

Fishing & Hunting TM Journal



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- **New All-Tackle Yellowfin Tuna World Record**
and much much more inside...

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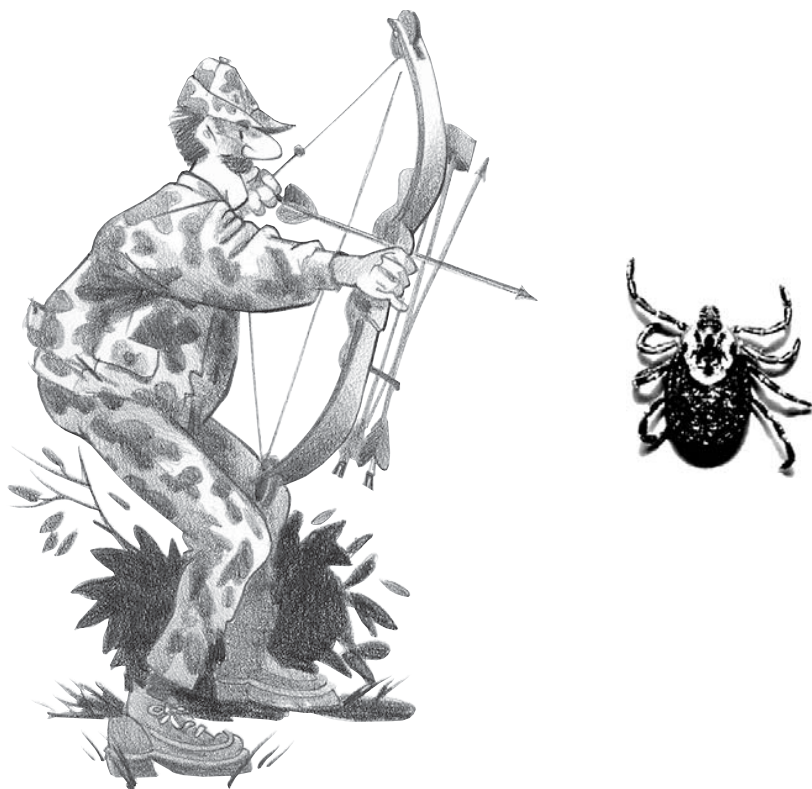
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5. **Unexplained swollen glands**
6. **Testicular/pelvic pain**
7. **Unexplained menstrual irregularity**
8. **Irritable bladder/dysfunction**
9. **Sexual dysfunction/loss of libido**
10. **Stomach problems**
11. **Constipation/diarrhea**
12. **Chest pain**
13. **Shortness of breath/cough**
14. **Heart palpitations/racing/slowing**
15. **Joint pain, swelling, comes & goes**
16. **Muscle pain/cramps**
17. **Headaches**
18. **Neck creaks/cracks/stiffness**
19. **Stiffness in the joints or back**
20. **Tingling, numbness**
21. **Burning/stabbing sensation**
22. **Bells palsy**
23. **Double or blurry vision/floaters**
24. **Light sensitivity**
25. **Ringling/buzzing in ears, sound sensitivity**
26. **Dizziness, poor balance, motion sickness**
27. **Light headedness**
28. **Confusion, difficulty thinking**
29. **Difficulty with concentration**
30. **Short term memory loss**
31. **Disorientation, getting lost**
32. **Speech—think one thing, another word comes out**
33. **Mood swings, irritability, depression, crying for no reason**
34. **Nightmares, night sweats**
35. **Do you feel like dying?**
36. **Have you seen multiple doctors without success?**
37. **Do people say you are a hypochondriac/ do they say it's all in your head?**

Trophy Stripers on Light Tackle

by Lenny Rudow



'Tis the season for trophy rockfish – how could we talk about anything else? Chances are, however, that you already know how to set a big spread of umbrellas and tandem rigs on broomstick trolling rods. If you'd rather catch trophies on 12-pound spinning gear, however, raise your hand. Yeah – that's what I thought.

The Perfect Place

An excellent method of light tackle fishing for trophies is bait fishing with bunker chunks, set on bottom. But it's not as simple as that sounds, because these are several key factors you need to bear in mind. Mud flats are a surprising but key ingredient to catching trophies on light gear. Those found in 30' to 45' of water, including the mud flats west of Love Point (near the LP buoy), the mud flats east of Thomas Point, the mud flats east of Franklin Manor, and the mud flats east of Chesapeake Beach, have all proven good choices in the past. This year I add Hackett's to the list, because during the 2010 season, one of the hottest bites around was over the mud just east of the bar (the closer you were to the bar itself, the better).

In all of these areas, choosing a specific spot to anchor can be difficult; depth is an important factor, but the fish can change their favored depth from day to day. Most of the time, the best way to select your space is to weave

over the mud flats for a few minutes and watch your depthfinder. When you find a depth range that seems to hold more fish than the others, drop anchor and begin to fish.

This method of fishing is more risky than trolling because you'll want to remain dedicated to the spot you choose through the hot period of the tide. And, just for the record, when you go light you usually will take fewer fish than you would by trolling; if numbers are what's most important to you, this probably isn't going to be the way you want to fish. Also note that the hot trolling bite locations won't necessarily match up with the areas that produce using this light tackle methodology. In fact, there seems to be little relationship between where you'll catch fish using these tactics, and where the trollers are catching them, on any given day.

Patterning the Bite

I've kept catch records which go back over a decade and include each and every trophy striper caught by my boat, my father's and several friends, and the information we've gathered exposes an astonishing pattern: 75-percent of the trophies caught with the

light tackle tactics outlined in this article came during a one and a half hour slice of the tide. 15-percent of the remaining fish were caught in the following hour. What about the oddball ten percent? Those fish came to the hook at sunrise or sunset, which you already know is a time of active feeding for the fish. This remained true across the board, season to season, regardless of weather patterns, water temperature and clarity, and variations in the basic technique.

So—what's this magic time frame? The last 90 minutes of the tidal cycle. The incoming tide beat out the outgoing by a slight margin, but both are productive. The first 60 minutes of the following tidal cycle accounts for the other active, but much slower, productive period. Of course, the variables mentioned earlier did have an effect on the fishing; rainfall and water clarity made

continued on pg. 5



Catching a rockfish like this on light tackle will make any angler smile; Alex nabbed this one near the LP buoy.

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Chris Eichler caught this 44 inch striper aboard the "Southpaw" out of Kentmoor Marina. Photo courtesy of Eichler Charter Services.



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the technique more or less effective when considering the overall number of fish caught during any given time frame. In essence, more rainfall in the spring translates into fewer trophies caught using these methods. Water clarity helps but is not imperative. Clear water during springs of heavy fresh flow are not as productive as cloudy water during springs of less fresh flow, for example. But that 90 minute window of time has been the hot bite, from season to season. The very best fishing has occurred when this hot slice of the tide coincides with sunrise or sunset—the optimal opportunity to take trophies on light tackle.

