



## FREDERICK SALTWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER



### **President's Message**

Fall is here, and with it comes dreams of that 50/50 Striped Bass. Hopefully the migration shows up this year, and we can all get a chance at the fish of a lifetime. A few years ago, I was lucky enough to fish with Chris Linetty and Gathy Gunder on an eeling trip, and that was one of the most fun ways to target Stripers that I can imagine. Whether eeling, trolling planers, or jigging with light tackle, these fish provide us with hours of entertainment, before the Winter time shuts us down.

But with Winter comes some of the best events the club has, as we are planning the Expo in January, and the Dinner Dance for February. As always, we will need volunteers for a number of jobs, including putting out signs, and helping with all kinds of jobs at the Expo. Please see Ed, Rob, or Jim if you can help on January 12, even if it's for just a few hours. All help is greatly appreciated.

We had a good turnout for the Tackle the Mackerel tournament in Harker's Island, and I want to congratulate all of the Winner's. Rob Pellicot and his team won the tournament, while Roy and Andy Butler won the Calcutta for the largest fish. And Bryan Etzler won the Spanish Mackerel Calcutta. As always, the trip was a good time.

I hope to see everyone at the November meeting on November 14, but if I don't see you, Happy Thanksgiving!

Tight Lines,

Jim

### **Next Meeting**

**Date: November 14, 2018**

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Speaker:** Fishamajig Guide Services will be our speaker this month

<https://www.fishamajigguideservice.com/>

**Vendor:** Gary from Spankin Stripers will be here with an assortment of lures

<http://www.spankinstripers.com/>

**Dinner Menu:**

Lasagna

Salad

Garlic Bread

Dessert

**Attendance at October Meeting: 56**

**Raffle Winners:**

**October Meeting:**

Will Whitbred- Rod and Reel Combo  
Jim Lorditch- pliers and knives  
Walt Shaw- Bust Em Baits lures  
Roy Butler- cutting board  
Keith Young- fighting belt  
Porter King- Tackle bag and strobe  
Chris Conway- Hat and glasses  
Jim Bremer- tools and flashlight

50/50 Jim Bremer \$120.00

**September Meeting:**

Chris Conway- Binoculars  
Jim Bremer- Filet knife set  
Mike Dodd- Calcutta bag  
Rodney Baer- BKD Lures  
Charlie Appleby- Knife and sharpener  
Bob Pellicot- Hat  
Jim Lorditch- Boat soap  
Chris Linetty- Parachute lures

50/50 John Kisner \$62.00

**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

**Tackle the Mackerel Tourney Results**

**Combined weight of 4 fish-**

1<sup>st</sup> Place-Rob Pellicot  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place-Bryan Etzler  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place-Ed Norris

**King Mackerel Calcutta**

Roy Butler

**Spanish Mackerel Calcutta**

Bryan Etzler

**Cobia Calcutta**

No winner- Greg Leuters won prize drawing

**Daily Winners**

Monday- Rob Pellicot  
Tuesday- Bryan Etzler  
Wednesday- Rob Pellicot  
Thursday- No fish weighed  
Friday- Ed Norris

## **Fishing Reports**

### **Maryland DNR Fishing Report**

#### **Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview**

##### **Upper Chesapeake Bay**

Water conditions at the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the upper bay may decline locally due to increased freshwater input from the most recent Nor'easter. The Conowingo Dam will have two spill gates open during the next couple of days. Water temperatures are down to 58 degrees at Thomas Point, just below the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and may be cooler in some spots.

Most striped bass anglers are now fishing with artificial lures, either trolling umbrella rigs, bottom bouncing with bucktails, or jigging and casting on pods of breaking or suspended fish. A few die-hard chummers are still picking nice striped bass in the "usual suspect" spots like Love Point, Swan Point, Podickory Point and Sandy Point. No spot are left due to cold water so anglers are live-lining eels or chunking fresh or frozen Alewife in 25 to 35 feet of water. Live-lining eels around bridge pilings has been a good method to find larger fish.

The Bay Bridge rock piles and piers continue to be a popular place for jiggers and this should continue into December. Jigging with skirted jigs and soft plastics is the technique for the suspended striped bass that are holding at 25 to 35 feet. Talk to your local tackle shop staff about best colors to use.

##### **Middle Bay**



Lonnie Johnson caught this nice striped bass while jigging. Photo courtesy of Travis Long

With water temperatures below 60 degrees, baitfish are moving out of the tidal rivers on outgoing tides with schools of striped bass waiting for them along channel edges, points, and mouths of the major tidal rivers. Jigging and trolling are productive, with breaking fish and suspended pods showing up anywhere from Thomas Point to Chesapeake Beach and down to Flag Pond.

