

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

The end of February brought with it our annual Chapter Dinner Dance. This event is always a chance to spend some quality time with friends and family in a relaxed atmosphere. The food was very good again this year, with steamed shrimp, crab dip, and vegetable platters for appetizers. Fried chicken, prime rib, mashed potatoes, and salad followed that. And of course, there were over 5 thousand dollars worth of prizes raffled off through the night.

Early bird signups will be available at the meeting for both the Spring Rockfish tournament, and the Flounder Frenzy tournament. And it will be the last day to register for the 1st Shakedown Cruise/ Catch n Release tourney. If you need a slip for the Spring Rockfish tournament, see Rob at the meeting, as they are going fast. And t-shirt orders for the Frenzy will be available too, see Jodie. There will be updates on all of the tournaments at the meeting.

Tight lines,
Jim

Next Meeting

Date: March 8, 2017

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Matt from Seahawk Sports Center will be speaking about Flounder fishing in Chincoteague

Vendor: Matt from Seahawk Sportscenter will have an assortment of gear and tackle

Dinner Menu:

Flounder
Brown Rice
Steamed Vegetables
Dessert

Attendance at February Meeting: 64

Raffle Winners:

Ed Susa- Okuma Reel
Eddie Schulty-Rock On Tandem Rig
Neal Ammerman- Shaggy Shad Baits
Jay Betts- Spankin Striper Lures
Al Geisler- Garmin Bag
Charles Lategano- dehooker/sharpener, etc.
Jim Lorditch- Sunglasses/line cutter
Fred Keane- Gulp baits

50/50 Raffle:

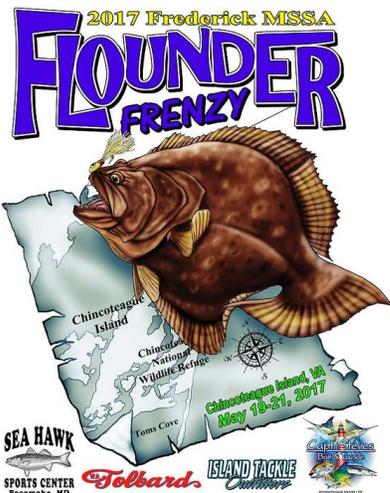
Bobby Hurt- \$105

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

Dinner Dance Raffle Prizes

Hand Held VHF- Walt Shaw
Costa Glasses- Hannah Knapp
1200' Trotline- Al Geisler
Okuma 30w Reel/ Rod - Rose Wiland
330 Combo- Steve O'neil
Flounder combo #1-Fred Keane
Double Deep Fryer-Morgan Reedy
Okuma reel/ Ande Rod- Wayne Rice
Offshore bag- Phil Coblentz
Star rod/ Okuma reel- Rodney Baer
Flounder bag- Jim Lorditch
Rockfish bag- Steve O'neil
Food Saver- Steve O'neil
Meat Slicer- Ronnie Embley
Hitch n Haul- Terry Spence
Triple rod riggers- Steve Wolfrey
Cleaning bucket- Marcus Lawson
Rockfish Print- Leeann Geisler
Woman's combo- David Reece
Bean bag chair- Steve Wolfrey
Baltimore light print- Phil Coblentz
Tool Set- Ed Susa
Binoculars- Damon Catlin
BBQ Grill-Roy Butler
\$100 Tylers Gift card- Bryan Etzler
Crab Picture- Kim Nessul
Wine n Cheese basket- Morgan Reedy
Women's fishing bag- Morgan Reedy
Women's beach bag- Carol Wiland
Wilcom's Gift card- Ronnie Embley
Rocksalt Grille gift card- Al Geisler
Mariachi's gift card- Rob Pellicot
Metal art crab- Stephanie Hurt
Metal art Wahoo- Clay Pellicot
Metal art Mahi Mahi- Mindy Lorditch
Gift bag-Ed Susa
Gift bag-Kim Nessul
Gift bag-Brian Buckman
Gift bag-Justin Fleming



Fishing Reports

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

Mid-Winter Fishing Update

February tends to be a tough month for playing outdoors. Most hunting seasons are closed and it is a little bit early for comfortable fishing. Fortunately the trout production program and the many fisheries biologists that stock the trout have given fishermen a chance to enjoy good trout fishing in the put and take trout management waters across the entire state as part of the pre-season stocking program. It is a little early for yellow perch but those that give it a whirl are finding a few male yellow perch here and there in the tidal rivers. There are fishing shows just about every weekend this month and into March. During this time of the year, many start to think about buying a new fishing license. Remember that fishing licenses now go 365 days from the date of purchase, so check the date on your current fishing license.

The lower Susquehanna River near Perryville has been offering some of the most consistent yellow perch fishing to be found right now. The typical pattern for this time of the year is that the yellow perch congregate in about 40' of water just below the Route 40 Bridge. This is vertical fishing for the most part from small boats or kayaks when weather conditions are favorable. Most prefer to use a sinker with a Christmas tree type rig with two dropper flies or small soft plastic jigs in the 1/32 oz. to 1/8 oz. size category. Tipping the lures or flies with a small piece of cut minnow or a dip in your favorite fish attractant juice can often pay better dividends.

Farther upriver and closer to the dam pool there has been some productive fishing for flathead and channel catfish. The flathead catfish tend to be in the

3lb. to 5 lb. size range in the river below the dam pool. The whopper sized flatheads tend to hold in the dam pool below the turbines where lunch consisting of mostly gizzard shad is served during power generation. In the upper, middle and lower bay regions, most anglers have their favorite places to check in the tidal rivers and creeks as they look for the vanguard of the spring yellow perch run. This usually consists of male yellow perch and a few can be found here and there at traditional locations. Water temperatures in the tidal rivers and creeks are generally in the low "forties" (40° - 44° range) right now due to a relatively mild winter. This water temperature range is relatively close to the 46° mark that will start the spawning event. The young male yellow perch want to be the first ones to show up for the party, so they are beginning to stage in deeper areas below the spawning reaches. John T. McMullen holds up a nice yellow perch for the camera.



Photo courtesy of John T. McMullen
Generally speaking, water temperatures between 48° to 54° will show the greatest amount of spawning activity. Traditionally the tributaries on the western side of the bay will be a little warmer than similar waters on the eastern side of the bay at the same latitude. Yesterday the surface water temperature at Hillsboro on the Tuckahoe River was 41°. The 2013, 2014 and 2015 were good year classes of yellow perch and the 2011 year class of yellow perch was a dominant year class. It takes about 3 years for a yellow perch to reach 9" so the 2011 year class should provide some nice yellow perch in the 12" or better size range. John Horgan holds up a nice

yellow perch he caught in the Gunpowder River while using live minnows.

The section of the Bush River called Gray's Run is starting to get the attention of local yellow perch fishermen as is the Wayson's Corner area on the Patuxent. There is a scattering of male yellow perch at these locations with a large portion of them being undersized. Now is the time to get your favorite tackle together. If you are a bank fisherman it is hard to beat braid for its fine diameter which helps one be able to cast a country mile. Usually a 2' piece of 4 lb. to 6 lb. fluorocarbon or mono tippet is tied on to fool the perch but also allow one to break off on those pesky submerged logs and branches that always seem to reach out grab your jig or hooked minnow. If you can come up with an educated guess on how deep the holes are that you're fishing (and yes that is where you want to be) a small 1/32 oz. soft plastic jig or hair jig under a bobber is a great way to fish. Often the bobber will need to be 4' or more above your lure or lures. If fishing this way I like the small foam type that you can slide up and down the line for adjustment; allow the light jig to sink to the proper depth and reel in slowly while giving a twitch now and then. Another way to fish is to use up to a 1/16 oz. jig, a Mickey Finn type streamer fly or use a minnow with a split shot a couple of feet ahead; when fishing this way I like to keep my rod tip up high with a belly in the line and you will see it twitch in the line when a perch picks up your offering. Another tip is to not forget small shad darts, they work also whether tipped with a little piece of minnow or your favorite fish attractant juice. Spawning runs of yellow perch and white perch are governed largely by water temperature so a warm day might spur things on and a cold day cause things to retreat. This type of fishing is often categorized by the familiar replay to how is the fishing? "Well you should have been here this morning or yesterday". It is something up to debate among fishermen but I have always placed my bets on a low flood tide during the warmth of the day. The following link will take you to our yellow perch fishing location maps on our fisheries website.

The annual winter trawl survey is just about completed on the upper bay and the lower regions of the major tidal rivers. This survey work is conducted by pulling a 25' trawl along the bottom by the research vessel RV Chesapeake to monitor resident populations of white perch, yellow perch, striped bass, catfish and forage fish such as gizzard shad. Species are sorted, measured and counted at predetermined locations the same way each year so comparisons can be evaluated. I recently was able to assist in the survey work and as one would expect this time of the year; the perch and other species were holding in deep areas at the mouths of the upper bay's tidal rivers.



Photos by Captain Mike Simonsen and Keith Lockwood

The Spring Trophy Striped Bass Season opens on April 15th this year and for those who may be guessing on the opening day, it is set every year as the third Saturday of April. There has been some catch and release action at the

Calvert Cliffs Power Plant warm water discharge for those seeking a little jigging action. Most of the striped bass being caught and released are in the 30" size range. Traditionally the large spring migrants will begin to show up at the discharge sometime in March. Surface water temperatures in the middle bay region are about 40° this week.

There is some deep water jigging action to be found in the deeper channel areas at the mouths of the major tidal rivers and some locations in the bay for white perch. For example there have been reports of white perch being caught in the lower Patuxent River in about 60' of water. A decent sized sinker with two dropper flies is the usual offering to get in on this early season action.

One of the most active fisheries in tidal waters this time of the year is fishing for blue catfish in the tidal Potomac River. The Fort Washington area tends to be the central location for the best fishing. This time of the year in particular is one of the best times to target trophy sized blue catfish if you're looking for a tussle. If you are looking to fill your freezer there are also plenty of medium-sized blue cats in the region. The fresher the better is the name of the game, when it comes to cut bait for blue catfish and a simple bottom rig and stout tackle is all that is needed.

The pre-season trout stocking in many "put and take" trout management areas is well under way this month and trout fishermen from the Eastern Shore to the far western regions of the state are enjoying some fun and productive fishing. These stockings offer something for everyone from those casting nymphs and wet flies with fly tackle to ultra-light spinning tackle and a pea sized piece of Powerbait on a hook. The stockings are posted as they occur on Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Facebook, on the email subscription lists, and on the trout stocking website

Also of interest to trout fishermen are the ongoing water supply issues at the Albert Powell Trout Hatchery that will have an effect on the upcoming spring and fall trout stocking schedules. Hatchery staff are working hard to maintain and stock trout while working under tough conditions. For more information, readers can go to the Department of Natural Resources

Fisheries website to learn about the situation.

Fishing opportunities over near the Ocean City area are a bit sparse this time of the year with offshore tautog fishing being the best show in town. The day's success can vary from fair to good depending on the mood of the tautog and sea conditions. Surf fishermen might find a little entertainment with spiny dogfish and skates. Ocean water temperatures are holding around 45° this week.

Virginia Beach Action

Weekly Sportfishing Rundown
24 February 2017

The rare treat of mild temperatures in February has prompted a flurry of activity on the fishing front this past week. Some back water and open water opportunities are rewarding anglers with some decent results, but this could be short-lived with a more typical shot of winter headed this way.

Most interest is still centered around the more predictable tautog fishery. Even with the stingy bag limit of three fish per person at a minimum of 16-inches, a few boats are making the run to both deep water and mid-range wrecks off our coast. Anglers are reporting good catches of decent fish, with several tog ranging to over 10-pounds boated this week. Be prepared to weed through a good share of nice seabass, but you must toss them back since they are out of season. But with water temperatures getting a nudge into a more optimal range for inshore activity, folks may not have to travel so far to get in on a tog bite. Many are heading into Bay waters, hoping for an early Spring tog surge on the Bay Bridge Tunnel.

A phenomenon that I do not even recall, since the last good run of Boston mackerel off our coast was over 20 years ago, is inspiring some anglers to give it a try. I asked Captain Steve Wray at **Long Bay Bait and Tackle** for some advice (since he does remember when this fishery thrived years ago). Boats are marking these large schools of Boston mackerel from Cape Henry,

out the Light Tower often near schools of whales or followed by working birds. Dropping a mackerel rig into the school will quickly verify your hunch. These fish are caught using a jigging action, with multiple hook-ups common. These fish are edible, and trying them out in a smoker could be a good move.

On the backwater scene, anglers continue to pick away at some steady speckled trout action in both Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets, with most trout averaging around 18-inches. Puppy drum are also biting in these same locations.

Although the bluefin tuna passed us by for the winter, a few boats are still getting in on the big Bluefin action by making the long run to North Carolina, with some nice hauls reported recently.

Deep dropping is always a good this time of year when the weather allows boats to get to deeper water. Nice blueline tilefish are still the staple species along the 50-fathom curve, with plenty of fish available weighing in over the 10-pound minimum for a state citation. Deeper areas along the Canyon edges are showing more activity with blackbellied rosefish and scattered golden tilefish, but dogfish are making fishing for these deep-water species a challenge. A by-catch of black seabass is almost a given in these areas, but remember they are illegal to keep right now.

<http://www.drjball.com>

Delaware Fishing Report

Updated: March 2, 2017

DELAWARE BAY While the weather has been unseasonably warm, the water temperature in the bay remains in the mid-40s. Continued mild weather could push the temperature above the magic 50-degree mark by mid-March. Until then white and yellow perch will remain the top catch. The shoreline from New Castle to Port Mahon and the tidal rivers and creeks have seen decent catches of both species. It is pretty much pick your spot and wait for the bite to turn

on. Bloodworms, minnows and grass shrimp remain the best baits.

INSHORE OCEAN In spite of the good weather, tog fishing remains a slow pick. Some of the tog being caught are good size, but the number of keepers remains below expectations.

INDIAN RIVER INLET Finally, we have a keeper rockfish caught from the inlet. A 31-incher was captured on Feb. 24 and there have been scattered reports of short rock as well. These are resident fish and it will be several more weeks before the larger migratory fish arrive. Bucktails and sand fleas will be the prime baits.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Maryland Natural Resources Annual Photo Contest Begins

March 1, 2017

14th Annual Photo Contest Runs Now Through Aug. 31



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is accepting entries for its annual photo contest now through Aug. 31, 2017. Photographers – from novice to professional – can enter online or by mail for the chance to win cash and other prizes. Winning entries will be posted online and featured in an issue of the quarterly Maryland Natural Resource magazine and adorn the 2018 wall calendar. Entries can include images featuring birds, insects, flora, outdoor recreation, nature in action, scenic landscapes, and wildlife. Judges will choose first, second and third place winners by season. There will also be one “Fan Favorite” selected by popular vote on Facebook. Nearly 250 photographers submitted a record of 1,421 photos to the 2016 contest. “This popular contest allows photographers of all skill levels to

showcase their skills and our state’s natural beauty and heritage through the lens of resource conservation, recreation and stewardship,” Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. “I look forward to seeing these stunning images captured in every corner of our beautiful and bountiful state, from the marshes of the Eastern Shore to the forests of Mountain Maryland.”

The photo contest is open to state residents and visitors alike but all qualifying photos must be taken in Maryland. Photographers may submit up to three entries for a \$10 fee with additional entries (no limit) at \$3 each. All photos must be original and unpublished.

The best overall photo receives a grand prize of \$500 cash, a 2017 Maryland State Park and Trail Passport, a complimentary five-year magazine subscription and five copies of the 2018 calendar. First, second and third place winners will also receive prizes.

Tips and Tricks

4 Steps For Coming Alongside A Dock

By Michael Vatalaro

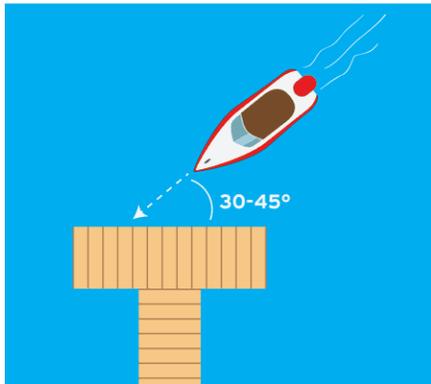
Too fast and BANG. Too slow and you lose control. Here's how to dock an outboard with finesse.

Docking makes boaters nervous. Throw a little wind and current in the mix, and you can find yourself overwhelmed with things to worry about. Your technique shouldn't be one of your worries. Coming alongside a dock or bulkhead can be accomplished in just four steps. But first, you need to know a few things about your boat.

This procedure is for outboard- or sterndrive-powered boats. Hopefully you've had enough time at the helm to know how your boat pivots when you throw the wheel hard over in either direction. Many beginning boaters are surprised at how much the stern swings or slides out when they initiate a turn. If you're not familiar with your boat's tendencies, to get a feel, practice by approaching a buoy or crab pot marker as though it were the dock. Once you've got that down, choose which side you want to tie up, deploy fenders, and you're ready to make your

approach. These instructions are for a portside tie.

Step 1: Line Up Your Approach



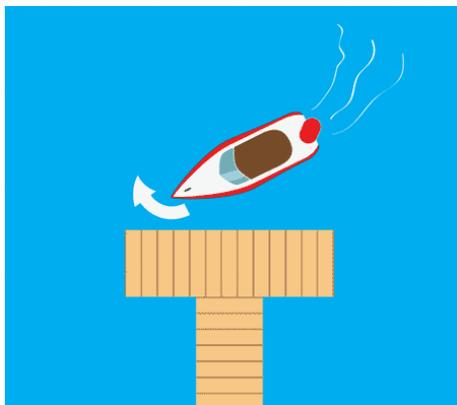
Steps 1 and 2

Slowly approach center of desired berth
 When approaching the space on the dock where you want to come alongside, first judge wind and current. If the wind or current will be pushing you toward the dock, a shallow angle will help you keep control and not strike the dock with the bow of the boat. If the wind and/or current are conspiring to keep you off the dock, as so often seems to be the case, you'll need a steeper approach to carry enough momentum to get you into the dock. Start with a 30- to 45-degree angle as you learn what works best for your boat. Aim your bow toward the center of your landing point.

Step 2: Come In Slowly

There's an old saying, "Never approach a dock any faster than you're willing to hit it." Bump the boat in and out of gear to maintain slow progress toward your chosen spot. On twin-engine boats, use one engine at a time to creep in.

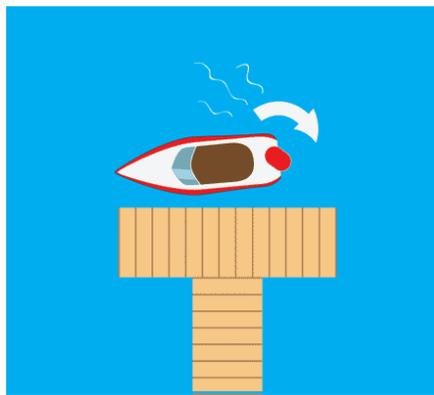
Step 3: Time Your Swing



Step 3

Wheel to starboard, engine in forward
 When your bow is within, say, half a boat length, swing the wheel over hard to starboard (away from the dock). This is where knowing your boat becomes important, particularly regarding where it pivots. Turn too soon, and you won't end up parallel with the dock. Too late, and bang. With the wheel hard over, bump the engine into gear for an instant to kick the stern to port. This will also swing the bow away from the dock (to starboard) so you won't hit it.

Step 4: The Flourishing Finish



Step 4

Wheel to port, engine reversed
 As the boat glides toward being parallel with the dock, swing the wheel all the way back to port, and kick the engine into reverse (on twins, use the engine farthest from the dock for maximum effect). This will simultaneously stop your headway and pull the stern of the boat to port and closer to the dock. When the boat has stopped moving forward, put it in neutral. The boat should continue side-slipping right up to the dock, allowing you to simply reach out and grab a line or piling.
 Michael Vatalaro, *BoatUS Magazine's* executive editor, has a 24-foot center console Pursuit.

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: Jodie 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: esusa@customcourier.net
- Jim Bremer (Social Media Coordinator)
 Phone: 301-728-7853
 E-mail: jbremere@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 – 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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