The Perfect Bait

You have the time, and you have the spot—what now? It's time to bait up with fist-sized chunks of fresh cut bunker, and sink a chum pot to the bottom. That chum won't hold trophy fish in the area at this time of year, but it will attract the fish's attention and get it to swim through the zone, hopefully close by your baits. And keep those baits set dead on bottom; unlike regular summer and fall chumming, during the spring, the vast majority of the fish you hook will come from baits the fish can scavenge right off of the mud.

Rigs are also a bit different than those used for chumming at other times of the year. Make them up with four feet of fluorocarbon 30 pound test leader, tied to a swivel on one end and a 6/0 to 8/0 Gamakatsu Octopus hook. Weight is provided by sliding an egg sinker over your main line, above your leader. The swivel on your leader will prevent the egg sinker from sliding down to the hook, but when a fish takes a bait, it can swim with line passing through the sinker, so it never feels the extra weight.

Before lowering your bait, hold it over the side of the boat and quickly drag it through the water. Remember the following saying: If it spins, you won't win. Spinning baits look unnatural, plus they cause line twist and tangles in your leader. So swap out or re-

hook any baits that look like helicopter blades in the water.

Quality of baits is as follows: Fresh menhaden is best, frozen is okay, and re-frozen or frozen over a month ago is practically useless. Unfortunately, it's hard to find a reliable supply of fresh menhaden in our area at this time of year. You'll have to check out the tackle shops within a reasonable drive of your launch point, and hope that one of them carries fresh menhaden. Anglers on Rt. 50 near Annapolis regularly carries it, Marty's in Edgewater has fresh some of the time, and Herbs usually has fresh herring, which comes in a close second to bunker.

Turning bites into hook-ups takes a few special measures, with these large and somewhat smarter than usual fish. If they feel resistance on the line, they'll spit the bait and swim off. So you need to either fish them in freespool, or with a baitrunner-style reel, which allows the fish to move off with minimum pressure on the line. When one does so, give it a five-count and then set the hook.

Why not use circle hooks, and merely wait for the fish to swim off and hook themselves? In my experience, when fishing with this particular method at this particular time of year, your bite-to-landing ratio will drop by a whopping 50-percent. For whatever reason, circles just don't work as well as normal in this particular situation. But going with J's means you'll gut-hook a lot of fish. The good news? Throw-backs are very, very rare, and the vast majority of fish you catch using these tactics in the aforementioned areas will run between 30" and 40". The bad news? If you plan on catch-and-release fishing, this is NOT an appropriate method, nor is it a good idea to continue fishing for fun once you have your limit onboard!

But wait! There's more good news! Catch a few honkin' big rockfish on light tackle, and you'll discover the rush far exceeds anything you feel when winching them up on umbrella rigs trolled with tow-truck gear. Give it a shot, and I'll bet you agree.



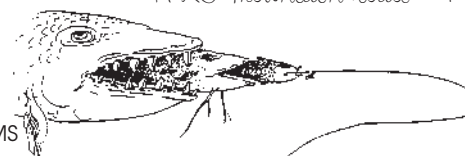
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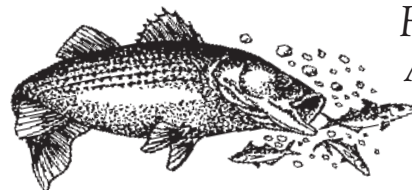


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Susquehanna Spring Smallies

by Tim Sherman

The Susquehanna River is renowned across the country for its quality smallmouth bass fishery. Much has been written about the famed Duncannon area through the years. Brian Immekus of Brian's Guide Service fishes the mighty Susqy, but in a different area miles to the south. He plies waters near Muddy Run, downriver from the Holtwood Dam, for bronze back bass from the prespawn through

post spawn period. You'll find Immekus fishing this area from mid-April through mid-May. Prior to and after this timeframe, he says that smallmouth bass are difficult to find and catch. He uses the annual spawning period to catch and release quality smallies.



Brian makes it clear that safety is a bigger issue on the river than catching fish. He and his clients wear auto-inflatable PFDs while fishing. River current, cool water temperature, and rocks are not friendly to those who may find themselves overboard.

The movement of prespawn smallmouth bass is predictable. Brian uses the second warming trend of spring as his barometer as to when he'll head to the river. He runs the area in an aluminum boat powered by a 50 horsepower propeller motor. His knows the channels in the river for where he can navigate safely, but suggests that anglers new to the river use a jet drive motor. Immekus navigates skinny water with his stern mounted trolling motor.

In the prespawn to post spawn timeframe, smallmouth bass are found away from current. Brian says that the "cubby holes" notched into shoreline boulders are where he finds them holding. There can be several spawning beds by each boulder. In other areas of the Susquehanna, smallies use current breaks behind

islands as spawning areas. Here, they have the ideal conditions of being out of the current, but close enough to the moving water to feed. Plus the shoreline boulders, some the size of small castles, warm the water for added comfort. If there is fallen wood in the current break the guide likes the area even more.

Immekus has simplified his tactics over the years. He has narrowed his lure selection to three soft baits



Brian Immekus (left) and Bob Murray smile at the sight of a big Susquehanna smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Delaware Valley Outdoors.



Kinsey Robinson took this Cape Buffalo at 105 yds in the papyrus swamps of Africa, 20 miles from camp.

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— a 3 1/2-inch tube, a small beaver style bait, and a stick worm. All three lures will be in some variation of the green pumpkin hue. He has a rod rigged with one of each lure. While he knows where the smallies are, they can be particular about what they want to eat. Brian rigs the stick worm one of two ways: Texas style with an 1/8-ounce bullet weight or wacky style on a weighted worm hook. Traditionally, a stick worm is fished without added weight; but in this scenario smallies are oriented to the bottom and the worms have to be presented directly to them.

While one of his clients is fishing a stick worm, Brian hands the second angler a rod rigged with a tube. The tube has a 1/8-ounce jig

head inserted so it will fall into the nook or notch in the boulder. He will swap out the tube for a beaver bait when the stick worm and tube are not drawing strikes. The beaver is rigged Texas style with a 1/8 to 1/4-ounce bullet weight — the stronger the wind or current, the heavier the weight. The wide, flat plastic is then cast into the cubby hole and dragged slowly back to the boat.

The basic presentation is to get either of the three lures down on the river bottom. Smallmouth bass are not willing to chase a potential meal very far. They have more pressing needs to take care of. The strike is such that the smallie will pick up the bait and move off with it. Line watching is a skill that anglers must have. Brian carries plenty of hooks,

weights, and plastic baits because snagging and breaking off lures is a common occurrence. It's a definite that, as the old cliché says, if you're not getting snagged, you're not doing it right.

