



TIDERUNNER

Newsletter of the Annapolis Chapter of the MSSA

“More Fish – More Catching – More Fun”

May 2007

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The cool spring weather this year appears to have delayed the Rockfish Spawn until just before the MSSA Spring Tournament. This resulted in a large number of very big fish being weighed in during the Tournament. I have also observed what many are saying about the large percentage of “Slot Fish” between 35 and 41 inches that are being caught and released. During the Tournament, about half of the fish caught by our crew on the TRIPLE PLAY were “Slot Fish” that were carefully revived and released.

Congratulations to 2 of our Chapter Members who won some significant prize money in this year's Spring Tournament. Steven Pilipauskis from Riva caught the 4th place Rockfish (45.15 pounds) which was worth \$17,083 (including skill level prizes). Wilson Ford of Pasadena had the 1st place Rockfish in the Charterboat Division (41.20 pounds) netting him \$11,205 (including skill level prizes). Congratulations Captains & Crews!

Kevin McMenamin
President

MAY MEETING & GUEST SPEAKER

Our speaker for the May 16, 2007 meeting will be John Unkart. John has been fishing offshore for over 40 years, and has worked on charter boats professionally for over a decade. He has written how-to articles for several magazines including Boating and The Fisherman. His presentation will cover non-traditional offshore trolling methods, and rigging ballyhoo on circle hooks for White Marlin.

Upcoming Speakers

June: Aaron Rogers – Trolling for Tuna
September: Ron Schaefer – Light tackle/Jigging

Chapter Meetings are held @ 7:30 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July & Aug) at the Annapolis American Legion Post #7 located at 1905 Crownsville Rd. The meeting format is informal yet informative with an emphasis on learning and talking about fishing. Please join us to expand your knowledge of Bay & Offshore Fishing and to extend your Fishing Buddy Network to know where and how the big fish are being caught.

Paul Kurchock
Speaker Coordinator



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Trophy Season got off to a slow start on April 21 for the thousands of anglers who ventured out on the Bay for Opening Day. The Chapter again was a co-sponsor of the Boatyard Bar and Grill Charity Tournament and several of our members fished in this worthwhile event that delivered over \$20,000 to local charities. The Chapter Calcutta had 10 entrants and was won by Craig Teuber with the only fish turned in among the 10 contestants. Craig took home \$500 for his 38 inch fish.

After a frustrating week of very spotty fishing in the mid-Bay, the weather and the rockfish cooperated to produce some excellent fishing that extended through the first two days of the MSSA Spring Tournament, May 4th and 5th. The weather turned nasty on Saturday afternoon and the Rod and Reel Tournament was officially terminated Saturday night by email. My crew elected to remain in port for Sunday and I suspect many others did as well.

I would like to commend Team Geritol aboard LEEWAY (Captain Lee Slagle) for an outstanding day of fishing on Saturday, May 5, in the vicinity of James Island at the mouth of the Little Choptank River. LEEWAY and TOMCAT rafted up Friday night in Hudson Creek for some outstanding food and fellowship and returned to the tournament on Saturday morning. TOMCAT worked south toward the gas dock but LEEWAY stayed close to her first bite all day and boated 12 fish before heading to the check-in station at Taylor's Island. WELL DONE to Team Geritol.

The fishing continues good through the time of writing and I'm looking forward to a few more days on the Bay before the MD Waterman's Tournament June 8-10. This tournament is fished above the Bay Bridge and often becomes a chumming rather than a trolling tournament. TOMCAT is entered in this tournament and will then head for Chincoteague and the MSSA Tournament June 22-24.

For those of you who have followed the progress of the repower on TOMCAT, we have been delighted with the performance of the Steyr motors and expect Ken Navis to fill his order book as more gas engine boat owners become aware of the diesel options manufactured by Steyr in Austria. We replaced the 454 Crusader 330 hp gas engines with 256 hp Steyr diesels and after 70 hours of operations, believe the cruising speed and fuel economy numbers are pretty well established. Cruising speed has increased from 21 knots to 23.6 knots even after removing pitch from the 3 bladed props that were original equipment on the boat. Fuel consumption at cruising speed is about 10 gph. The gas engines, at 21 knots, burned 30 gph. At our last fill-up, diesel fuel was 80 cents per gallon cheaper than gasoline. The rough rule of thumb that emerges from all this is that we are burning 1/3 the fuel at 1/4 the cost to operate the boat. The total fuel consumption for the 2 days of the MSSA Tournament including 18 hours of 2 engine trolling and 5+hours at cruising speed was 108 gallons. Don't ask me why we didn't do this 5 years ago.

Good luck to everyone and I hope you have learned to smile when you throw back a 40.75 inch fish. Remember, it is for a good cause and hopefully will contribute to the health of rockfish stock in the Bay for years to come.

Pete Abbott
Vice President

HELP WANTED

I am in search of a volunteer to help with organizing the Chapter Fishing Trip this summer. The target date is the evening of July 18th since we will not be holding a Chapter Meeting in July or August. Please contact Kevin McMenamin if you are willing to organize this event.

SPRING TOURNAMENT PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The 24th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament included 655 private boats and 37 charter boats. Hear are the preliminary results that have been released by the MSSA Office. Final Results and all of the winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony this Thursday. Please note that the AWARDS CEREMONY has MOVED to a new location which is:

COLUMBIAN CENTER
335 N. Richie Highway
Severna Park MD 21146

On Saturday at 3:41 p.m. Rodney King of Owings, Maryland brought his fish to the official weigh station located at the Rod & Reel Dock in Chesapeake Beach. The MSSA weigh master called out 48.65 pounds which was the heaviest striper weighed into our tournament at that time. By the conclusion of the tournament Mr. King's rockfish was still in first place and was declared the winner of the tournament. Rodney was proud winner of the first place cash prize of \$10,000 and \$2,260 for the \$25 Tournament Within A Tournament.

Herb Patterson of Solomons had a solid lock on first place with his 45.50 pound striper when he checked his striper in at Calvert Marina weigh station on Friday at 4:20 p.m. He later heard about Mr. King's fish on Sunday afternoon. Although Mr. Paterson placed second in the overall tournament and won \$5,000 he picked up an additional \$45,220 in the skill levels bringing his winnings to \$50,220.

Third place goes to George Wagner, Jr. of Pasadena, Maryland. George checked his fish in at the Point Lookout weigh station on Friday at 1:20 p.m. which weighed in at 45.25 pounds. Mr. Wagner won 1,500 for his third place finish and another \$33,774 in the special skill level prizes bringing his total to \$35,274.

Fourth place went to Steven Pilipauskis, Sr. of Riva, Maryland for his 45.15 pound rockfish. Steve checked his fish in at the Rod & Reel Dock on Saturday morning at 10:04 a.m. Fourth place paid \$1,000 however Steve had the foresight like Herb and George to enter the skill levels. Steve won \$16,083 in skill level money bringing his total to \$17,083.

Included in the tournament was a special Catch & Release Division. Sam Fisher Jr. of Heathsville, Virginia turned in his release form which listed 57 rockfish released during the first two day of the tournament. Sam will receive \$400 in gift certificates from Penn Reels. Second place went to Dan Henderson III of King George, Virginia with 44 releases. Dan will win \$200 in gift certificates from Penn Reels.

In the charterboat division, Captain Wilson Ford of Pasadena, Maryland won the division with his 41.20 pound rockfish. Captain Ford won the \$4,000 first place prize money and additional \$7,205 in skill level cash prizes bringing his total to \$11,205.

There was also a Kid's Division included in this year's event. A total of 10 U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded to children 15 and under. Thomas Hosselrode's son captured the first place prize with his 32.95 pound rockfish and will win \$800 worth of savings bond.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Spring Tournament Captain's Meeting at Boater's World Annapolis and/or helped at one of the numerous Weigh Stations during the Tournament Weekend. Your time and energy is greatly appreciated and these events would not have run so smoothly without your help. Next month is the Tournament and once again the

Annapolis Chapter will be hosting the Captain's Meeting Cook Out in Wachapreague. Once again we will be looking for 6 to 8 volunteers to help organize and stage this event in Wachapreague. Please see Bob Kimball or Kevin McMenamin at the May Chapter Meeting if you can help us with hosting this event.

Bob Kimball
Tournament Committee Rep

DNR COOPERATIVE STRIPED BASS SURVEY

The MSSA encourages all recreational anglers to participate in the Maryland Cooperative Striped Bass Survey to provide more realistic data on the size and quantities of Rockfish that are being caught by Maryland Recreational Anglers. The easy-to-use form asks anglers to record the length of the rockfish they catch on each trip this season. This vital data will help fisheries managers more accurately estimate the Bay's resident and migratory rockfish stocks which will guide future adjustments to creel and size limits. Please call Kevin Mcmenamin with any questions. Thanks for your support! <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/survey/sbsurveyintro.shtml>.

SENATE BILL 1012

By now, most of you have probably read or heard about how the MSSA supported the passage of Senate Bill 1012 in this year's Legislative Session. The good news is that the DNR Fisheries Division will receive some much needed funding via the license fee increases that are part of this bill. The bad news is that the collective support of the MSSA for this bill was not withdrawn when the matching fund provisions were withdrawn. This was done by MSSA President Bill Windley in defiance of a vote by our Board of Directors. Bill is still convinced that the Governor will some how find the matching funds that are now discretionary and that the MSSA will have greater influence on future DNR Policy and Initiatives. I am not convinced on either of these points.

The MSSA now has a Public Relations Debacle on its hands and I have seen very little in the way of a Press Release or Public Statement from our President and/or Executive Director to explain our position. At the April Chapter Meeting, the members in attendance voted unanimously that the MSSA should have withdrawn its support for SB1012 once the matching funds provisions were withdrawn. I will be sure to carry this message to the Board of Directors Meeting in June. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional thoughts or concerns about this topic or any other that relates to the MSSA.

Kevin McMenamin
President

FISHERMAN MAGAZINE PHOTO REQUEST

Chris Dollar, the Managing Editor of The Fisherman Magazine Mid-Atlantic Edition, is requesting photos from our members for inclusion in future editions of this great weekly magazine. This is an excellent chance to show off the Big One that didn't get away to your friends and family. Pictures of Lady and Junior Anglers should be of particular interest (maybe a cover photo) based on my years of experience working with Chris. I encourage you to take your digital camera with you this season (set it for high resolution) and send your photos to Chris. And don't forget to mention that you are a member of the Annapolis Chapter of MSSA. Email Chris Dollar at cdollar@thefisherman.com.

2007 CALENDER OF EVENTS

May

- 2 Spring Tournament Captain's Meeting at Annapolis Boater's World
- 4-6 MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament
- 16 Annapolis Chapter Meeting – Guest Speaker: John Unkart presents Non-Traditional Offshore Trolling Methods and Rigging Ballyhoo on Circle Hooks for White Marlin
- 17 Spring Tournament Awards at Earleight Heights VFC

June

- 20 Annapolis Chapter Meeting – Guest Speaker: Captain Aaron Rogers from Muff Diver Charters presents Trolling for Tuna
- 21 Tuna-Ment Cook Out & Captain's Meeting at Wachapreague Marina
- 22-24 MSSA Tuna-Ment

July

- 18 Chapter Fishing Trip – Details are TBD
No Chapter Meeting this month

August

- 17-19 MAR-VA Offshore Tournament
No Chapter Meeting this month

Full-Year Calendar is on our website at www.mssaannapolis.com

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CHAPTER OFFICERS AND LEADERSHIP TEAM

President	Kevin McMenamin	(410) 349-0575
Vice President	Pete Abbott	(410) 758-2071
Secretary	Bob Sheehan	(410) 533-2898
Treasurer	Tim Palmer	(410) 280-2187

MSSA Scholarship Committee	OB O'Bannon
MSSA Tournament Committee	Bob Kimball
Speaker Chairman	Paul Kurchock
Raffle Table Chairman	Bob Sheehan
Intra-Chapter Tournament	Bob Thompson
Member Roster Chairman	Bill Tongue
Assistant Web Master	Craig Teuber

Tide Runner Note:

If you are thinking of taking your boat to the ocean this year and need a slip, I have one for rent at Don's Restaurant in Chincoteague, VA. We will use it for the TUNAMENT and MARVA Offshore Tournaments June 20 – 25 and August 15 – 21 but it should be available at other times until Labor Day. If you are interested in reserving this slip call Tommy Clark, Owner of the Marina, at 757-336-5715 or email at go2dons@verizon.net for rates and availability.

Pete Abbott
Vice President



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