

# 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

So, May has come and gone, and with it our first two tournaments of the year. The weather really did not co-operate with us for the Spring tournament, but some guys were able to put fish in the boat anyway. Congratulations to Brian Jones for winning the Spring Tournament. As always, the guys that were together both in Solomons, and in Point Lookout had a great time, and this year's dinner was excellent! Thanks Rob Pellicott for organizing another successful event.

Then the Chapter went to Chincoteague for the Flounder Frenzy. There were good numbers of flounder caught this year, and in the end, Paul Rippeon showed everyone how it's done, winning in almost every category. Congratulations Paul! And thank you to Neal and Jodie Ammerman for putting on another terrific event!

Now we look forward to the real fishing seasons, as the temperatures are warming and Summer is almost here. And just a few of the upcoming events... The MSSA Tuna-ment is coming in June. We will be having the Cobia tournament again this year in August, and the crab feast will be in early September. Come out to the meetings, as we have great speakers and vendors lined up.

Tight Lines,

Jim

## Next Meeting

**Date: June 14, 2017**

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker: Lenny Rudow will speaking about Cobia fishing in the bay**

**Vendor: Island Tackle will be the vendor this month. They will have a large assortment of lures and tackle**

**Dinner Menu:  
Hamburger  
Hot Dogs  
French Fries  
Potato Salad  
Dessert**

**Attendance at July Meeting: 72**

### **May Meeting Raffle Winners:**

Rodney Baer- Rod N Reel Combo  
Ronnie Kolpack- Cabela's Tackle Bag  
Brian Buckman- Grip Weight & Towel  
Matt Lacey- Aqua Clear Flounder Rigs  
Bob Perkey- Offshore Lures  
Jimmy Shaw- BFG Tandem Rig  
Lenny- Fishing Belt  
John Kisner- Gulp & Bust Em Baits  
Rob Pellicott- Offshore Lures  
Al Geisner- Gulp and Bust Em Baits

**50/50 Raffle:**  
Bobby Hurt- \$90

### **Spring Tourney Dinner Raffle Winners**

Bubba's Beer Bitch- Rod & Reel Combo  
Bubba's Beer Bitch- Rod Riggers  
Bobby Hurt- Frabill Net  
Bubba's Beer Bitch- Vacuum Bagger  
Al Geisner- Costa Glasses  
Cathy Gunder- Smoove Cleaning Bucket  
Cathy Gunder- Binoculars  
Cathy Gunder Fully Loaded Tackle Bag

Jim Lorditch- Fighting Belt

**50/50 Raffle**  
Brian Conway- \$310

### **Flounder Frenzy Dinner Raffle Winners**

Jim Stewart- Handheld VHF Radio  
Jodie Ammerman- Flounder Art  
Phil Coblentz- Sea Hawk Gift Certificate  
Steve Wolfrey- Flounder Tackle Bag  
Chuck Collins- Rod & Reel Combo  
Bobby Hurt- Famous Gift Certificate & Visor  
Tyler Wolfrey- Filet Knife Set  
Cathy Gunder- Flounder Tackle Bag  
Neal Ammerman- Rod & Reel Combo  
Ian Miles- Flounder Tackle Bag

**50/50 Raffle**  
Emory Conner \$145

**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

**May 31, 2017**

Most enjoyed a nice break in the weather over the Memorial Day Weekend although there were scattered showers at times. The forecast for the rest of the week promises sunny and warmer weather. Those that fish the Chesapeake for striped bass are looking forward to all waters of the bay being open to striped bass fishing as of June 1. Cooler water temperatures are making for excellent freshwater fishing so which ever you choose - enjoy the outdoors this week.

Water releases at the Conowingo Dam

have been highly variable this week with large releases during the day and barely any during the night. This certainly makes for some crazy fishing in the river if one is trying to cash in on the large numbers of white perch present. Out on the bay, near the channels below the flats, there continues to be good striped bass fishing in the mornings and evening. Topwater poppers have been a favorite along the shallower parts of the channel edges. On June 1, all parts of the bay will be open to striped bass fishing so anglers will be able to fish the lower Susquehanna if they wish.