Each trip can be different and Brian has to adjust his game plan. River level, weather conditions and period of the spawn can dictate where smallies will be. Prespawn and post spawn bass will be on the quiet edge of the current. They're tucked away so they can pounce on any food source, crawfish or baitfish, that is washed by in the current. Some of the bass will leave the sanctity of the shoreline rock cover and move out into the main river behind large boulders to feed during the post spawn phase. During the heart

of the spawn, smallies will be as tight against the cubby hole as they can be.

Immekus finds that fishing is best when the river is rising, as dictated by the Holtwood Dam. The catch rate falls off a bit when the river level is falling. The sun also has a way of positioning fish. Brian targets shade lines along the rocky banks. It's a pattern he can duplicate all along the river, not wasting time by casting to the sunny areas within the cubby hole.

Head to the Holtwood/Muddy Run area this spring for smallmouth bass. Their annual spawning ritual makes their location and patterns to catch them predictable. Brian Immekus' tactics will help you bring quality smallies to the boat.



Captain Mitch Quillen and mate Carlos with one of 11 Pacific Sailfish taken on a recent trip out of Los Suenos Costa Rica aboard the "Fandango."



Nick Markakis of the Balt. Orioles and Randy Nelson of White Hall Game Farm with their nice bucks.

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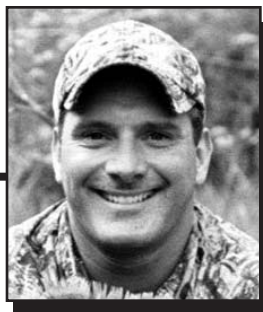
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Dozen Deadly Sins of Turkey Hunting

by Mike Monteleone



One of the enduring wonders of turkey hunting is that it features an incredible mixture of emotions and experiences. When weighed in the overall balance though, there's no question whatsoever that the turkey hunter's broth is one of a heavy ration of sadness alleviated by occasional moments of utter completion and happiness. Accordingly, a constant part of the hunter quest when dealing with American big-game bird is to somehow, some way, enjoy the sweet taste of success a bit more frequently.

One way to achieve this is through recognition and the correction of past mistakes, for as sure as turkey sleep in trees you are going to have miscues aplenty. Or, to couch matters in the fashion an elder of the sport once presented them to me: "The only certainty in turkey hunting is the uncertainty". However, if you can reduce the certain miscues and lessen the degree of uncertainty, there's a realistic expectation that a basted turkey will showcase the table soon after your hunt.

With that in mind, what follows is a listing of the cardinal sins I've committed along with hints on how I try to avoid them. Simple awareness of them has the potential to make you a better hunter, and conscious efforts to avoid

them will have even more of a positive effect.

Here, in no particular order of significance, are a dozen of the most common sins.

Movement

While I have some serious reservations about turkey hunting folklore which suggests a gobbler can pinpoint a dancing flea at 300 yards, there's no denying the bird has incredible eyesight. The fantastic eyesight does not reciprocate for humans, and it is movement, more than anything, which alerts a turkey of your presence. That is why turkeys like to be out in open areas on blustery days – there is too much movement in the woods for their comfort level. The message, in a nutshell, is to get planted and be still. Comfort is the key here. Be sure to have a thick butt pad or stool that will let you sit still for extended periods of time.

Calling too Long

With the noteworthy exception of assembly yelps and a rare session of hen cutting, typical hen talk involves a handful of yelps or a cluck or two. Keep that in mind and resist the temptation to offer a dozen yelps, mixed with a handful of clucks shortly followed by a

series of long purrs immediately followed by a deep breath and the entire series all over again. If it does not sound like the way turkeys typically vocalize, it doesn't make much sense. Vary the number of yelps you use when you do call, with a good frame of reference being between four and eight. If your turkey calling brings a hen with Ol' Tom in tow your count should mirror her count.

Calling too Loud

Just as adolescents seem to think the only type of music worth hearing is played at a decibel level that bursts eardrums and cause obnoxious ringing the further he or she ages, there is a pronounced tendency among turkey hunters to crank up the level of calling to a point which ranges from ineffective to stupidity. Turkey hear far better than we do and far better than what we think they do. If you were to pay attention to the natural turkey talk in the woods; most of the time, it is a soft and muted, and there is a lesson there. There are times when calling loudly makes sense, mostly in windy conditions or when you are trying to locate a bird.

Calling too Much

Virtually every turkey hunter, from the rankest novice to the most seasoned of veterans, runs the real and constant risk of falling in love with the sound of his own calling. In that regard, it is helpful to remember that some old-timers who have scores of beards adorning their gun room wall seldom do anything more than cluck at long intervals.

Wait as long as you possibly can between calls, than wait a bit longer. Get his attention then lay a heavy dose of silence on him.

Impatience

Impatience has been the salvation of turkeys in all woodlots, and it comes in many forms. Moving when you should be still. Moving because nothing seems to be in range. Being unwilling to let a gobbler close the gap. Calling because you want to hear a gobble. Rushing shots. Leaving the woods too early. This list could continue at considerable length because far too many hunters are unwilling to play the waiting game. In any situation which demands patience, whether it involves



Scott Gilbert took this nice 14 pt. at the Edgewood Arsenal with a bow. Photo courtesy of Deer Creek Archery.

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a bit longer in a first-morning spot, resisting the urge to call, or avoiding the temptation to call it a morning as thoughts of a hot cup of coffee and a breakfast sandwich plays tricks with your mind. Take a peak at your watch and give it another ten minutes.

Lack of Persistence

Persistence is the close cousin to patience. Season after season the hunter who sticks to it, ignoring the buzzing skeeters, long hauls up and down hills or mountains, and sweat will reap the rewards. Don't become captive to time. Turkeys don't wear a watch and trying to predict any schedule or lack there of is impossible. You got to stick it out and operate on turkey time, not your time.

Misjudging Distance

This is a mistake that is seldom mentioned, but it is a bad one in as much as it can result not only in a blown hunt but the tragedy of a wounded bird. Judging shooting range is no easy task. If uncertain, work with a rangefinder until you are consistent to a distance of plus or minus 5 yards. If he looks too far – he probably is. Birds in open fields look closer than they are. In such situations, don't hesitate to set out a distance marker (decoys are great

for this) as an aid. Beyond that, know your gun and its capabilities. You want to shoot at ranges within its level of practiced and predictable performance.

The Misery of Missing

Anyone who says he hasn't ever missed a turkey is either a liar or just hasn't shot at a whole lot of them. Hunt enough and you will miss, and with very rare exceptions it is the result of operator error. Most misses come as a result of failure to get down on the stock. Also, try to pay attention to obstacles between you and your target.

