

# 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

Our chapter has begun its annual schedule of in-house tournaments with last weeks Spring Rockfish Tournament out of Solomon's Island. As usual, this was a great opportunity for our guys to have a little competitive fun doing what we love to do best. It seems that the bite was slow on occasion, but seems many caught some nice fish. The board of our chapter has worked diligently make this an event where each participant has the opportunity to win a few bucks by adding daily winners, a Calcutta winner, overall winner and raffle winners. Looking at the standings, it appears this has been accomplished, as, we have quite a few members who were in the money. Congratulations go out to everyone that was skilled enough to put a winning fish in the box. Payouts will be at this meeting and remember that each winner Captain and/or a representative of their crew must be in attendance to receive their awards. We will not be mailing out any checks.

Our annual flounder tournament is just around the corner as well. It looks like we will have a record attendance and boats participating this year. This is the last meeting to sign up for this great three day event. Rumor has it the flounder have started to arrive in numbers. The fishing should be great. As always, the friendship, memories and camaraderie of this tournament is something that all of us should experience.

Again, we need to remind you that this will be my last year of Presidency of this fine chapter. Along with the help of some of you and especially our Board of Directors, we have been able to make this chapter enjoyable with all of the events. In order for the chapter to remain as active as it has become, it's time that all of you step up to the plate and take some roll in maintaining the activities. Although, many are willing to contribute, many do little to support the needs of the entire group. I can only hope that each of you realize the benefits the chapter has provided over the years and decide that you are willing to keep this machine running.

Fish Hard!  
Ed

## Next Meeting

**Date: May 11, 2015**

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker: Whit Holden will be speaking about Cobia fishing in the Virginia Beach area.**

**Vendor: Mark Wolf from Wolf Custom Jigs**

<https://www.facebook.com/WolfCustomJigs/>

### **Dinner Menu:**

Fried Chicken  
Mashed potatoes  
Stuffing  
Gravy  
Green beans  
Salad  
Dessert

**Attendance at July Meeting: 77**

### **Raffle Winners:**

Rod/ Reel Combo: Bill Dickerson  
Curly Tail Lures: Eddie Schulze  
Lure Bag: Charlie Appleby  
Tsunami Lures: Damon Catlin  
Mini Scissors: Ervin Hare  
Striper Lures: Neal Ammerman  
BassPro Lure bag: Ed Susa  
Sunglasses: Mindy Lorditch  
Spoon Lure: Craig Abshire  
Rod Holders: Frank Molino

**50/50 Raffle: Zach Ridgely \$131**

### **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

Post-spawn stripers are streaming out of the Chesapeake Bay. The big stripers are making a turn to the North and should be arriving off our coast soon. Surfcasters are finding a few stripers, black drum and big bluefish scattered from Assateague to Cape Henlopen. Tog fishermen had a decent week with keepers and shorts coming from the Route 50 bridge, the 2nd-4th street bulkhead and the North Ocean City jetty. The offshore Tog fishing has been good when the weather allows you to go. We need some warm and sunny days to get the flounder going.

### **Maryland DNR Fishing Report**

#### **Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview**

The water flows coming through the Conowingo Dam have been fluctuating for the past couple of weeks, with very low flows at times. After Monday night's heavy downpours and forecasts for additional rain this week, that may change. There could be considerable amounts of stained and cold water coming through the dam's gates. The predicted cool weather combined with cold water may knock back the hickory shad fishery in the lower Susquehanna and Deer Creek this week. Earlier this week water temperatures were about 60° in the lower river, and time will tell how this fishery develops.

The striped bass catch and release fishery near the Susquehanna Flats has undergone some changes in the past week. There are still some larger striped bass to be caught but the fishery now is mostly dominated by striped bass less than 30" in length. The really good news is that there are lots of them and it is not uncommon for fishermen to catch and release fish in the high double digit category. Topwater lures, suspended

jerkbaits, spoons and soft plastic jigs are all good baits to use when casting. Water temperatures around the Susquehanna Flats area have varied from 59° to 63° earlier this week.

The upper bay trophy striped bass fishery has fallen back to what might be best described as a slow pick after last week's excellent catches. There are still some large striped bass making their way down from the Susquehanna Flats area so there are some large fish to be caught in the upper bay region. If one is trolling in the upper bay; the Triple Buoys, Love Point and Dumping Grounds are the channel edges to be working with 8 ounce bucktails dressed with sassy shads in chartreuse or white. Many are seeing better results when trolling tandem lures deeper behind heavy inline weights or planers this week rather than higher in the water column off planer boards. Water temperatures in the upper bay are about 60° this week.

Trolling along the shipping channel edges in about 30' to 90' tends to be the name of the game this week in the middle bay region. A lot of fish are coming off of deeper lines that are being trolled behind planers or inline weights to get 8 ounce bucktails and parachutes down to 25" or more. All are of course dressed with sassy shads and due to water clarity and bright sun white had been a popular choice. Cloudy weather will prevail much of this week so chartreuse may very well edge out white for productivity this week. Everyone is noting a lot of bait on their depth finders and "menhaden is what's for dinner" so spoons can be a great option for trolling also. The steeper channel edges tend to sweep these schools of bait along and large striped bass have no difficulty navigating these currents so that is the best place to troll. No one likes to swim against strong currents so if large striped bass are moving south; a falling tide might be a good option. Nine year old Ryley McCardell got to go fishing with his dad on a charter boat out of Chesapeake Beach and was able to wrestle in this 40.5" striped bass; his personal best to date.

There is a little bit of spawning going on in the spawning rivers by late comers to the annual party but it is over for the most part for any of the larger striped bass who know what they are doing. Last week catches in the middle and lower bay were exceptional for large striped bass and with a little luck that will continue into the following week as more fish pour out of the rivers and into the bay. The western edge of the shipping channel from Thomas Point south to below the power plant has been an excellent place to troll as well as Bloody Point Light, Buoy 83, the False Channel, RN2 off the Little Choptank and the inside edge of the CP Buoy off Taylor's Island. Grass in the form

of Ulva lactuca continues to foul lines this week and if a big striped bass is your goal you are urged to keep things hopping in the cockpit and check those lines frequently because big striped bass are not vegetarians looking for salad. Adult menhaden is what is on the menu for these large fish that are hungry after the laborious job of procreating.

The "happy times" continue this week after last week's absolutely amazing successful trolling action in the lower bay region. There should be continued action this week along the western edge of the shipping channel above and below Cove Point, Point Lookout, the lower Potomac, Buoy 72, the HS Buoy and the Middle grounds. All of these locations are great producers of large striped bass cruising along in the swift currents caused by these edges. A lot of bait in the form of menhaden is being spotted on depth finders in these areas and eating is surely on the minds of these big striped bass since they have hardly eaten since ascending the spawning rivers in March. White bucktails and parachutes dressed with sassy shads has been a top producer for the past week or so but of course no one in their right mind would leave chartreuse colored offerings out of a trolling spread. Also, many captains are seeing baits sent deeper on heavy inline weights and planers producing, so it is a good idea to cover various water depths. All onboard are also urged to not sit by for hours wondering "why don't those fish bite"? One needs to check lines often for fouling sea weed that has a habit of blowing along in the swift current formed by the steep channel edges where everyone is trolling.

Although everyone is focused on striped bass right now; there are some who are anxious to hear when our little buddies the croaker or hardhead might be showing up in the lower bay region. The first croakers of the season can be counted on to show up in the Point Lookout area and the lower Potomac. There have been some rumors but the first was checked in at a local tackle shop in Lexington Park earlier this week. In another couple of weeks croaker fishing should begin to develop in the lower bay and Potomac River areas. In the mean time there has been excellent blue catfish action at the mouth of the Wicomico River at Bushwood Wharf for shore bound anglers and of course out in the mouth of the river and general area for small boat anglers. Fresh cut bait such as menhaden is the ticket to filling a cooler with some hard fighting catfish and tasty meals.

In the central, eastern and southern regions of Maryland; female largemouth bass are moving up into the shallower

spawning areas and selecting spawning nest sites that the males have made for them. A variety of soft plastics are good choices for fishing the shallows as are topwater lures. In many of these shallow areas in tidal waters northern snakeheads have the same spawning aspirations and can be found near thick grass. Noisy lures such as chatterbaits and buzzbaits as well as other topwater lures will get their attention.

At the Ocean City beaches, surf casters are catching some large bluefish on finger mullet and cut menhaden baits along with a few black drum and striped bass. There are also northern puffers or blowfish in the surf to be caught by those using smaller baits and hooks. Most of the striped bass being caught are falling short of the minimum 28" and the northern migration of large striped bass exiting the Chesapeake Bay will be more apparent in another week or so.

Tautog are being caught at the inlet, with the south jetty being the most productive, The Route 50 Bridge and the bulkhead from 2nd to 4th Street are also popular places to fish for tautog. Sand fleas and pieces of crab are good baits to use and slack ebb tends to be one of the better times to fish. Water temperatures are still in the mid-50's, so no one is expecting a flounder invasion any time soon, but a few have been caught.

Offshore the fishing for tautog at the wreck and reef sites has been very good with limit catches being common. Everyone is looking forward to the recreational sea bass season opening on May 15th. Water temperatures are rising and the summer months are not too far away; before anyone knows it, Memorial Day Weekend will be here. The summer months bring other visitors here besides fish. Sea turtles, dolphin and whales frequent the waters in and around Ocean City. The Maryland DNR has a marine mammal stranding program to deal with sick, injured or dead sea turtles and marine mammals.

## **Virginia Beach Action**

06 May 2016

With breezy weather making access to the evolving spring fishery a challenge, anglers are taking advantage of weather windows when they can.

The biggest new interest is the emerging drum scene, which is motivating many anglers to gather crabs and head for the Eastern Shore shoals during calm spells. Red drum are still providing some decent action among the shoals and sloughs near Smith and Fisherman's Island, and this activity should continue to improve over the next weeks as we approach the next full moon.

The best action is still happening among the surf and breakers, where some nice rockfish are also mixed in. The black drum bite is also shaping up, with a few big fish showing up this week, but most blacks are still ranging under 36-inches. The best local black drum action is occurring along the Eastern Shore seaside inlets, surf, and near buoys 13 and 16 on the Bayside. This trend will also continue to heat up over the next few weeks, and larger fish will become more common.

Some folks are taking advantage of the Bay's Spring Trophy Striped Bass season. Anglers working top water lures along the rocks at the islands of the CBBT are content with some rockfish exceeding 36-inches. Storm lures cast around the pilings of the CBBT is also working well. Be sure to check these regulations carefully.

Anglers fishing from the **Ocean View Fishing Pier** are still enjoying good catches of medium-sized croaker and small spot, with scattered sea mullet also providing some diversity. Blood worms are working best for everything right now. Surf and pier anglers are also finding good luck with spot and croaker from the shorelines off Ocean View and Little Creek, as well as Buckroe.

Good numbers of keeper flounder are coming from the Eastern Shore seaside inlets and the back waters of Oyster, while a few flatfish are also coming from within both Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets. The lower Bay flounder fishery will pick up once the water temperature stabilizes.

Anglers are still catching some speckled trout, healthy puppy drum and nice bluefish to over five-pounds in Rudee Inlet and along the ocean front, where some early season Spanish mackerel also showed this week.

Tautog are still very active on lower Bay and inshore structures, but now these fish are only available for catch and release until September. Big seabass are available on these same structures, and you can begin catching them again on the 15th of the month. Look for sheepshead to become active in a few weeks.

Blueline tilefish ranging up to 16-pounds, wreckfish, and other deep water species are still available in deeper water over 50 fathoms when the weather allows boats to reach them. The upcoming opening of seabass season on May 15th has many anglers excited about making the run. You can keep up to fifteen black seabass at 12.5-inches.