The striped bass action tends to be a little slow as one ventures south in the upper bay region. There has been some action for those drifting live eels around the deeper channel spots around Pooles Island and there has been some chumming action at Swan Point. Those trolling are finding a few fish along the 30' channel contours by trolling umbrella rigs with bucktail or swim shad trailers. Love Point is always a place to check out and there is some trolling and chumming action there as well as Podickory Point. Striped bass are being found at the Sewer Pipe and Bay Bridge Piers by slow trolling close to the bottom, by jigging and a few boats are chumming, it tends to be a slow pick but can be worth the effort.

The middle bay region tends to offer some of the better striped bass fishing opportunities this week. There are some good concentrations of fish spread out along both sides of the bay, mostly along the edges of the shipping channel. The action has been good on the western side of the bay from Thomas Point south to below the power plant. The fish tend to be suspended along the 35' edge of the channel and at times are pushing bait in the form of bay anchovies to the surface and creating some fun topwater action. There are quite a few sub-legal sized striped bass involved when breaking fish are encountered but there are some nice fish in the 22" to 28" size range mixed in. Light tackle jigging has been popular but others are having fun with topwater lures.

Trolling is certainly an option and most are pulling a mixed spread of 3 to 4 ounce bucktails dressed with twister

tails, spoons, red surge tube lures and also umbrella rigs, all with inline weights to get them down. Those looking to sit still and relax a little have been chumming at the outside 30' edge of Hackett's, the Hill and anywhere fish can be found suspended along the channel edges. Water temperatures in the middle bay region are about 65° this week and salinities are a bit lower than normal.

Black drum showed up on time at Stone Rock and the Sharp's Island Flats this week and more than a few boats got into the action. Standard fare for this show is a good depth finder, a sturdy conventional rod set up with a large circle hook with a whole or half of a soft crab held to the hook with a rubber band. Once a fish is spotted under the boat, the angler does their best to drop the bait close by and hope a cow-nosed ray doesn't pick up the bait. This happy angler holds up a nice one for the camera caught this past weekend.



Photo courtesy of Travis Long

The shallow water fishery for striped bass in the middle bay region has been offering some exciting fishing this week in the early morning and evening hours. There is a mix of sub-legal and striped bass in the 22' to 26" size range moving about in shallower areas near prominent points, submerged breakwaters and shoreline structure. Topwater lures such as poppers are the best and most fun way to fish for them. June 1, all areas of the tidal rivers and creeks will be open to striped bass fishing. Eastern Bay will be one of the areas being looked forward to since there has been a nice concentration of striped bass in the area for the best part of the month of May.

In the lower bay region most of the

striped bass action tends to be in the Cedar Point to Cove Point area. Everyone is anticipating being able to fish in the lower Patuxent starting tomorrow June 1. Trolling along the 35' channel edge with an array of bucktails, red surge tube lures and spoons have been popular; all are being pulled behind inline weights. There is also some good trolling action in the lower Potomac River near Piney Point and St. George Island. All of these channel edges also hold opportunities for light tackle jigging when suspended fish can be spotted on depth finders. Others are also entertaining the idea of chumming and have been setting up near Buoy 70, 72A and the Middle Grounds.

On the eastern side of the bay speckled trout are being caught despite the chilly weather and when the sun breaks out and warmer temperatures prevail, this fishery should really kick in gear. Drifting peeler crab or soft crab baits on a falling tide near the mouths of tidal creeks is the best place to be; avoiding cow-nosed rays is part of the deal. Casting white Gulp mullet baits is a good way to cover water and have fewer hook ups with rays. There are striped bass in the area as well, many are sub-legal but they offer plenty of action, especially on topwater lures.

A few croakers are showing up here and there in the Tangier Sound and Point Lookout areas as well as the mouth of the Wicomico River in the lower Potomac. Most are catching a lot of medium-sized blue catfish in the Bushwood area of the lower Potomac while bottom fishing.

Fishing for white perch has been good in all three regions of the bays tidal rivers and creeks. Fishing with grass shrimp or bloodworm baits near docks and piers is a fun way to catch up a mess of filleting size perch. Casting small spinnerbait jigs or spinners along shoreline structure in the morning and evening hours is also a productive and fun way to catch them.

Recreational crabbing continues to be good in most of the middle and lower bay tidal rivers and creeks. The catches tend to be a little better this week on the Eastern Shore and with water temperatures relatively cool, some of

the best catches are coming from shallow water. Matthew and David Bishop "brought home the bacon" in a sense with this nice bushel of crabs destined for a Memorial Day crab feast.



