

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

Summer's winding down, the kids are back in school, vacations are over and we can only hope that all of you have had a great year of fishing so far. Although the days are getting shorter, there is still a lot of good fishing days left this year for us to enjoy. As always, our chapter still has a few great events for our members remaining and we hope everyone can attend.

Be reminded that our Annual crab feast is on September 12th at the Urbana Park from 1:00pm until, well, until it's over. This is always a great day filled with good food, some cold beers, fun games and many real nice prizes for everyone to possibly win. Remember, for every ten fundraising tickets you have sold get you get free entry. ALL fundraising tickets and monies must be turned in at our September 9th meeting as we will be drawing the lucky winner that night. If you haven't sold or you need additional tickets, they will be on sale that night ONLY for \$35.00. THERE WILL BE NO TICKET SALES AFTER THE MEETING OR THE DAY OF THE EVENT. Crabbing has been great, the crabs have been fat and ours have always been tasty. So, hope to see everyone there.

Not letting any moss grow under our tires, we will be off to Harker's Island two short weeks after the "Feast" for our annual "Tackle the Mackerel" tournament. This meeting is the last chance to sign up for this fun filled week long event. This will also be your last chance to order T-Shirts or Sweatshirts. Order forms will be available and all orders must be completed and paid for at the meeting. See Jim Bremer.

Finally, we have begun preparations for our 7th Annual Fishing Expo. This years Expo will be held on January 12, 2016 from 8:00am until 4:00pm. We still have a few tables to fill, so, if you have any perspective vendor's, please see myself or Rob and we will contact them.

Fish Hard!
Ed

Next Meeting

Date: September 9, 2015

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Chapter members John "Crabby" Travers and Chris Linetty will be speaking about rigs for King Mackerel and throwing cast nets

Vendor: [Catch-All Tackle](http://catchalltackle.com)
(catchalltackle.com)

Dinner Menu:

Hot Roast Beef sandwiches
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Green Beans
Cole Slaw
Dessert

Attendance at July Meeting: 44

Raffle Winners:

Jay Betts: Binoculars
Brian Jenkins: Catch All Gear Bag
Mike Luzier: Digital 50 lb. Scale
Lee Jernigan: 14.5" Hook Remover
John Kisner: Berkeley Line Counter
Frank Molino: Berkeley Gulp
Hunter Locke: Berkeley Gulp
Gordon Jernigan: Rockfish Print

50/50 Raffle: Jim Shaw \$70

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

Cobia Tournament Results

Calcutta Winner: Jim Stephens \$900

1st Place: Jim Stephens \$630
2nd Place : Jim Bremer \$420

Lucky Losers:

Brian Jenkins \$50
Charlie Appleby \$50
Jim Lorditch \$50

Fishing Reports

Ocean City Action

Oyster Bay Tackle
Ocean City Md and Fenwick Island De

August 31,2015

Flounder fishing around the artificial reefs and wrecks continues to provide great action. Tipping a Spro bucktail with a 5" Gulp swimming mullet is a deadly combo for catching flounder around the ocean structure. Flounder fishing in the Coastal Bays is pretty slow with lots of short fish and very few keepers. We had several reports of good croaker action in the ocean North of the inlet. Snapper blues made a showing in the surf this week along with some nice kingfish. Shark fishing from the beach continues to provide action for anglers soaking chunks of bunker or mackerel.

You can follow our all new twitter account Oyster Bay Tackle @oysterbaytackle to stay current with fishing reports, store specials, fishing pictures, and more! Also, find us on Facebook at Oyster Bay Tackle!

Stop by Oyster Bay Tackle or Fenwick Tackle and check out our great selection of Fishing T's including 2015 White Marlin Open, Calcutta and Oyster Bay Tackle and Fenwick Tackle custom logos. Also, to help fund Sue Foster's reef project we have available our

popular Oyster Bay Tackle surf fisherman back design with "I helped build Sue's reef" on the front breast. We will give a \$10.00 donation to the Ocean City Reef Foundation for every "I helped build Sue's Reef" shirt sold. You can check out our shirts online at: OysterBayTackleClothing

