

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

Has anyone seen the spot? Where's those confounded spot? Each year it seems that many things can affect our most passionate sport....fishing...and...well...maybe crabbing too. Typically by now the spot have arrived and many of us have begun to live line. However, doesn't seem to be any spot around. Crabbing was supposed to be up by 35%. Some are catching crabs in some areas, some are struggling in typically good crabbing areas. Is it pollution? Is it overharvesting? Is it too much fresh water? Who knows? But, we do know that each of us can do our part to help sustain the bay and its tributaries. So, just a reminder to all to treat our resources with respect, throw away your trash properly, keep only what you will eat and be courteous to your fellow boaters and fisherman.

Although things have slowed a little for our chapter, some huge events are on the horizon. Signups for our annual "Tackle the Mackerel" tournament will begin this meeting. Tickets are on sale for our annual crab feast (which is always a good time) at \$35 per person and remember we need to have at least 50 members to hold this event. Coming in September is the Main MSSA's newly formatted flounder tournament. This should become a premiere flounder fishing event for many of our Frederick Chapter members. Check out the main's website at www.mssa.net for all the NEW details and to register.

A huge round of applause goes out to Rob Pellicot and his crew for taking 1st place in the 27th annual TunaMent. They endured some rough seas and poor weather to catch an 86.5 Yellow Fin to capture the title. We think it was the chumming by a couple of (I said chumming, NOT chunking...although probably was some chunks in there) his crew members that brought the fish to the boat. Seems the Frederick Chapter is always somewhere in winning circle. Good Job guys! Look for the write up coming in the Frederick News Post.

Finally, we have had no one express any interest in leading our chapter into the future. Again, if anyone would like to support our chapter, please contact me.

Fish Hard!

Ed

Next Meeting

Date: July 13, 2016

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker:

Dennis Fleming will be speaking about Light Tackle jigging the Bay

Vendor:

George from Specialized Baits

Dinner Menu:

Hamburger

Hot Dogs

French Fries

Macaroni and Cheese

Cole Slaw

Dessert

Attendance at June Meeting: 47

Raffle Winners:

Tool Set- Brian Jenkins

Hat/ Sunglasses- Dorothy Brashears

Bust Em Lures- John Fradiska

Offshore Rig- Ronnie Jenkins

The Right Stuff- Frank Molino

Offshore Lures- Jay Betts

Shimano Pliers/ Knife- Mindy Lorditch

Tsunami Lures-Porter King

Igloo Cooler- Roy Butler

50/50 Raffle: Andy Butler \$101.00

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

Ocean City Inlet water temp. 75 degrees, Delaware buoy 77 degrees.

Flounder are biting in the back bay and inlet area. The throwback to keeper ratio for flounder has increased. Try using a 5" or 6" Gulp swimming mullet to target the larger fish. Route 50 bridge fishermen are catching snapper blues and a few flounder. We had reports of a few croaker being caught in the bay. The offshore wrecks and reefs are producing decent catches of flounder, sea bass and a few triggerfish. The kingfish bite continues to be very good for surfcasters using bloodworms and Fishbites bloodworms. Surf fishermen tossing chunks of mackerel or bunker are catching sharks and big rays.

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

July 06, 2016

Summer is here and children are enjoying extra time with parents, grandparents and that special uncle, aunt or family friend that will spend time to take them fishing. I have always noticed that our young first time fishing buddies love to choose their first fishing outfit and it is usually a theme related push button spincasting outfit. Fortunately they are relatively inexpensive, just the right size for our little buddies and also just the right size for fish such as bluegills and white perch..

The water releases at the Conowingo Dam had been flat lined at just about nothing for several days until yesterday afternoon when a large power generation release occurred. This trend will most likely continue through this week as hot weather is predicted and folks will be using their air conditioners. There continues to be a limited striped bass bite in the dam pool and surrounding river area early in the morning. Most are casting topwater lures such as poppers but a few enterprising souls are using live white perch. There is also some limited early morning action out near the Susquehanna Flats area but again this is a "crack of dawn" type fishing with topwater lures and finishes up as soon as the sun pops over the horizon. This is a common pattern now that water temperatures are in the low 80's and fish are seeking cooler and deeper waters during the day.

There tends to be plenty of fishing opportunities this week in the upper bay region as striped bass are found in the lower sections of the region's tidal rivers. The most popular action is of course the chumming fleets that have been setting up on striped bass holding on major channel edges at Swan Point, Love Point and the edge from Sandy Point Light north to the mouth of the Magothy River. There is plenty of action in the early morning and late evening hours in areas such as the Patapsco River/Baltimore Harbor area along shore line structure. Old piers, prominent points, bridge piers and rock structure are all good place to enjoy casting topwater lures for striped bass. These areas also hold white perch for those casting beetle-spins and small spinners or jigs. During brighter daylight hours both striped bass and white perch will be found deeper and jigs will work well for the striped bass and smaller dropper jigs or bottom rigs baited with bloodworms will do the trick for white perch. Allison Lorden and Mary Beth Whalen have plenty to smile about with these two Patapsco River striped bass.

Charter and private boats from all regions of the bay continue to make the run to channel edges above the Bay Bridge where a large portion of our summer striped bass population has decided to take up residence. The western shipping channel edge from Sandy Point Light north to Baltimore Light tends to be one of the most popular locations to find good concentrations of fish to set up on for chumming or chunking. The Love Point channel edge has also been a good spot as well as Swan Point. A good tide is a must and a falling tide tends to be the best. Most are spotting fish on depth finders before setting up and obtaining a good spot on the 30' edge usually will result in some striped bass finding your offerings. The best catch reports tend to be coming from those who allow their baits to sink to the bottom at the back of a slick and this may take some

weight to get baits down to where the fish are. Make sure that you experiment with fishing baits at different depths and varying distances from the boat.

The popular areas where the fleets are anchoring up can be fairly intimidating on the weekends so being a little adventurous and exploring new options along channel edges in other upper bay locations can pay large benefits in fish and peace of mind. Patience and flexibility can go a long way to enjoying some good striped bass fishing away from the densely packed fleets. Trolling deep with spoons or swim shads behind inline weights or planers is a good tactic when trying to cover territory as are umbrella rigs. Light tackle jigging is always a joy when fish can be found suspended over bottom and chunking or chumming over your own school of fish far from the crowds can be very satisfying. Another option is to catch some suitable sized white perch in one of the tidal rivers and try some live lining along likely looking shipping channel edges.

The Bay Bridge piers always hold an attraction to striped bass since it provides structure with plenty of food being swept by in fast moving currents. Chunking can be a good option if one can anchor up current of a likely looking set of bridge piers but the bottom does claim an anchor now and then. Casting bucktails or soft plastic jigs near the bases of the bridge piers is another good choice. White perch can also be found holding near shallower bridge piers.

In the middle bay region when it comes to chumming or chunking for striped bass the outer 30'+ edges of Hacketts, Dollys Lump, Tollys Bar have been good places to look for suspended striped bass to set up on. There has also been some limited action over at the Brick House Bar, the Hill and Buoy 83. A fair percentage of fish up in the chum slick will fall short of the minimum 20" required so handle them carefully and use non-offset circle hooks. Allowing baits to rest on the bottom can up the odds for larger fish.

Trolling umbrella rigs or single spoons and bucktails down deep is a good option for many in the middle bay region this week and don't be too surprised if you see your first bluefish this weekend. Light tackle jigging along steep channel edges is always fun and a great way to enjoy some quiet fishing. There are several steep channel edges just inside Eastern Bay on both the Tilghman Island and Kent Island sides that are great places to check as well as shipping channel edges or wherever birds may be found working over fish.

The early morning and evening shallow water striped bass fishery continues to be very productive and a peaceful way to spend

time on the water. Prominent points, old submerged breakwaters and various shoreline structure areas are good places to cast topwater lures. Warmer water seems to have brought higher numbers of sub-legal striped bass into the shallows and they tend to attack poppers and similar topwater lures with abandon. Water temperatures in the shallower areas are now in the low 80's this week.

