

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

Can you believe that it's August already? Each summer seems to come and go faster than the year before. It has been somewhat quiet the last month for the Chapter, but things will be heating up over the next couple of months. We have two of our chapters late summer/early fall events scheduled. Those being our annual crab feast and our every exciting week long King Mackerel Tournament in Harker's Island. The crab feast will be held September 13, 2014 from 1:00pm until the last crab is picked. This year the crab feast will be held at the Urbana District Park, Pavilion #1 off of Route 355 in Urbana, Md. As everyone knows, crabs have been hard to come by and we had to adjust the ticket prices. Be reminded, that for each ten raffle tickets you sell, you receive one free entry to the feast. The menu again this year will be delicious with steamed crabs, smoked chicken or beef, corn on the cob, handmade fries, slaw and all the other fixings. Volunteers are needed. Tickets will be on sale at the August and September meetings. **THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES THE DAY OF THE EVENT.** Hope to see everyone there.

Sign-up sheets will be available this meeting for early bird registration for the King Mackerel tournament. This week long event is one of the Chapters prestigious events with two catered pig pickins', great prizes and some decent cash to be won. Tournament shirt orders forms will be available at the August meeting. There will be NO extra shirts ordered, so, if you want some, please be sure to fill out the form.

Finally, preparations have begun for our 2015 Fishing Expo to be held on January 17, 2015. We are currently preparing committees with team leaders to help assist with the event. Each team leader will then reach out to our members to volunteer time to help make this a continued success. We can only hope that you will be willing to donate some time.

Fish Hard!

Ed

Next Meeting

August 13, 2014

Food Service begins @ 6:00 pm
Meeting starts @ 7:15 pm

Speaker:

Speaker:

John Travers AKA Crabby
John won the under 41' division of 2014 Ocean City Tuna Tournament. He placed second in the 2014 MSSA Tuna-ment and is currently in first place for the 2014 MSSA "Captain of the Year" award.

Vendor: **Catch-All Tackle**

Menu:

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Macaroni and Cheese
Green Beans
Cole Slaw
Dessert

June Winners:

Jay Betts – Penn 330 GTi Reel
Walt Shaw – Spinning Rod
Jim Hearn – Gear Bag
Rick Thompson – Filet Knife and Sharpener
Charles Latgano – Gulps Baits and Gloves
Gary Lengerhuis – Rod Rack

50/50 Raffle – \$61
Jim Stewart

Attendance at Meeting:
48

Fredrick Moose Lodge
828 E. Patrick St
Frederick, Md. 21707

Chapter News

ATTENTION !!!!!

The Cruise Drawing will be at next Month's Meeting

We are drawing the winner of the 2014 fundraiser Cruise at the conclusion of September's meeting.

Please turn your tickets back into Bob Pellicott, or one of the Chapter Officers, no later than September 10, 2014.

We want everyone who bought tickets to have an equal chance of winning so your cooperation in this matter is of utmost importance.

4th Annual Boat and Beach tournament – August 23, 2014

The Beach N Boat Flounder tournament is open to all anglers, even those fishing from shore, bridge, beach, or pier. While the most popular method in this tournament is by boat, we do have many anglers choosing to fish from land.

This is a one day tournament, and will be determined by the single heaviest flounder.

Entry Fee:

Member – \$50
Non-Member – \$60

Two optional Skill Levels available:

Heaviest Flounder – \$50
Heaviest Non-Flounder (no skate) – \$25

Registration & Weigh Station

Aug. 23, 2014 at AKE Marine, Ocean City, MD
Day-of Registration (if not pre-registered):
6:00AM to 7:00AM
Fishing Hours: 7:00AM – 3:30PM
Weigh-In Hours: 3:00PM – 5:00PM

N.C. King Mackerel Tournament October 4-11, 2014

We will be taking money at the August meeting. Make sure to sign up.

\$250 all in plus \$20 per person which includes two all you can eat meals

Chapter Crab Feast in September

The Frederick Chapter will be hosting the annual crab feast on Saturday, September 13 at the Urbana District Park in Urbana MD.