Shooting at the Wrong Time

There are all sorts of reasons why you would choose to squeeze the trigger at the wrong moment. Previous mention has been made of obstacles and distance, but also factoring into the equation are shots taken when the gobblers' neck isn't extended or he is moving, and the like. The ability to decide correctly, when the moment of truth arrives is a hallmark of a fine turkey hunter. When is the right time to shoot is very hard to explain in words so ideally you want a statuesque target with full neck extension.

Improper Use of Decoys

Decoys can be a great ally, but they

can also save a gobblers life. The decision on whether or not to use them is up to each hunter, but if you do so, do it right. First and foremost, make sure they are realistic and setup properly. The decoy's should be setup naturally (not leaning or spinning in the wind) and within shooting distance. If using the male gendered versions, pay special attention to your surroundings should an idiot attempt to shoot at one you are quick to safely react.

Wrong Setup

Occasionally a hunter's gotta do what he's gotta do, and that may mean getting on the ground in a heck of a hurry or setting up with back against a piece of farming equipment. What ever the situation is, do so with care, keeping in mind things like line of sight, distance you can see, your background and obstacle that could cause the gobbler to hang up. If the setup is not care-

fully thought out there is always a possibility that a response could leave you in an awkward position or no position at all.

Inadequate Camo

Stand out like a sore thumb and you'll inevitably be spotted. Standard wisdom dictates backing up against a larger than shoulder width object, but you'll find that a hastily constructed blind, or one of the many portable blinds on the market will serve you quite nicely. Carry a pair of pruning pliers for blind building purposes. Make sure all your equipment is covered in Mossy Oak camouflage.

There you have it. Sins that we have all committed while turkey hunting or sins that we are most likely to commit as a novice turkey hunter. The good news is that they are all avoidable as long as we methodically but carefully calculate our next move and our next hunt.



Robert Taylor from Somerset County posing with his 200 red fox hides he trapped from Nov. 15 to Dec. 15.

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Spring Turkey Season Outlook

by Andy Aughenbaugh



Nothing speaks of spring to the hunter more than an old Tom gobbling off the roost in the pre-morning darkness of an April morning. April 18, 2011 begins another year of chasing wild eastern turkeys for Maryland hunters. This year the season will commence on April 18 and run until May 23, 2011. The junior hunt is scheduled for April 16, 2011.

New for this season:

- The hunting hours have been extended until sunset for the last two weeks of the spring turkey season and on the wild turkey Junior Hunt day for the entire state.
- The new separate bag limits for the fall and spring turkey seasons are: one either-sex bird in the fall season and two bearded birds in the spring season.
- Shot size restrictions for turkey hunting have been changed. Shot sizes #4 or smaller are now permitted.
- Crossbows may be used to hunt forest game during the open season for these species.
- Turkey hunting will be permitted on Sunday, May 1, 2011 in Allegany and Garrett counties only. This includes both public and private lands.

Eastern Wild Turkey Population Status:

According to the Wild Turkey and Upland Game Bird 2009-2010 Annual Report prepared by the MD DNR, the wild turkey population is estimated to be near or above 30,000. Although some regions are experiencing up and down population trends, the statewide population has remained relatively stable for the past 10 years. Many hunters were concerned that the exceptional cold temperatures and deep snow in the winter of 2009-10 might have harmed the population, but the 2010 harvest data suggest that any impacts were minor. The highest densities of turkeys are found in the western mountains and the eastern region. Densities are lowest in the central portion of the state, where suburbia and development limit available habitat. The report does point out that harvest density may under-represent true population levels in highly populated areas where hunting opportunities are limited.

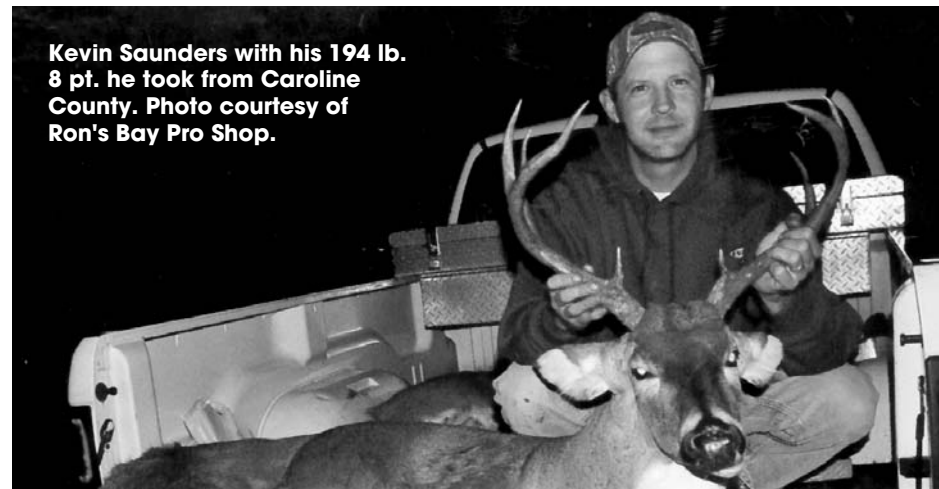
Western Region (Garrett, Allegany, and Washington)

Although the poult production in the western region was below-average for the third consecutive year, the average in this region is very high, largely due to the exceptionally good production observed in 2004-2007. The western region had the 2nd highest production of poults to the other regions in 2010. Turkey densities in this region are among the highest in the state, and the moderate production seen this year should be enough to keep the population strong in the coming year.

Central Region (Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Anne Arundel)

The central region reportedly has the fewest numbers of turkeys in the state. It appears that the nesting success was very limited in this region. Only 46% of hens were seen with young during last year's survey; whereas, in most regions, 60-80% of hens are seen with young each year. Although turkey populations in the region are low in most areas, this year's moderate production may

continued on pg. 14



Kevin Saunders with his 194 lb. 8 pt. he took from Caroline County. Photo courtesy of Ron's Bay Pro Shop.

