

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



FREE

IN THIS ISSUE...

- REQUEST FOR SNAKEHEAD RESEARCH
- GOV. MOORE REQUESTS FEDERAL FISHERIES DISASTER

MICHAEL STEVE
© 2008

REQUEST FOR SNAKEHEAD RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Maryland Natural Resources are requesting the assistance of high school students to come up with new methods of capturing Northern Snakeheads in places where bowfishing and/or electro-fishing cannot be used.

Successful designs will be publicized to help broadly increase capture efficiency for the general public, management agencies, and/or commercial or recreational harvesters.

To be eligible, you must be a Maryland resident and a student in a high school or vocational program, ages 14 through 19.

Proposals may be submitted by a team of students or a single student, or simply one student representing a team.

Mentors are allowed to participate in projects, but all aspects of the work from the proposal, to execution and to the final presentation, should be the work of the student(s).

For more information, email chelsea.miller@maryland.gov.



Ultimate Outdoorsman Youth Summer Camps at Schrader's Outdoors are a BLAST. Photo courtesy Schrader's Outdoors.



Chuck Tyman Manny and Shannon Pickens with a couple of nice catch and release stripers.



Chesapeake OUTDOORS
Everything Hunting & Fishing

Kent Island's Largest Full-Service Sporting Goods Store



Chesapeake Outdoors
TENPOINT

MD FISHING & HUNTING LICENSES • RAMP PERMITS • SHOT GUN SHELLS • DECOYS AND SUPPLIES

FISHING - ARCHERY - HUNTING

Avery Bonded Clothing Now In Stock!



LARGE SELECTION OF CALLS AND DEER FEEDERS!



CHECK OUT OUR FULL LINE OF CROSSBOWS & ACCESSORIES



2023 Mathews Phase 4 IN STOCK



ALL TYPES OF TRAIL CAMERA'S INCLUDING TACTACAM.

Chesapeake Outdoors
Rte 50 E, Exit 39B - Chester, Maryland 21619
Phone: 410-604-2500

LIVE BAIT

www.chesapeakeoutdoors.com - e-mail: john@chesapeakeoutdoors.com In Season Hours: Mon – Sat 5am - 7pm, Sun 5am - 5pm



SHOP TURKEY SEASON NOW



**TURKEY CONTEST
SPONSORED BY:**



MOLLY'S TURKEY CONTEST

Dates: Junior Hunt Days April 15th & 16th
Open Season: April 18th - May 23rd

Molly's Weigh- In Hours:
April 15th - May 9th | 8am - 2pm
May 10th - May 23rd | 8am - 6pm

**Prizes Awarded to Top 3 Adults and
Top 3 Juniors - NWTF Scoring System**

www.mymolllys.com for more information



**SCAN CODE TO
SHOP NOW!**



MOLLY'S PLACE
12503 AUGUSTINE HERMAN HWY,
KENNEDYVILLE, MD 21645
410-348-5000 WWW.MYMOLLYS.COM

Fishing & Hunting Journal

Volume 32, Number 9

April 2023

FISHING & HUNTING

Deep Thoughts with Rick and Rick by Tim Sherman Page 6

Beach Blitz by Mark Galasso Page 10

Stream Small-Mouth Favorties by Jim Gronaw Page 14

Spring Fishing Fling Plant by Grant Soukup Page 16

REGULARS

Coastal Report by Capt. Mark Sampson Page 18

Last Word by Steve Huettner Page 20

Sportsman's Classifieds Page 22

Front Cover APRIL'S PROMISE *Courtesy wildwings.com*

CREDITS

Editor & Publisher:

Capt. Lee B. Buckel 410-708-1616

Contributing Editors:

Steve Huettner, Chuck Prah,

Capt. Mark Sampson,

Tim Sherman, Jim Gronaw,

Grant Soukup, Captain Mark Galasso

Regional Sales Representatives:

Patrick Buckel 410-739-7433

Marc Van Pelt - Creative Director

Advertising Information: driftrock@verizon.net

(410)-708-0376

Fishing & Hunting Journal

P. O. Box 975 • Stevensville, MD 21666

www.fishingandhuntingjournal.com

Fishing & Hunting Journal Name and Logo are Registered Trademarks wholly owned and operated by Fishing & Hunting Journal c/o Lee Buckel, All rights reserved. © 2020, Fishing & Hunting Journal. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited.

BY INSPIRATION MINISTRIES

Fake or Real?

Stradivarius violins, made in the eighteenth century in Cremona, Italy, are among today's most valuable musical instruments. The sound they produce has improved with age. Only about 650 exist. They are so rare that one recently sold at auction for nearly \$16 million!

Perhaps because they are so valuable, the market is flooded with imitations. Some owners innocently conclude that they have found a violin that might be a Stradivarius. One such person planned to get rid of a violin until she found a label saying it was a Stradivarius. Unfortunately, appraisers revealed it was a fake.

A Canadian violinist reports that around ten people a week contact her claiming to have found a real Stradivarius. But none have been genuine. The Smithsonian Institution received so many inquiries they had to publish information about how to recognize fakes.

The Bible tells us this principle applies to our Christian lives. Some people have a real relationship with Jesus, a serious calling, and an authentic understanding of the Scriptures.

But there also are fakes. Some people masquerade as believers, thinking they are Christians, but, in reality, they are following their own desires. Many of these people are "serving their own personal interests." Sounding sincere, they learn to manipulate others and "deceive innocent people."

Make sure you are on guard against deception. Make sure your faith is real and that you have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Reflection Question: Reflect on a time when you were fake. What happened?



SCHRADERS
OUTDOORS

A Maryland Eastern Shore
Tradition for 35 years.



Gun Range



Sporting Clays



Turkey

- Waterfowl Hunting
- Whitetail Hunting
- Turkey Hunting
- Upland Hunting
- Dove Hunting
- Small Game Hunting
- Pond Fishing
- NSCA Tournaments
- Lodging
- Corporate Meetings & Events



Upland

16090 Oakland Road ♦ Henderson, MD 21640
410.758.1824
www.schradersoutdoors.com

Maryland Department of Natural Resources Announces Midwinter Waterfowl Survey 2023 Results

Annual Survey of Wintering Waterfowl Finds Increase in Diving Ducks



Canvasbacks in the Choptank River, photo by Kenny Page,

In early January, aerial survey teams of pilots and biologists from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) made visual estimates of the ducks, geese, and swans along most of the state’s Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and Atlantic coast shorelines. This year, the teams counted about 632,200 waterfowl, which was higher than the 563,800 birds observed in 2022 but lower than the most recent five-year average of 682,520 birds.

“The distribution and abundance of wintering waterfowl is influenced not only by the annual changes in population size, but also the weather conditions during migration and throughout the winter,” said Wildlife and Heritage Director Paul Peditto. “The surveys our staff conduct provide a snapshot of where waterfowl are located in the state and are combined with data from other states in the flyway to track the status of several important waterfowl species.”

Overall, dabbling ducks were similar (93,600) to 2022 (97,600). While the number of pintails counted in the survey dropped slightly (3,300 in 2023 and 4,600 in 2022), mallards (56,800) and black ducks (21,800) remained similar to their respective 5-year averages (53,920, and 24,580). Despite the generally mild winter, a mid-December cold snap across the country likely led to more diving ducks (190,300) being observed on the Chesapeake and

tributaries than in the 2022 survey (79,400).

Biologists counted 320,800 Canada geese in the 2023 survey which was similar to the 361,100 counted in 2022. The 2023 count was likely negatively affected by the warm early January weather, which allowed many wintering geese to roost and feed further inland away from survey routes. Positive reports from many goose hunters appear to confirm this theory.

The Midwinter Waterfowl Survey has been conducted annually since the early 1960s – except 2021 – and covers most of the tidal shorelines and near-shore waterfowl habitat in Maryland. The 2021 Mid-Winter Survey was not flown due to human health concerns related to COVID-19.



Carl hosted a great group on the home farm with Schrader’s Outdoors.



Jim and his friends had a fun morning hunting geese and release mallards with Schrader’s Outdoors.



Ronny Hampton caught this 2 lb. 7 oz, 17” long crappie in Landsdown. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.



Codi Calloway snagged this Sika while out hunting with her uncle, Scott Green. Photo courtesy Delmarva Sporting Clays.



FEDERAL



443-249-3216



VAPE BIRD LIQUOR

BEER, BOURBON & BULLETS



Remington Blazer

STEVENSVILLE, MD



“Tackle Box Tim”

DEEP THOUGHTS - WITH RICK AND RICK

When you think about tidal bass fishing in Maryland, the term “deep” doesn’t often come up. If you ponder even more about it, there isn’t much deep water to be found. So, the term “deep” is relative. The Potomac River and the upper Chesapeake are, no doubt, the prime bass waters in our state. The mean depth of areas where bass are found can be considered 6 feet and less. However, this isn’t always true ... especially in spring when waters are just starting to warm up.

Two anglers who have each amassed decades of tournament experience fishing for Maryland tidal bass are Rick Haber and Rick McFaul. While they both enjoy fishing on the upper bay and the Potomac River, Haber has an affinity for the Potomac and McFaul prefers the upper bay. Both have found early spring patterns to target bass in deep water on his preferred body of water.

Rick McFaul believes, factoring in the bay waters itself, that 90 percent of the upper Chesapeake complex does not have bass-holding habitat. Late winter into early spring, bass in the Gunpowder can hole up back in Day’s Cove and the Joppatowne Quarry. At the head of the bay, bass can find deep haunts in the North East River, the channels and ditches on the Susquehanna Flats, and in the Susquehanna River itself. McFaul prefers the upper end of the bay because accessing the deeper water in the Gunpowder can be treacherous to say the least.

