

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 sometimes think that when summer comes to an end, it's the end of the world. However, that's the furthest from the truth. Fall will be settling in and the fishing should start to heat up. Soon, the fish in our area will start to school up and we will see some of the best fishing of the year get started. The MSSA's flounder tournament is next weekend and the flounder fishing at some of the area wrecks have been off the charts with some flatties topping out close to eight pounds. So if you are looking to win some decent money, payouts could exceed \$10,000. To sign up and see the rules on line, you can visit the mains website @ www.mssa.net. Just a note too, crabbing has also been off the charts with huge male crabs in most all the creeks and rivers along the bay.

Speaking of crabs, this past weekend we had our annual crab feast at Urbana Park. The chapter volunteers steamed up 9 bushels of nice blue claw crabs for everyone to chow down on. And chow down we did. Neal and Jodie smoked up close to 60 lbs. of chicken, man was that good! We had hand cooked fries, corn on the cob, mac salad and many brought some great desserts. Of course, we washed all this down with some cools suds. Many lucky people walked away with a great prize they won and some lucky dawwwggg won \$335 in the 50/50. It was evident that by the full bellies and the smiles that we all had a real good time. A **BIG BIG** thanks to ALL OF YOU that pitched in to cook crabs, fries & chicken, set up, clean up and do anything needed to make this such a huge success. Thanks..... and thanks to all of those that attended.

In a couple of weeks, many of our members will be heading to our annual week long, "Tackle the Mackerel" tournament in Harker's Island, NC. This is truly a special event for many reasons and if you've never participated, it's really hard to explain all the fun we have during this week. Everyone who loves to fish should really try to make it one year and without a doubt you won't miss another. This is the last meeting to sign up. Wayne Hoffman from Catch All Tackle will be there with some rigs and tips for catching

those prize winning mackerel. See you all there!

Fish Hard !

Ed

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2016
Food Service begins at 6:15 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Chris Linetty and
John "Crabby" Travers

Vendor: Wayne from Catch-All
Tackle

Dinner Menu:

Sliced Ham
Mac N Cheese
Baked Beans
Apple Sauce
Salad
Dessert

Attendance at July Meeting: 38

Raffle Winners:

Trolling Rod- Rob Pellicot
Tsunami Swim Baits- Chris Hafer
Gander Mtn Bag- Tony Tolbard
Hat/ Sunglasses- Bobby Lowery
Spankin Striper Lures- Chris Linetty
Fillet Kit- Ed Susa
Offshore Lure- Jim Bremer

50/50 Raffle:
\$94 Matt Lacey

**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

September 7, 2016

There is an old saying among outdoor adventurers and a good motto for all: "prepare for the worst and enjoy the best". Those words rung true this past weekend as Hermine passed by our coastal areas with little more than wind, choppy sea conditions, higher than normal tides and for Ocean City some rain on Saturday. The best part of this was the cooler temperatures that brought down water temperatures throughout Maryland. If fish can smile they surely are in relief this week.

Fishing for striped bass near the mouth of the Susquehanna and Elk Rivers is steadily improving near the outside edges of the flats. Water temperatures are slowly falling but the fishing there is still an early morning, late evening affair with topwater lures. Although a good portion of the striped bass are falling short of 20 inches, there are enough larger fish to keep everyone happy. Farther down the upper bay region striped bass are being found chasing schools of bay anchovies and providing some fun fishing for those casting to the surface action or jigging below. Most of the fish being encountered are undersized but there are fish over 20" being found mixed in. There has also been similar action in the mouths of some of the region's major tidal rivers. Trolling has been another option and most are pulling small spoons and bucktails or umbrella rigs down deep along channel edges. Chumming and live lining spot and white perch continues to be productive near Love Point and Swan Point. Mike Genco was fishing near Pooles Island when he got a surprise with this black drum which he released.



