

# 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

Opening day for Rockfish season is quickly approaching and will begin on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. For many of us, this is just like Christmas morning, filled with anticipation and the desire to try out all our new presents. Just remember, the new regulations are one fish per person, 35" or over. It is great news that they eliminated the slot this year and we can only hope that this year we will be rewarded with some nice fish to take home for dinner. Early reports are that many of the big fish have been on the move towards their spring spawning grounds.

We hope that many of you choose to fish the Main MSSA "Champion of the Chesapeake" tournament (and our chapter tournament) April 29, 30 and May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a great opportunity for us to do what we love, with some potential huge financial rewards to sweeten the pot. Sign up on line at the Main's website ([www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)) or see the list of Captain's Meeting dates and locations where you can also sign up. This will be the last chapter meeting to sign up for our chapter tournament.

Finally, it is with mixed emotions, that I have decided this will be my last term as your President of the Frederick Chapter. I can only hope that all of you feel that during my tenure there were many positive improvements, benefitting our organization and its members. However, it is time for some new blood, new ideas and I believe a change of leadership. Therefore, if anyone wishes to lead this great chapter forward, please throw your hat into the ring. There will be an election held in November for all positions on the board. I will remain an active member of the chapter and assist new leadership during the transitional period. I'd like to thank all our chapter members and especially our board members for all the support over the years.

See you at the meeting.

FISH HARD!

Ed

## Next Meeting

**Date: April 13, 2016**  
Food Service begins at 6:15 PM  
Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker and Vendor:**  
Matt Abell from Seahawk  
Sports Center

(<https://www.facebook.com/SEAHAWKSPORTSCENTER/?fref=ts>)

### **Dinner Menu:**

Hot Roast Beef Sandwiches  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Cole Slaw  
Dessert

**Attendance at March Meeting: 68**

### **Raffle Winners:**

Rod and Reel Combo- Chris Bynaker  
Shimano Long Nose Pliers- Joe Cox  
Bucket Topper and Gear- Dave Palencar  
June Bug Bucktail- Brian Jenkins  
Curly Tail Jigs- Steve O'neil  
Reel Oil and Grease- Zach Ridgely  
Camo Satchel Bag- Bobby Hurt  
Line counter- Monty Embrey  
Spankin Striper Lures- Eddie Schulte

**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

## Fishing Reports

### **Ocean City Action**

Oyster Bay Tackle  
April 4th 2016

The water temperature in the inlet and bay is starting to warm up and so is the tautog fishing. Anglers tossing sand fleas from the 2nd-4th street bulkhead are catching some nice keeper tog and quite a few throwbacks. Also, the South jetty and the riprap around Marthas Landing has been good. Small stripers are active around the Route 90 and Verrazona bridges. To get in on the striper action, try casting small bucktails or jig heads with curtail grubs around the bridge pilings. Surf fishermen soaking bunker and finger mullet are catching some short stripers and a few sharks and skates

### **Maryland DNR Fishing Report**

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview |  
April 06, 2016

Mother Nature has reminded us this week to not be too hasty about packing away warm coats. Cold weather has moved in and has decided to stick around for a while. Day time temperatures are not too bad as long as the wind lies down but oh those chilly nights!

Although recent cold weather will knock back spawning activities of striped bass, hickory shad and American shad around the Susquehanna Flats and lower Susquehanna River; the fish are there and will present some catch and release opportunities this week. Before this cold snap, water temperatures at the Susquehanna Flats were about 53°. Large pre-spawn striped bass are being caught and released around the flats on soft plastic jigs and spoons. The shad are in the lower Susquehanna and a few have been caught near the dam lately. The flows out of the dam have been minimal lately and

combined with very strong northwesterly winds, tides have been very low in the bay and lower Susquehanna River for the past few days. The Fisheries Service shad restoration team has begun collecting hickory and American shad brood stock in the lower Susquehanna River and other shad spawning rivers with their electro-fishing boat last week. The crew attempted to launch their boat yesterday morning at the Lapidum boat ramp and this was the scene they were presented with; a very low tide and exposed river bottom.



Lapidum ramp, photo courtesy of Chuck Stence

The adult fish are stripped of their eggs and once they are fertilized, the eggs are hatched and raised up to fry size at the Manning Hatchery (Maryland Fisheries Service), Horn Point (University of Maryland) and Chalk Point (NRG Energy) for restoring spawning populations of hickory and American shad in the Chesapeake Bay's tidal rivers and creeks. To learn more about shad restoration efforts in Maryland the Fisheries Service has a very informative website explaining the program's efforts.

The weather forecast for the next week shows the possibility of a couple of warmer days but with chilly night time temperatures the water temperatures in Deer Creek may stay depressed below the minimum spawning temperature of 54° which will trigger the hickory shad to begin their ascent into Deer Creek. Anyone who wishes to fish at the mouth of Deer Creek for hickory shad should note that the park service has removed the steps near the parking area on the south side of the creek that lead down to the water's edge due to their unsafe condition.



Hickory shad, photo courtesy of Ken Kopro

The Potomac River below the Chain Bridge (Route 123) is another good place to catch and release hickory and American Shad and shad were caught there over the weekend. There is a popular boat livery called Fletchers where one can rent a row boat to row out to catch blue catfish or practice catch and release for hickory and American shad. Maryland fishermen are reminded that they will need to purchase a District of Columbia fishing license when fishing over the Maryland line. There are other shad fishing locations on Maryland's tidal rivers and these sites can be viewed on the shad fishing map site.

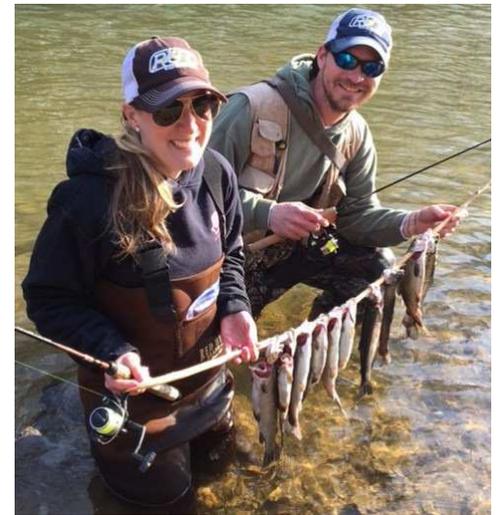
Water temperatures in the Chesapeake generally will remain at about 50° this week and most likely will be stable until another warming trend occurs. Spawning populations of striped bass are now in all of the major spawning rivers and last weekend noticeable spawning began to occur in the Nanticoke, Patuxent, Potomac and Choptank Rivers. Anyone near these spawning reaches cannot mistake the smell of fish in the air which is due to fish oils and spawn on the surface of the water. Laughing gulls can be seen dipping at the surface looking for bits of fat during this time in the current and tide lines. Most often the spawning takes off during an ebbing tide and splashing fish can be seen at the surface. The cold nights that are predicted for the next week are not a good situation for striped bass eggs and newly hatched larvae and many will have a hard time surviving the drop in surface water temperatures. Fortunately there are more striped bass waiting in the rivers and bay for optimum spawning water temperatures of 60° to 64.5°.

Fishermen are reminded that however tempting it might be, to not attempt to practice catch and release for striped bass in the closed spawning reaches. Violations carry stiff fines and license suspensions for recreational fishermen. There are areas such as the Susquehanna Flats, areas in the main stem of the bay and the Potomac River where catch and release is allowed. We have

striped bass recreational fishing maps online showing the different striped bass areas and dates as described in regulations.

White perch fishing has been good in most of Maryland's tidal rivers as the perch descend down the rivers after spawning. Generally they can be found in some of the deeper holes in the middle and lower sections of the tidal rivers. Shad darts tipped with pieces of bloodworm or minnow or a simple bottom rig baited with the same will work well. Channel catfish will also be part of the mix when fishing close to the bottom.

Trout fishing in the many trout management waters spread across the state is in full swing this week. Water conditions are good in most areas and fisheries crews are busy stocking trout. The latest stocking can be viewed on the trout stocking website or fisheries email subscribers can be notified by email. Jesse Lowers and his sister enjoyed a fun opening day on the Gunpowder where they got to fish together and go home with a limit of trout each.



Trout, photo courtesy of Grant Soukup

The upper Potomac River is reported to be running clear with water temperatures at about 60°. Fishing for smallmouth bass has been particularly good due to warmer water temperatures. The smaller bass are very active now and provide plenty of action for anglers casting tubes around current breaks, underwater ledges and rocks. The larger smallmouth bass are also part of the mix as are walleyes.

Deep Creek Lake is slowly warming up and smallmouth bass and largemouth bass are active along rocky points, deep grass edges and largemouth are holding in shallower waters. Yellow perch fishing has been good for those drifting minnows under slip bobbers and walleye can be part of the mix

in some areas. Northern pike and chain pickerel are holding in the shallower coves along emerging grass edges. Crappie can be found holding near the Glendale and Route 219 Bridges.

Largemouth bass are beginning to show pre-spawn behavior in many of Maryland's ponds, lakes and tidal rivers. Last week's warm temperatures have driven water temperatures up to the point where male largemouth bass are exploring the shallow areas for spawning bed sites. The girls tend to be holding in transition areas in slightly deeper water but will venture into shallower areas midday for a little warmth. In the tidal rivers this movement is often triggered by a flood tide. Any kind of sunken structure in these transition areas is a good place to target with grubs and similar soft plastics or crankbaits. Adam Falter was fishing on a central Maryland reservoir with his dad when he caught and released this beautiful largemouth bass.



Bass, photo courtesy of Greg Falter

Northern snakeheads have moved into shallower waters and they too are in a pre-spawn mode of behavior. They will tend to gravitate towards any structure they can find, especially emerging grass, spatterdock or lily pads. They will hit most any type of lure that comes across their path but noisy surface lures such as chatterbaits or buzzbaits can draw their attention from afar. The best opportunities for snakeheads are in the tidal creeks of the upper tidal Potomac but there are populations of snakeheads spread throughout the Wicomico River, the Nanticoke and the backwaters of Dorchester County.

Fishing for blue catfish in the tidal Potomac River is a good option for anyone wishing to enjoy a lot of fishing action and a good tussle along with some fine eating. Cut bait from menhaden, gizzard shad, bluegills or white perch make excellent bait; just be sure to bring a big cooler.

Crappie continue to be found near sunken brush, fallen treetops and bridge or dock piers. They tend to be holding in deeper water and placing a minnow or small jig

about 2 or 3 feet below a slip bobber is a good way to catch them. Most lakes and ponds have populations of crappie as do the tidal rivers. Bridge piers are another good place to find schools of crappie congregating. The bridge piers of Dulaney Valley Road over Loch Raven Reservoir or Deer Park Road over Liberty Reservoir, which has a fishing walkway alongside the roadway bridge, are a few examples.

Coastal fishing near Ocean City is beginning to become more interesting as warmer water temperatures begin to kick some of the traditional spring fisheries in gear. Surf casters are catching a few striped bass in the surf and every once in a while one will exceed the 28" minimum. There are a lot of spiny dogfish in the surf and they delight in chewing up baits and keep dozing fishermen on their toes. A couple of black drum have been reported to be caught in the surf recently.

The boat yards are seeing activity in the rows of boats in winter storage as captains and crew work to get their vessels ready for the coming season. Memories of the spring run of Atlantic or "Boston" mackerel tend to come to life amongst the old timers and discussions of "what was once". The spring runs of Atlantic mackerel were the big incentive to get one's boat in the water to enjoy those April runs off the coast. Memories of "Christmas Tree Rigs", being bitten off by thresher sharks, tasty smoked mackerel in the refrigerator and fresh mackerel for dinner do not fade away easily.