Photo courtesy of Sherry Bishop

At Deep Creek Lake smallmouth bass can be found on rocky flats on points, walleye are starting to go deeper as water temperatures warm up but can be found along rocky edges and deep grass lines by drifting minnows. Yellow perch can be found along those deep grass edges also. In the coves there are largemouth bass while northern pike can be found in the deeper parts of the coves. Largemouth bass can also be found near floating docks; flipping soft plastics under those docks is a great way to target them.

John Mullican was kind enough to send us an update report from the upper Potomac River. *The Potomac River is flowing above normal due to the recent rains. Although predicted to fall towards the weekend, levels will still be fairly high and boaters should be very cautious. Smallmouth bass were actively spawning prior to the recent high water event and those flows could have negatively affected this year's year class. Bass fishing, however, has been good and bass have been taking a variety of offerings. Jigs/tubes have been the most reliable, but spinnerbaits, crankbaits, jerkbait and topwater baits have worked as well.*

Largemouth bass are offering excellent fishing opportunities in small ponds, larger impoundments and tidal rivers throughout the state this week. The bass are in a post-spawn mode of activity and with water temperatures relatively cool, the bass are in a very

active feeding mood. The shallow water morning bite has been lasting longer into mid-morning and starting earlier in the evenings due to overcast weather and cool water temperatures. Targeting shallow grass is a number one tactic during these times with topwater baits. Northern snakeheads will be part of the event when fishing topwater lures in many of the state's tidal rivers. Stick worms and soft plastics are good baits to use if you want to get down through the grass or along the edges, both should be whacky rigged. No one likes fishing in the rain but Russell Anderson stuck it out on Sunday at Lake Allen and had this nice largemouth to show for it.

There are plenty of other freshwater fishing opportunities this week for various species of sunfish, crappie and chain pickerel. Trout fishing has been very good in the western region and recent stockings have bolstered trout fishing opportunities there. For those wishing to do some bottom fishing, channel catfish can be found in most tidal rivers and blue catfish in the tidal Potomac and Nanticoke Rivers.

Despite overcast and rainy weather in the Ocean City area there has been some good fishing in the surf and inlet area for short striped bass and bluefish. The striped bass are being caught in the surf on cut bait and the bluefish on finger mullet. At the inlet and channels near the inlet there is a mix of striped bass and bluefish being caught on bucktails, Got-Cha plugs and topwater poppers. Angelina Watts got to do some fishing with her dad today and sent us a couple of pictures of some fun fishing near the inlet.

Flounder are being caught in the channels near the inlet and even a few speckled trout. The smaller bluefish are expected to be around this week and a couple of black drum have been reported in the back bay channels.

The winds dropped off enough over the weekend that boats were able to get out to some of the wreck and reef sites closer to shore and experienced very good sea bass fishing with limits being common. Also over the weekend boats made it out to the canyons and came back with a mix of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, dolphin and those that chummed

caught a few makos and had quite a few blue sharks fussing with baits.

### Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown -  
Memorial Day Report  
26 May 2017

As we slide into the Memorial Day weekend, we bid farewell to spring and say hello to the summer fishing trend. And so far, the season is off to a great start. But with the recent front, much of the action slowed. And with more rain in the holiday forecast, the action may not rebound until after the big weekend.

Red drum action has been excellent on the Eastern Shore side of the Bay. Some boats fishing near the breakers off Fisherman's Island and along Nautilus Shoal and Nine Foot Shoal before the weekend were releasing dozens of big reds. Some black drum are also taking clam offerings, mostly near buoys 13 and 16 off the Eastern Shore, but this bite should be winding down soon in this area.

Many are taking notice of the early influx of cobia. Although the season does not open until June 1st, plenty of released fish show promise of a good summer. With the tight regulations this year, be sure to review to review the guidelines for this controversial fish carefully. Boats can keep three cobia over 40-inches at one per person, with one of the fish allowed to be over 50-inches. A newly implemented cobia permit is required, and all cobia activity must be reported. No gaffing of cobia is allowed, so take a big net. All of this information can be found on the VMRC website at [mrc.virginia.gov](http://mrc.virginia.gov), or at any local MRC Licensing Agent. This year, the cobia season runs from June 1st to September 15th.