This event will be FREE, yes, I said FREE, to anyone who sells ten (10) raffle tickets for the chapter fundraiser. For each ten (10) tickets you sell, you will receive one free ticket to the crab feast.

The menu will feature fresh steamed blue crabs, corn on the cob, fries, and Cole slaw. Soft drinks will be provided free of charge. Feel free to bring your own beer.

For those that did not sell ten (10) raffle tickets, tickets are \$40 each, advance purchase only. There will be no tickets sold after the September 10 meeting. Friends and family are welcome as well. More information about the crab feast will follow in subsequent newsletters. For now, get out there and sell those tickets

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

Tight lines.....

Ocean City Action

August 4, 2014

Water Temp: 76

Fishing Report by Sue Foster

Fishing this week was good on flounder fishing. Typical summer fishing in the bay. Lots of "short" flounder with a few keepers mixed in. Larger flounder are in the ocean on artificial reef sites and anglers are doing excellent in both Maryland and Delaware! The croaker run is still on and anglers are catching plenty in the bays. Nothing huge in the Ocean City bay but lots of action. Indian River Inlet has seen some good flounder catches along with the croaker. Surf is in typical summertime mode with kingfish, sharks, rays, croaker, snapper blues and spot.

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

The upper bay continues to provide very good fishing for Striped Bass this week by a variety of methods. Trolling bucktails behind inline weights and spoons behind planers has been a good option for catching a nice grade of Striped Bass along channel edges. Chumming and live lining or chunking Spot has been good at locations such as Love Point, the Dumping Grounds and Baltimore

Light. Many of the Striped Bass being found in chum slicks tend to be the 2011 year class fish that are just shy of 18" at this time. Striped Bass can also be found along other channel edges in the upper bay and a little exploring while watching a depth finder can pay big dividends. Often jigging is a good option when fish can be found holding along edges. There has also been some good White Perch fishing being reported on some of the knolls and shoals out in the bay such as Belvidere Shoals; most fishermen are using small jigs or bottom rigs baited with grass shrimp or bloodworms at these sites. The Bay Bridge continues to be a good place to look for Striped Bass holding near the piers. Sometimes they may be suspended a good distance off the bottom so it often pays to make a run through the bridge and watch the depth finder to spot where they are holding. Live lining Spot continues to be a very popular way to catch them but chunking with fresh Spot works as does jigging. In the shallower areas of the bridge a mix of White Perch, small croaker and Spot can be caught on bottom rigs baited with bloodworms.

The fishing for Striped Bass in the middle bay region continues to be very good at a number of locations this week. It seems that the Striped Bass may have spread out a bit since there are a number of areas where the fishing has been good, this also helps spread the fishing pressure out so things aren't so crowded. The Hill area continues to get a lot of pressure from live liners but other nearby locations such as channel edges in Eastern Bay, Bloody Point. The Gum Thickets, the outside eastern edge of Hackett's Bar, Thomas Point, the Clay Banks, the Diamonds and Stone Rock edges are producing action at times. These are just a few places to start looking; any edge with good current flow and acceptable oxygen and temperature can hold fish.

Fisheries biologists and our young anglers from the Maryland Youth Fishing Club were out tagging Striped Bass for the July segment of Diamond Jim. One of these fish could be worth \$20,000 to a lucky fisherman and if not caught, the August release of Diamond Jim will rise to a \$25,000 pay out. One of our young anglers gets a little help holding a tagged Diamond Jim Striped Bass before it is released into the bay.

Catching the proper size Spot for live lining tends to be difficult for many fishermen as the season progresses and Spot get larger. In a pinch cutting them up into fresh baits will often work well when Striped Bass are under the boat and often enough the only way to keep your sanity when Bluefish come charging in. Another option for the larger

Spot is the frying pan; if they are filleting size they are fine fare. Croaker are also being found while fishing for Spot and although many are small they make good eating also. Some of the better croaker catches are taking place in the evening hours along channel edges in the lower areas of the tidal rivers and edges like Stone Rock.