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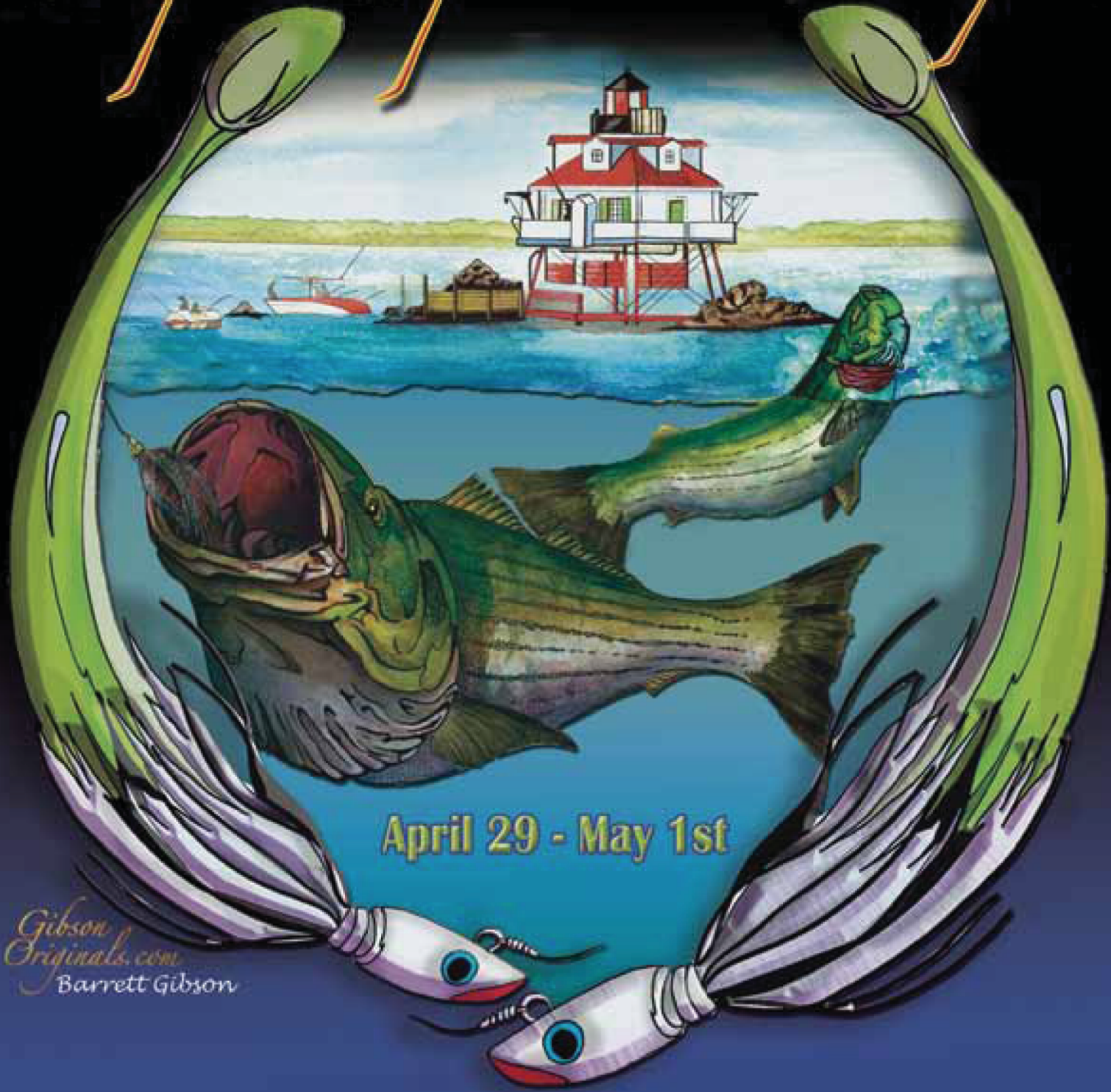
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SPRING TURKEY OUTLOOK from pg. 10 result in increased numbers. Anecdotal reports from the region also suggest that turkeys may be becoming established in sections not previously occupied.

Southern Region (Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's)

Turkeys in the southern region appeared to have had an excellent summer with 85% of hens seen with poults. This is the third consecutive year that the southern region's poult production was the highest in the state. Turkey numbers are variable but generally increasing within the southern region.

Upper Eastern Shore (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline)

This region experienced a rapid growth and expansion in turkey numbers during the past decade. The moderate poult production observed last summer should maintain the population at levels similar to last few years. The leveling-off of turkey numbers has been observed in other regions of Maryland, as well as other states, as turkeys reach their carrying capacity.

Lower Eastern Shore (Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset)

Results from the lower eastern shore suggest that poult production

was slightly above-average in the summer of 2010 with an index of 26 poults per hen. Nearly 69% of hens were seen with poults and brood sizes were larger than in most years. This follows 3 consecutive years of poor production that caused turkey

numbers to drop noticeably on Lower Shore. With the fair number of young produced last year, the population should rebound slightly and will continue to improve if production is above-average again next summer.

continued on pg. 23



12-year-old Trevor Wilson from Catonsville caught this impressive 45 lb. blue catfish near Richmond on the James River. Photo courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.

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Carp Fishing Today by Jim Gronaw

Okay, let's see who can answer this question correctly. What fish can survive low oxygen and high pollution levels, be more selective than trout in it's feeding habits and routinely weigh upwards of 30 pounds almost everywhere it is found? Bass, pike, trout? Nope. We're talking about none other than the common carp, a fish that has often shouldered the blame for decreased numbers and stocks of other, more worthy game. Almost everywhere the carp is found, and it is found just about everywhere, it is of low opinion and laughed at by highbrows who think that they are nothing more than a trash fish. More often, just the opposite is true.

Carp fishing in European countries is not as it is here in the states. For one, the carp is observed across the pond as a highly respected gamefish that is extremely tough to catch. Also, they are highly prized as food fish and there are legions of anglers who diligently fish for them with a variety of specialized and exacting equipment. Most European anglers can only dream about coming to America and spending a week fishing for carp. With all the dynamite carp water so close to home, you'd think that more fishermen would take the time to pursue them. But no, most guys would rather spend thousands and thousands of bucks to catch them 'purdy' fish. Shame.

My first experience with carp as a

young un was at Liberty Reservoir in Maryland. When I was a teenager, I would fish for them in the spring with a light spinning rod and six-pound test. I would simply use a live nightcrawler on a #4 hook and cast to shallow moving fish as they prepared for the spawn. Catching a bunch of 4 to 8 pounders was a hoot, and it taught me how to play and land fish larger than the customary sunfish I had been used to.

As I got older, I started to up the ante with these yellow submarines. On several occasions while fishing the hot-water discharge area of Dickerson, on the Potomac River, I would have run-ins with fish that I simply couldn't handle. Sure, my main game was small-mouth bass during those winter-wading forays, but if a 20-pound carp got in the way of one of my bass-intended jigs, well, it was fine with me! I can remember a mild period in November years back when I stumbled upon a batch of carp that were aggressively feeding near a creek mouth in clear water. All I had was a light spinning stick and a bunch of 1/8th ounce jigs, but heck...I wanted to see if they'd hit them. To my amazement, the first cast produced a pounding strike with a fish in excess of 25 pounds, and he promptly snapped me off. Hmmmm, loosen the drag a little, tie on another jig, and let's see what happens. Next cast...bam! Another big carp hit the jig, and headed for Virginia. There was no

slowing this fish down, so I simply tightened the drag and let him snap me off again, before I lost all my line.

Eventually, I landed a single fish on the Kalins grub I was using, after losing four carp that just had me out gunned. That fish was just over 20 pounds and took about a half-hour to land. The next day, my son Matt and I returned to the scene of the crime and he got a 24-pounder on six-pound line...a fish that we never should have landed, but we did. Big carp, big fish, big fun!

Anglers should realize that carp that appear to be snagged in the pectoral or 'chin' area are more likely fish that have actually struck at the lure, only to miss it and get 'snagged' by the subsequent hook setting efforts of the angler responding to the 'bump' from the strike. To date, I have caught carp on

jigs, shad darts, Mepps spinners, Kalins grubs, crankbaits and ice fishing lures such as the Rapala Jigging Rap tipped with a waxworm. All of those fish had the lure firmly attached to those thick, rubber lips and put up a whale of a fight. Carp on lures just isn't that rare of a deal as one might expect.

Just this past ice-fishing season, while fishing tiny Lake May in Pennsylvania back in February, I had another run-in with one of these guys, While jigging for crappie and bluegills through the ice in 8 feet of water, my wire strike indicator took a bounce and I set the hook with an upward sweep. Immediately, I knew this was no hand-sized panfish, and my thoughts quickly turned toward the visions of a new

continued on pg. 16



Gronaw's big carp he got through the ice this past February. Notice that the fish struck the lure.



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state record largemouth bass! But after about ten minutes, and no sign of the fish as it made several long runs, my thoughts ran elsewhere. Finally, I worked the fish close up under the hole and, sure enough, it was a big ole' carp with the lure firmly imbedded in it's upper lip. I had no idea how I was going to get this fish up through the 6-inch diameter hole. Eventually, the fish wore down and after several attempts I managed to get the fish's head peeking up through the bottom of the hole through ten inches of ice. I reached down and got a couple fingers under the gill plate and lifted the fish right up on the ice. Not a huge fish, but at 15 pounds, it was easily the biggest thing I

have ever caught through the ice, and a whopper for 4-pound test line in any situation. It's not often I catch a fish longer than my rod!

Prime carp water, with plenty of 20 to 30 pounders, is all over the Mid-Atlantic region. The Potomac and Susquehanna Rivers and most of their tributaries. Smaller rivers like the Monocacy, Patuxent, Patapsco and the Choptank. Toss in lakes like Marburg, Long Arm, Loch Raven and many popular bassing venues. Even western Maryland's Deep Creek Lake has an untapped population of big carp for the effort. Me? I think I am going to give carp an honest effort this year. It might get lonely out there when you're the only one catching big fish, day after day.



Here's Richard with a nice 12 pt. taken with a crossbow. Photo courtesy of Shore Sportsman.



Abigale Webster with her nice 8 pt. from Youth Day.



Brandon Rawlings with a 36 lb. blue catfish from the Potomac River.



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IGFA Approves New All-Tackle Yellowfin Tuna World Record

Anglers have been trying to beat the mythical 400 lb. mark for yellowfin tuna for decades – and the feat has finally been accomplished. The IGFA is pleased to announce that retired school superintendant Mike Livingston of Sunland, California has been awarded the All-Tackle record for yellowfin tuna. His 405 lb. fish, boated on November 30, 2010, now replaces a 33 year old record set in 1977 by Curt Weisenhutter.

"I think Mike did a lot more than just catch the new All-Tackle yellowfin tuna record," IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser observed. "He also demonstrated to people that it is possible to hook, fight and land incredibly large and powerful fish from long-range boats in accordance with IGFA rules."

Indeed, the significance of this record and the manner in which it was caught are two of the chief reasons the approval process for this record took some time. The IGFA examines all record submissions with extreme rigor, no matter if it is a 1 lb. bluegill or a 1,000 lb. blue marlin. However, big tuna caught on long-range boats are often not eligible for IGFA records because the angler may have handed off the rod to get around other anglers or used the rail at some point during the fight – both of which are against IGFA International Angling Rules.

As with all other records, the review process was conducted by Record Coordinator Jack

Vitek, Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser and IGFA President Rob Kramer. Each staff member scrutinized the application to ensure that IGFA angling and equipment rules were adhered to. In addition, all witnesses listed on the application were independently queried to give a detailed description of the catch from hook up to gaff.

The witness reports were key in this case, and each of the witnesses responded with very detailed testimony that indicated that Mike was able to hook and fight the fish without interacting with any other anglers on the boat. These independent testimonies coupled with a meticulously documented application made IGFA staff very comfortable in approving the record. Basically, it all came down to a very accomplished angler hooking the right fish and fishing by IGFA rules.

"I'd say it's one of the most significant world-record catches in recent history," Rob Kramer



The new All-Tackle yellowfin tuna world record has been awarded to Mike Livingston of Sunland, California.



This giant bluefin caught last week may be a NC state record. The current State record, 744 lbs, was caught in 1995; the bluefin caught by Corey Schultz March 12 weighed in at an astounding 805 lbs 8 ozs.

commented. "It's great to see a fish like this caught by an angler that knew the rules and adhered to them."

IGFA President Rob Kramer presented Livingston with his world-record certificate at the Fred Shaw Show in Long Beach, California.

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Coastal Report by Capt. Mark Sampson

It's probably safe to say that the goal of most fishermen is to catch the biggest fish they can. After all, not too many anglers head out in the morning with a goal to catch themselves a nice "little" fish, naw – everyone wants that to land that lunker! Can you imagine some fishing buddies getting together and making a friendly wager on who will catch the "smallest" fish of the day? It just doesn't happen that

way, when it comes to fishing – bigger really is considered to be better.

Of course, what constitutes a "big" fish doesn't necessarily have to mean something rivals the sizes of your fat uncle Wally. Depending upon the species of fish, the tackle, the location and a whole lot of other factors, a big fish might just as easily come in the proportions of a pan-size bluegill as a wall-size blue marlin. By changing a few variables on

the playing field anglers are able to change molehills into mountains if they so choose. When the big bluefish are running offshore it's easy to follow the tradition of dragging lures from 50-pound tackle around the Jackpot and winch-in every 8-12 pounder that comes along. Bluefish are well known for their fighting abilities, but not so much on tackle is made to handle triple digit fish. Anglers who scale their tackle back to 12-pounds or below are going to catch a lot less fish, but every one they bring to the boat will

certainly qualify as a "big fish."

Of course, I know I'm not telling anyone anything new, going light for a better fight is the way it has always been for fishermen. But as much as anglers would like to have the opportunity to always match tackle to quarry, there's always the "what-if" factor to contend with. What if you're set-up with 10-pound tackle for bluefish but you encounter a school of 70-pound tuna? Better have some heavy guns aboard just in case. Or let's say that, like we saw last year in July and August, instead of 8-12 pounders the offshore shoals were covered-up with 1-3 pound snapper bluefish. Anglers had better have some ultra-light gear available if they wish to enjoy any kind of scrap out of a fish of those proportions.