Flounder hunters continue to work hard for their bounties, with most fish presenting just shy of the new 17-inch requirement. The best catches are still coming from the lower Bay and Eastern Shore inlets and shallows.

Croaker and nice-sized bluefish are still available within local inlets and the lower Bay, and early spot catches are showing signs of a good run of healthy-sized fish. Pier anglers along the ocean front are picking through a few small flounder, small croaker, nice sea mullet, and bluefish.

Spanish mackerel are making their debut in local waters, with one of the early catches surprising a pier angler fishing from the Buckroe Fishing Pier this week.

Some speckled trout, along with good numbers of feisty puppy drum are hitting most everywhere, with the best luck still coming from within Rudee, Lynnhaven, and Little Creek Inlets, as well as Mobjack bay and the flats along the Hampton side of the Bay.

Spadefish were hitting very well at the Chesapeake Light Tower right before the weekend, with decent-sized fish the norm this year. Sheepshead action is also off to a really good start, with several big fish already boated along the CBBT and as a by-catch by drum anglers. Striped bass are still available along the CBBT, but most folks aren't interested. Check the regulations if you target these fish.

For those venturing a little further offshore, jumbo seabass are biting on both inshore and deeper wrecks and structures. The Triangle Wreck area is a popular seabass destination this time of year. Further out, deep dropping species are also a good choice. Recent trips targeting the ocean floor near the Norfolk Canyon have produced plenty of blueline tilefish, with a smattering of big golden tilefish, and grouper.

Offshore, warm water is moving into range, with catches slowly improving off Virginia. A few hauls of nice gaffer dolphin and yellowfin tuna from recent trips are encouraging. This action will improve as the season progresses.

<http://www.drjball.com>

## Delaware Fishing Report

**Updated: June 1, 2017**

**DELAWARE BAY** A few keeper rockfish were caught over the holiday weekend between the Yellow Can and the 6L Buoy, but these were fish in the 28- to 30-inch range that probably means the larger fish have moved out to the ocean. Bunker chunks and bloodworms were the primary baits.

White perch continue to give anglers a good reason to fish the tidal creeks and rivers as well as the C&D Canal. Catfish are in the same waters. Bloodworms work on the perch while the cats like fresh bunker or stink baits.

The Coral Beds have produced pretty good fishing for black drum. Fish to over 60 pounds have been caught on clams or live blue crabs. As is usually the case, the drum bite best in the late afternoon into the night.

The best drum fishing occurs when the wind is calm. This is also the best time to become acquainted with the many blood-sucking insects Delaware's marsh produces. Don't leave home without a big supply of DEET.

The big blues that have been hanging around the fishing pier at Cape Henlopen State Park took off over the weekend and had not returned to work by Wednesday. I suspect they may have moved into the ocean and headed north. It will be interesting to see if they show up during the summer perhaps at their old stomping grounds along the Buoy Line.

A very few keeper flounder have been caught from the Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier and out of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. Jigs sweetened with minnows, squid strips or Gulp! have proven effective on the flatfish.

The Broadkill River and the Canal have also seen a very few rockfish. The blues have not been at Oyster Rocks for a few days.

The pier and Broadkill Beach saw a few weakfish with most under the 13-inch minimum size. Black drum have been scarce at Broadkill Beach for at least a week.

- **ADVISORY: Summer Flounder Regulations:** As of April 1, the minimum size for summer flounder in Delaware is 17 inches. The bag limit remains at four fish per day and the season runs for 365 days.

**INSHORE OCEAN** Sea bass and a few flounder have been caught by anglers working ocean reefs and wrecks. The flounder seem to be at the inshore reefs 9 and 10, while only sea bass have been caught from Site 11 and the Del-Jersey-Land Reef. Clams and squid are the top baits.

Mako and thresher sharks have been caught along the Buoy Line from B to the Lightship with the bigger makos out past the 20-fathom Line. Most sharkers drift along structure while chumming. Baits include live bluefish, bluefish filets, whole squid and mackerel or bunker chunks. Keep one bait close to the chum bucket because some sharks will go past the baits set further out and swim right to the source of the chum.

Never, ever bring a live mako into the boat. I can promise, you won't be happy with the results.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** Blues were still running through the Inlet as late as Wednesday morning. How much longer this will last is anyone's guess. The top lures remain poppers and metals.

