

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

By the time you read this, the Spring Tourney will have ended. This year, the weather did not cooperate at all, and the result was very few fish being caught, and many having trouble just being able to fish. The results of the Spring Tourney will be announced at the Chapter meeting on May 10th.

The Flounder Frenzy will be coming up in just a few weeks, and we all hope for great weather, and large numbers of fish. The catch reports out of Chincoteague are looking promising at this time.

It looks as if the Cobia Tournament may be coming back in August this year. Look for more information coming to the website in the next few days.

We will all be getting busier with fishing and crabbing as the Summer months come along. Just a reminder to be safe and have fun with your families

Tight Lines!
Jim

Next Meeting

Date: May 10, 2017

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Lenny from No Limits Sportfishing will be here to speak about Tuna fishing off the East Coast

Vendor: Wayne from Catch All Tackle will have an assortment of tackle

Dinner Menu:

Beef and Chicken Tacos
Dessert

Attendance at April Meeting: 71

Raffle Winners:

Jim Burans- Rod and Reel Combo
Gordon Jernigan- Rod Holders
Jim Lorditch- Grip and Weigh
Emory Connor- Filet Knife Set
Rodney Baer- Hat and Sunglasses
Mike Dodd- Bust Em Baits
Katelyn Blank- Bust Em Baits

50/50 Raffle: Rob Pellicott \$120

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

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

May 03, 2017

When fishing, the outdoors always presents a side show that can at times surpass the main event. Last Wednesday evening I happened to find myself out on the bay and came upon the tall sailing ship, the Coast Guard Eagle. For some it has been known that she spent the winter at the Curtis Bay dry docks in Baltimore being worked on. I happened to luck into seeing her headed down the bay in route to New London, Connecticut to pick up the 2017 seasons batch of cadets for sea training. As I watched her go by under power with most likely a skeleton crew onboard she was a sight to see and a shot of pride went through me. Maryland is a wondrous place and the Chesapeake Bay offers plenty of side show entertainment for those who ply her waters. Below is what this marvelous ship looks like under full sail.

Today, May 3rd marks the last day of the Susquehanna River and flats area catch and release season. Most would agree it was a season marked with a lot of cold and stained water punctuated in early April with spring tides that turned the area into a mine field of floating logs and assorted debris. Those who have stuck it out have been enjoying outstanding catch and release fishing for striped bass in the 30" size range around the outside edges of the flats for the last week or so. Herb Floyd sent us this picture of a fish he caught and released on a topwater lure this past weekend.

Hickory shad and American shad are present in the Susquehanna River. The hickory shad have been running up Octoraro and Deer Creek and the American shad can be found near the

Conowingo Dam pool. The hickory shad runs are often governed by weather events such as warm sunny weather and cool rain events. If you are driving a long distance, be sure to keep an eye on recent weather. There are plenty of flathead catfish and channel catfish to be caught in the lower Susquehanna this week on various cut bait or chicken liver. White perch are in the river and the fishing has been extremely good for those fishing with shad darts or bottom rigs baited with bloodworms. For those who enjoy this wonderful eating fish it is a good time to get in on the action for some large filleting size perch. Generally speaking, the fishing action for trophy sized striped bass in Maryland's portion of the Chesapeake Bay has been very slow up to this week. If I was ever to place my bets on when to be out trolling, it would be this week. The first full week of May usually offers the best chances and last year there was what might be described as a four day blitz in the middle and lower bay regions. Up to the day of writing this fishing report the action is still being reported as slow. The weekend and beginning of this week was also hampered by small craft warnings so hopefully better conditions will prevail later on this week and into the weekend. They do call it fishing. In the upper bay region below the Brewerton Channel the Spring Trophy Season continues and the action has generally been slow with a fair portion of the boats returning to port with a skunk onboard. There were reports from last weekend of pre-spawn fish still being caught in the upper bay region. If this upper bay fishery is going to kick into gear this is the week that it usually happens. The best places to troll have been the Triple Buoys and Love Point channel edges and the Craighill Channel just above Sandy Point Light. The Sandy Point Light area or what many call Podickory Point has also been a place where those chunking or chumming have been having success. The Bay Bridge Piers that are in deeper water have also been holding large striped bass and are always worth a few passes if trolling or jigging with large soft plastics. If you are brave enough to anchor up current of the bridge piers, chunking can also be a good option. Unfortunately the area around the bridge is what could be called the graveyard of anchors due to

debris laying on the bottom. The middle bay region success rate for catching large post-spawn striped bass has been better this week than the upper bay region but so far has been disappointing in its own rite. It would suffice to say one will have to work for their fish unless the fish gods smile upon you. Boats have been plying back and forth across the shipping channel from just below the Bay Bridge to below Breezy Point. It would be optimistic to call trolling a slow pick. Fish are being caught and it only takes one of these to make someone very happy. Josh Kaltreider certainly has plenty to smile about as he holds up a trophy sized striped bass.