White perch can be found in the same shoreline structure areas as the striped bass and can provide plenty of fun action and wonderful table fare. An ultra-light spinning outfit matched with beetle-spins or small spinners is the perfect rig for enjoying the morning or evening fishery. During brighter daylight hours a simple bottom rig baited with bloodworms or grass shrimp fished near dock piers or oyster bottom is a good bet.

A few croaker are being caught in the middle bay region with the majority of the reports coming from the lower Choptank River. This fishery is not in the same place as it was several years ago so for now white perch are filling in the gap.

The lower bay region is seeing bluefish of different sizes rapidly moving into the region this past week. There are the smaller nipper size 12" to 14" ones found along bay edges and tidal rivers and a larger 2 lb to 3 lb size group out in the bay near locations such as the Middle Grounds, Point-No-Point to Point Lookout and over on the eastern side of the bay near Tangier Sound up to lower Hooper's Island. Bait is what brings them to the lower bay and when they find it they have no qualms about indulging, so the melee will often be marked by bird action overhead. Casting spoons or jigs into the action is always a fun and exciting way to catch bluefish but trolling spoons is also a tried and true method. If you are trolling in the area of the Middle Grounds or up near the Target Ship; it pays to have some larger spoons in your trolling spread for some catch and release fishing for the large red drum that are in the area. Also of note there are good numbers of cobia in the same areas and you might be lucky enough to catch one. Cobia can be targeted by chumming and chunking or drifting live bait near structure.

The striped bass fishery is not exactly setting the lower bay on fire this week but resourceful fishermen are finding fish in the lower Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. Trolling deep along channel edges with spoons, bucktails and umbrella rigs has been the most successful tactic lately. There is also an early morning and late evening shallow water fishery in the regions tidal rivers and bay shorelines on both the eastern and

western sides of the bay.

The excellent croaker fishing is something the lower bay region continues to enjoy this week as the best croaker fishing in Maryland waters is in the lower bay region. The lower Potomac and Patuxent Rivers have been a standout with Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds beginning to provide some bottom fishing action. The best fishing is in the evenings and at night as the croakers move from deeper and cooler waters to the shallows to forage for food during the night. They can be caught during the day but one will have to find deep holes to fish. Bottom rigs, baited with shrimp or peeler crab tend to get the job done. A few small spot are starting to show up in the shallower areas but only a few.

White perch are providing a lot of action for those bottom fishing and they are a welcomed addition to croaker catches in many areas. They can be found in all of the tidal rivers and creeks in the lower bay region. In the evenings they are also providing fun light tackle fishing for those casting small jigs, spinners or beetle-spins along shorelines.

Recreational crabbing continues to be good in most of the tidal rivers and creeks in the lower bay and middle bay regions. There has been some improvement in the upper bay tidal rivers and this may improve further with time and less rainfall. The recent rains have pushed some crabs out of tidal rivers and creeks within the lower bay and middle bay and some of the better catches have been in deeper waters of the tidal rivers. Razor clams tend to be the bait of choice for those searching for the largest and best crab catches. Chicken necks are of course the standard bait and will still put crabs in your basket but if you can give razor clams a try.

Freshwater trout fishing in the western region has had some issues lately with runoff. In particular the North Branch of the Potomac River and the Youghiogheny River has had high water levels recently. If you are driving a distance to fish these wonderful trout management waters it can pay to check the USGS daily stream flow conditions beforehand.

Deep Creek Lake is settling into a summer mode of fishing with the best fishing occurring early in the morning before vacationing boaters get out on the water. Smallmouth bass and walleye fishing has been good for those casting jerkbaits or Finesse type baits. As the day wears on the shallower coves offer some refuge from boating traffic and largemouth bass can be found under thick grass or chain pickerel will always be nearby. Largemouth bass can also be found under floating docks looking for

cool shade and flipping soft plastics under these docks is a good way to target bass. Drifting along deep grass edges with live minnows is also a good way to catch a variety of fish such as walleye, smallmouth bass, large yellow perch and largemouth bass.

