

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

Wow.....what a great time we all had at our annual dinner dance again this year. With close to 120 people in attendance, the place was packed, the music was great and there were more two footed fisherman in one room than you can imagine. It was a great pleasure to see our members and their families mingling while munching on steamed shrimp, crab dip and listening to the band. Afterwards, we were served with a great meal consisting of Prime rib (which was exceptionally good this year), fried chicken, salad and all the fixin's. For those of you that attended, we are sure you had a good time.

This is one of the events that the chapter really gives back to its members. Although, we do generate some monies on the 50/50 and prize raffle, a large portion of the overall expense is footed by our chapter. With prizes totalling more than \$3000, the band and the meal, our chapter supplemented well over \$5,000 for this dinner dance. So, if you chose not to attend, you certainly lost out on a huge benefit of being a chapter member.

There will still be an early bird signup at the meeting for our spring rockfish tournament. Slips are limited this year and going fast, so make sure you see Rob and get locked in for the tournament. Also, we will start signups for our annual flounder tournament out of Chincoteague in May this meeting. See Jodie to get an early entry bonus as well. We will discuss these tournaments a little more at the meeting.

Should be a great meeting and hope to see everyone there.

Fish Hard!

Next Meeting

Date: March 9, 2016

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Captain Jeff Eichler
from [Southpaw Charters](#) out
of Kentnorr

Vendor: Gary from [Spankin
Stripers](#)

Dinner Menu:

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Green Beans
Cole Slaw
Dessert

Attendance at February Meeting: 64

Raffle Winners:

Fishing Rod- Logan Harry
Smooove Products- Frank Molino
Penn Rod/ Reel Cleaner- Walt Shaw
Bust Em Baits/ Jig Heads- Ed Susa
Soundex Splash Box- Neal Ammerman
June Bug Lure- Stan Mordensky
Lure Bag- Mindy Lorditch

50/50 Raffle: Emory Connor

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

2016 Dinner Dance Raffle

Winners

Deluxe Meat Slicer- Rick Thompson
Fishing Rod Rack- Al Geisler
Bean Bag Chair- Brian Buckman
Smooove Products- Chris Linetty
Cargo Carrier- Kathy Pellicot
Ladies Rod n Reel Combo- Mindy
Lorditch
Shore Tackle \$50 Gift Certificates-
Paula Pellicot
Food Saver Vacuum Sealer- Paula
Pellicot
Beach Basket-Rose Woodley
Mariachi's Restaurant \$40- Ronny
Embley
Fish Fry Kit- Morgan Lawson
5 Star Rod/ Penn Reel Combo- Burt
Burton
VHF Marine 2 way radio- Walt Shaw
Lighthouse/ Sailboat Print- Cathy
Gunder
Bathoils Basket- Morgan Lawson
Offshore Rod, Okuma 50w Reel combo-
Rob Pellicot
Tile Fish Charter Trip- Jodie Ammerman
Spring Trophy Bag- Brian Joyner
1200' Trotline- Brian Joyner
Spring Trophy Rod/ Reel Combo- Chris
Linetty
Saltwater Sunglasses- Madyson
Fleming
Boat Rod / Reel Combo- Cathy Gunder
7 X 50 Binoculars- Rose Wiland
Striper Print- Phil Coblentz
Shipyards Tool Set- Barbara Scott
Offshore Lure Package- Rob Pellicot
Striper Rod\Reel Combo- Fred Keane
Maryland Basket- Stephanie Shaller
Flounder Bag- Frank Molino
Wine Basket- Brian Buckman

50/50- Steve Wolfrey

Fishing Reports

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview | March 02, 2016

Yellow perch have been on the minds of a lot of anglers for the past couple of weeks and when warm weather kicks in, that interest increases. Everyone enjoys getting out and spending some time near a favorite fishing spot to take a chance of being in the right spot at the right time. Yellow perch are being caught in a lot of areas lately, with most being males that are still green in the upper spawning locations. The larger females are holding in holes farther downstream since water temperatures in most tributaries of the middle and lower bay are holding in the low 40's. Warmer temperatures may entice the perch to get a little more serious about spawning since temperatures above 46° to about 54° is the spawning temperature range. A few facts shared with us from yellow perch biologist Paul Piavis are that the strong 2011 year class of yellow perch should be 10" or better this year. Paul also added that the 2013, 2014 and 2015 year classes were also strong and that it generally takes 3 years for a yellow perch to reach 9" in length.

Trying to adjust our own busy schedules with what the spawning yellow perch have in mind is always a challenge; making the famous words "you should have been here this morning or yesterday" an all too common greeting with fellow fishermen. Keep an eye on the weather, and remember that rain events tend to drive water temperatures down, and warm sunny days cause temperatures to rise. If one was to pick a tidal flow to fish; an early low flood tide is a good choice. Predictive tides can be found on the Fisheries Service web site. Keep in mind that the site listed may be downriver of the area you wish to fish, but an educated guess can put you close to the tide situation you are seeking. If you plan to sit on a 5 gallon bucket with a rod in a forked stick, then minnows or worms on a bottom rig are a good choice. For those with a little more energy, a minnow or small tube or plastic crappie jig under a bobber slowly worked across likely looking areas can pay off. This is also a good way to stir up the interests of any crappie that may be swimming in the general area. One of my favorites is to hook a minnow through the lips, place just enough split shot about 2' in front of the bait, and retrieve slowly along

the bottom. If some of your minnows happen to be too large or you have some chewed up and freshly dead minnows; diagonal cuts placed on a shad dart and worked slowly along the bottom can be just what the doctor ordered. This method of fishing is especially effective when the action is fast with a lot of throwbacks and conserving bait is a priority. There are reports of active yellow perch fishing coming in from the upper Patuxent at Route 4, the upper Wicomico off the Potomac River (Allen's Fresh), the upper Magothy, Middle River and the Bush at Route 40. On the eastern side of the bay, the upper Wicomico, Nanticoke, Choptank, Tuckahoe, Chester, Sassafras and all of their tributaries report steady action with more to come as temperatures warm. Many of these areas can be viewed on a yellow perch map we created in Google Maps showing [historical yellow perch landing locations](#). Mike Miller enjoyed a nice day in his kayak in the protected waters at Allen's Fresh while catching some yellow perch.

Yellow perch are holding in the lower Susquehanna in about 50' of water. There is a lot of water coming through the Conowingo Dam, which is causing turbid, cold and fast moving water conditions in the lower Susquehanna River. To fish these deeper areas it will take a substantial sinker with two dropper loops rigged with either small jigs or minnows to get the attention of the yellow perch holding there. Local fishing show dealers and tackle shops have been doing a brisk business lately as fishermen begin to think about the start of the spring trophy striped bass season in April. Large parachutes, bucktails and sassy shads are always in demand and now is the time to get one's gear in shape. The regulations for this year's spring season have been finalized. The spring season striped bass kicks off on April 16 in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Spring recreational fishing opportunities for striped bass will run from April 16 through May 15, with a catch limit of one fish per person, per day, 35 inches or larger.

The Chesapeake Bay summer striped bass season has also been finalized. Regulations for the bay and its tidal tributaries combined summer/fall season, running May 16 through Dec. 20, will remain the same as 2015. Anglers can keep two fish per day 20 inches or longer with only one being over 28 inches. (Size is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.) The strong 2011 year class of striped bass should provide plenty of opportunities when fishing on the bay this year since these fish will now be solidly in the mid 20's" size range.

A few boats have been slipping away from boat ramps and docks lately looking for a little catch and release striped bass action at the Calvert Cliffs Power Plant warm water

discharge. This is a light tackle jigging adventure as boats position into where the warm water boils up and drift away with the current. A few others have been exploring around the rock piles and bridge piers at the Bay Bridge looking for smaller school sized striped bass holding close to the bottom. This is also a vertical jigging proposition with a much more sluggish bite than a warm water discharge. Water temperatures in the bay are currently about 39°. After a quick picture these two striped bass were quickly released while fishing at the CCNPP discharge. You might notice the fish on the left has a small sea lamprey attached.

Large adult striped bass are moving up the bay and are beginning to move into the major spawning rivers. Water temperatures in the middle and lower bay spawning rivers are running about 40° or a little better so these fish will hunker down until water temperatures rise into the low 50's. Usually the males make up the vanguard of the annual spawning run; this can also be said for white and yellow perch runs as well. Perhaps impatience is a male trait in fish when it comes to this type of thing, since it certainly is in young humans.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown
26 Feb 2016

Anglers are facing slim fishing prospects right now. With seasonal closures, less than optimal availability of fishing opportunities, and even more fisheries management regulations up for consideration, folks are becoming disheartened. Hopes are high that the spring fishing season will bring better days.

With a limited selection of species to target inshore, most anglers will head to offshore wrecks in search of tautog during weather windows. Most boats are targeting mid-range wrecks, such as the Triangle Wreck area. Some decent fish weighing to over 20-pounds were boated from these areas lately. Be prepared to weed through tons of big seabass to obtain your limit of three tog per person at 16-inches, but be sure to release the seabass since they are out of season. With tog bait hard to come by, plan ahead to secure your bait. Clams, mussels, blue crabs, peelers, hermit crabs, green crabs, Jonah crabs, or stone crabs will work. Schools of big rockfish continue to roam 15 to 20 miles off the coast, well out of reach of boats. As these fish begin to head back into the Bay to spawn, anglers may intercept them for catch and release activity in the Bay for now, but most folks will not be interested.

With the poor speckled trout showing this season winter, most folks are not trying anymore.

Although the bluefin tuna passed us by, a few boats are still getting in on the action by making the long run to North Carolina. Captain Jake Hiles, Skipper of the 'Matador' out of Rudee Inlet, had a good day with two nice bluefin tuna last week.

Deep dropping is always a good this time of year when the weather allows boats to get to deeper water. Nice bluefin tilefish are still the staple species along the 50-fathom curve, with plenty of fish available weighing in over the 10-pound minimum for a state citation. Deeper areas along the Canyon edges are showing more activity with blackbellied rosefish and scattered golden tilefish. A variety of grouper and barrelfish are also a possibility, but dog fish are making fishing for these deep water species a challenge. A by-catch of black seabass is almost a given in these areas, but they are illegal to keep. Both metal jigs and squid or cut bait is working well.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: Feb. March 3, 2016

DELAWARE BAY Fishing along the shoreline and in the tidal creeks and rivers has produced white and yellow perch. The neds (yellows) are most likely to be caught in the creeks and rivers while the whites can be found in the bay as far south as Woodland Beach. Both will hit a variety of baits and lures including bloodworms, earthworms, small minnows, grass shrimp, jigs and spinners.

The occasional rockfish has been caught by perch fishermen, but these are most likely part of the winter holdover of small males..

INSHORE OCEAN The tog bite remains slow, but there have been some big fish taken. A case in point is the 15-pound, 4-ounce tog taken by Bob Murphy aboard the Rehoboth Star out of Indian River Inlet last Saturday. The fish was taken off of structure in 80 to 120 feet. With tackle shops closed when the boat returned to the dock it was kept alive overnight and weighed the next morning. After the weigh in the fish was released into Indian River Inlet.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Did have a report of the very occasional small rockfish on bucktails, but otherwise it will be another week or more before we can expect any reliable action.

SURF FISHING Surf casters were out last weekend, but they did not catch anything noteworthy. I did hear a rumor that someone is considering a skate tournament. More on this should it actually happen.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Striped Bass Season Opens April 16

The spring season for the state fish, striped bass, kicks off on April 16 in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Spring recreational fishing opportunities for striped bass, locally known as rockfish, will run from April 16 through May 15, with a catch limit of one fish per person, per day, 35 inches or larger.

"For Maryland anglers, the spring trophy rockfish season is more than just a new opportunity to fish," [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) Fisheries Service Director Dave Blazer said. "The season signals the beginning of spring and the return of milder temperatures, fresh seafood, and the chance to spend time with family and friends out on the water."

Regulations for the bay and its tidal tributaries combined summer/fall season, running May 16 through Dec. 20, will remain the same as 2015. Anglers can keep two fish per day 20 inches or longer with only one being over 28 inches. (Size is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.)

The current Atlantic Ocean and Maryland's coastal bays striped bass limit is one fish per day with a minimum length of 28 inches. The department is considering changes for the 2016 coastal season, available for review and comment on [its website](#).

Maryland reservoirs such as Liberty, Piney Run, Triadelphia, Conowingo, Broadford Lake, and Rocky Gorge are also open to fishing for striped bass year-round with an 18-inch minimum size, two fish per day possession limit, with only one of the two fish being longer than 30 inches.

Tips and Tricks

Bucktails, plugs and metal lures should be checked after every use, but most of us don't do that. I do try to hang my lures out in the air after every use, but then I forget them at the end of the day and they end up rusted to my boat or, at the very least, leaving a rusty mark on the seats.

I always give the boat a thorough cleaning at the end of the season and any rusted lures or hooks I find end up in a pile to be cleaned at a later date. That date is here. The first thing to do is examine all the hooks to see if they are salvageable. Some will be so badly rusted the only fix is a replacement. Others may be saved with a good bath in WD-40 then remove the rust

with a scrub pad. Unfortunately, bucktails with bad hooks have to be tossed, unless you pour your own and then they can be reused.

Hooks on plugs, spinners and metal lures can be replaced. Use stainless steel split rings to attach the replacement hooks. I also change out freshwater hooks on small plugs meant for largemouth bass with saltwater ones and once again I use stainless steel split rings. I have found increasing the size of the treble by one or two does not adversely affect the plug's action. The larger hook will hold up better when fighting fish such as rockfish and blues.

Metal lures may need a bit of polish to restore their shine. I use any metal polish I have handy.

Once everything is restored to new put the lures in plastic boxes and give them a spray of WD-40. In my experience the oil won't harm the lures and it will prevent them from rusting.

***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

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