

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

Presidents Message:

As everyone knows or should know by now, I have chosen to step aside and get some fresh blood, along with new ideas for the chapter moving forward. As your chapter President for the last several years, it was extremely important that our chapter ran as a "We" organization. That is exactly what it is, a "We" organization that was only successful because of its members and a Board that chose to run with some creative ideas. However, in my final President's message I will use the first person more than ever. I can only hope that each of you are satisfied with the direction and success of our chapter during my tenure. It could not have been done without the many countless hours our Board of Directors spent organizing the many activities of our chapter, the countless hours some have contributed, participation at our events and the desire of many to run with my visions for the chapter. I cannot thank all of the board members enough for putting up with me over this time, our members who have volunteered their time to make each event a success, all our loyal sponsors, speakers and vendors who have contributed to make every meeting informative and enjoyable. I do, walk away with a feeling that our chapter has come a long way from when I took over and can only hope that each of our members are satisfied with the accomplishments we made over the years. THANKS EVERYONE, I REALLY HAVE APPRECIATED YOUR SUPPORT!

Jim Lorditch will begin his Presidency in January at the meeting on 11th. A lot of time has been spent with Jim lately to make the transition smooth and seamless. His passion to lead us into the future is strong and he is

committed to making our chapter one of the finest in the MSSA. He has some new ideas, some new goals and a desire to put those into place. I certainly will support Jim and I can only hope that each of you will also do the same. Over the next couple of months, Jim will be re-evaluating many of the duties and responsibilities of our board and he will begin putting together his team to support the chapter. I can only hope that everyone will step up, volunteer some time and work with Jim, support Jim and continue to participate in our chapter events.

In closing, I, again, want to thank everyone for their support. I will continue to be involved in some compacity within the chapter and hope to see you at a meeting.

IT'S BEEN A GOOD RUN FOLKS! LET'S KEEP THE BALL ROLLING!

FISH HARD!

Ed

Next Meeting

Date: December 14, 2016

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: There will be no guest speaker this month.

Vendor: June Bug Tackle

Dinner Menu:

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Stuffing
Gravy
Dessert

Attendance at November Meeting: 48

Raffle Winners:

Sea Striker Rod- Ed Susa
Smooove Polish- Steve Oneil
Shimano Reel- Brian Buckman
Shirt,hat,glasses- Jimmy Shaw
Lenny Rudow book- Mike Luzier
Cabela's Lure bag- Tony Tolbard
Spankin Lures- Jerry Leuters

50/50 Raffle: Jodi Ammerman \$77

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

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

November 30, 2016

Despite chilly temperatures and some pesky wind, on mild days this is a wonderful time to do some fishing whether on the bay, a favorite lake, pond or tidal river. There is still some color in the trees and the fish are still biting. Make an effort to get out, even if for a short spell, before the holiday rush gets too crazy and winter's grip tightens.

Fishing in the lower Susquehanna has been slow this week for striped bass and other species due to the lack of power generation water releases from the Conowingo Dam. Out at the mouth of the Susquehanna and Elk Rivers striped bass fishing has also been slow with the only action coming from the deepest parts of the channels. Yellow perch are beginning to show up in the lower sections of the rivers in the upper bay region and providing some action and good eating.

Farther down the upper bay, cold water temperatures are turning the striped bass action dial to lower readings as the fish begin to hunker down in the deeper parts of the channels. Some are still feeding but it takes patience and a lot of lead in the form of inline weights to get bucktails down to where the fish are suspended if you are trolling. Jigging can still be productive and soft plastics or metal jigs will get the job done if you can find some cooperative fish. There continues to be a lot of small fish around but some real whoppers are being caught also. The action in the tidal rivers such as the Patapsco, Gunpowder, Magothy and Chester has been reported to be slow lately but there is hope it will pick up again. Water temperatures are

hovering around the 50° mark this week and once they fall into the low 40's most striped bass will hunker down to sit out the winter in the deepest parts of the channels that have sufficient oxygen levels and slightly warmer water temperatures.

The Bay Bridge is always a late season draw and fish will be found suspended at the rock piles and bridge abutments holding close to the bottom. Jigging is the best way to get to them and soft plastics often outperform metal in this situation. Small heavy metal jigs are a good bet when fishing at the rock piles for white perch.

In the middle bay region there continues to be scattered striped bass action and all of it tends to be in very deep water, 50' or more. The deeper channel edges of Kent Island are usually a great place this time of the year to find schools of striped bass and white perch holding close to the bottom. The mouth of the Choptank and Little Choptank have been providing good reports this weekend for those jigging deep. Josh Kaltreider holds up a nice one he caught recently near the Gooses in about 50' of water.

White perch are also holding in the deep waters of the major channels in the region, often in 50' of water and holding close to the bottom. Hard bottom is a key and a jig with a dropper fly is a good way to get down to them. If the drift is too fast or currents too strong a medium-sized sinker with two dropper flies is a good bet. Tipping those dropper flies with a small piece of bloodworm will increase the odds of success.

In the lower bay region fishing for striped bass has been good with decent size legal fish being caught throughout the region. As would be expected most of the action is deep but occasionally there has been some action on top. Concentrations of baitfish to attract and hold striped bass are the key factor for success as we move into the last month of the season. The lower bay region is the last stop for baitfish schools as they head south into Virginia waters, and most of the action was in that region last year, in December of 2015. Sea gulls and gannets have been marking

the way to much of the action and usually when gannets are involved the baitfish are fair sized and thus the striped bass are also. Channel edges at Buoy 76, the HS Buoy, Buoy 70, 72A, Cove Point and the Targets have been some of the better places to find action. The lower Patuxent and Potomac have also been providing good fishing. Vertical jigging with larger soft plastics cuts down on dealing with smaller fish and trolling bucktails with heavy inline weights has also been effective.

The last month of the Chesapeake Bay striped bass season is when hopeful anglers look for large fall migrant striped bass that make a right hand turn up the Chesapeake on their fall southerly migration. Rumors abound of a few large fish being caught just south of us at the Cut Channels but so far the action has yet to develop to any degree in Maryland waters. The bulk of the migration tends to be out in the EEZ area right now off southern New Jersey but there was some exciting action off southern New Jersey beaches over Thanksgiving, so maybe some fish will come this way in early December.

Those who wish to put some tasty fillets in their freezers for the winter months have been targeting white perch in the lower Patuxent and Nanticoke Rivers in about 50' of water over good oyster bottom. Jigging and fishing with bottom rigs baited with pieces of bloodworm have been the way to fish for them. Also anchoring up along channel edges in the tidal Potomac from the 301 Bridge to the Wilson Bridge and bottom fishing with cut bait is a great way to fill a cooler with a mess of medium-sized blue catfish. Alvie Sickle holds up a nice blue catfish destined for the freezer.

Freshwater fishing in the western region is still going strong but due to colder water temperatures, tactics are changing. Water temperatures are in the 40's now in most areas and if fish can go deep to find slightly warmer water they will. At Deep Creek Lake there has been good fishing for yellow perch in about 40' of water working small jerkbaits and silver buddies slow and close to the bottom. Walleye are also very active and can be caught on

similar lures.

Smallmouth bass and walleye fishing in the upper Potomac River has been fairly good but fishing has been hampered by low flows in the river and loose grass and fallen leaves fouling lines. Tubes and small crankbaits have been good choices for lures. Trout fishermen are also dealing with low flows but like the smallmouth bass and walleyes; they have to be somewhere so targeting the deeper pool areas and channels is a good bet. Small spinners and spoons are good bets for spin casters and wooly buggers and nymphs for fly casters.

Largemouth bass are moving into deeper waters due to colder water temperatures and the mantra tends to be "deep, slow and small". Fish small lures like silver buddies, crankbaits, grubs and jigs close to the bottom and let them almost sit on the bottom and twitch and retrieve slowly. Targeting deep structure such as sunken wood, rocks, bridge piers and deep grass is always a good bet this time of the year. Caleb Mutchler got to do a little fishing with his dad and grandfather and enjoyed catching and releasing some largemouth bass.

Crappie are schooling up, suspended near deep structure. Marina dock piers, bridge piers and fallen tree tops are all good places to look. Minnows or small jigs under a slip bobber is a good way to fish for them. Channel catfish and blue catfish are active and can be found in deeper waters. The channel catfish are found in most of the tidal rivers flowing into the Chesapeake and blue catfish tend to dominate the tidal Potomac River.