The fall trolling pattern for striped bass is turning on from Bloody Point to Solomons Island. Reports of keeper- to medium-sized fish are coming from the mouth of Eastern Bay, channel ledges near Thomas Point, Buoy 83a, Cove Point and the Gas Docks area. Trollers are deploying umbrellas with 6-inch green, chartreuse or white shads, spoonbrellas and G-Eye jigs with paddletail soft plastic shads. Some reports are coming from 15 feet of water or less, but expect fish to move deeper with dropping temperatures.

### Lower Bay



Travis Long recently caught this tagged striped bass, clipped off the tag, and then released the fish. Photo courtesy of Travis Long

Trolling bucktails in the Patuxent and Potomac rivers is producing striped bass on the oyster beds as well as dropoffs and channel edges. The Patuxent has been good above Broomes Island, and the Potomac has breaking rockfish in the St. Mary's River and at Ragged Point. Casting artificials from shore and boats is catching striped bass in the 22-inch to 30-inch range on the lower western shore and along the marshes and islands on the lower eastern shore. White perch are in the deeper holes in the rivers now as the cool temperatures have pushed the perch out of the shallower creeks and coves.

As rockfish school up during the fall run, we'd like to remind bay anglers to always look for and report any tags found in striped bass. For the standard pink tags, report them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 1-800-448-8322; if you catch an old green or chartreuse tag, please call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8304. Also, remember to measure fish first if you decide to release it.

### Freshwater Fishing



Department biologist Jason Cessna with a fine yellow perch specimen from Deep Creek Lake. Photo courtesy of Alan Klotz

The fall turnover has occurred in Deep Creek Lake and water temperatures are about 55 degrees. Department staff recently conducted the annual fish population survey in the lake and results show that now is the time to fish! Yellow perch are abundant and the number of 12-inch to 15-inch fish in the sample was incredible. Likewise, the walleye are now in shallow water, feeding along the edges of the aquatic vegetation beds, and sampling efforts collected many walleye greater than 20 inches. Other exceptional specimens of fish collected included largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegills, black crappies and a 27-inch chain pickerel.



Here is a pretty brown trout taken by Eric Packard, one of our regular contributors to our Angler's Log. Photo courtesy of Eric Packard

The department has completed trout stocking operations in the traditional put-and-take trout waters throughout the state. A total of 32,125 trout were stocked — check our trout web page for recent stockings in your area.

### **Atlantic Ocean and Coastal Bays**

There has been good action in the surf with small snapper bluefish (on cut mullet and bunker) and kingfish and stray pompano on squid, fish bites and sand fleas. The wrecks and artificial reefs continue to produce sea bass with some flounder in the mix. The sea bass are the more reliable fishery, with clams and squid working as bait.

The offshore season is coming to a close with windy, cold weather and billfish heading south. A couple of anglers were still bailing for dolphin (mahi), or trying for a last wahoo.

Delaware Fishing Report

## Delaware Bay

Not much change from last week as white perch and catfish remain the best bet for Upper Bay shorelines and the tidal creeks and rivers. Bloodworms are the top perch bait while cut bunker works for the catfish.

The bay reef sites did not see much activity as the weather made fishing this structure very difficult. If and when the wind machine slows down I would expect to find tog, triggerfish and perhaps a few flounder on these sites.



The Inner and Outer walls give up lots of tog, but very few keepers. A month-long tog tournament ended with a five-pound fish at the top of the leader board. Where are the big tog as all the local structure only produced shorts?

The fishing pier at Cape Henlopen State Park saw very little activity. The croaker and spot have moved out leaving only small blues in their place.

White perch action in the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal has been good with bloodworms the best bait. A few flounder have been caught, but I expect this to be the last of the flatfish as they move to the ocean for the winter.

## Inshore Ocean

The Del-Jersey-Land Reef and Site 11 saw good sea bass fishing when the boats could leave the dock. Limit catches were the norm on salted clam, squid and jigs.

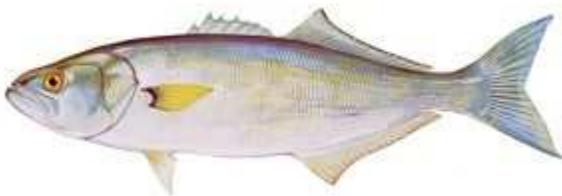
## Offshore Ocean

The *Boy's Toy* brought in four swordfish last Friday. This is the first time in my memory that any boat has caught that many swordfish.