Photo courtesy of Mike Genco

The Bay Bridge piers and rock piles have been providing striped bass action for those live lining spot near the deeper piers. Others have been having good success with jigging bucktails and soft plastics. Pesky small bluefish have been rough on soft plastics. White perch fishing has been very good in the upper Bay's tidal rivers and creeks this week with some of the better catches being made with bloodworm baits in deeper waters. Spot are being caught on hard bottom in some of the shallower areas and near the shallow ends of the bay bridge. In the middle bay region all the news is about falling water temperatures and breaking fish. The surface water temperatures have dropped about 10° in the past week and despite another pulse of hot weather this week, water temperatures should continue to stay below 80°. Breaking fish composed of various sizes of striped bass, Spanish mackerel and small bluefish are being seen throughout the middle bay region. The mouth of Eastern Bay, off Chesapeake Beach, the mouth of the Choptank and Little Choptank have been common places to encounter this deadly trio making life tough for bay anchovies and small menhaden. Casting to the breaking fish or jigging underneath is always fun and it also pays to keep a sharp lookout for slicks that can indicate there is mayhem occurring beneath the surface or there was some recent action. Depth finders have great value this time of the year and definitely earn their keep. Trolling has been a good option and most are trolling a collection of small spoons, surge tube lures and bucktails. Surge tube lures and bucktails are generally being pulled behind inline weights and small spoons behind planers for a mix of striped bass, bluefish and Spanish mackerel. Large red drum are in the region and it pays to put out at least one large spoon in a trolling spread. Live lining spot has been center stage for those seeking a nice grade of striped bass along channel edges from Dolly's south to Breezy Point and near the False Channel at

the mouth of the Choptank. More than a few live liners have been getting a little more than they bargained for when large red drum pick up a live spot and take off for parts unknown. Fishermen have been watching in disbelief as line vanishes off reels and they are left with an empty spool. Kevin Lengerhuis holds up a nice striped bass he caught while live lining recently.



Photo courtesy of Gary Lengerhuis NICE FISH KEVIN!

As of late last week the shallow water striped bass fishery in the middle bay region was a bit lackluster to say the least due to high water temperatures. In many areas the waters were also churned up from large gatherings of recently pupped juvenile cow-nosed rays rooting up the shallows and causing a lot of floating grass. As if to add insult to the whole scene stable flies have been out in force hammering away at ankles and driving the most peaceful anglers into madness. I'm not sure how much longer these pests will be around but if you're going out, don't forget the bug spray. White perch fishing has been improving along shoreline structure areas as water temperatures drop and the best catches have been coming from some of the deeper water areas. Casting off a dock or pier with a simple bottom rig baited with bloodworms or grass shrimp has been paying off with some nice perch. If your dock or pier is extensive and over deep water, don't cast out but fish directly below close to the pilings. That is where the perch will be. There has been some limited croaker fishing in the evenings near channel edges out in the bay but generally it is nothing to write home about. The croakers are about 10" to 11" in size and the fishing is fair at best. The lower bay region continues to have some exciting big game fish action as large red drum and cobia provide some of the most exciting fishing to be found in Maryland waters. The red drum are big with some being reported to be over 50 lbs. or more, They are being caught by trolling large spoons or by casting large spoons or soft plastic jigs to schools of red drum feeding on menhaden. At times the red drum are pushing the menhaden to the surface which makes for a very exciting scene. The area around the Target Ship and the Mud Leads tend to be ground zero but feeding red drum can be spotted most anywhere on the eastern side of the bay. This is of course a catch and release fishery only so be

prepared ahead of time with cameras and a routine to get the fish released as quickly as possible.

Cobia fishing remains great from the middle Grounds/ Buoy 70 area up past the Target Ship. The most common way to fish for cobia has been to chum and drift menhaden baits back into the chum slick. Bluefish and the occasional striped bass have also been part of the mix.

Breaking fish are being spotted throughout the lower bay region from the Potomac to Tangier Sound. The action tends to be made up of striped bass mostly under 20", bluefish and Spanish mackerel. Bay anchovies tend to be "what's for dinner" with this group but small menhaden can get caught up in the carnage also. Casting spoons or jigging underneath are the most common ways to fish but trolling along the outside edges of the action can also pay off.