Shallow water fishing for Striped Bass in the tidal rivers and bay shorelines is mostly a crack of dawn and late evening affair this week. Water temperatures are about 80-degrees in the bay so warm temperatures coupled with bright sun light have the Striped Bass holding deeper during the day. There is plenty of good fishing for White Perch in the tidal rivers and creeks during the morning and evening hours for those casting small spinners and jigs with light tackle. Shore based fishermen at various locations such as the Matapeake Pier and the Bill Burton Pier on the Choptank have been catching a mix of Spot, croaker, White Perch, small Bluefish and Striped Bass.

Lower bay region fishing has a lot of variety to it this week. Chumming for a mix of Striped Bass and Bluefish is still popular at the mouth of the Potomac River; although many of the Striped Bass are just shy of 18" and Bluefish can dominate chum slicks at times. Live lining Spot along channel edges near Cove Point, Buoy 72 and the mouth of the Patuxent has been accounting for some Striped Bass. Trolling bucktails and spoons deep with inline weights and planers has been a good option for a mix of Striped Bass and Bluefish along popular channel edges. The Middle Grounds are holding a lot of Bluefish and there has been some fun action up by the Target Ship. Some large Red Drum have been caught and released while trolling spoons north of the Target Ship and some slot sized Red Drum have been caught while jigging in the area.

There has been good fishing for a mix of croaker, Spot and small Bluefish in the Tangier Sound area as well as the lower Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. There are some Speckled Trout and Red Drum being caught in the Tangier and Pocomoke Sound area and Bloodworth Island as well. There are also some flounder being caught along the hard shoals near the channel areas in Tangier Sound. In the lower Potomac River medium sized Blue Catfish can often make a large portion of the bottom fishing there.

Recreational crabbers are reporting poor success in the upper bay this week, fair to good in the middle bay region and generally good in the lower bay tidal rivers and creeks. Catches have varied from a few dozen good crabs to a full bushel. One thing

that most are agreeing upon is the large number of small crabs chewing up baits.

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball

Milder temperatures are welcome as another cold front makes its way through the area. The biggest news on the fishing scene is coming from offshore this week. As the bluewater season unfolds, billfish encounters are on the rise, with catches becoming more frequent over the past few weeks.

Inshore, flounder are still at the head of the line, as this year's fishery continues to out-perform recent years. Anglers are enjoying excellent flatfish action, with most folks boasting limits from many lower Bay hotspots. As is often the case, the Bay Bridge Tunnel is giving up the best quality of fish, with trophy-sized doormats to over 7-pounds common lately. The big flatties are coming from around the 3rd and 4th islands, as live bait and jigs donned with plastics or stripped bait is working well over structure. Keepers are also hitting near buoys 36A, 42, and the Cell. Both Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets are also providing some good catches, while the backwaters of the Eastern Shore are having no trouble keeping up.

The rest of the inshore scene is mostly dominated by cobia. Cobia are making a showing for both chummers and top water casters, with some fish pushing to over 60-pounds hitting the deck this week. Good numbers of solid fish are keeping cobia hunters content, but most fish are ranging in the 40-pound class, with pairs and small pods of fish becoming more common in open waters and on structure. Chummers continue to battle relentless sharks and rays on the lower Bay shoals.

Schools of red drum are meandering near the entrance of the Bay, while a few interested anglers are picking away at reds from the shoals along the Eastern Shore via bottom fishing. Schools of jack crevelle were also spotted roaming in the same areas, with a few hook-ups reported this week. Black drum are still schooled up around the islands of the Bridge Tunnel.

The Spanish mackerel fishing along coastal Virginia Beach is still excellent. Trollers continue to catch big mackerel off the oceanfront, from Cape Henry to Sandbridge. Small gold and silver spoons are the best lures for these fish. Plenty of greedy sharks along the coastline are providing some interesting catches, although most are too small to keep. Be sure to review the regulations before targeting sharks. A few

boats out of Rudee Inlet had surprise catches of mahi within 30-miles of shore this week.

Sheepshead are still a sure thing along the Bay Bridge Tunnel structure, with plenty of nice fish around. Spadefish ranging up to around 7-pounds are also still available along the Bridge tunnel and around the islands, as well as on many inshore structures. Trigger fish are also hitting in these same areas, with some triggers pushing to over 3-pounds. Spades and triggers are also feeding on inshore and near shore wrecks, along with some keeper seabass.