Rockfish have been caught on night tides by those who can work bucktails successfully from the jetty. There is and always has been a small group of anglers who have mastered this technique and the tradition continues.

A seven-pound flounder was caught over the weekend from the fishing pier at Massey's Ditch. A four-pounder came out of Indian River Inlet as well. The seven pounder hit a minnow while the four pounder chomped down of a strip of squid.

Both Indian River and Rehoboth bays gave up good numbers of blues over

the weekend. Some were caught on bunker and mullet while others spotted working under diving birds were caught on poppers, bucktails and metal.

**SURF FISHING** Blues were scattered along the beach on Wednesday morning, but nowhere near the numbers from just a few days ago. One report blamed cold, dirty water for the lack of action, but my thinking is the bluefish run may have run its course.

A few small rockfish and kings have been caught from the beach on bloodworms.

By Eric Burnley Sr.\*

## DNR in the News

### **Protected Aquatic Wildlife Among Maryland's Summer Visitors**

June 1, 2017

Marine Mammal, Sea Turtle Strandings Should be Reported



As warm weather settles in and the days grow longer, Maryland's waters become a destination not for just humans, but also marine animals.

In the past century, 23 different species of marine mammals and sea turtles have been documented in and around state waters. Visitors include bottlenose dolphins, loggerhead turtles, humpback whales, harp seals and manatees.

"While these marine animals are an awesome sight, sometimes they can be disoriented and lost, leading to a marine mammal or sea turtle stranding," Maryland Department of Natural Resources State Fish and Wildlife Veterinarian Cindy Driscoll said. "It is important that the public understand that some of these animals are protected by law and should be treated with care and compassion."

In fact, it is estimated that more than a dozen aquatic animals find themselves stranded on Maryland's inland and ocean coasts every year. Maryland's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Program staff respond to these stranded marine mammals and sea turtles in state waters including the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

Program staff works in collaboration with the National Aquarium to respond to stranded or dead animals and collects relevant data from these events, which is then incorporated into policies that conserve and protect these species. Marine animals are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Sea turtles and whales are protected under the 1973 Endangered Species Act. The law prohibits any form of capturing, collecting or harassing these aquatic animals (either dead or alive).

Anyone who finds a stranded marine mammal or sea turtle should take the following actions:

- Do not touch the animal – even if it is dead.
- Call Maryland's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Program at 800-628-9944.
- Record the location using latitude/longitude, a street address, and/or description with landmarks.
- Record the length, size, color, noticeable body parts and movements (if alive).
- Take photos of the animal.
- Stand by the animal until a stranding staff person calls or arrives.

## Tips and Tricks

### How-To

### **LEARN TO CHASE HOOKED FISH**

### **MAKE BOAT HANDLING PART OF YOUR FISH-FIGHTING STRATEGY**

BY [GEORGE POVEROMO](#) MAY 10, 2017  
AS SEEN IN SALTWATER SPORTSMANS MAGAZINE

0 Comments



Chasing tuna and other big game helps anglers win the battle.

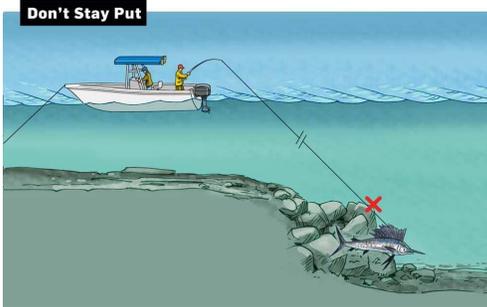
*George Poveromo*

Chasing after a powerful, long-running fish is common sense; that is, unless spinning tales of how a big one spooled the reel and got away is more your speed. Pursuing a hooked fish entails much more than simply trying to keep line on a reel. It's an acquired skill that provides an angler with advantages to beat large game.

ADVERTISING

### **WINNING MOVES**

Battling a big fish is like a choreographed dance. Knowing how to counter the fish's moves and reacting quickly are the keys to success. Release the anchor quickly, then clear obstacles, like additional lines on the water that could result in tangles. Establish some hand signals ahead of time to tell the skipper how to proceed during the battle.

