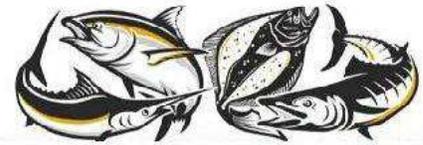




FREDERICK SALTWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER



President's Message

As another year comes to a close, there is a time for reflection, and also time to start preparing for the year to come. From the beginning of the year, we have faced great challenges, as the news spread of the Executive Director of the MSSA's misuse of the funds (obviously delicately worded) caused the collapse of the MSSA. We as a club took the steps to make sure we can stay together for years to come, and here we are, the "Frederick Saltwater Anglers". Personally, I have made many great friends directly related to my time with this club and I have learned so much about fishing and boating. I could not imagine a better group of people to spend time with.

As we go forward into the New Year, we will be starting fast. We have our new membership drive that starts January 1st, our Fishing Expo coming up on January 12th, our fundraising raffle that has already started, and our Dinner Dance on February 23rd. What a busy way to crank up 2019! And that prepares us for the Tournament Series, that has added Tuna to our already great list of tournaments, the Spring Striper Showdown, the Flounder Frenzy, and the Tackle the Mackerel tournament in North Carolina. We really do have a busy year full of events for our members.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the December meeting, but I would like to take this moment to thank each and every 1 of our Board members and club members for all you do to help our club. It really does take everyone's help and support to make the club the success it is. And thank you to speakers and vendors that come out to our events and meetings as we could not be successful without all of you.

I look forward to spending time with you all in the New Year,

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Tight Lines,
Jim

Next Meeting

Date: December 12, 2018

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker:
This month there will not be a guest speaker. Chris Linetty and Rob Pellicot will be reviewing the new membership, and we will have a night of fellowship and camaraderie.

Vendor: Jim Scott will be selling a variety of colors of Tsunami baits at discounted prices on behalf of Eastern Wholesale Tackle.

Dinner Menu:

Ham
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad
Dessert

Attendance at August Meeting: 48

Raffle Winners:

Chris Conway – Rod and Reel Combo
Gordon Jernigan- Protective Case
Rodney Baer- BKD Lures
Dan Domenick- Boat Soap
Ron Jenkins- Shad Lures

50/50 Raffle:

Gordon Jernigan- \$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.

Fishing Reports

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

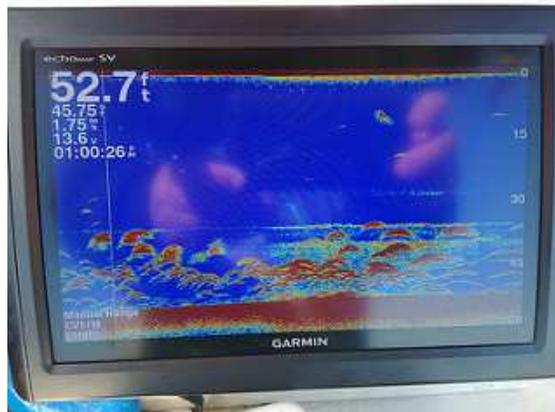
Maryland Weekly Fishing Report Overview

December 4, 2018

We are approaching the end of the 2018 striped bass season, which closes Dec. 15. The season ends a few days earlier than last year, as part of the conservation-minded regulations that included reducing the minimum length for Chesapeake Bay rockfish to 19 inches. Of course there are other species that will still be in season for cold-weather anglers.

Expanding your outdoor experiences is a new, learning adventure. It may involve trying a new sport such as bow hunting for a traditional firearm hunter or perhaps fly fishing when you've always used spinning gear. There is always something new to explore.

Upper Chesapeake Bay



Rich Watts sent in this photo of his depth finder screen showing white perch and striped bass holding deep and close to the bottom. Photo by Rich Watts

Recent rains in the Susquehanna watershed have led to the Conowingo Dam opening various numbers of flood gates in recent days. Many of the regions tidal rivers are also running high, dumping a lot of freshwater into the bay, which has caused very low salinity values for months.

Most anglers are trolling deep in the channel areas of the upper bay with umbrella rigs and heavy inline weights to troll at depths of 30 feet or more. Chartreuse and pearlescent colors have been popular for sassy shads on umbrella rigs and trailers. Medium-sized bucktails and parachutes dressed with sassy shads have been popular trailers. Bottom bouncing with bucktails dressed with sassy shads has also been an effective way to fish close to the bottom in the deeper channel areas.



