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51.1 Pound Striped Bass Wins 30th Annual Championship on the Chesapeake

The world's largest striped bass tournament, the 30th annual Championship on the Chesapeake, concluded May 5th with 470 boats and nearly 3,500 anglers. The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association’s (MSSA) annual event lures in anglers from all over the Mid Atlantic to compete for their share of the nearly $200,000 in cash and prizes.

This year’s Champion is Chris Long (pictured right) from Avenue, Maryland. Long checked in a magnificent striped bass on the first day of the tournament measuring 50” and weighing 51.1 pounds. Long and his crew took first place in the main tournament and placed in several additional skill levels bringing his total winnings to $23,337.

Second place went to Troy Cook of Severn, Maryland with his 43.4 pound striped bass. Cook and his crew also placed in several skill levels bringing his total winnings to $14,583.

Third place went to Fred Lynch of Prince Frederick, Maryland. Due to varying entries the money was spread out through multiple winners this year, Lynch and his crew were the big money winners as they took home $28,531 for their 42.9 pound fish.

“This year we saw multiple anglers win substantial amounts of money, as compared to last year when Glenn Orr won $70,000. Either way we look forward to awarding prize money to our anglers”, said Vince Ringgold the President of the MSSA.

The Championship is considered to be the “people’s” tournament as it is designed to be convenient and enjoyable for recreational anglers. The MSSA and its volunteers man 11 weigh stations throughout the bay, both Eastern and Western shores; from Sandy Point State Park to Point Lookout State Park, and everywhere in between. Many of the boats fish south where Solomons Island and the surrounding area is consumed by Sportfishing enthusiasts looking to catch a Trophy striped bass and some cash.

“Not only does this tournament provide our anglers with a chance at some great prizes, it gives an economic boom to many of the local bay communities. So it’s a win win for everyone”, said Dave Smith the MSSA Executive Director.

The MSSA used the tournament as means to continue to recruit new demographics to recreational fishing. This year’s tournament again reserved prizes for Youth and Lady Anglers. The Youth Division hosted kids under 16 and a Ladies Division awarded prizes to the winning catches for any female over 16. Both divisions have become very popular in the tournament over the past two years.

The Youth Division was won by Dylan Hobbs of California, Maryland. Dylan weighed in a 33.25 pound striped bass. The fish scored $14,583.00 for Capt. Mayer (pictured left) of Marauder charter fishing. Brian and his crew checked in a huge 47.3 pound striped bass on the second day of the tournament securing first place and $3,800.

The Championship 2013 Top 10 Payouts

1.) Fred Lynch - 42.9lbs - $28,531
2.) Chris Long - 51.1lbs - $28,531
3.) Matt Keen - 41lbs - $20,924
4.) Al Mansfield - 42.5lbs - $14,697
5.) Troy Cook - 43.4lbs - $14,583
6.) Mike Maxwell -41.7lbs - $13,267
7.) Steve Smith - 40.1lbs - $11,451
8.) John Weber - 39.3lbs - $11,367
9.) Rob McCormack - 38.75lbs - $4,937
10.) Brian Mayer - 47.3lbs - $3,800

This fish was caught on Friday at the Bay Bridge and it was weighed in at Sandy Point State Park on the first day of the 3 day tournament. The fish scored $14,583.00 for Capt. Troy Cook and the crew of ‘WALL-HANGERS’.

Mike Walkey bagged this impressive bruin. Photo courtesy of Don Travis Taxidermy.

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How many times has this happened to you: You spend hundreds of dollars on fuel, bait, and ice (or maybe a charter fee), you spend hours driving to the beach and then running offshore, and you spend hours trolling through the deep—but you never get so much as a knock-down. With just an hour or two left in the day, you have this sinking feeling that you’re going to go home skunked after all that effort and investment. Major bummer. Or, maybe not.

The next time you find yourself in this position, it might be time to shift gears and go for a black & blue bail-out.

Anywhere you find hard bottom and/or structure in the 250’ to 350’ range off our coast, you can find concentrations of big black sea bass and blueline tilefish prowling along the bottom. These fish are almost always in feeding mode, and they can provide you with a flurry of last-minute hook-ups that may not exactly compare to a tuna or a marlin on the line, but can fill up the cooler and take the sting out of a day spent fruitlessly trolling offshore. If, that is, you’re prepared to go for ‘em.

Luckily, it doesn’t take much to be ready to catch these fish. All you need is a set of heavy-duty bottom rigs along with eight to 16 ounce weights, or a handful of Lucanus jigs in this same size range. Then stow a box of squid or cut fish in the cooler, next to those ballyhoo. Remember that tougher bait is better bait, because if it gets nibbled off in water this deep it’ll take a lot of reeling and dropping to get a new one into the water.

The tactics for targeting these fish are silly-easy. Just bait up, drop to the bottom, and set the hook the moment you feel a strike. Using the Lucanus jigs, put a separate strip of bait on each swinging hook. Using the bottom rigs, make sure you use beefy leaders (50-pound test is not out of line) and fairly large hooks in the 6/0 to 8/0 range. If your rods have mono line go with circle hooks and nix the hook-set, but those spooled up with braid will do better by using J-hooks and swinging for the sky when a fish strikes.