Bottom fishing in the lower bay region for a mix of large spot, medium-sized croakers, white perch along with small bluefish and sea trout has been very good. The lower Patuxent and Potomac have been offering some of the best opportunities but the Tangier and Pocomoke Sound area has also been offering good fishing.

Recreational crabbing continues to be very good in most areas in the bay's tidal rivers and creeks. In the upper bay regions there are good reports from the Gunpowder, Chester and Magothy Rivers. The middle bay region has been offering excellent crabbing with some of the largest crabs coming from deeper waters and razor clams continue to be the bait of choice for the best catches. Unfortunately small crabs and sooks are chewing up clam bags and for that reason chicken necks are beginning to gain favor. In the lower bay region it is almost impossible to find any tidal river or creek that is not offering outstanding crabbing opportunities this week.



Photo courtesy of Jim Livingston

Before we get into the freshwater fishing reports, here is an update on Bay water conditions from the DNR water quality monitoring team. This information will help to point you in the right direction for locating striped bass in the Bay. (Hint: surface water temperatures are cooling off which means that fish will start to spread out over a wider area).

Striped Bass water quality update
Based on the latest Maryland DNR water monitoring data collected August 29 - 31, 2016 there are still large areas of mid-bay deep water habitat (deeper than 25 feet) with oxygen conditions unsuitable for Striped Bass.

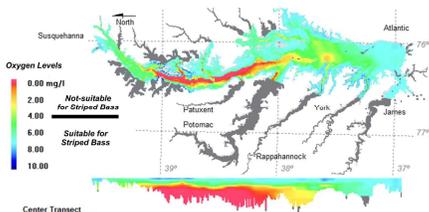
While surface water temperatures are still warm for striped bass, they are well mixed and have cooled to 80 F at the Susquehanna down to the 77 F waters from the Patapsco down to the Potomac River, providing Striped Bass with more areas within their temperature range. Real-time Chesapeake Bay surface water temperatures are available measured at NOAA's buoybay.noaa.gov website.

Note: Data for the map is collected by both Maryland and Virginia monitoring teams and funded by both States and also EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program.

Finding early September Striped Bass in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Last report suggested anglers explore the Chesapeake Bay bridge area from Rock Hall down to the Choptank River, at depths shallower than 25 feet, including surface waters. However, with the 5 degree drop in water temperature, the range up and down Bay will likely expand. Continue to focus on depths shallower than 25 feet deep. The best fishing areas could be further refined by intersecting these prime areas with underwater points, drop-offs, large schools of baitfish and moving water. These patterns will continue until there are major changes in weather such as high sustained winds, long periods of cool weather or rain.

Striped Bass Fishing Hotspots

Areas with suitable oxygen for Striped Bass
August 29 - 31, 2016



Courtesy of Maryland DNR
Cooler weather means cooler water temperatures for freshwater fish species and with those cooler water temperatures comes increased fish activity. The early morning bite will start to last longer into the mid-morning hours and the evening action will start early.

At popular resort areas like Deep Creek Lake the lake will start to become more civilized as summer vacationers begin to haul boats out for long term storage and peace one again returns to the lakes waters. Shoreline waters will show less staining from boat wakes and boat traffic in general will lessen. Smallmouth bass are being found over rocky points and near some of the floating docks

over deeper water. Largemouth bass are near grass and shoreline structure such as fallen treetops and floating docks. Yellow perch and walleye are holding near deep grass and northern pike and chain pickerel are in the cove areas.

The upper Potomac River continues to be running low and clear this week and water temperatures are quickly dropping due to cool morning temperatures. Smallmouth bass fishing is getting better but conditions make for some stealthy fishing mandates. Largemouth bass will start to feel increased desires to feed with cooler water temperatures and the fishing is only going to get better as the month proceeds.