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

Here it comes, Labor Day Weekend, ready or not! This will be a busy weekend for family and friends getting together, for crab feasts, barbecues and fishing at the beach or a favorite fishing hole. There are plenty of recreational crabbing and fishing opportunities out there right now, so be sure to enjoy while the action is hot. We've all heard the saying that "the early bird gets the worm" and truer words could not better describe the topwater fishing action for striped bass at the outside edges of the Susquehanna Flats. Those that can be on station before sunrise are enjoying some wonderful topwater action for striped bass with a few largemouth bass thrown into the mix now and then. Early risers are also finding shallow topwater action along the shorelines of Turkey Point and Spesutie Island. The Baltimore Harbor area is a good place to look for shallow water action around shoreline structure, old wharf pilings and similar sunken wood. These areas also offer action in the evenings as the sun sets. White perch and channel catfish are present in many of the same locations that striped bass haunt, and small jigs or spinners on ultra light tackle is a fun way to work shoreline structure. Fishing deeper along channel edges or deep structure such as the Key Bridge piers is a good bet and the shoal and knolls out in the bay are always worth checking. Bloodworms, clams or peeler crabs are all good bait choices of a simple bottom rig.

Striped bass fishing in the upper bay remains good this week but sometimes it takes a little exploring. Love Point and Swan Point remain fairly reliable but other locations reveal that the striped bass are roaming a bit and this might be due to an infusion of bait in the upper bay. Podickory Point, the Triple Buoys and the Dumping Grounds are places to check with a depth finder for fish suspended there. Most boats are live lining spot with good success with a falling tide offering some of the best fishing success. Trolling has been a good option for a mix of striped bass and bluefish. Small Drone spoons, surgical tube lures (red) and

bucktails are a good mix in a trolling spread behind inline weights or planers. The Bay Bridge piers continue to offer good fishing for a mix of striped bass and white perch holding close to structure. Live lining spot to the pier bases has been a productive option as well as jigging and chunking. The white perch are being caught on bait and jigging. It is not hard to tell someone is very happy with this nice striped bass caught near the Bay Bridge Rock Piles.

There continues to be plenty of striped bass action in the middle bay region but mostly in the general area of Poplar Island. The Hill, Gum Thickets, Hackett's Bar, Dolly's Lump, Tolly Bar and inside of Eastern Bay are all good places to check for striped bass holding along the deeper edges of these locations. Live lining spot is the number one game in town but trolling and jigging are also good options. There is a lot of bait in the form of bay anchovies in the middle bay region and the presence of bait tends to have the striped bass on the move. Often small striped bass and a mix of Spanish mackerel and bluefish will be chewing up the surface and larger striped bass can be found holding deeper under the surface action. Drone or Clark spoons are being pulled behind planers to catch the Spanish mackerel and bluefish will hit the spoons or red surge tube lures; all are pulled behind planers or inline weights. Dave Zeigler holds up a nice looking Spanish mackerel he caught while trolling near the mouth of the Choptank River recently.

The Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI) and the MD DNR Artificial Reef Program recently completed a productive round of summer construction projects. In mid-May, MARI partner CBF deployed over 150 additional reef balls at the Memorial Stadium reef site located in the upper Bay (Gales Lumps area) between Hart-Miller Is. and Tolchester. The reefballs were constructed by Bill Huppert from MSSA-Perry Hall Chapter and his volunteers, along with Stevenson University. In July, DNR Construction Unit deployed about 70 tons of concrete rubble and blocks at the Tilghman Island fish reef (1.5 nautical miles west of Paw Paw Cove, Tilghman Is.). The material came from a playground demolition project at the Benedictine School and was donated by the school's recycling manager. In July and August, five barge loads of concrete rubble (100-300 tons per load), donated from the Dominion-Cove Pt facility, were deployed at the Taylor's Island fish reef, about 1.5 nautical miles west of Taylor Island. The side-scan image below shows how the rubble was deployed accurately on and around the remains of a sunken barge from an older artificial reef project, over 10 years ago. The barge had rolled over during sinking, exposing a smooth surface which

was not acting as well as intended for fish habitat. The rubble enhances the reef and sunken barge by adding more vertical profile, and increasing surface area and complexity (nooks and crannies for small fish to hide).