The toughest part of this game is, of course, finding a good spot to try for these fish. Again, hard/live bottom is key. Some good areas include along Poor Man’s Canyon around the 50-fathom line, at the Rocky Bottom, and all along the edge of the shelf just north of Washington Canyon, again in the 50-fathom range.

There are two ways to key in on specific hotspots: first off, whenever you troll in these areas zoom your fishfinder to the max and watch the bottom. Most decent machines will pick up a few marks where the bass and bluelines are congregated. When you see them, punch in a waypoint and save it for later investigation when you’re done trolling. The second way is to keep track of the areas where you see large orange polyball floats inside of the continental shelf, in these depth ranges. These are commercial bass pots, and you’ll find the fish in the same areas where you spot these balls. Give the polyballs plenty of room when you drop around them and make sure you’re well down-current, or you’ll snag their ropes. But generally speaking, when you see a cluster of these polyballs you have a good shot at finding the fish anywhere within a half-mile or so.

**BONUS FISH:** Any time you spot these polyballs, try tossing a handful of fish or squid chunks at...
FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

One of the strangest virtues lauded by the Bible as one to be desired by a “fruit of the spirit” Christian is that of meekness. A reason this is so can be attributed to our modern connotation of this word, which seems to be associated with cowardice, or weakness, or to use a slang phrase, to be a “namby-pamby”. This probably originates due to the popular idiom “as meek as a mouse”. As such, our society does not place a premium on meekness because it is not in line with what is identified as “the American way”. Although Jesus included this attribute along with the other Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount, encouraging those who heard Him that “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”, it seems our cultural philosophy of the day is “blessed are the muscle men”, or “blessed are the money men” or “blessed are the powerful men”; not blessed are the meek men.

However, the Biblical connotation of meekness is completely antithetical with our modern perceptions. The Biblical model of meekness is someone who has great spiritual fortitude, someone who will stand on his principles, who knows what he believes and will not waver to popular opinion, but who does so without arrogance or cockiness (see 1 Peter 3:15). Jesus, of course, demonstrates this quality most definitively, as He was meek, yet He obviously possessed great strength. So, meekness from a biblical perspective essentially means to be strong in purpose, to be confident in your beliefs, but to maintain self control and not resort to mean-spiritedness when confronted.

Although I am by no means a television addict as I rarely sit down and watch a program from start to finish, there are times where I will “veg-out” to enjoy a program which I find entertaining. A few years back there was a series I would watch on occasion, “Walker, Texas Ranger”, a quintessential (and somewhat hokey) “good guys vs. bad guys” show whose star was Chuck Norris, a popular martial arts expert. He once told of a time while filming his TV series in Texas where he had stopped at a restaurant for dinner. He was relaxing in his corner booth when a large man came up to him and informed Norris he was sitting in “his booth”. Without hesitation, Norris simply got up and moved to another booth. A few minutes later the guy came to see Norris again and asked, “Are you Chuck Norris?” Norris nodded he was. The stranger, rather astonished by this revelation, said “You could have whipped me easily. Why didn’t you?” To which Norris replied, “It would have proved nothing.” He shook the man’s hand and had made a friend. I relate this story as I believe it is a perfect application of meekness in action!

Few people are aware that before The Revolutionary War, our forefathers initially attempted to resolve their differences with Great Britain through peaceful means. They were confident in the rightness of their cause, and would not waver in their pursuit of liberty, but they did not resort to violent means immediately. They exhibited true meekness in this manner.

In short, meekness does not equate with weakness; meekness means to be purposeful, but under control. For the Christian, that means yielding our lives to the Master, and being “Under His control”. When we do that we become blessed beyond measure.

This was the faith of our fathers and I trust it is yours.

Mel Brindley
Rudow …

Continued from Page 3

them and watch as they sink. As often as not
mahi-mahi will come darting over to eat them,
and when you put a chunk onto a hook and flip
it over the side (no weight necessary, just let
it sink naturally with the other chunks), they
commonly chomp on it with abandon.

The good news on the black sea bass is that
since these areas are so far from shore and
aren’t regularly targeted by bottom fishermen,
you’re likely to encounter much larger fish

than usual. Three and four pounders are fairly
common. The bad news is that the fish will de-
pressurize as you reel them up and throw-backs
are as good as dead—when you encounter a
group of small fish, it’s best to simply change
locations and stop catching them. When it
comes to bluelines, the good news is that they
taste incredible, and if you spend a few hours
on productive ground, you’ll likely hook into
a 10-pounder or two.

One final note about dropping in these
depths for black bass and bluelines: Always
look over the side, and watch your fish as you
reel them up. Every now and again, larger pred-
ators which see the struggling fish headed for
the surface will move in to investigate, and if
you keep a sharp eye peeled and peering down
into the depths, you can sometimes pick up a
shark or a mahi-mahi as a bonus. Last season,
we even caught a yellowfin tuna while “bottom
fishing”. Between that and the tilefish already
in the cooler, dropping our baits to the bottom
in favor of trolling didn’t merely bail us out
of a failed day of fishing—it turned it into a
smashing success.

Fat bass and chunky bluelines are the norm,
dropping in a few hundred feet of water near
the canyon edges.

Captain Charlie out of Chincoteague is
starting out his flounder season in good
fashion with a four fish limit.

Virginia Flounder Regulations 2013
Minimum Size Limit.................................16
inches
Possession Limit.....................................4
per person
The above flounder restrictions apply to
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 Over the last 25 years many things have changed about fishing in the upper Chesapeake. Rockfish have gone from a moratorium state to a thriving fishery. Largemouth bass fishing has grown exponential in quality and popularity. The one thing that has stayed constant is the desire for one man to educate anglers, novice to experienced, about bass and rockfish and how to catch them. Captain Dan Kardash has plied the waters of the upper bay for 2 1/2 decades as sole guide of T&D Bass Guide Service.

Earlier this year, Kardash announced that this would be his last year guiding. He will retire when his license expires at the end of 2013. His knowledge of bass and aptitude for teaching fishing skills will surely be missed by those that he guides. It’s time to enjoy the golden years of retirement, spending time with family and fishing for the pure fun of it.

Before Dan became a licensed guide, he worked as an account manager at Advanced Business Systems. While holding down a desk job, he knew that he was fishing well and had what it took to be a guide. Looking further into the business aspect, he booked a trip with a guide. He made notes of all the things that he thought were bad business practices. Among them were having to provide his own hard lures, and paying the guide’s travel expenses. Soon thereafter, Dan lost his position in the private sector, likely a sign from above, and began the process of entering the world of guiding.

Kardash was fully licensed in 1988, and became forever known as Captain Dan. His father believed in his vision and invested with the purchase of a bass boat and truck. From day one, Dan’s philosophy has been to put a hard 8 hours on the water, teach new anglers the basics, teach new techniques to the advanced, and get more people interested in the sport. Some of his best marketing came by simply placing pamphlets at the Bel Air and Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce offices. His first two years were profitable enough that he was able to pay off both the boat and truck.

While the rockfish moratorium was happening in the late 1980’s, a spring catch and release striped season similar to today’s was allowed. T&D Bass Guide Service took a major hit in the early 1990’s when the Department of Natural Resources closed the fishery. Captain Dan had to return over $10,000 dollars in deposits and it is a client base that he never recovered even after the catch and release season was reinstated in 1999.

Even though guiding on the bass side was financially sustaining, Dan and his wife discussed that he should guide part time and reenter the every-man’s workforce. He’s held various positions in the sporting goods industry at Wal-Mart, Dick’s Sporting Goods, Bass Pro Shops, and currently back with Dick’s. Anyone who has ever had a question for Dan in a store gets the same knowledgeable advice there as they would if they were on the water.

**Continued on Page 7**
with him.

Many folks not familiar with angling may think that a guide business is merely a man taking people fishing. To the contrary, it’s a livelihood that has the expenditures that equal any other small business. Kardash’s annual costs include, but are not limited to: $2,000 commercial boating insurance, up to $3,000 in new and restocked tackle and lures, $1,500 in boat maintenance, and $290 in State licensing fees. It’s not uncommon for Dan to fill up his boat and truck with $75 worth of gasoline after each guided trip.

Captain Dan has seen plenty of good things over 25 years. He’s watched the bass fishery on the upper bay region flourish. He says that in the late 1980′s, winning tournament weights would range from 13 to 15 pounds for a 3-bass limit. Back then a bass of 5 pounds was considered a monster. His face lights up when explaining that in today’s tournaments, “If you don’t have book end 5 to 6-pounders and at least 20 pounds, you might not even get a check. If you don’t have 24 to 25 pounds, don’t feel confident you’re going to win.”

There are some personal highlights Kardash looks back on through guiding, tournaments, and fishing with friends. One of his fondest memories is of a stripper trip before the catch and release closure. An 8-hour day his two clients released 175 rockfish weighing up to 30 pounds. Every fish stuck a Norman Lures surface walking plug. He takes pride in seeing that some of his clients have gone from novice anglers to those he is competing against his clients released 175 rockfish weighing up to 30 pounds. Every fish struck a 5-bass limit. Back then a bass of 5 pounds was considered a monster. His face lights up when explaining that in today’s tournaments, “If you don’t have book end 5 to 6-pounders and at least 20 pounds, you might not even get a check. If you don’t have 24 to 25 pounds, don’t feel confident you’re going to win.”

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On the competition side, Captain Dan and partner Marty Baker won a local tournament with a 5-bass limit of over 26 pounds. He says there are two sides to the tournament bass fishing community. The anglers are fierce competitors who are very protective of their secret spots and fishing techniques. However, these same guys and ladies will bend over backwards for you in a time of need on and off the water.

Dan recalled when he and Walt Ross shared a July 4th where they both landed a bass over 7 pounds. On another buddy trip, he and Frank McNulty landed 16 bass in 17 casts while fishing plastic frogs over a Susquehanna Flats grass bed. Each bass was over 3-pounds.

There have been some disappointments along the way. Each time Kardash has a particularly tough trip it weighs on him. A client’s disposable income is hard-earned and Dan does his best to find and catch bass. Even with 25 years of experience there are aspects that can’t be overcome. He is known for giving a free half-day trip when he feels the customer hasn’t gotten the experience they paid for. Looking back, Captain Dan feels that staying with guiding fulltime might have been a better option than rejoining the workforce. These and a few others regret are outweighed by all the positives.

In the past two-plus decades there have been numerous innovations that Kardash has witnessed. Captain Dan’s first boat was equipped with a 4-inch by 6-inch Humminbird depth finder that roughly showed bottom contour and cover. “We used to have to find cover by banging our lures into it,” he recalls. Today’s electronics as so advanced with side scan and down imaging that you can count the limbs on a submerged tree. Bass boats of yesteryear were basic rigs with an outboard motor, trolling motor, and live well costing about $25,000. Today’s boats can cost up to $80,000 when equipped with modern gadgets like multiple fish finders, power poles, hot foot accelerators, and lighted and air blown tackle lockers.

It’s not just the big ticket items that have vastly improved. Years ago, a fisherman could buy a rod in various lengths in combination with power -- light, medium heavy, etc. Kardash equates buying fishing rods today like a golfer would buy clubs. Rods have become specialized for action and technique. Dan has recently gotten involved in developing technique specific rods with Tom’s Custom Rods of Bel Air, Maryland. Numerous lures have come along, but he believes the Yamamoto Senko is the most notable. No other lure does so much with so little effort on the angler’s part.

In Captain Dan’s mind there are several things that make a successful trip. Among them are weather patterns of the day, number of fish caught, ability of his clients and their awareness of what constitutes a good trip. He has had 6-bass days where clients had a good time. Yet there have been other trips where his anglers have loaded the boat and taken it for granted. With either scenario, he knows he’s provided a good outing.

Kardash has dedicated this year for T&D Bass Guide Service to giving back. He has slated several no charge trips for policemen, firemen, and members of the military service. It is his way of giving back to those who defend our safety and freedom. Captain Dan says he is not an overly religious man, but knows he is blessed every morning as the sun rises over the Susquehanna so he can see a fishery that allowed him a means to make a living while educating angler.

On an abysmal day in late April, I accompanied Captain Dan for a bass fishing trip on the Susquehanna Flats. The day included a stereotypical weather front that usually follows me that did us in. I can say that the day was the best I ever had at not catching a single fish. Hearing him reflect back on his fishing and experiencing his sincere passion for the sport and the fishery meant more than setting the hook into a bass. On behalf of all who know you through fishing, congratulations and happy retirement Dan!
Beretta Issues Statement on New Maryland Gun Control Law

The firearm companies owned by Beretta Holding in Maryland-Beretta U.S.A. Corp., Benelli U.S.A. Corporation and Stoeger Industries, Inc.-have all been deeply concerned about Governor Martin O’Malley’s effort this year to impose broad new restrictions on the rights of Maryland citizens to buy firearms, as well as on the types of firearms and firearm magazines they can acquire. The Companies have submitted comments before the Maryland legislature and to the press condemning these efforts and stating that the Governor’s anti-gun activity is causing them to evaluate whether they want to remain in this State.

Notwithstanding some media reports to the contrary, those efforts have had some beneficial effects. Through the Companies’ legislative efforts and with assistance led by Delegate Joe Vallario and others provisions were stripped out of the final Bill that would have immediately required an immediate move of certain operations out of Maryland. The parts of the legislation that remained, though-and that were not deleted notwithstanding the Beretta Holding companies efforts to do so-remain offensive not only to our companies as firearm manufacturers, importers and distributors and as investors in jobs, taxes and income within the State of Maryland, but also to those of us who, as Maryland citizens, will now be encumbered with obstacles to our exercise of our Constitutional rights—such as a requirement we now be fingerprinted like a criminal before we can buy a handgun—without providing a commensurate benefit in reducing crime.

The resulting law that passed is not acceptable, even with the improvements we were able to obtain. In short, the law that finally passed went from being atrocious to simply
ON TARGET

Participants in the Cypress Creek Archery youth league’s annual competition included, kneeling, from the left: Jesse Butler, Parker Miller, Ethan Miller, Audrey Karbaum, Jordan McCrae, Chase Blum, Selena Oceania, Claire O’Brien and Sam Brice. Standing: instructor Harry Gosser with Cypress Creek Archery, Cody Sadler, Austin Milliner, Tyler Schmidt, Austin Holland, Chris McCrae, Logan Holland, Kyle Downer, Cole Palmer, Keith Butler, and volunteer instructor Bill Poulin.

the Be- retta Holding companies in Maryland is this: What effect will the passage of this law—and the efforts of Maryland government officials to support its passage—have on our willingness to remain in this State?

In that respect we are mindful of two objectives: We will not let passage of this legislation prevent us from providing on-time delivery of our products to our U.S. Armed Forces and other important customers. We also will not go forward in a way that compounds the insult made to our Maryland employees by their Governor and by the legislators who supported his efforts.

Prior to introduction of this legislation the three Beretta Holding companies located in Maryland were experiencing growth in revenues and jobs and had begun expansion plans in factory and other operations. The idea now of investing additional funds in Maryland and thus rewarding a Government that has insulted our customers and our products is offensive to us so we will take steps to evaluate such investments in other States. At the same time, we will continue our current necessary operations within Maryland and we are thankful for and welcome the continued support of our employees as we do so.

The question now facing the Be- retta Holding companies in Maryland is this: What effect will the passage of this law—and the efforts of Maryland government officials to support its passage—have on our willingness to remain in this State?

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This happy angler took this spring striper aboard the ‘Sea Dux’ last month.

Baxter Nickerson with his 22 lb Tom with 1 inch spurs was his first Turkey bagged on youth day.

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Bass fishing has been very good to us this past spring. After what seemed like an eternity for some warm weather, we finally got a break around mid-April and the weather then stabilized, keeping water temps in the 60 degree range. This quickly pushed bass up in shallow in preparation for the spawn, but the influx of cold fronts kept temperatures stable, prolonging the pre-spawn bite for larger females. We found that on the nastiest, rainiest and windy days, fish were most active and aggressive. We only picked up a few good fish when the sun came out and it got calm.

With bass being shallow and relatively few obstructions to deal with, we found that we could fish lighter than usual line and enjoy excellent sport on fish from three to almost six pounds. We used six foot light action spinning sticks with Sufix Clear Mono in 6 and 8 pound test to fish our favorite stick worms…the Stank X Stix…as bass would cruise shallow flats in anticipation of the upcoming spawn. In a network of a half-dozen ponds and quarries, we totaled over 130 largemouths in eleven trips, with only a few big fish that are only in 18 inches of water anyway.

Our weapon of choice was the stick worm rigged wacky style, with the 2/0 Owner offset worm hook right through the middle. There are a hundred stick worms out there, but for my money the premier bait is currently the Stank X Stix made by Travis Crosman of Portage, Michigan. We like the 4.25-inch Stix in Camo or Bluegilla. This is a great multi-purpose finesse bait that just fishes better and catches more and bigger bass for me than the big-name brands. Check ‘em out at stankxbaitco.com.

As most bass anglers are aware, braid and heavy mono rule the roost in line choice, even when the fish are only a pound and a half. Wood, weeds and tangles require the heavy string to hoist the fish out of structure. But when open water allows for a lighter presentation, bass numbers, and often big fish numbers, can increase dramatically. Jarrett Edwards, host of his own fishing show on the World Fishing Network, often uses thin line efforts for big bass in California, Nevada and Arizona. These crystal clear lakes require finesse presentations and he has caught many fish from 5 to 10 pounds on lines as light as 4 pound test. By watching Edwards do his thing, it gave me ideas for local waters.

Most of our lakes and ponds are not crystal clear, and we can get away with slightly heavier line, closer presentations and more ‘angler errors’ than in the gin clear gig. Still, you have to approach shallow fish in a cautious manner. Wading for largemouths is not something that is talked about much, but I did a bit of shallow wading to get in on fish recently. As the weather heats up and waters warm, hip waders will become hot and bulky, and wet-wading will take it’s place. Of course, a thorough scanning of your fishing area is required to make an approach. Polarized glasses are needed and wading efforts must be deliberate and soft to approach larger fish that are only in 18 inches of water anyway.

We fished the Stix with no weight, as early spring sun had caused a large bloom of algae and we didn’t need to get deep when fishing in 2 feet of water anyway. The worm would splash down softly and a series of slight twitches would get the attention of the fish. Sure…dinks in the 10 to 12 inch range would take the bait, but that speaks for the aggressive nature of the bass. Many of our fish went from 2 to 3 pounds, making them perfect for the light tackle. With larger fish you would just have to take your time and play them out. Casts were short and we set hooks right after we felt the ‘tap’ and felt the weight of the fish. Only one fish died as a result of a deep hookset.

There are times to fish for bass with light line and times when you don’t, even in the same body of water. Once the summer heat comes on, we will switch to heavier braid and fish at nighttime and low light periods, landing fish quickly as not to exhaust them. We want to release our fish, especially the big fish, and a furious battle in high water temperatures could lead to delayed mortality in some fish. For sure, this is NOT the time, or place, to catch bass on such fine diameter lines. Boat, canoe or kayak fishermen can hook fish, then ease away from structure as...
Continued from Page 12

they play the fish out, although this does not always have a happy ending. But before the weeds get to their summer growth peak, light-lining for bass can be exciting and productive, with big fish options available. Land the fish, get the pictures, then release them back to fight again. Most anglers think it’s crazy…I think it’s fun!

My son Matt with a light-line lunker he got on an overcast and drizzly day.

Mona Robinson with her Armenian Mouflon and her European Mouflon both were bagged at 170 and 200 yards respectively this past February.

Hannah Morris, with a youth day bruiser ....24lbs 11in beard 1 3/8” spurs taken in Talbot county.

Pete Morris, (below) with his 22.13lbs 10 1/2in beard 1 1/4” spurs taken with a bow also in Talbot county.
Peggy Bower and Capt. Harry with a 52lb striper caught on April 27 in the middle bay. The 'Kingfish II' is now booking for summer.

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!
By Capt. Mark Sampson

This year millions of fishermen will board charter or head boats for what they hope will turn out to be a fun and productive day of fishing. Hopefully most will step off the boat at the end of the day feeling that they enjoyed the fishing experience they had been looking forward to and that their money and time were well spent.

While much of the perceived success of a trip will depend upon how well the weather and the fish cooperate as well as the personality of the captain and crew, there’s a lot that the anglers themselves can do that will “help” or “hinder” the success and enjoyment of their trip. The following list highlights what can do that will “help” or “hinder” a lot that the anglers themselves can do that will “help” or “hinder” the success and enjoyment of their trip.

Know where the boat departs from the same fine folks at Island Grill

In a nutshell - good communication between clients and crew will always help to ensure the most productive and enjoyable for-hire fishing trips.

Coastal Report

BY CAPT. MARK SAMPSON

Tell the crew ahead of time if you have no intention of bringing home any fish to eat: Because most anglers want to bring home good eating fish, the crews of charter and head boats usually assume that their clients will wish to keep whatever legal fish they land and they prepare for it by ensuring that the boat has enough ice and fish box capacity to accommodate the expected catch. Anglers who have no desire to bring anything home can save the crew some hassle and expense of icing-down by letting them know ahead of time. When the clients don’t want fish the crew might wish to bring some home for their own consumption, but they’re never happy to find out at the end of a trip that they brought back a cooler full of fish that nobody wants.

Have the necessary fishing skills: Very little of the charter and head boat fishing that goes on in these parts requires a high level of fishing skill. In most cases rank beginners can board a boat and, as long as they follow the instructions of the crew, they should be able to catch whatever it is they’re targeting that day. However, if the type of fishing requires precision casting - you had better be able to cast.

Or, if the fishing requires fighting big fish on heavy tackle - you had better have a couple mussels in your arms and back. A good crew can help someone overcome most angling deficits, but it might take half the day to get them to where they can start catching fish. Anglers should find out before they go what skills they’ll need and, if necessary, spend a little time practicing before the trip.

If you book a private charter, make sure your captain is able to contact you in case there is a problem with weather or anything else that might interrupt the trip. Too often we’ve had severe weather move in and I know that tomorrow not be fishable, but because my client either hasn’t left me with a good phone number or won’t answer when I call, I can’t let him know.

Consequently, he, I, and everyone else in the group end up meeting at the boat the next morning just so I can give them the bad news that I could have given them the night before, saving them the aggravation of getting up early, packing lunches, and heading all the way down to the marina.

There are about seven major marinas in Ocean City that have charter boats. Some are small enough that finding a particular boat is easy, others are huge and it might take a half hour just to park, locate the boat and get your gear over to it. A little advance scouting to know exactly where the boat is moored will save a lot of headaches the day of the trip. DON’T assume your vehicle’s GPS will guide you to the boat. Every summer I have clients show up 2-miles away at my house because they plugged in the wrong address.

Wherever possible book your trips in advance: It’s very possible to book a charter or buy a ticket for a head boat the very day of the trip, but advance booking gives both the anglers and the crew plenty of time to get properly prepared for the outing. It doesn’t matter if it’s a week, a month or a year ahead of time, I always suggest to my clients that as soon as possible we’ve had severe weather move in and I know that tomorrow not be fishable, but because my client either hasn’t left me with a good phone number or won’t answer when I call, I can’t let him know.

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In a nutshell - good communication between clients and crew will always help to ensure the most productive and enjoyable for-hire fishing trips.

Know what time you need to be at the boat: Most captains like to leave the dock right on time, some a little earlier if possible, but never later. If you show up late for a private charter the captain probably won’t be happy about it but he’ll wait for you. If you show up late for a head boat you won’t be fishing that day unless you’re a fast swimmer. When booking a trip always ask what time you need to be at the boat. Remember too that “at the boat” means you and your gear on the dock a few feet away from the boat, not just pulling into the marina parking lot.

Know where the boat departs from and how long it will take to get there: I don’t know how many times I’ve had clients book my boat months in advance but they wait until the morning of the trip to call and ask where the boat is located. Such a call usually results in a late departure and lost fishing time.

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June 2013
24th Annual Tuna-ment - June 21-23

After a hugely successful spring striped bass tournament, The Championship on the Chesapeake, the MSSA Tournament Series is moving offshore. The 24th annual Tuna-ment is fast approaching along with a world class tuna bite. This three day tournament kicks off June 21st and ends on June 23rd.

NEW this year is the addition of Indian River Inlet as a weigh station. This will bring our number of weigh stations to four: Sunset Marina, Ocean City, MD; Curtis-Merritt Harbor, Chincoteague, VA; Seaside Marina, Wachapreague, VA; and Hook’em & Cook’em, Indian River Inlet, DE.

2012 marked the third year in a row this tournament has grown (40 boats), and 2013 should be no different. We are working on making this the most successful year in the history of this tournament with 60 boats.

If you are interested in fishing a tuna tournament, this is the perfect tournament. For those of you competing for 2013 Captain of the Year (click here for standings), this tournament has proven to be a difference maker in who wins.

For more information (rules & regs) visit www.mssa.net or call MSSA at 410-255-5535
Seared Yellowfin Tuna with Haricot Verts

Ingredients
6 ozs tuna steaks (sushi-grade yellowfin)
pepper (salt and, to taste)
salt (and pepper to taste)
1 tbsp olive oil
12 ozs haricot verts (trimmed)
1 lime
1 garlic clove (minced)
1 tbsp wasabi paste
4 scallions (sliced thin)
black sesame seeds (for garnish)

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Heat olive oil in a large skillet under medium high heat. Season tuna with salt and pepper. Add to skillet and cook for 2-3 minutes per side. If you want a nice medium rare, I’d go a little under 2 minutes. As you can see from the picture above, I went a little over and got a small margin of rarity. Let tuna rest on cutting board for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, add the haricots verts to the boiling water and cook until tender, about 3-5 minutes. Drain. In a small bowl, mix together the lime juice, lime zest, garlic, and wasabi. You may have to add a little water also if there’s not enough liquid. Add mixture to the haricot verts, along with the scallions. Thinly slice tuna and serve with haricot verts. Top with black sesame seeds!

Joseph P. Gill Sworn in as new Maryland DNR Secretary

Joseph P. Gill was officially sworn in by Governor Martin O’Malley as the 8th Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (Outgoing Secretary John R. Griffin held the position twice), following Governor Martin O’Malley’s appointment of Griffin as Chief of Staff last month.

DNR Secretary honored by Maryland Sportsmen

The Maryland Legislative Sportsmen’s Foundation (MLSF) presented DNR Secretary John R. Griffin with its prestigious Sportsmen’s Best Friend of the Year Award at its 12th Annual Banquet and Auction. More than 200 people attended the event, which was held on May 15 in Annapolis.

“This is one knot reference made for the elements! Solid plastic cards are waterproof so it is stashable anywhere - tackle box, boat, fishing vest. I love it! The drawings are clear and the selection of knots covers all the bases - line to line, line to hook, loops... It’s got me tying the right knots the right way! Good value too.

Is exactly what I wanted. A fishing knot for tying a leader. I’ve never been taught how to do that. I don’t like using the steel leaders on a swivel. Now I can use this knot to fish without steel leaders. Plus other good to know knots. And I can just keep this thing open and sitting out as a 12’ ruler. Measuring panfish should be so much easier now when I rent a cheap 14’ alumicraft and tool around the lake during this upcoming spring season. I can just keep this on the bench and it is completely out of the way.

Book of the Month

FISHERMAN’S ULTIMATE KNOT GUIDE

Ten best fishing knots are clearly illustrated on three waterproof plastic cards. Handy size for pocket, vest, tackle box or boat. Bonus: Also folds out to a twelve inch ruler! Best selling fishing knot guide in the USA with over 250,000 sold.

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Learn more about foundation’s work at www.md-sportsmensfoundation.org.

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This is one knot reference made for the elements! Solid plastic cards are waterproof so it is stashable anywhere - tackle box, boat, fishing vest. I love it! The drawings are clear and the selection of knots covers all the bases - line to line, line to hook, loops... It’s got me tying the right knots the right way! Good value too.

Is exactly what I wanted. A fishing knot for tying a leader. I’ve never been taught how to do that. I don’t like using the steel leaders on a swivel. Now I can use this knot to fish without steel leaders. Plus other good to know knots. And I can just keep this thing open and sitting out as a 12’ ruler. Measuring panfish should be so much easier now when I rent a cheap 14’ alumicraft and tool around the lake during this upcoming spring season. I can just keep this on the bench and it is completely out of the way.
Governor O’Malley signs bills expanding Sunday Hunting opportunities in Carroll, Dorchester and Queen Anne’s Counties

Governor Martin O’Malley signed the final two of three bills passed during the 2013 legislative session that allow for increased Sunday hunting opportunities in Carroll, Dorchester and Queen Anne’s counties, on May 16 in Annapolis. “Hunting is a Maryland tradition, woven into the fabric of our history, passed down for generations,” said Governor O’Malley. “Hunters contribute to our economy and conservation efforts in myriad ways. I am very pleased that this year, working with members of the General Assembly, we are able to expand opportunities for families to enjoy the sights, sounds and excitement that come with days afield.”

Governor O’Malley signed HB 543, which authorizes the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish Sunday deer hunting on private property in Carroll County from the first Sunday in October through the second Sunday in January; and SB 2/HB 66 which permits Sunday turkey hunting on select public lands in Dorchester County during the spring turkey hunting season.

“The additional days to hunt turkey will help Dorchester County’s local businesses and economy by bringing more Marylanders and out-of-state residents to the area,” said Delegate Adelaide Eckardt.

“We are pleased that DNR will have the tools to better manage our deer overpopulation problem, and our hunters and citizens will have direct input into those decisions,” said Delegate Susan Krebs, chair of the Carroll County House Delegation.

Earlier this month, Governor O’Malley signed HB 214, which expands deer hunting on private land in Queen Anne’s County from two total days to five Sundays during archery season and every Sunday during firearm season.

In other opportunities, DNR is hosting Junior Hunter Field Days across the State in June. Young people with an interest in hunting, shooting sports and wildlife management are invited to learn about and participate in archery, sporting clays and much more, with professionals in a safe, mentored setting. To view the schedule click here.

Complete regulations, check-in procedures and information on public land hunting opportunities can be found in the 2012-2013 Maryland Guide to Hunting & Trapping, issued with each hunting license. Those with questions may contact DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service at 410-260-8540.
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2 5:40 8:30 5:47 8:36
3 5:40 8:30 5:48 8:35
4 5:40 8:30 5:48 8:35
5 5:40 8:30 5:49 8:34
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31 5:40 8:30 5:51 8:33

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Question, what do you get from 62 pages of type, two months of debate, and close to 100 amendments from the House and Senate? Answer: Senate Bill 281 otherwise known as the Firearms Safety Act by the government, or “That damn gun bill” by Second Amendment supporters.

One thing is for certain, when you have that many politicians talking for that long a period of time, you never know what the final product will look like. I went to the Maryland General Assembly website and printed up a copy of the bill that was recently signed into law by Governor O’Malley. (http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=02&id=sb0281&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS)

While I am not a lawyer, nor a legislative aide; I have lurked around the halls of Annapolis long enough to be able to read most legislation. So with some recall from my days as a political science major at Washington College I’ll attempt to break down some key aspects of the Chapter 427 as it is now known since being signed into law. This is for informational purposes only.

The law is slated to go into effect on October 1, 2013, barring any petition drive to place it on the 2014 ballot. If opponents are able to gather the necessary signatures the law would not go into effect till results from the 2014 election. There will also be court challenges brought forth when the law goes into effect.

**Large Capacity Magazines**

Under the law, after October 1st all magazines sold, purchased, transferred etc must hold 10 bullets or less. Owning and using magazines over 10 rounds is not prohibited, so if you own them now you are fine.

**AR style firearms**

Licensed firearms dealers may continue to possess, sell, offer for sale, or transfer an AR or copycat that the dealer possessed before October 1, and a person who lawfully possessed or placed an order for an AR firearm is allowed to own the firearm.

There is a list that singles out 45 very specific firearms that will no longer be sold in the Maryland. Some of the firearms on the lost include Bushmaster, AK’s, Colt AR, Ruger mini 14 folding stock in .223, and several models of HK’s to name a few. Along with the list of 45 are “copy cat weapons” which are firearms that may have a different name from the 45 on the list. An AR copycat weapon that gets you on the banned list contains the following:

- A semiautomatic center fire rifle that can accept a detachable magazine and has any TWO of the following: a folding stock, grenade launcher, flash suppressor, a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds and an overall length of less than 29 inches.

Removed from the original bill were items like pistol grips, thumbhole stocks, telescoping stocks, a forward pistol grip, and a threaded barrel. All of these items are still allowed on center fire rifles.

If you own any of these firearms before the law is enacted you are grandfathers in under the law. You will not have to register these firearms.

**Hunting**

In the bill is a statue stating a person while hunting wild bird or mammal may not shoot or discharge any firearm within 300 yards of a public or non public school during school hours or at a time when a school approved activity is taking place.

**Handgun Requirements**

For all new handgun purchases several new requirements will need to be met.

A minimum of 4 hours of instruction by a handgun instructor, a complete set of fingerprints to be submitted to the state police, and a $50 application fee.

The license will be valid for 10 years and in order to renew it, will need to pay $20 to renew it. You will not have to take course again or submit another set of fingerprints.

There is an exemption from the new training requirement including people that have completed a safety in handling firearms prescribed by the MD Department of Natural Resources.

Does having taken a hunter safety course exempt you from having to take the class?

**Lost or Stolen Firearms**

If an AR firearm or handgun or is stolen or lost the owner must report it to law enforcement within 72 hours of the theft.

**Mental Health**

There are also several new provisions dealing with mental health and domestic protective orders. For mental health, it mostly applies to people that are court ordered to a mental treatment facility and now people that have voluntarily admitted themselves for 30 consecutive days.

With the potential of a ballot and/or court challenge no one is quite sure when the law will come into effect and what the final outcome will be.

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**THE LAST WORD**

**Senate Bill 281**

*By Steve Huettner*

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Hunting Club Membership – Equity membership for 10 person hunt club available on Asquith Island, Dorchester County. Great duck, white tail, sika hunting. 250+ acres, lodge, impoundments, woods, marsh, 6 deer towers, deer stands, shore blinds, boat ramp. $74,500. deckrod@yahoo.com, 703-462-2360

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June 2013
Lou MacKenzie of Centreville, MD bagged 5 Turkey's this year. Three rios in Oklahoma and 2 in Md. He also guides for Schraders and had 3 kills and 2 misses this year. Pretty good year!!

His 2nd Md bird is pictured with friend and fellow guide "brother McBride" who accompanied him on that fine spring morning. They double teamed that ole' turkey bird and he just couldn't stand it.

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