## Indian River Inlet

Not much going on here as blues will move in on incoming water, but not on every tide. Lots of tog being caught, but once again, most are sub-legal. Sand fleas and green crab make the best baits. Night time jetty fishermen have connected with keeper rockfish on live eels.

A few flounder remain in the Back Bays at Massey's Ditch and the VFW Slough. Live minnows are the top flounder bait. The pier at Massey's Ditch has seen a few flounder and short tog.



## Surf Fishing

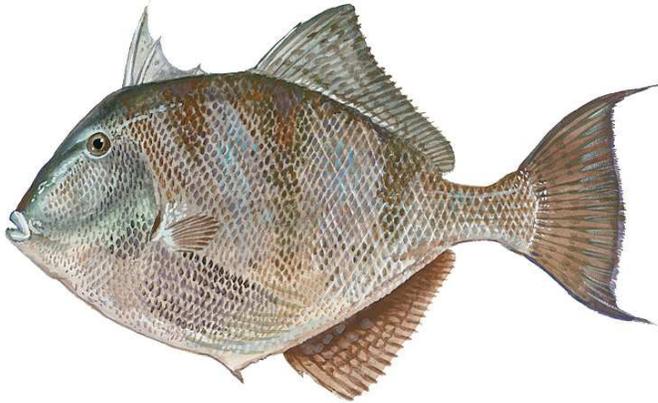
The surf has been rough and dirty due to the heavy rain and high winds, but if you are in the right place at the right time you can catch blues to 20 inches. Fresh mullet has been the top bait.

## Freshwater

Pond fishing is still productive for bass and pickerel. The muddy water requires lures that emit a sound that calls fish to something they can't see. Live minnows or shiners will also attract bass and pickerel.

The upper reaches of the tidal rivers and creeks also hold bass and pickerel plus some crappie. The spillway in Seaford is one good spot to catch crappie.

White Clay Creek is open for trout fishing, but I have no idea what the heavy rain forecasted for the weekend will do to the water quality.



### Don't Give Up

The weather certainly has not been in our favor for most of 2018, but if we get some fishable days there should be good fishing to close out the year. The inshore sea bass action will be outstanding and there may be a few triggerfish in the mix.

Surf fishing is always good in the fall and we haven't seen the first sign of big blues and rockfish so we have that to look forward to. The appearance of false albacore is always a possibility along the beach.

So far the fall has seen very warm weather and that could extend the fishing season well into November and possibly December. Don't winterize your tackle. There is good fishing yet to come.

**By Eric Burnley Sr.\***

### DNR in the News

Survey Finds Healthy Striped Bass Reproduction

October 17, 2018

*Positive Outlook for Iconic Fish in 65th Annual Index*

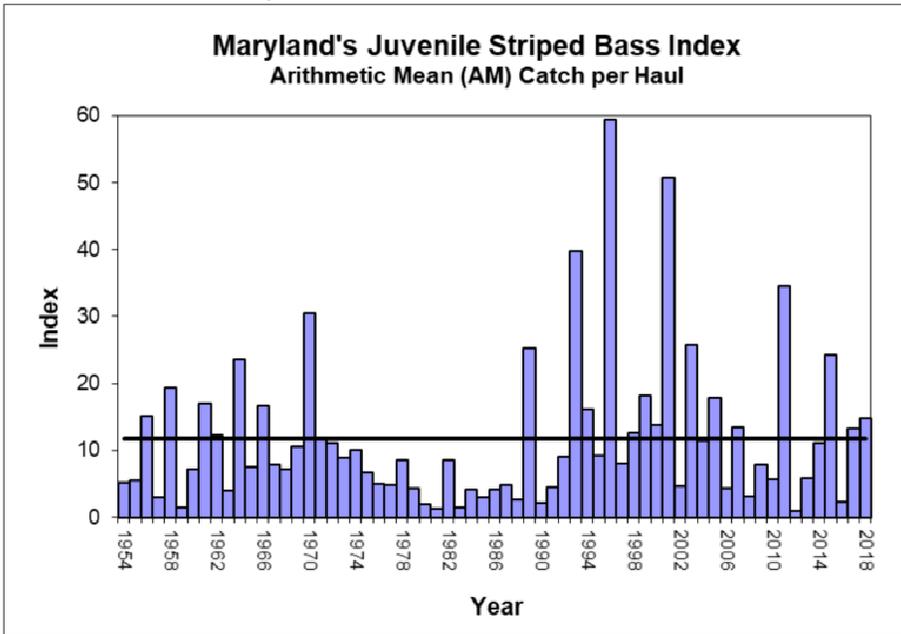


The Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced results of its annual young-of-year striped bass survey in Chesapeake Bay, which documented healthy reproduction of the state fish. The 2018 young-of-year index is 14.8, higher than the 65-year average of 11.8.