The weekend's blow and churned up waters tended to put a hamper on the fishing in the Ocean City area early this week but conditions will improve and as is often the case a stir like this only improves fishing in the long run. The surf has already calmed down and fishing for a mix of kingfish, croaker, flounder and small bluefish will improve. The annual migration of mullet will be arriving soon and that usually puts the striped bass, red drum and bluefish activity in high gear.

At the inlet and Route 50 Bridge are look for better fishing as water clarity improves this week. The back bay areas are in the same situation with water clarity improving each day. Only a few boats have ventured out the inlet this week because of choppy conditions but those that did returned with great catches of yellowfin tuna from the Washington Canyon area. Traditionally white marlin fishing will be at its peak in the next two weeks and a mix of dolphin, wahoo and bigeye tuna will help round out catches.

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown - Labor Day Report
02 September 2016

The first tropical event of the season is heading our way, making the 'last hurrah' for the summer season a huge flop. But before the storm, the fishing scene was still on a roll. A few things could change once Tropical Storm Hermine leaves his mark.

Cobia were out of control as the season came to a close this week in local waters, with many big fish making the end of the season a memorable one. Boats sported multiple catches, with many of the fish pushing to over 60-pounds. The cobia will continue their early fall patterns as they prepare to leave the area, which still offers opportunities for catch-and-release

enthusiasts. Sight casters will likely shift more interest to the schools of big red drum still roaming the lower Bay shoals and along the ocean front.

Flounder will take a hit inshore after the storm until the dirty water clears. Flatfish will begin to assemble along channel edges, shoals, and around the CBBT as they prepare to exit the Bay. Drifters can find luck along Cape Henry, the Baltimore Channel, and near buoy 36A. The best flounder action continues to come from the inshore and offshore wrecks, where some nicer fish are available if you can find the right structure. Fresh strip bait and live bait are working well lately. Big trigger fish and some nice seabass are also hitting on many of these same wrecks, with squid getting the nod as the top bait. Anglers are also encountering schools of bailer-sized dolphin while wreck fishing or trolling in these areas, especially between the Chesapeake Light Tower and the Triangle Wrecks.

Sheepshead are still going strong as anglers entice big fish from the pilings and all four tubes of the CBBT this week. This action will resume once anglers can reach them after the water settles, but the bite will begin winding down for the season soon.

King mackerel action has been good this season, with more smokers boated this week off the ocean front. September and October are historically good months for kings, so this trend could continue to improve. Spanish mackerel are still providing action within the Bay and along the ocean front, along with some false albacore and small bluefish.

Backwater anglers are finding good numbers of speckled trout and puppy drum in lower Bay shallows, especially in Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets, the Poquoson flats, and Hungars creek. One angler reported a good outing, with nine specks in the 3-pound class range while fishing in Hungars creek with live bait this week.

Decent sized spot are around, and the action will likely heat up with the blow this weekend, especially off Little Creek, Willoughby, Buckroe, and the lower Bay inlets. Croaker are hitting near all four islands of the CBBT, the skinny waters of the Eastern Shore, and off Cape Henry. The hardhead action out of Oyster improved last week, but the cooling trend may put an end to this bite. Tarpon activity on the Shore is likely done for the year as a result of the storm.

The Chesapeake Light Tower can offer a chance at an amberjack, or maybe a jack crevelle this time of year, but there are no reports as of yet. The Southern Towers and

some coastal wrecks are also still harboring schools of big AJ's. Deep droppers are still catching limits of nice blueline tilefish, some golden tilefish, blackbellied rosefish, with jumbo seabass mixed in, but most folks are focusing on the escalating billfish bite lately.

Offshore, billfish are still at the top of the list as white marlin releases continue to improve this week. Blue marlin, sailfish, spearfish, and even swordfish offer bluewater trollers a little more variety, and a shot at a grand slam. One boat even reported releasing one of each local billfish species for a very rare fantasy slam this week. Bigeye tuna are still around, along with some yellowfin tuna. Some big wahoo and big gaffer dolphin are also a good consolation prize.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

AFTER THE STORM The region has had a pretty rough time with tropical storm and small craft warnings in place for several days. The ocean and bay are churned up and it is going to take some time for things to settle down. Phone calls to several tackle shops on Thursday indicated fishing remained poor to nonexistent over the entire Delaware Coast. On the plus side, all the shops said they were seeing good business on Thursday morning as people once again hit the water.

