

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

Our chapter, far removed from the water, this year will again host many sponsored events for our members. As in previous years, we will travel thousands of miles and put countless hours on our boat engines to continue being one of the most active chapters within the MSSA. Our chapter spring tournament in Solomon's, a flounder tournament in Chincoteague, a Crab Feast in September and our weeklong King Mackerel tournament out of Harker's Island are just a few things we have planned for this year. In addition to our monthly meetings, we are excited to add a new Cobia Tournament in July out of Kiptopeke, Virginia, for our members. All are welcome to our monthly meetings and check out our calendar of events for 2015 on our website www.mssafrederick.com

To keep things rolling for our Frederick Chapter, we held our 15th annual dinner dance on February 28th at the Frederick Moose Lodge. We had 137 attendees dining on the likes of Prime Rib, Crab Dip, Steamed Shrimp, Fried Chicken and all the fixin's that made this meal a feast. We had a live band Denim n Lace provide a wide variety of country music, old Rock N Roll and many of the sounds we have grown up to like. The dance floor was packed with so many good fishermen that danced so poorly. The chapter raffled off over 20 prizes totally close to \$4000.00 in value. Many happy members walked away with rod & reel combos, inshore/offshore lure bags stuffed with tackle, spinning combos, marine art, VHF's and many other items. The women were thrilled with spa certificates, bags stuffed with an assortment of Eastern Shore wines w/glasses, custom made women's rod and all the good smelling stuff. Best of all, Gordon Jernigan won the 50/50 raffle which paid him a whopping \$645.00. It was truly a great night, lot of camaraderie by our members and truly one of the best events we have each year.

Now, we can only hope that the weather breaks so the fishing can begin. We will start our next meeting with Matt Abel from SeaHawk who will bring a wide variety of flounder and trolling tackle. He will also give a great presentation on the tips and tricks of catching a doormat around the Chincoteague area. Matt has been a huge supporter of our

chapter over the years, so let's all make sure we patronize his shop when heading to do some fishing out of Chincoteague. April we will begin our bay trolling. See you at the meeting.

Fish Hard!

Next Meeting March 11, 2015

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

Speaker:

Matt Abell – [Sea Hawk Sports Center](#)

As a precursor to the Chapter Flounder Tournament May 15 – 17, 2015, Matt will share with us some of his vast knowledge of flounder fishing the Delmarva.

Vendor:

[Sea Hawk Sports Center](#)

Dinner Menu

Fried chicken
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Macaroni and Cheese
Green Beans
Dessert

February Raffle Winners:

Jim Lorditch – Penn 330 Trolling Combo
Bobby Hurt – Lures and Fishing Glove Set
Chris Conway – Lure Pack
Brian Buckner – Three Ball Trailer Hitch
Jim Burans – Hand Held Light
Tommy Fouche – Striped Bass Print

50/50 Raffle:

Dave Griffin – \$106

Attendance at February Meeting: 63

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

Chapter Spring Tournament

Information – May 1-3. Last chance to sign up at the discounted rate is at the March meeting. Forms will be available. It's \$100 for largest fish Calcutta and \$80 for the Tournament, which includes daily weight prizes as well. So for \$180 you are in across the board with the Frederick Chapter. The dinner is \$18 per person all you can eat and the slips are \$1 per foot x 2 nights. All of this is payable in cash or check to the chapter. Call the Comfort Inn Beacon Marina for rooms at 410-326-6303 and get our discounted rate of \$74.99/ night by using the Group Name : Robert Pellicot.

Chapter Flounder Tournament

Information- May 15-17. Tournament registrations will begin soon. Reservations can be made at the Seahawk Motel in Chincoteague. T-shirts will be available. This year's tournament will be named the "Flounder Frenzy" and the t-shirts look great!

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

Well don't put them rods away yet. If you can handle a little cold weather the tog bite usually gets right about this time of year. A pending IGFA world record was caught last weekend out of OC, MD 28.8 lbs at 35" a male on a boat called Fish Bound captained by Kaine Bounds..

