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# Fishing & Hunting <sup>TM</sup>

## Journal

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*THIS ISSUE COMPLIMENTS OF*

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- **NEW RECORD LARGEMOUTH BASS IN DELAWARE**
- **NEW RECORD TAUTOG IN VIRGINIA**
- **2012 STRIPER SEASON IS UNDERWAY**
- **HUGE SWORDFISH CAUGHT IN DAYTIME IN FLORIDA**
- **TROPHY WHITETAILS UP 400 PERCENT OVER 30 YEARS**
- **TURKEY, PANFISH AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...**



## Maryland House defeats bill to nearly double costs of hunting licenses

By Justin Snow  
Justin@MarylandReporter.com

Legislation that would have nearly doubled the price of hunting licenses faced a rare defeat in the House of Delegates last month after a lively debate.

The bill would have increased the cost of a hunting license from \$24.50 to \$40 as well as imposed various other fees related to hunting stamps, with revenue generated going toward the State Wildlife Management and Protection Fund.

Democrats and Republicans from rural parts of the state assailed the bill as taking food off the tables of Marylanders and described the price hike as outrageous. Some argued that added together the increased fees would amount to \$100.

"Let's talk about taking food off peoples' tables," said Del. Michael Smigiel, R-Cecil. "Now you want to tax them when they go out behind their house in the woods and try to take a squirrel."

Supporters argued that there was no public opposition to the bill, leaving opponents to question whether that was because the bill was filed late and the Environmental Matters Committee had only allowed written testimony from opponents at the bill's hearing.

"I can't imagine not having a hearing and a full vetting of this where the public can come in," said Del. Michael McDermott, R-Wicomico.

Although proponents pointed to the support of the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation, opponents said the organization was not an adequate representation of all Maryland hunters, including those who rely on hunting season to feed their families.

Voicing her opposition to the bill, Del. Mary-Dulany James, D-Harford, said rank-and-file hunters would never support such legislation and blasted attempts to push the legislation through. "Just because you have the votes to do something doesn't mean you should," she said to an unusual burst of applause from the chamber.

Opponents also expressed concerns over the revenue the state could lose if hunters from states like Pennsylvania and Delaware opted to skip hunting season in Maryland due to the increased fees.

In the end, dissenting arguments seemed persuasive. Cheers engulfed the chamber when the tally board revealed the bill had failed 62-69.

Sudlersville volunteer fire company will be hosting a catfish tournament. The event will take place from 6:30 am - 3:00 pm at Deep Landing in Crumpton, MD. The cost is \$25 per person, 4 people per boat max. For more info visit us on web [www.svfc6.com](http://www.svfc6.com) or call Greg @ 410-310-8239.



Joe Morgan caught this 11.4 lb blue catfish at Duckneck campsite He used a large minnow as bait.

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## “HOOKED ON FISHING”

### Don't Forget the Fresh!

By Lenny Rudow

The evolution of a Maryland angler often goes something like this: You get your first car, and spend the next few years driving all over the state in search of productive shorelines at lakes, ponds, and piers. Then you get your first boat, and spend every free waking hour plying the waters of the Chesapeake from Havre de Grace to the CBBT. Then you get a bigger boat, regularly trailer it to the beach, and spend countless hours trolling through the blue-water for tunas and marlin. The final stage?

Your back hurts from all of those hours spent banging through rough seas, you have to work longer hours to pay the kid's college tuition, and suddenly, you find yourself happy if you can steal an afternoon at one of those lakes or ponds once again. That's when you make a startling discovery—you realize that it's still a heck of a lot of fun to yank on crappie with ultralight gear, toss a fly for bluegill,

or catch perch under a bobber.

I haven't reached the final stages of Maryland angling just yet (the kids are still a few years away from college, although I'll admit my back hurts most of the time), but thanks to a few blow-outs this spring, I've rediscovered the joy of freshwater fishing in our local sweet-water honey-holes. And even if you don't want to give up a day of striper fishing or offshore trolling to hit a lake in search of fish that could pass as bait for a 50-pounder, there will be days when heavy winds or time restrictions keep you closer to home. But that doesn't mean you can't go fishing. No matter where you live in Maryland there's some decent freshwater to be found near-by; check out any one of these landlocked locations, and chances are you'll fall in love with them. At least, you will until the wind lays down again.

Eastern Shore – Millponds are the name of the freshwater game on this side of the bridge, and luckily, we have plenty of them. Unicorn, up north on the shore (just south of Millington, on Rt. 313), is a picturesque millpond which has bass, bluegill, crappie, and yellow perch. Most of the pond is just a couple feet deep, but a channel runs

along the shore to the right of the boat ramp. Fish the deadfall hanging off this shoreline, and pay special attention to the big point where the channel bends around in an “S” shape. Casting two-inch tube jigs (a red/white com-

ination is a killer) on four-pound test with ultralight gear is a sure-fire bet for the panfish, and spinnerbaits will prove tempting for the bass. Warning: the launch ramp is very steep, and boats over 14' will be troublesome to



Panfish like this put a smile on everyone's face - and make for an awesome fish fry!


See Rudow Page 3

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## John Anderson

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Bob Grudburg is all smiles after netting the big one for Captain Jeff Eichler with his 41 lb. striper caught out of Kentmoor marina.



## Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation

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Annapolis is where all policy-related decisions impacting the traditional rights of Maryland sportsmen to hunt, fish, trap and enjoy the lawful use of their firearms are decided each year. And who represents the sportsmen's interests in Annapolis?

It is the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation—a non-profit organization comprised of volunteer sportsmen who advise the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus...the largest Caucus in the Maryland General Assembly dedicated solely to protecting these traditional rights on the statutory, regulatory and budgetary front. This unique PARTNERSHIP has resulted, among other things, in the following achievements since its inception four years ago:

- Enactment of the Maryland Hunting Heritage Protection Act**
- Sunday Hunting of Deer Authorized for the First Time Since 1723**
- Defeated Efforts to Impose a Black Bear Hunting Moratorium**
- Fishing Opportunities on the Chesapeake Bay Protected by the Freedom to Fish Act**
- "First" State to Earmark Hunting License Fees for the Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry Program**
- Defeated Efforts to Prohibit the Use of Leghold Traps**
- Opened up 58,000 Acres of Chesapeake Lands for Public/Private Hunting**
- Prohibited Offshore Mooring of Boats by Duck Blinds during Waterfowl Hunting Season**

To learn more about the Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation and how you can help protect the interests of Maryland sportsmen: (1) visit our website—[www.mdsportsmen.com](http://www.mdsportsmen.com); (2) contact the Foundation's Vice-Chairman (Bill Miles)—[billmiles@chesapeake.net](mailto:billmiles@chesapeake.net); or (3) write to us at:

**Maryland Legislative Sportsmen's Foundation**  
404 Friendship Lane • Centreville, Maryland 21617

OUR HERITAGE AS CONSERVATION-MINDED SPORTSMEN MUST NEVER BE COMPROMISED.



# Rudow ...

Continued from Page 3

launch and retrieve.

A bit farther south check out Wye Mills Lake (close to the Rt. 404/Rt. 50 junction, just off 213). The bowl-shaped section you launch in holds some crappie tight to the trees laying in the water (there are a couple of biggies directly across from the ramp), but bass anglers will want to check out the deadfall in the long narrow section of the lake which connects the bowl-shaped lower lake to the large, shallow upper lake. Again, tube jigs do the trick for crappie and the occasional perch, while spinnerbaits and minnow will take more bass. Crappie Tip: After the water heats up in late spring and early summer, the crappie here sometimes hold very tight to shaded cover and won't move to take a bait; catch them by creeping close on your boat, stretching your arm out, and dabbing your jigs within an inch or two of the tree branches.

Salisbury also has its own good freshwater fishing, including a great spot to target pickerel, Leonard's Pond (off Rt. 13, on the north side of town). Fishing the piers and deadfall on shore you'll catch bass and crappie, but to target the pickerel, suspend a minnow on a marabou jig under a bobber and drift it along over the weed-beds, out in the open water.

Mainland Maryland, North – Piney Run Reservoir in Sykesville, off Martz Road, is an excellent place to fish—though it's best visited during the week because on weekends, this place gets extremely crowded. Still, it's worth the effort; you'll find not only the usual freshwater suspects like bass, crappie, and bluegill, but you can also encounter tiger musky and even stripers in Piney Run.

Beaver dams and some man-made brush-piles (there's one visible just to the right of the boat ramp and another a few hundred yards farther down along the shore) hold the panfish here, although you should try fishing over the weedbeds in 12' to 15' in the upper end of the lake (to the left of the ramp) during the heat of summer. Another good bet is the often-overlooked spillway near the lake's dam, which regularly holds crappie in large numbers.

A great tactic to use here is to bring a couple of 12 or 14 pound rods with ½ oz. silver/blue Rat-L-Traps or similar diving crankbaits, and troll them through open water as you motor (electric only, of course) from hotspot to hotspot. Every so often, one of those



The weather doesn't allow for big-water fishing? Here's the perfect Plan B.

rods will go down under striper-pressure.

Mainland Maryland, South – St. Mary's Lake, located off Camp Cosma Rd near Lexington Park, is a great option for southern Maryland anglers. At 250 acres there's plenty of water, the ramps are good, and there's plenty of action on panfish, bass, and pickerel. There's also a lot of standing timber in St. Mary's lake, almost all of which holds fish at one time or another. There's a grove of timber within a stone's throw of the boat ramp, another if you cross the lake, turn left, and go to the first large cove on your right, and yet another if you cross the lake and turn right, then go into the first big cove on your left. All of these hold crappie and bluegill, and the last one also produces a lot of pickerel (it's a bit shallower than the others). If you're into bass, look for the man-made fingers which stretch out from the shoreline. Most

of these have good drop-offs, and often bass will be found prowling their edges. These fingers of land also present a good opportunity for anglers on foot.

The water at St. Mary's is often tannic, and in these conditions, trade out the red/white tube jig for a blue/white. At times, root-beer colors are also very effective. Tip: if you're on foot, hike to the dam, then walk down the back of it to the spillway pond and the very beginning of the St. Mary's River. Fish of all types must get washed down the spillway, because sometimes fishing in this little pond is better than in the main lake.

The next time you can't head for open water because the wind blows, the clock is ticking, or your back is aching, consider checking out one of these freshwater hotspots. You might just discover that de-evolving can be a good thing.



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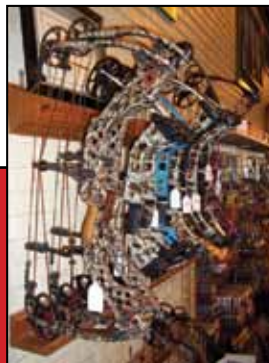
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## "TACKLE BOX TIM"

### Stream Side Smallmouth Lures

By Tim Sherman

One of my favorite fishing trips during late spring through the end of summer is wading in the small flowing rivers and streams that traverse through central Maryland. Waters such as the Patapsco and Gunpowder Rivers, Deer Creek, and Winter's Run all have feisty smallmouth bass. The lower reaches of the flowing Gunpowder also have largemouth bass. Tenacious sunfish species in these rivers like to flex their muscles by attacking some of the lures meant for the bass. There are plenty of bass to be caught in these waters that, in many cases, see little fishing pressure. I use an ultralight rod and reel combination spooled with 6-pound test line, which

keeps the fun in fishing.

It is very cumbersome to drag an entire tackle box when walking the shoreline, or wading along in a stream or river. Truth of the matter is, you really don't have to. I carry a small tackle bag over my shoulder, containing three small boxes (like the one pictured) with a small assortment of lures that tempt smallmouth bass -- from 5 inches to two pounds -- into biting.

Not many lures imitate a crayfish the way a small jig and chunk combination does. I carry jigs (sections 1 and 3) in sizes from 1/8 to 1/4-ounce. Rarely will a smallmouth bass strike a jig if it is not trimmed with a trailer, known as a chunk, in the shape of a crayfish (sections 2 and 4). Another feature of the jig is the bristly snag guard. It allows me to confidently cast the jig to sunken wood without much fear of hanging up.

I'll also cast a jig to submerged rocks where smallies stage to ambush

a meal as it flows by in the current. My two favorite color schemes for the jig are black/blue and peanut butter and jelly (brown with black and purple bars).

A tube lure is another lure that resembles a crawfish. The difference between a tube (sections 5, 6, and 8) and a jig is that the tube has a more narrow appearance in the water. A tube has a hollow body that allows you to insert a jig head into it. Like the jig and chunk, I use jig heads (section 11) in 1/8 to 1/4-ounce sizes. Black/blue, pumpkin/green flake, and smoke/red flake are my color choices.

Stick worms (sections 13 to 15) are slow sinking soft plastic baits that imitate dying minnows. I use 3 and 4-inch sizes in the small flowing rivers. I'll rig them on a size 1 or 1/0

worm hook (section 12) so the bait is aligned straight. The lure will not have the proper flutter if there is a kink in its rigging and will eventually put twists in your line. My color choices are brown/blue flake, smoke purple flake, and baby bass.

Inline spinners (section 9) are effective when you want to cover a section of the water quickly. These will help you find aggressive bass or help you find curious bass that won't readily strike a quick moving lure. If you see them follow your spinner, cast right back where they came from with a stick worm or tube. The spinner is one of the lures that sunfish will readily attack.

Bug shaped crankbaits are great smallmouth lures. Twitched and reeled erratically so the lure dives and



River-Smallmouth-box

See Sherman Page 7

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## Sherman ...

Continued from Page 6

floats back to the surface draw vicious strikes. My favorite bug crankbait (section 10) is the Rebel Big Hopper. The original Crickhopper is a smaller version of this lure and should also find a place in your tackle box.

I carry both in bright and natural colors. I twitch them along in the current so they pass over submerged rocks where the bass are hiding. You will find out just how fierce a sunfish can be because they will strike the hopper lures with reckless abandon.

Undoubtedly, watching a smallie rise to the surface to smack a topwater lure is unbeatable. Incredibly, sunfish will pop a small surface lure in the same fashion. The best topwater lure I have found for river bass is a prop bait. Some have a small rear propeller

(section 7), others sport a prop front and back. The prop blades spin as the lure is twitched on the surface. The Golden Eye Blabbermouth (white/red and black/gold lures) spits water forward as it is twitched. The Heddon Teeny Torpedo (baby bass and coach dog lures) are much more subtle. There are days when smallies will strike either lure, but they can be choosy on others.

I know it will be the end of the month before I have a high percentage shot at small river smallies. These trips are different from boating on the bay for bass or stripers. If only for a short while, wading small rivers and streams is peace of mind fishing that can take you away from life's tribulations.

Toting only the tackle you need will allow you to enjoy your time along the bank or thigh-deep in the water that much more.



Chris Keil of Perry Hall shows a Gunpowder River smallie that was duped by a CrickHopper.

## Ken Neill sets new Virginia state Tautog record at 24.22 pounds



We had a good day catching tautog on the 4A Dry Dock the day before. We caught 32 fish up to 15 pounds and had several other fish that we just could not get up. My plan was to head back there in the morning. I had a different crew coming. Roy, who has fished with me a few times, and some of his friends were going to meet me at the boat at 6 AM. 6:15 and there was no Roy. I did not have Roy's cell number nor did he have mine. I went out on my own. They arrived at the slip about 3 minutes later. We have each other's cells now.