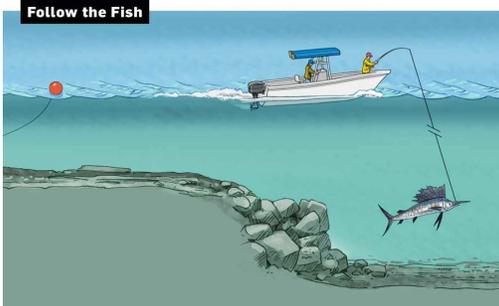


At anchor, you can't keep a fish from spooling you or breaking you off on a ledge or structure.

Illustration by Steve Sandford

**THE DYNAMICS**

Remaining at anchor or drifting as a fish strips off line presents two threats. Initially, as the diameter of line on a spool decreases, drag pressure increases, which threatens the line. Furthermore, excess line pulled through the water creates even more resistance and drag; if an angler doesn't back off the drag to compensate, the line parts. And with a fast-running fish, swift reaction by the angler is warranted; there's little time to waste. Next, if fishing along drop-offs, reefs or other high-profile bottom, there's the risk of a long- and deep-running fish dragging the line over such structure and parting it. What's more, when a fish is far from the boat, it has the advantage, and the angler has little control over it.



Use a release buoy to free the boat quickly and give chase.

Illustration by Steve Sandford

**GET GOING**

Precisely when to pursue a fish hinges on the environment, strength of the line and size of the fish. For example, when live-baiting sailfish with 12- and 20-pound gear, we'll give chase if a fish strips a third to half the line from the spool. This enables us to regain control and pressure the fish for a quick release without exhausting it. This is in open water, with no structure threats.

At anchor, with a stationary boat and structure below, the task becomes more complex. After anchoring, make sure the entire anchor line is accessible, then secure a float ball or large boat fender to the bitter end. Should a large fish speed off toward the horizon, simply start the boat, toss over the rode (the poly ball or fender will keep the line afloat and save your spot for the return) and give chase. If a large fish shows no signs of slowing, give chase when it strips one-third of the line from the spool.

The goal here is to rapidly close the gap so the boat is nearly on top of the fish. Doing so results in the fishing line entering the water in a more vertical angle. With the line angle more vertical — versus horizontal, as it would be if the boat remained at anchor — there's less risk of it parting on sloping bottom, coral heads or rubble.

Recently, while anchored in Bimini, shooting a TV show episode, I hooked a large king mackerel on a light spinning outfit. With a camera boat anchored alongside of us, tossing the anchor rode wasn't practical. I needed luck to land this fish. To maintain the most vertical angle I could, I stepped up on top of the cooler and raised the line high overhead. To my surprise, especially after the fish dumped three-quarters of the line off the reel, we caught the huge king, which scaled 55 pounds.

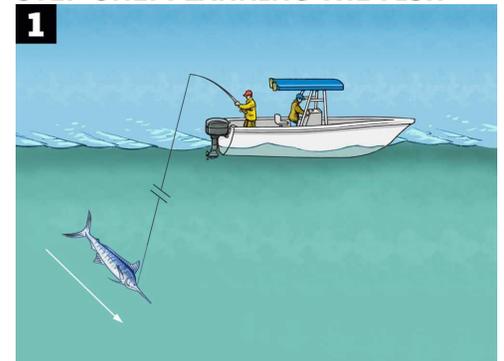
**MAINTAIN PRESSURE**

Chasing fish keeps a safe amount of line on the spool and the angler close enough to it to exert control. However, there's a balance that must be maintained. Initially closing the gap on a fish is one thing, but — once out of danger — constantly chasing it won't do much to wear it out.

It's essential to let a fish run out line and tire itself. After initially closing the gap to get out of danger, fight the fish from a stationary boat. Keep the heat on and gain line at every opportunity. By slowing the fish's forward progress, less water will flow across its gills and it will tire faster. Should it take off on another run when you're in open water, let it go, then resume the pressure once it stops. If it takes an excessive amount of line, have the boat slowly close the gap as you maintain pressure. Often when the boat approaches the fish, it spooks and takes off, which could be a good thing. The cycle of letting the fish run, then applying

pressure when it stops takes a toll, often rapidly. This past September off Prince Edward Island, Canada, Capt. Mark Jenkins employed this very tactic to help me score two giant bluefins: a 600-pound-class fish we released and a 701-pounder we boated. In each case, he'd let the giants strip off a few hundred yards of line while I maintained heavy pressure from the chair. When the fish stopped, I'd go to work in the chair, pumping and gaining line where I could. After several minutes of working the fish, Jenkins slowly motored toward it as I continued applying pressure and gaining line. He'd then attempt to get right above the tuna, which startled it and provoked another long run. This well-thought-out game plan enabled us to beat each fish within an hour.