Tog are fun to catch once you get the knack for it. Has to be one of the hardest fish to get on the hook. They can suck the meat right out of the shell of a crab and you will never know they hit the thing. If you want to try without taking your boat out catch a ride on the party boat The Morning Star with Captain Monty Hawkins. No crowded rail and for what he charges for an all day trip you

couldn't pull your boat down to OC and fuel it and he knows where them tog are!

On the Rockfish front the fish are holding just passed the EEZ line. New regs for rockfish now only can keep one on the seaside at 28" or larger MD and VA.

There was a good bight down at the CBBT but it started before Thanksgiving and kinda slacked off through the middle of December. I got skunked on two half day trips and only seen a handful of fish caught at the dock and their were over 50 trailers in the lot. Most fish caught were over 40 lbs with some over 50.

They really need to keep an eye on that fishery I seen some boats come in unload their catch and go back out to try for another limit. Then they will wonder what happened to the fish, duh!

The surf just never materialized this year. There were a few fish caught but nothing to write home about. A few red drum were mixed in with the rockfish but nothing like last year. Guess I am going to have smoked eel to eat vs rockfish!

Flounder meetings are January 12th in VA and I have been selected to go down to represent the Upper Eastern Shore. Looks like we were 38% below the target catch so we might even see either a bigger creel or a smaller fish with the same creel. Will keep you posted on next months report.

Tight lines.....

Ocean City Action

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Despite cold weather and icy conditions in many areas, open water can be found in some of Maryland's tidal rivers and yellow perch can be found in some of the deeper waters. The lower Susquehanna River in the Perryville area is holding yellow perch in about 50' to 55' of water and other tidal waters such as the Northeast, Gunpowder, Magothy, Chester, Choptank and Nanticoke to name a few all hold populations of yellow perch. Searching the deeper waters with a depth finder can help locate concentrations of perch. An ultra-light fishing outfit, some small jigs or shad darts tipped with grass shrimp, small minnows or piece of worm are a good choice where current flow is a factor. In waters that are more still, a minnow on a hook trailing a couple of feet behind a split shot is good choice to use. The perch are often holding close to the bottom and tend to be sluggish so the offering should be

worked very slowly close to the bottom; the strike will be subtle.

Fishing in the Ocean City area has been centering on tautog fishing so far this year. Water temperatures are pretty cold and captains report that the fishing success has been a bit spotty lately. The recreational sea bass season is due to open on May 15th which will add additional incentive to boats headed out to the wreck and reef sites off of Ocean City.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown
27 February 2015

The weather's not the only thing discouraging anglers lately. With **tion** seasonal closures, less than optimal availability of fishing opportunities, and even more fisheries management regulations up for consideration, anglers are hoping that spring will bring good fortune and bountiful fishing. And luckily, spring is right around the corner.

According to Captain Steve Wray, skipper of the 'Ocean Pearl' out of **Long Bay Pointe Marina**, Virginia Beach, not many folks are getting out on the water lately due to the weather. With a limited selection of species to target, most anglers will head to offshore wrecks in search of tautog once a break allows boats to get out. Be prepared to weed through jumbo seabass to obtain your limit of three tog per person at 16-inches, but be sure to release the seabass since they are out of season. Since bait is hard to come by right now, plan ahead to secure your bait. Clams, mussels, blue crabs, peelers, hermit crabs, green crabs, Jonah crabs, or stone crabs will work.

Schools of big rockfish continue to roam 15 to 20 miles off the coast, well out of reach of boats. Remember, it is illegal to target or catch striped bass past 3-miles off the coast, even for catch-and-release activities. Severe winter temperatures continue to threaten speckled trout, and with ice-covered inlets making access difficult, few anglers are pursuing trout lately. Boats venturing out to deeper water between blows can still find decent catches of blueline tilefish along the 50-fathom curve, with lots of big seabass as a by-catch. Remember to toss the seabass back since the season is closed. Deeper areas along the Canyon edges will offer blackbellied rosefish, golden tilefish, and a variety of grouper and barrelfish. Dogfish will continue to make fishing in deep water a challenge for now, but these pesks will move out once the water warms up.

www.drjball.com.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: Feb. 27, 2015

DELAWARE BAY Ice is still a problem in the bay with the Cape May Lewes Ferry cancelling trips early this week. With subfreezing temperatures expected until next Monday I don't see much relief in sight.

