

# Fishing & Hunting

## Journal



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- SAVING THE HUNT
- GOOSE AND DUCK NUMBERS,  
WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN FOR HUNTERS

FREE

## Two White Perch Records Set in Maryland

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources today confirmed two new white perch state fishing records. James Stiards of Bel Air broke his own nontidal record in Loch Raven Reservoir in Baltimore County, and ten-year-old Ryan Timmons of Berlin



broke the Atlantic record in Ayers Creek in Worcester County.

"I was fishing from a boat with my stepdad and sister, casting a white Twister Tail jig into the shadows of fallen trees along the bank of the creek, when the fish took the bait, and I knew it was big," Timmons recounted of the July 30 catch.

Timmons decided to have it weighed as a potential record, and the certified scale at the Martin Fish Market in Ocean City proved the weight to be 1.65 pounds. Maryland fisheries biologist Steve Doctor subsequently inspected and confirmed the species. The 14 1/2-inch fish exceeded the previous Atlantic record of 1.2 pounds set in 2015 by Finn McCabe, who also caught his fish in Ayers Creek.

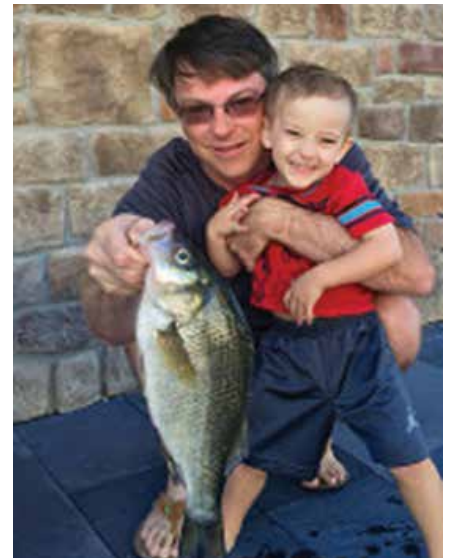
On Aug. 2, James Stiards broke his own nontidal white perch record with a 1.74-pound, 14 1/4-inch fish.

"We were trolling Shad Rap crank baits and catching them

pretty well when this one came over the rail, and I thought it looked bigger than the one from a couple of years ago," Stiards recalls. "I'm sure there's an even bigger one in there."

Stiards fishes Loch Raven two or three times a week in warm weather. His previous record was a 1.70-pound fish caught in 2014.

The department maintains state records for sport fish in four divisions—Atlantic, Chesapeake, Nontidal and Invasive—and awards plaques to anglers who achieve record catches. To report a potential record catch, please call 443-569-1381 or 410-260-8325. Anglers should keep their fish immersed in ice water to preserve its weight until it can be checked, confirmed and certified. Please note: Fish caught from privately-owned, fee-fishing waters are not eligible for record consideration.



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One of the great parts about Huk Big Fish Classic tournament is that they donate the meat from the billfish that come to the scales to Diakonia the local shelter to help people in need! Pictured above is Reel In Tents with there Blue Marlin, even though in did not make the weight Captain Joanthon did a great job and C.J. Morales was the lucky angler.

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## “Hooked on Fishing”

### The White Bite

By Lenny Rudow

It was a long, hard day of fishing—we dropped our baits, reeled them up, moved, and dropped them again. And again, and again, and again. We’ve all been there. For whatever reason, the dang fish simply refused to cooperate and a major change of tactics was in order. So we bailed on the tile fishing, and set out a simple spread of naked ballyhoo for white marlin.

Credit goes to Capt. Mitch Quillen, on the Catch 22, for driving directly to the fish. Within about 10 minutes of setting out the baits a white marlin charged in, inhaled one of those little ‘hoo, and started jumping. Thirteen year-old Carder, on his first offshore trip, jumped on the rod. And soon after I was grabbing the fish’s bill

And we spent some time talking about basic tips and tricks that come into play when fishing for marlin. Considering the fall billfish runs we’ve had along our coast the past few years, it seems like a good time to recap some of those tips and tricks right now.

• ALWAYS lower your ballyhoo over the side, hold the rod tip down by the water, and with 10’ or 12’ of line out, watch how well the bait swims before deploying it. The biggest mistake offshore anglers make, bar none, is sending a ‘hoo back without observing it first. No matter how good a rigger you are some ballyhoo just don’t swim well, and if you put one in the spread without checking first (especially if it’s way back on a long rigger or shotgun line) you might troll it for hours without ever knowing it’s not doing its job.

• NEVER yell and scream when a bill gets spotted in the spread. Believe it or not, one of the loudest noises back there is human voices coming from the

why trollers often see “window shoppers” come into the spread, apparently ready to eat, but then swim off without ever touching a bait.

• ALWAYS pop the scales along a ballyhoo’s back from the head all the way to the dorsal, by pinching them between your thumb and forefinger. This has an even bigger impact on how much they’ll wiggle than breaking the back, and the baits won’t deteriorate as quickly as they will if you break the back.

• NEVER fail to check the tension on your outrigger clips, each and every trip. Even though you may have had them set from the last trip, varying temperatures and conditions can cause the pieces of some clips to expand and contract enough to affect the tension setting from one weekend to the next.

• ALWAYS check your leader for chaffing after a billfish strikes a bait. Nothing’s worse than breaking off on the next strike, and knowing in the back of your head that it might have been preventable.

• NEVER forget to glance at the spool now and again, when an inexperienced angler is on the rod. Even the best of us forget to level-wind on occasion, and in the heat of battle, an inexperienced angler is almost certain to need a reminder once in a while.

• ALWAYS try “prospecting” with a bait near your dredge, every now and again. Set it over or just in front of the dredge, then go to freespool and let it sink so it appears to be a fish from the “school” that’s injured and falling behind. When it’s 15 or 20 yards behind the dredge thumb the spool, and let it swim back up to the surface for a bit. Then reel it in, and repeat the process.

• NEVER forget to check the drags prior to hooking up, when you’re using someone else’s gear or are on someone else’s boat. Different people set them for different tactics; some people like to fight on “strike” and others set the drags light, so they troll at strike and advance the drag after a fish is on. I was guilty of this snafu myself on this particular trip. In fact, I had failed to even ask what test the mainlines and leaders were. When Carder was fighting the fish I couldn’t make an accurate assessment of whether or not to advance the drag beyond strike, and as a

result, it took longer than it should have to get the white up to the boat.

And if you bring a billfish into the boat for a picture, for the fish’s sake:

• Wet your hands and gloves before touching the fish. Otherwise you may remove its protective coating of slime, which prevents infection.

• When you hold it, keep the fish horizontal and support its belly. Holding it vertically by the bill, or horizontally by the bill and tail without supporting the belly,



**Hold the fish by the bill, far enough down that your fingers are above its lower jaw. When you feel the fish bite down, it’s recovered enough for the release. Photo by Mollie Rudow.**



Here’s 17 year old Carder with his first white marlin - are you ready for the fall run? Photo by Mollie Rudow.

and hoisting it for the photo you see here.

A bit more about Carder: this kid was courteous, polite, and interested in learning everything he could. In other words, a nice change from what you’ll encounter with so many of today’s youth.

boat. While researching an article years ago I towed a hydrophone in an offshore spread, and later on when listening to the recordings we made, was amazed at how clearly the crew’s voices could be heard underwater. This could explain

can cause internal damage to the fish.

• When releasing the fish hold it in the water, by the bill and with the boat in gear and moving forward. This pumps water through its gills, helping it recover from the fight. Your hand should be far enough down the bill that it’s aft of the fish’s lower jaw, and essentially in the fish’s mouth. When you feel it biting down on your fingers, you know the fish has recovered enough energy to let go.

• If the fish is deep-hooked and/or bleeding excessively, consider dropping the photo plans. Just cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the fish, or you stand a good chance of killing it.

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# Fishing & Hunting Journal

Volume 26, Number 4

September 2016

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## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

Christians have always had their critics. This was true in the first church when they were accused of drunkenness, cannibalism and subversion against their government. In fact, Jesus was dogged by the scribes and Pharisees throughout his earthly ministry. They accused him of being a friend of sinners and publicans, even to the point that he was called a glutton. In our day the same is true. If you live for the Lord and hold up His standard you will receive criticism. People will attack your motives, ridicule your faith and mock that which is holy. The question arises: "How does a Christian deal with criticism?" Jesus reminds us in 1 Peter 2 that most of the criticisms against Christians are foolish. Critics are like crickets -- they do most of their chirping in the dark!

The life of God's people should reflect the love of the Jesus. Our lives should draw people to the Saviour. I've often reminded our church members that most people won't come in the doors of a church and most will never read the Bible. Therefore, we are the only Bible that many people will ever read, and all of us have a testimony, whether good or bad. As a young man, one of the first poems I ever heard was:

You're writing the gospel, a chapter each day by deeds that you do, by words that you say.

Men read what you write, faithless or true. What is the gospel, according to you?

The greatest advertisements for righteousness are the lives of Christian people. How we respond to criticism either inspires others or repels them. In a world that is often hostile to our Christian faith, let's respond with the love of Christ. This was the faith of our fathers and I trust that it is yours.

— MEL BRINDLEY

Pastor  
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# Waterfowl Hunting at Deal Island and Fairmount

Department Now Accepting Lottery Applications

Deal Wildlife Management Area Hunters can now submit applications for the annual permit-only waterfowl hunting days at Deal Island and Fairmount wildlife management areas, located in Somerset County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Permits will be issued through a lottery drawing, with assignments based upon a hunter's stated preference for each area and/or date. Applications are due prior to Sept. 12.

Waterfowl hunting within the areas is by permit only on the opening days of each of the three separate splits of duck season. After which, hunting is restricted to certain days and/or holidays through the remainder of each split season.

"The impoundments at these areas are among the best known public areas for waterfowl hunting in the state," Game Bird Program Leader Bill Harvey said. "Recent changes in water level management together with restrictions on boat motors have resulted in greatly improved waterfowl habitats at these locations."

Fairmount Wildlife Management Area All hunters are reminded that motorized boats, except those powered by electric motors, are prohibited at the impoundments between Oct. 1, 2016

and March 31, 2017. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources established this strategy two years ago to limit the impact on important habitat.

The motorized boat regulations and schedule of open waterfowl hunting days apply only within the impoundment areas at both the Deal Island Wildlife Management Area and Fairmount Wildlife Management Areas. Boat use and waterfowl hunting outside of these restricted impoundments remains open and unchanged.

For more information, please contact the Wellington Wildlife Management Area Office at 410-543-8223.

"We reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes – something known only to her and to the mountain. I was young then, and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunters' paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view." –

Aldo Leopold

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## “Tackle Box Tim”

### A Pro’s Prospective on Tidal Bass

In major BASS events held on tidal water he has a considerable history. He has cashed checks in 11 out of 18 events since 1998. This includes a 9th place finish in the Elite series event held in August 2015 on the upper Chesapeake and a 12th place finish on Winyah Bay this past spring. You would think that this pro has a rich history and background in the ebb and flow of tides. Well, being from Padukah, Kentucky, Mark Menendez is very far removed from tidal waters.

So how does Mark do well when he fishes tidal water? When I asked him if he knew his record, he said, “Honestly, no.” He didn’t realize he’d contended in that many tide water events. Like most of us who fish the tides he realizes that there are two ways to approach it. You can either run the tides or pick an area and fish through the tidal stages. Mark says when he first started fishing tidal waters he tried to run the tides and it was a train wreck. He would run totally opposite of the tidal stage.

It didn’t take long before Menendez took to fishing areas versus running the tides. During practice sessions he’d find areas that held good numbers of bass and reaches for patterns that would work on lakes and reservoirs for that particular stage of a bass’ timeframe – prespawn, spawn, post spawn, summer, fall.

Mark takes a freshwater flowing river approach to tidal bass. He is always looking for current, whether it is the incoming current of the rising tide or the outgoing flow of the falling tide. He likes to run to the backs of creeks and rivers. These narrower bodies of water funnel the current. He looks for anything that breaks the current: points, rocks, sunken wood, corners along the shoreline. He even targets the smallest pockets along the bank where a bass can



Mark Menendez caught this bass in the current of the narrow reaches of the Gunpowder River.

take up an ambush position.

Having spent time with Mark last year during unofficial practice for the Chesapeake tournament, I watched him work a bit differently than we who live in tidal bass land. He flipping soft plastics in the flowing current of the canal leading into the Joppatowne quarry. When he saw an isolated piece of cover or a calm slack water area along the bank, he would cast a squarebill crankbait or spinnerbait.

Menendez used the same practices during the tournament on the Bush River where he netted his 9th place finish. He said that corners were an important part of his high finish. This included points as well. I watched him from a press boat as he worked the back sides of small marsh grass pockets. Bass were in essence tucked behind the smallest corners out of the current. Mark picked them off with a Rage Craw plastic and a swim jig. He ran a crankbait passed a log that ran perpendicular for the bank and swung a 2 ½ pounder in the boat. He plucked another one off of the corner of a railroad bridge pillar.

Most anglers prefer the falling tide because it pulls baitfish away from the bank. Mark doesn’t mind fishing the rising tide. In fact, it worked to his advantage this spring on Winyah Bay. During low tide he could see the spawning beds. As the tide began to rise, the smaller male bass would arrive on the beds. Marks said that, “Midway through the tide the big females would move in.” He was able to pad his limit each of the first three days of the tournament with a kicker bass in the 5 to 6-pound range.

When backwaters aren’t productive, Menendez says his first preference is to find places with hard cover. He’ll target wood laden banks, rip rap, jetties, bulkheads, and piers. He finds that bass on these types of cover are easy to pattern. The first bite will tell him where along the cover he should focus his casts. From there he can work his presentations according to what the tide level allows.

Mark realizes that, like reservoir fishing, other patterns can be happening at the same time. He knows that on rivers like the Potomac where the latest tidal Elite Series event was held, grass very much comes into play. He likes to find big bays of vegetation and looks for specifics. The Kentucky pro likes areas with clumps of grass versus acres of mats. Like hard cover, the bass are easier to target.

He’ll also look for spots where different strains of grass come together. On the Potomac it can be any combination of milfoil, hydrilla, eel grass, arrow heads, and spatterdock.

Mark says that he will become a junk fisherman around grass. With a low tide he is apt to work floating frogs over mats. On high tide he will flip the same areas with plastics and jigs. If he finds the field of sporadic grass clumps, he can resort to churning a spinnerbait or swim bait or swim jig.

Mark Menendez does not hold himself as a tide-water bass expert. He admits he has struggled along with his successes. With the theories and techniques he employs, he does quite well. Perhaps some of us who are tidal bass regulars can pick up a few things from a pro who has a broader approach. I know I learned a lot.

## ABOUT ZIKA

### What we know

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). These mosquitoes are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

Zika can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus. Infection during pregnancy can cause certain birth defects.

There is no vaccine or medicine for Zika.

How do people get infected with Zika?

A: Zika is spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus). A pregnant woman can pass Zika to her fetus during pregnancy or around the time of birth.

Also, a person with Zika can pass it to his or her sex partners. We encourage people who have traveled to or live in places with Zika to protect themselves by preventing mosquito bites and sexual transmission of Zika.

What are the symptoms of Zika virus disease?

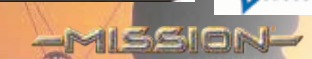
A: The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Other symptoms include muscle pain and headache. Many people infected with Zika won’t have symptoms or will have mild symptoms, which can last for several days to a week.

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Proceeding the ceremony from 9:30 - 11am the Tilghman Island Fire Department will be hosting an All You Can Eat Breakfast. Cost is \$10.00 per person and \$8.00 for Fire, EMS, Police and Military personel.

TIVFD will be making a donation from the proceeds of the breakfast to The National Fallen Fire Fighters Foundation.

Beginning at 11am the TIVFD will be continuing the day holding their 2nd Annual Firemen's Olympics. Please stay and watch local departments and ones who come from afar compete against each other to see who does what they do best, the fastest!

A kids round will also take place where these young future fire fighters will compete for a trophy and a \$100 in gift cards in a water balloon throwing contest!

Please share and invite your friends!

*Perhaps I should not have been a fisherman, he thought. But that was the thing that I was born for. —  
The Old Man and the Sea -*



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## Tips To Make You A Better Deer Hunter

**Tip**  
Human odor spooks deer. Shower with a scent-free soap before every hunting trip, and try not to contaminate your hunting clothes on the way to the field. Keep them sealed in a plastic container or bag with leaves, dirt and other ground debris from around your stand until you arrive at your hunting location. Doing so will allow your hunting clothing to take on the naturally occurring scents that permeate your hunting location.

**Tip**  
Most hunters think that doe estrous is the be-all and end-all of big buck attraction. Though estrous is

a wonderful tool, it's simply that. Wise hunters know that during the early-season it's important to take advantage of a buck's territorial instincts. The scent of an estrous doe during early October simply doesn't make sense to a buck, but buck scent is always worth checking out.

**Tip**  
During the peak-rut, try a drag rag soaked in doe estrous. Often a buck will follow the trail right to your stand.

**Tip**  
Many hunters spray down with odor eliminator just after suiting up, and prior to the trek into the stand, but experienced hunters will bring an odor eliminator with them to the tree stand. After the walk to the stand, apply an odor eliminator to your body, paying special atten-

tion to your hat and hair.

**Tip**  
When muzzleloader hunting in wet weather, a piece of electrical tape over the end of the barrel will keep out moisture. You simply shoot through the tape when it's time to harvest that buck.

**Tip**  
One of the deadliest scent setups defies the accepted rule of playing the wind. Locate a long strip of timber or cover with the wind blowing along the length of it (blowing from one end to the other). At the windy end, pour some deer scent at several areas, then set up high in a tree stand just on the edge of the timber. If you're set up high enough, your human odor should flow above the deer.



Tom Brasse Jr. 8 lb. bass caught in a Balto. Co. farm pond.

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## “Tuna The Tide”

### Fall Top Water Striper Fishing

By Captain Mark Galasso

September and October are my two favorite months of fishing. Temperatures are steadily dropping and the fish are getting more active, trying to fatten up for the coming winter. If last year is any indication we should have a great top water bite. So how do we take advantage of the potential upcoming Top Water bite.

Don't be afraid to check out the shallows. Evening and morning high tides tend to attract fish to shoreline structure. Throwing surface lures in the shallows is a great way to check out good shoreline. And lures that don't sink won't snag on stumps just under the surface. And the strike in shallow water is spectacular. Lots of times predators are trying to pin bait against the shoreline. Look for birds feeding or sitting near the shore.

Large schools of small fish have been surface feeding for months now north of the Bay Bridge out in open water. Look for larger swirls outside of the smaller fish. Also keep an eye on the bait predators are chasing. If Herring gulls and Peanut Bunker are around that's what will attract the larger predators. Terns and small Bay Anchovies tend to attract smaller fish.

So what are we throwing? I like Stillwater Poppers and Zara Spooks. Some local lure makers like Neal Cohen are also providing us with great Top Water plugs. Poppers tend to make a lot of splash and Spooks and Walkers tend to dart from side to side like a frightened bait fish. Try keeping your rod tip down for more action and splash from your lures as your reeling and jigging. Rod tip held up will make the lures come out of the water more and skip across the surface. Mix it up. When a lot of smaller fish are around we remove the treble hook from the Stillwaters and tie a large Clouser or Deceiver fly about 18 inches from the rear eye of the lure.

I like to use a three foot 30 pound leader. Mono to mono I use a good



barrel swivel. Braid I just tie an in line knot leader to braid. I like to match my lures to the size bait being chased. HOWEVER, don't be afraid to mix it up. Sometimes large Stripers are actually feeding on the smaller Stripers or White Perch that tend to be underneath schools of small Stripers catching the disoriented bait as it drifts to the bottom.

When fishing shallow water Stripers I like to fish my way into the target zone. Fan casting on a controlled drift toward shore works well. A lot of times the fish are just off the structure. Maybe they just got done chasing something. Better to move slowly and not spook fish. In the shallows I use rods that cast a good distance for two very good reasons. First a long cast means a long retrieve. More time in the water means a greater chance of a strike. Second, a long cast means you might reach something before the boat has a chance to spook it. Scared fish generally are not feeding fish.

I had Billy and Joe at Shore Tackle and Custom Rods make me a couple of Microwave guide casting rods. I spooled the reels with 20 pound Power Pro line. My clients can cast these a country mile so I don't have to get right on top of the fish. This is an advantage even in the deeper water when fish seem just out of range.

So stock up and get ready. Based on the numbers of fish already feeding on the surface September and October should be nothing short of amazing.



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## “Fishin’ Back East”

### BASS FISHING IN THE SUMMER HEAT

By Jim Gronaw

One of the coolest things about the sport of fishing is that it can be as complicated, or as simple, as you want to make it. Yes, there are more advancements, electronics, lures, devices and items of seemingly great value on today’s angling market. All are intended to put more fish in the boat or on the bank. But if we look back on it all, there is certainly much to be said about the simple joys of pole and line fishing.

Most of us got our start by fishing with cane poles and a piece of line with a hook and bobber. The game was simple...put the baited hook in front of a likely spot and watch the cork, or bobber, go under. Easy enough? You bet! But was it effective enough for us all?

Consider this...I have a good friend from Elizabeth City, North Carolina

by the name of Jeffrey Abney. Abney specializes in fishing tidal rivers and creeks for monster copperside bluegills and crappies in and throughout the Albermarle Sound and hits rivers such as the Yeopemen, Pasquatank and the Perquimens...all dynamite tidal flows for outsized panfish. In researching for an In Fisherman feature last year, I was surprised as to what Abneys preferred tactics were...a simple telescoping pole of ten feet with a similar length of line and a shrimp jig tipped with bait. The man ‘averages’ 4000 bluegills a year, with between 400 and 700 in excess of ten inches in length...incredible! And a very large percentage of those fish are pole-n-line fish. Along the way, he also lassos largemouth bass over 5 pounds, and powerhouse channel cats and bowfin in the ten-pound bracket. Wow!

At last summer’s Teach Me to Fish program that I instructed at Lake Hashawha, in Westminster, Maryland, we had a total of 279 bluegills and red ear sunfish caught in just five classes...all pole and line catches, and with great joy not only to the children in the program, but to the parents as well. It works!

This year, I picked up a 13-foot Cabelas’ Crappie Pole to just fiddle around with for catching bait for catfishing and such. To my great surprise, I have found a new love for this simple way to fish. Easy enough, you tie on a length of monofilament about the same length as the pole, tie on a 1/32 or 1/64th ounce jig, and put a bobber two to three feet about the lure and you’re ready to fish. Tip the lure with a piece of worm and it’s light’s out for the local panfish population once they moved shallow and stayed there well into late fall. Simple and easy, and effective!

I tend to agree with Abneys thoughts on using 10 pound test mono simply because there may be an apex predator in the area that wants to chow down on your bluegill. You’d like to have at least a fighting chance with a decent bass or cattie, hence the heavier line. In the blackwaters and cypress jungles where Abney fishes, you need a little backup. Plus, most of the ponds I fish have at



I managed to land this seven pound channel catfish on a 13-foot pole with a tiny jig as I had to scamper up and down the bank for the win!

least a couple big bass cruising in them. Be nice to land them on the long pole.

Poles are cheap, \$10 to \$20 each, and some are somewhat customized with various styles of line keepers and foam handles. Most are telescoping, fiberglass models that break down into a compact length for easy storage. Most simply have eyelets at the very tip of the pole and there is where you would secure your line. The premier pole company out there is B&M Pole Company and they make all kinds of crappie and ‘brim’ poles for today’s common sense, budget minded panfisherman. And throughout the Deep South, this is still the preferred method for consistently making good catches of panfish for those fish fries we love so much. Besides, it is a great way to get kids, and even adults, started on a lifetime of fishing fun.

This year, I think I’m going to try some pole and line efforts in the thick, heavy vegetation of hyacinths and lily pads and sunken shoreline brush. When I fished with Abney back in October of 2014 in the North Carolina blackwaters, he carried an on-board selection of 10

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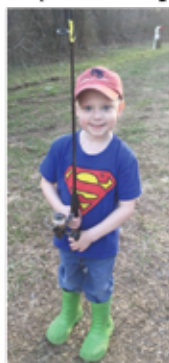
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different fiberglass poles with various jig/float combinations. I was amazed at how quickly he could assess a situation and make the right choice of lure size, bait and jig options and proper depth setting for the intended species of copernose bluegills, shellcrackers and crappies. His 'no-fear' attitude to get close to weeds and wood of all kinds showed me clearly how effective pole and line angling can be. It's not just for kids anymore.

In September and well into October, shoreline panfish can be had via the pole and line efforts. I would recommend quality mono like Gamma Fluorocarbon in 10 or 12 pound test or Sufix Elite in the same strengths. At the tip of the pole, it is always suggested that you first secure the line to the rod portion just below the tip guide, then thread it through the eyelet. Even with quality poles, an eyelet can not hold up under the constant heaving of panfish or the strain of a larger fish, and may pop out of the rod tip. A selection of sensitive foam bobbers or small oval plastic floats can help you quickly adjust depth as needed. Tipping baits such as worms, maggots or mealworms make jig presentations more appealing. Just add water and you are ready to go!



**Pole -n-line guru Jeff Abney keeps several telescoping poles rigged and ready for a variety of panfish situations.**

In the past three seasons of fishing, I have tried to get the long poles out at least a few times and always had a blast with them. To date, I have recorded citation-sized bluegills, crappies, largemouth bass to 19 inches and a sturdy 7-pound channel catfish that was quite a hoot to try and land! They are particularly effective around docks and shoreline brush with structure oriented fish that run 3 to 7 feet deep.

In this day of incredible advancements in modern angling it's nice to know you can still catch enough fish for a good meal without having to break the bank and travel great distances for them. Long-poling panfish is alive and well in the south, maybe near you, too!

In this day of incredible advancements in modern angling it's nice to know you can still catch enough fish for a good meal without having to break the bank and travel great distances for them. Long-poling panfish is alive and well in the south, maybe near you, too!

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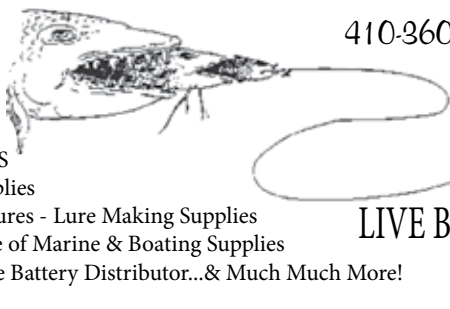


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# SPANNING THE GLOBE

## Rare 'albino' muskie landed from LotW's Monument Bay

Baudette, Minn. — Perry Peterson, a one-time Minnesota resident, had grown somewhat weary of dealing with the doubters. Two years ago, while fishing Monument Bay on the Ontario side of Lake of the Woods, Peterson first saw it – an “albino” muskie.

Twice he saw it in 2014. The following year, during one of his fishing trips from his current home in Scottsdale, Ariz., to a location where he's fished for two and a half decades, he saw the fish twice again. This year, he saw the fish again, in the same general location he'd seen it four times the past two years. During the first 2016 sighting, it followed a lure to Peterson's boat. The second time – finally – the fish bit.

Getting glimpses of the muskie over the years hadn't exactly proved challenging.

“It was so easy to see,” Peterson said. “It was almost like it glowed in the dark. It looked like a birch log.”

The rare fish was caught June 23 in the same general location where Peterson and friend Paul Jensen – one of the few believers – had seen the fish for the first time two years ago. It was just under 41 inches long, Peterson said, and appeared to be in good health.

This year, too, the rest of the fishing gang finally got to see the ghost fish Peterson had encountered on several occasions.

The first such meeting this season happened about 100 yards down the shoreline from where the fish was spotted the previous year. Once again, though, the fish merely followed. And it not only evaded capture, but also Peterson's camera. Thus, no photographic evidence of the oddity. It wasn't the first time the fish had caused the angler frustration in not being able to record an image of the muskie.

“We were resigned to the fact that we'd probably never catch it, but hoped to get a photo,” he wrote in an email. “A couple days later, while casting over the same general area, we were burning spinnerbaits and spoons over and through the weeds and getting some explosive hits from pike and muskies. While doing this, the albino hit at the end of the cast, and it wasn't until it was halfway to the boat that we realized

it was ‘the fish.’

“Once we saw it, we were in panic mode, hoping not to lose it,” he wrote. “It got into the weeds and we thought we'd lost it before realizing it was just buried (in the vegetation).”

A couple photos were taken once the fish was in the boat, then it was released.

It wasn't too long before Peterson's group of fishing buddies became converts. “I made sure everybody got a copy of the picture,” he said.

Peterson said that on the occasions he'd seen

the fish that it appeared to “act weird.” But on the other hand, he added, perhaps all muskies behaved that way – but their actions couldn't be seen as clearly as those of the white fish.

Peterson said he's not sure the fish is a true albino specimen, and that he's received feedback from other fishermen regarding their thoughts on the matter, and opinions varied. Regardless, the fish was a trophy like none other, the former White Bear Lake resident said.

“I've caught muskies to 54.5 inches, but I've never been as thrilled as (I was when) finally catching this one,” he said. “Hopefully, we'll have another encounter in future trips or someone will post a picture after catching it again.”



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By Grant Soukup

## “Montana Grant”



### Fish Gift!!!

Sharing your catch with family and friends is an awesome way to feed the community. Trout, crappies, perch, and other great eating fish can fill up a freezer in a hurry. Not only do fish have a short freezer life, there are also possession limits that need to be considered.

Fresh fish are always best! Old freezer fish just take up space and lose their quality after 3 months. Freezing fish in vacuum sealed bags, double wrapping filets, or freezing them in blocks of water extends their freezer life but... Fresh fish are best!

Giving away fresh fish is always appreciated but many fish recipients don't have a clue about how to prepare them. This can result with them never using and enjoying the special resource. They accept the gift to not be rude and end up throwing the gift away. Here are some tips to help your "Gift Fish" to stay as keepers!

Freeze your fish in a presentable fashion. Try using Styrofoam trays wrapped with shrink wrap. Now the fish looks like a store bought meal. Reluctant chefs are more easily ready to work with a familiar package. Print the date, species, location of the catch, onto the package with a permanent marker.

Google search some tried and true favorite recipes to match the tastes of the fish friend. Keep

things simple. Not everyone enjoys fried fish so look at other recipes. Fish Tacos are easy and simple. Baking, poaching, and broiling fish are also easy and tasty ways to prepare this healthy and special treat. Dipping sauce selections add a tasty touch.

Make sure that the fish gifts are cleaned perfectly. If the fish is fileted, then **NO BONES PLEASE!!**

Fileting is an acquired skill and takes practice. You need the right tools, a mentor, and maybe some u-tube videos to figure it out. Not all fish can be cleaned or fileted in the same way. Do some homework so you can process the fish correctly. Most contaminants are found in the belly meat, fin sites, and skin.

Sweetening the fish filets is also a great way to improve the quality and flavor.

This 3 step process really helps with flavor and removes unwanted oils, fats, and contaminants. Simply mix 3 TBSP of salt, 2 TSP of Baking Soda, and 1 gallon of cold water. Submerge the fish and let them soak for several hours in a refrigerator. Rinse with cold water and dry. They are now ready to be frozen or fried!

Rockfish and large, thick fish filets can often be too big for some folks to handle. The "Poor Man's Lobster" recipe makes for a simple option. Cut the filets into 1 inch chunks. Add 1 TSP of salt, 1 TBSP of Old Bay Seasoning, 1/2 Cup of water,

and 1/2 Cup of vinegar. In a 2quart pan, combine the ingredients and bring to a boil. Add the thick, fish chunks and stir. Cover and steam until tender, about 12 minutes. Drain and serve with melted butter or other favorite dipping sauces. I don't think any fish tastes quite like lobster but they are

still damn tasty!

Foil Wrapped Fish is also a simple and easy way to cook fish on the grill. Simply place the fish onto aluminum foil and butter. Spray oils or Pam also work well to add some grease to the fish so that they do not stick to the foil. Season with Old Bay or your favorite spice mixture. Salt, pepper, and lemon slices work well also. If you need potatoes for a side dish, slice a bunch up and do the same spice and butter preparation. Once the grill or fire is hot, simply place the double foil wrapped packages onto the heat. Cook the potatoes first. When they are just about done, add the packets of fish. Cook about 5 minutes on each side.

"Fish Chunkies" also work well with larger and thick filets of fish. I have used rockfish, Bluefish, Pike, Shark, and bass for this easy appetizer. Smaller, pan fish filets work well but leave them whole. Cut the filets into 1 inch pieces and soak in saltwater overnight. Use about 1 TSP of salt / pound of filets. Drain and dry the Chunks and add some spice. Shake the "Chunks" in a zip bag containing Complete dry pancake mix flavored with salt and pepper or some Old Bay spice mixture. Deep fry in peanut oil or your favorite, healthy oil. If you are making French fries or Hush Puppies for your sides, cook them first. Prepare some dipping sauces or just Tartar sauce and watch them disappear.

Fresh fish are a wonderful and healthy meal. The gift of fish is an even better way to say thank you, make new friends, or just share in the harvest. Including some recipe ideas invites them to test their limits and try something new. Prepare some recipe cards or make copies of this article to give along with the fish gift.

An annual fish fry is also a great way to empty your freezer, celebrate the sport, and strengthen friendships. Have the fish cooked in several ways and have copies of recipes on hand. Soon, everyone will be knocking on your door for some more fresh fish gifts! In turn, many will send over baked goods, other meals, and edible Thank You treats.

Now your only problem is that you need to head back to the fishing hole to restock!

Fish Hard and Long!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, visit his blog at [www.montanagrantsfishing.com](http://www.montanagrantsfishing.com)

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from Captain Brian - Here at Councill Charters we don't have clients, we have friends. God bless them.



## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark  
Sampson

I once received a call from a client who had a charter fishing trip scheduled with me in a few days and he was checking-in to make sure everything was good-to-go and find out how the action had been. We were about to hang-up and when he said to me, "Oh, by the way, myself and the others in our group are all pretty experienced fishermen, some of us even have our own boats, so if you want to give your mate the day off, we'll be ok without him."

I've been running charters for over 30-years, and during that period I've heard this comment/request many times. But I have to admit that every time I hear it I'm surprised and even a little disappointed that just because they "know about fishing" someone would assume that there's no need for me to bring along a first mate. Someone might have fishing experience, but a request like that indicates that they don't know much about the charter fishing business.

Folks who have fished aboard a charter boat or a headboat have no doubt seen the mate (or mates), among other things; cutting and rigging baits, setting out lines, netting and gaffing fish, dealing with tangles, chum buckets, bags of ice, measuring fish, cleaning the boat, as well as assisting and sometimes entertaining the fishermen. Of course these are just a few of the things the anglers see the mate doing while they're on the boat, and for the most part, much of it could indeed be done by clients who have even just a little bit of fishing experience. But what most customers on charter and headboats don't see are the many tasks preformed by crew members before the fishermen arrive at the boat in the morning and long after they left the dock at the end of the day – not to mention the time spent getting the boat ready in the winter and spring for the upcoming season.

Because it's not exactly a "high-paying" job, captains and mates typically choose to work on charter and headboats first and foremost because they really love to fish. All the "getting ready" work they do in the off-season as well as the long hours of maintenance and repair done between trips is so that the boat, equipment, and bait will be in top-notch, trouble-free shape when everything is put to the test out on the fishing grounds. For most crewmembers, the actual fishing trips are the easy part of the job that makes all the smelly, grimy, and sometimes backbreaking aspects of this business worthwhile.

Since most crew members don't make a dime for all their troubles until they actually get out and fish, it should be easy to see how telling a mate in the middle of the season, "Hey, the gang tomorrow knows how to fish, so we don't need you, go ahead and take the day off," might not be very well received by a mate who is looking for a payday!

Besides all the work they do before and after every trip, mates are also a great asset to have aboard if there is any kind of problem because they are going to know a lot more about the boat and its equipment than any of the clients will. In an emergency the captain doesn't need the extra hassle of being the only one aboard who knows how to operate pumps, inspect for damage, locate equipment, drive the boat, talk on the radio, make repairs, and possibly administer first-aid.

Some "experienced" fishermen are of the notion that if a mate is working the deck he (or she) won't let them bait or set their own hooks, net or gaff the

catch, or any of the other routine stuff fishermen do when they're fishing on their own. Granted, if the customer does nothing but sit back and let the mate do all the work until it's time to crank-in a fish, it could very well go that way. But I've yet to meet a mate who wouldn't relinquish some of these duties to a client who let them know they want more involvement in the operation. All someone has to do is SPEAK UP and let the captain and mate know what will make their fishing trip more enjoyable, and I guarantee they'll do their best to oblige!

Of course, mates work for tips. At the absolute bare-minimum a tip should be 10% of the trip price. But handing out a 10% tip is like telling a mate "I know I've got to pay you something, so here - take this." Paying a mate 15% lets him know that you think he did a great job and you appreciate his efforts. A 20% tip tells him that you know he went above and beyond his duties to see that you had the best fishing trip possible, and you couldn't be happier. Of course other captains might have different opinions on what constitutes a proper tip so when booking the trip it's always a good idea to ask the captain about what they consider to be a fair tip.

Notice that I didn't mention anything about the catch and how it relates to the tip – because it shouldn't. Experienced fishermen know that sometimes, no matter how hard they try, or how "good" they are, sometimes the just fish won't bite. Typically, when the fishing is tough, the crew is going to work even harder than when the action is hot because they'll constantly be trying new baits, lures, and techniques, running around to different locations, and maybe even staying out late in hopes of somehow drumming up a catch, not to mention the added stress they'll be enduring all day. Unless it's 100% obvious that the slow action can be blamed directly on what the mate did or didn't do, it should not be reflected in his tip. If the mate was slacking so much that it affected the catch, most of the blame should fall on the captain for letting it happen. In the same respect, if the catch was good but the mate was a jerk, I see nothing wrong with that being reflected in his tip - I guess what's fair is fair.

Fishermen should also know that in a case where a charter boat fishes without a mate, the tip should go to the captain. I know from experience that in such situations the captain is going to be working twice as hard as ever while doing both his and the mates work before, during, and after the trip.

Like fishing reels, diesel engines, and fresh bait, mates on charter and headboats are integral parts of fishing operations who assist in promoting a successful catch, help ensure a safe and enjoyable time, and are a real asset to for everyone aboard - even those who figure they've got a lot of fishing "experience." So whenever someone suggests that I won't need a mate on their trip I simply ask them, "So does that mean you'll come in the night before and prepare the boat, baits, and rigs, and then stay after our trip to scrub-down the boat, bleach the coolers, oil the reels, clean the head, help change the oil, grind some chum, and anything else that might need doing to be ready for the next day?" And if anyone would actually say "Yes" to that - I still wouldn't leave my mate behind. But so far no one ever has.



"Flounder Pounders" that were guided by Captain Jeff Lewatowsky at Ocean City. Mell and Jesse Lowers and Tim Reynolds pulled some nice flatties into the boat.

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## “The Last Word”

# Goose and Duck Numbers, What does it Really Mean for Hunters

By Steve Huettner

Every August those who hunt waterfowl eagerly await the release of the breeding reports for Ducks and Geese from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These reports, along with other data gathered are used to help determine the length of season and bag limits within the four fly ways (Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic) in the United States.

A look at duck numbers show a slight decrease of 2% from last year but still 38% above the long term average (LTA). Many species that water fowlers hunt in the Free State hunt seem to be doing well. Mallards (up 51% LTA), gadwall (up 90% LTA), widgeon (up 31% LTA), teal (up 104% LTA), redhead (up 82% LTA), and canvas-back (up 26% LTA). These are strong numbers that show bird populations moving in a positive direction.

When it comes to geese, Maryland is the winter home of the Atlantic Population of Canadian Geese. Three areas (Ungava Bay, Hudson Bay, and the interior between the two) in Canada are surveyed in the spring to view nesting pairs. The estimated number of breeding pairs was 191,000 which is similar to 2015 when it was 161,000 pairs. While an increase, albeit a small one is always good, the conditions on the breeding grounds showed cold temperatures in June and snow and ice on the breeding grounds making for less than ideal condition to raise young geese.

For those that like to hunt ducks and geese, these numbers can generate endless hours of discussion, along with dreams of full skies and heavy game straps filled with fowl. In reality it seems that the positive trends in overall duck numbers isn't necessarily translating to success for hunters. More and more over the last decade many a morning is spent in the blind waiting for birds that never seem to show.

Where are the all the birds that are counted by the biologists and released in the yearly report? Are the numbers off or have the ducks somehow disappeared? Waterfowl hunting is more weather driven than any other form of hunting. Birds that nest in the north don't want to leave unless they have to. Open water, food, and light hunting pressure make ducks and geese content and happy. Hunters to the south of the September 2016

birds are often left staring at decoys and dreaming of a season that might have been.

While there are several factors that affect waterfowl hunting (hunting pressure, food sources, refuges etc.) the main factor is still the weather. I don't intend to get into a debate about climate change but regardless of what you do or don't believe, we have definitely had some much warmer falls and winters over the last decade. When setting season dates, the comments section submitted but hunters overwhelmingly ask for the seasons to start later and finish later. "Let's give up the days early in the season. The birds didn't arrive till the last two weeks of the season. Please let us hunt to the last day permitted by the Feds."

Many of us have killed what was referred to as early season ducks (teal and wood ducks) during the last week of January over the years. A decade ago that was almost unheard of, while now it barely elicits a response from fellow hunters.

As a hunter I wonder if this trend continues long term what it will mean for Maryland waterfowl hunters. We have a long and cherished history when it comes to hunting ducks and geese. Will hunters still support leasing properties for waterfowl at their current price? How long will farmers and landowners leave standing crops for birds that might now show? Will the water fowling community be able to recruit a new generation of duck and goose hunters if birds are not here? If waterfowl hunter numbers decrease what happens to the refuges that are supported by the duck stamp? Will upstate New York or Vermont become the new water fowling hunting hot spot of the east coast?

The only thing that is certain is that nothing remains the same.



Another beautiful day on the Chesapeake Bay. You go Amy!

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# SAVING THE HUNT

As planned I knocked on their door at 4:30 that morning. Almost immediately it opened and I asked Jacob if he was ready. From inside their room his Dad laughed and said "Are you kidding, I don't think he slept at all last night". On the short drive up the mountain Jacob was so excited, he's only 13 and this was his first turkey hunt. We parked, got our gear together and walked down the trail in the dark. By the time we got to the creek bottom where

I knew there were some good places to set up it was starting to get light. We stopped to listen for a minute when Jacob's eyes got as big as saucers. Bursting with excitement, he said "Did you hear that?". Two birds gobbling from different directions. We found a good tree to sit against towards the closest bird and set out our decoys. I made a few soft yelps to let him know we were there and he gobbled numerous times from the roost. When he hit the ground he answered my calls but just to say "I'm over here, come to me". We never did get to tag a bird for Jacob that day but, at least for me, that wasn't what the hunt was all about. We had birds gobble throughout

the day, saw lots of turkey sign and at one point had a nasty old hen come in five yards behind us.

It was honestly one of my most memorable hunts of this past season. After dropping Jacob off in town with his Dad, I drove home feeling very content and privileged to have served as a mentor for this wonderful young man.

In 2012, as part of our 40th anniversary the National Wild Turkey Federation unveiled the "Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt" initiative. This ten year plan has three parts: 1) conserve or enhance 4 million acres of upland habitat, 2) create 1 million new hunters, and 3) open access to 500,000 additional acres for hunting. In year four of our plan we are well on our way to achieving our goals. In January I was honored to be selected to represent the Maryland state chapter of the NWTF as Save the Hunt coordinator.

As part of this position I am tasked with not only tracking and reporting to national what our chapters around the state are accomplishing but to also actively work to find ways to recruit new hunters. According to data available to the NWTF, only 60% of hunter ed graduates across the country actually go on to purchase a hunting license. Why is this? Obviously there are many factors involved but I believe that one of the biggest reasons is the lack of a

place to hunt. Maryland has a lot of public land opportunities but public land has its drawbacks, especially for first time hunters.

If we can offer a safe, quality hunt on private land and make that first experience a positive one it can go a long way towards that new hunter wanting to stay involved. A mentored hunt program will be implemented this fall through a partnership between the NWTF and DNR. I have been extremely pleased with the reception from many landowners who are willing to be a part of this program. DNR will compile a database of properties taking part and will draw hunters through an application process from recent hunter ed graduates.

The NWTF will find the properties and provide mentors. Initially we are gearing this program towards the youth day deer hunt but envision that someday it will include all seasons and species and new hunters of all ages.

As outdoorsmen and women we all know that we provide the lion's share of funding for conservation and wildlife management through our hunting and fishing license fees and taxes on our gear and guns. Knowing this, it is incumbent on all of us to do whatever we can to preserve and promote our outdoors heritage. Most of us that hunt and fish introduced our children to these

pursuits. But we should be doing more.

We need to reach the young people that don't come from hunting families and introduce them to our sport. We all probably know someone, either a friend, neighbor or business associate that would be interested in hunting if they just had a mentor. I would also encourage everyone, if not already, to become a member of a conservation organization or local sportmen's group. The NWTF, Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Quality Deer Management Association, are all excellent organizations that are basically working towards the same goals, preserving habitat and our hunting heritage. I have chosen the NWTF to devote my efforts simply because turkeys are my preferred species to hunt. While all these groups focus on a particular species, ultimately what benefits one benefits all, for none exist in a closed system.

The NWTF recognizes that all we are trying to do can't be accomplished alone. Get involved, for it will take all of us working as one to ensure that our way of life survives for generations to come-together we can "Save the Hunt".

*Russ Leith, Maryland NWTF Save the Hunt Coordinator*



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1 breast of mallard duck  
2 cups water  
1/4 cup Myron's 20 Gauge Sauce SportsmansTable Item #MWR03203  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1/4 tsp rosemary  
1/4 tsp basil  
1/4 tsp dried sage  
1/4 tsp Far Out Feather Dust Sportsmanstable Item #MG111  
1/4 tsp tarragon  
2 carrots sliced  
1/2 small onion diced  
1 1/2 cups broccoli florets  
1/2 cup chopped green and red peppers optional  
1/2 cup grape tomatoes sliced in half

### Instructions

Breast out duck. Mix 2 cups of water with Myron's 20 Gauge game sauce and salt. Brine ducks breasts for 24 hours. (We brine all ducks in this method before cooking for all of our recipes). Slice duck breast 1/4 inch thick. Set aside. Saute carrots in olive oil for 5 minutes. Then add onions, broccoli and green and red peppers. Simmer for another 5 minutes. Add tomatoes with one minute remaining. In a separate pan sear duck over medium heat for one minute per side. Add duck to veggies and serve over beans and rice



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## Book of the Month

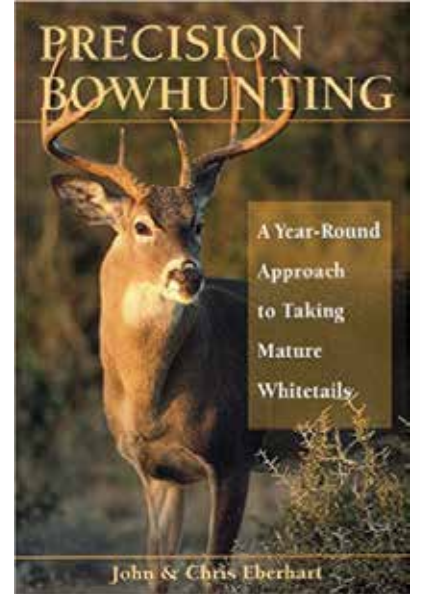
### PRECISION BOWHUNTING: A YEAR-ROUND APPROACH TO TAKING MATURE WHITETAILS

Another must-have title from the authors of the bestselling Bowhunting Pressured Whitetails (0-8117-2819-6) Lays out a hunting program for the entire year, including preparation and training during the off-season Especially useful for hunting high-pressure areas and it explains how to best take advantage of the rut Father-and-son team John and Chris Eberhart have joined once again to share cutting-edge information and advice on hunting whitetail bucks in increasingly hard-hunted environments. Their year-long program starts early in the off-season, where careful scouting, training, and planning create the foundation for a successful hunting year. Then, once the fall rolls around, the authors explain the scent control and scouting tactics that have helped them to bag trophy bucks in some of the most pressured parts of the country. They also cover hunting in the rain, suburban hunting, and various other special situations. Packed with vital information and fresh insights, Precision Bowhunting belongs on the bookshelf of every serious bowhunter.

### Editorial Reviews

### About the Author

John Eberhart is an experienced whitetail deer hunter from the heavily hunted state of Michigan, where he has twenty-one state record bucks. His articles have appeared in Deer & Deer Hunting, Woods-n-Water, and Michigan Out-of-Doors. Visit [www.eberhartsbowhunting.com](http://www.eberhartsbowhunting.com). Chris Eberhart is a lifelong bowhunter and author of numerous hunting articles. Visit [www.eberhartsbowhunting.com](http://www.eberhartsbowhunting.com).



## Ocean City bans certain shark fishing methods

The Ocean City Council has passed an emergency ordinance to ban "chumming" and "blood bait" fishing for sharks on the beach in response to safety concerns. Media outlets report that the ordinance, adopted last month, is meant to stop activity on the beach that brings large sharks to the shoreline. "Chumming" is the practice of introducing bloody meat into the water.



Shark fishing is still legal off the beaches in Ocean City, but under the new ordinance fishermen must manually cast the line into the water. Those who violate the ordinance could face a fine of up to \$1,000.

Councilman Doug Cymek says he introduced the issue after it was reported that fishermen were bringing sharks close to the shore then releasing them in an area used by swimmers. This was allegedly occurring outside the operational hours of the Beach Patrol.

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