DELAWARE BAY The tidal creeks and rivers produced catfish and white perch during the storm. Bloodworms remain the top perch bait white cut bunker or chicken rockers attract the catfish. A few short rockfish were mixed in with the cats and perch. Flounder were caught in the upper bay at Miah Maull Shoal, the Crossledge and the upper bay reef sites prior to the blow. The fish may still be there, but until someone gets back out to fish for them, we won't know for sure.

Further down the bay, reef sites 7 and 8 saw decent flounder action and these fish should remain in this area for a few more days. Work tight to hard structure with bucktails sweetened with squid or Gulp! Kings, blowfish, croaker and spot were scattered about the Lower Bay. Some were taken from shore at Broadkill and Bowers Beach while others were caught at the reef sites and along the Outer Wall. I would expect this action to continue for several more weeks. A run of larger croaker occurred at the Cape Henlopen Pier on Monday, but they did not come back on Tuesday. Bloods, clams or Gulp! will be the best baits for these fish.

The bite of small blues in the Lower Bay should continue so long as the bait stays around. Right now, the mullet run is underway and this bait could draw in some larger fish.

INSHORE OCEAN The number one question in my mind is, will the flounder and sea bass still be available at the Old Grounds? I certainly hope so, since my larder is in dire need of restocking. I think the flounder will still be available once the water settles down. As for the sea bass, that season closes on September 21 and doesn't reopen until October 22.

Prior to the storm, there were wahoo and dolphin over inshore lumps such as the 20-Fathom Fingers, Massey's Canyon and the Ham Bone. Dolphin were caught as close as A Buoy. Only time will tell if these fish will stay close to shore or begin to move out to the 100-Fathom Line.

The bluefish action at Fenwick Shoal had slowed before the storm. Once again we won't know if they are still there until someone goes out and tries to catch some.

OFFSHORE OCEAN I had no reports from Delaware boats, but Ocean City and Virginia Beach have seen red hot marlin action. This is exactly what I expected after a big northeast blow. Tuna and dolphin have also been taken to our south.

INDIAN RIVER INLET As of Thursday morning the inlet was still dead. It will take time for all the sand suspended in the water to settle out and then we should see blues coming in during flood tides. Rockfish will still be taken on sand fleas or live eels at night. A few croaker may remain and they will take sand fleas

SURF FISHING With the fall mullet run underway we will see more action from the beach. Early morning tides could bring blues close to the beach where they will attack the mullet. Croaker, kings and trout will also be available.

FRESHWATER Bass have been caught out of the ponds on Scum Frogs and other top-water lures. The best fishing is still in the low-light periods of early morning or late afternoon.

I would think the upper reaches of the tidal creeks and rivers would produce a better fishing experience than the ponds. Red Mill Pond is still green with a layer of scum on the surface. The Broadkill River is much cleaner, as I expect are the rest of the tidal waters.

KIDS AND PFDS I remain amazed every time I read the DNREC Police Blotter and see how many people are given a ticket for not having a PFD on a child under 12. That law was put on the books after a tragic accident at Indian River Inlet. A boat was coming through the inlet when it turned over and two small children were lost. One drowned and the other was never found.

I also had a good friend who lost a child after the boy fell off of a dock and drowned before help arrived. As I have said so many times, accidents happen so fast that there is seldom time to put on a PFD and this is even truer with children.

While not required by law, it is my opinion that all children should be wearing a PFD anytime they are in any proximity

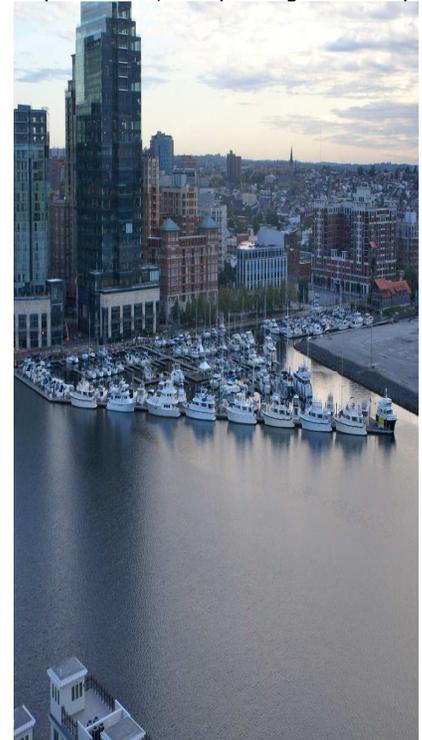
of possibly falling overboard. This would include piers, bulkheads, jetties and swimming pools. I had those life vests for both of my sons and they wore them without complaint. While not Coast Guard-approved unless worn, they would certainly keep a child afloat until someone could come to their aid. PFDs: Put them on your children, no ifs, ands or buts - just do it.

By Eric Burnley Sr.* From The Delaware NR Website

DNR in the News

New Maryland Clean Marina in Baltimore
September 8, 2016
Department of Natural Resources Certifies Harbor East in the Inner Harbor

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has certified Harbor East Marina in Baltimore as the latest Maryland Clean Marina. The facility earned the recognition after adopting best management practices from the Maryland Clean Marina Guidebook, meeting all environmental and regulatory requirements, and passing a site inspection.



"It is fantastic to have a certified clean marina in a densely-populated area such as Baltimore," Clean Marina Program Director Donna Morrow said. "Every new clean marina that comes on board has the potential to reach hundreds if not thousands of boaters through their daily interactions with citizens and tourists alike. The department stands ready to partner with any

marina interested in mitigating and reducing their environmental impact on our waters." Harbor East Marina is a 184-slip facility located in the Inner Harbor. The facility, which boasts 500-feet of alongside dockage and ample amenities for annual, seasonal and transient guests, has been operated by Harbor East since 1992, with Oasis Marinas providing management services since 2015. With its floating docks, newly-appointed boater lounge, pumpout station, party pad and location adjacent to the city's best restaurants and retail shops, the marina is a popular destination with boaters looking to enjoy the heart of the city.

"The Maryland Clean Marina program is a win-win for the Harbor East Marina and our guests," Director of Marina Operations Eric Bradley said. "We are committed to doing everything we can to enhance, protect and restore the Inner Harbor and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay."

In addition to its commitment to run a clean marina, Harbor East plans to participate in the Great Baltimore Oyster Partnership, a collaborative effort to restore the state's oyster population. As part of the program, oyster gardens will be installed at the marina, where baby oysters will be planted and protected.

There are now over 150 clean marinas statewide. These facilities have voluntarily adopted department recommendations and passed a required site inspection. Each clean marina is re-certified every three years to ensure they comply with all applicable regulations.

Tips and Tricks

How to Catch Flounder, North and South

Tactics To Bag Flatfish On Both Sides of the Mason-Dixon Line

By Nick Honachefsky

From Salt Water Sportsmen Magazine February 19, 2016



© Beth Swanson / Alamy Stock Photo
Flounder offer prime sport for anglers in the Gulf and Atlantic. Fishing in 90 feet of water off Cape Canaveral, Florida, the furthest thing from

my mind was flounder. But when Capt. Glyn Austin of Going Coastal Charters yanked a 5-pounder over the gunwale, I immediately set up with a fish-finder rig and sent a live poggy to the bottom. Within seconds I felt the telltale taps of a flatfish mouthing the big bait. After a 5-count, I locked the reel, set back, and I was on. Thanks to my Jersey fluke tactics, a doormat-size 8-pound southern flounder soon hit the deck.

