

Fishing & Hunting Journal



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- THE 2018 TROPHY ROCKFISH SEASON IN REVIEW
- JUNE OPPORTUNITIES
- WHO CARES ABOUT CATCHING CARP?
- JOHN WEBER WINS WITH A 38.90 LB. ROCKFISH WORTH \$10,046.00 IN THE CBSFA TOURNAMNET

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CBSFA: ITS OFFICIAL! \$16,468 in prizes are getting paid out.

MAIN Tournament:

1st Place: John Weber (Polygraph Passed) Boat 29 with a 38.90 lb. Rockfish winning \$10,046.00

2nd Place: Joe Dodson Boat 28 with a 32.55 lb. Rockfish winning \$3185.25

3rd Place: Dale Robinson Boat 49 with a 30.5 lb. Rockfish winning \$1066.75M

LADIES DIVISION:

Largest Rockfish caught by a female: Serena Roh Treworgy Boat 43 (Shaun Markham) with 27.20 lb. Rockfish

KIDS DIVISION:

Largest Rockfish caught by a kid: Mikee Bortell 3rd Boat 23 9Mike Michael Bortell) with 24.75 lb. Rockfish

TowBoatUS Prize for \$250.00:

Jonathan Brittain Boat 45 with 29.55 lb. Rockfish

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Tom Hosselrode Boat 10 with 26.40 lb. Rockfish

Taylor's Island Campground \$500.00 Prize

"Captain Tim Stine" with 26.65 lb.

As promised, the winners will get paid out within one week, so please look for follow up pix with winners and tournament director. The CBSFA will host three more tournaments this year, see the following:

August 25th Summer Rockfish Tournament Rain date 26th

September 15-16 OC Flounder Tournament

November 10-11th Fall Rockfish Tourn. Raindate Nov 17-18

The CBSFA is growing and moving forward with its cause, purpose and promises. I have kept my word so far with integrity and transparency, so if you missed out in participating in the Spring tournament, please stay tuned to our future by following CBSFA. CLUB



John Weber (Polygraph Passed) Boat 29 with a 38.90 lb. Rockfish winning \$10,046.00

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“Campbell’s Catch”

Who cares about catching carp?

Nobody ever called me a fishing snob, but I never really had any interest in targeting the common carp. Carp fishing is a popular sport in Europe. Anglers across the pond take carp fishing seriously. Back in the mid-1800s, European immigrants were surprised to find no carp in America so they were imported for food and game. Today common carp live in nearly every fresh and brackish waterway in this country. Some folks consider them a nuisance. Carp are omnivorous, and can tolerate poor water conditions. Around here carp spawn from late April to mid-June and they are prolific.

Of course I’ve caught many carp in my day, both in fresh and tidal waters. But whenever I hooked a carp, I was

usually fishing for something else. Using light tackle rods and reels, big golden-hued carp give a good fight, especially the ones I’ve caught on top-water lures. I’m talking about ten and twenty pound fish. That’s right! Fifteen years ago when the cicadas were hatching in hordes, it was easy to catch big carp on top. Back then I certainly targeted them. The best lure was a Heddon Tiny Torpedo, color didn’t seem to matter. In the year 2020 the next invasion of cicadas is set to swarm in the upper bay area. I’ve been waiting. In the meantime, during summer, top-water lures can still be used to fool hungry carp.

Carp are wary fish and not that easy to catch, or are they? Yes they

are very wary, darting away in a flash at the slightest disturbance. And yes, they can be hard to catch. Some adventurous anglers consider catching carp a challenge. There are many carp enthusiasts in this area, some of whom take carp fishing to another level. They own special carp tackle and learned European carp fishing methods including elaborate bait recipes. Cereal and corn mixtures are rolled into small bait balls. Some sink, some float. The baits may be cooked or boiled to help hold them together. European anglers call them boilies. Some of these recipes are secret concoctions, but many variations can be easily found on the Internet. Here’s an easy carp bait recipe my friend Chris Duffy shared with me. Get some shredded wheat cereal and crumble it up in a bowl. Add two raw eggs and stir in some creamed corn. There are no precise measurements, but don’t mix it too mushy. Put the blend in a gallon size plastic bag or Tupperware container to use as needed. The recipe can be enhanced with anise oil, garlic scent or molasses. Squeeze a glob around a light-wire treble or small single hook, gently cast it out and get ready for a bite. I’ve seen this mix work first hand to catch carp weighing over 20 lbs.

There are some anglers who simply regard catching carp as just another fish. For instance, my friend John Rogers caught his first big carp as a kid fishing in the Elk River many years ago. Once you know how, carp are easy to catch and fight like freight trains. It is a great fish to get a youngster excited about fishing. Nowadays John likes to take his son carp fishing. They



John Rogers III with carp he caught on May 8, 2018 fishing with his father. Photo by John Rogers.

usually catch some nice ones. The way John catches carp is simple. He mixes Kokanee Killer Korn Dye with a can of corn in a Mason jar. The dye turns the corn pink and adds some scent to it. John tosses out a few handfuls of this unique corn mix as chum. Then he threads a few kernels onto a small hook and casts out the line and waits for a bite. The gear is simple too. He uses a regular light tackle rod and reel spooled with 10# Power Pro braided line. A 20# test fluorocarbon leader is tied to the braid with a swivel. Above the swivel is a fish finder with a one ounce sinker or a small egg sinker can be used instead. Some anglers prefer to use bait-runner style reels. Try fishing shallow water, like two to six feet deep.

According to The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the tidal water state record carp weighed 44 lbs, 6 ounces and was caught by Jimmy Lake on April 28, 1978. The fresh water record stands at 47 lbs, 8 ounces by Wayne Longenecker. That fat fish was caught from a Frederick farm pond on June 11, 1997. It’s a wonder to me that nobody has broken the state record in over 20 years. I’m sure a 50 pound carp is swimming in Maryland somewhere, but who cares?



Chris Duffy, Steve Wiz and Mark aka Turtle with big carp caught on May 12, 2018.



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Fishing & Hunting Journal

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June 2018

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Captain Mark Galasso crew with a nice TROPHY catch.

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FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

A word from our Pastor-

Names are very important to each of us. This was especially true in Bible times. Even more so than in our day, names were given to address the character of the person.

One man in the Bible of which this is especially true is Barnabas. His real name was Joses and then later changed to better fit his character. Barnabas means “son of consolation”.

As you study the book of Acts, which is the history of the New Testament church, you find this man in an encouraging place. He was constantly encouraging people in the Lord. At times, it was giving of his resources. At times, it was seeking out lonely people and including them. At times, he found misunderstood people and affirmed them. He was such an encouragement that he is called the “son of consolation.”

There are two kinds of people in our world. There are those who encourage and those who discourage. It's not pleasant to be around someone who is discouraging. They are like a drink of water to a drowning man. They brighten the room simply by leaving it.

But oh, to find an encourager. God is a God of encouragement. And, all encouragement comes from Him and, all discouragement comes from Satan.

There are times when all of us get discouraged. In those times, it is so good when someone can lift the load somehow and encourage us. May I encourage you today to be a support to someone who may be discouraged? Perhaps it's life's burden, maybe financially related, maybe an illness, or perhaps just a weight or load hard to bear. Extend a hand, share a kind word, or just be there to listen. All of us need to be uplifted at times. And, how much more do we need to uplift others!