It is a bit tricky trying to anchor on a wreck by yourself. I used to do it all the time in smaller boats but do not much anymore in the current Healthy Grin. I decided to change wrecks and ran to the Morgan because that one is a lot easier getting on right, solo. I got anchored up but was not right where I wanted to be. If I had a crew, we would have re-anchored. By myself, I stayed put and casted a little way to the structure.

It was clear when I ran out. Soon the fog rolled in and I could hear ship fog horns but could not see anything. The sea bass were relentless. My morning was not going well. I did manage to catch two, 15-inch tog mixed in with all of the sea bass. Tagged and released those. By 11:00, I was running out of crabs. I had plenty of clams but fishing with that was impossible with the sea bass. I was leaving the top shell on the crab and just cutting it in halves and quarters, and punching the hook through the shell. That slowed the sea bass down enough to give the tautog a chance.

A fish set down on the bait, an impressive tog bite. I knew it was a big fish but did not know how big. After the 3rd or 4th time of working that fish up and then having it just go right back down, I knew it was bigger than the 15-pound fish that I caught the day before. I still did not think it was this big until I slid the net under it and lifted it into the boat. That is when I saw just how big it was and started



thinking about a possible record. It looked over 24 pounds on my Boga Grip but with the swells and a live fish, it was hard to tell.

I decided my fishing day was done. I used the self-timer thing to get some photos and ran on in. When I got in range, I was sending messages of a possible record to everyone. Danny Forehand left his house and met me at the dock along with Inlet Station Marina owner, Cason Barco. I put the fish on my scale and it was about 24.5 pounds. I called the VSWFT Director, Lewis Gillingham and told him that I had the next state-record tautog. I met him (with a lot of help from Danny, hauling coolers and such) at the VMRC building. On the digital scale, the fish weighed 24.22 pounds which converts to 24 pounds 3 ounces. It is 32 inches long.

The i's are dotted and t's are crossed so this should be the new Virginia state record once the application is processed. The one photo is of my fish next to the mount of the current, 24-pound state record. That fish was caught in 1987 by Greg Bell. His fish was the the IGFA All-Tackle World Record for many years until a 25-pound tautog was caught off of New Jersey in 1998.

**Editors note - Visit Ken's blog here - <http://vbsf-hookedup.net/healthygrin/>**



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## "HUNTING PASSION"

### The Unchanging Fundamentals of Turkey Hunting

By Mike Monteleone

Wild predators depend on natural stealth, flight, teeth, talons and paws, jaws, or venomous fangs. Homo sapiens have an equally large appetite for meat but no such advantages for hunting. We must rely on our intellect and handcrafted tools.

#### Human Predator in the Modern World

We no longer have to hunt to eat. We're not stealthy enough to sneak up on turkey, not fast enough to run one down, cannot fly after one when it flushes, and are too slow to grasp one within our reach.

However we have man made hunting tools that extend our deadly reach, and the essence of turkey hunting has become the cultivation of the skills and schemes necessary to bring a turkey close.

Ethical turkey hunters accept handicaps. Cheap shots are out. There's no baiting, roost-shooting, shooting from the truck window or firing a rifle across a pasture, to name some current taboos.

Everyone who calls himself a turkey hunter abides by those rules, and also wears camouflage clothing, practices calling turkeys close, uses a close range accurate weapon and is proficient with it and strives for an instant kill. Further, when a modern turkey hunter shoots a bird, he photographs it profusely while squatted behind its open tail feathers.

Then, tells the world about it – very proudly! Also he wants to kill every subspecies of turkey. But after he has done that, then what? He begins again. As turkey hunting has become a sport, it has become stylized.

The turkey hunting theme has many variations, but three fundamentals never change. You must find a turkey, lure it within range and kill it with a well placed shot. It will always be easy or that difficult. How well you accomplish those considerations will determine your success.

#### Finding Turkeys

The roost, where most early morning hunts begin, is a focal point for modern turkey hunters. Fall hunters try to scatter a flock from its roost, and spring hunters begin by listening for early morning roost gobbling.

Turkey flocks might use a favored roost two to three times per week for long periods – even almost every night – and turkeys might use roosts year after year.

Unless someone tells you the location of the roost, you can find roosted

turkeys by:

- Accidentally flushing birds from a roost.
- Finding concentrated droppings and feathers under a roost.
- Hearing roost yelping or gobbling at dawn or dusk.
- Seeing turkeys on the ground at fly-up time.
- Listening at likely places for wing beats or fly-up cackling at roost time.

If you find droppings and shed feathers in timber, there's a good chance a flock is roosting there regularly, fall family flocks often yelp for several minutes before flying down in the morning. If you hear loud yelping in the morning, check it out.

Turkeys sometimes cackle when flying to or from the roost, and that can be heard a greater distances than yelping alone. And of course, toms gobble from their roosts in spring.

During pre-dawn and twilight, I stand in likely roosting timber and listen for wing beats, or distant cackling and gobbling. Still mornings and evenings are best, and it's wise to stay away from noisy streams or trees that rustle in the wind.

At roosting time, more than 30 minutes of twilight remain. About 10 minutes before sundown, when the wind diminishes and just before the first night sounds begin, I concentrate on faint sounds in the distance. Turkeys usually fly up one at a time. One rap of wingtip provides enough evidence about the location of a roosting flock. I move in quickly to hear turkeys changing limbs, which one or two birds usually do before dark.

A popular method for finding spring gobblers is to make a loud noise – such as crow calling or owl-hooting – to stimulate a shock gobble. That sometimes works with birds on the roost or on the ground.

#### Getting Close

However you find turkeys, the next step is getting close enough to attract one with seductive calls. For spring hunters, that usually means setting up within good hearing distance of a roosted gobbling longbeard. Required tools include good camouflage, at least one call, perhaps a decoy and maybe to use a blind. Whatever the paraphernalia – insect repellent or a cushion to sit on, for example – the art of calling has become the essence

of turkey hunting for one reason: It sometimes works, while most other ethical methods usually fail.

Scores of manufacturers make many calls that can lure turkeys when used properly. You can find books about the vocalizations of turkeys and vocabulary, and instructional audio tapes and mp3 files of turkey calls. Most experienced hunters will demonstrate their skills for less experienced folks, and call makers often attend conventions, to demonstrate their goods. You can hear skilled calling at contests around the country, but the best way to learn turkey vocabulary is to listen to birds. And don't be shy about talking back. Turkeys are more forgiving than hunters.

The turkey uses at least 30 different calls, but six listed in the accompanying table are the most common, and for hunting, are more than enough.

The soft tree yelp is usually the first call turkeys utter on the morning roost. They often make wake up yelps with their bills barely open, which gives

during fall hunting.

Plain clucking typifies a conservative calling strategy that seems to be going out of style. However, old timers still use it, and I cluck to break the monotony of yelping. More aggressive hunters often use cutting and other excited calls, such as the putt-and-purr, which is a moderately loud purr followed by a soft putt. It indicates a turkey's mild irritation mixed with curiosity.

It doesn't matter what a call means in turkey language or which one you use while hunting. If it sounds like a turkey, it will interest another turkey, and if it sounds like a hen, it will interest a spring gobbler.

Also, let me dispel a myth: There's no hen call that tells a gobbler she's ready to mate. The turkey's only mating call is the Tom's gobble combined with the correct time of year, which tells hens where an amorous gobbler is. A hen reveals she's ready by going to a gobbler and squatting near him after she's been sufficiently enamored by his

#### MAJOR CALLS FOR TURKEY HUNTING

Name of call	Usual notes	Peculiar quality	Rhythum	Note/Second
Tree yelp	3-4	Nasal, soft	Even	6
Plain yelp	4-7	Mid-range	Even	6
Lost yelp (hen)	8-20	Loud	Even	6
Lost yelp	8-20	Loud	Even	5-6
Plain cluck	1	Sharp	Mixed	1
Cutting	4-10	Loud	Uneven	3-7

- Condensed from a table in The Voice and Vocabulary of the Wild Turkey (L. Williams, 1984)

the call a muffled, nasal quality. A turkey roosted alone won't tree yelp, and spring gobblers seldom do. A long beard's first call of the day will likely be a booming gobble.

I use the plain yelp and lost yelp more than any other call. The lost yelp is loud enough to elicit a response from a distant gobbler. At close range, I soften the volume by using the plain yelp. Of course, I use the lost yelp most

looks and stimulated by his strutting.

#### Shooting a Turkey

Many things can go wrong when calling to a gobbler. Problems arise because a gobbler's natural tendency is to wait for a hen. Some gobblers stick to that rule, but enough lusty

See Monteleone Page 9



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# Monteleone ...

Continued from Page 8

toms break the rule often enough to keep us calling.

When you finally call a bird in, you must kill him. Most hunters have good shotguns and premium ammunition. Others use fine tuned archery equipment and are very proficient under pressure. Marksmanship is usually not the problem, and killing a turkey is usually just a coupe de gras. However, overanxious hunters and folks

who don't practice judging distance in hunting conditions sometimes experience hunts that end unceremoniously when they shoot at out-of-range targets.

## Conclusion

The best modern turkey hunters find turkeys, call them in and judge range carefully. They hold their fire until they have a sure lethal shot, usually within 40 yards. They hunt often, hard, long, and skillfully. When a gobbler eludes them, they offer the turkey congratulations and relate every detail of their defeat to anyone who will listen.



Elizabeth Collins (right) and Travis who is the mate aboard the *Sea Dux* are all smiles as Capatian Brian Councill takes the picture right before releasing this striper during the catch and release season last month.



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## “ON THE SCENE”

### Robby and Bobby

#### A Muddy Turkey

##### hunt

By Andy Aughenbaugh

Bobby’s plumber butt was fully exposed to Robby as he parked his bright yellow state highway van in front of Bobby’s house. Bobby was deep into the engine compartment of his 1980 Chevy truck, once again trying to fix the ailing truck.

“Why don’t you just part with some of that big fat federal government paycheck you get, and get yourself a new truck, you cheapskate.” Robby yelled to his longtime partner in all that is fun.

“Cause they don’t make them like this anymore. That’s why.”

“Exactly, now-a-days, they have air condition, and the bodies don’t rust out every few years.”

“Shut up, and turn the key. I think I found the problem.”

With a quick turn of the key, the motor gave a loud gasp, rumbled on its’ motor mounts, made a few coughs and started to run on its own. Smoke quickly began to bellow from the holes in the exhaust, surrounding the 4x4 beast in a thick blue haze.

“See, good as new!” Bobby exclaimed.

“Where’s the beer?” Robby asked.

Leaning over the front of the truck gazing at the junk yard replacement V-8 under the hood of the old Chevy, Robby and Bobby each held a beer.

“What’s that red wire for?” Robby asked.

“I don’t know, but truck seems to be running fine without it. Its’ all good.”

“If you say so?”

“Well, I finally started to clean out the basement, like the wife asked last year, and guess what I found?” Robby started.

“I don’t know, a body? Or that big trout you caught at the hatchery last year, on the night raid? That was blast, right up to the point that the DNR guy showed up.”

“Yea, I just made my final payment on that fine last week. I found the turkey call my grandfather gave me when I was a kid. It’s a real old box call, made by some guy that he knew back in the day. It got me to thinking, why don’t we take a turkey hunting trip up to Pennsylvania? We could go up to the state land on the mountain where my father and grandfather used to hunt. They always shot turkeys. It would be fun.”

Bobby had come from a family of successful outdoorsmen. His father was a locally infamous waterfowler. He hardly came home with less than a limit of ducks. Many questioned his methods, but it was never proven. His grandfather had been a farmer in the hills of Pennsylvania in an area better known for turkey hunting than farming.

While his buddy lived a life of questionable social value, Bobby hung on the edge of the norms of society. His wife of fifteen years, while often vocal, put up with his sometimes crazy antics. His home remained freshly painted and his lawn neatly trimmed.

The winter had been long for both Robby and Bobby, more days at work, than out getting into some kind of fishing or hunting trouble. The turkey hunt had both of them quickly scram-

bling, getting prepared for their next grand adventure. Robby, continued to repair his aging truck, claiming restoration and improvements, but all anyone else saw was band-aides on an old rusty Chevy.

While Robby messed with his truck, Bobby readied the camping gear. His camping gear was always packed and ready. Mainly because he never unpacked from the previous trip.

Bobby lost the battle when it came time to load up. Robby insisted on taking his newly restored vintage 4x4. Bobby was sure they would not make it fifty miles before they would be stranded roadside.

The night sky was too dark for the two to notice the pending rain. In short order they had the back of the open truck bed filled with all of the required camping and turkey hunting gear. “Oh, wait, I almost forgot the can goods, here toss this box in the back.” Robby said.

Their favorite 80’s rock station played AC/DC, as they backed out of Bobby’s driveway, and the trip was on. Robby turned down the radio and asked, “I got my PA license on-line yesterday at work, did you get yours yet?” “Yea, I did the same.” Bobby said.

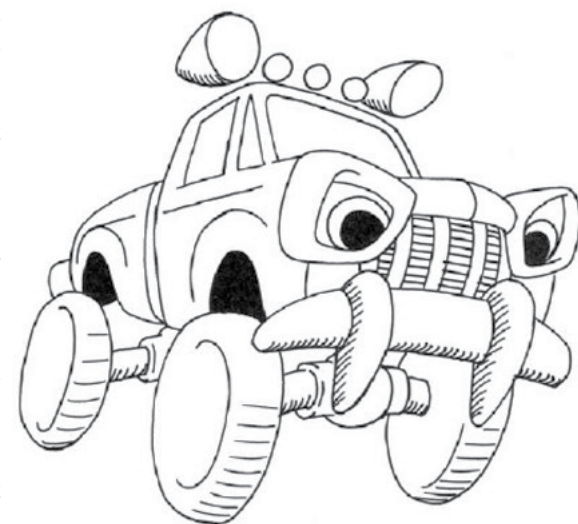
Physical aging may have given both of them extended bellies, but their sophomoric outlook on life remained. Bobby worked for the State Highway Department and Robby was employed with the Federal Department of Defense. They were high school buddies, who never made it to college. Instead they took municipal jobs, worked as little as possible and played as often as possible.

Robby was once married, but the wife could not compete with his antics and she left only a year after the marriage. Single life fit Robby; his hair greying hair always needed a trim, his jeans always stained and his tee shirts always wrinkled. His house was the warehouse of adventure. Hunting and fishing paraphernalia was as likely to be in the kitchen as the garage.

Robby held a good job with the Department of Defense, and while he never talked about what he did at work, Bobby and others figured it could not have been too much, because he was not one to but much effort or thought in much he did. Robby liked to jump in with both feet, then check the depth of the water.

Four hours later, they pulled off the paved state road. “Turn here!” Bobby yelled to Robby. Robby swerved the old truck onto the dirt path and slammed to a stop. “What’s up?”

“I remember this place, my father brought me up here once, let’s go up



See Aughenbaugh Page 11



Ed House out of Springfield, VA went fishing with his friend Steve Boldman when he hooked up with this beautiful 43 inch northern pike out of the Youghiogheny Reservoir. Ed will receive an Award for his efforts!

Photo courtesy of [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp)

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## Aughenbaugh . . .

Continued from Page 10

here and set up camp. He said it was the best mountain for turkeys.”

“But this ain’t what you had circled on the map?”

“Forget that, change in plans.” Bobby explained.

Rain had been hitting the truck hard since they were but only a few miles from home. The skies showed no sign of letting up. The clay road was littered with deep ruts and deeper mud filled holes. Robby’s smile ran ear from ear when he reached down and pulled on the second shift lever, engaging the 4-wheel drive. To Bobby’s surprise, the dash light indicating the 4-wheel was engaged illuminated. “At least the light works, but is it really in 4 wheel drive?” He asked.

As the truck plowed into the next water hole, Robby leaned on the gas pedal a little harder tossing mud high in the air. “Yep, it works!”

“Great, not only is all of our gear in the back of the truck wet, but now it is covered in mud. Nice job!”

“What’s a little adventure without some mud?” Robby asked.

A mile farther down the road, the trail got narrow and the ruts got deeper. Just as Robby was about to say something about their whereabouts and destination, a small clearing appeared on the right side of the road.

“Pull in here. Looks like a good place to camp.” Bobby announced.

“Looks good to me.” Robby agreed.

The rain pelleted the two exiting the truck. The first structure erected was the pre-WW2 canvas on metal frame used as the kitchen tent. It could hardly be called a tent as it did

not have sides, just a large canvas roof, littered with tiny holes from many years of hot ambers falling on top and raising from the often too hot cooking fire under roof.

Everything they touched was wet and covered in mud. The one good thing about the rain was that as they set the gear about, the rain rinsed the mud off to some degree. Too wet for a cooking fire, they gave up on that idea, and started to erect the sleeping tent. It also was old Army surplus and was large enough for a whole regiment.

As he carried pieces of card board that once was the box that had held the can goods. “We’ve got a problem.” Bobby exclaimed.

“What?” Robby asked.

“The damn rain soaked box you had put the cans in, fell apart, and the cans have been rolling around in the back of the truck. The labels have come off, and now we don’t know what’s inside them.”

“Cool, sounds like a real pot luck dinner to me. Just take a chance, pick



a can and eat up.” Robby said.

Both Robby and Bobby smiled as they sat in total darkness under the leaky WW2 tarp with the rain steadily falling. Bobby with his cold can of cream corn and Robby with his can

of peaches. “Wanta trade?” Bobby asked.

“No, but how about I open up this can of Spam and we share. Cream corn peaches and Spam - what could be better?” You know this trip is turning out better than most so far.”

“Yep, but it is only getting started.” Bobby added.

The next morning, the rain still fell. Water soaked all they owned. Wet and tired, the turkey hunters jumped in the truck aiming to get warm and begin the hunt.

“You want some more spam?” Robby asked his partner.

“No thanks.”

Bobby added, “Let’s go back down the road about a mile and start hunting there, I saw a bunch of pines, where I bet a few turkeys are roosted for the night.”

“Your call.” Robby answered with a mouth full of cold Spam. The first two turns of the truck key, gave no indication of the truck wanting to start, but on the third, the engine ground to rumble and smoke rolled out the exhaust.

Robby pulled the truck off to the side the road to park. At which time the passenger side of the truck dropped deep into the soft mud. Robby gunned the motor. Tires spun digging the truck deeper into the mud, gaining no forward progress. Reverse proved useless as well.

“Damn, buddy you did it now, why did you let me park here?” Robby asked with one last roar of the motor and mud throwing tire spin.

“Don’t even try to blame me for this one, buddy.” Bobby replied.

“Oh, well truck’s stuck; we’ll worry about it later. Let’s go turkey hunting.”

Two days later the truck was still stuck in the same mud hole. The rain had not stopped for more than an hour or two during the two days. Robby and Bobby spent both mornings searching for turkeys. Each morning the sounds of multiple gobbles sent them on a constant run. Each time they got close the gobblers would disappear.

The rest of their time was spent huddled under the kitchen tarp trying to keep dry. By the end of the second day, as night arrived, Bobby saw headlights coming down the muddy trail toward camp. “Hey, look someone is coming!”

The green truck that pulled into camp wore PA Game commission badges. The officer in full uniform stepped out of the truck and walked up to their camp.

“Is that your alls truck stuck on the side of the road?” the office asked.

“Yea, my buddy here is kind of new to driving and stuck it there. You know anyone that can help us get it out?” Bobby asked.

“Sure do. But first can I ask why you’re camped illegally here on state game lands. Don’t you know that there is a nice camp ground down at

the bottom of the mountain? This is a parking lot for hunters, not a camp site. Tomorrow is opening day of turkey season and a lot of hunters are not going to be too happy with you guys taking up all of the spaces.”

Pointing to Bobby, “It was his idea.” Robby said.

The officer first took out his phone and hit the speed dial number for his brother-in-law who owned the local tow truck company. “Hey Al, I’ve got two guys stuck up here on top of the mountain. Can you bring your tow truck up here?”

He then looked at Robby and Bobby, “\$200, is that good with you guys?”

“Yea Al, they said \$200 is good. See you in an hour.”

Robby and Bobby had already begun to pack camp even before the officer was off the phone. They were hoping the officer would not notice that they had been turkey hunting the last two days, before the season had even opened.

“As I see it, gentlemen, I would guess that you have been here for a few days at least. I sure hope that you have not been doing some pre-season hunting. I’ll over look that fact as long as you have everything ready to go by the time the tow truck gets here and you head back from wherever you’re from before I make my way back up here in the morning. However, I am going to write you a ticket for illegal camping on state game lands.”

Bobby stuffed the ticket into his back pocket as the officer drove off. The rain had stopped and in the darkness of the night, they could see stars beginning to appear. In the darkness they packed the wet gear and piled it up.

Robby and Bobby sat in the cab of mud covered truck having walked the mile from camp to the truck after packing their gear.

The tow truck driver never said a word. He backed up the tow truck to the stuck Chevy, stepped out, pulled his winch cable, attached it to the truck and worked the levers pulling the truck free of the mud. Robby never even started the truck.

Once free of the ditch and back on the trail, Robby turned the key and the truck to his partner’s surprise started on the first turn. Bobby paid the driver with wet soaked twenties - the last of his emergency cash funds.

As they tossed the gear into the back of the truck, neither of the two spoke a word.

Finally half way home, Bobby broke the silence. “You know I thought PA’s turkey season started the same time as Maryland’s. I didn’t know.”

“Guess we should have checked that little detail first?” Robby answered, then broke out into uncontrollable laughter.

Between his own laughter, Bobby replied. “Yep, guess we should have. Well now we know. Wanta go fishing tomorrow?”

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## “FISHIN’ BACK EAST”

### TAIL GUNNER GILLING

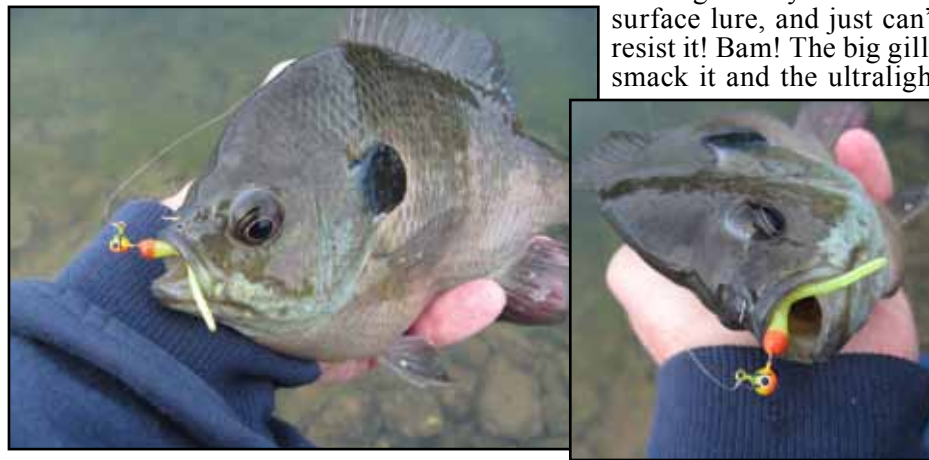
By Jim Gronaw

Over the years, tactics come and tactics go. Some are timeless, never losing their appeal and effectiveness to catch fish. Some are not much more than a flash-in-the-pan and die out quickly. Others may be no more than fads or fancies. And still other fish catching tricks get resurrected every 10 years or so and are, once again, the ‘hot’ technique of the era. Some are so old, they’re new again!

When it comes to panfishing, there are not many ‘new’ things out there. Within this type of fishing, the old standard baitfishing rigs and tactics never seem to go out of style. That’s because they are just so effective. People are going to use worms and crickets for bluegills, nationwide. Crappie fishermen are going to stick with minnows and bobbers, across the board. And fly fishermen are going to continue to slay fish with the long pole. Some things, even in the panfishing world, just never go out.

Some of the more recent developments in the panfish realm have been things like using Euro larvae maggots for bait, spider-rigging with multiple rods for schooling crappie and, perhaps the most recent breakthrough, the use of spoons for smashing bluegills shallow and deep just about everywhere. Some of this stuff just has not caught on in this country simply due to the nature of our run and gun fishing styles and our run and gun society. Plus, many panfishing tips from the Euro crowd focus mainly on catching high numbers of small fish. Sorry, but that’s something that I’m just not interested in.

About ten years ago the editors of a popular mid-west angling



1/32 oz. jigs are great trailers for the tail gunner rig for giant bluegills.

magazine wrote and televised the effectiveness of the ‘tail-gunner’ rig for shallow or bedding bluegills and crappies. The concept was simple, and not really anything new, but it has been brought back recently and the fish, and the fishermen are reaping rewards. Here’s the basic rig... take any small crank bait such as the Rebel Teeny Wee Crayfish, Yo-Zuri Snap Bean or the smallest floating Rapala Minnows. Remove the back treble hook and tie on 6 to 12 inches of six-pound test fluorocarbon or clear quality monofilament. Next, attach a small wet fly or nymph in size #12 to #16 as a trailer. Simply tie on the small plug to the business end of any ultralight spinning outfit and you are ready to have a blast!

This is a warm water, shallow water gig and it works best when fish are either bedding or feeding shallow on insects or small minnows. Cast to the edges of an area where you have either spotted fish or you know that they are there. Try not to cast smack dab in the middle of a bluegill bedding area so you won’t spook the fish. Work your crankbait/fly rig slowly back with the occasional pause to allow the plug to rise and sit motionless on the surface.

If the water is clear you may no-

tice bluegills, crappie or bass follow the plug. Often the panfish will give up on the slightly larger plug and head back to the nesting sites. It is at that point when they see the wet fly, sinking slowly below the surface lure, and just can’t resist it! Bam! The big gills smack it and the ultralight

fight is on!

Depending on the aggressiveness of the fish, strikes will occur at different times and at different speeds of the retrieve. When fish are actively feeding you’ll get smashing strikes on a slow and straight retrieve. It’s not impossible to get ‘doubles’ of big bluegills at this time as one takes the fly and the other nails the plug. Way too much fun on ultra or micro light outfits! On more than one occasion, I have had a bull bluegill and a three-pound bass as a double. Wow!

If the weather is cloudy or a cold front has settled in then the bite will be more subtle. Bedding gills may hunker down tight to the actual nest and not move much or chase a bait or lure. When this happens it’s a good idea to use a very slow stop and go retrieve that helps to maintain the fly at it’s deepest. And rather than use a fly, you can substitute with a tiny jig of 1/64 th ounce or smaller to entice the stubborn slabs. Traditionally, bait tipping is not needed here, as bedding fish are often very aggressive and jump on most anything that appears to be intrusive to the spawning ritual. Small, foam-bodied bugs can also be killers as a trailer. But the effectiveness and joy of the tail-gunner rig is the chance of doubles and bigger game like largemouths and big, post-spawn crappies.

The tail-gunner rig especially shines in dark or cloudy water environs where you may not be able to visually spot bedding fish. As in the other situations, the mini-plug serves as a bobber and is your visual aid in the strike. In dark water scenarios, always use a dark or black fly that will actually give a small but distinct silhouette when the fish are looking up. Sometimes, strikes can be solid and the hookset is in the strike itself. Hard charging bluegills often hit the fly with reckless abandon.

Another nice thing about the tail-gunner is that just about every fish you catch will be releasable, which is great if you’re in the catch and release mode. Any gill 7 inches or

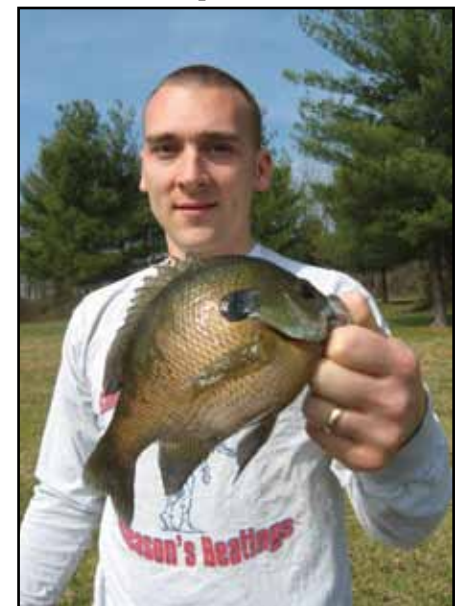
greater will have no problem getting the # 14 fly in it’s mouth. We have taken gills over 10 inches and bass over 3 pounds on this rig, and lost bigger bass. And please keep in mind that this is not just a panfish thing either. Anglers have utilized bass plugs with plastic worm droppers with the same effectiveness for schooling largemouths.

To date, we have taken bass, bluegill, crappie, yellow perch and other sunfish species while gunning’. So the next time you want fast, crazy action with shallow panfish and bass, try shootin’ it out...try the tail-gunner!

#### GUNNIN’ ACCESSORIES...

Plugs...Go with 2 ½ inch or shorter floating crankbaits to deliver the load. We like the smallest Rapala Floating Minnows, Rebel Teeny Wee Crickhoppers and Crayfish and Yo-Zuri Tad Fry and Pins Minnows for targeting bedding gills. Many other suitable lures are on the market. Strike Kings’ Bitsy Minnow is another killer.

Flies...keep em small from # 12 to #16. Black ant patterns, bumble bee



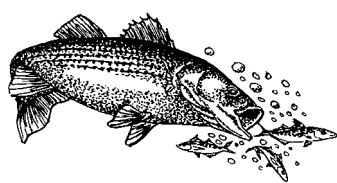
Patrick Korn shows a seriously big bluegill taken on the ‘gunner’.

and stone fly patterns catch lots of fish. Don’t be afraid to experiment with tiny hair jigs or mini-plastics to coax aggressive fish. Keep jig trailers from 1/32 to 1/100 of an ounce. Small, foam bodied bugs can also work well.

Dropper leaders should be quality monos or fluorocarbon testing 4 or 6 pounds. Clear water would call for the fluoro while high-visibility lines can be used when the water is off color. Always remove the back set of trebles to attach the leader to the remaining split-ring. Dropper lengths may vary, but 6 to 12 inches will cover just about all the bases.