Going Deep

Capt. Austin Perilli out of Brooklyn, New York, targets summer flounder in the deeper waters of Jamaica Bay, Raritan Bay and the New York Bight where depths range from 25 to 70 feet. His tactical approach is a lure tandem. Anchored by a 2- to 6-ounce Spro bucktail, the rig holds bottom well while a 1/2-ounce bucktail dangling from a dropper loop 18 inches above serves as a teaser. Perilli drifts a productive area and often uses the motor to hover over a hot spot and stay vertical in the strike zone. "The key to flounder fishing in deep water is to stay vertical and be precise," Perilli says. "Hit the slowest stage of the tide to work bucktails most effectively and entice the fish as they lie on the seafloor waiting for an easy meal."



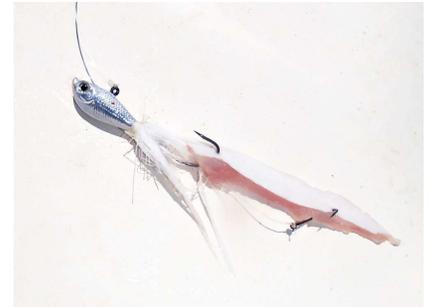
Nick Honachefsky

Proven: Effective flounder tactics work in different regions under similar circumstances.

Shallow Minded

Along Texas' central coast, Capt. Scott Sommerlatte fishes for southern flounder in Galveston Bay, Matagorda Bay and Aransas Bay, which are totally different environments where water depths average 5 to 6 feet and top out at 12 feet. "We find consistent action targeting the small marsh drains and outflows on the outgoing tides," Sommerlatte says.

Southern flounder stack up in those shallow-water funnels where he bounces a 1/4- to 3/8-ounce jig head rigged with a 2 1/2-inch Z-Man Grubz. "Texas bays usually have muddy water, so I fish close to the bank in high water, then focus on troughs and drop-offs in low water," Sommerlatte says.



Nick Honachefsky
Double Down: A jig-and-strip is deadly. Add a stinger hook for more hookups.



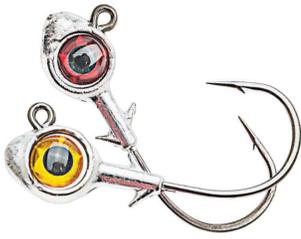
Courtesy
Spro Andrus jig (2- to 6-ounce)



Courtesy
Gulp! Swimmin' Mullet (3- or 4-inch)



Courtesy
Z-Man Grubz (2 1/2-inch)



Courtesy
Z-Man Trout Eye Jig Heads (1/4-ounce)
Crossover Tactics

I've put the two different flounder techniques mentioned to good use. When fishing Barnegat Bay in New Jersey, I frequently implement Sommerlatte's light-tackle tactics and bounce light bucktails along the shallow flats in 3 to 5 feet of water or along channel edges in 8 to 15 feet. However, I usually tip the bucktail with a 3- to 5-inch-long strip of bluefish, mackerel or sea bass, and I add a 2/0 white bucktail 18 inches up the leader as a teaser. Down south, deepwater wrecks also hold flounder, so a heavier jig tandem often does the trick.
Tim Barker

Fish-finder rig with strip bait

1. A swivel serves as a stopper for the sinker
2. Rig the bait on a snelled Octopus hook



Tim Barker

Dropper rig with two jigs

1. Attach a 1/2-ounce jig to the dropper loop
 2. Anchor the rig with a 2- to 6-ounce jig
- Around Structure

"We can always find fluke on the sandy channel edges in the bays, but the largest are usually in or around structure," Perilli says. "Doormats prefer hard bottom, such as mussel beds, rock piles, wrecks and channel markers." He likes to work the edges of structure with larger baits, like live snapper,

bluefish, spot, peanut bunker and herring, which are all primary forage for summer flounder in the Northeast. That structure awareness scored me a mess of southern flounder while fishing with Glyn Austin off Cape Canaveral, Florida, where I cast big baits around the edge of a wreck in 90 feet. But live bait isn't the only way to go, claims Perilli. "A big bucktail is a dead-on representation of those large baits. We also use long strip baits cut from flounder belly, sea robin, mackerel or bluefish when fishing deep," says the guide. "I cut tapered strips 1 inch wide and 8 to 12 inches long, and use a sliding rig with a snelled 3/0 Gamakatsu Octopus hook to send them down." Southern anglers can use jacks, bonito or large pogies to fashion similar strips.