Oceanside anglers at the Ocean City beaches and near shore shoal areas are anxiously waiting for the southerly striped bass migration to hit the Maryland beaches. This could be the weekend that it happens. A large body of striped bass hit the southern beaches in New Jersey over Thanksgiving in an old fashioned blitz situation where menhaden were driven up onto the beaches and fish were caught on almost every cast. A few striped bass are presently being caught off the beaches and on the near shore shoal

areas.

There has also been plenty of action in the inlet and Route 50 Bridge area, many are coming up short but it is good fun catching them. Casting plugs, swim shads, bucktails or drifting live eels or cut bait have been favored ways to fish. There are a lot of tautog being caught in the area but the throwback ratio is high but still a lot of fun.

Boats have been crisscrossing the shoal areas off the beaches in search of migrating striped bass and bluefish. Most are trolling a mix of umbrella rigs, bucktails and Stretch 25 lures. Farther offshore limit catches of tautog and sea bass are fairly common at the wreck and reef sites. A few medium-sized bluefish and flounder are still being caught and spiny dogfish are beginning to show up at the sites.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown 25 November 2016

As the water temperatures continue to cool, some windows of opportunity are allowing boats to venture further from shore, where anglers are finding some decent catches lately.

Wreck fishing is improving off the Virginia coast, with good hauls of jumbo seabass ranging to over 4-pounds reported lately. A few triggerfish are also available on these offshore structures, along with several big bluefish pushing to over 16-pounds, especially around the Triangle Wreck area. Tautog action is still good on lower Bay structures and coastal wrecks, with offerings of crabs presented along the pilings and the tubes of the CBBT rewarding anglers with fish averaging to over 6-pounds this week. Flounder reports from Bay waters are hard to come by, but some nice flatfish are still coming from both coastal and offshore structures, where some flatfish are pushing up to 6.5-pounds.

Speckled trout are active in most of the shallows along the southern section of

the lower Bay. Rudee, Lynnhaven and Little Creek Inlets are giving up some respectable trout with many fish stretching to around 22-inches. Puppy drum and school-sized rockfish are also available in these same areas.

As the winter-time fishery starts to evolve, anglers are hopeful the larger rockfish will show soon. But last season, local anglers were disappointed when the schools of bigger fish stalled further up the bay, several miles short of their more accessible haunts off Plantation Light and along the Eastern Shore. Anglers are hopeful for a return to the patterns of years past for these larger fish, which is thought to be a result of bait deficits and water temperature influences. Most of these fish are caught while drifting or slow-trolling using live eels, and can weigh in excess of 30 to 50-pounds. In the meantime, some school-sized fish are responding for casters working the pilings of lower Bay structures.

When boats get out to deeper water, the deep dropping action is good. Plenty of nice blueline tilefish are being caught along the Canyon edges pushing to around 10-pounds, with big grouper also a possibility. Big seabass are also a welcome by-catch, with chopper bluefish also showing lately.

Offshore trollers are finding some good catches of yellowfin, black fin, and bigeye tuna near the Triple Zeros this week. A few swordfish were also caught, with boats having good luck with targeting these "gladiators of the deep" during day trips lately. Most of the swords are smaller, ranging around 80 to 100-pounds.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: Dec. 1, 2016

DELAWARE BAY At least one large rockfish was caught from the Rips at the mouth of the bay, but that's been the only good news so far this season. The rest of the bay has been

devoid of rockfish except for the small ones caught by perch fishermen.

White perch are available along the shoreline from New Castle to Port Deposit and out of the tidal creeks and rivers. Bloodworms, small jigs baited with minnows and even earthworms have all caught perch. Tog fishing in the bay has been less than spectacular. A few keepers have been taken on crab baits at the various reef sites and wrecks. Crabs from green to white to sand fleas have been the baits of choice.

There have been a few keeper rockfish caught out of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. A live eel worked between the bridges in Lewes has been the top technique.

INSHORE OCEAN A few boats have traveled up to New Jersey looking for rockfish. Some have been successful, others not so much. If you recall last year the rock stayed just off of Wildwood, and perhaps that is as far as they will come south this year. I certainly hope not.

Tog action was very good with limits of big fish brought to the dock over the weekend and on Monday. One boat caught a limit of tog with several citations to over 10 pounds.

Black sea bass catches were also good so long as you were willing to run far enough offshore. A private boat out of Indian River ran 46 miles east to catch their limit of big bass.

INDIAN RIVER INLET My recent fishing excursions to the Inlet had been encouraging until this past Monday. Previously, I had seen lots of bait and caught small rockfish. On Monday the Inlet was dead as a mackerel. No birds, no bait, no fish. Even the current wasn't running as strong as usual. I have no idea what was wrong, but the tog fishermen were giving up and heading home.

SURF FISHING Another week of dogs and skates. Come on rockfish!.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Maryland Department of Natural Resources App Receives Top Honors

November 29, 2016

App Provides All the Information and Services Outdoor Enthusiasts Need on the Go



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is pleased to be among the winners recently announced in the 2016 MarCom Awards competition. The department's AccessDNR mobile app was awarded the Platinum MarCom Award, the competition's highest honor, in the "App for Information" category.

"Our mobile app is a great way to connect with our state's precious natural resources through a mobile device," said Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton. "The interactive app provides up-to-date information, news and resources for anglers, hunters, state park visitors and more. We're pleased that more than 46,000 citizens are actively using our app and partnering with us to enhance and improve our services."

The MarCom competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind with about 6,000 entries per year recognizing excellence in terms of

creativity, quality, and resourcefulness. Winners were selected from over 200 categories and were judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. Judges are industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talent exceeds a high standard of excellence and work serves as a benchmark for the industry.

The AccessDNR mobile and Apple Watch app provides all the information and services outdoor enthusiasts need on the go. The app uses geolocation functionality to locate and provide directions to the top 10 closest water access points or water trails for boaters, paddlers, anglers, and swimmers. The location-based "Near Me" mapping function displays parks and waterways in radius increments of 10, 25, or 50 miles of the user and includes detailed driving directions.

AccessDNR mobile app features:

- Location-based maps and directions to state-owned parks, wildlife areas, trails, boat launches, and water access sites
- Maryland State Park activities and amenities by location
- Hunting season information by date
- Real-time game harvest reporting directly to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Trophy case photo sharing through social media
- Location-based sunrise/sunset and tide updates
- Maryland fish and shellfish identifier
- Hunting, fishing, and boating regulation guides
- Breaking news and alerts, including hunting calendar and regulations

The AccessDNR mobile app and Apple Watch app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or through Google Play App Store for Android users.

The AccessDNR mobile app and Apple Watch app were developed at no charge for the Maryland Department of

Natural Resources by NIC Inc., through the self-funded digital government services contract with the Maryland Department of Information Technology.

Tips and Tricks

CRUSH THOSE BARBS! Once the huge schools of rockfish arrive in Delaware waters there will be good deal of catch and release action. So much so, that more striped bass will be released than retained.

A good way to insure the survival of those released fish is to use barbless hooks. I began using barbless hooks when I ran charters out of Virginia Beach. I must admit I did this for purely selfish reasons since a barbless hook is much easier to remove from a customer as well as from the captain.

I also noticed how much easier it was to take the hook out of the rockfish and blues we released. I have had days at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel where one client released over 50 rockfish. On other days we would hit the bluefish just as hard. Anyone who has ever tried to unhook a five-pound blue can appreciate how much easier that task would be with barbless hooks.

I seldom lost a fish due to using barbless hooks. Blues came off easier then rockfish because of their tendency to jump out of the water. So long as the line stays tight the fish will stay on the hook.

I buy regular lures with barbed hooks and then crush the barbs with my fishing pliers. It's as easy as that and makes life so much better for the angler and the fish.

Written by Eric Burnley on the Delaware DNR website

**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 – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14	- Fredrick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	26-29	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	8	- Frederick Meeting
	11	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	tba	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	25	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	tba	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
25	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club	
MARCH	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	tba	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	tba	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	tba	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	8	- Frederick Chapter Shakedown Cruise /Catch & Release Tourney
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
MAY	5-7	- Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons
	5-7	-33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-21	- Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-18	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City. Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Indian River Inlet
JULY	7-9	- Frederick Chapter Cobia Weekend in Kiptopeke
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER	9	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16-18	- 6 th Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	7-14	- Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	18	- Frederick Meeting
	25	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- 24 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
DECEMBER	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS