



FREDERICK SALTWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER



President's Message

The new year has brought in new changes and a new event the club will take part in. There's a lot of information to share, so here it goes!

New Board changes. At the last membership meeting Jim Lorditch announced that he would be stepping down from the presidency due to his extreme workload at his job. He doesn't see an end insight and he felt he couldn't dedicate the proper amount of time it takes to lead the club. We would like to thank Jim for his service and hope he gets some relief of that workload because we all know work and fishing don't mix! With that being said Cathy Gunder was voted to be the new club treasurer and I will assume the president position. Keith Young will now handle the minutes as secretary. Thank you Keith for stepping up. We are also looking for someone to step up and run the website. If you have some web experience and would like to get involved please see me at the meeting or give me a call.

2019 Expo. Our expo went off last month like it always does, just like clockwork! The winter weather held off for us just long enough and we had very happy fishermen and vendors by the time it was all over. A huge thanks to all the members who helped make this another successful event and to further our reputation as hosts of a well designed and executed show. Our vendors were thrilled and many will be back. **Please don't forget to grab any EXPO signs and bring them back to the February meeting.**

Membership. Membership continues to be strong. We gained 10 new members at the Expo and we are just under 100 members currently. If you have not yet renewed your membership with the FSA, we would like to remind you that your MSSA membership expired in 2018. You should have received a few emails reminding you to sign up through memberplanet or at a meeting. This will be the last newsletter sent to those who are not current with their membership. We sincerely hope you renew your membership so you can take advantage of our tournaments and events. See Cathy or myself at the meeting or sign up through www.memberplanet.com.

MD Sportsman Show. The FSA will have 2 tables and a couple boats down at the MD Sportsman Show March 22-24 at the Howard County fairgrounds. We are doing a membership drive and hoping to sell any remaining gun raffle tickets we have left. If you are interested in volunteering at our tables or at the boats please see me at the meeting. In the mean time here's the website for the show. www.mdsportsmanshow.com.

Dinner Dance. The February 13th meeting is your last chance to buy tickets to the dinner dance on February 23rd at the moose lodge. If you have never been, you need to give it a shot. There will be an all you can eat dinner, a top notch band and \$\$\$\$ in prizes given away!!! You can get tickets at the meeting, see Jim Bremer or sign up on memberplanet as well.

Spring Tournament. Yes it may not feel like spring, but it will be here before you know it. We will once again host our annual Spring tournament for Striped Bass. Tournament dates are May 3rd-5th. See Rob for discounted rooms in Solomon's and tournament sign up.

King mackerel Tournament. Yeah it's a ways off, but we always book the motel early to be sure we get all the rooms we need for the club. A \$50 deposit will hold your room. If you've been before you already know this is one of the greatest trips we do as a club and you also know the motel will book out, so get your deposit in to Rob at the meeting to save your spot! Rob is guarantying there will be no hurricanes this year, so you can't lose!

As you can see we have a lot going on as usual and we look forward to another great year of fishing and friends! We'll see you at the meeting on the 13th!

God Bless,

Chris Linetty

Next Meeting

Date: February 13, 2019

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Frank Darringer, the owner of Mid-Shore Electronics in Cambridge. He will talk about electronics and will do a Q & A so be sure to bring your questions. He handles all brands of electronics and is very knowledgeable.

Vendor: Kyle from Brackish Life Chesapeake Bay apparel

Dinner: will be pot luck, chef's choice

Raffle Winners:

Rod and Reel Combo- Brian Jenkins

Electric Knife- Jay Betts

Scissors and knives- Jim Bremer

Wrenches- Mike Luzier

Shad bodies- Gordon Jernigan

Drain plug wrench-Jim Norris

Ladies Gloves- Steve Wolfrey

50/50- \$80.00 Bob Epley

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

January 23, 2019

Upper Chesapeake Bay

Most of the focus in this area will be in the middle to upper reaches of the region's tidal rivers. Fishing for yellow perch will be on the top of the list for those seeking a quiet spot along a narrowing section of water with some considerable depth. There is also a mixed bag of crappie, large bluegill sunfish and channel catfish and the occasional largemouth bass.



David Brown used a dropper rig to catch this double on yellow perch in the lower Susquehanna River. Photo courtesy of David Brown

One of the most effective ways to fish is with a lip-hooked minnow on a very small jig head, often around 1/16 of an ounce. This calls for light line, and many have found that braid in the 6-pound range can offer the distance needed when casting a light offering out across open water from shore. Another option is to lip-hook a minnow and place an appropriate sized split shot about two feet up the line from the hook. Either of these rigs should be allowed to sink to the bottom and worked slowly along the bottom with frequent pauses.

For those who just want fish for an hour or so and don't have the time to purchase minnows and transport them there is another option. Placing a small piece of red felt on a small jig and a drop or two of anise flavoring or your favorite fish scent on the felt often works well.

Just remember that the yellow perch are feeling a bit chilly holding in the deeper holes in the upper stretches of spawning creeks and rivers, and tend to be lethargic. Surface water temperatures in the tidal rivers and creeks is presently in the low 30s. The pickups will be subtle and often when you pause during a very slow retrieve.

Some of the places to give yellow perch fishing in the upper bay region include the tributaries of the Bush and Middle rivers, the Northeast River, the Magothy and the Eastern Shore rivers down to the upper Chester. There is a deep hole in the lower Susquehanna River near the Perryville Condominiums that is often a prime place to fish, but must be fished from a boat with a dropper rig using up to a two-ounce sinker depending on conditions.

Chain pickerel tend to love cold water and are active this month; look for them along shoreline structure such as sunken wood. Most any kind of lure will attract their attention. If a trophy-sized chain pickerel is on your list, try finding structure out in deep water, this is where the big ones lie. Large lip hooked minnows, swimbaits and deep running crankbaits are good choices when looking for the big ones.

Crappie will be found holding near deep structure, bridge piers, marina docks and fallen treetops. Small lip-hooked minnows or small jigs under a slip bobber are a good way to catch them. Channel catfish can be found holding deep and can be caught on a variety of cut baits or something as simple as pieces of chicken liver or breast. In the lower Susquehanna River and the Conowingo Dam Pool there are not only channel catfish but also flathead and blue catfish.

Middle Bay

Yellow perch, chain pickerel, crappie, and channel catfish will provide most of the action in the tidal rivers and creeks. Areas of the upper Choptank, Tuckahoe, and Nanticoke rivers are already providing some exciting yellow perch action for those fishing the deeper areas that may range from 5 feet to 12 feet deep, which are holding staging yellow perch.

Chain pickerel can be found in most all of the middle bay region tidal rivers and creeks providing some fun fishing opportunities. White catfish are very active in most of the tidal rivers and can provide plenty of pull. For whatever reason late winter and early spring seem to offer the best fishing opportunities for this species. Channel catfish can also be found in the deeper sections of the region's tidal rivers.

Perhaps the one of the most viable options in the middle bay region for those itching for some striped bass catch-and-release action is the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant warm water discharge. If your boat is not winterized and ready to go, a trip over to the discharge on a nice day can offer some fun vertical jigging action for striped bass.

In other news, the Dorchester County side of Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park will reopen for day-use only fishing on Thursday, January 24, and will be open every day from 7 a.m. until sunset. The Talbot County pier is expected to reopen on or about April 1, according to its regularly scheduled spring opening.

Lower Bay



Joey Harding was fishing for catfish near Marshyhope Creek recently and got quite a surprise when he caught this huge grass carp, an invasive species in Maryland. Photo by Tanya Harding

Fishing for blue catfish in the middle region of the tidal Potomac might present some of the most exciting fishing opportunities for the next two months. The blue catfish are stacked in the channels and the largest ones are holding deep. If a trophy-sized blue catfish is on your radar, the deep channels in front of Fort Washington are one of the better places to try your luck. When fishing for the largest blue catfish, a fresh slab of gizzard shad is hard to beat; others prefer live bluegill sunfish or white perch for bait. The smaller medium-sized blue catfish offer the best table fare and can be caught on a variety of fresh cut baits. The middle region of the Patuxent River as well as the Nanticoke also offer good fishing for blue catfish. Sometimes when you're fishing you never know what you might catch.

Crappie are abundant in the tidal portions of the Potomac River around the Wilson Bridge and nearby marinas. The crappie are holding deep around structure and can be caught on small minnows or jigs under a slip bobber. Crappie can also be found in most of the region's tidal rivers and creeks and many lakes and ponds. St. Marys Lake is a particularly good place to catch them.

Chain pickerel are active in the upper sections of the region's tidal rivers and creeks and can be caught on a variety of lures. Yellow perch can also be found holding in staging areas of the region's tidal rivers and creeks. The Nanticoke, Patuxent, Pocomoke and Wicomico rivers all hold good populations of yellow perch.

Freshwater Fishing



Photo by Alan Klotz

This time of the year many look to Deep Creek Lake in the hope of some ice fishing opportunities for yellow perch and a mix of walleye, smallmouth bass, bluegills, trout and chain pickerel. As of mid-January there is a small amount of ice in the coves, and it's not safe for ice-fishing, but the main sections of the lake remain open. When fishing there, continue to check local conditions and heed all safety warnings!

The pre-season stocking of trout in a wide variety of trout management waters is due to begin soon. Anglers will have the opportunity to spend some time fishing for trout in waters often close to where they live. Water temperatures will be cold and much to the liking of the trout. Anglers are advised to keep tabs on the trout stocking website for the latest updates.

According to Western Region Fisheries Manager John Mullican, the upper Potomac River still has a strong flow but is now very clear. Water temperatures have dropped into the 30s and before the recent cold snap, fishing had been consistent for smallmouth bass, walleye and muskie. Anglers should focus on winter patterns and present baits slowly. Shallow, swift flowing areas are largely devoid of fish during the winter — look for moderate depths with permanent structure that offers protection from the current. Dress warmly and wear your personal flotation device at all times.



Kenneth Westerfeld, holds up a 17.4 pound tautog he caught last month at an Ocean City offshore wreck site. A few years ago, Westerfeld set the all-tackle world record with a 28.8-pound tautog he caught off Ocean City. Photo by Gary Tyler

Despite cold winter temperatures largemouth bass can be found in a variety of waters from small farm ponds to the largest reservoirs and tidal rivers. Most often they will be found holding deep near structure. Steep channel edges, sunken wood, rocks and bridge piers are good places to work a variety of jigs, grubs, crankbaits and blade lures. As long as there is open water and a sunny day, fishing for largemouth bass offers plenty of fun during the winter months. Generally it is a good idea to downsize lures and work them slow and close to the bottom.

Atlantic Ocean and Coastal Bays

Most of the fishing action taking place is offshore as boats pick their days to venture to wreck and reef sites in search of tautog. The colder months of January and February are legendary for the chance of catching trophy-sized tautog that can weigh 15 to 20 pounds.

The flounder regulations for 2019 have been finalized and the season will run from now through Dec. 31, with a four fish per day creel limit at a 16-1/2 inch minimum length. The sea bass season will begin

May 15 and run to Dec. 31 with a 15 fish per day creel limit and a 12-1/2 inch minimum length. Tautog will run from Jan. 1 to May 15 with a four fish per day creel limit, then will not open again until July 1 through Oct. 31 with a two fish per day creel limit. From Nov. 1 to Dec. 31 the four fish per day creel limit will resume. The minimum length for tautog will be 16 inches through all seasons

Virginia Beach Action

NO REPORT AVAILABLE

Delaware Fishing Report

from the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife website\

The weekly Delaware Fishing Report offers information on when to fish, where to fish, which species are biting, and how to catch them. It is written by veteran Delaware angler Eric Burnley, Sr.

Delaware Bay

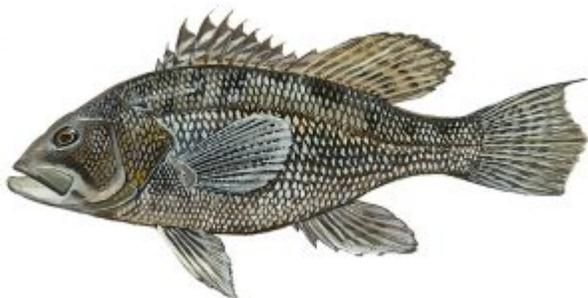
The water temperature in the bay is hovering around the low 30s so the chances of catching a fish are pretty slim. The upper reaches of the tidal creeks and rivers should see some perch action along with a few small rockfish if we can keep this February thaw going.

Inshore Ocean

Big tog continue to be caught from boats running from Lewes, Indian River and Ocean City. The ocean water temperature is in the 40s so the bite has been slow, but the tog have been big.



Delaware will have the same regulations for black sea bass in 2019 as we had in 2018. The season will open on May 15 and run until December 31 with a 12.5-inch minimum size and a 15-fish bag limit.



The black sea bass action out of Virginia ports has been outstanding. Limit catches of three to five pounders has been the norm with a few big hake and bluefish mixed in the catch. If you plan to trailer your own boat down you must contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and get a free Black Sea Bass Recreational Permit. Then you must notify the VMRC when you leave the dock so they can have someone there to check your catch when you return.

Offshore Ocean

No report

Indian River Inlet

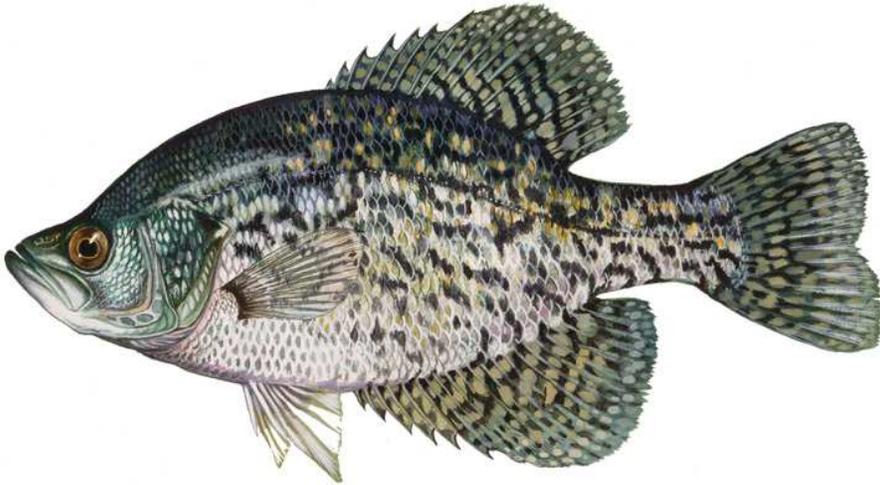
Stopped by the Inlet last weekend and, while there were a few folks walking along the sidewalk on both sides, none were carrying a fishing rod. The only birds I saw were diving sea ducks.

Surf Fishing

No report.

Freshwater

The local ponds were covered with ice until early in the week so I don't have any reports from there. I do suspect pickerel will be caught this weekend as the water should be open.



The spillways in Laurel and Seaford have produced crappies for those who work jigs very slowly under a bobber.

Be ready

This time of year it pays to be ready to fish when the opportunity presents itself. As an example, the spillway in Milton and the head of the Broadkill River are on my way from home to the Food Lion in Milton. I keep a light Shakespeare rod and reel in my truck along with some jigs that I can use if I have a few minutes to kill on a grocery run.

Maybe you have to drop the kids off at a sport practice and then wait for them to finish. I bet there is a fishable body of water close by where you could get in a few casts while you wait.

I know you are a big time offshore fisherman. You wouldn't be caught dead fishing for perch or sunfish. Guess what buttercup, there ain't no billfish or tuna out there right now and perch or sunfish on light

tackle are better than sitting in the car listening to some Neanderthal complain about just about everything.

So go ahead, sneak that light tackle rod and reel out to the car or truck. Then when nobody is looking make a few casts and maybe even catch a perch or two. Then try not to smile.

DNR in the News

Free Tree Seedlings Available for Frederick County Landowners

February 5, 2019

Backyard Buffers Help Improve Water Quality



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is offering free tree seedlings to landowners who have a creek, drainage ditch, stream or other waterway on or near their property through the Backyard Buffers program.

Trees and shrubs planted along waterways help improve water quality by absorbing excess nutrients, lowering peak water temperatures, reducing sediment and stabilizing stream banks.

Each "buffer in a bag" contains about 30 native bare-root tree and shrub seedlings suitable for planting in moist soil conditions. This year's bundle will include a mix of black chokeberry, buttonbush, eastern redbud, pitch/loblolly hybrid, swamp white oak and Washington Hawthorne.

Maryland Forest Service staff will provide information on tree maintenance and planting techniques, in addition to suggestions on other good native species at the time of pickup.

Requests must be received by March 31. Interested property owners should contact Sean Weaver at 301-791-4010 to reserve their seedlings. Bundles will be available for pickup in early April. Quantities are limited so reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

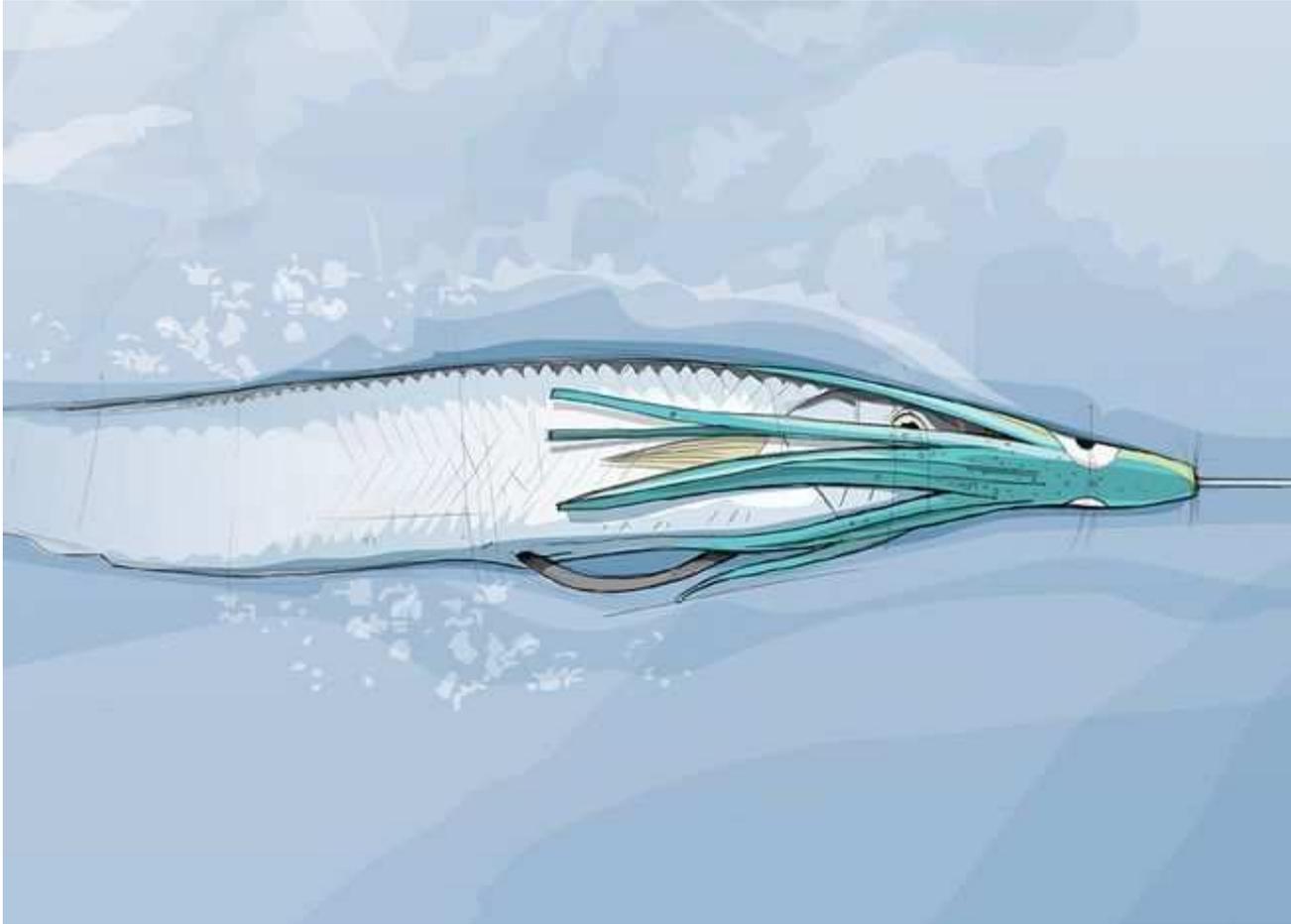
Tips and Tricks

How to Rig Weedless Ballyhoo for Trolling

Rig trolling baits for maximum effectiveness and fishing time.

BY GEORGE POVEROMO FEBRUARY 8, 2019

As seen online at <https://www.saltwatersportsman.com/how-to-rig-weedless-ballyhoo-for-trolling>



Rigged properly, ballyhoo slides through weeds, keeping your trolled bait working productive water.

Mike Sudal

Stop fighting the weeds offshore. Those often annoying patches that put the brakes on trolling also offer prime game fish habitat, so rig your ballyhoo to fish through them.

Latest From Salt Water Sportsman

Latest From Salt Water Sportsman

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Just a few short years ago, offshore anglers complained about the lack of sargassum weed, particularly off the Florida Keys and portions of the Gulf Coast, and how it impacted dolphin catches. After this past season, these same anglers are still concerned; only this time, it's over the masses of weed blanketing the offshore waters. Opposed to textbook-perfect weed lines and patches with clean fishing lanes,

these thick, floating ecosystems make trolling a nightmare. Following a frustrating past season, where we spent way too much time picking salad off our trolling baits, I went back to a trick I used many years ago, when weeds were a menace: the weedless ballyhoo.

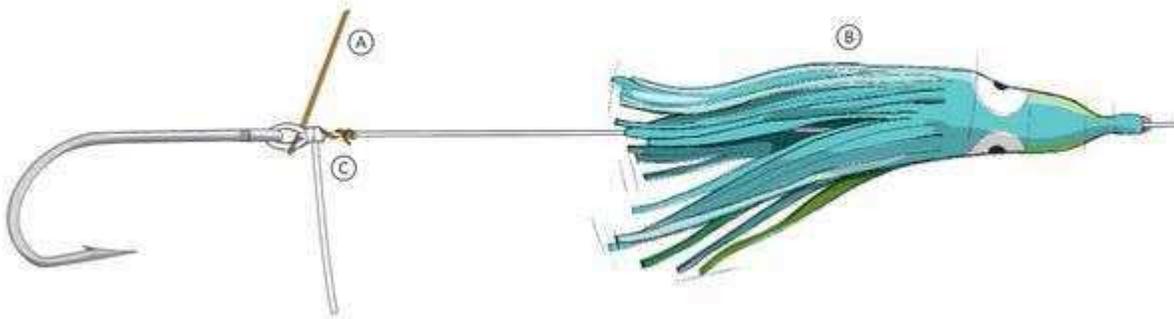
When properly rigged, these baits spend more time where they belong: skipping enticingly behind your boat. We've enjoyed solid dolphin action on the troll since making the switch.

The trick involves inverting the hook point so it goes back into the ballyhoo, and streamlining the rest of the rig so it pushes weeds aside. Some might question hookup percentages, given the embedded point. However, the crushing jaw power of dolphin and other pelagics easily exposes the hook for a solid set. Even so, we'll lightly scale the bait around the hook-insertion area to soften it some.

NOTE: Sliding a skirt over the snap swivel connecting the leader and fishing line also prevents it from collecting weeds. What's more, the skirt over the swivel lends the illusion of the ballyhoo chasing a smaller bait.

Instead of running away or continuously clearing weeds from your baits, sit back, relax, and let the weedless ballyhoo go to work.

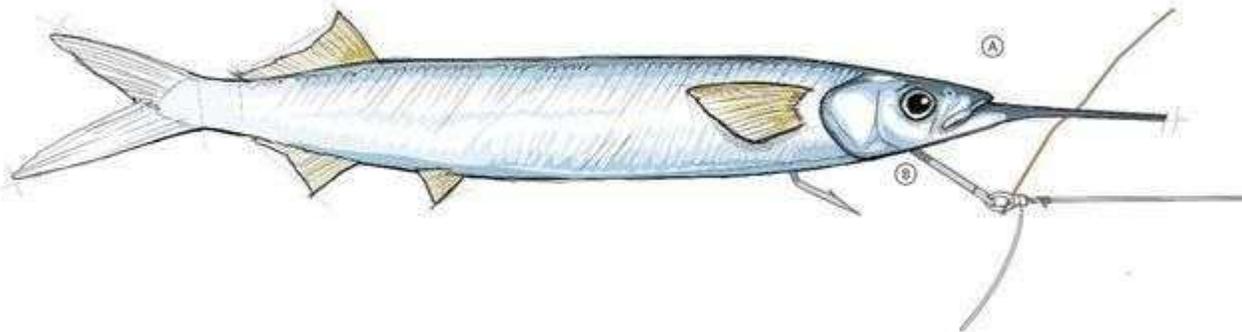
Components (for dolphin): Leader: 100-pound fluoro or mono; O'Shaughnessy-style hook (size based on bait); copper rigging wire; squid-style skirts (smallest that will still fit over the ballyhoo head).



Assemble the leader, with the hook on one end and a knotted loop on the other, before rigging a ballyhoo.

[A] Attach soft copper wire to loop knot. **[B]** Slide rubber skirt over the leader before tying loop knot at the end. **[C]** Leave long mono stub to anchor the ballyhoo.

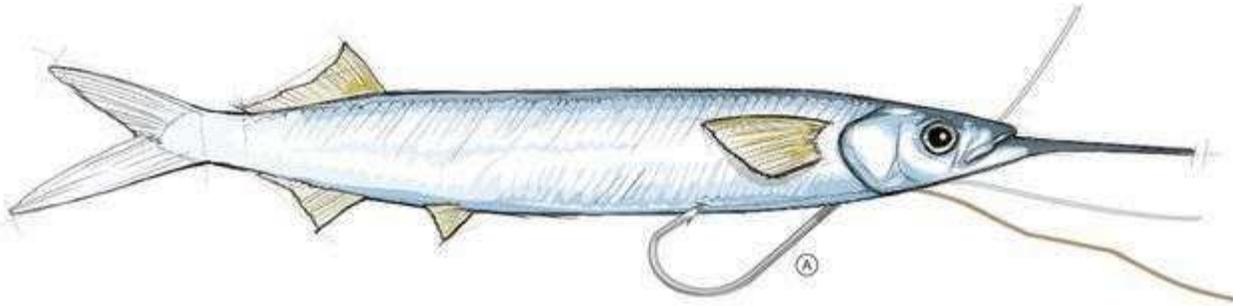
Mike Sudal



Insert the hook through the throat latch, to exit the belly just ahead of the pectoral fin.

[A] Position the mono stub to poke through the bottom jaw and upper lip. **[B]** Insert the hook so the mono stub lies beneath the upper lip.

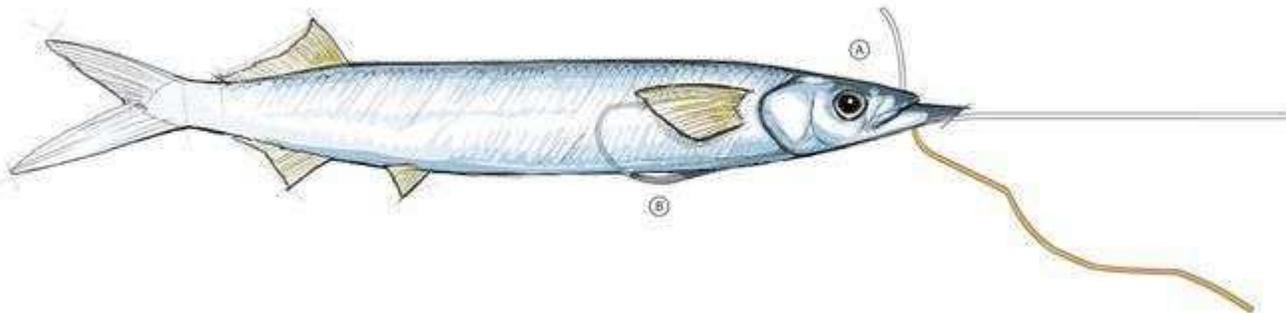
Mike Sudal



Pull the hook back farther than it will sit in the finished rig. Once the hook is inserted, the mono stub should slide back into proper position beneath the jaws.

[A] Insert the hook a bend's distance farther back than the final position.

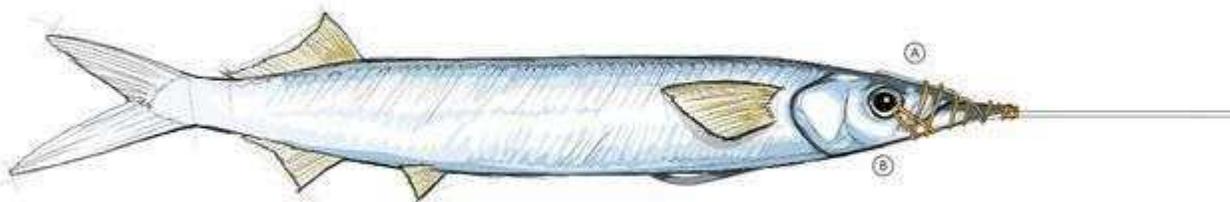
Mike Sudal



Hook should fit snugly, but not tight. All the pull on the trolled bait should come from the head.

[A] Pierce the lower and upper jaws with the mono stub. Break the bill off short. **[B]** Make sure the hook does not bind where it enters the bait.

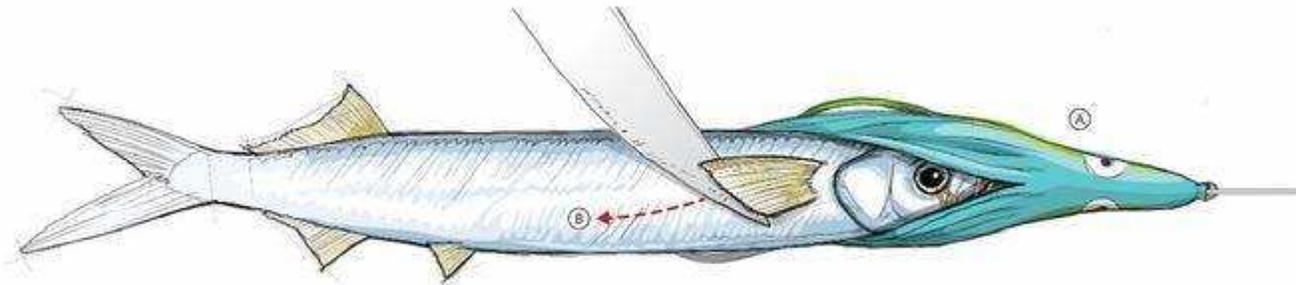
Mike Sudal



Wind copper wire through the bait's eye sockets and tightly around the head. Finish in front, binding the leader to the stump of the bill.

[A] Fold the mono stub back and overwrap with copper wire. **[B]** Hook shank lies along the throat.

Mike Sudal



To finish prep, remove scales from the bait's body where the point of the hook lies so the hook won't foul on scales during the strike.

[A] Slide the rubber skirt firmly down over the head of the bait. **[B]** Scrape scales from the body on both sides.

Mike Sudal

Officers

President: Chris Linetty

Phone: 301-988-1305

E-mail: <mailto:retriever@myactv.net>

Senior Vice President: Rob Pellicot

Phone: 301-606-0392

E-mail: r.pellicot@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Cathy Gunder

Phone: 240-723-0853

E-mail: catgun@hotmail.com

Secretary: Keith Young

Phone:

E-mail: kyoung712@gmail.com

Bobby Hurt- Member At Large

Phone: 301-740-0910

Email: itbquik1@yahoo.com

Frederick Saltwater Anglers Calendar of Events

(www.wefishsalt.com)

2019

JANUARY	9	-Member Meeting
	12	-FSA Expo
	16	-Board Meeting
	19	-Fishing Expo and Flea Market @ Odenton Fire Dept
	26-27	-Kent Island Fisherman Flea Market
FEBRUARY	13	-Member Meeting
	17-18	-Pasadena Sportfishing Expo @ Earleigh Heights VFD
	20	-Board Meeting
	23	-Dinner Dance
	23	-Annapolis Anglers Club Expo @ Annaplis Elks Lodge
MARCH	13	-Member Meeting
	16-17	-Essex-Middle River Fishing Club Expo @Rosedale VFD
	20	-Board Meeting
APRIL	23-24	-Southern Md Fishing Fair and Boating Safety Expo @ St. Mary's Fairgrounds
	10	-Member Meeting
	17	-Board Meeting
MAY	3-5	-FSA Spring Showdown Striped Bass Tournament
	8	-Member Meeting
	15	-Board Meeting
	18-20	-FSA Flounder Frenzy Tournament
JUNE	12	-Member Meeting
	14-16	-FSA 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	-FSA 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

Southern Maryland Fishing Fair and Boat Safety Exposition

(Formerly Solomon's Fishing Fair)



St. Mary's County Fairgrounds

March 23rd and 24th

8:00am to 3:00pm



100+ Vendor Tables

**Rods/Reels, Lures, Umbrellas, Tackle,
Paintings, Crafts & More**

(Vendors: Contact Bill Bonner at bill_bonner@verizon.net)



Speakers for March 23rd

10:00am Saltwater Fishing

11:00am Freshwater Fishing

1:00pm Fishing Camps for Kids



Boat Safety and Life Saving Training

By National and Local organizations

(Launch Prepared, Return Safely)



Raffle and Door Prizes



Admission \$4

(Kids age 12 and under free)

**Sponsored by the
Southern Maryland Recreational
Fishing Organization, Inc.**

www.smrfo.com