And finally, for sheer joy, nothing beats fishing this system with micro or ultralight spinning gear and 2 or 4-pound test outfits. Set the drag a little light and just sit back and enjoy reel-screaming runs from bull bluegills!

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# New freshwater North Carolina state record Striped Bass caught at Hiwassee Reservoir

RALEIGH, N.C. — When he launched his 17-foot Hydrosport on Hiwassee Reservoir on the morning of March 31, Tyler Shields expected he'd catch a few largemouth bass, maybe a smallmouth bass or two. What he didn't expect to catch, however, was the new freshwater striped bass state record.

Shortly before noon, the 17-year old from Murphy, N.C., reeled in a massive 66-pound striped bass, using a black zoom trick worm and 10 pound test on a Bass Pro Shops Bionic Blade rod. Shields' state record

striped bass eclipses the previous one, also caught in Hiwassee, by nearly 12 pounds. That fish weighed 54.2 pounds and was caught by Larry Keith Verner, also of Murphy, on June 6, 1991.

When he first hooked the giant fish, Shields, who was who was fishing with his cousin, Logan Howard, 15, and friend, Caleb Davis, 15, thought that it was a catfish. However, when he got the fish to the boat, he saw that it was "a big striper." He didn't realize how big it was until he got to the dock and a friend's

father, Brian Kilpatrick, suggested that it might be a new state record and recommended that Shields get it weighed.

The grocery store that Shields visited initially had scales that went up to only 50 pounds. He eventually had the fish weighed on N.C. Department of Agriculture-certified scales at Interstate Welding and Steel Supply, in Marble.

Powell Wheeler, a district fisheries biologist for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, verified that the behemoth was a striped bass and exceeded the existing state record.

Shields, who has a lifetime fishing license, prefers trying his luck on Hiwassee because of its close proximity to his home and because he knows Hiwassee so well — not surprising since it's the only the lake he's fished since he picked up a rod and reel four years ago.

Although he said he knew that the last state record striped bass came from Hiwassee — and had heard of anglers occasionally catching whopper striped bass — Shields said he prefers catching largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass year round, and catfish in the summer.

As evidenced by the two state records, Hiwassee Reservoir harbors some very large striped bass, particularly for reservoir striped bass, which typically don't get as large as their coastal counterparts.

Striped bass, or "stripers," are regarded mostly as a coastal water fish, living their adult lives in the ocean and migrating up into coastal rivers to spawn. If conditions are right, as they are in Hiwassee, striped bass can thrive in freshwater.

The Wildlife Commission stocks striped bass into several freshwater reservoirs in the Piedmont and Mountain regions, but ironically, Hiwassee Reservoir is not stocked with striped bass. Striped bass in Hiwassee are the "Houdinis" of the fish world, having traversed several obstacles to make it into the reservoir.

"We've always focused on other fisheries in Lake Hiwassee, particularly walleye and black basses," Wheeler said. "However, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources stocks stripers upstream of Hiwassee in Nottely Reservoir. Occasionally, a striper survives passing through Nottely Dam turbine or over the spillway and swims 13 miles down the Nottely River to Hiwassee Reservoir."

The few striped bass that make it from Nottely Reservoir to Hiwassee tend to grow very large, very fast.

"The rarity of striped bass in Hiwassee coupled with the abundance of forage fishes in the reservoir are the main reasons why Hiwassee has produced the last two freshwater fishing state records for striped bass," Wheeler said. "In the middle of Hiwassee where stripers are often

found, there is simply a lot of food and few other predators to compete with."

The Wildlife Commission does not manage Hiwassee Reservoir actively for striped bass, but Wheeler said that he has had several encounters with large stripers in some of his fish-sampling work.

"Some anglers also are aware of these very large, but rare, fish," Wheeler said. "They'll actively target them in Hiwassee."

However, most Hiwassee anglers, like Shields, prefer fishing for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass.

Shields' record is unique in that it not only breaks the freshwater state record, but also exceeds the current saltwater state record as well. That striper, which was caught off Oregon Inlet in 2011, weighed 64 pounds, according to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, which recognizes state records of fish only from oceans, estuaries and coastal rivers.

To qualify for a N.C. Freshwater Fish State Record, anglers must have caught the fish by rod and reel or cane pole, have the fish weighed on a scale certified by the N.C. Department of Agriculture, witnessed by one observer, have the fish identified by a fisheries biologist from the Commission, and submit an application with a full, side-view photo of the fish.

For a list of all freshwater fish state records in North Carolina or more information on the State Record Fish Program, click here. For more information on fishing in public, inland waters, [www.ncwildlife.org/fishing](http://www.ncwildlife.org/fishing) or call the Division of Inland Fisheries, 919-707-0220.



Tyler Shields, 17, holds the new freshwater state record striped bass - a 66-pound fish caught from Hiwassee Reservoir in Cherokee County on March 31.

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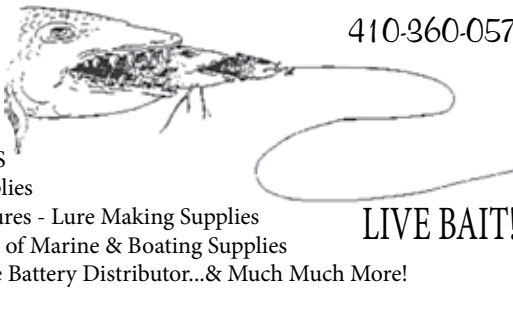


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## MD, DE & VA Sea Bass Regulations set for 2012

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board has modified the percent that states may liberalize their 2012 recreational management measures to achieve a 1.32 million pound (942,857 fish) harvest limit for the 2012 fishery.

Southern states (DE, MD, VA & NC) are not effected by the change and have finalized their 2012 recreational measures:



**Delaware:** 12.5" minimum... 25 fish per person...  
5/22 to 10/14 and 11/1 to 12/31  
**Maryland:** 12.5" minimum... 25 fish per person...  
5/22 to 10/14 & 11/1 to 12/31  
**Virginia:** 12.5" minimum... 25 fish per person...  
5/19 to 10/14 & 11/1 to 12/31

Coastwide recreational harvest for the 2011 black sea bass fishery is now estimated at 713,478 fish (versus the initial estimate of 654,142 fish). As a result of the new estimate, northern states will be able to liberalize their 2012 recreational management measures but not to the extent that they would have under the previous estimate (initial liberalization of 57%).

The northern states (Massachusetts through New Jersey) will be working over the next month to finalize their recreational black sea bass management measures.



Lexie Hayes with her first deer taken with shotgun on youth day. *Photo Courtesy of Macrotech.*

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Ronnie Taylor with a 6 pt., 100 lb. Sika deer taken at Blackwater in Dorchester County, MD. *Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop*



## NOAA sets law enforcement priorities for 2012

NOAA has released the national and division enforcement priorities for 2012. These priorities were created collaboratively with input from commercial and recreational fishermen, fishery management councils, state enforcement partners, and non-governmental organizations. NOAA will seek input into the priorities each year and will be seeking comments on 2013 priorities later this year.

The law enforcement priorities for the Northeast Division are:

### HIGH PRIORITY

- Catch Reporting and Trip Limits.
- Noncompliance with trip and cumulative limits, and recordkeeping requirements for landings of federally managed marine species, and specifically catch share programs.
- Sector/Catch Share Enforcement.
- Dockside monitoring.
- Trip/reporting analysis.
- Limited Access, Overfished, Prohibited and Protected Species.
- Scallops.
- NMS.

### Bluefin Tuna.

- Closed Area Fishing Violations, ongoing.

Commercial vessel incursions into closure areas or other Marine Protected Areas.

- Felony and major civil cases involving significant damage to the resource or the integrity of management schemes.
- Observer Assault/Harassment.

### MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Gear Violations.
- Deployment of unlawful gear utilized in commercial fisheries under NOAA's jurisdiction.
- Striped Bass in EEZ.

### LOW PRIORITY

- Other fisheries Permit Violations.
- Non-compliance with state/federal fisheries permitting requirements pertaining to fisheries under NOAA's jurisdiction (open access permits).
- Operator Permits.
- Non-limited access species permits.



Joe Thompson with his 8 pt. buck taken last December. Photo Courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.



Cypress Creek Archery would like to express our gratitude to the parents who took the time to let their children participate in the youth league. The kids enjoyed shooting and learned safety with the help from our instructors. All the kids received trophies and had their pictures taken. Our leagues are in February each year for six weeks on Saturday morning.

First Row-left to right: Wayland Stiver-Lawren Portillo-Jordan McCrae-Chris Butler-Charles Butler -- Second row-left to right: Billy Elborn-Allison Milner-Audrey Karbaum-Chris McCrae-Parker Miller-Ethan Miller -- Third row-left to right: Harry Gosser-Chad Denner-Chris Conner-Tommy Collins-Tyler Schmidt-Bill Poulin Absent from Picture: Selena Oceanic-Zach Schmidt-Austin Milner - Photo Courtesy of Cypress Creek Archery.





Jordan, Bruce, Diana, Rick, and Alex from Preston, MD had four keepers out of only four fish caught on Saturday April 7 fishing on the Island Queen with Captain Charlie out of Chincoteague, VA. Sizes ranged from 17" - 22". It was a very cool day with temps starting out in the 40's and never going above 52 all morning. And of course we had the winds to tend with also. We are having March in April thus far. Water temps fell from 61 degrees at the end of March to now hovering around 50 - 53 degrees depending on where you are and tides. It has been hit and miss fishing for sure and we have also had to deal with the cow slime in most places.

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Renee Larrimore of Tilghman Island, MD is off to a good start this spring with her first Largemouth Bass.

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Zachary Herman took this gobbler on youth day with a little help from Warren Hall.



Chris Schlick is only 11 years old but very wise to turkey hunting. Here he is pictured with a gobbler weighing in at 23 lbs. with a 5" beard. Photo courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.



One thing a Charter captain likes to do is hook his father a nice fish. *Fish Fear Us Charters* Captain Bob did just that. Pictured is his father, the other Captain Bob with a beauty.

## Yellowfin tuna may be largest ever caught, but won't set record

An angler who reeled in a world-record yellowfin tuna off the coast of Mexico has had his catch disqualified -- because a deckhand touched his fishing pole as he fought the mighty fish.

But everyone on board agreed that Danny Osuna, a local captain working that day as a deckhand, blew the record by touching Pedigo's pole during the battle between man and beast off the coast of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The rules say an angler cannot have any help to reel in a fish if he or she wants to make history.

"I do this for a living and we're really hardcore fishermen," Osuna told FOXNews.com. "We have caught a lot of fish in the high 300s, but this is the first time we've caught something like this."

Osuna admitted touching Pedigo's fishing rod, disqualifying the catch from consideration by the International Game Fish Association. But he said Pedigo, who could not be reached for comment, was not too broken up about the technicality.

"We're fine with that," Osuna said. "Actually, we never even thought the fish would be that big."

Osuna said everyone who was in on the fishing trip got a big meal out of the monstrous catch before the rest was given away. "We never sold the fish," he said.


An IGFA spokesman confirmed to FOXNews.com that the all-tackle record for yellowfin tuna remains 405 pounds, caught by Mike Livingston near Baja Sur, Mexico -- because Osuna touched the rod.


"No one (to my knowledge) has been contacted by the angler or any member of the crew in regards to this catch," IGFA world record coordinator Jack Vitek wrote in an email. "We have heard of the catch on various fishing forums and websites, and are pleased to hear that the angler and crew are being up front about such an impressive catch, and are respecting the IGFA rules."



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Rachel Benden with a 177 lb., 10 point buck taken in Montgomery County, Md during youth hunt last November. *Photo Courtesy of Gun Shack.*

## Browning® introduces Dirty Bird™ waterfowl hunting apparel for 2012

Morgan, Utah – New in Browning®'s diverse line of outdoor apparel for the avid sportsman is the new Dirty Bird™ Waterfowl line that is the most effective, ergonomic and comfortable clothing yet. The new line of clothing includes insulated models with Browning® Pre-Vent® waterproof, breathable fabric shell for colder days in the field as well as models with Browning's Vari-Tech™ Temperature and Motion design that are more adaptable when the weather looks better in the marsh. All insulated models in the Dirty Bird line will feature PrimaLoft® Synergy Insulation that is soft, lightweight, quick-drying and provides excellent insulating properties, even when wet.



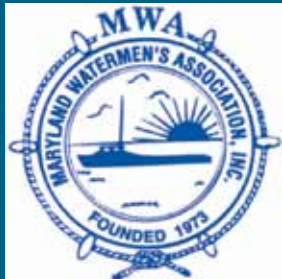
Browning's new Dirty Bird waterfowl clothing will be offered in the two most effective camo patterns for waterfowl hunting that include Mossy Oak Duck Blind® and Realtree Max-4®. A Dirty Bird 4-In-1 Parka, Insulated Parka, Insulated Wader Jacket, Insulated Bib, Non-Insulated Bib, and Field Pants all feature an Angle-Entry pocket design for more convenience, Raglan Sleeve Construction and Arrow Gussets armpit design that makes the garment fit better and allow a greater range of movement. Jackets and Parkas, Suggested Retail, \$268.50-\$350.50. Pants and Bibs, Suggested Retail, \$140.00 – \$221.50.

The Dirty Bird Vari-Tech™ models include a Base Layer Pullover constructed of 200-gram fleece, a Vari-Tech Jacket with 3-layer laminate fabric in sleeves and a Vari-Tech Half Bib with 3-layer laminate fabric throughout with high bib design back with adjustable elasticized suspender system. All Vari-Tech models feature Browning's Pre-Vent® waterproof, breathable fabric with fully taped external seams. Dirty Bird Vari-Tech Jacket Suggested Retail, \$268.50. Dirty Bird Half Bib Suggested Retail, \$221.50. Dirty Bird Vari-Tech Base Layer top will feature lightweight stretchable poly jersey sleeves with a mock neck design, Suggested Retail, \$46.50.

For more information on Browning's Dirty Bird™ Waterfowl line of apparel and other Browning products go to [www.browning.com](http://www.browning.com).

*NREC Division of Fish and Wildlife still accepting applications for 2012 low-number hunting license lottery on June 5*

DOVER – DNREC's Division of Fish & Wildlife is still accepting applications for its annual low-number hunting license lottery. At 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 5 in the auditorium at DNREC's main office in the Richardson & Robbins Building in Dover, the Division will conduct the lottery drawing to issue 25 available low-number Delaware resident hunting licenses with numbers less than 1,000.



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# FROM FLORIDA Massive Swordfish caught in broad daylight in Florida

A 520-pound swordfish caught off Islamorada in the Florida Keys on March 25 is, while noteworthy, not really a rare sight.

But what makes it truly special is that it was landed in broad daylight, making it possibly the largest broadbill ever caught on rod-and-reel during daylight hours off the Keys.

Caribsea Captain Kenny Spaulding led angler Fred Beshara, 67, to the impressive catch. The semi-retired contractor/developer from Youngstown, Ohio, caught the fish on 80-pound-test tackle with a Daiwa Dendoh MP3000 electric power-assist reel. Crewmembers on the boat were mates Conan Yates, William Bassett and Spaulding's 12-year-old son, K.C.

The big fish bit on a squid in about 1,850 feet of water, said Spaulding, who skips a 44-foot Carolina-designed sportfisherman.

"We were drifting along for about 15-20 minutes and all of the sudden there was a little nibble and then an explosion," Spaulding said. "We backed down (the boat) to try to stay on top of him."

Spaulding, who has been an Islamorada captain since 1997, said it required about two hours to get the fish close to the boat and, towards the end of the fight, it leapt completely out of the water.

Incredibly, when they got the fish next to the boat, another swordfish suddenly appeared.

"That fish was glowing and lit up like a Christ-

mas tree," he said of the second broadbill. "I've never seen anything like that in my life."

Spaulding said they tried to bait the second, smaller fish without success.

"We got real excited and reacted like we were fishing for sailfish," he said. "But when it wouldn't eat, I told the crew that we had to focus on boating the big sword."

Two veteran Keys captains, daytime swordfishing pioneer Richard Stanczyk and Jim Sharpe, acknowledged the achievement.

The team of anglers crowd around their massive catch.

"We've seen fish in the 400- to 475-pound range, but I've never heard of a 500-pound or heavier fish caught in the Keys during daytime hours," said Sharpe.

Stanczyk said a 612.75-pound broadbill was caught off Key Largo at night. That fish, reeled in May 7, 1978, by Stephen Stanford, is still a state record, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Beshara's swordfish was the largest fish he has ever

caught and was particularly gratifying since he was targeting the species.

"After having my kids, this is the second best thing in my life that has ever happened to me," Beshara said. "I was so excited, I couldn't eat and couldn't sleep afterwards."

News of the catch spread quickly among Beshara's hometown friends and other residents.

"All of the people in Youngstown now want to come fishing down in the Keys with me," Beshara said.



This 520-pounder is likely a record for a swordfish caught off the Florida Keys in daylight.



The team of anglers crowd around their massive catch.

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# Maryland DNR selects final hunting and trapping regulation proposals

Annapolis, Md. — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service has completed an important step toward finalizing the hunting and trapping season and bag limit regulation proposals for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons. The proposed hunting regulation changes, which included extensive public input, were recently endorsed by the Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission (WAC).

“We are very pleased with the level of thoughtful input we received during all aspects of the public comment period,” said Associate Director for Game Management at DNR, Pete Jayne. “It’s always productive for us to hear from so many passionate supporters of Maryland’s rich wildlife resources. While most comments were from hunters and trappers, we also heard from a diverse group of non-hunters, hikers, bikers, farmers and landowners. We received over 1,000 comments during nearly two months of public participation and this input led us to make several changes in the proposals.”

To gather citizen input, DNR held a public comment process that began in January. This included two stakeholder meetings, two public meetings and a new, popular online comment submission forum. The proposed regulations that will now move forward to the final steps in the process are summarized below.

## Hunter Orange Addition

Require persons that are bowhunting deer in the bear hunting zone to meet the hunter orange requirements while the bear season is open.

## River Otter

Reopen the river otter season with a season limit of one in Allegany and Garrett counties. River otter season has been closed in these counties since a re-introduction project was initiated in the mid-1990s. The otter population is considered to be restored in key watersheds and limited harvest will not affect overall population levels.

## Fox Season Extension

Extend the season for red and grey foxes by two weeks in both fox management zones for shooting only. Trapping seasons will remain unchanged. This extension will allow for additional recreation and give landowners more options when managing fox populations.

## Crossbow Transport

Allow an unloaded but cocked crossbow to be placed in or on a vehicle. Previously, crossbows had to be uncocked before being transported in a vehicle, creating logistical issues for many crossbow hunters.

## White-tailed Deer

Create a statewide bag limit for antlered deer (bucks) and reduce the overall buck bag limit to three per year, one per weapon season (i.e., bow season, muzzleloader season, and firearm season). Hunters in Region B will have the option to take one additional bonus buck (for a total of four) during the weapon season of their choice after purchasing a Bonus Antlered Deer stamp and taking two antlerless deer in Region B during any deer hunting season. This change should produce a higher proportion of mature bucks in the population and is anticipated to encourage more hunters to take antlerless deer. Prior to this change, the statewide bag limit was nine bucks. Managing for older bucks and increasing antlerless deer harvest are consistent with DNR’s deer management goals.

## White-tailed Deer

Expand the current unlimited antlerless bag limit for bow season in the Suburban Archery Zone to all of Deer Management Region B.

This change will simplify regulations and remove the need for the Suburban Archery Zone. Taking additional antlerless deer in Region B is consistent with DNR’s deer management goals.

## White-tailed Deer

Extend the archery season for white-tailed and sika deer to open on the first Friday after Labor Day each year (September 7, 2012 and September 6, 2013).

## White-tailed Deer

Modify the existing regulations that limit the transport of deer carcasses and deer parts outside of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Area in eastern Allegany County. The modifications will allow hunters to transport deer leg quarters out of the CWD Management Area and to take deer to approved taxidermists. These changes will make the transport of deer more convenient for hunters without increasing the risk of spreading the disease to other portions of the state.

## Sika Deer

In addition, the Wildlife Advisory Commission supported a recommendation from DNR to withdraw the proposal requiring legal antlered sika deer to have at least one branched antler. Hunters may still practice voluntary restraint when selecting antlered sika deer for harvest.

The proposed regulations selected by DNR for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons may be viewed online at [dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Comments/Hunt\\_Proposal.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Comments/Hunt_Proposal.asp).



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James Berry shot 7 snakehead fish all about this size south of Fort Washington on April 3rd. I am hunting places that I would see



50 bass in a day and I saw only 2. I believe in 5 to 10 years we will see a real decline in the bass population. The snakehead are simply taking over the spawning grounds. *Courtesy MD. Anglers Log*



## Parker unleashes the Tomahawk with a vengeance

Parker Bows, a manufacturer of high quality Compound bows, Crossbows and Crossbow Accessories is proud to introduce the Tomahawk for 2012. The Tomahawk is the Fastest, Lightest, and most Compact crossbow on the market.



The Tomahawk features Parker's all new and proprietary Advanced Split Limb Technology with integrated Fulcrum Pocket System making it ultra compact while hurling arrows downrange at over 320 Feet Per Second (FPS). With the Bull-Pup trigger and ergonomic textured pistol grip, the Tomahawk is easy to maneuver in a treestand or ground blind. At a mere 6.5 lbs, the Tomahawk is also Ultra Lightweight and Optimally Balanced for a steadier aim on the target. Parker's highly anticipated new EZ Pull System has been engineered into each 2012 crossbow, reducing the cocking effort by over 50%, when paired with the RED HOT EZ Roller Rope Cocker; this system makes Parker crossbows the easiest to cock in the industry.

The Tomahawk includes a Four Arrow Quick Detach Quiver, Four Arrows with Field Points, and is available in two optics packages: (1) 3 x 32 Multi-Reticle Scope, (2) Illuminated 3 x 32 Multi-Reticle Scope.

The Tomahawk is proudly made in the U.S.A., is backed by Parker's Lifetime Warranty, and has a retail beginning at \$499.95.

## MOJO releases double trouble calling system

MOJO's all new Double Trouble Calling System is an innovative new fully programmable, all digital, electronic game caller combined with built in decoy and containing useful "industry first" features.

Designed by Mr. Predator himself, as a Byron South Signature Series Product, the Double Trouble combines a state-of-the-art remote controlled caller capable of high quality sounds with MOJO's wildly popular Critter decoy PLUS built-in retractable tripod legs.

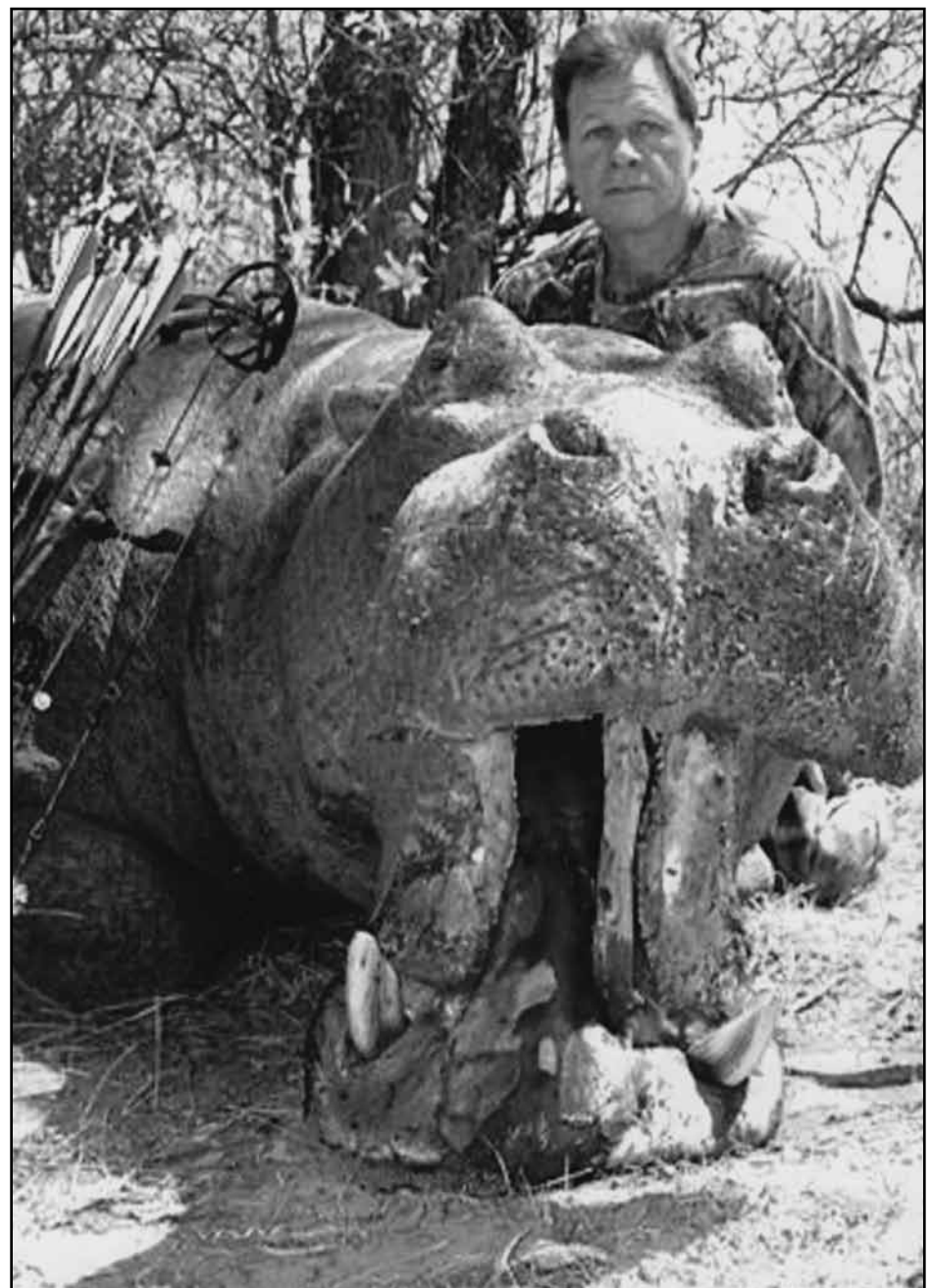
### Features Include:

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- Accepts Re-Chargeable Batteries
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- Built-in Critter Decoy
- Critter top magnetically connects
- Decoy conveniently stores in handle
- Decoy controlled by remote

Suggested Retail Price: \$399.99



Billy Bennett with his 13 point buck taken during muzzleloader season. Photo Courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.



Ken Kirkwood with this magnificent Hippo taken with bow. Photo Courtesy of Macrotech.





## Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

I don't have the option of choosing who I'll spend the day with when I'm running fishing charters, but when it comes to "personal" fishing the choice of a fishing partner can be a consideration that's critical to my enjoyment of the trip. And since I don't get the opportunity to fish just for "fun" as much as I'd like to, when those days happen along I want to make the most of them and that means, if at all possible, fishing with someone whom I enjoy spending time with even when we aren't fishing, and in my case that would be my "wife."

On the average, most fishermen are guys, and most women are content to do things other than fish, but there's no doubt that if they wish, women are just as capable of excelling at fishing as any man. It seems though that too often men miss opportunities to welcome their spouses into their world of fishing. Angling often becomes something the hus-

band does when he goes off with his buddies, not his wife. All that is good if the wife is absolutely not interested in fishing, but I wonder whether the lack of interest in fishing is often a result of not being properly introduced to it. I've noticed that men are typically very patient when it comes to teaching their kids about fishing, but too often the same courtesy is not afforded to the wife. At times it's almost as if the men don't want their wives to go fishing with them.

Introducing a woman to fishing in such a way that she not only puts up with it but actually "enjoys" the process and looks forward to going again can require a different routine than a guy might be accustomed to when he's out fishing with the "boys." Just because some men might allow their social manners to slack when they're fishing "stag" doesn't mean that it's still going to be OK to carry on the tradition when women are aboard. A lot of women will feel a bit awkward and out of place when they take their first steps into what is typically considered to be mostly man's territory, and guys shouldn't do anything to perpetuate such myths. It would be wrong to think that most woman would take it as a compliment to be welcomed into

the world of fishing by being treated like just like one of the guys. Being rude and crude around a woman is just as wrong aboard a boat as it is anywhere else.

When possible it might be best to leave the guys behind and fish with just the wife, or perhaps her and another couple until she feels more comfortable and confident with her new activity. Needless to say the type of fishing shouldn't be physically draining or demanding. Spending 12-hours on a boat 60-miles offshore on hot choppy day is not a good way to decide if you like fishing anymore than standing along some marsh bank knee deep in mud and slapping mosquitoes would be. Whether or not a boat is equipped with a head (toilet) must also be taken into account when taking women fishing. I know some folks with small boats who have solved the problem by always keeping a 5-gallon bucket and a poncho aboard. Even in the middle of the bay with other boats around guy or gal can don the poncho and sit on the bucket. I know it sounds kind of awkward and funny but it's a clever way to handle a common predicament.

Men who take their wives fishing should also keep in mind that there will be tasks that they might not be physically capable of doing, or that they would prefer not to do. When my wife and I are fishing offshore I'm going to be the one who goes up on the bow to pull the anchor and if we're dealing with large fish that require any kind of wrestling around with on deck or alongside the boat it'll likely be me doing it. When it comes to cutting the bait and cleaning the catch that too will likely be done by me, although if necessary she's always willing to lend a hand.

Oftentimes I'll even bait her hooks and de-hook fish for her. Again, it's not that she can't or won't do these things for herself, it's just that when the two of us are fishing we enjoy working as a team and since we know each others strengths and weaknesses it's only natural to help each other out.

Most of all, men who want to get their wives interested in fishing must BE PATIENT and not get snappy with them. Remember

that fishing is supposed to be "fun" and not a time to get ticked off with your partner because she makes a mistake or isn't as adept an angler as you think maybe she ought to be. Remember, most of us started fishing when we were kids and learned how to tie knots, cut bait, and net a fish over a period of many years. We also goofed up a lot along the way. We can't expect a spouse who is new to fishing to have it down after just a few trips. Give it time, laugh-off the mistakes, revel in the successes and you'll cultivate the best fishing buddy you've ever had!

Having your wife as a fishing partner is a great way to spend quality time together while forging memories that will last a lifetime. It also frees us from the guilt of leaving our spouse back home when we're out having a great time. We know how much fun it is to go fishing – why in the world wouldn't we want to share such times with the one we love? Anyone with enough practice can learn to become a "good" fisherman, but having the skill, determination, and patience to teach someone else how to fish the mark of a "great" fisherman.



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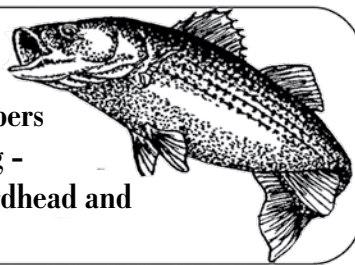
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## Mid-Bay Report

Anglers in the Middle Bay will get to sample resident stripers this month as some waters like the lower Big Choptank open up for 18-inch rockfish starting May 16th.

*By Chuck Prahl* You may keep 2 fish between 18 and 28 inches, only one of which may exceed 28".

The estuaries in general will be off-limits until June 1st when the summer season opens for the entire Bay. A

portion of the Big Choptank on a line from Holland Point to the west entrance of Chapel Creek out to the Main Bay will be open on May 16th. This will give small boat anglers a shot at 18-inch-plus stripers in the somewhat protected environment of the Lower Choptank.

Light tackle anglers hail the chance to catch and keep a few fish after a long dry spell. Sections of the Lower Choptank river harbor good shallow water structure where casting artificials will surely attract some keepers.

Except for last year's Y.O.Y. menhaden, most of which might now be too large for the average resident stripers, the primary forage probably would be Atlantic silversides. They inhabit shallow structure in great numbers. Lures

that imitate their profile could make a big difference in success.

Two lures come to mind that have often made my day in the early season. One is the 4" "Riptide" mullet in glow color. With a 1/2 oz. head, it closely resembles the narrow profile of the silverside.

The other is a 5/8-ounce bucktail jig with a 3-inch long white twister. I make these myself using white bucktail hair topped with a green strip. On each side, I tie in a silver flash which is the signature look of an Atlantic silverside.

I doubt that a lure needs to be the spitting image of a striper's quarry, but if you can duplicate it, why not?

Peeler crab became available early in May and crab is one of the striper's favorite meals. Bait fishermen can do well offering peeler and soft crab during this month. A real possibility when using crab is the chance for spotted sea trout, especially in Mid-Bay areas like James Island and Bloodsworth Island.

The other species that bait fishermen encounter in May is the croaker. God didn't make him pretty, but he certainly filled him with plenty of fight and more than a few anglers find him delectable. A two or three-pound specimen has convinced plenty of fishermen that they had connected with a much larger fish.

Croakers (hardhead) are not particular when it comes to bait, but peeler crab might be their favorite and guess what, it might attract other even more desirable species. Bloodworm, raw jumbo shrimp, squid and clam all take their share of croaker. I have even caught them on cut spot, which might also be caught while bottom fishing in May.

Though white perch have long ago returned from the upper ends of the estuaries, they do not gravitate to the

shoreline until late in May. Bait fishermen catch them by the dozens on shell beds, but the best way to catch them in shallow water structure is by heaving spinners with ultra-light gear.

My favorite spinners are Johnson's "Beetle Spin" and Strike King's "Mini King". Both are considered crappie baits, but white perch gobble them up with gusto. Usually, they can be fished just the way they come out of the package, but when perch show any reluctance to hit them, you can add a bit of peeler or bloodworm to make them more attractive.

I sometimes crush and broadcast a hard crab to get the white perch into a feeding frenzy. If you do that in the right places, it can result in some of the fastest fishing you will ever encounter. Remember while crabbing this summer, that a recreational crabber may keep zero female crabs, except for one scenario which seldom happens these days, but might well present itself. The way I read the regulations, they state that female soft crabs can be retained from April 1st to December 15th and they need to be 3 1/2".

The most common way to encounter a female soft crab is under a doubled male crab. About 90% of the time, males are carrying paper shells or even almost hard sooks. They are not soft crabs, so be careful.

Recreational trotliners may not keep those female peelers when dipping doublers. These used to be a common source of bait for hook and line anglers. Green male peeler crabs do come up the line, but they are seldom spotted and often go overboard or are retained as hard crabs. Ripe peelers usually do not feed and are often found in the shallow grass or other structure where they can shed

See Prahl Page 25



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Continued from Page 24

with some degree of safety.

In the old days, when I was a kid, we commonly spent the low water tide soft-crabbing in the grass beds. In those days the water was clear and you could spot the crabs hiding in the grass. A few really prime soft crabs would make you a real hero at home.

You might be aware that there will finally be some meaningful curtailment of the menhaden harvest. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is responsible for the reduction in the harvest, but it may take its good old time to implement it.

Rather than spend any more years studying the proper method to apply the best action, we need to expedite what we know will help right now, and that would be a moratorium on menhaden under 10", which would assure our sick stripers an abundance of the size menhaden they need.

The Reduction Industry targets menhaden in the Virginia portion of the Bay because it is more profitable. The trouble is, that a large part of that catch are zeros and ones (small menhaden) which are what our resident stripers eat.

When they are forced to fish offshore which happens when they are



unable to find adequate numbers in the Bay, their profit margin goes down. Fuel prices as well as rough ocean weather are big factors, but we need to keep them out of the Bay.

Studies by the Chesapeake Ecological Foundation have proven by examining actual stomach contents that striped bass need to be sustained by a large percentage of menhaden in their diets to maintain healthy body fat.

Jim Price, who heads up the Foundation, samples fish in summer, fall, winter, and spring in various sections of the Bay and concludes that the lack of sufficient menhaden is causing the stress that is believed to contribute to poor health of our resident stripers.

Mr. Price has looked at more than 8,000 stripers over the past 8 years in which he has documented date, where caught, size, sex, general condition, fat content and spleen condition, plus the total stomach content. The study encompasses a huge body of evidence and is available to any agency or scientist who needs it. The study is totally unbiased. It is what it is. Jim himself is from a waterman's family. He has no axe to grind, but his findings leave little doubt about the connection between healthy stripers and abundant menhaden.

## Catch a snakehead and win a prize worth up to \$200

Annapolis, Md. – Anglers who catch a snakehead fish could win prizes worth up to \$200 in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) second annual snakehead contest. Anyone who removes at least one of the invasive, non-native fish from the Chesapeake Bay's watershed has the chance to walk away with prizes from Bass Pro Shops at Arundel Mills, the Maryland Park Service, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. To enter, an angler should submit catch details and a photo of their dead snakehead online through the DNR Angler's log, a popular social fishing site, at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp).

"We do not want snakeheads in our waters," said DNR Inland Fisheries Director Don Cosden. "This initiative is a way to remind anglers that it is important to catch and remove this invasive species of fish."

The Northern snakehead is a non-native, invasive species that someone illegally introduced to the Potomac River. Since its introduction, the population has expanded because of the fish's ability to adapt to the ecosystem. Snakeheads now prowl the Potomac River and many of its tributaries from Great Falls to the mouth of the river. Anglers have found the fish as far away as the Rhode and Nanticoke Rivers. As top predators, they rely on other species for food and could negatively impact the ecosystem and other valuable fish populations.

"These fish clobber any type of moving bait you throw," said Rodney Hose of Lexington Park, who won the Bass Pro Shops gift card in last year's contest. "When they smash into your lure, be prepared for a fight- espe-

cially if they are around some sort of cover."

Hose caught his winner along the Occoquan River shoreline in September.

Three lucky anglers will win from a random drawing. The prizes include a \$200 gift card from Bass Pro Shops, a Maryland State Passport, which provides unlimited day-use entry for up to ten passengers in a vehicle, unlimited boat launching at State Park facilities and a 10 percent discount on State-operated concessions and boat rentals, or a Potomac River Fisheries Commission fishing license. DNR staff will randomly draw the winner on November 30, 2012.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing an embroidered "Snakehead Control" ball cap for anglers who report tagged snakeheads through the (800) 448-8322 line.

To learn how to identify and kill a snakehead, watch a short video at, [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/bass/index.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/bass/index.asp).

"We don't expect that anglers will eradicate the snakehead population," said Joe Love, DNR Tidal Bass program manager. "We do believe this promotion and inspiration of anglers can help control the snakehead population. The information we gain from the Angler's Log reports are also helpful in assessing the abundance, spread and impact of these feisty fish."

DNR reminds anglers that it is illegal to possess a live northern snakehead in Maryland. Additionally, Federal law prohibits the transport of live snakeheads into the U.S. or across State lines.

Stay up-to-date on regulatory proposals and other important DNR



Fisheries topics by subscribing to the DNR Fisheries email list at [dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/emailcontact.asp](http://dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/emailcontact.asp).

Follow the daily Fisheries news through Twitter (@MDDNRFISH) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService](http://facebook.com/MDDNRFisheriesService).

### DNR Snakehead Drawing Clarification

Annapolis, Md. (April 12, 2012) – The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would like to clarify the rules and prizes for the Second Annual Snakehead Contest. There are no cash rewards for catching and killing a snakehead. DNR will draw three names at random from the list of anglers who submit a photo of their snakehead catch to the DNR Anglers Log.

The three prizes are: one \$200 gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops, one 2013 Maryland State Parks Pass and one 2013 Potomac River Fishing license provided by the Potomac River Fisheries Commission. The contest is open to recreational anglers only.

To enter, anglers must submit a photo of the snakehead they caught and killed on the Anglers Log at [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fishingreport/log.asp). Anglers do not need to bring their catch to a citation award center to win.

DNR will randomly draw from the submissions on November 30, 2012.



**A 50 lb Tile fish caught out of Long Island this past March by Henry R. ("Rock") - "Rock" hit this beast in 900' of water on a Bluefish strip with 5 lbs. of lead attached out in Block Canyon on the Viking Starship.**



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Prep Time: 20 min.  
Cook Time: 10 min.  
Ready In: 30 min.  
Yields: 4 servings

Directions: Rinse fillets and pat dry. Cut into palm size pieces. Beat eggs. Dip fish into eggs and then into breading. Add 1 inch of oil into large frying pan. Add fish in hot oil, do not crowd fish in the pan. Fry about 4 min. turn and fry 3-4 more minutes or until brown. Drain on paper towels. This Totally Wild Fish & Game Breading is totally delicious, ask our customers.

Recipe submitted by Sportsman's Table, the outdoor enthusiast's resource for preparing, cooking and serving fish and game, located in HellertownPA. For more information Visit [www.SportsMansTable.com](http://www.SportsMansTable.com) or Call 1-866-640-6802.

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Tiger Woods, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Charlton Heston, Alice Cooper, Curt Gowdy, Greg Norman, Tracy Byrd, Dan Rather, Clint Black, Clay Walker, Michael Chiklis, Cheryl Ladd, Pat O'Brien, Nancy O'Dell, Matt Lauer, Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar De La Hoya, Evel Knievel, Nolan Ryan, Cheech Marin, Anthony Edwards, Rush Limbaugh, Wayne Gretzky and Kathy Ireland are among the many others who share stories or talk fishing.

Read about how an angler, strapped into a fishing harness, survived after being pulled overboard by a huge tuna and how a spearfisherman survived a shark attack.

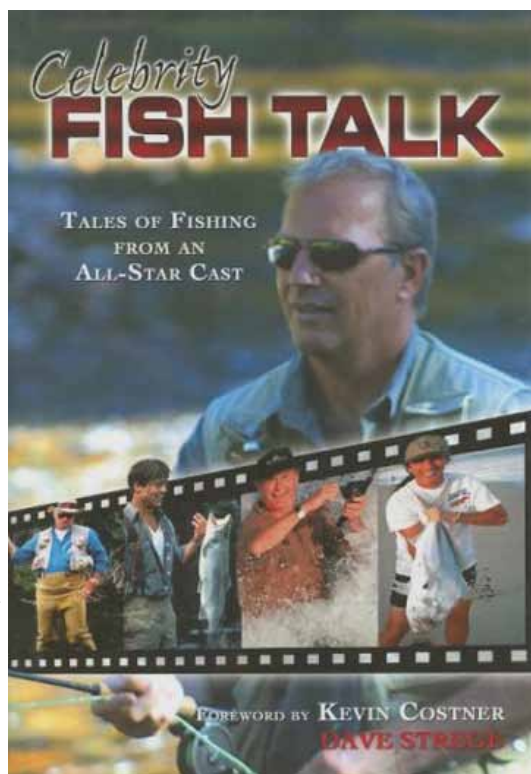
Learn about the crazy carp in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers that are literally jumping into boats like crazy.

Laugh at funny game-warden stories, practical jokes in fishing and the out-takes produced by some of the most well-known fishing stars on TV.

Read about U.S. presidents, passionate fishermen and the one that got away.

In Mother Nature's neighborhood, celebrities are just like average Joe Angler. They enjoy fishing, and they have a fish story.

As former tennis great Michael Chang said, "Anyone who loves fishing always has some kind of fish stories."



## Circle hooks lower catch rate for offshore anglers, impacting recreational fishing

ScienceDaily— Anglers are required to use circle hooks in some fishing tournaments because they are less likely to cause lethal injuries in billfish, such as marlin. However, research from North Carolina State University shows that broadening circle hook requirements could adversely impact charter and recreational fishing, since they make it more difficult to catch non-billfish.

"We wanted to know whether circle hooks are effective as conventional J hooks when angling for non-billfish -- such as yellowfin tuna -- in North Carolina waters," says Paul Rudershausen, a research assistant in NC State's biology department and lead author of a paper describing the research. The NC State team worked with charter boat captains and mates who were experienced with use of circle hooks to look at the efficacy of circle hooks versus J hooks when trolling offshore with rod and reel. The findings are relevant for similar fishing efforts in other waters where these same species occur.

A "circle hook" is defined as a circular hook in which the point of the hook is perpendicular to -- and aligned with -- the shank of the hook. This differs from a J hook, which is shaped like the letter J.

Studies have found that circle hooks are less likely to mortally wound billfish during recreational or charter fishing. As a result, the National Marine Fisheries Service instituted regulations requiring anglers in Atlantic billfish tournaments to use circle hooks when using natural baits. J hooks are still permitted if an angler is using purely artificial bait.

Anglers and fishing industry observers have speculated about the possibility that circle hook regulations may be expanded to fishing outside of billfish tournaments -- even when anglers are not fishing for billfish -- to protect billfish species that may be caught inadvertently.

This speculation led NC State researchers to determine whether circle hooks would be as effective as J hooks when fishing for non-billfish species. The answer is no.

The researchers looked at the relative effectiveness of circle and J hooks for three popular sporting fish: dolphinfish (often called mahi mahi in the Pacific), yellowfin tuna and wahoo. "Circle hooks were roughly 60 to 70 percent as effective at catching these three species as J hooks," Rudershausen says.

The researchers found that the fish would still strike at the bait, but that the hook was significantly less likely to set in the mouth of the fish. However, when the hook did set, anglers were just as likely to be able to get the fish to the boat.

"The charter ocean fishing industry is economically significant in North Carolina," Rudershausen says, "receiving approximately \$65 million in for-hire fees in 2009. The concern is that circle hooks would drive down catch rates -- which could result in fewer clientele for North Carolina's offshore charter fishing industry."

The researchers hope to work with economists to better capture the potential economic impact of any expansion of circle hook regulations.



Circle hooks (bottom) are less likely to mortally wound bill fish than J hooks (top). (Credit: Image courtesy of North Carolina State University)

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CONCORD, N.H. -- If you want to hunt moose in New Hampshire this fall, now is the time enter the lottery and try your luck on the adventure of a lifetime. Applications for the lottery cost \$15 for residents and \$25 for non-residents (nonrefundable) and are available online at <http://www.huntnh.com> or from any Fish and Game license agent. A total of 275 permits are proposed to be issued in this year's lottery. The deadline for entering the 2012 lottery is May 25, 2012. New Hampshire's moose hunt runs from October 20 – 28, 2012.



"New Hampshire offers a variety of quality moose hunting opportunities," said Kristine Rines, Moose Project Leader for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. "Whether you're looking for a trophy bull, a wilderness hunting adventure or simply filling your freezer with meat, you can expect the moose hunt to fulfill your expectations, right here in New Hampshire. Most permits are for the taking of either a male or female, giving hunters greater opportunities to fill their tags, and, except in the Southeast region, the state still has large undeveloped areas in which to hunt."

The state's current moose population is estimated at about 4,500 animals. Last year, the statewide hunter success rate was 71%.

Each applicant can enter the lottery once a year. Everyone who enters the lottery has a chance at being drawn. A bonus point system improves the chances for unsuccessful applicants who apply each consecutive year. Don't miss a year, or you'll lose your points! Hunters who are drawn and accept a permit are not eligible to enter the lottery or apply for a bonus point for the following three years.

Apply now by visiting N.H. Fish and Game at <http://www.huntnh.com> (you can apply online or print out a mail-in application). Lottery applications for 2012 must be postmarked or submitted online by midnight Eastern Time, May 25, 2012, or delivered to N.H. Fish and Game headquarters in Concord before 4 p.m. that day. Applicants are encouraged to apply online and early since there is less chance of submitting an incomplete application.

For more information on moose hunting in New Hampshire, visit [http://www.huntnh.com/Hunting/Hunt\\_species/hunt\\_moose.htm](http://www.huntnh.com/Hunting/Hunt_species/hunt_moose.htm).

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is the guardian of the state's fish, wildlife and marine resources. Visit <http://www.huntnh.com>.



Richard Wright at the Bill Burton Fishing Pier on the lower Choptank River with a nice white perch.



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# Georgetown, Delaware man catches –then releases alive – A new state record Largemouth Bass

DOVER – When James D. Hitchens of Georgetown set out yesterday for his favorite Sussex County fishing hole, he planned to catch largemouth bass, baiting his line with a live shiner minnow. However, he didn't expect to set a new state record with the big bass that took his bait. "I've never had one over eight pounds," Hitchens said. "So I was hoping for over eight pounds."

Hitchens got his wish and then some when he reeled in a 10-pound, 10-ounce female largemouth measuring 26 inches long and 18 3/4 inches in girth, as measured at Taylored Tackle Shop in Seaford and verified by DN-REC Fisheries biologists Nathan Rust and Jordan Zimmerman. During the certification process, the tackle shop kept the fish in an aerated tank, and after it was measured and verified, Hitchens released it, alive, back into the pond where he caught it. "I put her right back where she came from," said Hitchens, a longtime Delaware angler. "I release all my big fish."

Fisheries staff applauded Hitchens' good sportsmanship in releasing his record catch. "We encourage catch and release fishing in Delaware, especially with larger fish like this one," said Fisheries biologist Cathy Martin.

"Not only will this fish be back out there for other anglers to enjoy, it should also see another spawning season to pass on its good genes to another generation of largemouth bass and thereby improve our bass stock."

Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries staff monitor Delaware's freshwater ponds and their fish populations, Martin said. Biologists have a variety of tools for managing fisheries: specialized regulations such as slot limits, stocking programs to bolster the population, removing specific size groups to reduce overcrowding and balance populations, habitat changes such as removal of invasive species, and supplementing food supply, for example, by stocking shiners. "Having healthy fish the size of the new record-holder largemouth bass in our ponds is a good indicator of the success of these management practices," Martin added.

Since 1937, Delaware also has received funding from the federal Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program.

Last year, the state Fisheries Section received about \$3.5 million in federal matching funds to help support state fisheries restoration work, with Delaware fishing license fees



**James D. Hitchens of Georgetown with 10-pound, 10-ounce state record largemouth bass that he caught and then released - alive - back into the pond from which the fish was taken.**

supplying the match for the federal program.

"Later this year we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of this long-standing state and federal partnership, which is a great model for how to accomplish cost-effective resource management funded by those who di-

rectly benefit from the resource – the anglers. The general public benefits from this funding model and partnership as well," said David Saveikis, Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Meanwhile, we also look forward to more signs of success from our Fisheries management practices."

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# 2012 Delaware Junior Duck Stamp winners announced

DOVER – On March 24, more than 30 artistic entries created by students in grades K through 12 from all over the state were judged in the 2012 Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

Maria Ji, a 16-year-old from Wilmington and first place winner for grades 10 through 12, won best of show for the third consecutive year. Her acrylic painting depicts a spectacled eider on the water.

Second runner-up was Tony Monaco, age 11, of Seaford, for his oil painting of a Canada goose.

Third runner-up was Hannah Doyle, age 12, of Seaford, for her watercolor of a green-winged teal.

Maria's winning Duck Stamp entry was judged along with other state winners on April 20 in the Federal

Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of the Interior and slated to be held this year at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Md., near Washington, D.C. The best of show winner of the federal competition will have his or her artwork made into the 2012-2013 Junior Duck Stamp and will also receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

"The Junior Duck Stamp program is unique because it teaches biology and habitat conservation through scientific observation and artistic interpretation to K through 12 students," said Dawn Webb, coordinator of the Delaware Junior Duck Stamp program.

Dorothy McCormick, age 8, the winner of this year's kindergarten through third grade division, said she

studied ducks in the pond near her Millsboro home and in bird books to create her watercolor of an American wigeon. "When you start, you think it's about the art," said her mother, Shawna McCormick. "But you really need to understand the ducks and their environment."

"The opportunity to compete in something is always an asset for kids' learning," said judge Rick Berry, a member of Delaware's Advisory Council on Wildlife and Freshwater Fish and of Ducks Unlimited. "It gives kids the chance to learn about habitat around them, to learn about wildlife around them."

The judges panel also included Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife Director David Saveikis; retired wildlife biologist Bill Whitman, who founded the Delaware Junior Duck Stamp Contest in 1994; well-known wildlife artist and Federal Duck Stamp Competition winner Richard Clifton of Milford; and Dan Stotts, biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Judges base their decisions on anatomical accuracy of the waterfowl depicted, how well the work illustrates the species and its habitat, and which artwork would translate best into a stamp.

All 33 participants in the 18th annual contest received a certificate, ribbons and prizes from sponsors. Entries, which depict a species chosen from a list of North American waterfowl, were sponsored by teachers, schools, organizations and individuals.

First place winners are:

Grades K-3: Dorothy McCormick, age 8, of Millsboro, "Swimming Along."

Grades 4-6: Tie: Tony Monaco, age 11, of Seaford, "Canada Goose on the Nanticoke," and Daniel Winston, age 12, of Milford, untitled. Tony won first place for grades 4-6 last year and first place for grades K-3 in 2010.

Grades 7-9: Hannah Doyle, age 12, of Seaford, "Duck on a Pond."

Grades 10-12: Maria Ji, age 16, of Wilmington, untitled.

Second place winners are:

Grades K-3: Mercy Winston, age 8, of Milford.

Grades 4-6: Kayla Booros, age 11, of Bridgeville.

Grades 7-9: Rachael Winston, age 13, of Milford.

Grades 10-12: Alicia Hale, age 15, of Bridgeville.

Third place winners are:

Grades K-3: Samuel Winston, age 5, of Milford.

Grades 4-6: Tie: Wayne Morris, age 10, of Clayton, and Grace Winston, age 10, of Milford.

Grades 7-9: Bridget Johnson, age 13, of Seaford.

Grades 10-12: Tie: Josiah Winston, age 15, and Joy Winston, age 17, both of Milford.

Honorable mentions are:



Grades K-3: Emma Jane Morris, age 5, Clayton; Parker Reb, age 5, Felton; Talon Webb, age 7, Greenwood; and Aaron Reb, age 7, Felton.

Grades 4-6: Rocklin Reb, age 11, Felton; Bayleigh Carlisle, age 10, Seaford; Magdalyn Reb, age 9, Felton; Atira Forrest, age 10, Newark; Fiona Piper, age 11, Newark; Sabrina Baillie, age 11, Newark; Alice Toll, age 10, Newark; Quinton Kramack, age 10, Newark; John Richmond, age 10, Newark; Sarah Schoen, age 10, Newark; Gevon Cheatham, age 11, Newark; and Michael Jones, age 11, Newark.

Grades 7-9: Jerald Reb, age 12, Felton.

Grades 10-12: Jonathan Winston, age 19, Milford.

Conservation message winners are: First place: Alicia Hale, age 15, Bridgeville – "Conservation is fighting today to save tomorrow."

Second place: Josiah Winston, age 15, Milford – "By preserving our wetlands, we can help protect our plants and wildlife."

Third place: Jerald Reb, age 12, Felton – "Animals and plants are important because without them humans could not survive. Also, they are fun to observe and it would be sad without them."

Honorable Mention: Dorothy McCormick, age 8, Millsboro – Ducks Unite Caring Kids!

Honorable Mention: Bayleigh Carlisle, age 10, Seaford – "We need to keep all wildlife safe by not polluting, over harvesting and creating more wildlife habitats."

Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is located at 2591 Whitehall Neck Road, Smyrna, DE 19977, off Route 9 east of the town of Smyrna. The refuge's visitor center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The refuge is open from sunrise to sunset; entrance fees apply.

For more information about the refuge, please visit [www.fws.gov/northeast/bombayhook](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/bombayhook).

For more information about displaying the artwork or about the Delaware Junior Duck Stamp Contest, please contact Dawn Webb, contest coordinator, 302-422-1329.

The Junior Duck Stamp Competition is a federal program that is sponsored in Delaware by the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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## 'Take a Kid Fishing!' days announced by Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

DOVER – Do you know a child or young teen who might enjoy learning about fishing and trying their hand at landing a fish? Through the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife's Take a Kid Fishing! program, you'll have your choice of five upcoming dates when budding anglers age 6 through 15 and a parent/guardian are invited to come out and cast a line.

Sponsored by DNREC's Aquatic Resource Education Center and Delaware State Parks, Take a Kid Fishing! teaches young people fundamental fishing skills and conservation. Along with the angling, these free-admission\* days also feature activity stations and prizes. Fishing equipment will be provided, but participants may want to pack a picnic lunch.

The Take a Kid Fishing! program will be held on the following upcoming Saturdays:

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., May 5 - Lums Pond State Park\*, Bear

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., May 12 - Killens Pond State Park\*, Felton

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., June 2 - Aquatic Resource Education Center in Smyrna

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., June 16 - Father's Day Fishing at Wilmington State Parks (Brandywine Park)\*

\* While the events are free, Delaware State Parks entrance fees are in effect: for each vehicle, \$3 with Delaware tags and \$6 with out-of-state tags. Participants 16 years and older must have a current Delaware fishing license and a FIN number to fish.

The events are free but pre-registration is required. To pre-register to participate in Take a Kid Fishing!, or for more information about the program or about volunteering as an instructor, please call Tess Belcher at 302-735-8656 or email [Theresa.Belcher@state.de.us](mailto:Theresa.Belcher@state.de.us).





## Trophy whitetails up 400 Percent over 30 years

MISSOULA, Mont.—Trophy whitetail entries from 2011 hunting seasons are beginning to pour into Boone and Crockett Club headquarters. But while the sporting world waits to see which states are hot—or not—producers of giant bucks, North America's overall robust trend in whitetail entries is a story for all conservationists to celebrate.

B&C historical records show that trophy whitetails are up 400 percent over the past 30 years.

"It's worth remembering where America's favorite big-game species stood not so long ago—at the brink of extinction," said Ben Wallace, Club president. "In 1900, less than 500,000 whitetails remained. But habitat programs, research, science-based management, regulations and enforcement, all led and funded by hunters, brought this game animal back to extraordinary levels. Today there are more than 32 million whitetails!"

The Boone and Crockett system of scoring big-game trophies originated in 1906 as a means of recording details on species thought to be disappearing. Over time, these records evolved as an effective way to track the success or failure of conservation efforts.

As North America's whitetail herd has grown, numbers of big bucks also have risen.

For the period 1980-1985, hunters entered 617 trophy whitetails into Boone and Crockett records.

For the period 2005-2010, the total jumped to 3,090, an increase of 400 percent.

During this 30-year span, many states and provinces saw percentage gains much greater than the continental average (see data below). For example, trophy whitetail entries from Wisconsin have risen 857 percent. In Illinois, the increase is 896 percent. Ontario went from a single entry to a whopping 41—a 4,000 percent gain!

Six states and provinces had zero entries in 1980-1985. For 2005-2010, they combined for 48.

Boone and Crockett offers two premier ways to trace and detail historic conservation developments, not just with whitetails but many other species as well.

A book, "Records of North American Big Game," offers detailed tabular listings for trophies in 38 different categories of game. Each entry includes the all-time entry score, date harvested, location of kill, hunter and owner names, and selected measurements. At 768 pages, the book retails for \$49.95.

A searchable online database, called "Trophy Search," is another exceptional resource. By buying an annual subscription, users can sort B&C archival data in infinite ways to identify national as well as local trends. An annual subscription is \$50.

Boone and Crockett Club Associates receive discounts on both items. Order online at [www.boone-crockett.org](http://www.boone-crockett.org) or by calling 888-840-4868.

## B&C Trophy Whitetail Production, 2005-2010

(Typical and non-typical trophies combined)

1. Wisconsin, 383 entries (1980-1985 rank 3rd, 40 entries)
2. Illinois, 299 entries (1980-1985 rank 6th, 30 entries)
3. Iowa, 224 entries (1980-1985 rank 2nd, 59 entries)
4. Ohio, 215 entries (1980-1985 rank 14th, 16 entries)
5. Missouri, 214 entries (1980-1985 rank 9th (tie), 25 entries)
6. Kentucky, 199 entries (1980-1985 rank 9th (tie), 25 entries)
7. Indiana, 195 entries (1980-1985 rank 16th, 14 entries)
8. Kansas, 181 entries (1980-1985 rank 4th, 35 entries)
9. Minnesota, 172 entries (1980-1985 rank 1st, 76 entries)
10. Saskatchewan, 147 entries (1980-1985 rank 7th (tie), 27 entries)
11. Texas, 132 entries (1980-1985 rank 12th, 19 entries)
12. Alberta, 115 entries (1980-1985 rank 7th (tie), 27 entries)
13. Nebraska, 78 entries (1980-1985 rank 18th (tie), 12 entries)
14. Oklahoma, 48 entries (1980-1985 rank 22nd (tie), 7 entries)
15. Ontario, 41 entries (1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry)
16. Arkansas, 40 entries (1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries)
- 17 (tie). Michigan, 39 entries (1980-1985 rank 17th, 13 entries)
- 17 (tie). Mississippi, 39 entries (1980-1985 rank 18th, 12 entries)
19. North Dakota, 31 entries (1980-1985 rank 31st (tie), 4 entries)
20. Pennsylvania, 26 entries (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)
21. New York, 25 entries (1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries)
22. South Dakota, 24 entries (1980-1985 rank 20th (tie), 8 entries)
- 23 (tie). Georgia, 23 entries (1980-1985 rank 5th, 31 entries)
- 23 (tie). Maryland, 23 entries (1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries)
- 25 (tie). British Columbia, 19 entries (1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries)
- 25 (tie). Maine, 19 entries (1980-1985 rank 11th, 20 entries)
27. Virginia, 17 entries (1980-1985 rank 22nd (tie), 7 entries)
28. Tennessee, 15 entries (1980-1985 rank 20th, 8 entries)
29. Colorado, 13 entries (1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry)
30. Idaho, 11 entries (1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries)
- 31 (tie). Massachusetts, 8 entries (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)
- 31 (tie). Quebec, 8 entries (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)
33. Delaware, 7 entries (1980-1985 rank 42nd (tie), 1 entry)
- 34 (tie). Louisiana, 6 entries (1980-1985 rank 28th (tie), 5 entries)
- 34 (tie). Manitoba, 6 entries (1980-1985 rank 15th, 15 entries)
- 34 (tie). Washington, 6 entries (1980-1985 rank 31st (tie), 4 entries)
- 37 (tie). Montana, 5 entries (1980-1985 rank 13th, 17 entries)
- 37 (tie). Alabama, 5 entries (1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries)
- 37 (tie). North Carolina, 5 entries (1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries)
- 40 (tie). Connecticut, 4 entries (1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries)
- 40 (tie). New Hampshire, 4 entries (1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries)
- 42 (tie). New Jersey, 3 entries (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)
- 42 (tie). New Brunswick, 3 entries (1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries)
- 42 (tie). West Virginia, 3 entries (1980-1985 rank 34th (tie), 3 entries)
- 45 (tie). Mexico, 2 entries (1980-1985 rank 24th (tie), 6 entries)
- 45 (tie). Wyoming, 2 entries (1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries)
- 45 (tie). South Carolina, 2 entries (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)
- 45 (tie). Nova Scotia, 2 entries (1980-1985 rank 31st (tie), 4 entries)
- 49 (tie). Oregon, 1 entry (1980-1985 rank 38th (tie), 2 entries)
- 49 (tie). Rhode Island, 1 entry (1980-1985 rank 45th (tie), 0 entries)



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## Improve your hunting with new NWTF iPhone app

The powerful new NWTF Turkey Hunting Toolbox is now available for iPhones, iPads and iPod Touch.

The official NWTF Turkey Hunting Toolbox has everything a turkey hunter needs in one phone app.

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Video tips from champion callers

Valuable turkey hunting tips

Range map of wild turkey subspecies

Wild turkey score calculator

Photos and descriptions of the wild turkey subspecies

Links to every state wildlife agency for hunting regulations

"This app is a must-have tool for every turkey hunter," said Brent Lawrence, NWTF public relations and website director. "It has amazing features that can help hunters improve their calling and become better hunters. It will help make you a more complete turkey hunter, not to mention becoming the coolest hunter in the woods."

The exclusive iPhone app features calling tip videos from champion turkey callers, 12 live turkey sounds, and instant access to dozens of proven turkey hunting tips. All are accessible at your fingertips without an Internet connection - even in the most remote corner of the forest.

The app's wild turkey range map can help hunters explore and zoom in to where each subspecies lives across North America. With a few simple measurements, the app calculates the score of a turkey based on the NWTF Wild Turkey Records official requirements.

Turkey hunting fanatics will enjoy exclusive NWTF turkey ringtones. Be the talk of your office when a boss gobbler sounds off from your hip, and then catch everyone's attention when you lower the boom on him.

Sign up for an NWTF membership, find local events and keep up with the turkey talk on the NWTF's Facebook page through this do-it-all app.

Search for "NWTF Toolbox" in iTunes or in the App Store on your iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. The app, only \$1.99, was created in cooperation with [www.HuntGeek.com](http://www.HuntGeek.com). The NWTF and HuntGeek are exploring an Android version.

The NWTF, a non-profit conservation organization founded in 1973, has conserved and improved 17 million acres of essential wildlife habitat with its partners by raising and investing \$372 million since 1985. Habitat projects that help wild turkeys also improve habitat for deer, quail, rabbits, songbirds and many other species in our fields and forests.

The NWTF's outreach programs - JAKES, Women in the Outdoors and Wheelin' Sportsmen - introduce about 100,000 youth, women and people with disabilities to the outdoors annually. Passing on the outdoor tradition is essential to the future of conservation and hunting.

For more information on the NWTF, visit [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).



## IN OKLAHOMA

### Angler lands new Oklahoma state record largemouth bass

#### OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

A new Oklahoma state record largemouth bass was caught Friday, March 23, at Cedar Lake in southeast Oklahoma. The fish weighed 14 lbs. 12.3 oz. and was caught by Poteau angler Benny Williams, Jr. while on a camping trip at the 78-acre LeFlore Co. lake.

Williams caught the bass at 11 a.m. on a 1/4 oz. Striker King jig. This fish measured 26 inches in length and 22 3/8 inches in girth.

Williams' fish breaks a state record held since 1999 when William Cross caught a 14-lb. 11.52-oz. bass from Broken Bow Lake.

"Catching the state record largemouth bass in Oklahoma is a big deal and catching a fish this large is a big deal," said Barry Bolton, chief of fisheries for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. "It speaks to the quality of fishing we have in Oklahoma and also to the anglers who get out there and fish for them. We congratulate him on his great catch."

The last two state record largemouth bass as well as several from the state's Top 20 Largemouth Bass List have been caught in the southern and southeast regions of the state. Fish are cold-blooded, so their metabolisms work faster in warmer conditions and they grow more rapidly.

Lakes in the southeast region of the state tend to



warm up earlier and cool off later in the year than in other regions, which affords these fish a longer growing season.

According to Gene Gilliland, assistant chief of fisheries for the Wildlife Department, Cedar Lake has been known to produce big largemouth bass for anglers in recent years - not only because of its southeastern location, but also because it has a history of receiving Florida strain largemouth bass through the state's stocking program.

"They grow pretty fast down in that part of the state," Gilliland said. "Cedar Lake has produced several double-digit fish in the last five years."

### Virginia officials confirm Elk restoration to begin soon

MISSOULA, Mont.—The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has been officially notified that elk restoration efforts in Virginia will begin this spring.

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries officials confirmed the news to RMEF, the project's leading financial contributor with a pledge of \$300,000. RMEF leaders say they will now step up local fundraising efforts to ensure the project, once started, continues to move forward and remains on schedule.

RMEF has received numerous donations for the project, including several large gifts from Virginia donors. Still, about half of the pledged amount needs to be raised.

Plans call for relocating up to 75 elk from Kentucky to Buchanan County, Va., with an elk management area to include Dickenson and Wise counties. Biologists are hoping for a sustainable elk population that will offer recreational opportunities such as elk viewing in the short term and a limited hunting season within four or five years.

David Allen, RMEF president and CEO, said, "Elk have been trapped and are now being held in Kentucky for a required quarantine period. The animals will be monitored and tested repeatedly to assure good health. Later, they will be moved to southwest Virginia and held for a second period to allow them to adapt to their new surroundings, and then released in May."

"We are excited about bringing elk home to Virginia," said Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Director Bob Duncan. "And we're excited about the opportunity to partner with RMEF—a leader in wildlife habitat conservation. RMEF's support of our agency and our elk restoration project, not only monetarily but through technical assistance and support from RMEF members and



chapters throughout Virginia, has been overwhelming. This partnership is beneficial not only to the restoration of elk in southwest Virginia but also to other wildlife species and programs in the area."

RMEF invested more than \$28,000 in 1996 for an initial elk restoration feasibility study in Virginia. Wildlife agency commissioners in 2010 voted unanimously to move forward with the project.

Kentucky's elk herd, the largest herd east of the Rockies, was restored with financial and technical support from RMEF in the 1990s. That herd now numbers more than 10,000 animals, is a major tourism draw, offers ever-increasing hunting opportunities and is now serving as a source herd for restoration efforts in other states.

To be a part of this historic conservation effort in Virginia, join and support RMEF. Visit [www.rmfef.org](http://www.rmfef.org) and click "Attend an Event" to find fundraisers planned across the state. For additional information, call 800-CALL ELK or contact Chris Croy, RMEF regional director for Virginia, at 704-551-6223 or [ccroy@rmfef.org](mailto:ccroy@rmfef.org).





## “THE LAST WORD”

### 2012 Legislative Wrap Up

By Steve Huettner

The final gavel has technically fallen in Annapolis (a special session is likely). The 2012 session was a mixed one for the hook and bullet crowd in Maryland. The session was dominated by the issue of money; the lack of money and where to find more of it.

One of the biggest gains for hunters this session was an increase in Sunday hunting opportunities across the board. It seems that the fears of anti-Sunday hunting crowd never bore fruit and even initial opponents of Sunday hunting are now rushing to support expanded opportunities. For deer hunters, additional Sunday on private lands have been added in Caroline, Somerset, Worcester, and Harford Counties. Turkey hunters, not one to take a back seat to the deer crowd, saw Sunday turkey hunting expand from Western Maryland (Alleghany and Garrett) to Caroline, Dorchester, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's. The newer counties are for private lands only while western Maryland is more inclusive and allows turkeys on private and public land.

Carroll County has made it easier to bow hunt and kill deer in their county by changing the yardage requirement from an occupied dwelling from 150 yards to 50 yards. This bill has been run up the flag pole before and credit to the sportsman and elected officials of Carroll County for being the first county to change the law. This will allow DNR and hunters to more effectively manage deer in Carroll County. Hopefully more counties in the suburban/urban deer zone will follow suit.

Another win was continued funding of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHHF).

Hunters might remember that \$1 from every license sold was dedicated to FHHF to help process donated deer. This sum-



mer, an audit by the USFWS determined that the transfer was a violation of license money expenditures. Due to the efforts of many groups and individuals, Governor O'Malley allocated \$248,000 in general funds to FHHF to keep the program up and running.

Poachers on the other hand take note that they days of just paying a fine and not worrying about losing your hunting license are gone. The wildlife poaching prevention act now allows not only the courts to suspend hunting a license, but all the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This is the same power that DNR in fisheries. Closing the loophole to prevent serial poachers from returning to field is a step in the right direction. Now if we could just find the money to get more officers in the field.

Losers this year were hunter in almost Maryland (aka the bear zone) who wanted to carry a handgun for protection while bow hunting. The Senate version of this bill passed, but was killed in the House Judiciary Committee by a vote of 12-9. What is ironic is that all members that voted against the bill, none of whom live in the bear zone. Perhaps a field trip is in order.

The most contentious bill this year as reported in my column last month was a bill to increase the cost of a hunting license. The bill after coming out of Environmental Affairs committee was defeated by the full house. After listening to the debate, I find it completely ironic that the only fee bill not to survive this year was one where the monies were dedicated, meaning they could not be transferred into the general fund. This

writer and many other rank and file hunters thought that in order to protect the opportunities we have was worth the cost of a box of shotgun shells. Perhaps when hunting opportunities are lost via lack of staff and science the debate can center on reality and not fantasy.

For those of us that like to wet a line, Fisheries was rather quiet for what did not pass versus what did pass. Bills to prohibit the possession of shark fins, requiring DNR to remove abandoned fishing nets within 1 day after notification, prohibiting commercial fisherman from fishing for striped bass and crabbing at the same time, and a bill dealing with the use of gill nets all failed in 2012 general session.

The biggest bill to come out of fisheries and pass was HB 1372 known as the cost recovery bill. This law seeks to address the disparities paid between commercial interests and recreational interests for striped bass management and enforcement during striped bass fishing season. The law allows DNR to recover costs for fish tags issued to licensee and the cost of the hauling system for report of commercial catch. It also caps the number of commercial licenses for striped bass at 1231 and sets parameters for sale or transfer of such license.



Remember, that in a democracy every voice is allowed to be heard, make sure yours is one of them.

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## WFN: World Fishing Network launches search for the ultimate fishing towns in the U.S. and Canada

*One million anglers across North America expected to vote to earn their town a feature on WFN and part of the \$50,000 in community donations*

WFN: World Fishing Network, North America's only 24-hour fishing lifestyle network, is asking anglers in the U.S. and Canada to nominate their favorite place to fish as WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town 2012.

The network is accepting nominations at [www.wfnfishingtown.com](http://www.wfnfishingtown.com) from anglers across the U.S. and Canada who believe their town is WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town. The winning town in each country will receive a \$25,000 community donation for fishing-related cause(s), the title of WFN's Ultimate Fishing Town 2012, plus a tourism boost as WFN produces a feature about the town and airs it on the network.

"No matter if they love to fish in a small rural community or a popular tourist destination, we encourage everyone to nominate their town," said Mark Rubinstein, President and CEO of WFN. "We look forward to sharing their stories and letting the people choose WFN's Ultimate Fishing Towns for 2012 in the U.S. and Canada."

Last year, Chapleau, ON, and Roscoe, NY, were each selected as WFN's Ultimate Fishing Towns for Canada and the U.S. respectively. More than 500 towns were nominated and nearly one million votes were cast. In 2010, WFN ran the promotion exclusively in Canada, and Port Alberni, B.C., was the winner.

People can nominate their town from April 2-30, 2012 by visiting [www.wfnfishingtown.com](http://www.wfnfishingtown.com). The website is designed so U.S. and Canadian visitors are automatically directed to the appropriate contest. Nominations may include photos, videos and testimonials. The public voting runs from May 1-31, 2012, with the results announced in June at a local ceremony emceed by WFN's Mariko Izumi.

The contest is being sponsored by SkiSafe Boating Insurance: Insurance for boaters from boaters ([www.skisafe.com](http://www.skisafe.com)).

### About WFN: World Fishing Network

WFN: World Fishing Network is the only 24/7 television network dedicated to all segments of fishing with programming that covers instruction, tips, tournaments, travel, outdoor lifestyle and more. Originally launched in December 2005, today WFN and WFN HD are available in more than 30 million households through North American cable, satellite and telecommunications distributors. For more information, visit [www.WorldFishingNetwork.com](http://www.WorldFishingNetwork.com).



Jonathan J. Crist of Easton, MD with a big bluefish caught from the Assateague Surf on mullet for bait this past March

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