The upper Potomac River water temperature is around 80° this week and conditions are reported to be slightly stained. Water levels could change with rain events so the USGS stream flow site link that is listed above is worth checking if conditions are in question. As water temperatures rise the best fishing tends to be early in the morning or late evening in low light conditions. Rocky flats tend to be good places to target at these times and deep submerged ledges during the brighter day hours. Tubes, Finesse type worms and topwater lures all have their place and time.

Largemouth bass are reacting to the summer heat much the way people do. They might not have air conditioning but they do know how to seek cool shade during the day under old docks and thick overhead grass. Pitching soft plastics under docks or stick worms and jigs down through thick grass are good day time strategies. Largemouth bass will venture into shallow areas towards dark and generally search for food all night long where bait fish might be found. Late evening and early morning are good times to work topwater lures in the shallows and jerkbaits, spinnerbaits and small lipless crankbaits are good choices for transition areas in slightly deeper waters adjacent to the shallows.

The Ocean City area has drifted into summer and with that water temperatures close to shore are around 70° and summer species of fish are available. In the surf kingfish are being caught on small baits in the early morning and evening hours. Bluefish are being caught on finger mullet rigs and there are plenty of inshore sharks and sting rays for those seeking a little more pull.

At the inlet there are a mix of tautog and sheepshead near jetties, bulkheads and bridge piers with the South Jetty offering the best fishing. Sand fleas have been the preferred bait. Flounder are moving through the inlet into the back bay areas. Bluefish and striped bass are being caught mostly in the early morning and evening hours. Got-Cha plugs have been a good choice when targeting bluefish and drifting cut bait or casting bucktails and swim shads have been good choices for the striped bass.

In the back bays, flounder fishing has improved with warmer water temperatures and clearer water. The channel areas offer the best day time fishing and channel edges are great places to target on a falling tide in

the morning or evening hours. Silversides, live minnows, squid strips and white Gulp baits are all good choices for flounder.

Outside the inlet the wreck and reef sites have been offering fair to good sea bass fishing at times and flounder are becoming a larger part of the mix. A few bluefin tuna are being caught at traditional spots like the Fingers, Jackspot, Hot Dog and Massey's Canyon. Yellowfin have been showing up at some of these somewhat inshore areas also which is a real plus for those who hesitate running to the canyons. The size grade on the yellowfin tuna has improved recently to the delight of all with fewer throwbacks being reported. Gaffer dolphin, large wahoo and bigeye tuna have also been part of the mix lately at the canyons.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown
08 July 2016

The saltwater fishing scene is almost as hot as the weather right now. The Independence Day week was a success, with cobia and flounder drawing the most interest.

Since the flounder bite escalated last week, folks are finding good hauls of flatfish most anywhere in lower Bay waters. Many are also having good luck with nice fish hitting on nearshore structures. Anglers working the Bay Bridge Tunnel with jigs and live bait are finding the biggest fish averaging up to around 5 and 6-pounds. The 1st island area and the 3rd island tubes produced best this week. Drifters are having good luck in seaside inlets on the Eastern Shore, and both Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets on the Southside are giving up some good numbers of keeper flatfish on an outgoing tide.

The cobia action is on fire this week, with sight casters reporting that plenty of fish are around, making easy targets in lower Bay waters. Most fish are ranging to around 30 to 45-pounds, with scattered 60 and 70-pounders also in the mix. Steady action is also keeping chummers on their toes this week with some decent fish to show. Red drum are providing very good top water action as they school around the mouth of the Bay, especially near the Baltimore Channel.

Spanish mackerel continue to provide excellent action for trollers from Cape Henry to Sandbridge. The best luck is occurring in about 20 to 25-feet of water, with planers

holding down small spoons Most of these fish are a nice class, with a few fish over 3 and 4 pounds hitting the docks lately. Taylor bluefish are always around these areas, and some sizable sharks are also taking baits off the ocean front.

Spadefish are very popular this year, with a larger class of fish attracting a lot of attention. Spades are still available at the Chesapeake Light Tower, but more boats are targeting these fish near inshore wrecks and at the CBBT, with good success. Big sheephead are still biting along the tubes, islands, and pilings of the Bay Bridge Tunnel, with some fish topping 10-pounds caught this week. The bait of choice is either fiddler crabs or clams. Trigger fish are also hitting in most of these same locations.