Particularly when it comes to ocean fishing, being always ready for any "what-if" that might come along can require anglers to be armed with a ridiculously large array of tackle. Aboard my charter boat "Fish Finder" we carry two 80-pound rigs, six 50's, four 30's, four 20's, two 17-pound spinners, two 10-pound spinners, a 6-pound conventional, three fly rods, six bottom rods, plus two or three other rods that might find a place aboard the boat during certain times of the season. I can only get away with carrying such an arsenal because, at 40-feet, my boat has enough room in the cabin to properly store it all. "More" isn't always "better" but when you're trying to follow the old



Charlotte Sampson with a bonnethead shark she caught and released on fly-tackle in the Florida Keys in March.



Kate Beauchamp with her buck she took on Youth Day. Photo courtesy of Wink's Sporting Goods.

KAREN-RAY II

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Boy Scout motto of "be prepared" there's not much getting around the fact that the more assortment you can have aboard, the better off anglers will be when something very large, or very small pops up beside the boat.

Most folks with small boats or open boats can't reasonably expect to carry half as much tackle. Space is such a limiting factor on so many boats and it usually requires that anglers leave tackle at home that they'd really like to bring along "just in case." But recent trends and innovations in tackle are beginning to make it a lot easier for even small boaters to carry almost twice as much tackle as ever before. It wasn't too many years ago that the new high-tech braided lines hit the market and began to be absorbed by fishermen. Boasting unsurpassed sensitivity, abrasion resistance, and ultra thin diameter the new breed of line provides anglers with a lot benefits not available with monofilament. As the line gained wider acceptance, rod and reel manufacturers began to produce products specifically for use with the braided lines. Thanks to the incredibly thin diameter of the braided lines, reels are now being made that are half the size of what they used to be and still hold just as much, if not more, line. Rod manufacturers have been

prompted to follow suit and design rods that accommodate the smaller reels.

But make no mistake, in this case small doesn't mean wimpy. This new breed of tackle is engineered to provide flawlessly smooth performance even when it becomes necessary to push the drag up on a jumbo fish and take full advantage of the 80-130 pound breaking strength of the line. Some of it might look like it's better suited to catching bass on a lake, but that's only because technology now allows toughness to come in very small

packages. Naturally, with the ultra heavy tackle shrinking down in size, so too has much of the medium and light tackle on the market these days. Whether it's bluefin tuna, blue sharks, or bluefish, the fish can be just as big as ever but anglers can now fight them on tackle that's much more comfortable to use – particularly while stand-up fishing from small boats.

As more tackle manufacturers get in on the trend of producing tough, light weight rods and reels for use with braided lines, anglers who fish form boats of all sizes will find it



Here is Billy with his Liberty Reservoir 8 pt. whitetail. Photo courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.

easier to always be equipped to effectively deal with any "what-ifs" that come along, be they monsters or minnows.



John Burk bagged this nice 10 pt. on opening day. Photo courtesy of Tuckahoe Sportsman.

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DAY	APRIL		MAY	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
1	6:51	7:30	6:08	8:00
2	6:50	7:31	6:07	8:01
3	6:48	7:32	6:06	8:02
4	6:47	7:33	6:05	8:03
5	6:45	7:34	6:04	8:03
6	6:44	7:35	6:02	8:04
7	6:42	7:36	6:01	8:05
8	6:41	7:37	6:00	8:06
9	6:39	7:38	5:59	8:07
10	6:37	7:39	5:58	8:08
11	6:36	7:40	5:57	8:09
12	6:34	7:41	5:56	8:10
13	6:33	7:42	5:55	8:11
14	6:31	7:43	5:54	8:12
15	6:30	7:44	5:53	8:13
16	6:29	7:45	5:52	8:14
17	6:27	7:46	5:52	8:15
18	6:26	7:47	5:51	8:16
19	6:24	7:48	5:50	8:17
20	6:23	7:49	5:49	8:17
21	6:21	7:50	5:48	8:18
22	6:20	7:51	5:48	8:19
23	6:19	7:52	5:47	8:20
24	6:17	7:53	5:46	8:21
25	6:16	7:54	5:46	8:22
26	6:15	7:55	5:45	8:22
27	6:13	7:56	5:44	8:23
28	6:12	7:57	5:44	8:24
29	6:11	7:58	5:43	8:25
30	6:09	7:59	5:43	8:26
31			5:42	8:26

Source: National Almanac, U.S. Naval Observatory. Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time when in effect. These times are for reference only. Consult local newspaper or other media for actual times in your area.

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Mid-Bay Forecast by Chuck Prah

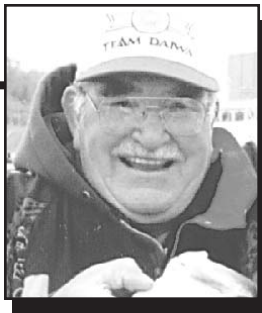
The present rockfish regulations were promulgated to protect female stripers until they spawn. It has been a highly successful plan, but as always, things go wrong. Female stripers go to sea when they reach about 18 inches. Here in the Chesapeake, we fish primarily for males which stay mainly in the Bay until they reach about 25 inches.

The females migrate up the coast and hopefully gorge themselves on menhaden or whatever until they mature and return to spawn in April. Hey, this is April!

However, "things" have gone awry. We have discovered a great winter fishery off of the Virginia and North Carolina coast where the big spawners stage before entering the Chesapeake. We are slaughtering them wholesale.

When they reach their natal spawning grounds, do their duty, and begin the journey back to sea, an armada of boats and fishermen await them. I could say, "What is left of them", but there are still plenty of big females left and we may enjoy more years of great spring fishing.

But the other thing that has gone wrong is apparently a lack of forage in the open sea has led to a change in the percentage of males to females that remain in the Bay. Many more female stripers prefer the easy living here in the Bay. The result is we will be caching our



potential spawners in much higher numbers during the Commercial and Recreational seasons. This scenario will likely come to haunt us in the future.

Most of the above problems stem from the lack of menhaden. Their value to the reduction fishery in Reedsville has led to a scarcity of this vital forage for not only rockfish, but all predators including sea birds and marine mammals on the Mid-Atlantic and northeast coast.

The Trophy Season (I still call it that)

is predicated on an abundance of migratory fish that invade and impact the Bay for a short period of time each season. It probably generates more money to the Middle Bay economy than any other event. Charter boats hook up solid for a few weeks and tackle sold for the Trophy Season outclasses any sold for the rest of the year. One major mishap onboard a boat with 20+ rods deployed, can result in the loss of hundreds of dollars in rigs. Umbrellas are expensive, as are swivels, lead, mono and braid.

I am a light tackle fisherman, and I marvel at the excitement generated by this almost exclusively trolling event. It can't be the joy of hauling in a line loaded with shad bodies plus a large rockfish in tow. It's more about equipment, know-how, and the thrill of landing a really big fish.

This is strictly Main Bay striper fishing until May 16th when the Big Choptank and some other rivers opens up to fishing in their lower portions. Regulations are clearly spelled out in DNR's brochure available at licensing locations.

Small boaters in the estuaries have white perch to work with in April, and on the Lower Shore rivers and Sounds, hard-head (croakers) are a distinct possibility.

Head waters in the major Bay tributaries offer shad fishing. In my youth, shad were the most sought-after spring fish. The Susquehanna, Patuxent, Choptank, Potomac and Pocomoke Rivers attracted thousands of anglers throwing tiny spoons, quillies, and shad darts in hopes of landing a few of these hard-fighting fish.

If gas prices remain at March levels through April and May, there is going to be serious cut-backs in recreational boating. While modern two-stroke outboards offer better m.p.g. than their predecessors, four-strokes clearly give fishermen a distinct advantage especially at trolling r.p.m.'s.

My 50-h.p. four-stroke Suzuki allows



Dean Chance with his 10 pt. he took on October 2 with his bow set-up at Bay Country Archery.



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me to cover most of the Big Choptank on less than 6 gallons of gas. At about 8 miles to the gallon I can range almost 50 miles on a 6-gallon tank. From Cambridge, that could easily let me fish the False Channel at the mouth of the Choptank and return to Cambridge with gas still in the tank.

It's too bad that we have no control over the fish. You know, like moving them closer to the launching ramp. You can, however, target species that inhabit waters nearer to home.

Right away, I am thinking white perch. There are few places in the Middle and Upper Bay where they cannot be caught within a mile of a ramp or marina.

I have always felt sorry for anglers who cannot enjoy catching small game-fish like perch. By choosing the right tackle and methods such as using artificial lures on ultralight gear in the shallows, they can be a real blast. Best of all, they can be reached on small boats powered by small engines.

Every season we have a couple of months when stripers are scarce, but the white perch are always willing. One of the biggest drawbacks to perching is the fact that there are so many dinks. It was not always that way.

When oysters began to disappear because of disease and overfishing (in the

80's) watermen were forced to find another wintertime endeavor. Many turned to coldwater drift-netting for perch. The return of stripers in the 90's was another factor.

There has always been a premium paid for large perch. Culling the bigger perch for an insatiable market brought big wintertime profits.

It didn't take long for the scarcity to



Dale Krupla of Millington, Maryland got into the yellow perch recently with his Daughter Kimmy Thomas and Granddaughter Marissa Thomas of Phoenix. They cleaned up the yellow perch on the upper Chester river, with a few whites mixed in.

show up in recreational catches.

White perch are very prolific and no amount of netting could decimate their abundance, but the average size dropped significantly. Even today there are still plenty of big perch available, but you'll only find them in select places. Finding them is half the fun of perch fishing.

White perch are one of the best ways

to get kids interested in fishing. Perch are so eager to bite a baited hook that fishing for them is a real turn-on for youngsters. Most of us started that way. Taking a kid on a big boat and letting him or her pull in a monster fish on sophisticated tackle will not make him a fisherman. When he digs worms, grabs a rod, and goes fishing on his own, you'll know he's going to be a fisherman.



Jermera Baylor got her first 6 pt. in Baltimore Co. Photo courtesy of Tochterman's.



Travis Williams, 11 years old, with his Baltimore Co. 8 pt. buck he took on Youth Day with his 20 ga.



SPORTSMAN'S TABLE

How to can Fresh Trout

By Gary P. Scenery Hill, PA

Ingredients: Whole fresh trout, 1 Tbs. Kraft Catalina dressing, 1 tsp. Olive Oil

Prep Time: 30 min

Cook Time: 4 hours or 1 hr. 15 min

Directions: Clean fish and remove head, tail, and fins. No need to remove bones, they will cook down during canning process. Leave skins on. Dry fish and cut in 1 in. thick pieces. Stuff trout pieces in pint canning jars. Add olive oil and Catalina dressing. Cook for 1 hour and 15 minutes in pressure canner or 4 hours using water bath canning method.

Recipe submitted by Sportsman's Table, the outdoor enthusiast's resource for preparing, cooking and serving fish and game, located in Hellertown PA. For more information Visit www.SportsMansTable.com or Call 1-866-640-6802.

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Mount Nebo WMA	Garrett	1,838
Dan's Mountain WMA	Allegany	9,504
Warrior Mountain WMA	Allegany	4,417
Green Ridge State Forest	Allegany	44,000
Indian Springs WMA	Washington	6,705
Sideling Hill WMA	Washington	3,100
Frederick City Watershed	Frederick	7,300
Monocacy NRMA	Frederick	1,800

CENTRAL REGION

Area	County	Acres
Prettyboy Watershed	Baltimore	7,380
Liberty Watershed	Baltimore	9,200
Hugg-Thomas WMA	Howard	276
McKee-Beshers WMA	Montgomery	1,960
Seneca Creek State Park	Montgomery	6,300

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Bow only; permit required
Permit required
Permit required

SOUTHERN REGION

Area	County	Acres
Myrtle Grove WMA	Charles	1,748
Chicamuxen WMA	Charles	381
Chapel point State Park	Charles	600
Cedarville State Forest	Charles	3,510
Calvert Cliffs State Park	Calvert	1,079
St. Mary's River State Park	St. Mary's	2,450

Daily sign-in required
Daily sign-in required
Daily sign-in required

EASTERN REGION

Area	County	Acres
Millington WMA	Kent	3,800
Tuckahoe State Park	Queen Anne's	N/A
Idylwild WMA	Caroline	3,382
Wellington WMA	Somerset	429
LeCompte WMA	Dorchester	485
Fishing Bay WMA	Dorchester	28,518
Pocomoke State Forest	Worcester	14,753

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Charles Green with his 22 lb. gobbler that sported an 11 3/4 in. beard and 1 in. spurs. Photo courtesy of Macrotech.



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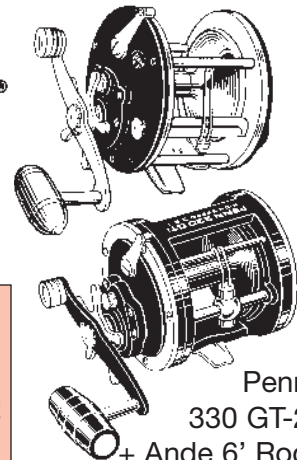
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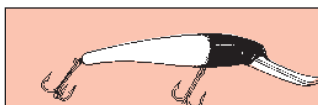
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 Sun, April 24 Easter Sunday, Easter Brunch, reservation required
 Sat, April 30 Chesapeake Ducks Unlimited Tournament
 Sat, May 7 9th Annual Youth Day, 10 am - 3 pm, Rain or Shine FREE
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Call today to set up a time to let us show you what is available for the 2011 season.

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We will shoot Five Stand under the lights. We will also have a 3D Shoot each Tuesday evening. This is a ten target round that is shot in teams. One team member holds a flashlight on the target while their team mate shoots.

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