Some of the traditional steep channel edges to check out would be Bloody Point Light, the Gum Thickets, Thomas Point, the channel edge west of Poplar Island and down to off Taylor's Island. Lure colors have settled down to chartreuse and white and a chartreuse parachute with a white sassy shad tail has been very popular, sort of the best of both worlds. Surface water temperatures in the middle bay region have just kissed 60° this week and with warmer weather ahead, they will continue to climb. In the lower bay region, captains have been working the shipping channel edges and picking up a few trophy sized striped bass, but generally speaking the action has been slow. The western edge of the shipping channel from Cedar Point past Cove Point has been one of the better places to troll. The eastern edge of the shipping channel from Buoy 72 up to the CP Buoy has been another good place to troll. The mouth of the Potomac River to Smith Point so far this week has not been good but that could change quickly. The post-spawn striped bass have to leave the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to D.C. area at some point, and when they do the fishing should improve greatly. Fishing for white perch has been good in most of the tidal rivers in all regions of the bay. The white perch have settled into their summer habitat and are eagerly taking small lures and bottom rigs baited with bloodworms or grass shrimp. Channel catfish offer good fishing in most tidal rivers and the tidal Potomac holds large numbers of blue catfish. Hickory shad are still

present in the upper Choptank and Marshyhope Creek but will begin to fade out this week as spawning commences.

The locust trees are in full bloom and traditionally this event marks when blue crabs undergo their first shed of the season. Early season crabbing has been good for many for sweet tasting rusty bottom crabs that survived their winter in the bottom of the bay. As the crabbing season begins it is a good time to mention that if you are using the classic orange plastic basket that is commonly seen in commercial fishing circles; this basket does not represent what is considered a bushel by law. The commercial fish baskets actually hold more than a standard bushel which is determined by the common wooden basket. If you use these plastic baskets do not fill them to the top, you could face a summons. The Winter Blue Crab Dredge Survey results have been out since April.

In the western region of the Maryland the walleye fishing at Deep Creek Lake has been good for those drifting along deep rocky edges with minnows. Walleyes can also be caught before sunup or at sundown by casting lures from shore along steep edges. There are plenty of rainbow trout swimming around in the lake and smallmouth bass fishing has been good. Northern pike also add some excitement and can be found at the mouths of some of the larger coves areas. The upper Potomac River is reported to be running high with stained water conditions. Greg Boyer holds up a nice northern pike he caught at Deep Creek Lake recently.

Trout fishing continues to be good in the trout management waters and generous stockings are taking place every week in the put and take areas. Crappie fishing remains very good in many of the impoundments scattered across the Maryland landscape as well as most tidal rivers. Minnows or small jigs under a slip bobber worked near deep structure is a sure fire way to catch them.

Largemouth bass are finished spawning in most areas of the state and are actively feeding to build up body stores after spawning. Grass beds in relatively shallow areas near the spawning areas as well as the mouths of feeder creeks are good places to target. Unweighted

stick worms are a good bet in the grass, topwater lures are also a fun way to work some of the shallower areas. Tidal rivers are always a fun place to fish for Largemouth bass and of course the tidal Potomac continues to be an outstanding fishery. The tidal rivers of the lower Eastern Shore tend to get overlooked except by locals and these river provide picturesque places to fish for a mix of largemouth bass, chain pickerel and northern snakeheads. A falling tide is often one of the better times to work the edges of grass and spatterdock fields.

There certainly has been an air of excitement along Ocean City beaches and the inlet area for over a week now. Large migrating bluefish that are moving north have been on the prowl for anything to eat. Looking at them it is easy to see they are emaciated from the long swim from southern waters with few stops at local snack bars along the way. They are all head but certainly are fun to catch. Surfcasters have been catching them on bottom rigs baited with cut baits or finger mullet. At the inlet cut baits, Got-Cha lures or anything else that looks good to eat are being eagerly taken by bluefish. The local tackle shops are doing a brisk business in replacing tackle lost to those big teeth so fishermen and shop owners are all happy. This happy angler holds up a nice one caught off the Route 50 Bridge on cut bait.

Tautog are also being caught at the inlet and the Route 50 Bridge area along with a few flounder. In the surf large bluefish tend to be targeting any large cut bait in the surf, but a few medium-sized black drum and short striped bass are being caught. There are also blowfish in the area. In the back bay channels, flounder are being caught on white Gulp baits as well as the standard squid and minnow baits. Short striped bass are providing some entertaining catch and release fishing. The boats headed out to the wreck and reef sites report good fishing for tautog. Other boats decided to head farther offshore this past weekend and targeted the Triple Zeros area and came back to the docks with the season's first yellowfin tuna, dolphin and bluefin tuna. Other boats fishing near the 30 Fathom line came back to port with a couple of nice sized mako sharks.

For the offshore tuna anglers, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) has announced Effective April 30, 2017, through December 31, 2017, the bluefin tuna (BFT) daily retention limits are the following: For HMS Angling-permitted vessels: 2 school BFT (27 to under 47") + 1 large school/small medium BFT (47 to under 73"); for HMS Charter/Headboat-permitted vessels: 3 school BFT + 1 large school/small medium BFT. For more information and further updates on the federally managed offshore species, see the news page at the NMFS Permit Shop.

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown
21 April 2017

Finally, the spring fishing scene is coming together, and water temperatures will get a boost as the weather warms into the eighties this week.

And now everything is right in the world of saltwater fishing as the first catches of big red drum from the Eastern Shore jump-start the courtship between drum and angler for the season. As schools of big drum filter into the lower Bay and spread among the shoals and breakers lining the Eastern Shore barrier islands, local anglers are intercepting the early season drum using blue crabs and peelers. Some of these bulls are measuring to well over 45-inches. Black drum will make a solid showing in these same areas.

Tautog anglers had a good week, with the bite taking off in Bay and inshore waters. Bay anglers are catching limits of fish, with most bites coming from the pilings and the tubes of the CBBT, with the best luck happening with fiddler crabs, when you can get them. Most fish are ranging from 3 to 5-pounds. Deeper water wrecks are giving up some bigger fish, but this bite is slower. Big seabass are also competing for your offerings on the same structures, but seabass remain off limits until mid-May. Hurry if you want to get in on the tog

action, since this fishery closes at the end of the month.

The flounder bite is still emerging in lower Bay waters. Some limits of keepers are rewarding those who put in their time along the Eastern Shore seaside inlets, Oyster, Magothy Bay, and Back River Reef. Look for this trend to heat up with the warmer temperatures.

Pier anglers are smiling again as croaker light up their worlds at local fishing piers. Plenty of medium-sized hardheads are hitting along the ocean front, at the Oceanview and Buckroe Piers, and within the Bay's tributary rivers on squid and blood worms. Decent-sized sea mullet are also making a showing in these same locations on bloodworms. Nice snapper bluefish are also in lower Bay waters, while also making a very good run into Rudee Inlet.

Puppy drum are providing very good action in Rudee Inlet this week, with some good numbers of trout also showing in Little Creek and Lynnhaven. Speckled trout are also responding in these same areas, and reports of the first flounder catches of the season in Rudee Inlet are trickling in.

The deep water off the Virginia coast is still the place to crank up tilefish, black-bellied rosefish and grouper from over 300 feet of water. But a word of warning, pesky dog fish are still a nuisance, but they will begin to thin out soon. Jumbo black seabass are also in the same areas, but these fish are illegal to keep right now.

Offshore opportunities are pushing this way. Most of the action is still happening mostly off North Carolina, with bluefin, blackfin, and yellowfin tuna presenting a variety for the fleet.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: May 4, 2017

DELAWARE BAY The number of keeper rockfish caught from the Lower Bay increased over the weekend as more big stripers left the spawning grounds and headed for the ocean. Most of these fish were caught by anchoring up and chunking with fresh

bunker while soaking cut bunker at various depths. The Yellow Can and the 6L buoy were the most frequently mentioned locations. A few big rock were also caught from shore at Augustine Beach and from the pier at Woodland Beach. Bloodworms and cut bunker worked from shore.

For the rest of Delaware Bay the word was bluefish. Blues to 17 pounds were caught as far up the Broadkill River as Oyster Rocks and as far up the Bay as South Bowers Beach. The fishing pier at Cape Henlopen State Park and the beach on both sides were ground zero for big blues. This is where the action began and it is still the most productive location.

Cut bunker has been the top bait and is used by most anglers. Poppers and metal lures come into play when the bite gets hot. The top of the incoming tide has been the most productive time. The Outer Wall produced some tog over the weekend. Green crabs were the bait of choice.

Flounder fishing remains slow. A few were caught out of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal and from the pier at Cape Henlopen State Park. Live minnows, squid strips and Gulp! on a jig head were the most popular baits. Broadkill Beach saw a fair run of black drum. Clams worked best on the boomers. The problem has been dirty water that slows the bite and with the winds we are having the water seems to be dirty all the time.

ADVISORY: Summer Flounder Regulations: As of April 1, the minimum size for summer flounder in Delaware is 17 inches. The bag limit remains at four fish per day and the season runs for 365 days.

INSHORE OCEAN It has been a long period of small craft and gale warnings and a tough time to be a charter or head boat operator. When conditions allowed, a few boats made it out from Lewes and Indian River and some even found some tog.

INDIAN RIVER INLET The inlet was on fire with big blues on Tuesday during incoming water. Bucktails and metal lures were the top two producers. Indian River Bay and Rehoboth Bay have both seen runs of bluefish. Some are the big choppers while others run in the two to five-pound range. Most are caught on bucktails or metal lures. Keeper rockfish to 30 inches have been caught on bucktails at dawn, dusk and

on night tides. Smaller rock take bucktails during the day. Flounder fishing is still pretty slow. A few keepers have been taken out of the VFW Slough on minnows, squid strips and Gulp!.

SURF FISHING The big bluefish run is keeping surfcasters happy. The fish have been caught from Herring Point to Fenwick Island on cut bunker or metal lures. The key to success is being there when the fish are in a feeding mood. That seems to be at the top and the bottom of the tide. If you have the time, I would suggest fishing as much as possible since the blues are in and out all day.

The occasional big rockfish has also been caught from the beach. Cut bunker has been the best bait. Black drum are also available. They will take cut bunker, but prefer clams. Snakeheads are showing up in the Nanticoke River and if you catch one you can get a state citation pin if you kill and dispose of the fish. I have been told the meat is very mild.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Chesapeake Bay Report Card Shows Steady Health Recovery

May 8, 2017

Fisheries Index Gets an 'A' at 90 Percent
The overall health of Chesapeake Bay improved in 2016, a positive sign that recovery efforts are working. The largest estuary in the nation scored a C grade (54 percent) in the 2016 report card, one of the highest scores calculated by scientists at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. In addition, fish populations greatly improved to an A (90 percent). Scientists are encouraged by these improvements in health despite many pressures on the Chesapeake Bay and across the watershed.

"We are happy to see that our beloved Chesapeake Bay continues its recovery. These scientifically rigorous report card results are telling us that we are indeed heading in the right direction," said Bill Dennison, vice president for science application at the University of Maryland

Center for Environmental Science. "We still have a long way to go to fully restoring the bay, so we need to have our diverse partnerships of people and organizations continue to work together to reduce the runoff of sediments and nutrients into the bay."

The Fisheries Index is made up of blue crab, striped bass and anchovy indicators, which are ecologically, economically and socially important fish species in the Chesapeake Bay. This index, which increased greatly over the last year, tends to be more variable than the bay health index. The encouraging fisheries grade is an indicator of continued momentum in the recovery of the bay's health. Sustained protection and restoration of the watershed by reducing nutrient and sediment pollution support healthy fisheries. Most of the indicators comprising the Chesapeake Bay Health Index remained steady in 2016. The total area of the bay covered by aquatic grasses increased. This important habitat provides a home for blue crabs and striped bass. There were also improvements in seven bay regions, with the greatest improvements in the Patapsco and Back Rivers, Patuxent River, and the Lower Eastern Shore. The Patapsco and Back Rivers encompass Baltimore, an important urban center that has made great strides to reduce pollution and support the bay. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Integration and Application Network produces this report card annually to assess the health of Chesapeake Bay, and to enhance and support the science, management and restoration of its waterways.

More information about the 2016 Chesapeake Bay Report Card including region-specific data, is available at chesapeakebay.ecoreportcard.org. Our friends around the bay respond to the results:

Senator Ben Cardin, D-Md., Environment and Public Works Committee:

"Much of what's now better in the Chesapeake Bay has been made possible because the federal government has been a strong and stable partner. But the gains in the bay's health will disappear quickly if the federal government vacillates in its commitment to the nation's largest estuary," said Senator Cardin. "Congress soundly rejected the recently proposed cuts in federal funding to the Chesapeake Bay Program and related efforts because nearly every elected official in the watershed, regardless of political party affiliation, knows and appreciates what the bay provides us in economic activity, ecosystem services and recreational opportunities. But let the recent threats serve as a serious reminder: We must all continue working together to ensure that the government's dedication to the Chesapeake Bay consistently accumulates and never deviates."

Don Boesch, President, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science:

"When I was a kid I often got report cards stating 'capable of doing better work.' Well, this report card shows that our better work is yielding positive results. But it's not time to coast, we still have even better work to do to score the A of which we are clearly capable."

Nick DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program:

"The 2016 Report Card again shows a steady improvement in a variety of ecosystem health indicators throughout the bay. Much of this improvement is the result of actions taken at the local level to upgrade wastewater treatment plants, and to control urban and agricultural runoff that improve local waterways as well as water quality in the bay. These improvements are accomplished by cooperation and collaboration at all levels of government and with the active participation and support of informed citizens."

Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment:

"Funding, science, and stewardship is essential to a cleaner and healthier Chesapeake Bay. The Hogan administration has invested \$3 billion pollution reduction strategies and remains committed to the protection and restoration of Maryland's national treasure."

Mark Belton, Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources:

"Many Marylanders have taken action and made sacrifices to protect our treasured Chesapeake Bay. We're seeing signs that those efforts are yielding benefits, and we remain fully committed to improving and enhancing the bay for this and future generations."

Will Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation:

"There is clear consensus in the scientific community that the health of the bay is improving. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) State of the Bay report, the Bay Program's Bay Barometer, and now the UMCES Bay Report Card all show progress. All three reports, however, show that much more needs to be done. The recovery is fragile and the federal and state partners must accelerate their efforts, not retreat. Our health, local economies, and our legacy depend upon it."

Tips and Tricks

BIG BLUES: GOOD EATIN' When we had big blues back in the late 1960s into the 1980s, many people would keep more than they could use. Those fish went into garbage bins and were wasted.

Right now there are a lot of big blues being caught and I hope anglers have now learned to release what they can't

eat. The idea that big blues are not good table fare is unfortunate since these fish can be very good if properly prepared.

When you clean a big bluefish make sure to remove the dark meat that runs down the middle of the filet. This is the lateral line and has a stronger taste than most people like.

The filets can then be baked, grilled, smoked or prepared however you like your fish.

If you cut the filets into chunks and make up a beer batter I promise you will enjoy the result.

I know fried food is a no-no for some folks so they should try parboiling the filets in a mixture of water or beer, Old Bay and any other spices you may like. Bring the liquid to a boil with the filets submerged. It only take about ten minutes to cook the fish. Then turn off the heat and let the filets soak in the liquid for 15 minutes. Remove the fish and serve.

Any leftover fish can be made into fish cakes. Simply take the fish and mix it with bread crumbs, one egg, some mayo and a little more Old Bay. Form into cakes and fry or bake. Leftover fish cakes can be frozen and used for a quick dinner.

****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.***

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FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER – 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.mssafrederick.com

JANUARY	11	- Frederick Meeting
	14	- Frederick Chapter Fishing Expo – Frederick Fair Grounds
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
	26-29	- Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
	28-29	- Kent Island Chapter Fishing Flea Market
FEBRUARY	8	- Frederick Meeting
	11	- Tri State Marine Flea Market – Deale Md
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-18	- Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
	18	- Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Cambridge, MD
	25	- Saltwater Fishing Expo Annapolis Elks #622 – Edgewater MD
25	- Dinner Dance - Frederick Moose Club	
MARCH	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	18-19	- Essex/Middle River Flea Market
APRIL	1-2	- Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
	8	- Frederick Chapter Shakedown Cruise/ Catch & Release Tournament
	12	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
MAY	5-7	- Frederick Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament- Solomons
	5-7	- 33rd Annual MSSA Spring Tournament
	10	- Frederick Meeting
	17	- Frederick Board Meeting
	19-21	- Frederick Chapter Flounder Tournament – Chincoteague
JUNE	14	- Frederick Meeting
	21	- Frederick Board Meeting
	16-18	- 27th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
JULY	12	- Frederick Meeting
	19	- Frederick Board Meeting
AUGUST	9	- Frederick Meeting
	16	- Frederick Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER	9	- Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic
	13	- Frederick Meeting
	16-18	- 6 th Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament – OC, Chincoteague, DE
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting
OCTOBER	7-14	- Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
	11	- Frederick Meeting
	18	- Frederick Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	8	- Frederick Meeting
	15	- Frederick Board Meeting
	17-19	- 24 th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament - Fish 2 of 3
DECEMBER	13	- Frederick Meeting
	20	- Frederick Board Meeting

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