



FREDERICK SALTWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Wednesday the 20th is the first day of Spring!! Can I get a whoo-hoo!!! It sure doesn't feel like it, but soon I guess we'll hear the sounds of buffers and the smell of wax! Time to get the dust off. With that we have the following events to look forward to:

Dinner Dance. The Dinner dance was on February 23rd and was a big success. We had over 150 people in attendance. If you weren't there, we gave away thousands of dollars in raffle prizes and \$780 to one lucky 50/50 winner! Congratulations to Keith Young for a nice pay day! The band sure didn't disappoint and the food was good too. Most importantly it was just a great time to hang out and shoot the bull with club members, family and friends. Thanks to the members who volunteered and help may this event a success. We hope to make next years dinner dance an even better event, so if you missed out we hope to see you next year.

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.

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.

Flounder Tournament. On the heels of the Rockfish tournament is the flounder tournament in Chincoteague Virginia. The dates are May 17-19. We have discounted rooms at the Sea Shell motel in Chincoteague. This is a great tournament for the small boat guys in our club. Please see Jodie at the meeting for more details and registration.

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!

Hopefully spring will get to us here in the mid-Atlantic soon, if you're like me you're getting a little jumpy right now! We'll see you at the meeting on the 13th!

God Bless,

Chris Linetty

Next Meeting

Date: March 13, 2019

Food Service begins at 6:15 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Speaker: Capt. Ken Jeffries from Sellfish Charters- will be speaking about Spring trolling tips, tricks and techniques, as well as giving an update on 2019 Regulations and potential changes for 2020

Vendor: Capt. Billy Gee from Ebb Tide Charters

Dinner:

Lasagna

Salad

Dessert

Raffle Winners:

Rod and Reel Combo- Mike Luzier

Brackish Life hat and cozies- Rodney Baer

Jigging Baits- Keith Young

Parachutes- Neal Ammerman

Filet knife/ scissors- Jim Scott

50/50-

\$85- Eddie Blank

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

Fishing Reports

Maryland DNR Fishing Report

February 20, 2019



James King of Richfield, N.J., caught this 18.5-pound tautog near Ocean City, tagged it and returned it to the cold depths.

February is often thought of as a time for fishermen to keep busy by going over tackle, fly tying or attending outdoor shows. But others know there are fish out there and many know how to find them.

The preseason trout stocking program has started in earnest, and there is good fishing for yellow perch and a mixed bag of freshwater fish.

Off the coast of Ocean City, fishermen come from far and wide to pursue trophy-sized tautog.

For Chesapeake Bay anglers, the best show in town is the spawning runs of yellow perch that are developing in the tidal rivers. The yellow perch are staging in the middle to upper parts of the spawning rivers and creeks and can often be found holding in some of the deeper waters. They tend to move up on an incoming tide and will often hold below the spawning areas until water temperatures are to their liking. The smaller male yellow perch will often be the first to arrive followed by the larger females.

It is hard to beat live minnows for the larger yellow perch and the minnows can be fished under a slip bobber or retrieved slowly along the bottom with a split shot a foot or so forward of the minnow or lip hooked on a hook. A small cut piece of a live minnow will also often do well when casting a small jig. When fishing in deep water such as the lower Susquehanna River, enough sinker will be needed to hold a two hook dropper rig near the bottom. Many fishermen also have good luck by placing a small piece of felt that has been doused with anise or a favorite bait juice on a small jig. Most jigs used will be about 1/16 or 1/8 ounce and soft plastics or beetle spins often work well.

One of the fun things about yellow perch fishing is that many areas can be fished from shore and a lot of tackle and preparation is not needed. The very end of a flood tide and the beginning of an ebb tide often provides the best fishing opportunities. A light spinning outfit with 4-pound to 6-pound test monofilament line, a few small jigs and or minnows and you're ready to go. Online, the Tide Finder link is a good place to start your yellow perch fishing adventures.

Our Click Before You Cast forecasts will return in March.

Upper Chesapeake Bay



Matthew Blanchet takes a look at this nice yellow perch he caught in an upper bay tributary while fishing out of his kayak. Photo by Matthew Blanchet

Snow melt from upper watershed areas continue to fuel high flows and stained water conditions. Despite these conditions, there has been some good fishing for yellow perch in the Susquehanna River near Perryville for those using dropper rigs with small jigheads and minnows. Fishing for yellow perch has been good in the lower Northeast River from small boats, kayaks and the piers at Community Park in the town of North East.

Other tributaries to the upper bay that provide good yellow perch fishing include the Bush, Middle, Magothy, the Belle Grove Ponds off the Patapsco River, and the upper Chester River.

Fishing for catfish in the lower Susquehanna River has been good for a mix of channel and flathead catfish, and more blue cats are being caught each year. The fishing for channel catfish extends south to include all of the tidal tributaries leading to the bay. Cut bait is perhaps the most common bait used and fresh is always the best. White perch are beginning to show up in the deep holes at the mouths of most tidal rivers and can be caught on pieces of bloodworm. They make excellent fresh bait for catfish as do gizzard shad if you can procure them with a cast net. Chicken breast or chicken liver can also make a decent bait for channel catfish.

Middle Bay

Yellow perch are being found in various areas of the upper Choptank, Tuckahoe and Nanticoke rivers. The yellow perch tend to be in the area below Denton in the Choptank, between Route 328 and Hillsboro in the Tuckahoe and near the mouth of the Marshyhope and north on the Nanticoke River. These same rivers are also holding white perch near the mouth of the rivers and lower regions in deep channel areas. Minnows and small jigs tend to be the best way to fish for yellow perch and pieces of bloodworm on a bottom rig or jig for white perch.

Fishing for blue catfish in the Nanticoke River in the Sharptown area continues to be excellent this month in the deeper channels. Fresh baits of white perch, gizzard shad or even bluegill sunfish make good baits. Channel catfish can be found in all of the tidal rivers in the region and can be caught on a variety baits such as cut bait, nightcrawlers, chicken breast and chicken liver.

Lower Bay



This beautiful 46-inch striped bass was caught out of Point Lookout and quickly returned after a quick picture. Photo by Jim Calvert

Perhaps the hottest ticket this month is the tidal Potomac River. The fishing for blue catfish in the region below the Wilson Bridge south has been excellent this month with many large catfish being caught. Those wishing to stock up the freezer have been catching medium sized blue catfish in the same area. Fresh gizzard shad is the most favored bait but white perch or bluegill sunfish work well also.

Some industrious souls have been venturing out into the lower Chesapeake trolling for the vanguard of the spring striped bass run and have been connecting with a few brutes. It is a bit early but there are always fish and fishermen that do not follow the norm. Striped bass will begin to filter into the bay next month in earnest but there are always some early arrivals.

Crappie fishing in the tidal Potomac has been excellent around the Wilson Bridge, marina docks and piers. Minnows or small jigs under a slip bobber has been the best way to catch them as they tend to school up around deep structure.

Yellow perch are moving up the Patuxent, Pocomoke and Wicomico rivers and can generally be found in the upper sections of the rivers. Other good places to fish for them will be the Wicomico and Mattawoman tributaries off the tidal Potomac River later on this month.

Freshwater Fishing

The preseason trout stocking program has been great news for freshwater anglers who may have been suffering from a bit of cabin fever this month. Stocking crews are covering a wide range of areas, making sure that there is good trout fishing opportunities near you. The [trout stocking website](#) will show you the latest stockings the day they occur.

Put-and-take trout fishing is a wonderful experience for our young anglers so make sure you don't leave your own or the neighborhood kids a home. A light spinning outfit, some #8 bait hooks, some split shot and a jar of Powerbait is all you need. For those looking for a little more challenge, fly fishing with weighted nymphs is a fine alternative.

Casting small spinners or spoons with an ultra-light spinning outfit is also a fun and great way to cover water looking for trout others may have missed with bait. Fly fishing with streamers or Wooley Bugger flies is another great alternative.

Reports from Deep Creek Lake and nearby reservoirs in Western Maryland tell of unsafe ice and open water in some areas. It is going to take a lot of very cold weather for it to be safe again.

There tends to be plenty of open water in the central, southern and eastern regions of the state in reservoirs and ponds. Largemouth bass are holding near deep structure and can be enticed to pick up soft plastic jigs, deep diving crankbaits and blade lures. The trick will be to present lures in smaller sizes, slow down the retrieve and keep baits close to the bottom. The bite will be subtle and often will feel like you're snagged.



Carrissa Arillo holds up a pretty chain pickerel she caught and released in the Tuckahoe River recently. Photo by Rich Watts

Chain pickerel on the other hand, love cold water and can be found in a variety of locations. Many will be found near sunken wood along shorelines waiting to ambush anything that passes by. Most any lure will do but be careful of pickerel inhaling lures. For this reason it is a good idea to mash down the barbs on treble hooks and even snip one or two of the hooks from the treble. Always use pliers when removing hooks, to avoid those sharp teeth.

The largest of the large chain pickerel can often be found out in open water down deep near some kind of sunken structure. Old tree stumps, large logs and even a sunken small boat offer the kind of hiding places for trophy sized chain pickerel prefer. Jerkbait or large live minnows lip hooked on a jighead are good choices for fishing this kind of structure.

Crappie don't seem to mind cold water either and can be found schooled up near deep structure. Deep structure can be items like sunken brush, tree stumps, fallen treetops, marina docks and piers or bridge piers. A minnow or a small jig under a slip bobber is hard to beat when looking for crappie, don't be in a hurry and work your offering slowly around the structure. Once you've caught one, usually there are more crappie nearby.

Atlantic Ocean and Coastal Bays



Photo by Monty Hawkens

Generally speaking, February is a month of cold water with damp and biting winds along our coastal areas. There are days when the weather breaks a bit and captains and patrons venture offshore to wreck and reef sites in search of trophy-sized tautog — which are rarely seen during the warmer months of the year. Captains report that not every trip presents calm seas and limit catches of tautog but the memory of large ones over ten pounds keep bringing fishermen and captains back for another chance. It was this time of the year that the world record tautog was caught off Ocean City a few years ago. Chunks of green crabs are generally the standard bait for tautog, but when exploring the cold depths for trophy tautog, white leggers (Jonah crabs) are the preferred bait.

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.

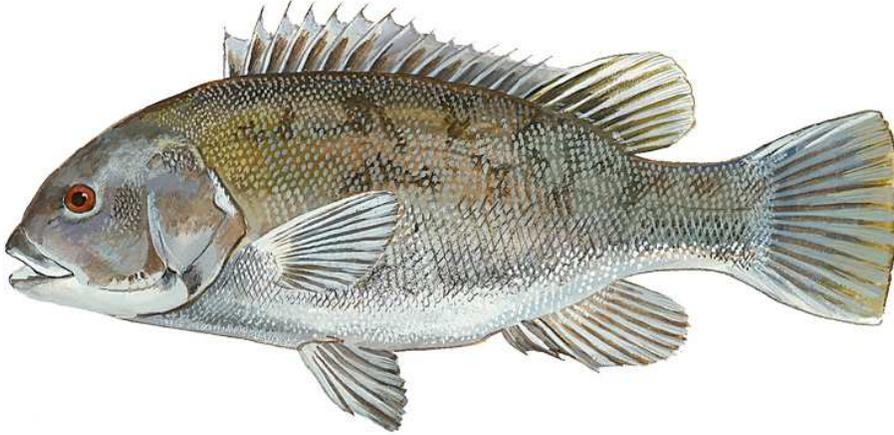
February 28, 2019

Delaware Bay

As I feared last week, March is going to begin with low temperatures keeping water in the bay hovering around the low 40 to upper 30 degree mark. The first day of spring is right around the corner so these conditions are only temporary.

Inshore Ocean

Tog are still being caught when boats can get away from the dock. Cold water has resulted in a slow bite, but most of the fish have been keepers with some topping 10 pounds. There seems to be a conservation ethic among tog fishermen who are releasing some big females. Quite a few of these releases are being



tagged.

Offshore Ocean

No report

Indian River Inlet

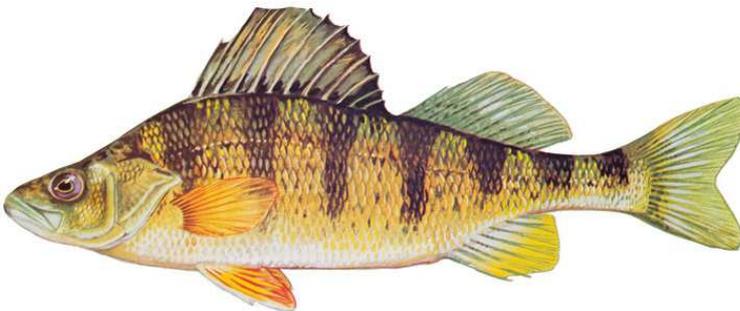
Checked on the Inlet last week and still no one fishing except the diving ducks.

Surf Fishing

No report.

Freshwater

Yellow perch have been caught from spillways across the state. I checked the upper reaches of the Broadkill River in Milton and found the spillway devoid of life, but the head of the river at the town park was lined with anglers. Bloodworms or small minnows on a jig suspended under a bobber is the hot setup for



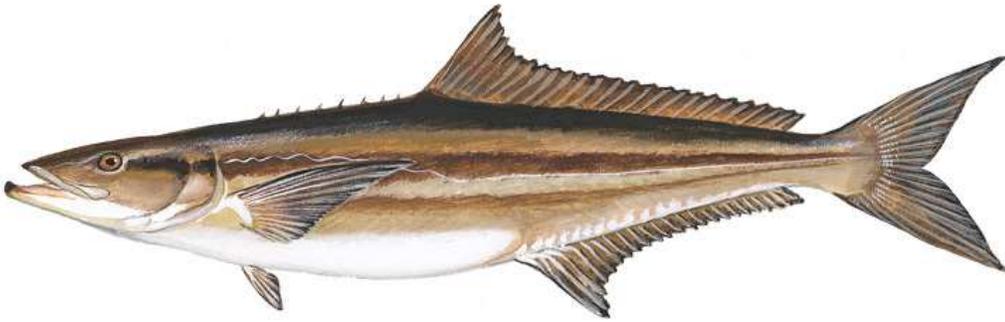
perch.

Crappie continue to be taken on jigs at the spillways in Laurel and Seaford.

Saturday is opening day for trout in Kent and Sussex County. Newton Pond in Sussex just east of Greenwood and Tidbury Pond in Dover will be stocked and ready for the army of anglers that will descend upon them by 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

Cobia Regulations

There will be new regulations for cobia in



2019.

Cobia are now regulated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and since Delaware is considered a de minimis state with very few cobia landed we will have two options. The first is the default de minimis option which comes from the Cobia Fishery Management Plan. It would allow one cobia per angler or vessel and that one cobia is per day or per trip, whichever is longer. The minimum size would be 32 inches.

The second option would allow the use of regulations from the nearest non-de minimis state which is Virginia. This would give us an open season from June 1 to September 15 and one cobia per day, per angler or three cobia per vessel per day. The minimum size would be 40 inches.

At this time the regulatory process is underway in Delaware, but this does take some time. There will be a public hearing and comment period when you can make your preference known.

DNR in the News

March 6, 2019

Required Courses for Maryland Boaters



The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will host two free Boating Safety Education classes on March 16 and March 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bass Pro Shops, 7000 Arundel Mills Circle in Hanover. Attendees need only attend one class to get their certification.

Courses will be taught by Natural Resources Police and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members and will be accessible for both English and Spanish speakers. Free life jackets will be awarded to all who pass the final exam.

Anyone born on or after July 1, 1972 who operates a motorized boat on Maryland waters must carry a valid certificate of boating safety.

Free lunch, drinks and refreshments will be provided throughout the day. To register for the class, call and leave a message at 443-562-1512 or email jackboyson@yahoo.com

Tips and Tricks

Circle Hooks for Saltwater Fishing

by [Virginia Saltwater Fishing](#) | posted in: [recreational fishing](#) | 0

As saltwater anglers must to release more and more fish, circle hooks are becoming an important tool. Originally used in commercial fishing, these uniquely engineered hooks work quite differently than most other hook styles. A circle hook has the tip sharply bent back so there is no point exposed to catch on smooth surfaces.

Unlike traditional hooks, which snag anywhere in the gullet, throat or mouth, circle hooks have to be pulled through a sharp turn to penetrate. The hook most often catches in the corner of the mouth, an area where hooks usually stay embedded during the fight.

Due to the design of the circle hook, the angler must not snatch the rod tip when a bite is felt. Instead, anglers give the fish a moment and perhaps even pay out a few feet of line. Once the fish begins to move away with the bait, steady firm pressure is applied to the line. This allows the hook to pull upward from the gullet and towards the jaw. As the fish moves away, the hook is carried into the corner of the mouth, where its design allows it to catch and penetrate.

Although the chances of an initial hook set may be slightly lower than traditional hooks, the benefits usually outweigh this shortfall. In many cases catch rates actually increase when using circle hooks as most fish are hooked firmly in a firm area of the jaw. This not only helps anglers land more fish, but can have a dramatic impact on lowering fish mortality due injuries from deep hooking.

True circle hooks do not have kirbed (offset) shanks, but tackle vendors offer both non-offset hooks as well as modified models that have some amount of point offset. Hooks are also available in several wire sizes as well as color variations which cover a wide range of saltwater fishing applications.

Circle hooks first became popular for saltwater fishing when tuna fishermen began experimenting with them. Their effectiveness was quickly realized and these odd looking hooks have been embraced by fishermen for their efficiency and low fishing mortality.

Circle hooks are often rigged on fishfinder rigs which are used to catch striped bass, drum, cobia and other species. Flounder fishermen find that circle hooks work well, not only to reduce fish mortality, but to provide reliable hookups.

Circle hooks are also available snelled and for use with traditional top and bottom style leaders. Although circle hooks were originally designed to catch large pelagic species, new models work well for catching a variety of species, even spot, croaker, and other inshore species.

For fishing live baits, circle hooks are sometimes fished with a Carolina rig. The setup employs a single circle hook at the terminal end of a monofilament leader. A egg sinker is often included at or above the top of the leader. Typically a crimp or swivel is connected below the sinker to prevent it from sliding down the leader and reaching the hook.

The resulting rig allows a live bait to swim naturally, while the weight carries the fish to the bottom or down to mid-depths. When a fish takes the bait, the leader provides some slack so that the fish does not detect the weight or main line right away.

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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 @ Annapolis 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