Photo courtesy of Erik Zlokovitz

There has been some good light tackle fishing in the middle bay region this week when breaking fish can be encountered or in the shallower areas during the early morning and late evening hours. Topwater lures are very popular when working the shallows for striped bass near shoreline structure. White perch are also in these same areas and offer a lot of fun on ultra light tackle and small lures. White perch are also being caught while bottom fishing for a mix of croaker and spot in places like Eastern Bay, Dolly's Lump and the region's tidal rivers. The Kent Narrows continues to be a popular place for shore bound anglers to fish for white perch from the bulkheads. Casting small jigs or bottom rigs baited with bloodworms, peeler crabs or clams are good ways to catch them. The lower bay region has been a hot bed of activity as mixed schools of bluefish and Spanish mackerel chase schools of bay anchovies throughout the region. Some of the best places to find them are where swift currents run along steep channel edges and the bait is pushed along. Casting metal jigs is a fun and popular way to get in on the action and letting your jig fall below the surface action will pay off with a striped bass at times. There are a lot bluefish at the Middle Grounds area and there are also cobia and large red drum in the area. Trolling has been a popular way to catch bluefish and Spanish mackerel with a mixed spread of small Drone or Clark spoons and red surge tube lures behind planers or inline weights. The red drum will strike large spoons if they are in a trolling spread. The cobia are being found near the Target Ship and buoys in the region and can be caught on live bait of by casting large bucktails or swim shads. Dave Andrews was trolling near Point Lookout for Spanish mackerel when he pulled in this strange looking fish that visits Chesapeake Bay during this time of the year; it is called a cutlassfish.



Photo courtesy of Dave Andrews
 Shallow water fishing for striped bass has been a good early morning and late evening option at Cedar Point and the mouth of St. Jerome's Creek as well as spots along the eastern side of the bay and the lower Potomac. Topwater lures are perhaps the most popular lure to use. Bottom fishing for a mix of large spot, medium sized croakers and white perch continues to be one of the best fishing opportunities in the lower bay region this week. The lower Potomac and Patuxent have been offering very good fishing and the Tangier Sound area has also been a good place to fish. Recreational crabbing continues to get better as the summer rolls on. There are good numbers of crabs to be found in most tidal rivers and crabs have moved far up the rivers into areas they are not often seen due to the lack of rain and increased salinities in the middle and upper river stretches. The largest crabs tend to be deep and smaller crabs and sooks have been shallow for the most part. The inshore coastal waters in the Ocean City area have heated up to 77° in many areas and most fishing is holding steady until cool nights begin to bring water temperatures down. The best time for surf fishing for a summer mix of kingfish, croakers and small

bluefish is early in the mornings or in the evenings. Flounder fishing in the inlet and back bay channels has gotten tough as the flounder have spread out in the bay's shallow waters feeding on small fish. Bluefish have been moving through the inlet usually on a flood tide and in the evenings when boat traffic has subsided. There are plenty of croakers in the back bay areas along with small bluefish. Outside the inlet flounder are being caught on the near shore shoal areas and there are also some big cobia cruising out there as well. Flounder fishing at the wreck and reef sites has been very good. Out at the 30 Fathom Line skipjack tuna and small dolphin are being caught. At the canyon areas large schools of small dolphin are often being encountered near surface debris with larger "gaffer" sized dolphin being caught while trolling. White marlin releases are increasing as September begins and a mix of yellowfin, bigeye and wahoo are rounding out the mix for the trolling fleet. Deep drop trips are catching some nice golden and blue line tilefish in offshore waters while bait fishing on bottom.

Virginia Beach Action

28 Aug 2015

As we cruise towards the end of summer, the heat is starting to give way to some cooler winds from the North. This gusty weather can make getting out on the water a challenge. Calmer conditions over the next few days could provide some productive fishing ventures as many species begin to display more late summer patterns. With cloudy days and breezy conditions prevailing over the past several days, cobia action for sight casters has been less than optimal. Some nice fish are still hitting the docks when boats can get out, but the cloud cover is still obscuring any visual advantage for casters. A few chummers are also experiencing similar results lately. This fishery will begin winding down soon for the season.

Blustery winds don't bother red drum, and these fish are not taking any breaks as they fatten up for their journey south in the fall. Schools of bull reds are roaming lower Bay waters, providing good casting opportunities. Big red drum are also taking bait for anglers bottom fishing on the Bayside of the Eastern Shore, and for surf anglers along Smith Island over the past several days. Puppy drum are also active in the shallows, hitting Gulp lures and cut bait.

