

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



FREDERICK - CHAPTER 22
www.mssafrederick.com

The Official MSSA Frederick Chapter VHF Channel is 71

President's Message

I certainly hope that everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. I'm also hoping Santa dropped off all the fishing tackle and gear that you wanted. If anyone is looking for a boat load of coal, I have plenty to go around. Truly, the Holidays are a great time to spend with family, unwind, reflect on the previous year and then start looking forward to opening day in April. As fast as last year went by, April will be here before we know it. It is time to start planning your participation in the fun filled activities of the chapter in the upcoming year.

Speaking of the upcoming year, the board has proposed some new and additional payouts for each chapter sponsored tournament this year. We started this last year at our annual King Mackerel Tournament. The added possibilities of winning additional chapter contributed monies, along with the designed payouts were welcomed and certainly made the fishing more interesting. We will be announcing each extra Calcutta or payout prior to each tournament. In addition, we have a full agenda this year of activities, tournaments, speakers, vendors and a vast array of opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

January is action packed to start the chapter off this year. We will be having our annual dinner dance on January 12th with great food, a live band, super prizes along with a lot of fishin' stories and camaraderie. The following week, January 19th, we have our Fishing Expo with over 40 different vendors showcasing their products or services at the Frederick County Fairgrounds. This is going to be a heck of a show with great seminars, hot food, raw oysters and plenty of discounted tackle. Hope to see everyone there. Please come out and support the chapter. We are in need of volunteers to help on Friday evening and during the day on Saturday. Please contact me if you can give back a few moments of your time to the Chapter.

Fish Hard!

Next Meeting

Moose Club in Frederick

6:30 - 11:00 PM

Our annual chapter dinner meeting will again be held on January 12th from 6:30pm until 11:00pm at the Moose Club in Frederick, Maryland.

Hors d'oeuvres including crab dip and steamed spiced shrimp will start the night

Dinner at 7:30pm will include a carving station of Roast Beef and the Moose's famous chicken along with potato, vegetable and salad.

We're also happy to announce the cost this year is also more affordable - Tickets for the event are just \$30 for individuals and \$50 per couple.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. There will be no ticket sales at the door. No exceptions!!!

December Raffle Winners:

Allan Disson - Penn Senator Combo
Neal Ammerman - MSSA Fred. Shirt and hat
Terry Hoption - Striper Net
Jim Scott - Striper Lures
Joel Gianni- Spinning Reel
Gary Lengerhuis - Scotty Clips and Towel
Steve O'Neil - Igloo Cooler
Chris Conway - MSSA Frederick T-shirt

50/50 - Eddie "Money" Blank \$104

Attendance at the December Meeting:
40

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.

Chapter News

Do not forget the Saltwater Fishing Expo on January 19

This is going to be a huge event and we need everyone to step up. We need people to spread the "word". We need volunteers to help set up and break down along with just general help. Please everyone, offer a couple of hours to make this a successful event.

Contact Ed, Rob or one of the Board Members to volunteer.



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4TH ANNUAL FISHING AND BOATING EXPO

January 19th • 8am - 4pm

Seminar Schedule

Bay Trolling	9:00am	Charlie Sisson
Offshore Fishing	10:15am	Captain Joe Riley
Light Tackle Jigging	11:30am	Captain Walleye Pete
Kayak Fishing	12:45pm	Captain Chris Dollar
Flounder Fishing	2:00pm	Captain Art Waleski

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Check out our website for an updated list of vendors and speakers

Frederick County Fairgrounds

797 E Patrick St. • Building #9 • Frederick, MD 21705
New Indoor Location and 12,000 sq. ft. Space

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

Don't put those rods away yet fishing does not stop just cause it gets colder. Seaside striper season is open until March 31 with a two fish limit over 28". They seem to be holding right around the three mile limit from what the commercial boats are telling me. Some are being caught off the surf also but you have to put in the time for that. Look for the birds!

Tog are on the wrecks when the weather permits to venture out there. Regs are 16" and 4 PP. Hitting on blue & green crabs. Blue crabs are available in Pocomoke at OC Highway Seafood call first at 410-957-1330. You may be able to find green crabs in OC but make some calls before going. Best bet would be to check with AllTackle in West OC, call 1-866-465-8862 or 410-213-2840. They also have a 24 hour bait machine that has sandfleas and frozen sea clams.

I will be attending the Flounder Adhoc Committee meeting on January 9 at VMRC in Newport News and will know more information on what the choices are for the February Newsletter. Most of us who fished in the back bays and other seaside ports realize 2012 was a poor year for catching lots of fish. Although most that were caught were keepers. I have been fishing here for 44 years and 10 years as a charter captain and it was bad. Some boats did better than others and it seems the fish held in few tight spots but fishing those places was up to the which way the wind blew. Seems the fish were plentiful at Blackfish Banks but they never made their way inside.

