

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

We certainly hope that everyone survived the snow storm in one piece with little or no damage to the fishing components of your body. It certainly was a storm of epic proportions that make us wish for summertime to arrive. Our chapter really lucked out that this storm was a week later, as it would have caused us to cancel our expo. Just think of the inherent obstacles we would have had to overcome if we couldn't have had this event, not to think of the economic impact it would have created for the chapter. Having said this, now we can only hope you see the importance of having other avenues or fundraisers that help general monies to sustain our active chapter. We could have potentially been one big snow storm from disaster.

By now, many of you have seen the new proposed regulations for the spring rockfish season. The Main MSSA was all for eliminating the slot and going back to the one fish per person 36" or over. Now it seems that they are contemplating reducing the size limit to 35". Why? I don't know, but we will do our best to keep everyone informed. It seems as if the summer regulations will remain at 2 fish per person, with the size limits being 20" to 28" or one fish 20" to 28" and one over 28". Isn't science great when it's combined with economics? Regardless, the MSSA will continue to fight for what we believe is in the best interest of us recreational fisherman.

Finally, be reminded that our dinner dance will be on February 27, 2016 from 6:30pm until 11:30 pm at the Frederick Moose. Denim n Lace will be providing the entertainment again and I sure hope that many of you have learned to dance over the last year. Tickets will be available at the meeting and this will be your last chance to get tickets. There WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AT THE DOOR. Tickets are \$35 per person and this is truly a great night of fun.

C'mon summer! Fish Hard!

Ed

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Food Service begins at 6:15 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: GETHOOKED Lures

Vendor: We will have GETHOOKED Lures doing another demonstration on custom painting of lures and pouring/making soft plastics. They will show us the whole process of making a lure from melting the lead to the finishing touch of tying the hair on the lures.

Dinner Menu:

Hot Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Corn
Cole Slaw
Dessert

Attendance at January Meeting: 52

Raffle Winners:

Chris Conway- Portable Marine Radio
Neal Ammerman- Smoove Products
Walt Shaw- June bug Lure
Ervan Hare- Knife Sharpener/ Bait net
Frank Molino-Wash mitt/ 25 ft. hose
Brian Conway- Fish Off Gloves
Brian Jenkins- Shore Tackle Gift Cert
Steve O'neil- Sunglasses
Logan Harry- Hook sharpener/ Cutters

50/50 Raffle: Emory Conner- \$84

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 | February 03, 2016

Marylanders have seen some tough weather in the past month and most of the snow has melted, leaving only the largest piles in most areas, with more snow remaining in the western counties. The leftover snow piles remind us of our recent toils, whether they were a trusty snow shovel or heavy equipment. A recent warm front has made it much more enjoyable to try some fishing and bask in the warm sun. Although it may be cold outside, fisheries biologists are busy in the field stocking trout, conducting the blue crab winter dredge survey and sampling resident fish species in the upper bay. The winter resident fish survey is accomplished during the month of January and February at sampling sites in the upper bay with 144, 10 minute tows with a 30' trawl. The research vessel stationed at the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory and captained by DNR Captain Mike Simonsen carries a crew of biologists from the Matapeake Field Office, supervised by Paul Piavis. Crews sample the fish that are brought aboard for species and quantities to gain valuable information on resident species such as white perch, channel catfish, striped bass and yellow perch.

Recreational fishermen who wish to catch their own minnows in a minnow trap have long been hampered by the regulation that they must own private waterfront property, or have permission to set their traps off private waterfront property. The Fisheries Service has proposed a new regulation effective March 12, 2016 that would allow recreational fishermen to set a minnow trap off public property. The action is stated below. *The purpose of this action is to expand the use of traps. Currently, minnow traps are only allowed to be used if tied off on your private property, or the private property of someone who has given you*

permission. Someone who does not own riparian property, or know someone that does own property, cannot catch their own minnows. The Department has heard from a number of people who have been frustrated by their inability to catch their own bait because of the land-ownership requirement. The proposed action allows the use of a trap on public property as long as the owner of the trap is present in the area and is attending the trap. The requirement for attending the trap is necessary because it is public property. Unattended gear on public property is not authorized. The proposed action also clarifies that the gear used for harvesting clams, crabs and oysters recreationally is specified elsewhere in statute and regulation. This chapter does not apply to those species.