Some large croaker are lurking around the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel and the Cell, while the hard head run in Oyster kicked off this week, with fish ranging to around a pound filling coolers. Speckled trout and some puppy drum are available in many shallow water locations, but this action is sporadic.

Tarpon hunters are still sneaking off to the back waters of Oyster, but recent wind, thunder storms, and stifling heat is making this feat a challenge.

Amberjack are available at the Southern Towers, but few are interested with the good tuna bite going on lately. Few are bothering with deep dropping lately either, although the fish are there. Blueline tilefish, grouper, golden tilefish, black bellied rosefish, and scattered seabass are awaiting offerings along the floor at the Norfolk Canyon.

The offshore scene off Virginia is offering a good variety. Most anglers are still looking for tuna, and finding them. Nice yellowfin tuna are still around, with a few big eye tuna also in the vicinity. A nice class of gaffer mahi are providing good catches, with scattered wahoo also making a showing. More and more billfish encounters are occurring, and this action will continue to improve over the next month.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: July 7, 2016

DELAWARE BAY With the summer regulations for rockfish in place more folks will be out there trying to take home two fish between 20 and 25 inches. There seem to be good numbers of rock in the upper bay and the tidal creeks and

tributaries. Chumming near the Red and Yellow cans or at the 6L buoy out of Collins Beach is still a good choice. Shore-bound anglers should use bloodworms or bunker to lure in slot rockfish. Augustine Beach or the pier at Woodland Beach are two prime fishing spots.

While many anglers will be fishing for rock, they will also catch plenty of big white perch and catfish. One report I received had two people teaming up to catch four white perch over a pound and a half on live minnows in a New Castle County spillway. Big catfish over five pounds have been caught on bunker, bloodworms and chicken livers.

A few flounder have been caught at Miah Maul Shoal and close to the Crossledge. Squid and minnows have been the best bait in these locations. Flounder are also on the bay reef sites. Jigging with a bucktail tipped with Gulp! or strips of squid and worked directly over the structure is the most productive technique on the reefs.

Panfish such as small trout, kings and blowfish have also been taken at the reef sites. Open bottom around the Outer Wall and the Shears have also produced good action for these fish. On Wednesday a friend and I fished along the bayside of the Outer Wall for a decent catch of kings and a few small trout. I find bloodworms to be the best bait for these fish.

Flounder and have been caught out of the Lewes & Rehoboth Canal, but not by me. Early on the same Wednesday trip saw us fishing the canal from 7:30 to 11 a.m. without so much as a tap from a flounder. She-crabs attacked our live minnows and the only thing I caught on bloodworms were a few tiny croaker. Then I get a photo sent to me from Lewes Harbour Marina of some showoff kid who caught three keeper flounder from the town dock. I guess I am just snakebitten in the canal.

The Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier has seen a few spot, croaker and flounder, but overall the catching has been slow. Bloodworms are the best bait for the spot and croaker while a live minnow or a jig decorated with a strip of squid or Gulp! and worked close to the pilings has produced most of the flounder.

From my reports crabbing has been good all the way from New Castle County to Indian River Bay. Since I can't seem to catch a flounder, perhaps it is time for me to try crabbing.

INSHORE OCEAN Shark fishing is still productive at the mouth of Delaware Bay. Some pretty big tiger sharks have been caught and released ,along with duskies and brown sharks. Skate wings are a prime shark bait, but these big fish are not that particular so a bunker head will also attract their attention. Please remember to release these fish while they are still in the water, as Delaware regulations require, and use circle hooks to keep them from being injured by a deep-set J hook.

The best fishing has been between B and A buoys where plenty of flounder have been caught. The only thing that slows the bite is bad drifting conditions. Sometimes back trolling can overcome this situation, but that technique can be difficult and even dangerous when done in a small boat.

There are some sea bass and ling in the mix at the Old Grounds. One idea would be to either filet a ling or fish it whole as a live bait. You can bet the flounder are eating ling and a big live bait could attract a real monster. I would fish the live bait on a fish-finder rig and give the flounder a few seconds to get the bait all the way in its mouth.

Reef sites 10 and 11 also hold flounder. They are tight to structure and jigging with a bucktail tipped with cut bait, squid or Gulp! is going to be the only way to get them to eat.

The lumps and shoals beyond 20 fathoms are giving up bluefin tuna and dolphin. Right now, trolling Joe Shute lures is the hot ticket, but chumming will come on as the surface water warms.

A new state record false albacore was caught in Massey's Canyon last week. The 20.5-pound little tunny was taken by Tim Parrill fishing on the Get Bent with Captain Steve Lednum.

OFFSHORE OCEAN Tuna action was not as hot last week, but seems to have come back on early this week. Anglers are still trolling Joe Shute lures anywhere from 100 to 500 fathoms from the Poorman's to the Baltimore canyons. Most of the tuna caught are yellowfins in the 50- to 70-pound class with a few bigeyes mixed in to keep the anglers on their toes. Last weekend, my friend Frank Goodheart, fishing in the Ocean City Marlin Club's Offshore Kickoff tournament, captured a 125-pound yellowfin to win the tuna class.

Gaffer dolphin are also out there as well as closer to shore around the 20- to 30-Fathom Lumps. They hit lures or bait.

More white marlin have been taken which is a good thing since most of the boats are only fishing for tuna.

A few boats are deep dropping for tilefish, especially on days when the tuna action is slow. They are catching good numbers of blueline tiles and a few goldens.

INDIAN RIVER INLET The reports I receive indicate slow fishing at the inlet and in the back bays. Rockfish have been caught at night on live sand fleas drifted tight to the rocks. Blues and shad may or may not come through the inlet on flood tides.

A few more sheepshead have been caught on sand fleas. This may be the best chance to catch something good from the inlet.

A very few flounder are caught from the Back Bays and I fear this will only get worse as the hot sun warms the water even more. Daybreak and dusk will be the best times to fish for flounder as boat traffic is lightest then.

I understand that crabbing is pretty good here. Perhaps this is a good idea since fishing is not going to provide much meat for the table. Try hand lining in the coves around Indian River and Rehoboth bays. I use bunker for bait but understand chicken necks also attract crabs. If you plan to use a crab trap make sure it is properly marked and expect to have it robbed before you can check it.

SURF FISHING Kings are being caught on bloodworms all along the beach from Herring Point to Fenwick Island. Early or late in the day will be the best time to fish as the crowds of swimmers and sun bathers dominate the sand during the day.

TUNA TROLLING You don't need a million dollar sportfishermen to catch tuna. If your boat is a seaworthy craft that holds enough fuel to make the run to Massey's Canyon, the Chicken Bone or the 20-Fathom Lumps you too can catch tuna. By enough fuel I mean enough to get you out and back and back out again.

You will also need four good quality conventional reels and rods. Something between 30- and 50-pound class outfits. Spool the 30s with 50-pound and the 50s with 80-pound mono. You can learn to tie your own or purchase your leaders at most local tackle shops. You will also need a gaff and some way to keep the catch cool until you get to the cleaning table.

There are about a trillion different tuna lures on the market. They come in all the colors of the rainbow and most will actually attract tuna. Having said this, I have caught more tuna on a natural-colored cedar plug than any other lure. I run two off the transom right in the prop wash using clips to keep the lures in the water.

Keep in mind that you will be trolling at least five knots up to seven knots and more. You want a lure that will stay in the water at that speed and put out a trail of bubbles. This means something that is pretty heavy and quite often will have holes drilled through the head. Lure color is more about contrast than anything that appears in nature. As a general rule use dark lures on cloudy days and bright lures on bright days. Keep changing the lures out until you find what the fish like. At first buy your lures already rigged until you feel comfortable rigging your own.

Outriggers are not mandatory, but do come in handy. The ones I had on my Albemarle came off easily so they stayed ashore unless I was going offshore. A good setup would have two cedar plugs in the prop wash, two on the long rigger running on the fifth or sixth wave and one way back, run where the prop wash begins to fade.

I know most anglers use ballyhoo on their tuna lures. This practice is good for the tackle shops, but is no help when catching tuna. Several years ago on trip from Virginia Beach we had one guest who became very upset when he found out there were no ballyhoo on the boat. Even offered to pay for the bait if we would just turn around and go get some. We didn't.

As soon as we found the yellowfins we limited out the boat in short order. Never heard another word out of Ballyhoo boy.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Nine-Year-Old Sets New Maryland Fishing Record

July 11, 2016

94.6-pound Cobia Caught by 65-pound Emma Zajdel



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has confirmed that Emma Zajdel, 9, of Ocean City, has set a new state fishing record with a 94.6-pound cobia.

Here is Emma's story:

Emma Zajdel and her father, Ed, were fishing with Robert Clark and Emma's best fishing friend, Ashton Clark, near Little Gull Shoals about a mile and a half east of Assateague Island on June 30, hoping to catch some bluefish.

They were trolling two lines off their boat near what appeared to be breaking blues when a line went tight. Robert took the rod from the rail and handed it to Emma, who had a fighting belt on, just in case. No sooner had she set the rod in place than the fish took off, and Emma set the hook.

"At first, we thought it was a shark, and the line was going out," Emma said. "I could hear the reel and the drag and I thought I could go over the side."

The battle lasted about 20 minutes.

Ed said, "I kept the boat in gear and followed the fish at a 45-degree angle to keep the line tight and Emma settled. When she got the fish in, and we lifted it on board, it went ballistic. Emma and Ashton scurried to the front of the boat while Robert and I wrestled the fish into the fish box and iced it down."

They kept the fish iced overnight and took it to the certified scale at Sunset Marina, where department fisheries biologist Steve

Doctor inspected and confirmed the species and the catch. The fish measured-in at 66.5-inches long. Emma, by the way, is 52-inches tall.

This breaks the previous 79-pound state record set by Jack Latimer in 2014.

The cobia fishery is currently closed in federal waters. This fish was caught in Maryland waters where there are no restrictions on catching and keeping cobia.

Maryland maintains records for sport fish in three divisions – Atlantic, Chesapeake and freshwater – and awards plaques to anglers who achieve record catches. To report a potential record catch, please call 410-260-8325. Anglers should keep their fish immersed in ice water to preserve its weight until it can be confirmed. Fish caught from privately-owned, fee-fishing waters are not eligible for consideration.

Emma’s catch could become a new International Game Fish Association Small Fry World Record for a fish caught by an angler under the age of 10. The current record is 48 pounds. Either way, the fish was put to good use. According to Emma, “It tasted very good.”

Tips and Tricks

How to Freeze and Prepare Fresh Fish for Quicker Cooking

Jason Sealock, Publisher for Wired2fish shares his tips and research on cleaning, storing, freezing and preparing fish for quicker cooking on the fly or as part of a healthy yet busy lifestyle.

When I was a kid you couldn't pay me eat fish. After spending 9 months losing 75 pounds, I was convinced I could eat some every day if it was easier to prepare and deal with. I had that thought after thawing out a gallon bag of fish, frying it up and the storing pounds of excess fish in a Gladware tub only to be thrown out days later. I knew there had to be a better way to store and prepare fish as part of a new healthy lifestyle that actually has me eating many times a day but eating lighter and cleaner a each meal. So that started my journey to find a better way to store and prepare fish for quicker cooking.

Catching, cleaning and freezing your catch takes a bit a time, so it seems like such a waste to store so much at a time, then be forced to cook it and it not all get eaten. Plus, I wanted an easier way that wouldn't

take me hours to thaw, prepare and cook to avoid spending all my time working on food I found some good resources online. The first was from a fish service where I buy scallops and shrimp called SizzleFish.com. They send fish and shellfish quickly to you, 2. vacuum-packed with dry ice in a sealed container. The vacuum packing keeps the fish or shellfish very fresh, and because it thaws easily and quickly, I'm cooking right away.

I then stumbled onto a research paper from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks on storing fish more efficiently. And more importantly the thawing methods that I now use.

So here are my steps to process the fish and then a separate section on preparing and cooking the frozen fish.