INSHORE OCEAN To the best of my knowledge no one has left the dock in several weeks. Once the ice clears out I do expect to see a few boats get out for tog.

INDIAN RIVER INLET The inlet and the bays are choked with ice making even the thought of fishing out of the question.

FRESHWATER Red Mill Pond is covered with ice and I expect such is the case throughout the state. The upper reaches of the tidal rivers and creeks are also filled with ice. Look for the perch fishing to begin once the ice moves out.

FISHING AND FOG While the best time to fish is whenever you have time to go fishing, there are certain times when the fishing should be better and other times when you shouldn't leave the dock.

In the spring we have very cold water in the ocean and bays with very warm, moist air moving up from the south. This combination will produce a very dense fog making navigation extremely dangerous. Since it is spring and every fisherman worth his or her salt is chaffing at the bit to get out on the water bad decisions are made.

Fog tends to form on incoming tides when the cold water moving in from the ocean meets the warm air. If the wind is blowing from the southeast it will make the situation even worst. If we have incoming water in the morning the fog will be formed and no one in their right mind will leave the dock I don't care what kind of radar you have.

When we have outgoing water in the morning folks will go out only to be hit with blinding fog later in the day. It is also possible to run into fog banks several miles away from the beach. Do not think you can run through this, you can't. Turn around and go back home.

Many years ago I thought I was quite the navigator. My friend Lark Bonelli, who was an aircraft pilot, believed we could navigate through anything.

One May morning we set out from Indian River heading to Brandywine Light in Delaware Bay. As soon as we hit the ocean we were covered up in fog. Not to worry we were navigators of the finest kind.

We were so proud when we hit Hen and Chicken Shoal, then passed by the first channel marker going up the bay. God we were good!

Then, as we made our way towards Brandywine Light there loomed out of the

fog a very large ship. Its bow and ours were on a collision course and it happened so quickly Lark had no time to react. The only thing that saved us was our slow speed. The ship's bow wake pushed the boat aside and we traveled the length of the ship within touching distance of the hull. As I write this I still get goose bumps.

Once the ship passed by we headed for Brandywine Shoal where the water was too shallow for big ships. As we tried to get our nerves back to something approaching normal we noticed swirls on the flat calm surface of the water. We were surrounded by a huge school of trout. At this point we began to cast bucktails and ended the day with more weakfish than either of us had caught before.

Even though the fog lifted, we came back home via the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal, Rehoboth Bay and then Indian River Bay. Slower, yes, but so much safer.

Tips and Tackle

Takemefishing

Catch-and-Release Fishing

Many anglers choose to release the fish they catch. However, sometimes fish are so injured by the catch that their odds of surviving back in the water are poor. Here are some tips to improve a fish's chances of living to fight another day:

Keep the fight short by using heavier tackle. Use a circle hook or crush the barb on a J-hook to avoid injuring the fish.

Never keep a fish out of the water longer than you can hold your breath.

The slime that covers a fish protects it from infection, so use wet hands or gloves when you handle the fish. A dehooker lets you remove the hook without touching the fish. Never dangle a fish by its jaw, and always support its body with your hands.

When releasing a deep-sea bottomfish, use a venting tool to relieve the air from the fish's air bladder.

Using good catch-and-release practices will help ensure the fish survives after being released.

Keeping a Fishing Log

With so many factors affecting whether or not fish bite, recording details about the conditions after each trip will help you recognize patterns in fish behavior. Note the moon phase, tide phase, cloud cover, wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, air and water temperature, and precipitation. Also record what baits worked, how the fish responded and the most productive locations.

At the beginning of each fishing season, review your notes from previous years to look for conditions or tackle that were productive. Getting in the habit of keeping a

fishing journal will get you in the habit of catching more fish.