Over Sand and Mud

In Texas, Sommerlatte employs a different approach as he fishes shallow sand and mud bottoms. "Throughout the Gulf states, flounder often cast a wake when they feed on shrimp and mud minnows, so you can sight-fish for them. When we fish mud or sand flats, a subtle 6-inch drop can make all the difference," Sommerlatte says. "Look for small changes in water depth as you try to pinpoint potential flounder spots." Regarding lures and bait, Sommerlatte says a slow, bouncing presentation is the best way to attract the flatfish in his home waters. "Flounder take bait little by little and don't readily commit until they have it down their throat. So the shorter the bait and the slower you work it, the better. I've actually watched flounder hold on to 2 1/2-inch grubs for a good 30 seconds before finally committing. When I feel the light weight of a fish hanging on to the bait, I give it a light tug to make the fish think its meal is swimming away. That's when the flounder sucks it down for good." I put Sommerlatte's technique into practice in Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey, and slowly bounced 1/2-ounce bucktails in the shallows along channel edges to claim most of my fish in the spring. Those fluke hold in certain spots on the outgoing tide, so pinpointing subtle differences in water depth is essential. Unlike the southern flounder down in Texas, those Jersey fish hit hard instead of mouthing the bait.



Nick Honachefsky

EASYGOING:

A plastic tail on a 1/4-ounce jig head does the job in the shallows.

Proof's in the Puddin'

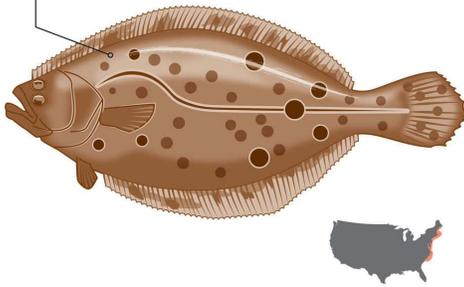
So how effective are crossover tactics for flounder? My recent limit of 4- to 8-pound summer flounder in Florida using techniques I've used for fluke in the Northeast for many years proves the efficacy and versatility of the techniques. If you understand the fish's habits, their environments and their primary forage, effective shallow- and deepwater tactics produce hefty flatfish on both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line

Flatfish ID

Two main species of flounder inhabit the bays, inlets and waters along the U.S. coasts of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico: Summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*), aka fluke, which ranges from the Gulf of Maine to South Carolina and attains a weight of 15 pounds or more, and southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*), which rarely exceeds 8 pounds, and is widespread from North Carolina to Florida and throughout the Gulf of Mexico.

While both are left-eye flatfish (they lie on the bottom on the right side with both eyes on the left side) equipped with sharp teeth and brownish top sides that change color to blend with the surrounding bottom, each has different markings that help to tell the species apart. Summer flounder sport five prominent ocellated black spots mixed with random white spots on top, and southern flounder have small, diffused dark spots and blotches along with myriad white spots.

SUMMER FLOUNDER

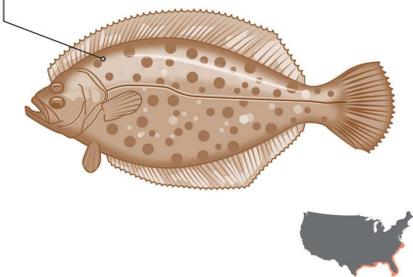


Tim Barker

Summer flounder

Five prominent black spots at the rear are a clear telltale sign. Its range extends from the Gulf of Maine down to South Carolina.

SOUTHERN FLOUNDER



Tim Barker

Southern flounder

Smaller dark spots and blotches, plus lots of white dots mixed in. Its range extends from North Carolina to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

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

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	10	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	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