Flounder pounders are also dealing with trying weather conditions, making decent catches a challenge. Protected areas are providing easier fishing conditions, with Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets giving up some keeper flatfish lately. Anglers working the Eastern Shore inlets, off the concrete ships, and along the high rise area of the CBBT are also finding some luck. The better catches are coming from the offshore wrecks when boats can reach them, where anglers can also find seabass and triggerfish.

Sheepshead are still going strong as anglers entice big fish from the pilings and all four tubes of the CBBT using fiddler crabs and clam. Big trigger fish are also providing action in all the same locations, with several of these fish still pushing to over 3-pounds. Spadefish are still biting around the islands of the CBBT, with anglers finding scattered 4 and 5-pounders near the 3rd island.

Spot are gaining more attention, with good hauls of decent fish coming from local inlets, Willoughby Bay, and the lower Bay rivers. Croaker are also providing action inside Rudee Inlet lately. Some puppy drum are around in most backwater locations, but speckled trout are slow to evolve as we watch carefully for a rebound.

Spanish mackerel are still providing good action along the Virginia Beach oceanfront for trollers on small gold and chrome spoons. Some king mackerel are also

responding to trolled baits this past week. Anglers are still finding mahi along the CB buoy line and near the Tower Reef areas. Plenty of smallish sharks continue to entertain anglers in the same areas. Amberjack are still available at the South Tower, and jack crevelle could be circling the Chesapeake Light Tower. Deep dropping for blueline tilefish, barrelfish and blackbellied rosefish is still productive, with by-catches of jumbo seabass also common in the same areas.

The offshore billfish bite is fair according to offshore captains, with scattered catches of white marlin, and occasional blue marlin and sailfish a possibility lately. The dolphin bite is still good, while wahoo action is on the rise this week. A few nice yellowfin tuna were boated this week, along with some decent bigeye tuna.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DELAWARE BAY Flounder have been caught as far up the bay as the Crossover and the 34 and 32 buoys. Reef sites down the bay to Eight have also produced flounder for anglers who jig with bucktails tipped with Gulp!, strips of squid or fresh fish or shiners. Please remember that on the New Jersey side of the bay the minimum size for flounder is 18 inches and you must have a New Jersey FIN.

Croaker are staging at the mouth of the bay before moving to the ocean to spawn. Reef Site Eight held a good supply to the extent that flounder baits were destroyed by the ravenous beasts. One of the better croaker locations in the past has been around the Eights during the September run. Squid, clam, Gulp!, FishBites and cut fresh fish all attract croaker.

We have reports of small blues chasing rain bait at the Outer Wall and the Ice Breakers. Small metal lures such as the Deadly Dick will work very well on these fish.

In the lower Delaware River, the upper bay and in the tidal creeks and rivers white perch and catfish have been caught in good numbers. Fishing along Route 9 in New Castle County is a popular method for catching these fish. Bloodworms, cut bunker and chicken livers are popular baits.

INSHORE OCEAN False albacore, bonito, big blues and the occasional dolphin have been caught from the Delaware Bay Lightship on out to the 30-Fathom Line. Work along depth changes at the Hot Dog, Hambone and Chicken Bone with feathers and spoons.

Flounder fishing remains very good at the Old Grounds, reef sites 10 and 11 and over rough bottom near B Buoy. When conditions permit, jigging with a bucktail tipped with

Gulp!, strips of fresh fish or squid or shiners has been very effective.

Croaker are now available in the ocean at the Croaker Canyon, Reef Site 10 and the rough bottom near B Buoy. Once you locate a concentration try to stay with them as long as possible. Cut pieces of fresh fish seems to attract the larger croaker, but the old standbys squid and clams will also work.

OFFSHORE OCEAN Looks like Saturday will be a bit bumpy in the ocean, but once the northeast wind settles down the marlin fishing should be great. We already have reports of double digit releases from last week and this will only get better. Live baiting with tinker mackerel has become more popular and once mastered can produce release numbers in the twenty-plus range.

Bigeye tuna were caught at the Washington and Baltimore canyons. The best of this action has been from dusk to dark and then from dark to dawn. Trolling with Joe Shute lures and horse ballyhoo has been a successful technique.

Yellowfin tuna have been caught at the Washington Canyon with chunking the top producer. Dolphin are pretty much under anything that floats. Wahoo are in good supply as well.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Fishing has not improved here as we enter September. I do think that once the mullet run begins we will see much better action from rockfish, blues and flounder.

Short rock have been caught after dark on eels at the Coast Guard Station. Sand fleas drifted in the rocks have also produced the occasional striper. The vast majority of these fish are shorts.

Bigger but fewer croaker were caught out of the rocks on bloodworms or sand fleas. Better croaker action was found just off the Old Coast Guard station at the Croaker Canyon.

Small croaker and spot have been caught on bloodworms out of Indian River and Rehoboth bays. Small flounder with a few keepers have come from the same waters.

SURF FISHING The surf remains slow with the occasional croaker and kingfish taken. Once the mullet run begins we should see some blues in the mix. And then there's the welcome embrace of an old fishing friend, the reopened Cape Henlopen Pier.

DNR in the News

Invasive Zebra Mussels Spread Downstream Toward Baltimore Harbor
August 24, 2015



DNR Calls on

Public to Report Suspected Sightings

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently confirmed the presence of zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) in tributaries of the upper Western Shore near Middle River in Baltimore County. On August 17, 2015, a waterman alerted DNR Biologist Brenda Davis of small zebra mussels fouling their crab gear off the Gunpowder, Bush and Middle Rivers. The next day, DNR Fisheries Habitat and Ecosystem Program biologists found numerous mussels in aquatic vegetation while trawling Middle River. "Zebra mussels are an aggressive invasive species and reproduce at a very prolific rate, outcompeting native species for needed resources," said Matt Ashton, a DNR biologist and mussel expert. "These mussels quickly overtake and cover all available areas to such an extent that they can clog water intake structures, boats, moorings, ropes, fishing lines, traps, and even dams and power plants. Their migration further south toward Baltimore may pose a serious economic and environmental threat to the bay and its inhabitants."

Past monitoring suggested that zebra mussels had not spread beyond the Susquehanna Flats. However, heavy rainfall in the late spring has led to lower than average salinity in the upper and middle Chesapeake Bay, potentially allowing zebra mussels to spread into habitat where they would normally not survive. It is not yet known if zebra mussels will persist in these upper Chesapeake Bay tributaries as salinity levels increase around the Baltimore area. Recreational boaters, anglers, waterman, and others can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels to other Maryland waters by taking these simple, proven precautions: 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, and preferably five days, between outings. Limit boating from place to place — particularly between the Susquehanna and

Middle River to other water bodies in Maryland — where zebra mussels haven't invaded.

For more information on zebra mussels is available at dnr.maryland.gov/invasives/ZebraMussel.aspx, including a fact sheet and reporting form. DNR asks citizens, to report any suspected sightings to invasivemussels.dnr@maryland.gov.

Tips and Tricks

This week let's look at ways to keep your bait fresh.

Fresh bait is often the difference between catching and not catching fish. When you cut up squid or baitfish what do you do with the excess? Do you leave it on the bait board to dry out? Do you put it in the fish cooler where it gets tossed about when a fresh caught fish is added? I used to do both of these things until I began carrying a small cooler just for my bait.

I must credit Bob Baker for showing me this trick that I should have figured out years ago. He keeps two bait coolers on his boat, one for himself and one for his guest. Each has a cooler ice pack and a small container for a half-dozen minnows. Other small containers hold squid strips, shiners or whatever bait he feels will find favor with the flounder. The little coolers are kept close to the angler so he or she can rebait without bothering the other fishermen on the boat. I have an old Coleman lunch cooler that I have been using to keep my bait fresh. It fits easily at my feet on my boat and I can carry it onboard a head boat by placing it in my fish cooler.

This is a really simple solution to a fishing predicament we all share.

By Eric Burnley as seen on <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/fisheries/pages/fishingreport.aspx>

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	10	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	24-25	- Kent Island Chapter Flea Market
	29-2/1	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	1-3	- MSSA Convention Center, Annapolis, MD
	11	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	14-15	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	21	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	21-22	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	28	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club
MARCH	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14-15	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	28-29	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	4	- Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch – Sandy Point
	8	- Frederick Meeting
	11	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
MAY	1-3	- 31th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	15-17	- Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
JUNE	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-21	- 22nd Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	24-26	- Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, Va
AUGUST	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
	22	- 4th Annual MSSA Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament – Ocean City
SEPTEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	12	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
OCTOBER	3-10	- Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	20-22	- 20 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
DECEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting