

# 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

As the 2015 season is winding down, it's time to reflect on all the great events our chapter had this year. The dinner dance was a great time for all, the spring tournament was tough fishing with the new slot, flounder tournament was fun, our new cobia tournament kicked off its first season, the crab feast had some delicious food and as always our meetings were informative. All in all, everything we did as a chapter this year turned out to be successful. Many of our tournaments saw new members participate, we saw many members remain loyal to the tournaments, we added new opportunities to win some money and a lot of our skilled winning fishermen pocketed some decent cash. It was certainly a good year to be a member of the Frederick Chapter. This couldn't have all come together if it weren't for the hard work of our board members and the members who dedicated their time to make this year a huge success. BIG thanks to everyone for your support.

Turning our attention to next year already, we need to start preparing and promoting our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Saltwater Fishing Expo on January 16, 2016. We ask each of you to help placing signs out, distributing fliers to local establishments and using social media to spread the word. Fliers and signs will be readily available at our December meeting and I hope that everyone will grab a few. Also, be reminded that our annual dinner dance is coming up on February 27, 2016 and tickets will be available at the meeting. The price has remained the same and will be \$35 per person.

Finally, I would like to take this time to thank all our volunteers, members and especially our BOARD members for all your hard work this year. The reason our chapter is so successful is because of all of you. In addition, I also wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a most fishy NEW YEAR!

Fish Hard.....and Often

Ed

## Next Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, December 9**

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker: None**

**Vendor: Swap Meet, bring your no longer used equipment, and buy, sell, or trade with other Chapter members**

**Dinner Menu:**

**Lasagna  
Garlic Bread  
Salad  
Dessert**

**Attendance at November Meeting: 48**

**Raffle Winners:**

Ed Susa- Reel  
Jamie Beasley- 9' Shad bodies  
Jim Bremer- Boca Grip  
Howard Barnes- Gloves/ Line Cutter  
Bobby Hurt- Chapter Visor/ Sunglasses  
Brian Buckman- Knife Sharpener  
Chris Conway- Tool Set

**50/50 Raffle:**

Rob Pellicot \$85

**Directions To Meeting at the Frederick**

**Moose Lodge:** – [Map](#)  
From Frederick, take **I-70** east to **exit 56** (Rt. 144W). Turn slight right onto MD-144. Go 0.8 miles to 828 E. Patrick St. on the left

## Fishing Reports

### **Ocean City Action**

Oyster Bay Tackle

Ocean City Inlet water temp. 54 degrees...Delaware buoy 57 degrees.

November 30, 2015

This will be our final report of the year. We will start reporting again in the Spring of 2016. All of us at Oyster Bay Tackle want to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We would like to Thank all of our friends that purchased a "I helped build Sue's Reef" shirt or a "Sue's Reef" cap. We gave a \$2,750.00 donation to the Ocean City Reef Foundation from the proceeds. Sue Foster's Reef has been officially recorded and will be a living tribute to Sue's contribution to the Ocean City fishing community.

The Maryland Tautog season is closed. We had reports of quite a few short stripers caught in the Ocean City surf on lures and finger mullet.

The winter migration of big stripers has not reached us yet. The stripers action off Cape May is red hot. The sea bass fishing around the wrecks and artificial reefs has been very good when the weather permits.

## Maryland DNR Fishing Report

**Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview**

**December 2, 2015**

Water temperatures in the upper bay have dipped below the 50° mark this week and the bay and tidal river fisheries are showing

obvious changes. Striped bass are still active in the upper bay but most of the action is occurring in about 35' of water along channel edges in the main stem of the bay. There are still small striped bass chasing bait but many are now being found suspended in waters up to 60' deep. Most boats are trolling a mixed spread of umbrella rigs, tandem bucktails or swim shads or spoons down deep along the channel edges. Jigging is still a good option when suspended fish can be located along channel breaks or structure such as the Bay Bridge rock piles and bridge piers. Striped bass of various sizes and white perch are now holding deep near the rock piles and deepest bridge piers and soon water temperatures will be cold enough that they will not be too interested in feeding.

The tidal rivers are running cooler than the main bay and striped bass are becoming less common in the rivers. White perch are being found in deep water at the mouths of the tidal rivers often in 50' or more of water. Jigging or fishing with bottom rigs and pieces of bloodworms has been effective when perch can be found on depth finders. Channel catfish are active in the tidal rivers as are flathead catfish near the Conowingo Dam. Yellow perch are active and can be caught on a variety small jigs or minnows along the lower sections of the region's tidal rivers, creeks and bay shores.

In the middle bay region striped bass are being found in about 35' to 40' along the shipping channel edges and channels leading into the major tidal rivers. Trolling has been a popular way to fish along these edges and most of the success is coming from the lures trolled at deeper depths. Umbrella rigs and tandem bucktails or Storm type lures are being pulled behind inline weights. Braided line is a valuable asset with this type of fishing since it has less water resistance than mono and allows for less weight to get lures down to the proper depths. The western shore side of the shipping channel from Breezy Point south has been offering some of the best trolling action.

There is still a lot of light tackle jigging action to be found in the middle bay region in the mouth of Eastern Bay, the mouth of the Choptank, the Severn and West River to name a few. At times diving sea gulls will lead the way when bait is being pushed to the surface by striped bass, other times a slick and or resting sea gulls can give clues to fish and bait suspended close to the bottom. Metal and soft plastic jigs work well and most often the better grade of striped bass are closer to the bottom and the surface action will most likely be smaller fish.

White perch can be found at times holding in deep water near the mouths of the region's

major tidal rivers and jigging with a smaller sized but heavy metal jig combined with a dropper fly is a great way to fish for them as is a bottom rig baited with pieces of bloodworm. A good depth finder is very helpful in locating schools of white perch holding on deepwater reefs. Gizzard shad are sharing the same notion to find deeper water to spend the winter so if you spot a mass of fish on your depth finder at the mouth of a tidal river and find yourself scratching you head as to why they won't bite, they just might be a school of gizzard shad.

During the month of October anglers in the lower bay region tended to be somewhat jealous of the excellent striped bass fishing in the middle bay region and lamented about the lack of striped bass in the lower bay region. That all changed a couple of weeks ago and the fishing for striped bass now in the lower bay is some of the best to be seen anywhere in Maryland waters. There are still small striped bass in many areas but there is a large amount of larger striped bass from 20" to 30" to be found throughout the region. Most of the larger striped bass are deep and jigging and trolling have been the most popular ways to fish for them.

The eastern side of the bay is reported to have these larger striped bass spread from Hooper's Island south to Buoy 72 and down to the Middle Grounds. Jigging has been a fun way to catch them when concentrations of fish can be found. Often they will be located by diving sea gulls and breaking fish; either on top or underneath smaller fish that are causing all the fuss on the surface. There are still some sea trout around also which can be caught while jigging. This same kind of action can also be found on the western side of the bay and the lower Potomac River.

Trolling has been a good option for many and the most common way charter boats are fishing. Most are pulling umbrellas and tandem rigged bucktails behind inline weights to get down deep to where the fish are. The most common place the larger striped bass are being found is along channel edges in about 35' to 40' deep. It also pays to have a couple of larger bucktails out in a trolling spread since a few large fall migrant striped bass in the 50" size range have been caught recently.

There are plenty of white perch to be found in the lower Patuxent River and other tidal rivers such as the Nanticoke. The perch are holding deep on oyster bars often in 50' of water. Jigging with a small but heavy metal jig and a dropper fly or a sinker and two dropper flies is the best way to put them in the boat. They freeze well and will last several months in the freezer. There are also plenty of eating size blue catfish in the tidal

Potomac also and make a healthy addition to anyone's freezer.

**Virginia Beach Action**

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown  
04 Dec 2015



Most winter-time species are active when boats can get out to target them. But the species on most angler's minds is the local favorite cold water game fish, striped bass. And with the big fish moving into lower Bay waters over the past week, boats will begin to assemble along the Eastern side of the Bay in hopes of encountering some of the biggest rockfish of the season.

As big striped bass push into local waters, thirty and 40-pounders are becoming commonplace, with a few catches topping the 50-pound mark hitting the scales this week. Most of these larger fish are coming from the Eastern side of the Bay, where boats are fishing with live eels while drifting off the Plantation Light area. Some boats trolling in this same area are also encountering some responsive fish. And although the Bay rockfish action is heating up quickly, many big fish are still on their way from our North. School-sized stripers are still available for anglers casting along the pilings and artificial islands of all the lower Bay bridges.

Tautog, which have made a good showing this season in the Bay, are still going strong for those fishing with crab, fiddlers and clams on lower Bay and coastal structures. Some limits of fish up to around 8-pounds were reported from several inshore locations recently. Jumbo sea bass are available on several ocean wrecks, along with catches of nice-sized triggerfish. Some chopper-sized bluefish could also fight for your offerings near these same structures. Flounder are still active on several offshore structures, with fresh strip bait the best offering for wreck flatfish. Although there are only a few sightings reported off Virginia so far this season, boats could encounter schools bluefin tuna rolling in some of these same areas. Be sure to check the regulations before targeting these brutes.

The local speckled trout bite remains behind the curve, with the average speck pushing to only around 16-inches, with some fish stretching to around 24-inches in the mix. The best reports are still coming from Rudee Inlet, although most any backwater protected area is giving up some trout this lately.

Deep droppers are still finding good numbers of hefty blueline tilefish, wreckfish, a variety of grouper, and blackbellied rosefish in various areas around the Norfolk Canyon. By-catches of big seabass and bluefish are a good consolation prize, as these fish often compete in the same areas.

<http://www.drjball.com>

## Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: Dec. 3, 2015

**DELAWARE BAY** Those first two rockfish caught out of the Rips last week didn't bring any of their friends. Several boats trolled this area during breaks in the weather to no avail. The closest to Delaware waters that any sizable number of stripers were caught was in the ocean off Wildwood, N.J. Trolling MOJOS and Stretch type plugs has been the most effective technique.

The upper bay has produced good numbers of white perch on bloodworms. Big catfish are still in this area and will take bloodworms and cut bunker. Short rockfish have been caught along with the cats and perch with a rare keeper in the mix.

**INSHORE OCEAN** Several boats ran to the Del-Jersey-Land Reef and came back with good numbers of sea bass. Flounder, porgies and bluefish were taken along with the bass. Clams and squid are the normal baits out here, but I have had good reports from those using jigs to tempt a larger class of sea bass.

Closer to shore, Reef Site 10 saw decent numbers of keeper tog. Green or white legger crabs have been the top baits. Tackle shops report the occasional shortage of these baits so clam becomes the next best alternative. I have had good success using Gulp! Peeler Crab when tog fishing. It not only attracts the tog, but tends to stay on the hook longer than real crab.

**INDIAN RIVER INLET** The last report I had from here indicated a good number of tog were caught out of the rocks with most of them below the 15-inch minimum

size. Crabs have been the top bait. The rockfish bite is still slow with small ones during the day and the occasional keeper at night. Sand fleas and eels are the main offerings.

**SURF FISHING** Still no big blitz of rockfish or blues, but I remain hopeful. Friends in New Jersey keep sending me photos of both species caught from the beach just to make me jealous. I have heard of a few shorts and even a keeper or two, but nothing like the action to our north.

By Eric Burnley Sr.\*

## DNR in the News

### Berlin Angler Sets Maryland Coastal White Perch Record

November 23, 2015



On November 17, Finn McCabe from Berlin pulled in a record-setting 1.2-pound, 13-inch white perch from Ayers Creek as the sun began to set over the Route 376 Bridge west of Sinepuxent Bay and Assateague Island.

McCabe was originally hoping for a striped bass or speckled trout when he caught the perch using a green twister tail lure on a quarter-ounce jig head. He put the perch, one of the state's most popular fish, on ice, and the following day took it to Sunset Marina in Ocean City for an official weigh-in. From there, he visited a nearby Maryland Department of Natural Resources field office, where fisheries biologist Steve Doctor certified the species.

Following the formal application and certification process, the department was able to announce the catch as a new state record in the Maryland Atlantic division. When asked what he intended to do with the fish, McCabe said, "I'm thinking some butter, and grilling it on the George Foreman."

The Department of Natural Resources maintains records for sport fish in three divisions—Atlantic, Chesapeake and nontidal—and sends plaques to record holders. Anglers who catch a potential record fish should call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8325, and immerse the fish in ice until it can be weighed at a seafood retailer, grocery store, or tackle shop with a certified scale. All [International Game Fish Association](#) rules for records and [Maryland fishing regulations](#) apply.

## Tips and Tricks

### 10 Ways Winter Can Wreak Havoc With Your Boat

These winter gotchas don't just happen where there is snow.

By Beth A. Leonard from Boatus.com



Snow accumulating in the cockpit can put above-waterline fittings below the waterline, with the inevitable result

Winter may not be out to get you, but it sure seems to be after your boat. Reading through 10 years' worth of winterizing claims, the *Seaworthy* editors were astonished at how many ways cold weather and ice can damage something made of metal, plastic, and fiberglass that lives its life out in the elements. The single most common winterizing mistake is not getting all the water out of — or enough antifreeze into — the engine, which is why our new winterizing brochure focuses on making sure you don't end up with a cracked engine block or manifold. But there are a lot of other ways winter can get your boat, most of which could be avoided with good

winterizing practices. Engine damage aside, these are the 10 most common winter "gotchas" and how to avoid them.

**The Slip And Slide**



If jack stands are not set up properly, they can end up shifting out from under the hull and dumping your boat in the middle of the winter. Jack stands should be placed as far out from the boat as practical to support the boat in high winds, with at least three per side for boats over 26 feet and additional supports at overhangs. The weight of the boat can easily force a jack stand base deep into mud, sand, or asphalt. Even clay that seems brick hard can become a quagmire in heavy spring rains, allowing stands to loosen, shift, and spill the boat. Placing a piece of plywood under each base and using safety chains to connect the stands will help to stabilize the support upon which your boat rests.

**The Tattered Tarp**



Covering your boat in the winter benefits it by protecting gelcoat, preventing snow and ice accumulation, and keeping water from pooling on the decks. More frugal skippers seem to think that a few tarps stitched together with a spiderweb of lines qualify for winter duty. In the first serious storm, these often end up shredded, and in their death throes they deposit large amounts of snow and ice into the boat they are supposed to be protecting. If you're going to cover the boat, use a custom cover or shrinkwrap it, but either way make sure there's lots of ventilation to prevent mold from taking over down below.

**The Shrinkwrap Smolder**



If you do choose to shrinkwrap, think twice and even three times before doing it yourself. All it takes is a moment of inattention to ignite the shrinkwrap, and if the fire occurs inside the cover, it might not even be visible right away. Every fall we get several claims involving flaming shrinkwrap, including multiple claims with damage to several boats. This is one job best left to the pros.

**The Stanchion Punch**



Stanchions are not meant to take the weight of snow and ice that can accumulate on a cover. And, as this photo shows, neither are the decks. This stanchion drove right through the deck on this 26-foot sailboat when the ice overloaded the stanchion and the deck beneath it. If you decide to cover the boat, do yourself — and your boat — a favor, and build a proper frame.

**The Cheater Heater**



Our claim files show that "winterizing" a boat by leaving a heater running onboard is just not a good idea. First, your engine is least likely to be protected when it most needs it — in a big storm when the temperature plummets and the power goes out. Second, every winter we see fires from heaters,

plugs, and cords where heaters were left running on unattended boats. Unless you are located in Hawaii or the Florida Keys, we recommend winterizing your engine if you will be laying up the boat for even a few weeks to minimize the chances that a sudden freeze will put it out of commission next season.

**The Water Trap**



Many places on boats have small holes so that water can drain out — boats are wet places after all. If those drains get plugged, it doesn't matter that much in the summer, though corrosion may follow in the long run. But if they are plugged in the winter, the water inside will expand as it freezes and could do serious damage. Check drain holes in stanchion bases, mast steps, live wells, locker lips, and anywhere else you have found them to make sure they are not clogged and no water has accumulated. If some areas are not draining adequately, consider adding a few more drain holes to facilitate the process.

**The Soggy Bottom**



When you haul your boat for the fall and you notice that the rudder is dripping water a few days after it has been on the hard, or a keel has a blister that develops in the warm sunshine and recedes at night, the chances are you have water trapped in the rudder or the keel. If you leave it that way through the winter, it will freeze, and may damage the

fiberglass. Before the first freeze, you need to get that water out. Large blisters can be punctured and drained. On rudders, you may need to drill a hole at the bottom of the leading edge of the rudder. If you leave it open through the winter, that should help the laminate dry out, and you'll have an easier time filling and patching it in the spring. Before you put your baby back in the water, though, you'll want to figure out where that water came from and how to keep it from getting into the rudder or keel again next season.

**The Snow Job**



If you're going to leave your boat in the water, you need to make sure that snow and ice do not accumulate in the cockpit over the winter. Not only can the weight force the boat low enough in the water that it can backfill and sink, but the thaw and freeze cycle can create a plug of ice that slows drainage through the scuppers. It's best to cover a boat that's to be left in a slip, but if that's not possible, make sure to get to the marina after every storm to clear out the ice and snow and make sure scuppers are not blocked.

**The Buddy Special**



A lot of the freezing claims we get start with an owner calling and saying, "I let my buddy winterize the boat." The rest of the news is never good and most often involves cracked engine blocks spewing brown bubbles or muddy-looking oil. Winterizing is not rocket science, but forgetting even one detail, or doing it incorrectly, can spell disaster for the boat — and your friendship — next spring. If you're not comfortable winterizing your boat, have an experienced professional do it.

**The He Said/She Said**

And if you are going to have an experienced professional do it, make sure to get everything in writing. The term "winterizing"

is not universal and your idea and theirs may not be the same. Will they just run antifreeze through the engine, or will they service the AC and refrigeration units, too? Spell out what will be done so, if anything goes wrong, it's clear who is responsible.

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## FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>23</b>	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD - Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	<b>28-31</b>	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>?</b>	- MSSA Convention Center, Annapolis, MD
	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	<b>27</b>	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	<b>27</b>	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
<b>27</b>	- <b>Dinner Dance</b> - Frederick Moose Club	
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>?</b>	- <b>Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch</b> – Sandy Point
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>20</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Seas
	<b>29-1</b>	- 31th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
<b>MAY</b>	<b>11</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>20-22</b>	- <b>Chapter Flounder Tournament</b> – Chincoteague
	<b>18</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>8</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>15</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>17-19</b>	- 22nd Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
<b>JULY</b>	<b>6</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>8-10</b>	- <b>Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, Va</b>
	<b>13</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>10</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>17</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- <b>Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic</b>
	<b>17-18</b>	- <b>Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>1-8</b>	- <b>Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament</b>
	<b>12</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>19</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>9</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>16</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>
	<b>?</b>	- 20 <sup>th</sup> Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>14</b>	- <b>Frederick Meeting</b>
	<b>21</b>	- <b>Frederick Board Meeting</b>