Keeping and Cleaning Your Fish

Properly storing and cleaning your fish is the first step to preparing it for the table. As soon as you land a fish, put it on ice. Be sure the ice drains as it melts. To improve the quality of the meat, drain the blood by cutting the fish across a major artery.

Sharks and salmon should be gutted as soon as they are landed and immediately packed with ice. A fish can be scaled, filleted or steaked. Use a super-sharp knife with a long, thin blade to make the job easier. Rubber gloves will help you grip the slimy fish more securely and protect your hands if the knife slips. Rinse the meat and return it to the ice.

Once you get home, you can keep the meat in the refrigerator for up to five days. Use a vacuum sealer to pack fish that will be frozen. If you don't have a vacuum sealer, put the meat in a bag that seals and add water until the fish is covered. Squeeze out any excess air and seal the bag, then put it in the freezer. Always thaw meat in the refrigerator and eat it immediately.

Getting Started

You've decided to go fishing and have enough tackle and knowledge to get started. Where do you go first?

Your local tackle shop is the best place to find out where the fish are biting and how to catch them. Tell the shop employees what you want to catch, and they will set you up with tackle and point you toward the best fishing spots.

Most coastal towns have an angler's club where local fishermen gather to swap fish stories and plan fishing trips. These clubs are great places to connect with other anglers.

A number of books and magazines provide comprehensive instructions on every aspect of fishing. Outdoor magazines and newspapers will also keep you up-to-date on current events in the fishing community. Web sites and message boards are good online sources of current fishing reports and how-to information. Many of these cyber fishing sites spill over into the real world when members get together for events and tournaments.

One of the best ways to learn the ropes is to hire a local guide. Look for a skipper who specializes in working with new anglers. You'll have the opportunity to see the most productive tactics in action and find some new fishing holes, too.

Conservation and Regulations

It is up to individual anglers to follow local fishing regulations and participate in conservation efforts. Each state has publications and Web sites that detail local and federal regulations on minimum size and bag limits for the most popular fish. Fishing

clubs and Web sites are good places to learn about environmental and management issues facing local anglers. To be good stewards of fishing resources, each angler has the responsibility to follow regulations and participate in fisheries management.

Anchoring

Anchoring — situating a boat over a reef or in swift current, for example — is one of the most difficult maneuvers in fishing. However, proper equipment will make a difficult job more manageable.

Start with an anchor rope that is at least five times as long as the depth of the water, a section of chain that equals the length of the boat and an anchor that will dig into the bottom. The tricky part comes when positioning the boat over a structure:

Pull the boat directly over the structure.

Take it out of gear and drift away.

Using the GPS and compass, return past the structure using the same course as when you drifted away.

The tricky part comes when predicting how far up wind and up current to deploy the anchor:

Pull ahead of the structure far enough to let the anchor hit the bottom and dig into the substrate.

Once the boat comes to rest, let out or pull in anchor line to properly position the boat. Be sure to leave enough scope in the line so that the boat can rise and fall on the waves. To pull the anchor, take up slack in the line until the rope is straight up and down. Then cleat off the line and motor the boat ahead slowly to free the hook.

Freeing snagged lures and rigs

Losing tackle to snags is frustrating, time consuming and expensive. With a little patience and finesse, the rig can usually be freed from the structure. When you detect your lure or rig has become snagged, set the reel in freespool to prevent digging the hook deeper into the snag. Then, run the boat past the structure in the opposite direction the hook was snagged. Tighten the line and jerk the rod tip to free the hook. Bottom fishermen will often use a lighter leader to their sinkers so they can easily break off a snagged weight without losing their whole rig. Finding Wrecks, Reef and Other Structures One good way to find fish is to find the structure where they live. The best place to look for these structures is on a nautical chart. Several companies make special charts with popular wrecks, reefs and other fishing areas marked and coordinates noted. Artificial reefs will be documented by the organizations that sponsored them. Local tackle shops will often have publications that list the coordinates of hotspots. Dive shops and clubs are also good sources of information on area reefs.