MEL BRINDLEY Pastor
Chestertown, Md., Baptist Church



Two Pelicans hanging out in the middle bay - Photo by MVP

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Carolyn "Tuna" Draper is the new Batgirl with her nice catch of Stripers.

What are Vibrio bacteria?

Vibrio bacteria naturally live in certain coastal waters and are present in higher concentrations between May and October when water temperatures are warmer.

What is vibriosis?

About a dozen Vibrio species can cause human illness, known as vibriosis. The most common species causing human illness in the United States are Vibrio parahaemolyticus, Vibrio vulnificus, and Vibrio alginolyticus.

How do people get vibriosis?

Most people become infected by eating raw or undercooked shellfish, particularly oysters. Certain Vibrio species can also cause a skin infection when an open wound is exposed to brackish or salt water. Brackish water is a mixture of fresh and sea water. It is often found where rivers meet the sea.

Who is more likely to get vibriosis?

People with compromised immune systems, especially those with chronic liver disease, are more likely to get vibriosis. Eating raw seafood, particularly oysters, and exposing open wounds to brackish or salt water can increase a person's chance for getting vibriosis.

During which months are people more likely to get vibriosis?

About 80% of infections occur between May and October when water temperatures are warmer.

How common is vibriosis?

CDC estimates that vibriosis causes 80,000 illnesses each year in the United States. About 52,000 of these illnesses are estimated to be the result of eating contaminated food.

The most commonly reported species, Vibrio parahaemolyticus, is estimated to cause 45,000 illnesses each year in the United States.

Is vibriosis a serious disease?

Most people with a mild case of vibriosis recover after about 3 days with no lasting effects. However, people with a Vibrio vulnificus infection can get seriously ill and need intensive care or limb amputation. About 1 in 4 people with this type of infection die, sometimes within a day or two of becoming ill.

How can vibriosis be prevented?

To reduce your chance of getting vibriosis, don't eat raw or undercooked shellfish, such as oysters. If you have a wound (including cuts and scrapes), avoid contact with brackish or salt water or cover the wound with a waterproof bandage if there's a possibility it could come into contact with brackish or salt water, raw seafood, or raw seafood juices.



Over the past 40 years Captain Mark Galasso has been fishing and cruising the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal waters off the Delmarva Peninsula in search of striped bass (rock fish), bluefish, flounder and the many other species that frequent our waters. Whether your style is light tackle, fly, jigging or live lining or the more traditional trolling and chumming we have the experience to put you on the fish. Crabbing is also available for your enjoyment. Trot-lining the traditional Eastern Shore way is a great way to catch your dinner. Sightseeing, cruising and nature tours are also available with flexible hours to fit your needs. Visit us at one of our ports of call at Kent Island, the Susquehanna flats or the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) and everywhere in between.

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Chesapeake Bay Sportfishing Association Upcoming Tournaments

August 25th 2018 CBSFA Summer Rockfish Tournament
(Rain Date August 26th)

September 15-16th 2018 CBSFA Fall Flounder Tournament

November 10-11 2018 CBSFA Fall Rockfish Tournament
(Rain Date: Nov 17-18, 2018)

Director: Joe Thorpe 410-868-5488



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“Tackle Box Tim”

June Opportunities

June is the month when fishing, and the pursuit there of, picks up. The weather is nice on a more regular basis. More anglers are out and about. Fish become more active and, for the most part, easier to catch. Excitement rises not only when on the water, but in the days leading up to a trip. Around the bay and in freshwater, there are numerous opportunities to catch fish. It's not only for the glory species of largemouth bass and rockfish, but spot, white perch, croakers, and blue gills.

Many pond fisherman target bass. There's nothing like a topwater bite on a small body of water. Here is where you will find anglers going old school with their lure selection. You can't beat on an old Jitterbug or Hula Popper to scoot or pop across the surface. A hollow body from is also a good choice for tempting bass around matted cover.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, artificial worms are tried and true when the surface bite falters. Stick worms like the Senko or YUM Dinger provide a slow and enticing fall. Yet, when bass are locked on the bottom, dragging a worm is the way to go. Old reliable worms such as the Berkley Power Worm and the straight tail Crème Scoundrel are pond fishing favorites.

Ponds present incredible opportunities to catch freshwater panfish. The bream species -- sunfish, blue gills, pumpkin seeds -- and crappies are all eager participants. While most pond bass fishing is done with lures, bait and bobbers are more the way to go for the panfish. A minnow or piece of night crawler are prime baits when presented below a bobber. However, it's not a random, willy-nilly, cast it out in the middle of the pond and hope for a bite. Look for some cover to cast to: a weed line, rock bank, or sunken wood. If you prefer using lures, inline spinners, small twister tails, and Chickhoppers will keep you busy.

Throughout June, you can find white perch and yellow perch in marshy backwaters. The same bobber/worm or bobber/minnow combos will attract bites. Also try grass shrimp below a bobber. Casting inline spinners and beetle spin baits is a more active approach to the backwater panfish. In recent years, the population of chain pickerel has increased. Don't be surprised to hook up on a pickerel when using spinners in upper bay backwaters. For added panfish fun, try dancing a Crickhopper on and just below the surface. Aggressive minded white perch, and bream won't be able to resist the erratic action.

Tidal bass fishing can be a

challenge, but worth the effort. Largemouth bass could be on the spawning beds, in a post-spawn rut, or completely out of the spawning pattern. As not all bass spawn at the same time, you may find them in all three of these stages in June. Lure choices can be befuddling. Having a standard set of lures on hand makes sense. The first go-to bait is a stick worm. Try it Texas-rigged weightless is wacky rigged around any type of cover. Fling chatter baits and square-bill crankbaits around deadfalls. For underwater grasses, try swim jigs below the surface and floating frogs over the vegetation.

The bay holds a bounty of species for all types of fishermen. If you are into bottom fishing, casting, or jigging, the possibilities seem endless. Spot, croakers, and white perch are on the menu for bottom fishing anglers. The prime bait is bloodworms fished on a double bottom rig. But let's not forget that peeler crabs and small pieces of shrimp are also excellent offerings. If you're targeting white perch, minnows are a good choice.

Since June is split by spring and summer, striper fishermen take different approaches as weather patterns dictate. You should be able to find some shallow water action early and late in the day; water temperature will dictate if you will find shallow stripers throughout the day. In low light hours try surface baits. Look for surface activity. If you see balls of bait blowing up through the surface, try on a popper. If you notice stripers swirling at bait on top, tie on a spook-type bait. If the topwater bite isn't working, switch gear and fan cast the area with rattle traps, sassy shads, or swim baits.

As the bay and rivers heat up, you will need to look deeper. Now it's time for jigging. Bridge and pier pilings are obvious locations to find stripers. Yet, humps, drop offs, and channel edges are also great spots. Learning to read your electronics will go a long way. Your depth finder will not only help you find bottom structure, but it will also show you how fish are relating to it. They may be holding tight to it or suspending over it. Nonetheless, in these deeper waters, jigging is the way to go. Try 3 or 4-inch paddle trail swim baits or 3 to 5-inch soft jerkbaits threaded on to jig heads.

June is the month when fishing, and catching, hits full stride. No matter your style of fishing or your favorite species, it's time to get out there. It's also a great time to take a novice angler or someone just becoming interested in fishing. Perch, spot, bream, bass, and stripers are all out there waiting.



“Tackle Box” Tim shows a bass that fell for a wacky rigged stick worm.

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“Tuna The Tide”

The 2018 Trophy Rockfish Season in Review

By Captain Mark Galasso

In Maryland perhaps no other fishing season attracts as much attention as the opening of the spring trophy Rockfish season the third Saturday in April. Charter Captains as well as countless recreational fisherman ready their boats, repair their gear and purchase what they hope will be the new hot baits to catch the biggest Rockfish of Maryland's whole long season. Anticipation and hopes run high. So how did we fair this year?

Welllllll... Not so great. The ironic thing is unlike last year when temperatures were too warm it looks like this year temperatures were to cold. Everyone speculates and no one really knows, including me. But here

is what I think.

The fact is that the first wave of coastal fish that head to the spawning grounds are the biggest ones those forty plus inchers. They arrive in the Bay in March as evidenced by catches near warm water discharges like Calvert Cliffs. For these fish it's just a quick swim from there to the spawning areas when conditions get right. Many of the smaller males are already in the spawning areas since they overwinter in deep holes in those same rivers. As water temperatures get into the upper 50s the eggs mature, fish spawn and the big females head for the ocean. And the simple fact is there are just less of these big Coastal fish to be found.

However, in the spring other waves of smaller fish are constantly coming in to spawn. These thirty to forty inch fish are fairly plentiful and make up the bulk of the spawning biomass. It is made up of coastal males, resident males as well as the smaller females. Many of these fish have shortened their migration by staying in the Bay a good part of the winter evidenced by the surge of good fishing at the mouth of the Potomac River in December and January recently. Again these fish have shortened the March swim to the spawning areas.

With the lack of big



schools of Shad, Alwives and Herring in the spring many of these fish are running up the rivers early and eating Perch and early run Herring. Based on reports from Fyke netters and locals that live near the spawning areas there seems to be plenty of fish spending more time in the rivers than in the open Bay. Light tackle fisherman start seeing smaller fish after they spawn and move out deeper waiting for the next big burst of food, the Mayworm hatch. It will probably be late this year since it is highly dependent on water temperatures, and they have proven to be cooler this year.

In 2016 conditions were just right and the trophy season was great. The season started just as the fish were heading to the spawning areas. Good catches were found up and down the Bay. 2017 and 2018 not so much. In fact Captains were complaining from Rock Hall all the way to the Virginia line. It seemed when we had a couple

of good days north the same thing happened south. But there was no consistency.

So what can we take from all this. First of all it is a TROPHY Season. No one ever said catching a trophy was easy. It always happens in the spring when our weather is the most volatile and environmental conditions are changing day by day. Spring runoff as well as cold and warm fronts can change conditions in the blink of an eye. The fish can adapt. But for the poor fisherman that can only go out on Saturday he has to deal with the cards that are dealt him. Or the Charter that booked months in advance based on how they did last year. They can only hope that mother nature will be cooperative. My advice would be to enjoy the moment. There are no guarantees. However, you might just get lucky and catch that once in a lifetime Rockfish. Hope you were one of the lucky ones.

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Point Lookout State Park Looks Back on the War Between the States at Annual Blue and Gray Days

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcomes the public to Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County as they look back on the War Between the States and the historic sites within the park that were impacted in the conflicted that divided North and South.

The annual Blue and Gray Days living history program will take place 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 9, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 10.

During the annual Blue and Gray Days, living historians will show what life was like during this time period in the fort and the prisoner of war camp as well as perform infantry drills and musket demonstrations.

Point Lookout is a pen-

insula where the Potomac River meets Chesapeake Bay, and the viewpoint from this strategic location made it a pivotal place during the U.S. Civil War. In the early 1860s,

the site housed a military fort, Hammond General Hospital and Camp Hoffman where prisoners of war were held.

The Annual Blue and Gray Days Program is sponsored by

the Friends of Point Lookout State Park. It is \$5 for residents and \$7 for nonresidents. For more information, please call 301-872-5688.



Tim Campbell with a Jack Crevelle caught and released in the Peace River, Punta Gorda, Florida on March 9, 2018.



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-Theodore Roosevelt



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12 year old Camden Shipp bagged this Turkey. Photo courtesy of Ron's Bay Pro Shop.

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PA hunters barred from bringing whole deer back from Maryland, New York, Ohio and West Virginia due to CWD

Lancaster County deer hunters who hunt in Maryland, New York, Ohio and West Virginia won't be allowed to bring whole deer carcasses back home this fall.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission on Friday adopted a new rule aimed at controlling the spread of the always-fatal chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Under the new rule, Pennsylvania hunters who bag deer in Maryland, New York, Ohio and West Virginia will not be allowed to bring whole carcasses back into Pennsylvania.

They must first remove parts of the deer that are considered high risk for spreading CWD. Those parts are: the head, skull plate with antlers attached if visible brain or spinal cord tissue is present, spinal cord/backbone, spleen, upper canine teeth if root structure or other visible tissue is present, unfinished taxidermy mounts and brain-tanned hides.

Essentially, hunters must butcher their deer, and skull plates bearing trophy antlers must be thoroughly cleaned, in order to bring anything home to Pennsylvania. All other carcass parts must be left behind.

This is sure to be a burden on the many Lancaster County hunters who travel to Maryland, Ohio, New York and West Virginia each fall to hunt.

Pennsylvania has banned for several years the importation of whole deer carcasses from most states and Canadian provinces where CWD exists, but that order previously provided an exemption for the four neighboring states, as long as the deer didn't come from specific counties in those states where CWD had been found.

Bryan Burhans, the Game Commission's executive director, said the updated order he authorized Friday gives Pennsylvania's free-ranging deer better protection against CWD.

"The previous rules didn't provide assurance that deer harvested in CWD-positive counties within New York, Ohio, Maryland or West Virginia weren't making their way into the Commonwealth," he stated in a news release.

"While the order prohibited the high-risk parts of those deer from being imported into Pennsylvania, enforcement was difficult for many reasons."

He continued, "Tightening up this order puts teeth in the Game Commission's ability to enforce it, allowing us to better protect our deer and elk from CWD."

CWD is an always fatal disease that attacks a deer's central nervous system. It was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2012 at a deer farm in Adams County.

Since then, it has been found in 104 wild deer in southcentral and northcentral Pennsylvania. In February, CWD was detected on a deer farm in West Cocalico Township, prompting the implementation of special rules for hunters in parts of Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks counties surrounding the farm.

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'VenomMan20' Guilty of Possessing Illegal, Venomous Snakes

A Washington County man known on social media as "VenomMan20" was found guilty last month on two counts of illegal possession of venomous snakes.

Brandon Joseph Boyles, 29, of Cascade, was prohibited from owning "dangerous animals" in Maryland and was required to perform 20 hours of community service by District Judge Marc G. Rasinsky. Boyles also received one year of unsupervised probation.

Billing himself as "VenomMan20" on YouTube, Boyles had six Western diamondback rattlesnakes, one seven-foot-long forest cobra, one Cape Coral cobra and two boomslang snakes when Maryland Natural Resources Police officers searched his apartment Feb. 22. Officers found snakes housed in improperly secured plastic bins and two dead snakes in a freezer. The snakes lacked fresh water and one bin was filthy. All of the snakes are potentially fatal to humans.