Known locally as rockfish, striped bass spawn in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries each spring. The juvenile striped bass survey is conducted annually to measure spawning success and help predict future abundance. The index represents the average number of young-of-year – those hatched in the current year – striped bass captured in each sample.

During this year's survey, department biologists collected more than 36,000 fish of 55 species, including 1,951 young-of-year striped bass. Results show that white perch and American shad also experienced above-average spawning success this spring.

“Consecutive years of healthy reproduction is a great sign for the future of this iconic species,” [Fishing and Boating Services](#) Director David Blazer said. “The survey results are encouraging and complement our efforts to conserve and protect the striped bass fishery throughout the watershed for the benefit of anglers, commercial watermen and the species.”



The department has monitored the reproductive success of striped bass and other fish species in Maryland’s portion of Chesapeake Bay annually since 1954, making it one of the oldest fish community surveys in the nation. Twenty-two survey sites are located in the four major spawning systems: Choptank, Potomac and Nanticoke rivers and Upper Chesapeake Bay. Biologists visit each site three times during the summer, collecting fish with two sweeps of a 100-foot beach seine net. The fish are evaluated for age, size and other factors, and then returned to the water.

The Virginia Institute of Marine Science conducts a similar [survey](#) in the southern portion of Chesapeake Bay.

## Tips and Tricks

### [How-To](#)

#### Ice Your Catch

Options for carrying ice

**BY CAPT. DAVE LEAR OCTOBER 2, 2018**

0 Comments



Options abound to meet ice and fish storage needs on board. **[1]** Insulated compartments serve double duty up front. **[2]** A coffin box provides cold storage above decks and gear stowage below. **[3]** A console built-in cooler or modified storage holds bait or beverages. **[4]** Stowable fish chiller bags come out when needed. **[5]** A helm-seat cooler keeps drinks and lunch handy. **[6]** Cockpit compartments offer gaff-to-ice convenience. **[7]** A transom well holds bait or additional ice.

*Steve Sanford*

With the time and effort it often takes to go fishing, it's a shame to not adequately ice down and store your hard-earned catch.

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Failure to do so can lead to unpalatable mush on the dinner plate, or possibly thousands of dollars in prize money lost during tournaments. Several solutions to make sure both trophies and table fare stay fresh start with the boat.

Most builders pay special attention to fish boxes. Regardless of their location — deck, transom or bow compartments — the good ones are well-insulated with thick foam to keep ice as long as possible. Older boat models can be modified by spraying in expanding foam or gluing panels of closed-cell foam around the boxes, if access is available. Ideally, all fish boxes should drain overboard to evacuate blood, slime and scales. If not, macerator pumps grind the detritus before it is pumped out. Their respective hatches should fit snugly and have a watertight seal, and all interior surfaces should be smooth for easy cleaning.



A coffin box provides abundant cold storage as a built-in, oversize cooler/seat.

*Alex Suescun*

**Built In**

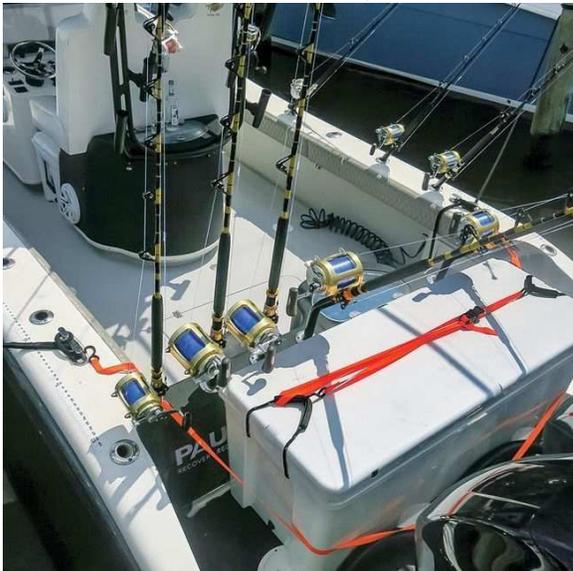
When space allows, large, above-decks fiberglass fish boxes on the bow, commonly called coffin boxes, are extremely useful and afford additional versatility.



A box raises on a ram to access gear stowage underneath.

*Alex Suescun*

Miami-based SeaVee Boats builds its own 48-inch, 220-quart coffin box. It mounts on the forward deck hatch with a split lid so the lower compartment can be accessed separately. Electric actuators provide the lift. According to John Caballero of SeaVee, about 15 percent of SeaVee's customers choose this option, which drains overboard and has 1-inch-thick insulation on the sides and 2 inches on the bottom.



A removable cooler on a rear platform holds ice in reserve.

*Dave Lear*

### Ice Savers

The roto-molded cooler market has also radically changed storage solutions. Yeti, Engel, Orca, Pelican, K2, RTIC, Orion and most recently Otterbox are among the top brands. Actual comparison is tough, since sizes among the different makes don't always match. All boast ice retention for days, far longer than needed for overnight or weekend trips. When shopping, compare usable interior measurements, weight and construction features, like tie-down points, latches and handles. The roto-molding process is extremely durable yet heavy, a consideration when lugging a full one down the dock. Don't overlook marine-grade plastic coolers like the Igloo Marine Ultra either. They hold ice well, are easier to tote and reasonably priced. With any cooler, pre-chilling and opening the lids only when absolutely necessary will keep ice the longest.



Insulated chiller bags stow away, then deploy to keep big fish cold.

*Dave Lear*

### Flexibility

Foam-insulated, zippered fish-chiller bags, sized to match the intended targets, are yet another storage option. Boone, Canyon, C&H Lures and Reliable Fishing Products make bags for nearshore and offshore applications. One of the biggest advantages to bags is they can be rolled or folded when not in use. Still, a combination of boxes, coolers and bags gives the most flexibility for preserving your catch.

### Combo Utility

"I've been using coffin boxes since 1978, first custom-built and now as a factory option on my Yellowfin 36," says Capt. Robert "RT" Trosset of Key West. "It's really well-insulated, so I keep over 400 pounds of ice and bait in there. My catch goes in the deck boxes, which can hold a 90-pound wahoo. I then transfer more ice from the coffin box and add a little seawater to make a slurry. It really helps keep fish cold and fresh. But you don't want too much water or the fish slosh around, and that removes the scales."

The macerator plumbed to the box allows Trosset to remove excess water, if necessary.

Swordfish, he says, stash easily in larger bags with the bill sticking out. During tournaments, dolphin and king mackerel slide right into iced chiller bags too, for easy transfer to the scales without weight loss.



A forward console extension offers cold storage.

*Dave Lear*

### **Save the Day**

Neal Foster of Mobile, Alabama, often runs 1,100 miles or more round trip in his 39 Contender center-console when competing in king mackerel and big-game tournaments. His team has consistently won top prize money for smoker kings and wahoo.

"I stop at a shrimp house and pay a flat fee to totally ice down the boat," Foster explains. "They pump ground ice into two main bags and all my fish boxes. We probably carry 1,200 pounds of ice when we're fishing competitively.

"The two bags will hold about 125 pounds each," he adds. "It's important to pre-chill them first, but that crushed ice freezes into a solid mass. So we always carry a rubber mallet and plastic shovel to transfer ice between the boxes and bags. My trophy fish go into the bag as soon as they're aboard. With thousands of dollars on the line, you don't take any chances."

## **2018 Officers**

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# Frederick Saltwater Anglers Calendar of Events

(www.wefishsalt.com)

NOVEMBER	14	- Member Meeting
	21	- Board Meeting
DECEMBER	12	- Member Meeting
	19	- Board Meeting
<hr/>		
<b>2019</b>		
JANUARY	9	-Member Meeting
	12	-FSA Expo
	16	-Board Meeting
FEBRUARY	13	-Member Meeting
	20	-Board Meeting
	23	-Dinner Dance
MARCH	13	-Member Meeting
	20	-Board Meeting
APRIL	10	-Member Meeting
	17	-Board Meeting
MAY	3-5	-Spring Showdown Striped Bass Tournament
	8	-Member Meeting
	15	-Board Meeting
	18-20	-Flounder Frenzy Tournament
JUNE	12	-Member Meeting
	14-16	-Offshore Challenge Tuna Tournament
	19	-Board Meeting
JULY	10	-Member meeting
	17	-Board Meeting
AUGUST	14	-Member Meeting
	21	-Board Meeting
SEPTEMBER	11	-Member meeting
	14	-Crab Feast
	18	-Board meeting
OCTOBER	7-11	-Tackle the Mackerel Tournament @ Harker's Island NC
	17	-Member Meeting
	24	-Board Meeting
NOVEMBER	13	-Member Meeting
	20	-Board Meeting
DECEMBER	11	-Member Meeting
	18	-Board Meeting