PART ONE : CLEANING AND FREEZING FISH EFFECTIVELY

1. **Clean your fish** - Clean, debone and filet your fish and wash thoroughly before storage.

2. **Places filets flat in quart freeze bag** - This will vary depending on how big your filets are. If you have bluegill filets, you might have 6 or 8 in a bag, but if you have big crappie filets, you might only have 2 filets in the bag. Store them flat and not overlapping. This will be 1 to 2 servings of fish.

3. **Remove air from bags and seal** If you have a vacuum sealer, it will be a bit better but not necessary. I will seal the bag open just a small opening and suck all the air out. Some folks will put the bags under water and force the air out and seal it that way. The key is to freeze the meat with no water so the meat won't crystalize.

4. **Add water the next day after frozen** - After the fish freezes, pull the bag out of the freezer and open to add just a small bit of water around the filets and then remove air, reseal and put back in the freezer. The water will protect from freezer burn and be more effective if the meat is frozen solid so it doesn't absorb any water and turn the filets "mushy."

PART TWO : THAW AND PREPARE FOR QUICK GRILLING

1. **Remove fish from freezer** - Take the fish out of the freezer and fill your bag up with cold water and leave to thaw in the sink. Don't use hot water as the filets will become mushy and soft. If the filets are thin, they will often thaw in 5-15 minutes. Bigger filets might take 20-30 minutes. I

learned this from my fish from SizzleFish.com as this is their recommended procedure as well.

Remove fish from bag and pat dry - Take the fish out, check them for any missed bones and trim if necessary. Then lay the fish out and pat them dry.

Brush with fat of choice and spices - I've become fond of brushing my fish lightly with ghee from OMGHee. Ghee is clarified butter. I have also used extra-virgin olive oil, coconut oil and brown butter on rare occasions. After brushing with a clean fat, I will sprinkle a little spice on there with a pinch of pink sea salt.

4. **Place on heated grill for 4-8 minutes** - I generally cook my fish 2-4 minutes a side. I always use a new found love called a grill mat. It's basically a small thin layer of some magic material that allows you to put fish directly on the grill and simply flip them over with a spatula with no stick whatsoever. I'm telling you they cost hardly anything and you can cook everything on them and they let the grill sear marks come through.

Eat and Enjoy your fish - From the time I take the fish out of the freezer to the time I put it on my plate is usually about 30 minutes. Sometimes less. I will run to the fridge and take it out before dinner and then come back and put it all together and cook it in like 15 minutes. Quick, easy and so flakey fresh every time. Fish from 3 months ago tastes like it was caught today.

You seriously need to try storing and cooking fish this way. Stop wasting your hard work by storing and cooking too much at a time. If entertaining folks, just thaw out multiple bags at once. Still only takes 15 minutes usually. Just have lots of bags filling the sink full of cold water! And it stacks like cord wood in the freezer instead of big frozen concrete blocks.

2016 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: r.pellicot@yahoo.com

Secretary: Jim Lorditch

Phone: 443-277-5289

E-mail: secretary@mssafrederick.com

Treasurer: Jim Bremer

Phone: 301-728-7853

E-mail: jbremmer@fgmc.com

2016 Board of Directors

Jodie Ammerman (Membership Coordinator)

Phone: 240-723-0853

E-mail: JPAmmerman@aol.com

Chris Linetty - Phone: 301-988-1305

E-mail: retriever@myactv.net

Bob Pellicot - Phone: 301-606-6200

E-Mail: rpellicot@shockleyhonda.com

Fred Keene - Phone: 304-856-2596

E-mail: poppafred4@frontiernet.net

Walt Shaw - Phone: 301-662-4481

E-Mail: bub5635@comcast.net

Jeff Townsend - Phone: 410-903-9416

Email: kindjt@peoplepc.com

Neal Ammerman - Phone: 240-832-3671

E-mail: apishinika@aol.com

Chris Conway - Phone: 301-704-4196

E-mail: twitty044@yahoo.com

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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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	2-3	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	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, Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Indian River Inlet
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	10	- Frederick Chapter Crab Feast
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	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

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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