

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

Happy New Year!

I can't believe it is already 2017! And the New Year brings with it the promise of another great year for the Chapter. And in true MSSA Frederick form, we get off to a running start. The 8th Annual MSSA Frederick Expo is just around the corner and we have another great lineup of vendors and speakers set for the show. This is our largest fundraiser for the year, and we will need the help of anyone that can donate a few hours of their day. And it is a great opportunity to stock up on all of your fishing supplies for the season. As always, there will fishing tackle, supplies, crabbing supplies, art, boating supplies, charter captains, and some of the areas most knowledgeable experts on saltwater fishing.

We don't slow down next month either, as the Annual Dinner Dance will be held February 25th at the Moose. Tickets for the Dance are available now, and can be purchased at the regular Chapter meeting on January 11th.

This is my first month as Chapter President, and I can not tell you how excited I am. I know that there are some HUGE shoes to fill. Ed Susa has done some amazing things for this Chapter, and I want to take this opportunity to thank Ed for all of the things he does, and has done.

And I hope to learn from Ed, and take this Chapter to another level. But I need the help of every member to accomplish this. We have a terrific Board assembled, but will need the input of every member to grow in ways that benefit us all.

Tight lines everyone,

Jim

Next Meeting

Date: January 11, 2017
Food Service begins at 6:15 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Keith Jacobs

Vendor: With respect to the vendors coming for our Expo, we have not invited a vendor for this month's meeting

Dinner Menu:

**Lasagna
Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert**

Attendance at December Meeting: 38

Raffle Winners:
Emory Conner – Food Saver
Frank Molino- Knife& Sharpener
Mike Luzier- June Bug Lure
Rodney Baer- Lure bag & gloves
Brian Buckman- Cutters & Hook remover
Eddie Shulte- Lures
Bob Sneider- Artificial Baits
Neal Ammerman- Lenny Rudow book
Steve O'neil- Gulp baits

50/50 Raffle:
Bob Sneider \$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

2017 Expo- January 14



FREDERICK - CHAPTER 22
www.mssafrederick.com

7th ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING EXPO
January 14th 2017 • 8am - 4pm

Frederick County Fairgrounds
797 E Patrick St. • Building #9 • Frederick, MD 21701
The Best Show Of The Year!

Schedule	9:00AM	Bay Ploekfishing	Capt. Jeff Eichler - Southpaw
	10:15AM	Flounder Fishing	Capt. Lenny Rudow - Beared Up
	11:30AM	Keyak Fishing	Capt. Chris D. Dollar - DU Outdoors
	12:45PM	Light Tackle	Capt. Shawn Kimbro - Thunder Head
2:00PM	Offshore	Ed "The Beard" - Wicked Tuna: Outer Banks	

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- Boat Vendors & Marine Techs • Terminal Tackle Suppliers
- Boat/Fishing Licenses • Crabbing Supplies & Vendors

For More Information Contact:
Rob Pellicot 301-606-0392 • Ed Susa 301-252-0233



Fishing Reports

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

Season's Greetings from the Maryland Fishing Report Team!

The grip of winter is tightening upon the Maryland landscape this week and many types of fish and fishermen are hunkering down for the winter months. The striped bass season in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay is now closed and the lower Potomac will close on December 31st. Anglers in the coastal areas can still enjoy sea bass fishing until December 31st and tautog season opens on January 1st.

It is always exciting when various fishing and outdoor shows begin to occur in January and mark a good time to restock on lures and equipment. It is also a good time to reflect on equipment and swap out that line that served you so well through the past season and be ready for 2017. In short the winter months provide down time to get everything ready for the upcoming fishing seasons and a great time to reflect on what worked and what didn't. As in most outdoor adventures, preparation and planning leads to anticipation which adds greatly to the total experience. . Freshwater opportunities include fishing for chain pickerel, yellow perch in the tidal rivers along with largemouth bass that are holding close to deep structure. Walleye, yellow perch, smallmouth bass and trout are active in the western areas of the state and often provide fun fishing opportunities for those who are prepared for it. The Fishing and Boating Services staff wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season with family and friends. The next fishing report will occur sometime in middle of January depending on fishing news and weather. Cold weather is in the forecast and although it can be troublesome to our day to day lives it holds the promise of ice fishing conditions at Deep Creek Lake and other western region impoundments.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown - Christmas Report
23 December 2016

When anglers are able to get out on the water, some very large rockfish await within Chesapeake Bay waters. Although the bite for these super-sized fish is rarely off the charts, consistent action with fish pushing to over 45 and 50-pounds caught this week, anglers are putting in their time hoping to land the big one.

These larger rockfish continue to come from the Eastern Shore side of the Bay, but boats do not need to travel quite as far to reach the fish this week. Boats are using eels drifted or slow-trolled on large bobbers and planers in anywhere from 25 to 40 feet of water near buoys

38 and 40A north of Plantation Light. But remember that the Bay striped bass season closes at the end of the month.

Tautog are still hitting well on most lower Bay wrecks and along the structure of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, where anglers are catching fish ranging to around 3 to 6-pounds. Nice tog are also beginning to respond on more coastal and offshore wrecks when boats can venture out to reach them. A few boats are making the run to these deeper wrecks in order to get in on the seabass action before the season closes at the end of the year. Folks are finding plenty of takers, with some seabass averaging to over four pounds. Flounder, trigger fish, and chopper bluefish are also a possibility on or near some of these same structures.

Speckled trout enthusiasts continue to find good action in most backwater locations, with Rudee, Lynnhaven, and Little Creek Inlets hosting catches of trout ranging mostly to around 18 to 21-inches. Casters are finding good luck using a variety of top water artificial lures, Mirrolures, and Gulp baits. Puppy drum are also a possibility in these same areas.

When anglers find a break in the weather, boats heading for the edge of the Norfolk Canyon are finding good hauls of blueline and golden tilefish, and grouper. Big bluefish and jumbo seabass are also a by-catch in these same deep areas, but dog fish will soon begin to overshadow most fishing efforts for deep droppers.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report
Updated: Jan. 6, 2017

DELAWARE BAY Calls to my reporting stations determined what I expected: No one has been fishing due to the holiday season and the less than ideal weather. The weekend looks to be pretty cold and windy, but next week sees more moderate temperatures.

With bay water temperatures hovering around 40 degrees I don't think we will be seeing any rockfish and in fact it looks like the 2016 fall run is all over before it ever got started. While my friends in New Jersey had a fall for the record books, we were sabotaged by a polar vortex that hit just as the stripers were beginning to move into the lower bay. The sudden drop in air and water temperatures pushed the bait and fish into deeper water beyond the Three-Mile Limit. Looks like we will have to wait for the spring run. There should be some movement with white and yellow perch once the weather improves. Spillways are excellent locations for these fish as the water is deeper and less likely to change temperature as quickly as shallow water. The movement below the dam keeps the water well oxygenated and ice free. Small minnows on a jig head or earthworms will take both white and yellow perch.

INSHORE OCEAN Tog will be the primary target for boats sailing from Lewes and Indian River. Finding a day with light winds and moderate seas will be a larger problem than finding tog.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Tog will be the only game in town for inlet anglers. Soaking green crabs will be the best technique.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Army Corps Resumes Oyster Restoration in Tred Avon River Sanctuary

December 15, 2016
Eight Acres Will Be Restored Using Aged Mixed Shell



[From the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District:](#)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, resumed the construction of oyster reef in the Tred Avon River Oyster Sanctuary in Talbot County, Dec. 14, 2016.

The Corps awarded an approximately \$1-million contract Sept. 26, 2016, to Blue Forge LLC to construct the reefs. Blue Forge LLC is a Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business. Eight acres of reef will be restored using aged mixed shell in water depths greater than 9 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The mixed shell comes from processing plants in the mid-Atlantic region and is permitted to be imported and placed in the river.

"Our team is excited to continue restoration work in the Tred Avon River to reach established oyster restoration goals," said Angie Sowers, Corps, Baltimore District integrated water resources management specialist. "Successful oyster restoration is a key component of overall Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, and we look forward to continuing to work with all of our partners to ensure we are conducting restoration efforts as effectively and efficiently as possible."

So far, the restoration team comprised of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science has restored 16 acres of alternate substrate reefs in water depths between 9 to 20 feet MLLW in the Tred Avon River as well as placed spat-on-shell on 19 acres of existing oyster reef habitat.

There is a total of 78 acres of reef restoration work identified in the Tred Avon River Oyster Restoration Tributary Plan, plus placement of spat-on-shell (baby oysters) on an additional 69 acres of existing low-density oyster reefs, for a total of 147 acres.

The Corps also plans this winter to start the construction of an additional (up to) 10 acres in the sanctuary, primarily in water depths between 6.5 and 9 feet, based on the completion of an environmental assessment in November 2016 that found no significant impacts would occur from construction in waters at this depth.

Water depths above restored reefs will be reduced by 12 to 15 inches following placement of spat-on-shell on the constructed reefs. Quality-control procedures have been put in place to ensure that there is 6 feet of navigational clearance above all constructed reefs. No further direct navigational impacts are anticipated from the restoration work in the Tred Avon. No substrate will be placed within federally-maintained channels. NOAA will revise their navigational charts to reflect restoration areas and depths, and Blue Forge LLC will work with the U.S. Coast Guard to issue a Notice to Mariners.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Oyster Advisory Commission, which is comprised of conservationists, government officials, scientists and watermen recommended Aug. 1, 2016, that the Corps and non-federal sponsor Department of Natural Resources continue oyster restoration in the Tred Avon River after a delay was requested in December 2015 to review restoration progress.

"The state is committed to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the restoration of five tributaries for the ecological and economic benefit of all," said Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton. "The department will continue to work with all of our partners and stakeholders, including watermen who work the water, to ensure that restoration is done in an open and transparent manner."

In September, the Corps also signed a five-year, \$700,000 agreement with ORP to coordinate monitoring efforts of the mixed-shell and rock constructed reefs in both Harris Creek and Tred Avon sanctuaries. ORP will be working collaboratively with the scientific community, divers and local watermen on the monitoring project to measure the status and condition of the restored oyster populations at these sites at three-year and six-year milestones. In addition to the Tred Avon River, Harris Creek and the Little Choptank River, the Department of Natural Resources anticipates selection of the next two tributaries for restoration in 2017. The goal is to restore 10 tributaries by 2025 – five in Maryland and five in Virginia. Harris Creek, the first sanctuary to be restored, was completed in 2015 and is considered

the largest restoration project of its kind in the world.

Tips and Tricks

Tautog Fishing

With tautog about the only game in town for saltwater anglers I thought I would share some of the things I have learned about catching these fish.

First, tog don't feed like most other fish. They are not ambush hunters like rockfish and flounder, and they don't nibble at a bait like croaker and spot. Tog graze along rocks, sunken ships or even shell beds crushing such things as mussels, barnacles or crabs. A tog will take food into his mouth only as far as his teeth, crush the shell, swallow the meat and spit the shell back out. This entire process takes less than a second.

I became aware of how fast a tog can eat while watching them at feeding time in the Virginia Beach Marine Aquarium. If you ever get the chance to visit an aquarium try to be there when the fish are being fed. If you pay attention you can learn a great deal about the things you are trying to catch.

Since a tog seldom has a piece of your bait inside his mouth, the use of a circle hook is not as effective as it is with most other fish. It is also highly unlikely that a tog will swallow a hook so releasing a short fish is not compromised and internal injury seldom occurs.

My choice for tog fishing is a Virginia style J hook. I use three feet of 50-pound mono line to tie a single-hook bottom rig by first tying a perfection loop at one end and a double surgeon's loop at the other. A second double surgeon's loop or a dropper loop is tied about three inches above the bottom loop. The running line attaches to the perfection loop, the sinker goes to the bottom surgeon's loop and my hook attaches to the dropper or second

surgeon's loop. I will cut my bait to a size that I feel a tog can take in one bite. I don't want the fish to be nibbling away at the bait or pull it off the hook before the hook has a chance to come in contact with the tog.

Due to the need for sensitivity in order to feel the slightest tap from a tog, I use braided line. Any size from 40- to 60-pound test will do. I then tie a shocker of 50-pound mono to the end of the braid using an Albright knot. Tog live in some tough neighborhoods and braid does not have the abrasion resistance of mono.

While it is possible to catch tog with a spinning outfit, a conventional reel is a much better choice. It is easier to control the drop with a revolving spool reel and drag settings are easier to set than they are on a spinner. You want a very tight drag to keep the tog from taking your rig back into his hidey hole.

I like to use a heavy action rod when tog fishing, but have seen some pretty good anglers use a rod with a very soft tip. Here too you don't want to give a tog his head or he will get you attached to the structure.

****Eric Burnley Sr. is a native Delawarean who has fished the waters of his home state for more than 60 years. He has been a full-time outdoor writer since 1978, with articles appearing in most national magazines as well as many regional publications. He has authored three books, Surf Fishing The Atlantic Coast ,The Ultimate Guide To Catching Striped Bass and Fishing Saltwater Baits.***

2017 Chapter Officers

President: Jim Lorditch

Phone: 443-277-5289

E-mail: jlorditch23@gmail.com

Senior Vice President: Rob Pellicot

Phone: 301-606-0392

E-mail: r_pellicot@yahoo.com

Secretary: Jodi Ammerman

Phone: 240-723-0853

E-mail: jpammerman@aol.com

Treasurer: Chris Linetty

Phone: 301-988-1305

E-mail: retiever@myactv.net

2017 Board of Directors

Ed Susa (Membership Coordinator)

Phone: 240-723-0853

E-mail: esusas@customcourier.net

Jim Bremer (Social Media Coordinator)

Phone: 301-728-7853

E-mail: jbremer@fgmc.com

Bobby Hurt (Prize Coordinator)

Phone: 301-740-0910

Email: itbquik1@yahoo.com

Bob Pellicot -

Phone: 301-606-6200

E-Mail: rpellicot@shockleyhonda.com

Cathy Gunder

717-917-9825

Email: catgunder@hotmail.com

Walt Shaw -

Phone: 301-662-4481

E-Mail: bub5635@comcast.net

Neal Ammerman -

Phone: 240-832-3671

E-mail: apishinika@aol.com

Chris Conway -

Phone: 301-704-4196

E-mail: twitty044@yahoo.com

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	23	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale MD
	28-31	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
FEBRUARY	10	- Frederick Meeting
	13-14	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	27	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
	27	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
27	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club	
MARCH	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-20	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
	26-27	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
APRIL	2-3	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
	29-1	- Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons
29-1	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament	
MAY	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	20-22	- Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City, Chincoteague, Wachapreague, and Indian River Inlet
JULY	8-10	- Frederick Chapter Cobia Tournament in Kiptopeke, VA
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	27	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
SEPTEMBER	14	- Frederick Meeting
	17-18	- 6 th Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	1-8	- Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18-20	- 24 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
DECEMBER	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting



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