Boyles took five venomous snakes, three alligators and a crocodile, which he owned, when he left his job at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo in September 2017, investigators determined. It was legal for Boyles to keep the snakes at the zoo, which has a permit to house them. However, Boyles did not have a permit to have them at home.

Boyles posted videos to YouTube in 2016 and 2017, showing him uncrating venomous snakes in his apartment. Those snakes included a Gaboon viper, a monocled cobra and an Indo-Chinese spitting cobra.

The crocodile, alligators and a rattlesnake were transferred last year to the Maryland Reptile Conservation Center in Dickerson.

An additional 21 charges of illegal possession, animal cruelty and reckless endangerment were dismissed by Judge Rasinsky as part of a plea agreement.

A Queen Anne's County man was charged with illegally harvesting oysters May 2 after an officer stopped his boat at the mouth of the Magothy River for an inspection.

Ian Noah Horney, 41, of Grasonville, received a citation for having 42 untagged bushels of oysters taken from a leased area on board. Horney must appear in Anne Arundel County District Court for a hearing. The maximum fine is \$1,000.

Two men were charged with illegal fishing for striped bass just after midnight May 2 while on Fishing Creek Bridge in Dorchester County.

Officers watched Jose German Parada Gonzalez, 31, of Gaithersburg, and Kevin Majano Pudencio, 20, of Walkersville, catch and hide 59 striped bass. Each man received three citations: possessing undersized striped bass, possessing striped bass in a restricted area and keeping striped bass over the daily limit.

They are scheduled to be in Dorchester County District Court July 18. Each charge carries a maximum fine of \$1,500.

Three Prince George's County men are scheduled to appear in Dorchester County District Court June 27 to answer charges that they caught and kept more than 100 striped bass.

Luis Alberto Diaz Ortiz, 31, Carlos Youany Avalos Moreno, 34, and Castillo Ernesto, 35, all of Hyattsville, were stopped near Fishing Creek Bridge April 28 after officers on surveillance saw them catching and keeping fish and subsequently hiding them. They each received three citations: possessing 118 undersized striped bass, possessing 114 striped bass over the daily limit, and catching striped bass in a prohibited area. Each charge carries a maximum fine of \$1,500.



Roger Barnes with this very nice Striper caught on bloodworms at Chesapeake Beach - 55lbs. - 51 inch - 29 inch girth. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.

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The advertisement is framed with a yellow wavy border. It features a cartoon crab logo at the top right and bottom left. The main text is in bold, orange and black fonts. A large, appetizing image of a pile of cooked crabs is at the bottom.



Brackish Life presented a check, with the help and support of our friend Sherry Smith, to Talbot Hospice in Easton. Sherry is the owner of Serendipity Salon and Spa in St. Michaels. She is also the artist who created our oyster logo (seen here) while undergoing treatments for colon cancer. With Sherry's help, we designed our "Oyster Logo T-Shirt" and those were sold at a free 5k organized by Tri-Cycle and Run to benefit all those battling this devastating disease. Sherry chose Talbot Hospice as the beneficiary of our fundraiser due to all the amazing things Talbot Hospice does for their patients and families.

Watch out for our new designs on our website or find one of our authorized retailers near you. Also, keep an eye out for new "Blue Oyster Logo T's" to help raise colon cancer awareness and continue to raise money for this great organization. (\$7 of each cancer T is donated to Talbot Hospice)

Thank you to all who supported this effort!!!! We can all make a difference.

Pictured Standing (L to R): Kyle Poore, Brackish Life CB; Vivian Dodge, Executive Director Talbot Hospice; Kate Cox, Director of Development Talbot Hospice; David Sutton, Brackish Life CB. Sitting (L to R) Sherry Smith, Serendipity Salon and Spa; Meagan Poore, Brackish Life CB.

Maryland Offers License-Free Fishing Days in June and July

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources invites new or experienced anglers to enjoy Maryland's License Free Fishing Days June 2, 9 and July 4.

This is a unique opportunity for Marylanders to test their fishing skills without the need to obtain a fishing license, trout stamp or registration.

"Free fishing days are the perfect opportunity to give the sport a try before deciding whether to get a license," Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. "Fishing is open from the surf of the Atlantic Ocean to the mountain streams of Western Maryland."

All anglers must follow current size and catch limits. An online guide is available and a printed version can be picked up at many service centers or local bait-and-tackle shops. The department also has dozens of other resources to help new or experienced anglers, including angler access maps, Click Before You Cast and fish identification charts.

Anglers who decide to get or renew their license can do so online, by phone or at a licensing and registration service center.

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Survey Shows Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Population Healthy

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources today released the results of the 2018 Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, which shows that the population of blue crabs remains healthy and sustainable.

While this year's cold weather and ice cover took a toll on the adult crab population, causing an estimated 35 percent mortality of adult females wintering in state waters, the number of young crabs that returned to Chesapeake Bay this year increased 34 percent. Blue crabs spend the first part of their lives in the Atlantic Ocean before returning to the bay to grow and mature.

"Despite the cold, hard winter, which extended well into the spring, the blue crab population remains healthy, resilient and sustainable," Maryland Natural Resources Secretary Mark Belton said. "Even with the erratic weather, which included snow in April, the blue crab population remains well within parameters, showing that the state and our partners are managing the species well."

The survey indicates a bay-wide crab population of 371 million, a decrease from last year's estimate of 455 million, driven largely by a decrease in the number of adult crabs. In 2018, the spawning female stock decreased 42 percent from 254 to 147 million,

dropping below the target level of 215 million, but remaining well above safe levels. This year's adult female abundance remains among the 10 highest of the nearly three decade old survey. Adult male crab abundance declined 23 percent from 76 to 59 million. The juvenile crab population increased 34 percent over last year, reaching 167 million.

"Although the number of spawning-age females is down from last year, we are pleased to see that their abundance is well above the minimum safe number even with the winter weather and lackluster reproduction last year," Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee Chair Glenn Davis said. "Last year we had very few young crabs entering the bay. Those juveniles grew through 2017 and endured this year's cold winter to become the 2018 class of spawning adults."

The decline in numbers of adult crabs in the bay may lead to a slow start to the early harvest season, but as young crabs enter the fishery and increase their abundance in midsummer, Maryland may see an improved late season. The 2017 bay-wide crab harvest decreased slightly in 2017, from 60 to 54 million pounds, but continued to operate at sustainable levels, especially for female crabs.

"This year's results give us optimism that our management approach is effective at conserving adequate numbers of crabs even when the number of juveniles is low and winter mortality is high," Maryland Fishing and Boating Services Director David Blazer said. "We will continue our conversations with industry and partners throughout

the season to ensure a successful and sustainable harvest."

The Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee plans to release a full analysis this summer.

The annual Winter Dredge Survey has been conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science since 1990. In the survey, biologists use dredge equipment to capture, measure, record and release blue crabs at 1,500 sites throughout Chesapeake Bay from December through March.



Anthony Routh with his nice White Perch - 11lb. 9oz. - 10 1/2 " girth. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.

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Zinke proposes expanding hunting, fishing at 30 national wildlife refuges

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a proposal to open more than 248,000 acres to new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges, including a number in the Great Lakes region, according to a news release Monday, May 21 from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The proposal also outlines expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 136 national wildlife refuges.

If finalized, this would bring the number of units of the National Wildlife Refuge System where the public may hunt to 377 and the number where fishing would be permitted to 312.

The changes would be implemented in time for the upcoming 2018-2019 hunting seasons.

Hunting and/or fishing would be expanded or be opened on the following refuges involving the Great Lakes region:

Illinois – Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Missouri – Great River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

Illinois and Wisconsin – Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge: Open migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting to all legal species in the State of Illinois.

Michigan – Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge: Open hunting of certain migratory bird, small game, and furbearers, and expand existing migratory game bird and big game hunting.

Minnesota – Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge: Open certain gamebird and small mammal hunting for the first time, and expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting.

New Jersey and New York – Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird hunting and sport fishing.

Ohio – Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge: Open white-tailed deer hunting for the first time. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge: Open hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory gamebird and big game hunting.

Pennsylvania – Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge: Expand existing migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting. John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum: Open white-tailed deer hunting for the first time.

Wisconsin – Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge: Open hunting of certain gamebirds, small mammals and furbearers for the first time, and expand existing migratory gamebird and big game hunting.

The Service will seek comments from the public on the proposed rule for 30 days, beginning with publication in the Federal Register in coming days, according to the release. The notice will be available at www.regulations.gov, Docket No. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2018-0020, and will include details on how to submit your comments.



Andrea Fisher enjoyed an exciting day of Cecil County turkey hunting May 2018. Four young toms came in and flogged the decoys for five minutes before presenting a clear safe shot to harvest only one bird, her first one ever. Photo by Roger Everett



I am pretty sure Joey Clough is smiling underneath that cool mustache.



“Montana Grant”



By Grant Soukup

“OVER THE SHOULDER...”

“ROD HOLDER” is the new Fish Foto style! Anglers love having their pictures taken. We all have volumes of pictures with this big fish or that. Ironically, we also know where every fish was caught, on what fly or bait, how it fought, and the whole story about it. If you ask us about some dinner date or wedding story, we probably won’t have a clue.

Taking great fish pictures is not that easy. It is important to be creative and unique. There are only so many ways to look at a fish. First there is the stringer full of fish held high, then the belly balance fish with our hats pushed back. The extended hold the fish toward the camera is also way popular. This makes the fish look even bigger. Fishermen like bragging about their “BIGGEST” or “MOSTIST” catching.

When the pictures are being taken, the rod just gets in the way. Some anglers drop their expensive gear into the river. Now the rod is full of grit, may rust, and at least will not help the reel performance. Rods and reels get broken, tossed overboard, or tangled up easily. The picture must come first, even at the expense of your tackle. A picture lasts forever.

Biting the rod is another way to deal with the rod while holding your catch and smiling. This keeps your

rod dry, except for the slobber. God only knows what germs and cooties may be on the handle, but that’s just fishing. Getting too excited may cause the fisherman to bite into the rubber or cork grip. This gives a whole new meaning to JAWS!

The Over the Shoulder Rod Holder style works well. This creative trick protects your gear, looks cool, and is a fast and easy way to say cheese. This rod holding technique is also a quick way to set the pose. Your rod is out of the way and will be ready to help catch the next fish. For now, focus on the catch at hand and be certain to handle and release the fish correctly. Plan your pictures before you need to take a photo. Remember, time is essential if the released fish is going to survive.

Cell phones, and Go Pros, have become part of an angler’s tackle box. Fish selfies, underwater shots, and videos fill the memory cards of this technology. Selfie Sticks allow you to take solo pictures of you and your catch. Using tripods, and posted cameras, allows you to film the whole action sequence and edit it later at home base studio. Some “foto fanatics” dangle their fish from their line to take wet action shots. Throwing caught fish into the air to simulate jumping action is not un-

common. The only problem with more photographic options, is this can mean more damage, stress, and mortality to the fish.

“Say Cheese, and Release Please!” Consider that the landed, netted, fish has just fought their heart out for 2-4 minutes. Lactic acid has built up in their muscles, breathing is tough, and your hand is now holding their jaw or wrapped around their belly, while you hold them out of the water. A sharp hook is attached to their lips, mouth, or face. Your partner is searching for their cell phone that is stored in a plastic waterproof bag shoved deep into a zippered and Velcro sealed vest pocket. You need to hook up your selfie stick or manipulate your technology for the shot of a lifetime. Meanwhile the exhausted and suffocating fish is on hold.

Keep the fish in the water! A rubber or appropriate Catch and Release net will work best. Netted fish are safer to handle. The net and hands should all be wet. Time means life for the fish. Do not hold the fish with gloves or a towel. This will also remove the mucous protection from their skin. QUICKLY take your pictures and release the fish after it has rested and can swim free of your hands. You may need to move the fish back and forth to help water flow through its gills. If you take longer than just a few minutes to take pictures, the fish you are so proud of will ultimately die because of your encounter.

If you plan to keep your fish for dinner, then kill it immediately by breaking its neck. The fish will not suffer and continue to build up even more lactic acid in its meat, which will ruin the flavor of your catch. Now you can take all the time you need to film your memory. After the pictures, place the fish onto ice for a fresh fish meal later.

Many fishermen claim that since the fish swam away, that it was released properly. They assume that this winded, scraped, dried, bleeding, stressed fish is not vulnerable to other predators, the strong currents, or hypothermic temperature changes. Squeezing the fish too hard, as it moves during a picture session, may have damaged the air bladder. Dragging



Brandon Russell with a great brown trout.

the fish onto the rocky, sandy, dirty bank wipes off the skins protective mucous layer. Now bacteria will quickly begin to grow. The fish may have hit rocks and debris as it was played. Some inexperienced anglers play the fish for several long minutes. The reel’s drag is too loose, the rod is too light, and they are too excited. After the battle, fish need to revive and rarely continue to feed for several hours or days. If the hook is deep inside the fish, it will take 3 days to dissolve. Rough handling of the fish to remove the hook is also a concern. If there is any blood or damage to the gills, death is the likely result. These problems are more pronounced when waters are warmer, lower, and shallower. The fish may swim away but these mortal wounds will determine the ultimate outcome.

We have all seen the final outcome of fish that were poorly handled, floating belly up, beached, or in the jaws of a predator grabbing an easy meal. What a waste!

“Leave only a boot print and take only a picture!” Great fishermen are the ones that model ethical, healthy, and honest behavior. Nothing goes to waste, trash is picked up, laws and limits are respected, and they are stewards of our sport and environs. That is why Sportsmen are so important to protect our wild places. Shoulder your rods proudly!

Oh, and don’t forget to SMILE! Catching a great fish is great FUN!

Montana Grant

For more Montana Grant, visit his blog at www.montanagrantsfishing.com.



Striper on a fly rod!



How to not handle a fish!

SPANNING THE GLOBE

An Ohio man fishing in the surf pulls in a 6-foot shark off the NC Outer Banks

Check out Troy Rachel from NW Ohio (Toledo, Oh) and his 6' Hammerhead caught (and released) on cut mullet purchased Frank & Fran's Fisherman's Friend. Caught on 5/14/18 off the surf in Avon! Experts say most hammerhead attacks involving humans are rare. "However, the great hammerhead's enormous size and fierceness make it potentially dangerous," says National Geographic.

Hammerhead sharks as long as 8 feet have been caught along the Outer Banks in the past decade.

The website North Carolina Coast Watch notes hammerheads have been affected by overfishing off the Carolinas and fishing is now managed by limits on fishing.

Rachel released his catch back into the ocean, reported Frank & Franks on Facebook.



Bizarre canine critter shot in north-central Montana baffles public, biologists

The Great Falls Tribune in Montana had a bizarre critter story that went viral last month. No one, including the state's Fish, Wildlife, and Parks department, could conclusively identify the mysterious creature, which a ranching family shot on May 16 near Denton in central Montana.

According to the agency, the animal appears at least wolf-like, and most speculation suggests it's either a wolf or wolf/dog hybrid. Some social media chatter, however, has speculated that it's a young bear (unlikely given its long tail) or even – in the downright mythical category – a prehistoric, extinct dire wolf. That's an animal



popularized by the fantasy television program Game of Thrones.

Rather than guess at the animal's identity, FWP sent the carcass to the Department's lab in Bozeman, Mont., where it intended to collect tissue samples for DNA tests, then shipped it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Laboratory in Ashland, Org.



Hannah and her nice catfish caught down south.



Brackish Life was on the scene with “Big Ralph” and his two keeper Rockfish aboard the ‘North-star’ out of Tilghman Island last month.



Mr “Butch” Clemens 87 years young bagged this Mule Deer on Nov. 23rd. 2017 in Broadus, Mt.

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Hunter Education Courses

The remaining hunter education classes in Kent County, MD. for 2018.

To register for any Hunter Education class, go on the DNR website (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>), click on Hunting at the top of the page, then click on Hunter Education on the left side of page under Hunting and Trapping, then click on Hunter Education Course Listings on the left under NRP Hunting Safety.

Aug 7, 9, 14, 16, 18. Class number - 18219HKE
Sept. 25, 27, Oct 2, 4, 6. Class number - 18268HKE

Classroom portion of course is at Chestertown VFD, outdoor/range portions of course at Kent County Gun Club.

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark
Sampson

In May I returned to Ocean City after spending the last three months working as a backcountry flats-fishing guide down in the lower Florida Keys where my daily routine involved poling my skiff across the shallow water flats with one or two clients up on the bow looking for potential targets for which to launch a bait, lure, or fly in the very clear and shallow water. In the course of a day anything from sharks to barracuda, jacks to snapper, ladyfish to lizardfish and a host of other scaly creatures could end up on our line, but the “big-three” and by far the most famous fish we target on the flats are the bonefish, tarpon, and permit, all unique species that anglers are known to literally travel half-way around the world to try and catch.

A part of the allure of catching any type of fish on the flats, particularly the big-three, is not so much finding them as it is the challenge of getting them to bite. With less escape routes to use when danger threatens, fish in the shallows tend to be spookier than those that have more water above or below them, and because they live in such clear water they use their excellent vision to keep themselves out of trouble and, therefore, “off a hook.”

To counter these defenses, flats fishermen go great lengths to use tackle that will minimize the chances that the fish they’re trying to catch will shy away from their baits or artificial lures. If they put a shrimp or crab in front of a fish - they want their quarry to focus strictly on that shrimp or crab not on all the hardware that connects it to the line, if they are working an artificial - they want the fish to get excited over the action of the lure not be turned-off by the leader to which it’s attached. A quiet stealthy boat, a quiet stealthy approach to the fish, capped off by a quiet stealthy presentation of bait or lure all is what it takes to hook-up with some of the most challenging fish on the planet.

Here on Delmarva we’re not usually fishing in water as shallow or as clear as what is found in the Florida Keys. In fact, a lot of anglers might describe the environment they typically fishing in as “deep and dark.” But that doesn’t mean that a stealthy approach to terminal tackle won’t help put more fish on local fishermen’s hooks. No matter what type of fish, or what type of water they are swimming in, fish are always trying to avoid danger, and if it looks to them like something they’re thinking about eating might come with dangerous strings attached, they could very-well choose to skip even an easy meal.

Putting some stealth into terminal tackle is relatively easy, for the most part it’s just a matter of getting rid of any “junk” that you don’t need on the end of your line. On our way back from Florida last month we stopped in Georgia for a few days, and in order to get an idea what kind of fishing opportunities were in the area I strolled out on a local fishing pier. Folks were fishing for croaker, seatrout, drum, Spanish mackerel, sharks, crabs and about anything else that crawled or swam about the local waters. What struck me most was not so much what they were fishing for but what most folks had on the end of their line to do it with. All I could think of was that someone in a nearby tackle shop must be making a fortune selling pre-made rigs to these people because on almost every line I saw there was a big old chunky snap swivel which was attached to a double-hook rig that had two metal or plastic arms, a pair of snelled hooks, and a giant sinker. Bait was mostly one or two dead shrimp or a glob of cut mullet.

During my short stay I saw the crowd catch only a couple little croaker and a skate, although (I expect because of crabs) there was a lot of re-baiting going on. There was one guy, however, who was out-fishing everyone by landing some very nice size seatrout, and while I never did see what he was using for bait I did notice that his terminal tackle was nothing more than a single hook, about a three-foot leader, and an egg sinker. And it didn’t surprise me a bit that his no-frills rig was helping him to catch some very nice fish when everyone else was struggling to get anything at all. Look around and you might notice (maybe even on the end of your own line) that a lot of Delmarva anglers also make the mistake of having way too much junk on the end of their line.

It would be great if we could get by just with tying a hook to the end of our line, but as we know, in most cases, some kind of weight is needed to get our bait down to where it needs be and a leader of sorts is often necessary to prevent bite-offs. But unfortunately, too many anglers won’t stop at just hook, weight, and leader, they get caught-up in all the accessories they think they need to address other issues they probably don’t have and end up with a big clunky rig that might just end up spooking more fish than it catches.

A variation of the same rig we use down south for super spooky fish in clear water has proven effective for a variety of fishing opportunities up here as well. When using braided fishing line I’ll start by using an “FG” knot to connect a 2-3 foot section of fluorocarbon leader of 20-30 pound test, and at the end of the fluorocarbon I’ll tie a loop. That loop will then be used to loop-to-loop connect leaders to the line instead

of using a snap swivel. Hooks, jigs, and other lures can then be tied to whatever type (steel, mono, or fluorocarbon) and size of leader is needed for whatever type of fish is being pursued.

Unless I’m fishing with some kind of bait or lure that does a lot of spinning (like a spoon) I’ll almost never use swivels on light to medium spinning tackle because, as far as I’m concerned, having a swivel to use for connections at the end of the line usually creates more problems than it solves. With the leader attached by a loop rather than a swivel, if needed, the leader can be cranked right into the rod guides with no fear that the swivel will be jammed, this gives the angler less restrictions when casting and when a fish is brought in close for landing.

Paying the extra expense to use fluorocarbon leader is not warranted in many fishing situations - the stuff’s not cheap! But fluorocarbon is proven to be effective in concealing itself from the vision of fish better than regular monofilament, so anglers who use it are always going to have a slight edge over those who don’t, and on days when the fish are being a bit persnickety, it could mean the difference between getting bites or not. For fish with sharp teeth or raspy mouths there might be no getting around using a heavier leader, but just like using fluorocarbon - the “lightest” leader an angler can get away with will get the most bites.

Finally, when trying to make a smooth, stealthy, presentation to a fish, sinkers can be a pain in the butt! Sinkers will often want to twist and tangle the line on the cast or the descent to the bottom, increase the chances of snagging, can be a distraction to a fish that’s looking over a bait, and can interfere with the angler’s ability to feel a subtle bite. One alternative to using a sinker can be to use a jig-head instead. The jig, which then acts as both hook and weight, can be baited with whatever the angler chooses, is easily cast without fear of tangling, minimizes the chance of having a bait spin, and can allow the angler to work with in a dead bait with a very enticing action. All those benefits come without adding any more junk on line or leader!

You don’t have to be fishing in crystal clear water to enjoy the extra fish catching benefits of stealthy terminal tackle. When it comes to what anglers have on the end of their line “more” is not always better.

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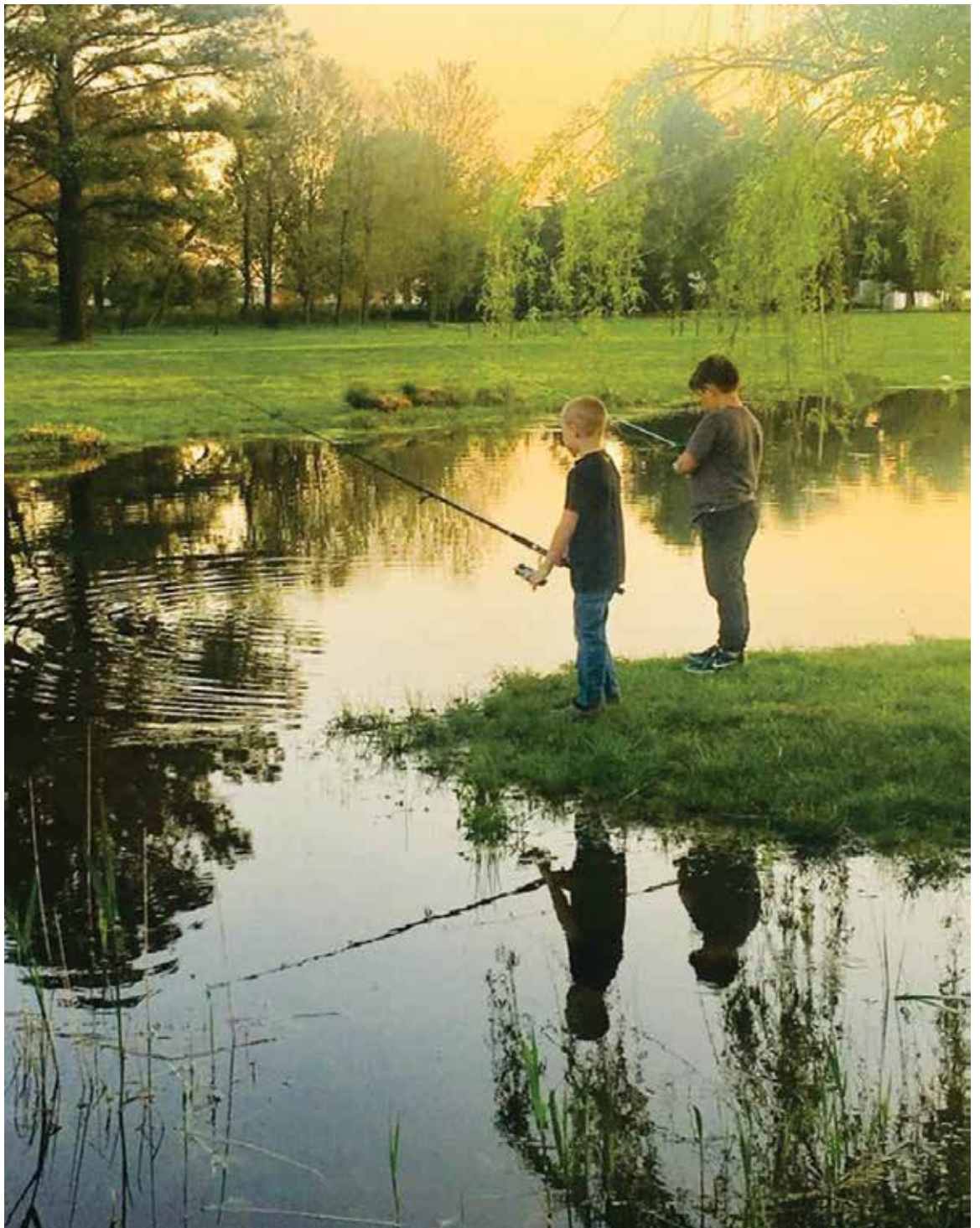


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Neal Parmer of Bainbridge Pennsylvania with his very impressive Cinnamon Bear bagged in Idaho on May 12, 2018 with Ace Outfitters.



This is what life is all about - Cousins, Tucker Ozman 5 (on the left) and Carter Crouch 7 (on the right) fishing the local pond.

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“The Last Word”

Good News

By Steve Huettner

Whether on the internet, radio, television, or old school print; it's tough to find good news nowadays. Positive stories are usually buried at the bottom of an internet page, at the end of the news cast, or a 5 line story in the newspaper. I understand negative sells, grabs people's interest; and drives comments. If one looks hard enough, there are plenty of a lot of good stories all around us. So out with the negative news this month and let's talk about some good things.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2017 was the third consecutive record-breaking year for underwater grass abundance in Maryland's portion of Chesapeake Bay. The green grass that gets caught up in your prop and makes kayaking tough is a great thing!

The annual baywide survey showed 62,356 acres of underwater grasses mapped in Maryland's tidal waters, a 5 percent increase from 2016. This is the fifth straight year of expansion for Maryland's underwater grasses. We have surpassed the 2017 restoration goal of 57,000 acres in 2015. We are ahead of schedule and on track to meet our 2025 goal.

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), are a multi tool when it comes to the Chesapeake Bay and its health. SAV remove nutrients and sediment from the water column, and help reduce shoreline erosion. SAV provide cover and

habitat for fish and blue crabs acting like a protective nursery. For waterfowler lovers and hunters, it's a prime food source for migrating waterfowl. Increasing numbers of SAV is good sign for the Chesapeake Bay.

Maryland is currently removing the Bloede Dam, along the Patapsco River. Why is removing a giant man made structure that has not served any purpose since 1920 important and good news? Removing the dam will free up 65 miles of unfettered access for eels, alewife and blue-back herring. Alewife migrating up the entire length of the Patapsco! No more cement barriers, fish ladders and other manmade structures stopping fish from continuing their migration.

Removing the dam will allow cooler waters to permeate the entire river (cooler water is good for living things), give unfettered access through the length of the Patapsco and will remove a useless eyesore. Removing one dam can be a game changer in regards to the health of a river and all things that live and depend on it.

Waterfowl numbers this season in Maryland were at an all-time high. This past season will be one that won't easily be forgotten. Over cocktails with some of Maryland most dedicated hunters and conservationists this spring in St Michael's, stories were constant about full skies and bag limits.

According to the dedicated biologists from Maryland DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, his year, they counted about

1,023,300 waterfowl. This is above the 812,600 birds observed during 2017 and higher than the five-year average of 851,980.

Dabbling ducks were higher (108,000) than last winter (87,900). Diving duck numbers (187,200) were lower when compared to last winter (283,600). Survey teams observed the most Canada geese (641,200) since the survey began in 1955. The 641,200 Canada geese observed in this year's survey was higher than the previous record of 608,000 in 1981.

Oyster farming in Maryland is on the rise. Oysters are a giant filter for the Chesapeake Bay helping to filter and clean water. More oysters mean cleaner water and a healthier Chesapeake Bay. According to an article published by Rona Koebell in Chesapeake Magazine last year, 173 Maryland oyster farmers have leased more than 6,000 acres of the Bay and its tributaries, all of which are actively producing oysters. Harvest from those leases yielded almost 65,000 bushels in 2016 — an increase of 1,000 percent since 2012.

From a personal point, my good friend after five years of regulatory procedures and road-blocks was fi-

nally approved for his few acres of oysters and currently has planted his first spat. I look forward to swinging by his house on the way to hunting camp and picking up a bushel of his fresh, healthy, Maryland oysters and serving them with some freshly killed waterfowl and a good Maryland beer.

Next time current events has you down and depressed, take a breath and dig a little deeper. There is good news out there that will bring a smile to your face and hopefully make your day a bit better and let you know that things may just be a bit better in the future.

As always, comments and complaints can be sent to huttymddu@gmail.com



Neil Carr with his West Virginia Turkey. Photo courtesy of Ron's Bay Pro Shop.

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BLACKENED CATFISH WITH MAQUE CHOUX

Ingredients

CATFISH

4 catfish fillets or skinless fillets of other fish

1/2 cup melted butter

1/2 cup Cajun seasoning

If you don't have Cajun seasoning, mix together:

1 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 to 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon celery seed

2 tablespoons sweet paprika

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon dried thyme

1 tablespoon dried oregano

MAQUE CHOUX

2 tablespoons butter

1 small onion, chopped, about 1 cup

1 green pepper, chopped

4 cups corn kernels

1 cup cherry tomatoes, sliced in half

Salt and Tabasco sauce to taste

Instructions

Make the maque choux first. Heat the butter in a saute pan over medium-high heat, then add the onion. Saute the onion for 1 minute, then add the green pepper. Sprinkle salt over everything and saute for about 4-5 minutes, stirring often. Add the corn kernels and cook for another 10 minutes. Turn off the heat and cover while you make the fish.

Get a cast-iron frying pan hot over your hottest burner. Turn the stove fan on high, and open the windows nearby, as this creates smoke. Let the frying pan get hot for a good 3-4 minutes. While the pan is heating up, melt the butter and pour the Cajun spices into a shallow dish.

Dip the fish fillets in the melted butter, then dredge in the Cajun spices. Shake off any excess. Do this for as many fillets as will fit in the frying pan; I find that 4 normal fillets is as much as it will hold. Lay the fish down on the hot pan. It will sizzle up fiercely and smoke. This is normal. Let the fish cook this way for 2-3 minutes. Using a wide metal spatula, carefully flip the catfish fillets and cook on the other side for another 2-3 minutes.

When you flip the catfish, add the tomatoes and the Tabasco to the maque choux. Serve with white rice, the maque choux and a good beer. And revel in the fact that some idiot paid \$130 for this back in 1983...



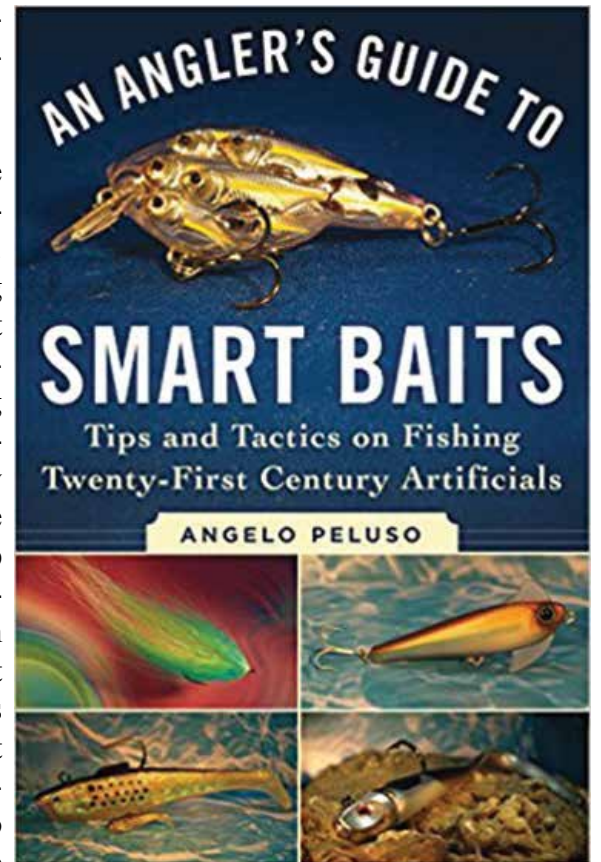
Book of the Month

AN ANGLER'S GUIDE TO SMART BAITS: TIPS AND TACTICS ON FISHING TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ARTIFICIALS

by Angelo Peluso (Author), Mark Sosin (Foreword)

Fishing is one of the oldest continually practiced pastimes in history. But like almost everything else in our modern era, it too has been greatly influenced by ever-changing technology and scientific advances. With busy lives, it's often impossible for anglers to keep up with constantly evolving equipment. In *An Angler's Guide to Smart Baits: Tips and Tactics on Fishing Twenty-First Century Artificials*, veteran fisherman Angelo Peluso helps to navigate these often unsure waters of modern baits and how to fish them.

Peluso takes readers through all the essential elements. Among the topics he explains, in depth, are: the appeal and purpose of materials used in modern lure construction, including hi-tech, durable plastics, acrylics and other polymers, and new-age finishes that give impressions of life; the modern science of both hard and soft baits; the sensory appeal of modern baits; and how to maximize a bait's appeal to yield the most strikes and increase an angler's catch ratios. Including advice and input from expert lure designers, scientists, and manufacturers, *An Angler's Guide to Smart Baits* is an essential read for every modern fisherman.



Once again Captain Brian Councill aboard 'Sea Dux' is getting the job done.



On 04.28.2018, Mr. George F. Donn of Brentwood, MD, bagged his Turkey. 21 lbs 11-3/8" beard 1-1/4" spurs.

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Rockfish Regulations

Summer/Fall Season
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All Maryland Chesapeake Bay waters and tributaries open to fishing

2 fish per person per day between 19-28 inches
OR 1 fish between 19-28 inches and 1 fish over 28 inches

Anglers must use non-offset circle hooks when live-lining or chumming; Anglers must use circle hooks or "J" hooks when using fish, crabs or worms as bait, or when using processed baits



Deaf Snakehead Slayer Chris Flurer with his 7lb. 21 inch Largemouth Bass caught in Greenbelt Lake. He hooked seven bass the same day.

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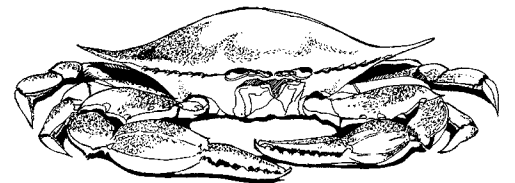


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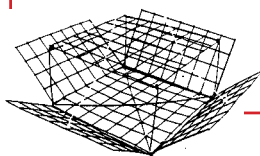
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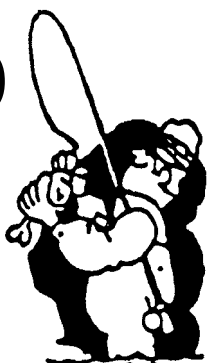
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