Tautog are increasing in numbers in and around the Ocean City Inlet every day. The South Jetty has been a great place to fish with success for anyone who has a boat in the water. The bulkheads from 2nd to 4th Streets and Route 50 Bridge piers has been good places to fish for shore bound anglers. Pieces of crab and sand fleas have been good baits to use and the bottom of an ebbing tide brings the warmest water from the bay and tickles the tog into biting.

There is some fun striped bass fishing in the back bay areas near the Route 90 Bridge and the Verrazano Bridge. Most are enjoying good success by casting bucktails and soft plastic jigs across the current and walking the dog as the jig moves down current. Most of the striped bass are undersized but there are a few over 28". Rumors abound concerning the first flounder but nothing official yet.

Outside the inlet boats have been fishing the inshore wrecks and reefs for tautog. Catches have been fair to good depending on the mood the fish are in and the success of the captain getting on the fish. Pieces of green

crab or white leggers have been the most common baits.

## Virginia Beach Action

01 Apr 2016

The local water temperatures continue to rise, and the Spring fishing season is heating up accordingly. But with some windy days in the near forecast, boats will likely stay close to shore for the weekend. With the Virginia cobia season threatened by restrictive regulations this year, anglers are looking for some positive news on the fishing front. Flounder have debuted in the seaside inlets on the Eastern Shore, where anglers are watching for optimal days to target them with strip bait and gudgeons, especially in Wachapreague and Oyster. This action will only improve as the water continues to warm.

Tautog action is still going strong, and the Spring tog bite has really taken off within Bay waters. And with fiddler crabs now available, it is game-on. Fiddler crabs and even blue crabs are working well on lower Bay structures and wrecks. The rocks and tubes of the artificial islands and the pilings near the High Rise section of the Bridge Tunnel are providing very good results. The Concrete Ships, the Cape Henry wreck, and the Yancy wreck are also providing some good action when folks can get to them. Most anglers are catching limits of fish ranging to around 4-pounds, but some nicer tog over 6-pounds are also in the mix. Deeper water wrecks are also producing nice tautog, with fish to 15-pounds taking offered crab in water ranging to around 70 to 100-feet. Seabass are also available on many of these deeper structures, but they are still illegal to keep.

Anglers fishing inside Rudee Inlet are excited about an early season run of nice bluefish, with some of these fish reported at over 10-pounds this week. Folks are catching nice blues throughout the inlet from jetties, docks and boats, and as far back as the boat ramp area. Plenty of small schoolie stripers are also bombarding baits as folks target bluefish. Some croaker are hitting in the tributary rivers, and should continue to heat up as the season evolves. Roundhead and drum will also show themselves soon. The deep water off the Virginia coast is still the place to be if you wish to crank up tilefish, black bellied rosefish and grouper from over 300 feet of water. Be aware that plenty of pesky dog fish are still ready to compete for your bait, but not for much longer.

Offshore anglers are hoping for a good year. Although the bluewater fish may be within range of the Virginia fleet, boats are waiting for a break in the wind to check out the scene.

<http://www.drjball.com>

## Delaware Fishing Report

**Updated: April 7, 2016**

**DELAWARE BAY** Not much to report from the open water, but small rock and white perch have been caught in the tidal creeks and rivers. Bloodworms and cut bunker have been the best baits.

It seems that just as the water temperature topped 50 degrees along came sub-freezing weather and the water dropped into the 40s. I looks like we may get back to spring after another cold weekend and perhaps the big rockfish will start feeding again.

Those who can stand the cold and windy weather may find a lone straggler along the shoreline between Augustine and Woodland Beach. Soaking a chunk of fresh bunker on a fish-finder rig and plenty of patience is the best technique for early rockfish.

**INSHORE OCEAN** The head boat out of Southshore Marina caught

tog Saturday. Several customers had their limit and the pool winner was a seven pounder. More head and charter boats will be running out of Indian River and Lewes over the next two or three weeks.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** A few small rockfish were caught out of the inlet on bucktails before the latest cold snap. The same is true for flounder out of Indian River Bay. The fishing will improve once we get our spring weather back.

**SURF FISHING** Sharks, skates and a few small rockfish were caught from the beach, but once the cold and wind moved in the fishermen moved out. By the time the weather improves we could have some big rock along the beach.

By Eric Burnley Sr.\*

## DNR in the News

### **Maryland Natural Resource Photo Contest is Underway**

March 28, 2016

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is accepting entries for its annual photo contest through Aug. 31, 2016. Enter now—online or by mail—for the chance to win cash, park passports and other terrific prizes!

Photographers of all skill levels may enter images featuring birds, insects, flora, outdoor recreation, nature in action, scenic landscapes, and/or wildlife. New this year, judges will choose first, second and third

place winners by season. There will also be one "Fan Favorite" selected by popular vote on Facebook.

"Whether a novice or seasoned pro, I encourage all photographers to take advantage of the natural beauty of our state," Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "From the shimmering waters of the Chesapeake, to the sandy white dunes of Assateague Island, to the vast, sweeping mountains of the Appalachia, Maryland's natural beauty is all around us. There's no better time than now to get outside and capture it."

Winning entries will be posted online and featured in an issue of the Maryland Natural Resource magazine as well as the 2017 calendar.

The contest is open to residents and visitors alike, but all qualifying photos must be taken in Maryland. Photographers may submit up to three entries for a \$10 entry fee and additional entries (no limit) for \$3 each. Photos may not be more than two years old or previously published.

Winners will be notified in the fall before the announcement is made on our website, newsroom and social media outlets.

The best overall photo will win the grand prize of \$500, a 2017 Maryland State Park and Trail Passport, a five-year magazine subscription and five copies of the 2017 calendar. First, second and third place winners will also receive prizes.

## Tips and Tricks

**BUCKTAILING FLOUNDER** While live bait, either minnows or spot, remain the best offering for flounder, there will be times when those are not available and bucktails tipped with cut bait or Gulp! can save the day. Just about any style of bucktail will do, but it must be heavy enough to stay in contact with the bottom.

I started using bucktails for flounder years ago when I fished Indian River Bay on a regular basis. I would add a strip of squid to a white 1/4- to 1/2-ounce jig and pop it along the bottom in the slough behind South Shore Marina. When my boys were old enough to fish, working a bucktail kept them more interested than just bottom fishing and waiting for a bite.

Today I find bucktailing in the ocean can be done in water up to 100 feet deep. Out there I will go up to six ounces and always add a teaser four to six inches above the bucktail. Strips of bunker, bluefish or sea robin are added to the bucktail and a Gulp! swimming mullet or sandeel added to the teaser.

The jig must be kept moving to add some life to the lure. Raising the rod tip three or four inches than dropping back to the

bottom usually works. Some days you may have to move the jig quickly while on other days a slow motion action is most productive. Keep trying different techniques until you find the one the fish like.

**\*Eric Burnley Sr. is a native Delawarean who has fished the waters of his home state for more than 60 years. He has been a full-time outdoor writer since 1978, with articles appearing in most national magazines as well as many regional publications. He has authored three books, Surf Fishing The Atlantic Coast, The Ultimate Guide To Catching Striped Bass and Fishing Saltwater Baits.**

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## FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[www.mssafrederick.com](http://www.mssafrederick.com)

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	23	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	28-31	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	13-14	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	27	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	27	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
<b>27</b>	- <b>Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club</b>	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	19-20	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
<b>APRIL</b>	2-3	Southern Maryland Chapter Expo- Solomons Md
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	16	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>29-1</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons</b>
	29-1	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
<b>MAY</b>	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>20-22</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	17-19	- 27th Annual MSSA Tournament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
<b>JULY</b>	<b>8-10</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, VA</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>27</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Crab Feast</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	17-18	- 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1-8</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	18-20	- 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>