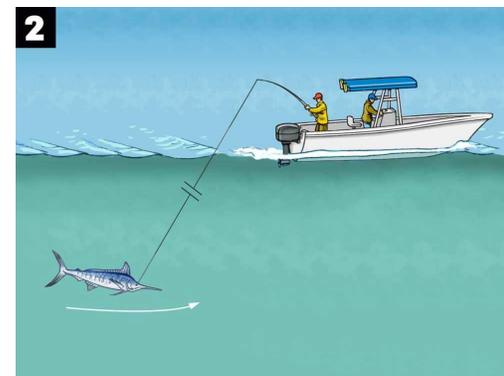
**STEP ONE: PLANNING THE FISH**



When a fish sounds, you're in for a long, arduous fight if you settle for an up-and-down battle.

Illustration by Steve Sandford

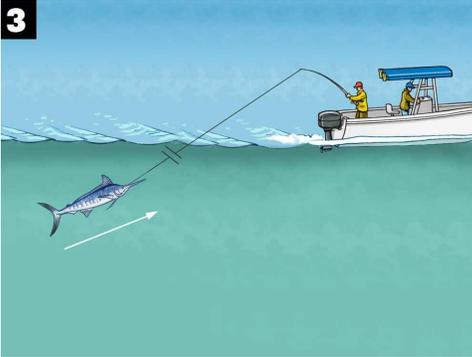
**STEP TWO**



Keep the pressure on, but when the fight comes to a stalemate, slowly motoring ahead changes the line angle and often elevates the fish's head.

Illustration by Steve Sandford

**STEP THREE**



Steady pressure at this stage planes the fish toward the surface as you gain line.

*Illustration by Steve Sandford*

### **STUBBORN STREAKS**

Often a large fish sounds and holds in the depths. It's here where patience becomes a virtue, along with some stalemate-breaking tactics. With the boat above and just ahead of a fish holding in the depths, maintain pressure and claim line when possible. As tired as it is, the fish should be moving slowly forward to gain oxygen. Whether the pull is directly from above or in front of the fish, the pressure limits its forward movement and the flow of water and oxygen across its gills. You're tiring the fish, though it may not seem evident at the time. If you're having difficulty gaining line, cease trying to keep the boat above or in front of the fish. Rather, let it swim off while the boat remains stationary. Sometimes the change in the angle of pull, be it ever so slight, is enough for the fish to alter its tactics. It could pick up speed and head toward the surface, clear the surface, or just swim faster. Regardless, this breaks the stalemate and further tires the fish. The result: substantial line gains for the angler. Planing a fish is sometimes required, especially for a large shark, swordfish, marlin or tuna holding near a thermocline deep in the water column. As a last-ditch resort, slowly creep the boat forward as line leaves the reel. Try this in 200- to 400-foot increments, then slowly back down on the fish while applying heavy pressure to reclaim line. Sometimes this moves a fish to higher levels within the water column and eventually to the surface. I employed this tactic five years back to plane a big swordfish to the surface for Carl Grassi, after a fight that spanned six hours and over 26 miles of ocean. Grassi battled his fish on 80-pound stand-up gear, only to enter a stalemate near the end.

The fish couldn't be budged, despite our tricks. We attempted to plane it, as outlined above. The gains in line were painfully marginal, but we were gaining. Some 30 minutes into the planing routine, a huge sword popped to the surface. We fly-gaffed and boated the fish. It weighed 380 pounds on the scale at Bud n' Mary's Marina in Islamorada, Florida. The planing move paid dividends for us that day.

### **2017 Chapter Officers**

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## FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	26-29	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
	28-29	- Kent Island Chapter Fishing Flea Market
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	11	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale Md
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	17-18	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	18	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
	25	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
<b>25</b>	- <b>Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club</b>	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	18-19	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
<b>APRIL</b>	1-2	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Shakedown Cruise/ Catch &amp; Release Tournament</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	15	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>5-7</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons</b>
	5-7	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>19-21</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	16-18	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
<b>JULY</b>	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick MSSA Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, Va</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	16-18	- 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>7-14</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament</b>
	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	17-19	- 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>

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