<http://www.drjball.com>

## Delaware Fishing Report

**Updated: May 5, 2016**

**DELAWARE BAY** Rockfish action in the Upper Bay saw a good bump last week with fish up to 30 pounds taken from shore and from boats. Cut, fresh bunker was the best bait with bloodworms a distant second.

The shoreline at Governor Bacon Medical Center produced some nice rock as did the pier at Woodland Beach. Most of the regular hot spots from the Yellow and Red cans to the Bull Pen on down to the channel edge from the Power Plant to Blake's Channel had decent numbers of keeper-sized rockfish for boaters who chummed with fresh bunker.

Big catfish have been caught from shore by anglers soaking bunker for rockfish. The tidal creeks and rivers also saw big cats on bloodworms, bunker and chicken livers.

Reef sites 6 and 7 produced limits of tog as did the Outer Wall. Reef sites further up the bay also saw some tog action, but not as good as the Lower Bay reef sites. Green crabs and shrimp have been the most popular baits.

The occasional black drum has been caught from the beach at Broadkill. The lack of action is more a result of the weather that has kept most anglers someplace warm and dry. Expect the drum bite to improve as the conditions get more like spring than winter. Boaters should encounter big boomers off of Broadkill Beach and from the Coral Beds out of Mispillion Inlet. Fresh clam is the prime drum bait.

At least one big bluefish was caught from Lewes Beach. It weighed 17 pounds and hit an Atom Striper Swiper.

**INSHORE OCEAN** In spite of the nasty weather one boat made it out to Site 10 and found the tog waiting and willing to bite. This weekend promises much better weather and perhaps more anglers will be able to get out of Indian River Inlet. Tog season closes on May 11, so this will be the last shot until July 17. Black sea bass opens on May 15 with a 12.5-inch minimum size and a 15 fish per day bag limit.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** Blues to 12 pounds have been caught on bucktails, but most of the fish are in the five to six-

pound class. Small rockfish have been taken along with the blues.

A few tog have been caught out of the rocks on sand fleas and green crab. With the tog season winding down I don't expect much change.

So far, flounder season has not produced many fish in the back bays. We need warm, clear water and that has not been the case so far this spring. I keep saying wait till next week, but this time I do think we will see better weather and more flounder when spring finally arrives next week.

**SURF FISHING** We are seeing a steady pick of keeper rockfish and big blues from Herring Point to Three Rs Road. The number of bluefish has not approached the spectacular run of 2015, but is more in line with a normal year. Cut bunker has been the top bait for both species. I would suggest fishing very early or very late in the day as this seems to be the time when the fish are more likely to move into shallow water.

The occasional king and blowfish have been caught on bloodworms. With most surf fishermen baiting up for big rockfish and blues I suspect there will be more kings and blowfish caught once they become the only target species.

By Eric Burnley Sr. from Delaware DNR Page

## DNR in the News

### **53,000 Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Mapped in Maryland**

April 28, 2016  
**Record Grass Abundance Indicates Progress on Bay Restoration and Improved Water Quality**



Widgeon grass in clear mid bay water

The [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) reported today that underwater grass abundance – a key indicator of water quality – in the state's portion of the

Chesapeake Bay increased 29 percent between 2014 and 2015, reaching a new record of 53,277 acres. This puts Maryland at nearly 94 percent of its 2017 restoration goal of 57,000 acres.

In Maryland, five bay rivers surpassed their restoration goals last year. These included the upper and middle Chester River, the Elk River, the Bush River, Fishing Bay, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Additionally, several rivers witnessed record grass growth, including the upper Chester River, the middle Choptank River, the Big Annemessex River, the Manokin River, Tangier Sound and Middle River.

"The record resilience and resurgence of underwater grasses indicate that Maryland is making progress on Chesapeake Bay restoration and improving water quality in the watershed." Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "These grasses are essential to a healthy ecosystem; they absorb and filter out nutrients and sediment, reduce shoreline erosion, provide protection for species like the blue crab and largemouth bass, and support and sustain migrating waterfowl."



Wild celery in clear Susquehanna Flats water

The rise in underwater grasses is attributed not only to an expansion of widgeon grass – characterized as a boom-or-bust plant – in portions of the mid-bay but to a variety of freshwater grasses, like wild celery, that grow in the upper and fresher portions of the bay. Maryland’s biggest and most iconic underwater grass bed, located in the Susquehanna Flats, has been steadily recovering since 2011, and reached over 5,200 acres in 2015, showcasing the bed’s resilience.

Water monitoring results for the Eastern Shore indicate long-term improvements in clarity as a result of reduced nutrients and sediments. When in excess, nutrients fuel algal growth and reduce the amount of sunlight available for underwater grass growth. Bay grasses in this region responded to the improving water conditions for the fourth year in a row and are continuing to provide increased habitat for Maryland’s State Crustacean, the blue crab.

The annual underwater grass aerial survey was conducted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science between May and November 2015.

**Tips and Tricks**

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS** There was recent news that the boat two Florida teenage boys put out to sea in has been found off the coast of Bermuda. The boys have never been found, but a cell phone was discovered in the boat.

I can only hope that the phone was not the only form of communication they had on board, but I expect it was. In today’s world, cell phones are often viewed as the only thing you need to talk with everyone. Unfortunately, they don’t work to well when you are too far offshore to reach a cell tower.

I don’t care if you never leave Delaware Bay, you must have a marine VHF radio on your boat. It is your direct link to help should something go wrong. While most problems involve a motor that won’t start, there are more serious events that can put you or a passenger at risk.

More than once I have monitored VHF calls for help because someone on a boat was injured or having a serious health issue. Sure, you call always dial 911, but who do you think the dispatcher is going to call? - That’s right, the Coast Guard. Putting your VHF radio on Channel 16 and calling for help will save time and could save a life.

Anyone who travels offshore without an EPIRB is taking a terrible risk. We all know how fast things can go wrong on a boat and while you may have time to put out a MAYDAY call, once you are in the water or on a life raft the EPIRB is going to keep broadcasting your position to rescuers. Newer VHF radios can give out your position when you make a call, but when they stop working you are going to need the EPIRB.

The ocean can be a very cold and lonely place when you are waiting for a rescue, make it easier for the Coast Guard to find you by always having the proper radio equipment.

*\*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.*

**2015 Chapter Officers**

- President: Ed Susa  
Phone: 301-253-5597  
E-mail: [esus99@yahoo.com](mailto:esus99@yahoo.com)
- Senior Vice President: Rob Pellicot  
Phone: 301-606-0392  
E-mail: [r.pellicot@yahoo.com](mailto:r.pellicot@yahoo.com)
- Secretary: Jim Lorditch  
Phone: 443-277-5289  
E-mail: [secretary@mssafrederick.com](mailto:secretary@mssafrederick.com)
- Treasurer: Jim Bremer  
Phone: 301-728-7853  
E-mail: [jbremner@fgmc.com](mailto:jbremner@fgmc.com)

**2015 Board of Directors**

- Jodie Ammerman (Membership Coordinator)  
Phone: 240-723-0853  
E-mail: [JPAmmerman@aol.com](mailto:JPAmmerman@aol.com)
- Chris Linetty - Phone: 301-988-1305  
E-mail: [retriever@myactv.net](mailto:retriever@myactv.net)
- Bob Pellicot - Phone: 301-606-6200  
E-Mail: [rpellicot@shockleyhonda.com](mailto:rpellicot@shockleyhonda.com)
- Fred Keene - Phone: 304-856-2596  
E-mail: [poppafred4@frontiernet.net](mailto:poppafred4@frontiernet.net)
- Walt Shaw - Phone: 301-662-4481  
E-Mail: [bub5635@comcast.net](mailto:bub5635@comcast.net)
- Jeff Townsend - Phone: 410-903-9416  
Email: [kindit@peoplepc.com](mailto:kindit@peoplepc.com)
- Neal Ammerman - Phone: 240-832-3671  
E-mail: [apishinika@aol.com](mailto:apishinika@aol.com)
- Chris Conway - Phone: 301-704-4196  
E-mail: [twitty044@yahoo.com](mailto:twitty044@yahoo.com)

## FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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