In the nine years leading up to 2012 my customers landed an average of 800 fish over the rail. Although the keeper ratio was down due to size limits they caught lots of fish. In 2012 they only landed 175 which 73 were keepers. In 2006 when the size limit was 16.5" and 8 PP I had 741 fish over the rail and 247 keepers. The following information is from the VMRC; The coastwide recreational harvest limit (RHL) has been set at 7.63 million pounds for 2013. This is a 10% decrease from the 2012 RHL of 8.49 million pounds, because of the drop in the spawning stock biomass estimate and poor recruitment in the most recent summer flounder stock assessment. Therefore, Virginia's 2013 target or quota will also decrease from the 2012 quota. Our 2013 recreational target is 417,000 fish (compared to our 2012 quota of 466,000 fish). Virginia landings in 2012 were well below quota (estimated landings = 266,000 fish), so we have the opportunity to liberalize the recreational management measures for 2013. Tightlines.....

Ocean City Action

By Sue Foster
Water Temp:

A few reports of stripers here and there...

Chesapeake Bay Action

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball
4 Jan 2013

The 2012 fishing season proved to be another outstanding year for anglers along the Mid Atlantic Coast. And although the New Year ushered in some gusty weather, as the wind settles out, the promise of another great winter fishery is materializing. True to form, since the striped bass season closed in Bay waters on the 1st of the year, boats are heading to the ocean front in hopes of finding good luck with rockfish off our coastlines. So far the results have been mostly hit and miss. Striped bass are certainly around, with those paying their dues finding a mixture of fish ranging from 25 to 45-pounds. Unfortunately, many of those schools of big fish are teasing boats from outside the 3-mile limit. Beehives of birds following huge schools of rockfish anywhere from 5 to 8-miles off the coast are well out of reach of boats respecting the EEZ. But if there's a striper to be found within legal waters, anglers fishing in the world's largest and most prestigious rockfish tournament, the Mid Atlantic Rockfish Shootout will find them this week. The area stretching from Cape Henry to Rudee Inlet is providing the most consistent action. Right now, each angler can keep two fish each at 28-inches or larger in the ocean. If you are interested in catch and release action, Bay waters are still an option. The high rise section of the CBBT is still giving up a few nice fish on eels at night, while trollers and casters are also still finding some worthwhile fish to release in the Bay. Plenty of school-sized rockfish are available for catch and release under working birds and near the CBBT and the HRBT.

With last year's surprise onslaught of spooled reels along our oceanfront transpiring into the most noted bluefin tuna fishery in Virginia's history, rockfish anglers have been engaging heavy-duty offshore combos to drag their striper tackle. This preparation paid off for many early this week, when big bluefin began busting through rockfish spreads. Several tuna were boated, with most fish registering between 150 to 250-pounds. No one can say if we can expect a replay of last year's incredible phenomenon of bluefin mixed in with big rockfish, but anglers are jumping at the opportunity while they can. Be sure to review the bluefin tuna regulations and guidelines before each trip though, as they change quickly. And an illegal bluefin tuna is no joke to law enforcement officials.

Although there is not much interest in much else right now, boats making it out between blows are finding good hauls of tautog on lower Bay structures and the Bay Bridge Tunnel proper, with some fish pushing to over 8-pounds. Good numbers of tog and seabass are also concentrated on both inshore and offshore wrecks, when boats can venture out to reach them. One boat found plenty of nice seabass up to around three pounds at the Brass Spike recently.

Good speckled trout action continues to draw anglers to the Elizabeth River where fish averaging between 22 and 24-inches are responding this week. According to the folks at Ocean's East 2, most of the bigger fish are coming from the River, with a few nicer trout also coming from the Cove area on live bait this week. Big fish are coming from casting lures in deeper water, with a very slow retrieve. Reports from the discharge area indicate the bite is good, with several fish averaging around 6 to 7-pounds landed recently. The Virginia Beach Fishing Center reports that a few specks are still responding in Rudee Inlet for anglers who put in their time.

A variety of deep dropping species await anglers when the weather allows. Blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, blackbellied rosefish, and a variety of grouper are available along the edges of the Norfolk Canyon. Jumbo seabass will also provide a welcome by-catch, but check the regulations. Swordfishing is also a possibility, and there is still a chance at some yellowfin tuna if boats want to leave the bluefin to run out to find them.

www.drjball.com.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: January 4, 2013

DELAWARE BAY The water temperature in the bay has dropped below the comfort zone for large rockfish, but a few have been caught at the Rips on trolled plugs and in the Valley on drifted eels. Very few folks fished over the holidays and we should have a better idea of what is available as the weather improves and draws more anglers to the water.

The tidal creeks will produce white perch, yellow perch and catfish as the winter progresses. Bloodworms and grass shrimp are the top baits with nightcrawlers working when bloodworms are unavailable.

INDIAN RIVER INLET I am still getting reports of rockfish from the inlet on live spot. Many are short with the occasional

keeper and large flounder mixed in the catch.

Shore fishermen are still catching rock on flies fished behind sinkers. These rigs are cast as far as possible into the inlet and allowed to drift across the bottom.

SURF FISHING Not much to report here. The surf has been cold and rough and while a rockfish is still possible, it is not probable. On a nice day it is possible to catch a few ling and the always popular dog sharks and skates, but not much else.

INSHORE OCEAN This weekend should see some impressive catches of sea bass as the boats will be able to sail far enough offshore to catch them. I have seen reports from Virginia where quick limits were filled and I have no doubt Delaware anglers will be doing the same.

Boats that fish closer to shore will find tog waiting at Site 11 and similar wrecks and reefs. Between the tog and sea bass trips I would expect to see a few cod and pollock.

Tips and Tackle

Three Ethanol Myths Clarified

By Bob Adriance

It's time we get to the bottom of how E10 is affecting our engines

In the few years since ethanol began to be widely used in the United States, a lot has been written about its properties, the problems it's created, and how to best cope with its possible effects. Some of the advice has been based on science, some on hearsay. While E10 is not an ideal fuel – and E15 could cause serious problems for marine engines – at least a few myths about ethanol have arisen with the potential to do more harm than good:

Myth #1: Ethanol-enhanced gasoline (E10) loses octane much faster than regular gasoline.

Many mechanics believe that octane loss during winter storage could be great enough to damage an engine when it's run in the spring. These same mechanics will often recommend leaving the tank almost empty so that fresh gasoline can be added in the spring to raise depleted octane levels. While all gasoline loses octane as it ages, ethanol-enhanced gasoline loses octane at about the same rate as regular gasoline, according to Jim Simnick, a technical advisor at BP Global Fuels Technology, and Lew Gibbs, a senior engineering consultant and Chevron Fellow. The two men have over 75 years of combined experience working with gasoline and both agree that the loss of octane over the winter would not be sufficient to damage

an engine. Note, however, to keep any gasoline, including E10, as fresh as possible; they said it's good practice to always add fuel stabilizer – an antioxidant – whenever the boat will be idle for long periods.

The recommendation to leave a tank mostly empty is bad advice; it could significantly increase the amount of water that gets into the tank. When enough water enters through the vent, the ethanol will separate ("phase separate") from the gasoline. Leaving a tank mostly empty does three things to increase the chances of phase separation:

It increases the volume of open space in the tank (its "lung capacity") so it can "breathe in" damaging moist air. An almost-empty tank leaves more space on tank walls for condensation to form. Leaving less gasoline in the tank means there will be less ethanol to absorb the condensation.

It's interesting to note that in areas of the Midwest that have been dealing with E10 for over a decade, topping off tanks is common practice. (As an alternative, completely emptying the tank would eliminate any chance of phase separation.)

If phase separation occurs, the highly corrosive ethanol/water mixture will settle to the bottom of the tank and remain there even after fresh fuel is added in the spring. The only way to remedy the problem would then be to drain the tank and add fresh gasoline. The best way to avoid phase separation over the winter (aside from emptying the tank) is to leave the tank 95-percent full (which allows for expansion) so that there's less moist air in the tank, less space for condensation to collect, and more gasoline to absorb whatever moisture does accumulate.

Myth #2: E10 attracts water, so it's important to install a water separator to prevent the water reaching the engine.

Mercury Marine, which recently hosted a Webinar on ethanol myths, noted that ethanol does not "grab water molecules out of the air." It is hydrophilic, which means ethanol holds water. With regular gasoline (E0) as well as E10, the primary cause of water collecting in tanks is condensation on tank walls. But unlike E0, which can absorb almost no moisture, E10 can hold up to half of one percent of water by volume, and the water molecules will dissolve in the fuel. The "solubilized" water will bypass the water separator and burn harmlessly through the engine. Only if phase separation were to occur would a water separator do its job, but by then the fuel itself would be the problem. The phase-separated water/ethanol mixture would settle on the bottom of the tank near

the fuel pick-up and would quickly stall out or even damage your engine. And because ethanol is used to boost octane, the remaining (low-octane) gasoline at the top of the tank would also have the potential to damage your engine.

Note, however, that a fuel filter (10-micron) is essential to keep gunk from reaching your engine. Ethanol is a solvent that dissolves resins, rust, and dirt that have accumulated on older tank walls. Especially when you first make the transition to E10, it's important to carry spare filters and a galvanized bucket to store used filters prior to disposal. Even in new engines and tanks, E10 will sometimes form a mysterious goeey substance that will also clog filters. Richard Kolb, the manager of Emissions and Regulations for Volvo Penta, believes the goo is caused by water mixing with one or more of the 108 approved compounds that can be used in gasoline. These compounds vary among suppliers, so one solution is to change to a different brand of gasoline. Another is to use carburetor cleaner, which he says has sometimes remedied the problem.

Myth #3: Certain additives can prevent phase separation?

Both Gibbs and Simnick said that the additives that eliminate water may work incrementally to protect against phase separation, but Joe Simnick stressed that no additives will stand up to a good slug of water. Lew Gibbs added that the best way to prevent phase separation in E10 is to "keep it dry, keep it dry, keep it dry." That means keeping the tank filled to prevent condensation. Mercury Marine has also noted that, contrary to statements made by some companies that produce fuel additives, there are no additives that can make stale or phase-separated gasoline usable.

E10 is certainly not as trouble-free as E0, especially the first few tankfills. But for newer engines, those built after about 1991, there's no reason the initial problems can't be overcome. No less an authority than Mercury Marine says, "After the transition period from E0, E10 may actually be a superior marine fuel as it tends to keep low levels of water moving through the fuel system, keeping the system 'dry.'"

DNR in the News

More Zebra Mussels Found in Upper Chesapeake Bay

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists found young zebra mussels attached to buoys off Havre de Grace on December 3. DNR is asking boaters and

anglers to be on the look out for this harmful, invasive mussel.

The biologists collected 20 live zebra mussels attached to the concrete anchor blocks for three channel marker buoys. DNR discovered the mussels when Captain Shawn Orr and the crew of DNR's A.V. Sandusky pulled the buoys from the water for cleaning and winter storage.

"We know that these mussels are from this year's spawn since these buoys and anchors were deployed this spring," said Matt Ashton, a DNR biologist and mussel expert who helped collect the mussels. "We plan to check these and other buoys every fall, as part of DNR's limited zebra mussel monitoring effort in the upper Bay area."

Boaters, anglers and others who use the lower Susquehanna River and upper Bay can help prevent these harmful zebra mussels from spreading to other Maryland waters by taking the following precautions before launching and leaving the area:

- Remove all aquatic plants and mud from boats, motors, and trailers; and put the debris in trash containers.
- Drain river water from boat motors, bilges, live wells, bait buckets and coolers before leaving, to prevent these aquatic hitchhikers from riding along.
- Dispose of unused live bait on shore, far from the river or Bay or in trash containers.
- Rinse boats, motors, trailers, live wells, bait buckets, coolers and scuba gear with high pressure or hot water between trips to different water bodies.
- Dry everything at least two days (preferably five days) between outings.
- Limit boating from place to place - particularly between the Susquehanna and upper Bay to other water bodies in Maryland - where zebra mussels haven't invaded.

DNR asks that people who live and work on the water keep an eye out for zebra mussels and call 410-260-8615 if they find anything suspicious.

The non-native and invasive zebra mussel was first found in Maryland in late 2008 at two locations in the Susquehanna River: the Conowingo Dam and further upstream at Glen Cove Marina, Harford County. Sporadic sightings since then indicate establishment of a zebra mussel population in the lower river and downstream dispersal, but no apparent rapid increase in abundance.

"In their wake, zebra mussels cause economic damages in the billions of dollars,

killing imperiled native freshwater mussels, and disrupting aquatic ecosystems," said Ron Klauda, DNR biologist who helped collect the mussels. "We'd rather not have them in Maryland waters, but they're now established in the Susquehanna. So far, that's the only place in the State where we're convinced they've taken hold. We're asking our boaters and anglers to be vigilant and help prevent their spread to other waters."

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	12	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	26-27	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention, Annapolis, MD
	2	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
	13	- Frederick Meeting -
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-17	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	23	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
	23	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
28	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center	
MARCH	1-3	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-17	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	23-24	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	6	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	10	- Frederick Meeting
	30	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
MAY	3-5	- 29th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	21-23	- 20th Annual MSSA Tournament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17	- Chapter Lower Bay Charter Trip
	24	- 3rd Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	5-12	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	16	- Frederick Meeting
	23	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	23-24	- 19 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting