to cross the EEZ line, the USCG is flying planes and now I hear drones with cameras to keep an eye on anyone catching striper past the line! Fines are stiff to make sure you know where you are out there!

The inshore and offshore wrecks are holding tog and seabass but seabass are smaller and you have to weed through them to get enough for dinner. As the water gets colder expect a very slow bite on seabass if any. Check closures for seabass before heading out as it may close at anytime. VA anglers are still hoping for a re-occurrence of the Bluefin bite that occurred in 2012 near the EEZ zone while Striper Fishing so really fishing here in VA never stops just slows a bit. Tight lines.....

Ocean City Action

By Sue Foster

December 23, 2013

Water Temp: 48.4

Anglers had a couple good days offshore for stripers. Other than that, well, it's pretty slow fishing. Some anglers are picking up some tautog on charter boats in DE. MD will be open in JAN.

Chesapeake Bay Action

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball

03 January 2014

As the New Year rings in, many anglers are in search of the Mid Atlantic's most popular wintertime game fish, striped bass. Anglers are hopeful for the evolution of a good winter season, but so far most boats are returning to the dock empty-handed. The latest winter blast could jump-start the movement of larger fish from areas further north, but if local water temperatures don't cooperate, they could pass by Virginia Beach in search of more favorable conditions off Carolina.

With the conclusion of the Bay rockfish season on the 1st of the year, boats are mostly switching over to trolling in ocean waters. Although some big fish were caught in the Bay towards the end of the season, success was limited for most. The scattered catches of big striped bass came from drifting eels at various depths from buoys 18 and 36A, down to Kiptopeke State Park, with several weighing in at over 50-pounds. Although the Bay fishery is closed, catch and release within Bay waters can still earn anglers a release state citation for rockfish if the length meets the 44-inch minimum size requirement. As for the coastal rockfish scene, things seem less than encouraging with most catches occurring well off the beach. Remember that targeting rockfish outside of the 3-mile demarcation is illegal, and the word on the water is that law enforcement is more than happy to remind you. The recent frigid weather may push water temperatures down too quickly, which may not encourage the fish to venture closer to shore anytime soon.

A few boats are still finding some finding some decent catches of tautog on lower Bay structure and along the Bridge Tunnel proper, but this action is slowing down with the dropping Bay temperatures. Crab and clams are your best bet, but plan to secure your bait ahead of time due to meager

supplies this time of year. Tog fishing can also be good on many offshore wrecks once anglers turn their interest to this fishery. Jumbo seabass will most certainly fall into the by-catch category in these same locations, but the season is currently closed.

Speckled trout are still an option for backwater anglers who are willing to brave the frigid winter weather. Folks continue to pick away at a wide range of sizes of trout from the Elizabeth River, where fish are spanning from 2 to 8-pounds lately. Casting jigs, live bait, and trolling are still enticing strikes. The big fish are coming from various locations in the River. Folks working the Cove area are having the best luck on live bait suspended from bobbers, while casters and trollers are experiencing the best action along drop offs in the River and within the Hot Ditch using a slow retrieve. Rudee Inlet is also experiencing similar action, while Lynnhaven is still slow. Plenty of puppy drum are still around in the River, and a few are hitting in Rudee Inlet this week.

When anglers find a break in the weather, boats will head for the edge of the Norfolk Canyon in search of deep water bottom species such as bluefin tilefish and grouper. Recent trips are rewarding boats with bluelines, with some pushing to over well over 10-pounds. Swordfishing is also an option, but calm weather is a must for this overnight activity, although recent sword ventures are resulting with mostly slow action.

Boats are on the hunt for the elusive bluefin tuna with less than favorable results. Although plenty of sightings are occurring, few hookups and even fewer boated fish are frustrating tuna hunters. One boat came across a willing pod of school-sized bigeye tuna recently while searching for bluefin tuna, which was a welcomed surprise.

One of the most anticipated tournaments of the year kicks off next weekend. The famous Mid Atlantic Rockfish Shootout (midatlanticrockfishshootout.com) is drawing the typical huge crowd hoping to have a chance at the huge cash awards and eye-catching trophies. The tournament runs for three days, Thursday through Saturday.

www.drjball.com.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: January 3, 2014

ADVISORY: Anglers are reminded that the recreational black sea bass season closed in Delaware coastal waters Jan. 1. Federal waters, which begin 3 miles from shore, also closed on Jan. 1. Open season dates, minimum size and harvest limits for 2014 will be announced when finalized.

DELAWARE BAY With the holidays over we will see more anglers out and about once we get a bit of mild weather. That pretty much eliminates any chance of anyone venturing out this weekend as the weather is supposed to be anything but mild. The primary targets for any winter fishing will be white perch, yellow perch and catfish. A few small rockfish will also be in the mix. White perch and catfish are here all winter and we had reports of yellow perch in various spillways during the last week of 2013.

INDIAN RIVER INLET The only fish caught from the inlet over the last few weeks were hickory shad. These fish will be around when everything else is gone and do present a good light tackle or fly fishing target. The white perch run in Indian River will begin around the Power Plant where the warm-water discharge provides a location where the fish remain active. Live minnows or earthworms will be the best bait.

INSHORE OCEAN The last Saturday of 2013 produced decent weather and those who fished found decent numbers of rockfish and tog. The tog were on inshore structure while the rockfish were feeding under diving birds on the lumps off of Bethany Beach. The usual crab baits produced the tog while the rockfish were caught on trolled Stretch 25s and Mojos. Tog will be here all winter with boats sailing from Lewes and Indian River while we may have seen the last of the rockfish once the next cold snap arrives.

Tips and Tackle

7 Common- Sense Tackle Care Tips

By George Poveromo

Saltwater anglers invest a small fortune (and many of us even staggering ones!) in fishing tackle, more specifically in rods and reels. Surprisingly, just a small percentage will go the extra mile and provide the TLC these outfits need to perform flawlessly season after season. Given the price tags on some of the more sophisticated reels and rods, I'm astounded when I see such gear banging against the gunwales of a boat, getting doused with salt water, being washed and

stored improperly, or getting spooled up with old and compromised fishing line.

Following is a tackle-care list I adhere to whether I'm crossing to the Bahamas or chasing inshore game fish a couple of miles from the boat ramp. Practice these tips, and you can be confident your tackle will be in perfect shape to handle anything a trophy fish can dish out.

1. Scrub-A-Dub-Dub

The proper way to wash a reel at the end of the day has always made for great debate. That being said, the late Dean Hicks — a former Fort Myers, Florida, tackle-shop and reel repair-center owner — took such a chore personally. Dean O, as he was affectionately called, had cleaned and repaired thousands of reels in his day, and he'd come up with bulletproof techniques for cleaning and caring for reels.

Dean O warned you should never use of any kind of pressure when rinsing reels, like aiming a hose or spray nozzle directly at a reel; this forces salt, sand and dirt into the reel. Instead, he recommended a simple and very light freshwater rinse at the end of each fishing trip. This goes for the rods, guides and reel seats. After rinsing and drying a reel, Dean O applied a light coat of lubricant to the reel and its components. And since many products can break down the properties of fishing line, he had his three favorites: Super Slick Slick Stuff, Reel Magic and CorrosionX. Although with the last, he advised using it sparingly and with great care, as it can damage some reel finishes and rubber seals.

One final tip on rinsing reels: Advance the drags — especially on spinning reels — which will prevent water from seeping into these systems. It's also wise to hold a spinning reel upside down (drag toward the ground) when rinsing, giving water even less of an opportunity to invade the reel. Then, when the reels have been dried and wiped down with a lubricant, back off the drags to store the outfits

2. Best "Pickup" Lines

As a general rule, I replace my fishing line after any long, stressful encounter with a powerful fish. That's because the properties of the line were likely compromised during the bout. Outside of that, I monitor the "spin finish" on the line, which gives it its sheen. Once that begins to fade and the line isn't feeling as supple as when it was new, I'll change it out. Like maintaining a reel, keeping your fishing line fresh is critical to your success. A worn line might do just fine

when bailing small school fish only to fail on a large, powerful fish.

3. Gunwale Rod No-Nos

Running through rough seas with outfits in above-gunwale holders is one of the worst things you can do to your reels, particularly if they're drenched with salt water by each big wave. Granted, quality offshore reels are made to withstand this type of abuse, but why press the issue? It only stands to reason that if a reel is drenched continuously over a considerable period of time (like a four-hour run to a canyon), some salt will find its way into the system.

If above-gunwale rod holders are all you have, that's one thing. But at least move the outfits from the boat's "wet" side to any under-the-gunwale racks, or at the very least, use reel covers to block the spray.

And for trailer boaters: Don't tow with your rods in topside gunwale holders. I've heard far too many stories about fishermen getting their rods ripped off the boat while stopped at a traffic light! Think about it: Such outfits are easy pickings for an on-foot thief or someone in a car heading the opposite direction (I've heard both accounts). And what are you going to do about it? Make a sharp U-turn with your rig and give pursuit?

4. Under the Gunwales

This is the predominant rod-storage area on a lot of small and midsize boats. When I set forth for an extended trip to the Bahamas, where I take a lot of different outfits, I'll rack the heavier (trolling) gear under the gunwales. By doing so, I'll have only the lighter spinning and conventional outfits in my T-top holders, which put little, if any, stress up there.

I'll make sure when I'm racking rods under the gunwales that the reels won't bang against each other. Ditto for the rods. I'll use a towel or a sponge to cushion the reels on these long runs so they won't rub and vibrate or even bang against the boat. It's the same for their rods. Protective reel covers also offer excellent protection here.

5. Hey, Watch Those Rods!

The highly sensitive and ultra-strong composite rods, which are fast gaining popularity, demand extra care to prevent damage to the blanks. I don't mean from their getting rolled up in a car window or slammed in a car door, but rather from something as unapparent as having a jig vibrate or bang against the rod blank while you're running to and from the fishing grounds. Little things like this, along with the way rods are racked (outlined

previously), make a big difference in their life span.

For example, let's say we have a bucktail jig secured to the guide frame on a graphite or composite rod. During the run to the fishing grounds in bumpy seas, the jig vibrates and frequently taps the rod blank. It is feasible that the rod blank now has a minute and nearly invisible nick in it from the jig. If that nick isn't along a critical spot on the rod, chances are nothing will happen to it. However, if the heat is put to a big fish and that nick is along a pressure spot on the rod, the blank can snap.

Therefore, when securing jigs, lures and hooks, avoid the rod guides entirely. Affix them to the reel seat, the hook-attachment points that manufacturers are now designing onto the reel seats, or even onto rod foregrips. And to make certain a jig, lure or hook remains tightly secured, wrap the fishing line two or three times around the rod and guides. This should prevent it from loosening up during transit.

6. Doctor's Appointment

Another issue open to debate is how often to service a reel. Just because an angler plunks down \$500 for a quality trolling reel, for example, doesn't mean the reel never has to be serviced. If you purchased a \$50,000 SUV to trailer your boat, would you assume because you paid that much that the vehicle would never need an oil change or servicing? Quite the contrary. You would go to all lengths to protect that investment. Why should your reels be any different?

As a rule of thumb, reels should be brought to an authorized reel-repair center at least once a year, and perhaps twice if those reels are under heavy use, like on busy charter boats. This should entail a full overhaul, cleaning and lubrication.

7. Stow Them Smartly

Some of the best and least-utilized tackle-care items are rod bungees. In my opinion, these should be standard equipment on all new boats sold with T-top-based rod holders. Rod bungees serve two purposes. First, they prevent rods from being launched from the holders in rough seas, which can injure someone, or cost you a bundle if one goes overboard. All it takes is a single big wave and a little extra speed to launch your boat into the air. And that's when rods will likely get pitched from their holders.

Second, bungees keep the outfits secure so

they are less susceptible to vibrating and bouncing around, which can loosen screws and beat up reels and reel seats.

It takes me about two seconds to secure the assigned bungee to each rod in my T-top holders. And when we reach the fishing grounds, I simply remove the bungees and the rods are accessible.

Again, adhering to these tips will undoubtedly get you the maximum amount of life and optimum performance from your reels and rods. It will cost you only a few extra minutes of your time and a few extra dollars at the end of the season, but you will come out years ahead in satisfaction — and big fish catches.

DNR in the News

NRP Blotter

The Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) charged watermen with oystering and fishing violations in Calvert and St. Mary's counties.

Calvert County - A joint enforcement operation by NRP and the U.S. Coast Guard in the Patuxent River resulted Thursday in the charging of one waterman for oyster violations.

Harvey Thomas Bowers, 49, of Chestertown was charged with possessing a harvest in which nine percent of the oysters were under the legal minimum of 3 inches. He also received two warnings.

The incident happened just after 9:30 a.m. near the Solomons Navy Recreation Center during a patrol by NRP and the Coast Guard of waters in Calvert and St. Mary's counties.

Bowers is scheduled to appear in Calvert District Court on March 10.

St. Mary's County - A Scotland waterman received 10 citations for multiple State and Potomac River Fisheries Commission violations after he was stopped by NRP officers on December 11 in Point Lookout State Park.

John Kenneth Courtney, 58, had 26 undersized striped bass and one undersized black drum when he was stopped in the park. He told officers he caught the fish - which were untagged - from the Potomac River. He provided a written statement that he took the striped bass without consent from the pound net owner.

After an investigation, Courtney was charged December 15 with catching undersized striped bass and a black drum, failing to tag commercially caught fish, and taking

seafood from a commercial net without authorization.

If found guilty of all charges, he could face a maximum of \$4,750 in fines and up to one year in jail.

Courtney is scheduled to appear March 6 in Leonardtown District Court.

Fishing Regulations

2014 Md. Flounder Season

Minimum Size -
Season -

2014 Va. Flounder Season

Minimum Size -
Season -

Classified Ads

Indoor Boat Storage - \$150 month in Frederick 14' door
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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