Thomas Cave made this nice catch of large yellow perch in the Middle River. Photo by Thomas Cave

Jigging is a light-tackle option that tends to be one of the best options around the deep waters of the Bay Bridge piers, abutments and rock piles. Large soft plastic jigs have been a favorite to target the larger striped bass. Drifting live small eels – if you can get your hands on some – is something no striped bass can resist. The Bay Bridge and Francis Scott Key Bridge piers are great places to try this.

As water temperature continue their downward trend into the 45-degree range, striped bass are becoming sluggish and difficult to entice into feeding. They are more interested in hunkering down and conserving energy. It can be very frustrating when you spot them on depth finders and put every offering you can think of in front of them.

White perch can be found in many of the same deep areas in the bay and tidal river mouths, often over hard bottom, as well as the rock piles at the Bay Bridge. Once you've located a white perch on a depth finder, sending a bottom rig or a dropper fly rig tipped with pieces of bloodworm will often get them to bite.

Yellow perch have been moving into the tidal rivers of the upper bay and are providing some fun and rewarding fishing for those fishing from shore, kayaks or small boats. A variety of small jigs or small minnows are excellent ways to catch yellow perch that are holding close to the bottom in the upper reaches of the tidal rivers.

Middle Bay

Trolling umbrella rigs with heavy inline weights has been the most popular way to fish and cover water. Unfortunately the best one can describe the action is a slow pick. Most are burning a lot of fuel and slowly covering a lot of the bay for a few fish. Small-diameter umbrella rigs rigged with chartreuse and pearlescent sassy shads have become very popular. The striped bass are holding close to the bottom in 30 feet or more of water.

The deep channel edges along the shipping channel, Bloody Point, the mouth of Eastern Bay and deep areas in Eastern Bay such as Tilghman Point have been good places to troll. The mouth of the Severn River and the False Channel at the mouth of the Choptank River are also worth checking.

The above areas also present some opportunities for jigging. Large soft plastic jigs have been a favorite when targeting the larger fish. Some have been enjoying good luck with jigs that have large eyes and skirts to provide extra attraction.

The warm water discharge at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant is a great place to set up and drift in the discharge current as you jig. It is no secret that the warm water attracts striped bass and sometimes a late-season lingering speckled sea trout.

Lower Bay



Joe Matta holds up a healthy striped bass caught recently in the lower bay. Photo by Joshua Kalreider

This region is the last great hope for the final eleven days of striped bass season. The fishing there has been good but is showing signs of slowing down as water temperatures decline further. Trolling tends to be the most productive option along the deep edges of the eastern side of the shipping channel near Buoys 72 and 72A. The mouth of the Potomac River near Smith Point has been good and there are some fish being caught at the mouth of the Patuxent River also.

Small-diameter umbrella rigs in chartreuse, white or pearl have been favorites and it will take a lot of weight to get down to where the fish are holding. Jigging has been a good option also when bait and striped bass can be found together. There have been reports of some sea gull action and sporadic gannet sightings. The striped bass have been feeding primarily on menhaden for the past couple of weeks.

White perch can be found in deep water in the lower section of the Patuxent River at about 40 feet deep over oyster bottom. There are also white perch to be found at the mouth of the Nanticoke and Pocomoke rivers in deep water. Bottom rigs and dropper fly rigs tipped with bloodworms will catch them. Channel catfish can be found in the same areas. In the tidal Potomac from the Route 301 Bridge to the Wilson Bridge, blue catfish rule the river and with the onset of colder water some behemoth-sized blue catfish are being caught on fresh gizzard shad baits.

Freshwater Fishing

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has been soliciting public input to help develop a work plan for the new State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund, which will provide \$1 million for each of the next three years to improve state-owned lakes. Written comments can be sent to the email address listed online.



William Warrington Jr. caught and released this 40-inch northern pike at Loch Raven Reservoir recently. Photo courtesy of William Warrington Jr.

As colder weather steadily lowers water temperatures in Maryland's freshwater areas, many species are headed for deeper waters to wait out the winter months. Others actually prefer the colder waters, and because of that provide wonderful fishing opportunities in the upcoming months.

At Deep Creek Lake and in the upper Potomac, walleye fishing will improve as the water temperatures dip. Soft plastic jigs and swimbaits worked close to the bottom with or without a lip hooked minnow will catch them. Yellow perch fishing is in full swing at Deep Creek Lake and Piney Reservoir; minnows fished close to the bottom along deep grass lines tends to be where they can be found. Northern pike are active in Deep Creek Lake and selected reservoirs such as Loch Raven Reservoir.

The trout management waters of the western and central regions offer good fishing opportunities this week. Spin casters can use small spinners and spoon in many put-and-take areas that still hold trout that didn't fall for the Powerbait trick last month. The fly-fishing catch-and-release areas offer exciting action for those drifting nymphs or working streamers or woolly buggers across current flows.



Pictured is a pair of gorgeous brook trout spawning in a redd earlier this fall in a Savage River tributary stream. Photo by Sull McCartney

Department biologists urge anyone wading in streams where brook trout and brown trout might have spawned to avoid treading on trout spawning beds – known as redds — where the eggs are incubating until the fry hatch in spring. Redds can be identified in the stream bottom as a shallow, scooped-out bowl of clean, silt-free gravel, usually much lighter than the surrounding stream substrate. They are usually found in the shallow riffle areas at the tail end of pools.

Chain pickerel fishing always improves with the disappearance of heavy aquatic vegetation during the winter months and the pickerel become more active. They are an ambush predator so look for them holding near fallen treetops or sunken wood. They attack most anything moving through the water with abandon and inhale lures, which often leads to their demise when they get treble hooks tangled up in their gills. Many die-hard pickerel fishermen have found snipping off the barbs on the treble hooks works wonders, and others just replace them

with a single J-style hook. Whatever you do, it's important to have a good pair of long-nosed pliers to remove hooks and stay away from those sharp teeth.

Largemouth bass continue to move towards deeper waters as water temperatures fall. They can still be found in transition areas between the shallower areas and deep channels. A variety of soft plastic grubs, jigs and crankbaits are good choices for working sunken cover. Fallen treetops, sunken logs, rocks, bridge piers are all good places to look for largemouth bass that are hunkered down.

Crappie can also be found schooled up in deep water near bridge piers and sunken wood. A small jig or minnow under a slip bobber is a good way to catch them. The tidal waters of the Potomac near the Wilson Bridge is one of the most productive places to catch crappie; focus near the Spoils alongside the Wilson Bridge ramp on the Maryland side or the marina piers and docks of the Fort Washington area. Fishing for blue catfish has been excellent in the river in this same section of the Potomac.

Atlantic Ocean and Coastal Bays

Anglers have patiently been soaking large baits of cut menhaden in the surf of Ocean City and Assateague Island waiting for the fall migration of striped bass to pass along the Maryland coast. Just like snow birds moving their yachts to southern waters, the major portion of striped bass take a straight line from Long Island to the Virginia Capes and often will be seen 20-30 miles off southern New Jersey and Ocean City. A good portion of the larger ones will poke along the coastal shores and it is hoped they will arrive soon. Until then, striped bass less than 28 inches are being caught in the surf, along with lots of small bluefish and of course clear-nosed skates.

At the inlet and Route 50 Bridge area there are some striped bass and bluefish being caught in the evening hours by casting bucktails and swimshads or drifting cut bait. Some have also had success with live eels for striped bass with a keeper now and then. Trolling in the channels with umbrella rigs up to the Route 90 Bridge has also been accounting for striped bass catches.

Tautog continue to be caught near the inlet jetties, bulkheads and the bridge piers of the Route 50 Bridge. Pieces of green crab or frozen sand fleas have been the baits of choice. Most of the tautog are just under the 16-inch minimum but there are keepers being caught.

The boats headed out to the offshore wreck and reef sites are finding excellent sea bass fishing for their rail huggers. Limit catches of medium to large sized sea bass are the norm this week. There is also a mix of silver and red hake being caught along with bluefish. Unfortunately spiny dogfish are beginning to cover up some of the wreck sites lately and will always be a pesky sidebar. Large tautog are being caught on some of the offshore wreck sites by those who are targeting them.

Virginia Beach Action

December ... local tackle shops, marinas and boat ramps are buzzing with activity as anglers prepare to hit the water in search of giant strippers.

December is big rockfish season on the lower Chesapeake Bay and it's off to a good start. Some monsters have already hit the scales over on the Eastern Shore. These big fish usually show first around Plantation Light and the area between the CBBT and Cape Charles. Anglers drifting live eels usually catch the larger fish. With each incoming and outgoing tide anglers should find fish all along the CBBT. A smaller class fish is usually encountered on the south side with the larger fish coming from the north end of the bridge. Dr Ken Neill says boats fishing up the bay, around the buoy 42 area have found lots of fish on the surface.

Several tournaments are planned during peak striper season. The [Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout](#) is December 6th thru the 8th. Teams can leave from any port in Virginia but must weigh fish in at King's Creek Marina in Cape Charles. And the [10th Annual JMU Rockfish Duke Club Tournament](#) is Thursday, December 13th through December 15th.



Jimmy Kolb

Speckled trout fishing has been outstanding inside Lynnhaven Inlet for a couple of weeks. Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle has weighed a number of citation fish. Most fish have been caught on Gulps or on Mirr-o-lures. As the weather continues to cool Mirr-o-lures retrieved very slowly will work best.

With striper season wide-open tautog fishing has temporarily taken a back seat, but the bite should continue to improve for anglers targeting them.



Healthy Grin Sportfishing

Fishing ocean structures has been excellent for sea bass, triggerfish and chopper bluefish. The tilefish have been cooperating for those running offshore to deep drop. The Rudee Inlet head boat will be running sea bass trips throughout December. Boats fishing in 500 fathoms have found good numbers of bigeye tuna.

A giant bluefin tuna encounter this time of the year is always a possibility for anglers trolling the ocean for stripers or bluefish. These giants usually show somewhere between Virginia Beach and Morehead City NC each winter.

Outer Banks NC Rundown

Anglers fishing the Outer Banks of North Carolina are catching a few trout and bluefish. Hatteras Island anglers have been catching sea mullet, bluefish, some trout, blowfish and a few drum. Sound fishermen are catching stripers. Stripers usually hang around the bridges on the west side of Roanoke Island in December.

When the wind lets up the OBX offshore fleet is catching lots of meat fish, yellowfin, blackfin tuna, dolphin, swordfish and wahoo.

From the Virginia Beach Sportfishing Site (<https://vbsf.net/fishing-reports/>)

Delaware Fishing Report

Delaware Bay

The cold and windy weather has cut down the number of people fishing in the bay and the lack of rockfish hasn't helped. Should we get a run of migratory rockfish at the mouth of the bay or even up as far as the Miah Maull Shoal you would see anglers dressed up in several layers of clothing braving freezing temperatures and rough seas for a chance to catch a real trophy.



On mild weather days, white perch have been caught out of the tidal rivers and creeks. Bloodworms remain the best bait, but may become scarce as the mud flats up north freeze over.

Tog catches at the Outer Wall have been good, but keepers have been rare. The catch rate is still 10 shorts to every one keeper. Green crabs and sand fleas remain the top baits.

Inshore Ocean

The tog fishing has been inconsistent. On Wednesday, one boat out of Lewes had eight keepers while another from the same port had a boat limit to 10 pounds.



Rockfish action has been pretty good for folks that travel north to Wildwood or Sea Isle City, New Jersey. Fish to 38 pounds were caught last week in this area, but most were in the 28 to 34-inch range.

Offshore Ocean

No reports from here last week.

Indian River Inlet

Nothing has changed here. Still small tog and short rockfish.

Surf Fishing

Lots of spiny dogs and a few short rock from the beach.

Freshwater

The cold and windy weather has discouraged even the most dedicated angler from working the ponds and tidal rivers. I am sure we will see milder temperatures before the month is over and anglers will once again hit the water.

Cold Air, Cold Water

The water temperature in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean has dropped below 50 degrees and with air temperatures in the 30s you are looking at hypothermia problems just running the boat and getting hit by the spray.

I had a friend who was caught out in the Chesapeake Bay during late fall in a sudden wind shift from southwest to northwest and an increase to 25 to 30 knots. Their home port had them running into the seas until the waves knocked out the windshield. My friend realized they were beginning to suffer from hypothermia and turned the boat around and ran to another port. They arrived safely. A bit chilled, but safe.

During this time of year you want to think long and hard before you head out to open water. Center console boats have little protection from the elements and even when the anglers are dressed properly, they can suffer from hypothermia.

Should the worst happen and someone falls overboard, they will have just minutes before they lose their ability to move. This is why everyone should always wear their PFD.

By Eric Burnley Sr.*

DNR in the News

Accessible Fishing Pier Opens in Queen Anne's County

November 13, 2018

Floating Pier at Unicorn Lake Meets Americans with Disabilities Act Standards



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has opened a new floating fishing pier and gangway at the Unicorn Lake Fisheries Management Area that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessible Design Standards of 2010.

The department worked with the Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Department of General Services to create this fully-accessible freshwater fishing pier on state land.

The new 448-square-foot floating pier, located next to the boat launch, has enough space to accommodate multiple anglers. The aluminum gangway to the pier is adjacent to a newly constructed parking space and portable bathroom.

"The new floating pier will provide more accessibility and opportunity for anglers at this popular fishing spot in Queen Anne's County," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "This is one of our top priorities and proudest efforts, to make sure all Marylanders have access to the enjoyment of nature."

Funding for the \$100,000-project was provided through the Maryland Department of Disabilities' Access Maryland Program. The 43-acre Unicorn Lake was selected for the grant because of its physical location, construction logistics and great fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, chain pickerel and panfish.

"Accessibility projects such as the accessible fishing pier and gangway at Unicorn Lake capture the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Access Maryland program," Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Carol Beatty said. "By providing financial support for projects that increase access to state-owned buildings and parks, we're ensuring that Marylanders with disabilities can fully interact and engage with the community."

Access Maryland coordinates with state agencies and universities to identify key accessibility projects that increase access to facilities across Maryland.

Tips and Tricks

Boating with EPIRBs and PLBs

By Randy Troutman On June 6, 2018 as seen on <http://www.unitedmarine.net/blog/index.php/2018/06/06/boating-with-epirbs-and-plbs/>

Emergency position locator beacons are used to alert search and rescue services in the event of a life-threatening situation on the water. There are two main types of emergency beacons, Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPRIB) and a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). Both can be taken on your boating adventures to help



keep you and your passengers safe in the event of the unexpected.

An EPIRB is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency by transmitting a coded message on the 406 MHz distress frequency via satellite and earth stations to the nearest rescue center. Automatic activation is triggered when the EPIRB is released from its bracket. Category I EPIRBs are housed in a special bracket that is equipped with a hydrostatic release. This mechanism releases the EPIRB at a water depth of 3-10 feet.

A Personal Locator Beacon or PLB is a buoyant, GPS-enabled rescue beacon that has been designed for anglers, pilots, and backcountry adventurers. PLBs are small, simple electronic devices that are intended for single-time use by a person in the event of an emergency.

For an additional level of safety, boaters can use an EPIRB on their vessel, but can also attach PLBs to each life jacket so that rescue teams can locate individuals separated from the boat.

Before using any emergency locator beacon, always check the manufacturer's testing & inspection procedures. Also, remember that each beacon you purchase will need to be registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

By adding an EPIRB or PLB to your boating safety equipment, you may qualify for a boat registration fee reduction. For example, in the state of Florida, a customer who owns a recreational vessel equipped with an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or a recreational vessel and a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is eligible to receive a registration fee reduction during an original or renewal vessel registration transaction.

The way this works in the state of Florida, boaters must visit a tax collector or license plate agent office and provide documentation that the EPIRB or PLB is registered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at the time of boat registration or renewal.

Safety, peace of mind, and the added level of reassurance that comes with having an EPIRB or PLB on your boating adventures can be well worth the investment.

2018 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: Cathy Gunder

Phone: 240-723-0853

E-mail: catgun@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Chris Linetty

Phone: 301-988-1305

E-mail: retiever@myactv.net

Bobby Hurt- Member At Large

Phone: 301-740-0910

Email: itbquik1@yahoo.com

Frederick Saltwater Anglers Calendar of Events

(www.wefishsalt.com)

DECEMBER	12	- Member Meeting
	19	- Board Meeting
<hr/>		
2019		
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