Rick says there are three factors for the migration and activity level of bass: water temperature, daylight hours, and their ability to sense emerging grass. He targets bass on channels on either side of the flats – the back channel on the Harford County side and the north channel on the Cecil County side. And while he starts with the structural change, he is looking for secondary rock cover. Modern electronics have made it much easier to pinpoint such cover.

Early on in spring, McFaul is slow and methodical. He hits the sweet spots and uses a vertical approach with a Silver Buddy, a still approach with drop shot rigs, and finesse tactics with a shaky head

worm. Should the flats experience silty runoff and/or heavy current, he will focus his efforts in marinas with the same set of lures.

As spring progresses, Rick will follow bass back into creeks and coves. All the while he is still looking for deeper edges out from the bank in Swan Creek and Furnace Bay. He also believes that bass will move up on to the flats as soon as they get a sense that vegetation is starting to emerge. He will now start casting moving baits – spinnerbaits, square bill crankbaits, and ¼-ounce rattle traps. Should a cold front pop up, he gears down with a stick worm.

Rick Haber prefers the Potomac River in spring. The Potomac complex sets up differently than the upper bay in that you can find bass in main river and its tributaries. There are plenty of places to find bass in 10 to 15 feet of water, yet Haber feels that, for early spring, 6 feet can be considered “deep”.

Like McFaul, Haber’s areas on the Potomac set up similarly. He is still looking for structural breaks. He says that long shorelines are good, yet you still have to look for sweet spots with rock and wood. Rick gives an example of a spot his friends have affectionately deemed the “Haber Hole”. It’s a ditch that runs parallel to a bank on the main river that harbors an old sunken barge. He does not feel that tide stage matters as much in deeper water like it does in the shallows. This includes his namesake spot and other areas he has found. As long as there is tidal movement, he likes his chances.

Haber is patient when it comes to spring bass. On any given trip he is content on targeting sweet spots, not being tempted to move shallow to test those waters. It is his experience that in spring, bass are in schools and are roaming the deeper edges. They swim by and stop on the sweet spots. You may go an hour or so without a bite, but suddenly you will catch 3 or 4 quality size bass in 15 to 20 minutes.

Rick keeps things “old school” with his deep patterns. He casts a Bomber 6A or 7A in the fire tiger color pattern. His other lure choice is a green pumpkin/red jig with a



Rick Haber with two quality early spring bass.

matching Chigger Craw trailer. This matches the color of the crawfish in the Potomac. Each lure is retrieved to make contact with cover. Cold fronts cause Haber to take a different approach. He switches to a light Carolina rig with a Zoom Centipede worm trailing the sinker on a 1-foot fluorocarbon leaders.

This is the time to set your sights

on catching some of the biggest bass of the year. Both Rick Haber and Rick McFaul know that bass have not yet moved to the shallow banks and grass beds. Using deeper water tactics in early spring is how they catch bass. Look for structural breaks with added cover to find the sweet spots and you can also catch bass right now.



Chapel Cove
Now Selling Bait and Tackle
All YOUR Tackle Needs!

**BOAT & HOSE AT
CHAPEL COVE**

Steaks & Seafood
Thurs.-Sat., 12-8

Sunday 12-6

Taylors Island, MD

Marina Phone: 410-901-1070

tifccamp@comcast.net



Governor Moore Requests Federal Fishery Disaster Declaration for Invasive Blue Catfish

ANNAPOLIS, MD—Governor Wes Moore is today calling on the federal government to declare the expanding population of invasive fish species—including blue catfish, flathead catfish, and snakehead—to be an ongoing commercial fishery disaster in the Maryland waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The governor sent a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo requesting the declaration under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act.

“In recent years, the state has become increasingly concerned about the explosion in the abundance of invasive fish species in the Chesapeake Bay, including blue catfish, flathead catfish, and snakehead,” said Governor Moore. “It is critical to act now to mitigate the effects of the invasive species and to provide assistance to the commercial fishing industry.”

The declaration would qualify Maryland for federal fishery disaster assis-

tance.

Since 2012, the total catch of seven of Maryland’s marquee commercial fishery species that share their habitat with invasive fish at some point in their life cycle have declined between 27% and 91%. The dockside value of these species has likewise declined between 12% and 85%. Commercial fisheries—including hard blue crab, striped bass, yellow perch, and others—have brought in an average \$64 million yearly in dockside value during that time, making declines a significant loss for Maryland’s commercial watermen and the state’s economy.

While a direct scientific link between invasive species and the declines is yet to be determined, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has growing concerns about observed high densities of invasive species, particularly blue catfish. It is likely that negative impacts will occur as these species are known to multiply rapidly, adapt to new environments, and eat a wide variety of prey, while preying upon and competing with

native species for space and for food.

Scientific indicators that have shown declines in key species include the department’s annual Striped Bass Juvenile Index and Blue Crab Winter Dredge Survey, both of which are conducted in coordination with Virginia. Striped bass recruitment has been well below average for four consecutive years, while total abundance of blue crab in the Chesapeake Bay in 2022 was 227 million crabs—the lowest abundance observed since the survey began in 1990. To help protect spawning stock, both states enacted measured but stricter limits on both recreational and commercial catch.

“Maryland, Virginia and other Atlantic Coast states have made wise and measured changes to many of our fishery regulations to protect our iconic species, but we have an emerging crisis on our hands that could undermine those measures,” said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. “The impact of invasive species cannot be underestimated, nor can

we delay action to address the damage they are causing.”

Blue catfish were first introduced in Virginia in the 1970s to create a recreational fishery, but have since spread to tributaries throughout the watershed. Blue catfish are voracious eaters that consume other fish, including catfish, and crustaceans. They out-compete the native species for both habitats and food and pose a threat to key commercial fisheries including blue crab, striped bass, white perch, yellow perch, and American eel.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has increased monitoring programs of invasive fish and also urged recreational anglers to target them to help combat their population expansion. Reducing numbers of invasive species of fish is positive for ecosystems and, as an added bonus, both blue catfish and snakeheads are valued as a delicacy. There are no fishing limits on invasive fish, which means anglers can catch and keep any number of them, at any size, during any time of year.



Tyler Lingerman with a 40 lb. coyote taken near Rock Hall, MD. Photo courtesy of Chester River Seafood.



8 year old Luke Payne took his first deer with his bow last October. Congratulations Young Man. Photo courtesy of Edward L. Sanders Ins. Agency.

Saltwater Adventures

Ocean City, MD & South West Florida


Back Bay & Inshore Fishing

with Capt Tony Batista

Located at Bahia Marina • Slip 5
21 Street Bayside - Ocean City, MD


ocsaltwater.com **443.235.9696**

KINGFISH II
CHARTER FISHING PARTIES
SEA-DUCK HUNTING



TROPHY ROCK SEASON

BOOK YOUR PARTY NOW!



Also reserving dates for
**Croaker, Black/Red Drum,
Night Fishing**

Call Captain Harry
443.871.3499
fishandduck.com

**Fishing Lower Chesapeake Bay/Tangier Sound
Departing from Deal Island, Maryland**

Recreational crabbing limits in Chesapeake Bay in Maryland announced

ANNAPOLIS — The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announces modifications to the recreational male hard crab catch and possession limits for the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries for April through June 2023.

These limits apply to recreational crabbers. Effective 12:01 a.m. April 1, 2023, male hard crab catch and possession limits for individuals on a vessel are:

1 bushel of male crabs per licensed boat with any number of licensed or unlicensed individuals on board;

1 bushel of male crabs on an unlicensed boat with one or more licensees and any number of unlicensed individuals;

4 dozen male crabs on an unlicensed boat with two or more unlicensed individuals on board; and

2 dozen male crabs on an unlicensed boat with one unlicensed individual on board.

These limits apply to recreational crabbing on vessels in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries, including the Maryland

tributaries of the Potomac River. This change does not affect recreational crabbing from shore in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries.

This change also does not affect recreational crabbing from shore or on a vessel in the Atlantic Ocean, its coastal bays, or their tributaries.

Department officials state that this action is necessary to ensure male blue crab harvest does not exceed the Chesapeake Bay male conservation trigger referenced in Amendment 2 to the Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan. The male hard crab catch and possession limits are based on results of the 2022 winter crab dredge survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and consultation with advisory groups and stakeholders.

Possession limits for July through December 2023 will be determined when results from the 2023 winter crab dredge survey are available.

Maryland Winter Turkey Season Harvest Up 25%

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources reported that hunters took 84 wild turkeys during the 2023 winter turkey season, which was open statewide Jan. 19-21. This year's harvest was 25% above the 2022 total of 67 turkeys.

Allegany, Frederick, Washington, Anne Arundel, and Charles counties reported the highest harvests. Adult males, or "toms", comprised 70% of the harvest with the remainder being females and juveniles. About 77% were taken with a shotgun, but some hunters used a crossbow or vertical bow to harvest their turkeys.

The winter turkey season was established in 2015 to provide hunters with an additional hunting opportunity while minimizing conflicts with other hunting seasons. Turkey populations at one time were limited in Maryland. In the 1980s and 1990s, an extensive program to trap and relocate wild flocks successfully established populations in every county.

Maryland's spring turkey season, the most popular time for turkey hunting, begins in April.

TAYLORS ISLAND

P.O. Box 156 • Bayshore Road
Taylors Island, MD 21669
410-397-3275
Located on Chesapeake Bay
across from Power Plant

FAMILY CAMPGROUND

tifccamp@comcast.net

— STAY WITH US! —

Boat Ramp Access to Lower Chesapeake Bay

Public Hunting Close By

BAIT • FISHING TACKLE
25 SLIP MARINA
ICE • BOAT RAMP • GAS & DIESEL
GROCERIES • COLD BEER & WINE
CRAFTS • PROPANE
LICENSES & PERMITS
SHOWERS & RESTROOMS
MARINE PUMP-OUT STATION

**3 BEDROOM APARTMENT
AVAILABLE FOR RENT
BY THE DAY,
WEEK OR WEEKEND.**

**Come visit the
Taylors Island
Bayshore
Country
Wine Cellar**

SPANNING THE GLOBE



It's a tuna frenzy. What a jam up day. Costa Rica is the magic land.



Congratulations to J. Pazzone of Calabash, NC, for landing this recording-breaking 33.13 lb. Red grouper off the coast of Little River on December 28, 2022.



Oak Island Fishing Charters with a New State Record Thresher Shark 589.1 lb. After little more then a month North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries certified the catch and we were able to feed a small village.



Brianna Henderson's first buck during her first successful bow hunt in North Carolina produced this whopper, which won the Best by Bow Typical Female award at the 2023 Dixie Deer Classic. Her buck also made the Pope & Young list. Congratulations Brianna.



Jake Hiles and crew out of Teachers Lair landed a 425# 93" which fills his 2023 giant tag and a 95# 60". Great day in Hatteras and first tunas on the Contender.



“Tuna The Tide”

BEACH BLITZES

By Captain Mark Galasso

The Blitz was on. And it was no secret. The people on the beach had been watching the action for well over an hour. Most fisherman had already left their families and ran home to grab a fishing rod so as not to miss any potential future action.

Even though the ocean was perfect for swimming very few people were actually in the water. A gentle swell was lapping at the shoreline rearranging the clam shells and whelks that tumbled in the wash. A few brave surfers were not to be denied as they sat on their boards just outside the sandbar a hundred yards out. Another hundred yards outside the surfers was about three acres of whitewater. A dozen or so Herring Gulls were flying in circles above the mayhem. The sun was setting.

The surfers had given up and paddled to shore. Most families had gone home for dinner. What was left was a small encampment of fisherman, some with binoculars glued to the chaos just offshore. Dozens of long surf rods sitting in sand spikes looked like power lines connecting the group.

All of a sudden someone yelled. “Here They come!” Just outside the sandbar where only an hour ago the surfers sat waiting for waves the whitewater had moved in. Now you could see the splashes

And the gulls were starting to dive-bomb into the mess. You could hear them. Screaming at one another to get out of the way. Small shoals of Google Eyes would jump into the air. Occasionally a skilled bird would catch one in mid air. The fisherman were picking up their rods and heading to the water. No great rush. As a whole things were moving very slowly, belying the chaos under the water.

I had already run back to the house and traded my surfboard for my surf rod. I had a big Hopkins spoon already tied on. In a small bag I had a few extra spoons and a few Atom Poppers. I also had a few large hooks already sneld on small wire leaders. The fish were still outside casting distance so no one was in a great rush. A few fisherman were already at the waters edge taking warm up casts.

I watched one over excited guy try casting without opening the bail. It sounded like a gun shot. The heavy lure actually reached the birds but it was no longer tied to his rod. Another fisherman reared back with his long surf rod and and let go a mighty cast. His lure also reached the maylay but it too wasn’t attached to his rod. His conventional reel now looked like Don King’s afro. The birds nest was the size of an eagles’s nest.

Small groups of Google Eyes



were now washing up on the beach, tumbling with the shells, Calico crabs and sea glass. I ran back and traded the Hopkins spoon for a plain hook. I was a lifeguard. Pay was poor and Hopkins were expensive. I ran down to the wash and grabbed a flopping baitfish. After carefully placing the hook in the back of the head I tossed it into the ocean. As soon as it hit the water I was tight. I noticed most of the fisherman around me were also tight. Eight to ten pound Bluefish were dragging people up and down the beach. Sometimes lines would cross and tempers would flare. Surprising that people on the Jersey Shore have tempers, but they do. However no one really had time to do much but yell and tie on new lures.

Just before the sun disappeared over the horizon it was over. The birds settled down on the beach and preened. The fisherman headed home to clean fish and have a late dinner with their families. I just sat there and stared out to sea. It was beautiful. The sea sparkled like it was full of diamonds.

The wash was just a gentle lapping against the shoreline. It wasn’t even enough to stir up the shells. Every once in a while something would dart away underwater, the phosphorescent trail giving away it’s presence.

Something caught my attention. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a few big swirls over by the jetty just a hundred or so feet away. I still had a small Google Eye hooked to my line. It was dead. Just hanging there like a limp Banana.

What the heck. I walked over and tossed it in the water close to where I saw the swirls. Before I could close the bail the line started running out. I loosened the drag a bit and closed the bail. The rod doubled over and the line kept going. I tightened it up a bit and the fish slowed down. After about ten minutes I dragged the fish in.

My first thought was it had to be a small shark come in to clean up the mess the Bluefish left behind. But it was shiny in the moonlight, not a shark. When I pinned it down I realized it was a Weakly (Grey Seatrout). It was huge!

I miss the Blitzes. Wherever Bluefish roam from Maine to Florida Blitzes happen, particularly off the Islands that form the mid Atlantic Coast. Long Island, Long Beach Island and the Outer Banks of North Carolina are all famous for beach Blitzes. We mostly think of Bluefish as the drivers of these frenzies but Red Drum, Striped Bass and Weakfish also pin Bait up against the shoreline. The trick is be ready. It can be a blast.

Wink's Sporting Goods



Benelli



410-621-0400 - Princess Anne, MD - gwink222@aol.com

ARUNDEL FIREARMS & PAWN



7427 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd, Glen Burnie, MD



- GUNS -

BOUGHT • SOLD • TRADED • PAWNED

Scope Mounting

Specialty & Hard to Find Ammunition

Lay-Away

**-USED GUNS-
Rifles • Shotguns
Black Powder
Handguns • Barrels**

410-761-6381

**Complete
Gunsmith
Service**



Silver Bell Ranch – Northwest Pennsylvania
Warren County – 16436 Zip Code
First inaugural 2023 Season
 ~100-acre exclusive, hunting & fishing scenic private property
 Cut Fields, Wooded Trails, 3 Ponds & 40' wide stocked stream
 on property (Spring Creek)
 (Wild Turkey, Whitetail Deer, Rainbow Trout)
 Conveniently 2 hrs. North of Pittsburgh, East of Cleveland, South of Buffalo
 Within ~15 miles of 2000+ acres of PA Public Game Lands for
 additional hunting options
 2022 remodeled 1850 Sq Ft, 3 Bed – 2 Bath, ultra clean home with
 30x30 enclosed garage
 50 Amp / 120 exterior electrical receptacles including Water for professional
 Motorhome / 5th Wheel hybrid options
William Carroll, Owner
480-278-5322 for private reservations





SHORE SPORTSMAN
 The outdoor sporting center of the Eastern Shore.

Check out E-line Store -
www.theshoresportsman.com

Guns
Ammunition
Archery
Tackle
Bait
Gun Repairs
Sports Gear
Sporting Licenses



*Shore Sportsman is conveniently located on
 Route 50/Ocean Gateway in Easton, Maryland.
 Shore Sportsman has been proudly serving
 hunters and anglers on the Mid-Shore for more
 than 25 years. Shore Sportsman offers hunt-
 ing and fishing licenses, guns, scopes, hunting
 clothes and boots, repair services, bows, fishing
 equipment, live bait, and much, much more.
 The expert employees at Shore Sportsman bring
 a wealth of knowledge to their customers.
 All of the employees have at least five years of experience each.*



Under New Management
All About Bait and Tackle Shop II




Deer Corn \$20 per 100lb. bag
Live and Frozen Baits
 Blood Worms / Night Crawlers / Meal Worms / Wax Worms / Grass Shrimp
 Razor Clams/Bait Shrimp / Clam Snouts / Chicken Necks etc...All Fishing Tackle
 Crabbing Supplies/ Pots / Lines and Much More!

7403 Baltimore Annapolis Boulevard **Glen Burnie, MD**
410-590-0000 helmickrs@gmail.com

GUN SHACK / CROSSWINDS


FULL PRO SHOP SALES AND SERVICE
 Arrows by Beman, Easton, and Carbon Express • Crossbows & Accessories

Bows & Accessories from:  




Full line of Traditional
 Archery Equipment.



A Turn of The Century Store:
 101 S. Main St. - Mt. Airy, MD 21771
 301-829-0122 • www.gunshackinc.com



Delmarva Sporting Clays

500 YARD RANGE!

3 Gun - Fastest Growing Shooting Sport in the U.S.

Public Rifle Range
Open 7 Days Per Week Rain or Shine
24 Covered Benches
\$20 Shoot All Day
 Discounts for Seniors - Police - Military Sight In Pistols, Muzzleloaders & Rifles

Gun Rentals Available
 Berms @ 25-50-100-200-300 Yards
 Shoot Your Own Ammo or Buy Ours
65 Miles East Of Bay Bridge
www.maryland3gun.com

9 AM - 6 PM
 • 55 Stations • N.S.C.A. Certified Instructors - Instruction Available
 Don't Wait - Sight in Your Deer Rifle Now
410-742-2023 • 1-800-310-2023
 US Rt 50, 23501 Marsh Rd. Mardela Springs, MD 21837



DIXON'S AUCTION AT CRUMPTON

Sportsman and Militaria Auctions
*To Include: Decoys, Quality and Antique Firearms,
Ammunition, Accessories, Militaria and More*



**Online Auctions
To Be Held**
April 18th 2023
June 27, 2023
September 5, 2023
October 17, 2023
November 28, 2023



Our Commision Rates Per Item:
\$500+ - 0% Complimentary
\$100 - 499.99 - 5%
\$50 - 99.99 - 15%
\$25 - 49.99 - 35%
\$10 - 24.99 - 50%

FOR CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION

Please Email Us At: Office@dfi1961.com or call: 443-480-9126

**See all our current and upcoming auctions at
www.crumptonauctions.com**

Maryland's wild turkeys are disappearing.

Experts want to know why.

Weighing between eight and 20 pounds, wild turkeys are typically found near forests because trees provide a safe place for them to roost. They tend to nest in areas with grasses and shrubs, where they are more protected from predators. They'd once been found in abundance in the Mid-Atlantic region, experts said, but unrestricted hunting plus little regulation on harvesting timber in the forests where they live caused their numbers to drop.

"We cut down just about every tree to build houses and farm, and these birds were pushed into smaller and smaller blocks of habitat," Long said. At one point, he said, Maryland was down to "a few hundred birds" in only the mountainous western part of the state where it's more difficult to develop the land or hunt.

In the 1960s and 1970s, a widespread effort across the United States helped restore wild turkey populations. In Maryland, experts even trapped the birds and relocated them to more suitable habitats, unoccupied by humans. Experts believe there are now an estimated 40,000 wild turkeys across the state.

"What we're finding out is that 30 to 40 years after the restoration period, the population is starting to decline in some parts of the state," Long said. Along the Eastern Shore, the wild turkey population has dipped between 30 and 40 percent from a peak 20 years ago.

"We're really interested to see what's causing the drop," he said.

Another worry, experts said, is that the number of young wild turkeys is dropping. On average, a hen used to have three to four young that would make it to maturity. Now, Long said, they're more likely to have two or fewer, which means there aren't enough new birds to replace the ones that die each year.

"If that trend continues," Long said, "we're concerned that we may see more widespread declines in their population."

Researchers are examining why wild turkeys have declined in parts of Maryland. (Todd Frampton/Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

Another worry, experts said, is that the number of young wild turkeys is dropping. On average, a hen used to have three to four young that would make it to maturity. Now, Long said, they're more likely to have two or fewer, which means there aren't enough new birds to replace the ones that die each year.

"If that trend continues," Long said, "we're concerned that we may see more widespread declines in their population."

The research in Maryland is part of an effort being replicated in other states in the Mid-Atlantic, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Partners in the project include the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pennsylvania Game Commission, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Pennsylvania State University and University of Pennsylvania.

The public is also being asked to help researchers by reporting in an online form any wild turkey flocks they see during the winter.

To study wild turkeys, experts first have to catch them, and that's no easy task. Researchers lure them using cracked corn, wheat or sunflower seeds as bait and then use

nets to catch them. The birds are outfitted with leg bands, and GPS radio transmitters are placed on the hens.

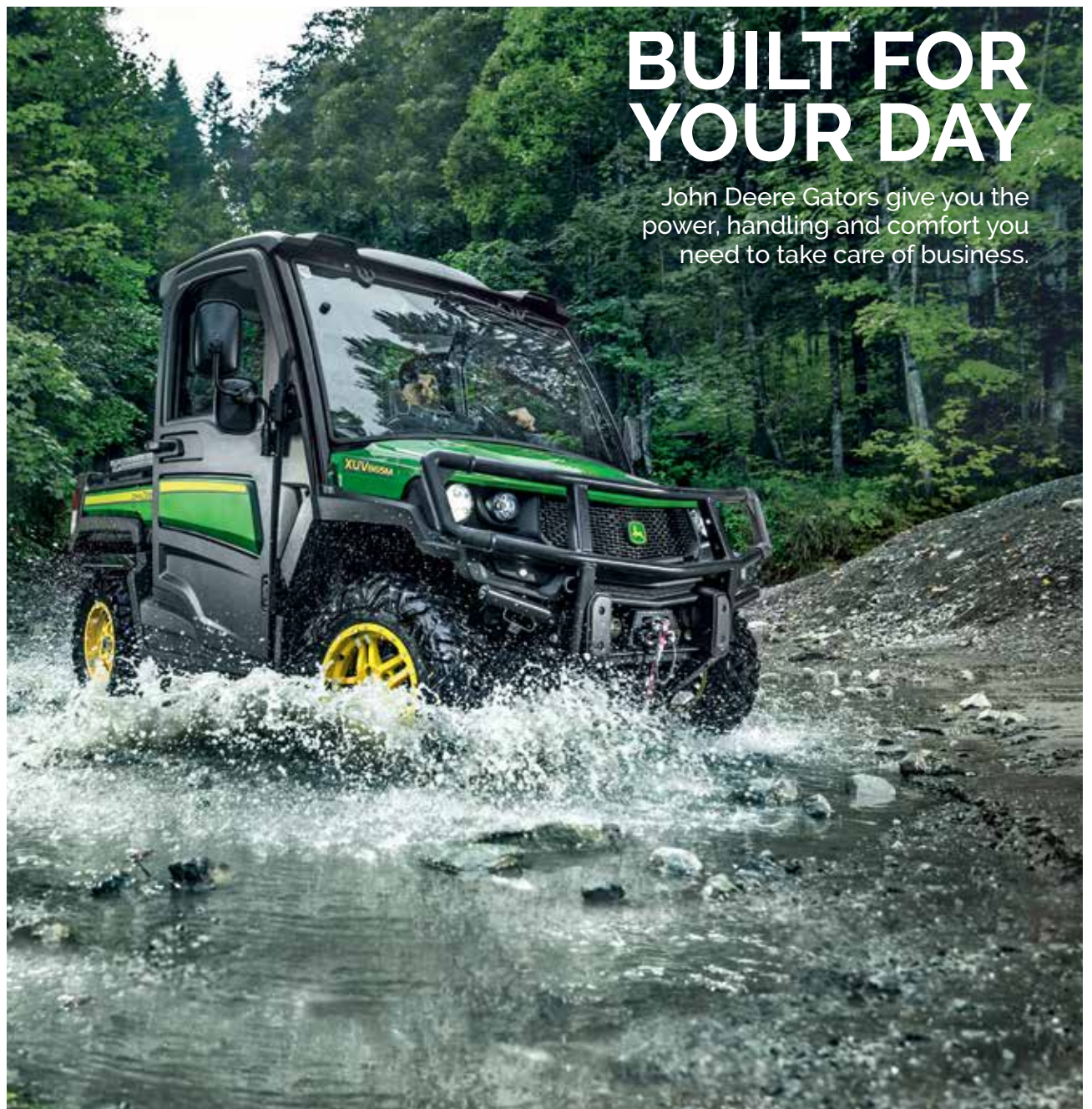
Experts work to place a transmitter on a wild turkey as part of a large-scale research effort in Maryland to figure out what's affecting their populations. (Dana Hedgpeth/Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

Tracking the wild turkeys will allow experts to observe how they survive, reproduce, move throughout the area and find suitable habitat. Experts said they'll also consider the impact of weather, disease and predators on the population,

and see whether changes should be made to regulations for hunting and harvesting of wild turkeys. Mitchell Blake, a biologist in the Mid-Atlantic region for the National Wild Turkey Federation, said the work of Long's team is critical because of threats to not only wild turkeys but also other wildlife.

"We need to figure out what's driving their population changes so we can figure out if we can get back to high numbers for them ... or at least sustain them," Blake said.

Story written by Dana Hedgpeth courtesy of the Washington Post.



BUILT FOR YOUR DAY

John Deere Gators give you the power, handling and comfort you need to take care of business.

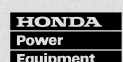
Atlantic Tractor

We Live It.

Visit one of our 19 locations!
atlantictractor.net



STIHL





“Fishin’ Back East”

STREAM SMALLMOUTH FAVORITES

By Jim Gronaw

Since I was a child growing up one of my favorite ways to fish was hopping into a small stream in quest of swift-water smallmouth bass. Years later, I would own my own car and rivers such as the Potomac and Susquehanna were within my grasp and the fish would often be bigger and stronger than the creek fish. Over the years, actually decades, certain lures and lure types emerges as “must haves” for each and every smallmouth trip. Some of my old standbys are still producing to this day while others seem to come and go. So, here is a rundown of what has consistently taken the most, and often the biggest, smallmouth bass in my favorite creeks and rivers...

HAIR JIGS...

If I had to pick a single, day-in, day-out family of lures that routinely catches both numbers and quality-sized smallies from moving water environs it would have to be hair jigs and those that are closely associated as such. Most smallmouth experts tout hair jigs as a cold-water standard, but the truth is that hair jigs, small or large, will take riverine bass year-round. Odd that the early winter and colder periods are heralded as prime hair jig months, as these lures most often replicate crayfish...a prime forage for river bass. However, during the coldest times when these lures are most successful, crayfish are literally a no-show in the streams due to hibernation tendencies. Still, they trigger strikes from lethargic fish, but even more do they tempt smallies during the warmer months.

Materials for these lures vary, but most are tied with either bucktail or craft fur. Both have their strong points. Bucktail is hollow and can

make a lighter jig head, say 1/16th of an ounce, fall at a slower rate than if the same jig were tied with craft fur, which tends to show more movement in the water. Most hair jigs are tied by companies specializing in jig tying and there are professional tiers in the industry who key specifically on smallmouth jigs. The web is loaded with experts who can tie outstanding jigs to replicate both crayfish and minnow forage patterns that can smash stream and river smallmouths. Then again, some tie their own, as I have done for over 30-years. It's always a kick to catch a good fish on one of your own creations.

Alternatively, many anglers opt for the tube jigs and fish them rather than more expensive hair varieties. Many companies make tube jigs that will accommodate jig heads from size 1/32 to 1/4 ounce. Most smallmouth anglers fish an eight-ounce jig head and 3-inch tube as a standard for river bass, with colors ranging from black, brown, pumpkin, olive and root beer patterns catching fish throughout the seasons. Often, tube jigs are infused with various scent options to attract bass, and others are made from a softer plastic to heighten movement underwater. Again, any quick review of Bass Pro Shops/Cabelas outlets will display a huge variety of tube sizes and color options for moving water bass.

CRANK BAITS...

One need look no further than to the classic minnow designs of Rapala to see a host of minnow-like crank baits that will take river smallmouths. The floating gold and silver 2-inch floating Rapalas have been standards for the stream bass angler for many decades and take their share of other

gamesters as well. The count-down series is ideal for those long, deeper pools that require a sinking lure but not one that will plummet quickly to the bottom. Color patterns vary, but most of the blue-back and black-back designs will closely imitate fleeing baitfish and minnow forage in the flows. When you see minnows skipping across the surface in an attempt to evade capture, it's time to tie on the floating Rapalas.

Another time-honored hard bait is the Rebel Crayfish and Teeny Crayfish crank bait. When they first arrived on the scene more than 30-years ago, stream bass and sunfish went ape over these quivering duplicates of crayfish. Still today, they remain one of the most effective, warm-water lures for gamefish of all species. Don't be surprised if you don't get a smashing strike as soon as the lure lands on the water so be ready to set the hook if your lure disappears in a swirling boil.

Sometimes a round dynamic can give a better show of baitfish profiles. The mini series of Bagley and Berkley crank baits tune in nicely with stream sunfish species that are often the dominant forage of larger stream and river bass. They tend to run slightly deeper than the Rebel lures and can adapt well to larger river systems such as the Potomac or Susquehanna.

One of my recent favorites has been the Nano Series of crank baits by Matzuo. Both the Nano Minnow and the Kinchou Minnow in 1/8th ounce travel at 2 to 4 feet at varying retrieves and can coax smallmouths, largemouths and big channel catfish from rivers and streams. Also, they can be very effective on stream trout once the PowerBait crowd has taken the summer off. We like to toss them on quality 6-pound monofilament like Suffix or P-Line FlouroClear.

SOFT PLASTICS...

Although not a traditional topic with river bass men, there is a strong case to be made for plastic worms in the flows. Almost by accident, I discovered that smaller 3 to 4.5 inch stick and ring worm options can be an absolute killer on smallies. Once, while fishing a section of the Monocacy River in central Maryland, I ran



Hair jigs in 1/16th and 1/8th ounce are my “weapon of choice” when pursuing stream and river smallmouth bass during the spring. Other lures work almost as well.

out of my favorite hair jigs as the rocky bottom just ate them up. In an effort to keep off the bottom, yet appeal to the bass, I put on a small, no-name stick bait and fished it wacky-rigged on a 1/0 off set worm hook. Nothing special, no secret retrieve, but almost as soon as the light plastic worm began to disappear those river bass came alive and pounced on it. I was somewhat surprised as to the aggressiveness of the fish and they quickly tore the worm in half. Fortunately, I had a bag of them in my vest. Ten bass later, I was sold on the fact that stick worms can be a game changer when other, more traditional baits just aren't doing it. We have had good success with the classic Yamamoto Senko, Stank X Stix and the Creepy Hollow Mini Dead Sticks in various colors from black, brown, blue, auburn and olive.

Other plastic options such as the classic 4-inch Fin-S-Fish or the Zoom Finesse 4-inch Worm team nicely with either a 1/0 or a 2/0 offset Owner or Gamakatsu worm hook. We like to fish them on light spinning tackle with either 6 or 8 pound quality monofilament lines. A lightweight 6-foot spinning stick serves well for enjoying 10 to 14-inch smallmouths yet has enough spunk to handle the occasional 3 to 4 -pound bass that might be the season's best. For smaller, tributary streams standard ultra-light spinning gear and 4-pound lines will handle 95% of the fish you hook, save for that raging, 8-pound channel catfish you might...might...hook when you least expect it!

1 / 2 DAY FISHING
CHARTER
SUNSET CRUISES
4 HR CRAB FEAST

Captain Mike

KODIAK CHARTERS

Kent Island, Maryland

443-496-2418

www.kodiakchartersmd.com

Family, Friends
Corporate Events

KENT NARROWS, MD



BOOK YOUR TRIP TODAY!

KODIAK CHARTERS

Captain Mike Middleton

KodiakChartersMD.com

443-496-2418

Maryland Hunters Harvest 76,687 Deer for 2022-2023 Season

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported that deer hunters harvested 76,687 deer during the combined archery, firearms, and muzzleloader seasons, from Sept. 9, 2022 through Feb. 3, 2023.

The statewide harvest included 29,682 antlered and 42,872 antlerless white-tailed deer, and 1,908 antlered and 2,225 antlerless sika deer. The harvest was 8% higher than the 2021-2022 total of 70,845 deer. The increased harvest is credited to more participation by hunters and favorable weather.

“Maryland hunters enjoyed another successful deer season,” Wildlife and Heritage Service Director Paul Peditto said. “Deer hunters play a valuable role in managing the state’s deer population.”

Hunters harvested 6,806 deer on Sundays, comprising 9% of the total harvest. Hunting deer on Sunday is only permitted during certain weeks in 20 of Maryland’s 23 counties.

The harvest in deer management Region A (Western Maryland) increased 21%, from 7,929 deer last year to 9,552 this year. Hunters in the western counties reported 5,762 antlered and 3,790 antlerless deer.

Hunters in Region B — the remainder of the state — harvested 67,135 deer, up 7% from 62,916 deer harvested last year. A total of 25,828 antlered and 41,307 antlerless deer were reported in this region.



An outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) on the lower Eastern Shore, primarily in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, caused a decrease in the harvest there this year. EHD occurs annually in Maryland deer and does not have long-lasting effects for the deer population, nor is it harmful to humans.

Frederick County had the highest reported harvest again this year, with 6,935 deer reported. Carroll County followed with 5,785 deer, and Garrett County was third with 4,989. Baltimore and Washington counties rounded out the top five with 4,846 and 4,600 deer, respectively.

Maryland Reported Antlered and Antlerless Deer Harvest for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Hunting Seasons									
	Antlered			Antlerless			Total		
County	2021-22	2022-23	% Change	2021-22	2022-23	% Change	2021-22	2022-23	% Change
Allegany	1,837	1,925	4.8	1,177	1,474	25.2	3,014	3,399	12.8
Anne Arundel	755	800	6.0	1,082	1,083	0.1	1,837	1,883	2.5
Baltimore	1,680	1,856	10.5	2,821	2,990	6.0	4,501	4,846	7.7
Calvert	551	599	8.7	787	879	11.7	1,338	1,478	10.5
Caroline									
whitetail	908	933	2.8	1,576	1,967	24.8	2,484	2,900	16.7
sika	0	0	*	0	1	*	0	1	*
Carroll	2,058	2,351	14.2	3,013	3,434	14.0	5,071	5,785	14.1
Cecil	1,197	1,230	2.8	1,996	2,122	6.3	3,193	3,352	5.0
Charles	873	1,136	30.1	1,082	1,439	33.0	1,955	2,575	31.7
Dorchester									
whitetail	732	749	2.3	1,235	1,318	6.7	1,967	2,067	5.1
sika	1,350	1,701	26.0	1,703	2,017	18.4	3,053	3,718	21.8
Frederick	2,674	2,892	8.2	3,414	4,043	18.4	6,088	6,935	13.9
Garrett	2,443	3,113	27.4	1,480	1,876	26.8	3,923	4,989	27.2
Harford	1,139	1,233	8.3	2,023	2,160	6.8	3,162	3,393	7.3
Howard	775	748	-3.5	1,244	1,361	9.4	2,019	2,109	4.5
Kent	1,077	1,044	-3.1	1,954	2,090	7.0	3,031	3,134	3.4
Montgomery	1,280	1,262	-1.4	2,026	2,171	7.2	3,306	3,433	3.8
Prince George's	702	715	1.9	928	932	0.4	1,630	1,647	1.0
Queen Anne's	1,074	1,083	0.8	1,884	1,999	6.1	2,958	3,082	4.2
St. Mary's	657	860	30.9	820	1,130	37.8	1,477	1,990	34.7
Somerset									
whitetail	734	592	-19.3	1,337	1,213	-9.3	2,071	1,805	-12.8
sika	17	25	*	8	12	*	25	37	*
Talbot	694	722	4.0	1,363	1,284	-58	2,057	2,006	-2.5
Washington	1,889	2,221	17.6	2,010	2,379	18.4	3,899	4,600	18.0
Wicomico									
whitetail	1,046	778	-25.6	1,991	1,664	-16.4	3,037	2,442	-19.6
sika	140	142	1.4	112	147	31.3	252	289	14.7
Worcester									
whitetail	1,172	840	-28.3	2,255	1,864	-17.3	3,427	2,704	-21.1
sika	34	40	*	36	48	*	70	88	*
Total	29,488	31,590	7.1	41,357	45,097	9.0	70,845	76,687	8.

Tochterman's


Since 1916



www.tochtermansfishingtackle.com

410-327-6942

Freshwater • Saltwater • Fly Fishing • Lure Building • Fly Tying • Clothing



For three generations Tochterman's Fishing Tackle has been helping anglers in the mid-Atlantic region pursue the catch of a lifetime.

1925 Eastern Ave. Baltimore, Md.



CHESTER RIVER

SEAFOOD

410-639-7018

Specializing in River Crabs!

WE OFFER

Crabs (live or steamed) • Soft Crabs • Crab Meat

• Shrimp • Scallops • Assorted Fish • Clams

• Oysters • And More to Come!

Come Check Out Our Prices!



We use only local crabs!





Hours: 10am-6pm 7 Days a Week!



By Grant Soukup

"Montana Grant"



SPRING FISHING FLING PLAN!!!

Maryland offers a wonderful menu of fishing fun each Spring. The key is timing. Many Chesapeake region fish spawn in the Spring. If you time it right, you can have amazing Springtime freshwater and tidal fishing. Stocked trout also offer predictable opportunities for full limits.

Trout Designated trout waters are already being stocked with rainbow, brown, and golden trout. Brook trout are protected in MD. Adult fish are released in these waters until June. Catch and release or limited harvest opportunities also exist.

Catch and Release or Fly Fishing only areas provide great fishing fun with artificial lures or flies. Neighboring states also offer diverse areas and species to explore and enjoy. Trout are a durable fish that can be caught several times if released carefully. Practice proper Catch and Release skills.

Yellow Perch Pre spawn happens in January but most perch runs get going in February. Water temperature and tides will determine when the runs happen. Do some scouting and watch fishing reports. Some watersheds start earlier than others. Generally, the week before and after St. Patrick's Day will

low perch. Blackbacks are the tastiest Chesapeake fish.

Hickory Shad Hickories are also known as Poor Man's Salmon. Shad are great sport to catch on flies or jigs. You can not keep these 2-4 pounders but can enjoy fast Catch and Release fishing. Mid-April to Mid-May is Hickory time. The Susquehanna basin is a great are with plenty of public access.

White Shad White shad are bigger than Hickories and spawn in the same places. You cannot keep these protected fish. These strong fighters will wear you and your gear out. Recent spawning runs have declined but if you time it right, you can enjoy Catching and Releasing 4-7 lb. shad. Mid-May through Mid-June are the time to target White Shad.

Crappies Reservoirs and rivers also have healthy populations of Black and White crappies. Whoever named



them never ate them. Crappies are tasty. Small jigs, minnows, and flies will catch shallow holding schools of crappie. Locate the schools around shoreline structures and catch a limit from late April through May.

Bluegills Farm ponds are full of bream or slab sized gills. A bobber and a worm will do the trick. Nesting gills will aggressively protect their nests and strike at most invaders or lures. April through early June will mean fun Bluegill catching.

Snakeheads These invasive predators need to go. Spawning occurs from

late April through August. They eat everything that swims in or near the water. Catch and keep everyone you can. Frogs, baby ducks, crayfish, crabs, and all aquatic life in threatened by these nasty fish. These predators can also walk on land to reach new areas. Transporting live snakeheads is verboten. Fortunately, they are great to eat. Catch and kill them all!

Pike and Pickerel Pike and pickerel are also Spring spawners. They spawn in many reservoirs during March. Cleaning and fileting are a bit different, but they taste great. Water temperature is critical for them to spawn. They will congregate where drainages feed into lakes and rivers. Where you find one, you will find many. Search for these fish using a Mepps fitted with a plastic worm or minnow.

There are also many other species of fish to enjoy. Bass also spawn in the Spring but catching them off their nests, even if released, will not encourage healthy offspring. Wait and catch the Bass after the spawn. Other Chesapeake Bay species are also available. Striped Bass are being over fished and closely regulated. Check seasonal opportunities and limits before targeting Rockfish. Other Bay fish migrate to the Bay depending on tides, temperature, and annual migrations. Be a student of your sport to identify timing and locations for these fun fish.

If you tackle these fishing opportunities, you will surely have a great season of fishing fun. Humans are bags of water. Our biology is closer to water. When we are near and around water, our health improves and stress flows away.

Many fishermen do not prefer scaly panfish. Cleaning and fileting require



Curt Soukup and Keith Albright at St Pauls.

some practice. Try using an electric knife to filet off the meat slabs, then skin them. I rarely scale panfish. A quick batter and fry bath will make these filets wonderful for a fish taco, sandwich, or fish fry meal. Check out some fish filleting YouTube videos or have a mentor show you how to deal with these fish.

Always check on local regulations and limits. The MD DNR website will offer wonderful tips, times, and locations on when to venture out. Remember that live transport of fish is against the law. This is especially important when dealing with invasive fish such as Snakeheads.

Pick up any trash or garbage when along our waterways. Sadly, not everyone appreciates our environment.

Plan your fishing Spring Fling and celebrate our watery environment.



put you on the run.

White Perch White perch run later in late April and May. They can be found in the same waters as yel-

Bowley's Bait & Tackle

LIVE BAIT • LICENSES

2917 Eastern Blvd. • Baltimore, MD 21220

410-687-2107

Now a Booking Agent for Local
Charter Boat Fleet.

Call for More Information.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!



Thompson Safe Company



Protect Your Investment
Residential and Commercial Safes

7313-M Grove Road • Frederick, MD 21704

- Graffunder® Safes • Summit® Safes • Superior® Safes
- Safe Accessories • Safe Moving



Mike Thompson

301-631-1500

www.thompsonsafes.com

We Deliver to MD • VA • WV • PA



**THE FASTEST GROWING NAME
IN INERTIA SHOTGUNS**

RETAY

PERFORMANCE, **BOLDLY** REDEFINED

MORE INFO

retayusa.com/why-retay



Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark
Sampson

BIRDS

“Flying rats,” the angler commented about a couple of seagulls that were squawking over which one would get to perch on a piling closest to the cleaning table. “Darn things ain’t good for nothing but crapping on boats and stealing baits”!

The grumpy fisherman was a little taken back when I asked him, “Yeah but where would we be without them?”

“Cleaner boats and bait on our hooks. We’d be a lot better off. That’s where we’d be!”

I certainly didn’t want to get in a ruffle with the guy over birds, so I allowed the exchange to end at that. But I couldn’t help but think about how many fishermen there are like him who don’t really know much about, let alone appreciate, the birds that surround us when we’re out on the water doing what we do.

They beg for scraps from our lunch, they follow our boats, they sit on the dock pilings and stare at us while we’re cleaning fish, we watch for them to show us where the fish are and then they try to steal the bait right off our hooks, they’ll squawk, scream, and fight over an old fish skin then drag trash out of a dumpster and poop on our boats. The good, the bad, and the ugly is all there when you’re talking about seabirds. But through it all they’re as much a part of the environment, the landscape, and life on the coast as the sand, the water, and the fish we pursue. The more one knows about the different birds that surround us, the more they can appreciate the important role our feathered friends play in the salty environment we fish.

Brown Pelican

When I was a kid there were no pelicans here on the shore, but now Delmarva supports a large nesting population of these awkward looking birds. Rarely found more than five miles offshore, brown pelicans are mostly seen flying just off the ocean beaches and over our back bay waters in all but the coldest of months. Diving pelicans can clue anglers to the presence of bunker, mullet or other medium size baitfish.

Wilson’s Storm Petrel

Petrels are the little black birds with white rump patches that anglers see offshore that stay close to the surface and flit around the waves. While hovering close to the water to feed on small specks of marine life, these birds use their little webbed feet to literally prance on the surface thus prompting the name “petrel” after St. Peter who once joined Jesus for a walk on the water. Petrels live their entire life over the open ocean

and only go ashore for nesting which is done on the southern tip of South America and Antarctica. Petrels are one of the most numerous birds in the world and found in all the oceans. Anglers should watch for congregations of petrels which could indicate the feeding activities of predator fish below.

Greater Shearwater

Shearwaters or “sailor gulls” as they are locally known are medium sized brown and white birds with pointed wings that gracefully glide close to the water and are only seen offshore. They will land on the water and then swim down to at least 30-feet to catch a small fish or steal an angler’s bait. A strong presence of these birds will clue fishermen to the possibility of big fish in the area. However, right now there are a lot of offshore anglers who are absolutely hating these birds as they’ve been attacking and annihilating baits being trolled for tuna and billfish. The good news is that this assault should subside in a week or so as the migration takes most of these birds north for the summer.

Sooty Shearwater

The sooty shearwater is similar in profile to the greater shearwater but it’s mostly all black, not as abundant and not as much of a problem for fishermen.

Double Crested Cormorant

These are the skinny black birds that are often seen flying over our coastal bays like strings of geese, or huddled in big groups on the sandbars. They’re most abundant during the cold weather months but there’s always a small number of them here even in the summer. Cormorants are very proficient at swimming underwater to catch small fish. Cormorants aren’t typically used by fishermen to locate good places to fish but if there

seems to be a bunch of them working in one area it could be an indication that there is at least some kind of life below.

Great Black-Backed Gull

When mature, these birds are mostly white with a very dark back and top of wings. As gulls go they are one of the largest in this area and are very common around the docks, bay waters and on the ocean relatively close to shore. These are predatory birds that will feed on both live and dead fish and about anything else they can capture or find.

Herring Gull

Herring gulls are similar to the black-backs in that they are quite large and mostly white except that the back and tops of the wings are gray and the wing tips are black. Herring gulls can be found nationwide and many miles from the coast. These are also the species most likely to be seen scavenging in dumpsters and landfills.

During their first couple years of life the plumage of both the herring gull and the black-back are a mottled brown and white. After their second year of life they’re much easier to identify by their black or gray backs.

Laughing Gull

Nothing reminds you that you’re on the coast like the unique call (or laugh) of a laughing gull. These black headed gulls seldom stray far from the coast but can sometimes be seen hunting for insects in cultivated fields and they’re common residents at docks and marinas and will make quite a racket when competing for food. Laughing gulls are not so much hunters as they are scavengers so if

fishermen observe them working over open water there is a good chance that predator fish might be feeding and leaving scraps.

Ring-Billed Gull

Ring-billed gulls appear as a small version of the herring gull except that they have a black (not red) ring around their bills. Also like the herring gull, ring-bills can be found very far away from the coast. Their feeding habits are much like that of the laughing gull.

Terns

Terns are the small to medium size birds with sharp pointed wings and a forked tail. They’re mostly white with a cap of black feathers on the top of their head. There are about five species of terns that frequent the area including the Royal, Caspian, Least, Arctic, and the Common tern. Terns are fast flyers that can often be seen over the bay or ocean hovering many feet above the water and watching for a small fish to dive down on. Anglers fishing for bluefish, stripers, mackerel or any other species that feed on very small fish should always pay attention to the terns as they can be a great indicator of where you want to be.

They squawk, they steal our baits, they crap on our boats (and sometimes on us!) but where would we be without the diverse array of sea birds that are as much a necessary part of the environment as the fish we pursue? And surely every fisherman can benefit from just a little basic knowledge about the birds that occupy the airspace over their fishing grounds.

FISH-FINDER

A D V E N T U R E S

Specializing in Shark Fishing



- Wreck Fishing
- Saltwater Fly Fishing

410-726-7946
www.bigsharks.com

*& more with Captain Mark Sampson
out of the Ocean City Fishing Center*



Shore TAXIDERM

SHORE.TAXIDERM@GMAIL.COM

Chestertown, MD

410-778-4107



Derrick Jones' fishing season has begun.



Thomas with a couple of nice snakeheads.



Justin Ames, Jr. (age 10) with his 8 pt. buck he took on youth day in QA Co. Photo courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.



Kolter Elliott out with his PopPop Wayne when he shot this 9 pointer. Photo Courtesy of Delmarva Sporting Clays.



Charlie Hennigar took this nice 6 pointer Sika on opening day of rifle season. Photo courtesy Delmarva Sporting Clays.



OBTAIN YOUR MARYLAND HQL

855-589-2267 ★ PublicSecurityLLC.com



Bait & Tackle
Pasadena, MD
410-360-0573
fishbonesmd.com



- Striper Baits
 - Snakehead/bass baits
 - Jigging Supplies
 - Fishing Rods & Reels
 - Crabbing Equipment
 - Trotlines/Pots
 - Rod Repair
 - Steamer pots/racks
 - Marine Supplies
 - Terminal Tackle
 - Live & Frozen Bait
 - Marine Batteries
 - Apparel/Hats
- 4729 Mountain Road
Pasadena, Md.

Ernest Hemingway
 “Somebody behind you while you are fishing is as bad as someone looking over your shoulder while you write a letter to your girl.”














*excluding select items



“The Last Word”

GOOD NEWS

By Steve Huettner

With the deadline approaching for this issue, I was torn on what to write about. A gentle reminder email from creative director Marc, “Where’s your story!?” forced my hand. My initial idea was with the Maryland General Assembly in full swing, a long list of bills of hunting and fishing-related bills, an article discussing the merits pros, and cons seemed logical. Some of the issues are contentious, with passionate views from all sides of the community.

I then thought of a quote from a departed friend, eastern shore guide Billy Foster that it doesn’t cost anything to be nice. I then decided to write April’s article on positive things that are occurring on the hunting front in Maryland (I’ll save Annapolis till after the smoke clears).

The 2022-23 deer hunting season seemed to be pretty successful for Maryland hunters, and not so good for deer. According to DNR, hunters harvested 76,687 deer from Sept. 9, 2022, through Feb. 3, 2023. Hunters averaged over 15,000 deer per month over 5 months. The harvest was 8% higher than in 2021-22. While EHD knocked back the deer population, especially on the lower shore, Maryland hunters didn’t seem to miss a beat.

Turkeys seem to be on a slight upswing based on hunter sightings this past season (completely unscientific). I know that we couldn’t keep them out of the food plots this season where I

hunt. Those who were brave enough to hunt during the winter season were successful to the tune of 84 wild turkeys, 25% above the 2022 total of 67 turkeys. Maryland hunters are fortunate to have a spring season, a one-week fall season in western Maryland, and a 3-day winter statewide.

Waterfowl hunters are looking hopeful that skies will be full and weather cooperative for the upcoming season. Mallards, which for the last several seasons with a bag limit of two, despite the fact it seemed like it was the only bird landing in your spread will now have a limit of four. More time in the blind and more birds for the oven. After two years of no bird counts due to COVID, and several conservative seasons of thirty days and one goose, hunters will be rewarded this season with a forty-five-day season and two-bird limit. Sounds like there will be some heavy game straps and birds on the smoker.

Black bears and those that pursue them continue to thrive. This past season saw an additional day added onto the season (6 days total, Monday thru Saturday). Black bear hunting continues to grow in popularity with 4700 to 5700 hunters applying for permits during the last several years, and hunters were able to crack the one hundred bears taken last season. As someone who has participated in several bear hunts since its inception in 2004, it is one of the best hunting experiences



Tanya caught this nice red drum in South Carolina.

the state has to offer. A few friends, a great campsite, and a fall in western Maryland equals a cannot miss adventure.

Marsh ghosts, otherwise known as sika deer have seen an insane rise in popularity (The Rinella effect). Blackwater refuge has a cap on hunters, sika lease prices have gone up higher than the rate of inflation, and it seems every public parking spot is filled with at least license plates from a half dozen states. The good news is that hunters and the state is realizing how important these Japanese imports are. A survey was sent out last year to gauge opinions and economics of hunting Sika. 3,600 hunters took the time to fill out the survey and the findings can be found on the Maryland DNR wildlife and heritage web page. We

finally have baseline data about those of us who hunt sika and will hopefully afford the Rodney Dangerfield of the Maryland hunting landscape some respect.

Last month I attended a full-day symposium on R3, or what is commonly referred to as hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation. During the meeting and break out discussions I was hearted to see so many people, from a wide range of the hunting community so dedicated and passionate about wanting to ensure hunting in Maryland not only maintains but grows. I have been fortunate enough to participate in the recruitment part via the mentor hunt at Blackwater Refuge. I can say it has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my hunting career.

TUSCARORA OUTFITTERS

410-708-1616



Recipe of the Month

MEDITERRANEAN PAN SEARED TROUT



Ingredients:

1 ½ tsp ground coriander
1 tsp sweet paprika
1 tsp all-natural garlic powder (or 1 to 2 teaspoon garlic paste)
1 ½ lb trout fillet (or butterflied trout fillet as in the pictures)
Salt and Pepper
All-purpose flour for coating (no more than ½ cup)
Extra virgin olive oil (I used Private Reserve Greek EVOO)
Lime wedges, for serving

Directions:

Mix the coriander, paprika, and garlic powder in a small mixing bowl.

Pat the trout fillet dry. Sprinkle with salt and black pepper on both sides, then season with the spices on both sides.

Coat the seasoned fish with the flour, shake off any excess flour (you only want a very thin layer).

In a large cast iron skillet, heat about 3 to 4 tablespoon olive oil over medium-high heat until shimmering but not smoking (see note). Sear the trout fillets for 3 minutes on each side (start with skin-side down, and use a spatula to very carefully flip the fish fillets over).

Remove the fish from the pan and place it on a tray lined with paper towel to absorb any excess oil.
Transfer to serving platter and finish with a squeeze of fresh lime juice.

Book of the Month

CHESAPEAKE BAY ADVENTURES: TALES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE



CHESAPEAKE BAY ADVENTURES

TALES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE

C.L. MARSHALL



Experience life on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. A shoreman's life revolves around nature's inevitable changes. The tides of the bay parallel the seasonal outdoor opportunities that the Eastern Shore provides. From the chaos of hunting marsh hens over flooded marshes during a hurricane to the solitude felt standing over a fallen trophy buck, gain an insider's look at this unique way of life. Feel the sea's power. Smell the gunpowder. Appreciate the solitude. Local author and outdoorsman C.L. Marshall tells the stories of the constant changes of the islands, the creeks and the bays.



- Offshore
- Snakehead
- Light Tackle
- Custom Lures
- Clothing/ Apparel

210 Marlboro Ave Suite
35 Easton, MD 21601

TEL. 443-746-2137
EMAIL: rustyhook612@gmail.com

LIVE
BAIT

2023 Classifieds are
FREE
20 words or
less

Fishing & Hunting Journal Classifieds

2023 Classifieds are
FREE
20 words or
less

Mail your classified to **driftrock@verizon.net** - Sell your boat, gun dog, truck, equipment or anything in the garage!

FOR SALE

16 ' to 17' Venture rail boat trailer
good cond. \$800.00 obo call
410-686-0062 leave message.

Our club will have openings for the
upcoming season
Waterblinds Pits, Ponds
Impoundments
Properties in Maryland. Cecil,
Kent, Queene Anne, Talbot, and
Dorchester Counties
Delaware. New Castle, Kent, and
Sussex Counties
Also farms in Southeast Pennsylv-
vania
We have a private website to
reserve hunts
Please call the number provided
for information
302-250-5438

Duck and Goose lease wanted for
group of Gentlemen 2023-2024
season and beyond
Call or Text Mark 301-873-0068
With what you have available

Looking to Buy: Blackwater/
Roughrider full body decoys.
Price negotiable depending on
condition. I cover shipping.
Capt JAK
321-863-9182

Buoys:
6x14 inch
Also carry other sizes
Contact : 425 296 6622

FOR SALE

AKC Yellow Labs
Hunting pedigrees
Shots, Dewormed and one year
health guarantee
\$1000 ready 3/24 call/text
(240)4402020.

2002 Jones 42 Pleasure/Charter ·
Driven NaN miles
02 Jones 42, QSM11 670 hp,
7000 hrs. Generator with Heat
and Air conditioning Great condi-
tion ready to go. Furuno elec-
tronics. Contact Jeff Shahan
410.310.1600

70 acres timber for rent... deer
and turkey rights. Kent county
md. 410 708 8865 lease will be
straight with owner. 13k
410 708 8865

FOR SALE 2010 Carolina Skiff
1765DLX...
...a one-owner, decommissioned
open-deck Skiff "commercial work-
boat package" originally used in
professional wildlife habitat man-
agement and herbicide spraying
of invasive wetland phragmites.
All spray equipment has been
removed; both boat and trailer are
clean and titled. All components
received regular Profesional Main-
tenance, is Spring 2023 recommis-
sioned, upgraded/tested, on-board
non-ethanol fuel, ready to go for
pleasure/commercial crabbing,
catfishing, customization etc.

FOR SALE

2010 Carolina 1765DLX
Open Skiff
- steering console;- navigation lights;
- bilge pump (new 2022);
- fiberglass bottom sanded and
painted (2021); hull condition very
good+.
2010 Mercury 50 HP EFI 4-stroke
outboard engine
- battery and extra-large battery box
(both new 2022);
- console-mounted throttle (Spring
2023 new throttle cables) w/trim/tilt
control switch;
- 6 gallon gas tank; gas line, priming
bulb (new 2021) w/non-ethanol fuel;
- propeller in good condition;
- condition very good+; sun paint
fading on cowling and decals;
- original owners manual; Motor runs
GREAT & looks mint under under
cowl.
2009 EZLoad trailer
- tongue jack;
- spare tire and mount (new 2021);
- manual winch w/winch strap (new
2021);
- side roller guides (new 2022);
- oil-filled wheel bearings (new 2020)
- raised LED tail-lighted guide posts;
- could use new bunk boards.
ONE owner; Purchased NEW from
Goldborough's Marine, Crisfield MD.
- Boat maintenance and repair,
winterizing, recommissioning per
Chesapeake Whalertowne, Gran-
sonville MD.. Trailer maintenance
per Danny's Centreville Garage,
Centreville MD; maintenance record

FOR SALE

documentation for most years.
- Original titles for boat and trailer;
DNR registration current but needs
transfer.
- Purchased new in 2010 for
\$12,000+
- Comparable 2023 fiberglass Open
Skiff Work Packages cost \$20-
24,000+ - Asking \$7,500...
Patrick D. Kelly
Centreville, MD 21617
443-262-2079 call/text

1985 fiberglass C hawk 25 ft
225 Yamaha 4 stroke
Full throttle about 32mph
Turn key ready to go
Bluetooth speaker sound system
Clean title for boat and trailer
Crab pot winder
Call or text 410-474-4657

Springtime is right around the cor-
ner call Danny B Harrison asphalt
paving , 410-714-2200 for free
estimate on your driveway - lane
or parking lot we do new installa-
tion or repair work on asphalt pav-
ing tar and chips sealcoating and
maintenance. We haul gravel or
millings. Commercial or residential
a family-owned business since
1956 serving the mid Shore area
located St Michael's Maryland-
Easton Maryland.

Horse quality alfalfa , orchard
grass, and mix. Eastern shore
410-708 4005



Open · 5:00AM - 5:00PM
www.majorcrabs.com

107 Short Rd,
Stevensville,
MD
Phone:
443-
249-5125

SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

-15°

USDA CERTIFIED BIOBASED PRODUCT

TRICK SHOT®

AMERICA PROUD
MADE IN THE USA

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

SPORTSMAN

LUBRICANT & PROTECTANT

FOR USE ON ALL YOUR OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

NATURAL SCENT!

OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS
ARE THRILLED WITH ITS
PERFORMANCE!!

It Does The Trick.com

Contains NO Petroleum Distillates
100% BIODEGRADABLE • NON-TOXIC

Follow us!

f

Instagram

YouTube

in

BREAKTHROUGH
in BIO-LUBRICANT PERFORMANCE

EVERYTHING MUST GO!!!



Arundel Firearms and Pawn

It's time after 35 years. - Retiring soon.

And the WIFE says
everything must go!!

No reasonable offers refused.

Including the business!

Guns, ammo of all kinds, and plenty of stuff you haven't seen.

7427 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd
Glen Burnie, Maryland- 410-761-6381

EVERYTHING MUST GO!!!

Trophy Season Opens May 1st! ROCKFISH BLITZ!

PENN REELS

MODEL	Price
309	P.O.R.
209	P.O.R.
Squall - LW 15, 20, 30 & 50 In Stock	
	P.O.R.

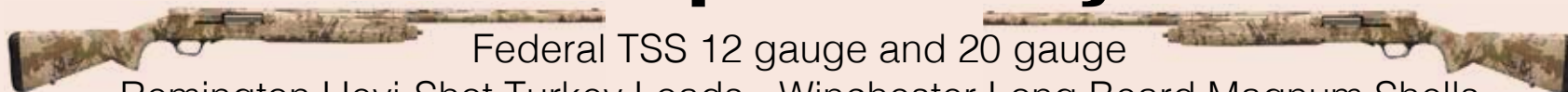
*New Penn 30 LW
WARFARE Reel +
Ande 6' Rod
20 to 50 lb. class rod filled
with 40lb. mono.
Rod & Reel
P.O.R.*



Trolling Combo
Penn 309 filled
with 40lb. test &
BWBR125 Rod
with trolling Tip
P.O.R.

SPRING GOBBLER HEADQUARTERS

Turkey Hunting Season Dates April 18-May 23



Federal TSS 12 gauge and 20 gauge
Remington Hevi-Shot Turkey Loads - Winchester Long Beard Magnum Shells
Winchester Supreme Turkey Loads, XX Magnum 3" & 3 1/2" - #4, #5 & #6
Diaphragm, Slate & Box Calls by Quaker Boy & Penns Woods
Turkey Decoys • Camo Clothing • Headnets & Gloves • Patterning Targets



NEW! 7"
Umbrella
Rig!

NEW MANN'S Stretch 18s, 25s & 30s

Parachute Bucktails w/Glass Eyes, 7/0 - 8/0 - 10/0 - 12/0
NEW! Mega Parachute w/Swing Hook & 9" Shad Body!
Tony Accetta & Crippled Alewives Trolling Spoons
12" & 9" Shad Bodies & Heads • Umbrella Rigs • Licenses
Storm 9" Shad Bodies leaders, Rigs, &
HOW-TO INFORMATION

Check Out Our Selection
of St. Croix Rods



BEST RODS ON EARTH™

Live and Frozen Bait - Minnows

Rod & Reel Repairs - Lures -

Hooks - Lead Weights -

Tackle for Perch, Panfish & Bass

For Rockfish - Circle Hooks,
Bucktails, Umbrellas & Parachutes

FISHING LICENSES ON SALE

CLYDE'S SPORT SHOP

2307 Hammonds Ferry Road • Baltimore, MD 21227

410-242-6108 • www.clydessports.com

• GUNS • AMMO • CLOTHING • HUNTING LICENSES • BOOTS • KNIVES

1957-2023 "66 Years Serving Maryland's Fishermen & Hunters"



ROCKFISH BLITZ!

PENN REELS

MODEL	Price
309	P.O.R.
209	P.O.R.
Squall - LW 15, 20, 30	
& 50 In Stock	
	P.O.R.

*New Penn 30 LW
WARFARE Reel +*

Ande 6' Rod

*20 to 50 lb. class rod filled
with 40lb. mono.
Rod & Reel*

\$139.95



Trolling Combo
Penn 309 filled
with 40lb. test &
BWBR125 Rod with
trolling Tip \$89.95
Rod & Reel



**NEW! 7"
Umbrella
Rig!**

NEW MANN'S Stretch 18s, 25s & 30s

Parachute Bucktails w/Glass Eyes, 7/0 - 8/0 - 10/0 - 12/0

NEW! Mega Parachute w/Swing Hook & 9" Shad Body!

**Tony Accetta & Crippled Alewives Trolling Spoons
12" & 9" Shad Bodies & Heads • Umbrella Rigs • Licenses
Storm 9" Shad Bodies leaders, Rigs, &
HOW-TO INFORMATION**

**Black Saltys,
Minnows,
Bloodworms,
Earthworms,
Shrimp & Chicken Necks
CHUM by the Log, Bucket or
Bushel
ALEWIVES by the Flat or Bushel
All sizes of CIRCLE HOOKS**



**CHUMMING
OUTFIT**

**BWS1100, 6' 6" or 7' UGLY STIK ROD
Ball Bearing SS Spinning Reel,
4 ball Bearings
17# or 20# Line... \$74.95
Rod & Reel Chumming Combos
as low as \$39.95**



**SUSQUEHANNA FLATS CATCH &
RELEASE ROCKFISH NOW OPEN!**



CLYDE'S SPORT SHOP



2307 Hammonds Ferry Road • Baltimore, MD 21227

410 -242-6108 • www.clydessports.com



• GUNS • AMMO • CLOTHING • HUNTING LICENSES • BOOTS • KNIVES

1957-2016 "59 Years Serving Maryland's Fishermen & Hunters"

24 HOUR FISHING HOTLINE 410-247-FISH