DNR in the News

DNR Icebreaker to Free Frozen Tangier Island

February 19, 2015
 The largest icebreaker in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources fleet will make an out-of-state house call Saturday to free the frozen residents of Virginia's Tangier Island.

DNR's 100-foot vessel, J. Millard Tawes, will divert from its duties keeping the shipping channel clear between Crisfield and Smith Island to attack the glacier that has enveloped Tangier, a Chesapeake Bay island 12 miles from the mainland that is part of Accomack County, Va.

John Gallagher, director of DNR's hydrographic operations, said he received a call for assistance Thursday morning from Tangier Mayor James Eskridge after a Coast Guard icebreaker broke down. Gallagher said he expects the Tawes will arrive early Saturday morning to break ice and then escort the ferry boat Sharon Kay III to Crisfield. The plan is weather dependent. Tangier is a little more than one square mile and has a population of slightly more than 700 residents.

"In the past we have been happy to assist the people of Tangier Island when a Coast Guard cutter was not available," Gallagher said. "We are happy to be a good Chesapeake Bay neighbor again." The Tawes is one of four vessels in DNR's icebreaking operation that works on concert with the U.S. Coast Guard to keep commerce moving on the bay and its tributaries and fuel and supplies flowing to isolated communities.

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 Jim Lorditch at jlorditch23@gmail.com

Classified Ads

Charter Services

Island Queen Inland Charters

Bay and Sound Fishing & Cruises
 Chincoteague Island, VA
Captain Charlie Koski - 757-990-2404
www.islandqueeninlandcharters.com

Commercial Supporters

Top of the Hill Custom Rods
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 (240) 674-8646
 17601 Timberleigh Way
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clyde.hunt@verizon.net

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 Upper Marlboro, MD 20773
info@spankinstrippers.com
www.spankinstrippers.com

Richard Briggs
 Vice President / Chief of Operations
 Highway and Safety Services, Inc.
 18960 Woodfield Road
 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879
 p. (301) 948-4970 x 103
 c. (301) 252-3496
e.rich@hiwayandsafety.com

2015 Chapter Officers

- President: Ed Susa
 Phone: 301-253-5597
 E-mail: esusa99@yahoo.com
- Senior Vice President: Rob Pellicot
 Phone: 301-606-0392
 E-mail: robert.pellicot@wellsfargo.com
- Secretary: Clyde Hunt
 Phone: 240-674-8646
 E-mail: secretary@mssafrederick.com
- Treasurer: Jim Bremer
 Phone: 301-728-7853
 E-mail: jbremer@fgmc.com

2015 Board of Directors

- Jodie Ammerman (Membership Coordinator)
 Phone: 240-723-0853
 E-mail: JPammerman@aol.com
- Chris Linetty - Phone: 301-824-7050
 E-mail: retriever@myactv.net
- Bob Pellicot - Phone: 301-606-6200
 E-Mail: rpellicot@shockleyhonda.com
- Fred Keene - Phone: 304-856-2596
 E-mail: popafred4@frontiernet.net
- Walt Shaw - Phone: 301-662-4481
 E-Mail: floshaw@cescomputers.net
- Jeff Townsend - Phone: 410-903-9416
 Email: kindjt@peoplepc.com
- Neal Ammerman - Phone: 240-832-3671
 E-mail: JPammerman@aol.com
- Chris Conway - Phone: 301-704-4196
 E-mail: twitty044@yahoo.com
- Jim Lorditch - Phone: 443-277-5289
 E-mail: jlorditch23@gmail.com

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	10	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	24-25	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	29-2/1	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention Center, Annapolis, MD
	11	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	14-15	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	21	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	21-22	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	28	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
MARCH	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14-15	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	28-29	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	4	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	8	- Frederick Meeting
	11	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
MAY	1-3	- 31th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	15-17	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
JUNE	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-21	- 22nd Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	24-26	- Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, Va
AUGUST	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	22	- 4th Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	12	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
OCTOBER	3-10	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	20-22	- 20 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting

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