Good numbers of nice puppy drum are active within Rudee, Lynnhaven, and Little Creek Inlets. Some speckled trout, along with scattered catches of spot and croaker are also a good bet in these areas. Speckled trout are once again available to keep, but check the regulations. Anglers are limited to five fish per person over 14-inches, with one allowed to stretch to over 24-inches. Anglers fishing from Oyster are filling coolers with small to medium-sized croaker from the back waters. Nice sea mullet are still available near the concrete ships and Fisherman's Island Inlet.

Deep dropping action is still good. Boats running out to investigate the Canyon edges are still scoring with big blueline and golden tilefish, grouper, blackbellied rosefish, and nice seabass. Amberjack are available on several wrecks and the around the southern towers, and jack crevelle will settle in on the Chesapeake Light Tower soon.

Offshore, the billfish action is on the rise, with multiple white marlin releases, a few blue marlin encounters, and even some sailfish action happening this week. While a few boats are catching several white marlin on the troll, the boats returning with double-digit releases are using live-baiting techniques. A few big yellowfin tuna pushing to over 70-pounds are also around, along with some scattered bigeyes. Boats are also finding some willing wahoo and plenty of bailer dolphin and big gaffers this week.

www.drjball.com.

Delaware Action

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

Updated: July 31, 2014

DELAWARE BAY Flounder continue to attract considerable attention from anglers up and down the bay. These fish have been caught as far north as reef sites 3 and 4 all the way down the bay to the Outer Wall. Most of the flatfish are holding on structure and it takes a bit of work to catch

them. Jigging with a bucktail enhanced with a strip of squid or fresh fish has been the top technique.

Croaker are all over the place from the mouth of the bay as far north as Augustine Beach. Some of the larger fish have been caught in the tidal creeks and rivers. The Lewes & Rehoboth Canal has yielded some very nice fish as have the Broadkill and Leipsic Rivers. Clam is an inexpensive replacement for bloodworms and seems to attract the croaker just as well. A Gulp! swimming mullet on a jig head will also bring croaker a'calling.

The slot rockfish season has been attracting considerable attention with most of these fish taken in the tidal creeks and rivers. Early morning or late evening have been the best times to fish. Live bait such as pencil eels and small spot are productive while lures such as poppers and shallow diving plugs will also work.

The pier at Cape Henlopen State Park has seen good fishing for spot and croaker. The best action is on high tide and if that occurs early and late in the day so much the better. Bloodworms continue to be the prime bait with FishBites almost as good.

Tog fishermen have been a bit disappointed in their catch or lack thereof at the Outer Wall. While one or two boats have reported some success, most are not doing nearly that well. Sheepshead, triggerfish and spadefish have been encountered by toggers. Sand fleas and green crab have been the top baits.

While I have not encountered any, several captains have reported the presence of very large tiger sharks in the bay. A few boats target them while most hook them as a by catch. On Wednesday I was fishing along the Outer Wall when a free diver encountered one of the large sharks. He scrambled out of the water and up on the rocks faster than I would have thought possible.

INSHORE OCEAN Flounder have been caught in fair numbers at the reef sites, along open bottom at the Old Grounds and between buoys A and B. This is a deep water fishery and not every day is conducive to fishing here. A strong wind or current will make it difficult to keep a bait on the bottom while a calm wind and no current will not produce a good drift. A bucktail tipped with Gulp!, strips of fresh fish (sea robins make good strip baits) or squid have proved very effective when the drift speed is less than two knots. A Delaware Bay Green Machine sweetened with the same baits as the bucktail and held on the bottom with up to eight ounces of lead will also catch flounder.

The occasional keeper sea bass, ling and croaker have been mixed in with the flounder. The best of the croaker catch has been on Reef Site 10 while ling and sea bass are more common in the deeper water.

The shoals at Fenwick Island hold good numbers of small bluefish. Trolling small spoons and bucktails has proved effective on these fish. Look for false albacore and Atlantic bonito to mix in with the blues by the middle of August.

The various structure in 20 to 30 fathoms such as Massey's Canyon, the Hambone and Hot Dog have seen fair fishing for bluefin tuna. Trolling continues to produce most of these fish with chunking at night beginning to produce as well. The occasional yellowfin, dolphin and wahoo are taken along with the tuna.

OFFSHORE OCEAN Most of the boats fishing the canyons are targeting yellowfin tuna and having mixed success. If they hit the right place at the right time the catch is good. Miss the bite and you go home with an empty cooler. Having one of the ocean temperature services is a big help in finding productive water.

Trolling is the primary technique with a few boats laying overnight and catching fish by chunking. Here too the by catch can be interesting should a large mako shark decide to visit the chum slick.

Dolphin numbers have been pretty high for those who find floating structure and take the time to work it with light tackle and chunks of bait. Larger dolphin have been caught on the troll.

The White Marlin Open is right around the corner so I expect to see more boats fishing for billfish in the next week or two. Right now not many are willing to give up some meat in the box to catch and release a marlin.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Croakers have shown up in good numbers at the inlet with the larger fish along the southside. Sand fleas, bloodworms and cut fish will all work on these hardheads. Further up Indian River Bay around Buoy 20 the croaker may be smaller, but they are much more numerous. Small bits of bloodworm or FishBites will catch more croaker than you can count. This is a perfect way to introduce young folks to the fun of fishing.

The largest flounder have been caught on live spot drifted through the inlet from the Green Can near the Coast Guard Station back to South Shore Marina. Bucktails with strips of squid, live minnows or strips of fresh fish have also produced flatfish. Keepers have been hard to find although some quality fish have been caught.

Flounder are also available in the rocks with a live minnow and strips of squid a favored decoration to the bucktail fished right in the structure. Tog are available as well as sheepshead, and rockfish. Sand fleas placed directly in the rocks will take both fish with tog caught during the day and rockfish action best after dark.

Bluefish and shad come through the inlet on incoming water. This is not an everyday occurrence, but when it happens small metal lures or shad darts will catch both species.

SURF FISHING Surf fishing is still in summer mode with small blues, kings and croaker caught from the beach. The best of this bite will be early or late in the day before the crowds arrive. Bloodworms and FishBites will catch the kings and croakers while strips of bunker or other fresh fish work best on the blues.

Tips and Tackle

Guide to Understanding Marine GPS Devices

For centuries, mariners relied on star charts, compasses, and latitude and longitude numbers to navigate the seas and waterways. However, since the introduction of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology, marine navigation has become much simpler and more accurate. Marine GPS devices enable sailors to pinpoint their location and accurately chart the best course to their destination. When boating on large bodies of water, a marine GPS unit is an indispensable piece of equipment that can prevent boaters from getting lost at sea and assist rescue teams in locating vessels in distress. Make selecting the right marine GPS unit easier by learning which types are available and becoming familiar with the various features, capabilities, and costs of different units. Once the right marine GPS unit is decided upon, the shopper can compare prices models at local marine supply specialty shops or sporting goods stores. Alternatively, consumers hoping to find a large selection and competitive prices in one convenient place can try shopping for a new marine GPS on eBay.

About Marine GPS Units

The Global Positioning System is a group of interconnected satellites that orbit the earth and can determine the exact location of anyone accessing their signals at a given time. A marine GPS receiver is used to interpret signals from these GPS satellites, and can pinpoint the location of a vessel to within a few feet. These devices can be used either as a main navigation tool or simply as a backup for navigational gear already installed on a boat.

There are several different types of marine GPS units available, each with varying capabilities and features. Chartplotters, fishfinder combos, and standalone navigators all have the necessary navigation capabilities, but may combine other functions with navigation to enhance their performance and utility.

Chartplotters

A chartplotter is a type of marine GPS unit with the ability to plot the position of a boat on a nautical chart and give detailed information about a particular navigational course. Chartplotters are comprised of a display unit mounted at a boat's helm, and an antenna, which is secured to the top of the boat and picks up the GPS signal. Latitude and longitude numbers are sent from the antenna to the display unit. The boat's position is then overlaid and shown graphically on the chart screen as a boat icon. Chart information, including depth contours, surrounding buoys, potential hazards, and land masses, is displayed on the electronic screen as well. Most chartplotters also allow users to create waypoints and routes, and to zoom in and out on the chart. Chartplotters with built-in keyboards and models that can be connected to a computer are more versatile and easier to use.

Standalone Navigators

Many ships and boats come equipped with permanently installed onboard navigation systems. For those vessels that are not equipped with navigation instruments, standalone navigation units, such as handheld marine GPS units, can be used as primary navigation devices. They can also serve as a backup means of navigation for boats with permanently installed navigation systems. Handheld marine GPS units are similar to the ones used in automobiles, but with the added protection of being water-resistant. These compact devices are able to accurately track boat position, as well as give speed and course information. Some units also provide lunar, solar, and tidal data to users. With screen sizes much smaller than the large, fixed-mount chartplotters, handheld units generally lack the ability to display easy-to-read charts.

Chartplotter-Fishfinder Combo Units

Sailors and fishermen alike can benefit from purchasing a marine GPS unit that combines the features of a chartplotter and a fishfinder into one device. Chartplotter-fishfinder combo GPS units integrate a sounder to supply depth and bottom composition information with the capabilities of a chartplotter. If connected to a receiver, many of these units can also display AIS

targets. AIS, or Automatic Identification System, is a method of collision avoidance used by commercial ships and some smaller boats, whereby a tracking system is employed that broadcasts the position, course, and speed of a vessel. AIS is a supplement to marine radar, not a replacement for it. Despite the limitations that come with typically smaller screen sizes, chartplotter-fishfinder combo units offer an affordable, useful alternative to single-function GPS devices.

Things to Consider Before Buying a Marine GPS Unit

Several factors should be taken into account when deciding which marine GPS unit is the right one for the intended user. Boating style, budget, and ease of use are the primary considerations. An honest assessment of how a unit will be put to use is critical to finding the right unit. Shoppers always need to keep cost in mind to ensure they do not overspend. Testing units out before purchasing will help shoppers find the most user-friendly units available within a set price range.

Boating Style

It is important to have a good understanding of what functions may be required from a marine GPS unit before purchasing one. Boaters who navigate solely on local lakes can get away with a much simpler unit than can someone who travels across large bodies of water to various U.S. ports or to other countries. Recreational boaters may only need a basic handheld unit, whereas a commercial fisherman would likely want a more expensive, fixed-mount GPS complete with electronic charting, a fishfinder, weather reporting, and alarms which alert him of dangers, such as shallow reefs. Those who venture out into the open sea may want to consider models that can interact with the radar on a boat and provide a visual display of the course being charted, as well as the destination.

Budget

Consumers in the market for a marine GPS unit will find a host of models by numerous manufacturers at varying price points. Marine GPS units can range in price from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Once the necessary features are decided upon, the next step is to determine a budget. If funds are limited, selecting a unit that has only the necessary features will allow shoppers to stay within a smaller budget. Shoppers with more generous budgets may want to consider getting units with a few extra features, such as charting and fish finding.

Ease of Use

The next consideration when selecting a marine GPS unit is ease of use. If possible, try out the unit prior to purchasing to see how easy or difficult it is to operate. Test the difficulty of programming the unit, and also take into account who will be programming and operating the unit the majority of the time. Although many units offer one-touch programming, rarely is it offered for every function. Find a unit with a straightforward user interface that will be easy to operate in rough weather conditions.

Features to Look For in a Marine GPS Unit

The next step to finding the right marine GPS unit is to decide which features are necessary and which ones are not. Screen size, resolution, and daylight modes, along with water resistance and compatibility with other devices on a vessel, are just a few examples of features that should be considered when shopping for a marine GPS unit.

Screen Size, Resolution, and Other Display Features

When comparing marine GPS units, screen size and quality should be primary considerations. Resolution is equally important, as poor resolution, even on a large screen, negatively impacts picture quality. Care should also be taken when deciding between color or monochrome screens, and features such as night watch and sunlight mode may be well worth the extra money.

Screen Size and Resolution

While maximum screen size will be limited by the amount of space available for mounting the unit, it is critical to find a unit that offers screen that is large enough to be easily viewable. Units with screens that are difficult to read or too small to effectively operate the touch features end up being almost useless if conditions are rough or visibility is low.

Resolution is a concern in that it affects the overall clarity of the images on a screen. A slightly smaller screen size with a higher resolution may actually be easier to read in bright or low-light conditions. Adequate adjustments for screen brightness and contrast will help when trying to take note of vital navigational information.

Monochrome or Color Screen

GPS screens are available in either color or monochrome versions. Monochrome (or black-and-white) screens generally cost less than color screens, but can be harder to see in low-light conditions. The vivid images on color screens make it easier to pick out small

items, such as buoys, channels, and land masses, whether in bright or low light.

Night Watch and Sunlight Modes

When shopping for a marine GPS unit, look for devices that specifically mention sunlight readability. Units that do not carry this distinction are designed for use in enclosed areas and may be challenging to read on sunny days in an open cabin. Test a unit outdoors, if possible, to get an idea of how easy it is to read the screen in daylight. Marine GPS units with a feature called "night watch" improve the visibility of a screen in the dark of night, which is important when taking overnight voyages.

Water Resistance Level

Electronics that are regularly exposed to moisture need to have some level of water resistance. The vast majority of marine GPS units are waterproof or water resistant, but to varying degrees. At the very least, the battery and memory compartments need to be watertight. Check the manufacturer's description to determine if a particular unit is merely able to withstand being exposed to spray and rain, or if the unit will actually survive and float if lost overboard.

Fishfinder

Although separate fishfinder units can be found on the market, there are advantages to having a fishfinder feature incorporated into a marine GPS unit. These combination devices are also capable of displaying maps showing a few nautical miles of rivers, lakes, and coastlines, and some can be set for both saltwater and freshwater environments. Models with an omni-directional antenna as well as sonar and mapping systems can find fish through weeds and rocks. With the added ability to zoom in to view objects and marine life along the floor of the river or lake, a fishfinder GPS unit is a useful tool for almost every fisherman.

Other Features

A few other worthwhile features should be considered before settling on a marine GPS unit. Safety features, such as course alarms, anchor drag, and water depth, proximity, and water temperature alarms, can help prevent accidents and ensure boaters return safely from every voyage. The "man overboard" feature, abbreviated MOB, allows boaters to mark a specific spot with the press of a button. This is useful in the event that something, or someone, is lost overboard.

Compatibility with a computer makes updates and programming faster and easier. Some units are Bluetooth capable and can therefore be used hands-free with a phone

or another device. Many marine GPS units have integrated digital compasses.

Voice-activated marine GPS units offer users the ability to give verbal commands and thereby avoid having to go through multiple screens to direct the unit. Simpler and less-expensive radar-operated units are equally efficient and effective, although they are less interactive.

Conclusion

Navigating open waterways without a marine GPS navigation system is almost unheard of in the day and age of advanced technology. Nearly a requirement for water voyages of any duration, marine GPS units can be found at numerous local retailers, as well as from online stores and marketplaces. With a little research and foresight, along with the information provided in this guide, shoppers should have no problem identifying the type of GPS unit and functions needed for any boating application. Choosing between a pricey, feature-rich, fixed-mount unit or a simpler, inexpensive handheld device is the first step to finding the right marine navigation system. Shoppers also need to carefully consider the type of boating they engage in, along with any required functions for the GPS. With a certain type of GPS unit in mind, shoppers can begin researching different models. Setting a budget and deciding on the most important features will help narrow the choices to a few top contenders. With a list of desired features and price points in mind, it is a matter of finding the unit that is both functional and easy to operate. Make sure the person who will be using the unit is comfortable operating it before committing to a particular GPS device. Whether taking a leisure trip around a large lake or a fishing trip on the open seas, having the right marine GPS unit will ensure a smooth voyage and safe return.

DNR in the News

Two Tilghman Island Watermen Plead Guilty to Poaching Striped Bass

Michael D. Hayden and William J. Lednum, both of Tilghman Island, pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act and to defraud the United States through their illegal harvesting and sale of 185,925 pounds of striped bass. Hayden and Lednum face a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when sentenced later this year.

In addition to fines and prison time, Hayden and Lednum have agreed to pay restitution to the State of Maryland of between \$498,293 and \$929,625. The defendants have further agreed to forfeit the monetary equivalent of 80 percent of the value of the vessel primarily used during the conspiracy.

The plea agreements were announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Col. George F. Johnson IV, superintendent of the Maryland Natural Resources Police; and Honora Gordon, regional special agent in charge for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"These defendants admitted to systematically plundering the Chesapeake Bay of an important and protected natural resource, and at the expense of the many honest fishermen who play by the rules," said Sam Hirsch, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "The Justice Department is committed to enforcing environmental laws that protect our shared natural resources and sustain the vital marine life of the Chesapeake Bay for future generations."

According to their plea agreements, Hayden, 41, and Lednum, 42, were captains on fishing vessels owned by them and their companies.

The defendants also employed numerous helpers as part of this scheme, including co-defendant Kent Sadler, 31, also of Tilghman Island.

From at least 2007 to 2011, Hayden and Lednum illegally harvested, possessed, falsely labeled and/or sold at least 185,925 pounds of striped bass. They used illegally weighted and/or anchored gill nets, left the nets in the water overnight, and set the nets during times when the commercial striped bass gill-netting season was closed.

The defendants exceeded their maximum daily vessel limit of striped bass and either unloaded the surplus onto an anchored vessel or paid others to check-in fish for them. Hayden and Lednum falsified the permit allocation cards and daily catch records for their striped bass fishing trips to over-report the numbers of striped bass caught and under-report the weights. This allowed them to request additional state tags under false pretenses and therefore harvest additional striped bass illegally.

Hayden and Lednum shipped and sold the striped bass worth \$498,293 to wholesalers in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. None of the fish was properly reported at Maryland check-in stations or on the permit allocation cards of daily catch records submitted to the Department of

Natural Resources. Those records are used by numerous federal and interstate agencies to set harvest levels all along the Eastern Seaboard.

The investigation started in February 2011, when Maryland NRP officers on patrol off Kent Island found tens of thousands of pounds of striped bass snagged in illegal, anchored nets before the season officially reopened.

The conspirators were seen on the water in the vicinity of the illegal nets. The subsequent investigation unveiled a wider criminal enterprise. Sadler previously pleaded guilty to his participation in the conspiracy and is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 21.

U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett scheduled sentencing for Hayden and Lednum on Nov. 4 and 5, respectively.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the Maryland Natural Resources Police and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their work in the investigation. Rosenstein thanked Todd W. Gleason and Shennie Patel of the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorney P. Michael Cunningham, who prosecuted the case.

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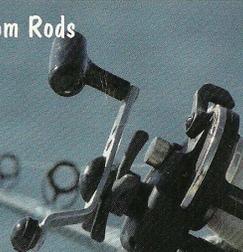
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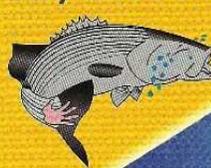
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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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JANUARY	11	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	25-26	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	23-26	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention, Annapolis, MD
	1	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
	12	- Frederick Meeting -
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	15-16	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	22	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
22	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD	
MARCH	5	- Frederick Board Meeting
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	15-16	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	22-23	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	2	- Frederick Board Meeting
	5	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	9	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
MAY	2-4	- 30th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	7	- Frederick Board Meeting
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	15-18	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	4	- Frederick Board Meeting
	11	- Frederick Meeting
	20-22	- 21th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	2	- Frederick Board Meeting
	9	- Frederick Meeting
AUGUST	6	- Frederick Board Meeting
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	23	- 4rd Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	3	- Frederick Board Meeting
	10	- Frederick Meeting
	13	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
OCTOBER	1	- Frederick Board Meeting
	4-11	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	15	- Frederick Meeting
NOVEMBER	5	- Frederick Board Meeting
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	21-23	- 19 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	3	- Frederick Board Meeting
	10	- Frederick Meeting