This week's warming trend has done much to melt the snow and ice but water temperatures will of course remain close to freezing in most areas. In the upper bay tributary rivers yellow perch are holding in some of the deeper holes in the lower parts of the rivers such as the Northeast, Bush and Chester. Yellow perch are holding in the deeper holes off Perryville often in 50' depths or more. It will take a good sinker and small jigs or hooks tipped with minnows or worms to entice them to bite at that depth. In the rivers where yellow perch are staged in deeper waters lighter weights will get one down to where the perch are. Chain pickerel are one fish that likes cold water and they inhabit just about every tributary to the Chesapeake. They will be found in the middle and upper reaches of the rivers and most anything that moves through the water in the form of a lure tends to get their attention.

There has also been some yellow perch action in rivers and creeks farther down the bay. One of the more noteworthy locations is Marshyhope Creek which is a tributary of the Nanticoke River. Yellow perch are staged in some of the deeper holes in the lower part of the creek and are being caught on minnows worked slowly along the bottom. A good depth finder is a big help in locating schools of yellow perch. This situation can be duplicated in other tidal rivers such as the Bush, Magothy, Tuckahoe and Wicomico Rivers just to name a few. These areas are also the home of chain Pickerel and they can be found along shoreline edges and often the larger pickerel will be found in deeper waters. Channel catfish may also be part of the mix when fishing the deeper holes.

Water temperatures in the middle bay region are running at 38° on the surface and down to about 35" of water. Striped bass and white perch are holding in the deeper channels such as the shipping channel and anyone going over the Bay Bridge may have noticed a few commercial boats stationed along the eastern edge of the shipping

channel off Kent Island tending their nets. There are striped bass stacked up behind the Bay Bridge abutments and rock piles and can offer some catch and release action. One will find them stacked like cordwood and when jigging snagged fish may outnumber those that are actually caught in the mouth. The warm water discharge at the Calvert Cliffs Power Plant always starts to attract striped bass and fishermen later on this month for some catch and release action

Sunday I took advantage of the mild weather and went for a canoe paddle in the upper Choptank River and was entertained by several fair sized striped bass that were trying to soak up the warmth of the sun in the shallows. My passage of course disturbed them and they torpedoed for deeper water and safety. I suspect these are most likely males who are the vanguard of the 2016 spawning run. We are still of course in the dead of winter but there are a few positive signs out there that spring will eventually arrive.

The 2016 tautog fishery opened up on the first of January and charter and party boats have been scheduling offshore trips when the weather permits in search of trophy sized tautog. It was January of last year when the new world record 28.8 lb tautog was caught off of Ocean City by Kenneth Westerfeld. Inshore water temperatures close to the beaches are hovering around 38° which is pretty nippy.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown 29 Jan 2016

Winter storm Jonas ushered in the cold season with all its frigid fury, disrupting most fishing endeavors last weekend. And although folks are now starting to venture back out, the fishing scene has little news to offer for now.

The coastal rockfish season still has not developed, and the outlook seems less than favorable for a turnaround. Big schools of fish have been spotted offshore by bluefin tuna hunters, and reports indicate fish are still active to our north, but no catches have occurred in local coastal waters. And as water temperatures continue to drop, this season's winter window of opportunity to intercept these fish is closing in. A few anglers are still fishing for rockfish off the Eastern Shore in the Bay with hopes of releasing fish for fun, with poor results.

Other than a few rumors, bluefin tuna have also been a no show so far, but hopeful anglers continue to search for signs of tuna activity off Virginia when the weather allows.

Speckled trout action is still behind for the season, but anglers were finding some respectable trout in Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets prior to the blizzard. Reports have been limited since the storm, but with a decent weekend on the horizon, anglers are hopeful for good results.

Tautog is pretty much the only game in town. Although the tog bite in Bay waters is beginning to slow with the cooling water temperatures, some decent fish are hitting for anglers on a few Bay and inshore structures. Deeper water wrecks are still producing the larger fish, but reaching them can be a challenge this time of year. When boats can get out, anglers are finding some nice fish, with a few tog weighing over 11-pounds reported this week. Seabass will also take your offerings on many of these structures, but they rare still out of season.

Boats venturing out to scour the deeper ocean floors can find nice blueline tilefish up to around 17-pounds. Black seabass will also hit your bait, but you can't keep them. Even with the dogfish population on the rise, persistent anglers are also finding barrel fish and blackbellied rosefish mixed in with the tilefish. Other species such as grouper and wreckfish can also provide some variety along the Canyon walls.

<http://www.driball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

**By Eric Burnley Sr.*
Updated: Feb. 5, 2016**

DELAWARE BAY If anyone is fishing they are keeping it a secret. The snow was still on the ground in Kent and New Castle counties not to mention the high winds and cold temperatures. The yellow perch run should be happening, but to date I have no reports of anyone even trying in Delaware. A few neds, as the perch are known, were caught in Perryville, Md. before the storm.

INSHORE OCEAN I spoke with Captain Scotty Gold on the Rehoboth Star out of Indian River and while he did fish for tog last weekend, the results were not as good as he would like. The boat had keeper fish both days, but the bite was slow. He said the water was still dirty from the storm and the fish they did catch were pretty beat up.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Nothing to report from here. I drove down on Friday and the damage was minimal ,so if the weather settles down it is possible a few shad may still be around.

SURF FISHING Surf fishing will not be any good until the water clears. I saw where a few hardy souls fished at Cape Henlopen Point over the weekend, but had no success.

STILL MORE LITTLE THINGS This week we will look at snaps and swivels. Many fishermen, myself included, use snaps on almost all of our terminal rigs. They make it much easier to change lures or hooks than having to retie a knot every time we make a change.

I started using snaps when I fished Indian River Inlet at night. Before I headed out I tied my bucktails, spoons and plugs to 12-inch leaders with a perfection loop on the terminal end. When I wanted to change out a lure all I had to do was unsnap the old one and snap on something different. Snaps are so much easier to use than trying to tie even the simplest knot with cold and wet hands. I also found that when I snagged the bottom, which was more often than I like to admit, the leader would usually break at the snap. After checking to make sure the snap had not suffered any damage all I had to do was snap on another lure and it was back to fishing.

Snap swivels are used when trolling and I only use ball bearing models. Nothing will twist up mono line faster than a spinning spoon or plug and barrel swivels just don't do the job in a trolling situation.

Coastlock style snaps are the only style you should use. The Interlock style of snap will fail under pressure. If the snap closes much like a safety pin, it is the Interlock style. The Coastlock style has a small bend in the tag end that goes over the standing part. The closed snap looks a bit like the letter D. I have never had one of these snaps open under pressure. I did have one close on its self until it looked like the letter P after a rather long battle with a big amberjack. Just about all of my snaps and swivels are black. I do almost all of my fishing in saltwater where small shiny things seem to attract the attention of large things with sharp teeth. I don't think having black terminal gear is a deterrent in freshwater. As with my fishing hooks, my snaps and swivels are stored in plastic tackle boxes that will fit in my tackle bag. They too get a WD-40 bath on a regular basis.

***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.**

DNR in the News

ASMFC Approves Maryland's Proposed Changes to Striped Bass



PENDING 2016 RECREATIONAL STRIPED BASS REGULATION CHANGES

The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association would like to announce some pending changes in the 2016 striped bass fishery. **The The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved the following regulations for Maryland.** The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will now decide on which regulations to implement.

ASMFC Approved Striped Bass Regs for Maryland:

Fishery	Size Limit	Bag Limit	Other	Open Season
Coastal	28" min	1	Current	Jan 1 - Dec 31
Coastal	33" min	2	Previously Approved	Jan 1 - Dec 31
Coastal	28-38" slot or ≥ 44"	2	NEW	1/1 - 12/31
Trophy	28-36" or ≥40"	1	Current	April 16 - May 15
Trophy	36" min	1	Previously Approved	April 16 - May 15
Spring Trophy	35" min	1	NEW	4/16 - 5/15
Trophy	36" min, charter boats allowed 1 fish 28-36"	1	Previously Approved	April 16 - May 15
Ches Bay Summer/Fall	20" min, only one can be over 28"	2	Current	May 16 - Dec 20 (with 5 day extension)
Ches Bay Summer/Fall	18" min	1	Previously Approved	May 16 - Dec 15 (without 5 day extension)

THE MSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS APPROVED AND IS ADVOCATING FOR THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS

Trophy Season:

1 fish/person minimum 36" (season length remains the same; 3rd Saturday in April to May 15)

**Note: 1 fish/person minimum of 35" would also be acceptable*

Summer/Fall Season:

Status Quo - 2 fish per person, minimum 20 inches (2 fish/person 20"-28" OR 1 fish 20"-28" and 1 fish 28" or more - Season: May 16 - December 20)

Coastal Fishery:

2 fish/person 28-38" or 44" and above (all year)

***Please remember these are proposed changes and are pending the Department making a final decision now that ASMFC has approved.*

Tips and Tricks

The Anatomy Of A Rip By Lenny Rudow

Reading the water and understanding how to hunt for fish in rips will help you become a better angler.



Tuna can swim more than 100 miles in a day. How are you going to find them? Predator fish of all species are attracted to rips, for one simple reason: they make eating easier. A rip that forms where rushing river waters are disturbed by rocks attracts trout. A rip generated by currents rushing over shoals attracts striped bass and flounder. A rip caused by colliding bodies of water offshore attracts tuna and billfish. Anytime, anywhere, for any species you're targeting: when you spot a visible rip on the water's surface, it deserves your undivided angling attention.

Get Ripped

Wait a sec — what exactly is a rip? In its most basic form, a rip is simply an area where the water is disturbed. Usually, though not always, the cause lies beneath the surface: some form of structure interrupts the flow of the water and causes turbulence, which creates small standing waves or ripples. You know those little waves that form on either side of bridge

pilings, when the current is moving against them? Those are rips. The visible ripples formed where a pipe discharges water? Rips again. The swirling vortex you see behind a boulder in the river? That, too, is a rip. What is it, exactly, that makes it easier for the fish to eat in such spots? There are several reasons. First off, if the rip is created by a solid object in the water, that object may attract baitfish and prey critters, just as any other structure would. Second, temperature differences, oxygen level, and turbidity can all be affected by the turbulence of water, and for a number of different reasons, these factors can make a rip or the area around it attractive to fish. Finally, all that turbulent, churned-up water tends to dislodge and disorient those small baitfish and prey critters, making them easy pickings.

Anatomical Corrections

So you see a bit of disturbed water, label it a rip, cast there, and load your cooler with fish, right? Not so fast. While many fishermen catch plenty of fish from rips, a few basic misconceptions keep them from attaining high-liner status. First off, you have to comprehend the anatomy of the rip itself. To simplify matters, for now we're just going to address the most common form of rips, those created by a solid structure in the current. (We'll get to the less common rips in a moment.) Whatever structure causes the disturbed water is going to be upcurrent from what you see on the surface. In shallow water that's just four or five feet deep, the actual cause of the rip may be only a few feet away. But in 20 feet of water, the cause may be significantly farther away from the visible clues. So if the fish are oriented to the structure, casting directly into the middle of a rip isn't the best way to catch fish. Instead, focus on the beginning of the rip, and probe upcurrent from there.



This lighthouse provides a great example of a rip created by current hitting structure; note the visible ripples on the water's surface, to the right of the angler. Also, consider where the active fish will be hunting if they aren't orienting to the structure. Contrary to popular belief, they won't usually feed in the lee of the structure. Sure, they may hide behind a piling or a boulder, but this isn't where they hunt; this is where they hang out. And quite often, casting into a pocket of calm water

surrounded by a rip — dropping your lure right on top of the fish's heads — will spook them instead of generating a strike. So rather than shooting for that calm piece of water, aim your lure for the "feeding zone" of the rip. This is just outside of the calm water, just upcurrent of the structure. Why upcurrent? Because fish swim into the current and spend the majority of their time facing that way. Send your lure downcurrent of them, and your lure may land mere inches away from the fish — but they'll never even see it.

Or maybe they'll get an eyeball on your lure but decide not to pursue. Why didn't you get that hit? There are countless possibilities, but there's also one standout reason why some anglers get fewer hits than others when fishing a rip: boat position and the direction of the retrieve. Position your boat downcurrent of the rip, then cast into it, and you'll be retrieving your lure with the current. Remember when we mentioned how fish spend the bulk of their time swimming into the current, not with it? This is a control thing. Just as an airplane needs to take off and land into the wind to maintain control, a fish needs to head into the current. It may dart across the current and make short bursts of speed downstream using the current to its advantage. But it's very rare to see a prey species meander down the current in a lackadaisical manner — which is exactly what your lure probably looks like moving with the current, since its action is squelched as it gets pushed from behind. Bearing this in mind, to maximize the catch, you'll want to position your boat upcurrent of the structure, far enough to the side to cast into the base of the feeding zone and retrieve upcurrent or across the current.

Genetic Mutations

Now, what about those less common rips? There are a couple of heavy-duty fish attractors you need to know about. The first are rips that form along points of land that jut out into the water. In most cases, these won't have any obvious structure disturbing the flow of water other than the land itself. So in this type of rip, you're not going to find fish relating to any single item; the fish will be relating to the abrupt change in the water flow itself.



Offshore fish like marlin, mahimahi, and yellowfin tuna can often be found along rips, where temperature and color breaks are common.

Viewed from above, these rips usually look more or less like half of the V-shaped or U-shaped rips created by solid objects; in other words, they appear as a more or less straight or slightly curved line. And the disturbed water itself should be fished exactly as you'd fish other rips: position yourself so the retrieve is into or across the current, cast to the upcurrent side of the rip and into the feeding zone, and as you continue casting, work your way up the current from there.

Here's the weird thing: Point-generated rips often have a secondary feeding zone, which can be to either side of the rip (but not to both sides, just to one or the other), somewhere between 10 to 50 feet from the rip itself, and close to the shoreline or to an adjacent drop-off. And here's the even weirder thing: in the secondary feeding zone, you'll usually catch a fraction of the number of fish you find in the rip itself, but often, these fish will be significantly larger than the average-sized fish found in the rip. So after fishing a point-generated rip, always probe the shorelines and drop-offs to either side of it.

Ocean currents provide a second form of unusual rips. Any oceanic troller worth his salt knows to troll through and across visible rips on the surface, which are caused by colliding bodies of water. They often go hand in hand with temperature breaks and with differences in water clarity or color.

When it comes to this type of rip, all of the normal rules go out the window. And it's not at all unusual to pass through dozens of rips in a single day with zero bites, then encounter one single rip which, for whatever reason, is loaded with fish. This makes it easy to figure out how to approach oceanic rips: hit them once or twice, and if nothing happens and you spot no other strong indications of fish on the feed (diving birds or slicks), then move on.

Whether a rip is in the middle of the ocean, a clear-running river, or an estuarine bay, one thing is for sure: once you understand the features of a rip and how to apply that knowledge, you'll catch more fish.

BoatUS electronics editor Lenny Rudow, a fishing expert, is the author of several fishing books and a senior editor for www.Boats.com.

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	23	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	28-31	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	10	- Frederick Meeting
	13-14	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	27	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	27	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
27	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club	
MARCH	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-20	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	26-27	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	29-1	- Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons
	29-1	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
MAY	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	20-22	- Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	8-10	- Frederick Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, VA
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER	14	- Frederick Meeting
	TBA	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	17-18	- 6 th Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	1-8	- Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18-20	- 24 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
DECEMBER	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting