

Fishing & Hunting

Journal



- SEEING SPECS
- INVESTING IN A CHILD
- CHANGING OF THE GUARD!
- BASS ON THE NORTHEAST RIVER
- BLACK DRUM

FREE



George McGinnity with his first of two Gobblers he took this past spring in New York. Photo Courtesy of McGinnity Marine Art.



This Black Drum was caught by Capt Harry Nield on the 'Kingfish II' in Tangier Sound.



Jonathon Mason and his crew had a great day with Yellowfins and a nice Big Eye from the Baltimore Canyon.



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By Lenny Rudow

“Hooked on Fishing”

Seeing Specs

Last season, for the first time in over five years a keeper-sized speckled sea trout hit the deck of my boat all the way up north by Thomas Point. Granted, this isn't exactly an area you'd target this species in. But its presence indicated just how many of these spotted critters swim up the Chesapeake these days, and from the Choptank south, you can realistically set your sights on them in specific.

Back in the early to mid 90's there was a reliable fishery for them as far north as the shallows of the Choptank, and at times they could even be regularly caught in Eastern Bay. But then these fish began a slow and steady decline. During the past 15 or so years, you had to fish at least as far south as the Tangier to hope to catch more than a lucky oddball fish or two. Fortunately, however, speckled sea trout have been on the upswing for several seasons now. And you can have a ball fishing for them in the

Chesapeake, current is often a key to finding the fish. Cuts and sloughs with a current, rips forming around points, and current-scoured holes are prime speckled trout hotspots. Any time you see moving water, don't be afraid to take a few casts regardless of how deep it is or how unlikely it seems. Plenty of times I've casted to probe tiny cuts in Tangier marshes which were too small to accommodate my boat, yet on a falling tide with a moving flow of water, held multiple fish over 20 inches. In fact, one of the biggest speckled trout I've caught in the bay was in a marsh creek off the Big Annemessex which was no more than five feet across.

Most anglers like targeting specs with soft plastics rigged to light jig heads, which allow you to work shallow without snagging bottom on every other cast. BKDs, GULPs, paddle-tails, twister tails, and similar lures will all prove effective. Topwater will work early and late in the day, and although you generally won't catch quite as many fish, the explosions are worth working for. Light wobbling



This spec was swimming within spitting distance of Thomas Point Light.

lower-middle and lower portion of Maryland's Chesapeake—if you know how.

Specs are shallow-water fish. Often you'll catch them in a foot or two of water, and the vast majority of the time you'll catch them in less than 15 feet. Working the shoreline is usually the best way to approach unfamiliar territory, though truth be told, quite often better spots will be just off the shore around underwater rockpiles (the Choptank), stump fields (the Tangier), and weedbed edges (anywhere you can find them).

As with any predator in the

spoons are also effective on this species sometimes. Chartreuse, white, and yellow are usually good colors to try, though for some reason, bubble-gum pink is a regular winner when it comes to catching specs. Go figure.

Okay: so you know what sort of spots to look for, and what sort of lures to cast. How will you retrieve them? I wish I knew—one of the more frustrating factors when targeting this species is its tendency to change patterns on a whim. They may want a rapid, erratic retrieve, or they may want a slow, steady retrieve. Sometimes



Note that bubble-gum pink jig - when speckled sea trout are on the agenda, make sure you have a few of these in the tacklebox.

they feed right up near the surface, other times all the strikes come on jigs crept just above bottom. One moment they're up along the bank, the next they're huddling in a hole. There's just no telling, so you have to try a variety of tactics and spots until you figure out what the fish want. Now for the bad news: quite often, they'll change their pattern as the tides and currents shift. The effective form of retrieve you managed to ID may well change in an hour of fishing. And as for tomorrow—much less next weekend—forget about everything you thought you knew about the way those fish were acting. Day to day, it's often like a whole new season when you're going for speckled trout in the Chesapeake.

Now, let's toss a few more variables into the mix: dirty water can shut down the bite. In the shallows, this can mean a stiff breeze is all it takes to flip the switch. That stiff breeze can also make boat positioning quite difficult; constantly shift your engine in and out of gear and you'll spook those specs, so be prepared to anchor and move quite a bit through a day of trout fishing. And if you try to fish the Smith Island area when the locals decide to pull crab scrapes for softies, you'll be in for

a rude surprise.

On the bright side, speckled trout will often bite right through the summer and well into the fall, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to go chasing after them. And stripers often frequent the same areas, providing lots of tugging when the trout don't cooperate. The past couple of years, decent numbers of redfish have also been attacking lures cast in the shallows. And trout not only give you a heck of a good fight, they have that same delicate, sweet meat as yellowfin sea trout. So it's well worth making a trip, to target these fish—even if you have to cruise all the way down from Thomas Point.

News Flash: Hey anglers, there's a new tackle shop in town. Island Tackle Outfitters has opened up on Kent Island, at 1915 Main Street (right next to the Safeway). Their hours are 9 AM – 8 PM during the week, and 6 AM – 8 AM weekends. The cool thing is, this isn't "just another" tackle shop. They're incredibly well-stocked (check out how much offshore gear they keep on-hand, much less striper tackle!), they have a hydraulic line tensioning line spooler, and even on-site custom rod-building is being offered. Swing by, and check it out!

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July 2014

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www.fishingandhuntingjournal.com

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Mitch Ellington Hunting with Chris Sherman of Tilghman's Island, from 7-8 AM we sit through a raging thunderstorm. Fortunately we are in a ground blind and it does not leak. We are working a gobbler we know is here but he is silent. At 8:50AM, very silently, he walks out of the woods. A soft purr, and he raises his head. The Winchester #5s from my Remington 1100 put him down at 40+ yards. Our gobbler weighed in at 22 lbs. 10 oz, with spurs 1.5" and 1 5/16", and triple beards 10", 7 1/16" and 3 10/16" Any day in the woods is good. Bringing out "The Boss" with you is special. from

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

In the Colonial era, wealthy women were very proud of their wideboard oak floors. Every week, servants would wet-rub and dry-rub the floors to shine them, taking care to move the mop along the grain of the wood.

Sometimes a careless worker would mop across the grain and it would produce streaks on the floor. The lady of the house would scold the servant for rubbing the floor the wrong way. Hence, we get the phrase, "to rub someone the wrong way."

We all have met people who rub us the wrong way. As Christians, we need to do our part to rub people the right way. A sure-fire, fail-safe, foolproof, guaranteed way to rub people the right way is by encouragement. It works every time, with anybody, at any time.

We all need to be encouraged at times. Human nature is so quick to tear down, rather than build up. For every word of encouragement we take in, we hear 10 words of discouragement. The old song goes: "Once I did bad and that I heard ever, twice I did good, but that I heard never."

John Wooden, the great basketball coach at UCLA, wanted his players to encourage each other. He instructed them to be sure, after they scored, to smile, wink, nod, or point to the player who passed him the ball. One player asked, "What if he's not looking?" Wooden responded, "I guarantee you he'll be looking."

And he was right. Everybody is looking for affirmation. Charles Swabb said, "I have yet to find a man who did not do better work and put forth a greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism." John Mark needed Barnabas in Acts Chapter 4, when he encouraged him and raised him up in such a good way that Paul, who had given him up as worthless, called for John Mark to be brought on a later missionary journey saying, "for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

Why not today be an encouragement to someone? You may change someone's life in the process. This was the faith of our fathers and I trust that it is yours.

— MEL BRINDLEY
Pastor
Chestertown (Md.) Baptist Church

Maryland hunters report excellent Spring Turkey season harvest

Hunters reported harvesting a total of 3,325 wild turkeys during the 2014 spring turkey season that ended on May 23. This year's harvest was close to the 2013 record-setting harvest of 3,344, and well above the 10-year average of 2,982.

High turkey populations and good weather likely contributed to the excellent harvest. Turkey numbers are on the rise in many counties such as Carroll, Kent, Queen Anne's and St. Mary's. In addition, pleasant weather throughout the State during most of the season likely increased hunter participation and helped them locate and call in cooperative gobblers.

Garrett County reported the highest harvest again this year with 383 turkeys, followed by Washington with 343 birds. Rounding out the top five counties

were Allegany (258), Charles (254) and Dorchester (239).

Youth hunters took advantage of the special Junior Turkey Hunt and reported taking 165 turkeys. The Junior Hunt was open statewide on Saturday, April 12 and in select counties on Sunday, April 13.

Turkey hunters were able to hunt on Sundays in seven counties again this spring. Sunday turkey hunting was limited to certain dates in Allegany and Garrett counties, but was permitted throughout the season in Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, and St. Mary's. A total of 159 turkeys were harvested on Sundays.

The table below shows the reported spring turkey season harvest by county for 2008-2014.

Reported Spring Turkey Harvest, 2008-2014							
County	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Allegany	345	342	327	287	257	269	258
Anne Arundel	61	39	56	38	58	82	54
Baltimore	34	19	39	25	29	37	32
Calvert	53	49	35	40	50	57	59
Caroline	107	105	118	132	164	142	141
Carroll	20	27	20	22	30	33	45
Cecil	27	29	30	34	43	55	57
Charles	193	186	215	222	303	270	254
Dorchester	242	236	213	210	219	245	239
Frederick	152	115	113	122	140	215	193
Garrett	327	364	345	339	368	386	383
Harford	61	68	67	69	98	110	97
Howard	2	5	10	16	16	16	10
Kent	62	85	88	97	103	118	150
Montgomery	37	53	42	47	51	82	68
Prince George's	70	73	79	79	92	78	79
Queen Anne's	127	124	125	114	152	159	165
Somerset	132	142	106	114	122	124	120
St. Mary's	59	84	67	83	99	127	173
Talbot	102	105	110	98	102	103	83
Washington	281	308	303	285	292	309	343
Wicomico	133	150	148	162	152	124	146
Worcester	206	202	191	191	192	203	176
Total	2833	2910	2847	2826	3132		

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“Tackle Box Tim”

Bass on the Northeast River

By Tim Sherman

I've fished on the Northeast River a few times. On those trips the days always seemed to be split with time spent on the Susquehanna Flats. I've competed in and watched weigh ins that launched/culminated at the head of the river. Still most competitors seem to use the river as a corridor to the Flats and beyond. It wasn't until a few weeks ago that I was able to spend a full day fishing on the Northeast.

Captain Brian Immekus, a Perryville, Maryland resident, has been fishing the river for over three decades -- the last five as a full time guide. He admits that in spring and summer more tournaments will be won by anglers fishing on the Susquehanna. Yet, the Northeast has great numbers of bass, with plenty of opportunities to catch a big one. Bass released at the head of the river often find a good home in the Northeast as they matriculate through the river back to where they were caught.

The Northeast River bass fishery is far different from that found on the Flats. You won't find acres of lush aquatic vegetation in the river, but it is a dock fisherman's dream. You'll also find bulkheads and deep banks with sunken wood. I found that out very shortly after stepping aboard with Brian.

This year Mother Nature pushed back the spawn several weeks. On the day we fished, Brian thought that most of the bass would be in post spawn mode. I met him at the ramp in Charlestown. He explained that once bass finish spawning in the backs of the marinas, they move out into piers and bulkheads along the main river. The day was gloomy with an easterly

breeze.

Through his years on the river he knows that post spawn bass aren't much for dealing with wind-chopped water. We made our way across the river to fish the docks at Hance Point. We started at the outer bulk head where Immekus went to work with a Zoom Speed Worm. I slow churned a homemade chatter bait. It wasn't long before he stuck a small bass. Moments later, I caught a 2 pounder. His was caught on point of the 90-degree structure; mine was alongside the main river side, thus confirming his post spawn migration theory.

Brian had a feeling that there might still be a few bass spawning; so we moved into the marina. He also wanted to show me around the marina pattern since I hadn't seen it on the Northeast. As we fished our way through the marina, Brian set the hook on another 2-pound class fish. His hunch was correct that there were still a few bass in bedding areas.

Contrary to some of my thoughts on pier fishing, Immekus is not afraid to start right on the prime spots on a dock. He'll move right in with soft plastics before he casts hard baits. He believes that tidal bass on piers aren't too skittish with commotion overhead as long as there is some stain to the water. If the river is ebbing and flowing clear, he'll back off and make longer pitches or skips the lure under piers.

Brian focuses his casts on the high percentage cover. He pitches to boat lift posts, dock ladders, multi-post supports on dock corners and cluster posts away from the piers. However, he will work the posts on the shady side of a dock thoroughly. The guide also notes that even the shallow pilings on the shady side will hold fish. No matter to which type of post or piling he casts, he always makes multiple presentations before moving to the next one.

As much as he likes piers, Immekus

also has patterns for fishing bulkheads. You can find him casting old Bagley crankbaits parallel to them. But he will also make his machine-like pitches to the vertical support posts. Even the shade from the horizontal brace beams can draw bass to the bulkheads.

We continued along the leeward shoreline, dipping into marinas and fishing main river piers. Brian was quite efficient with the Speed Worm. Finally I broke down and asked for one. I was greeted with a powerful strike from a bass at the first pier I pitched to after tying one on. Now I'll have to stock them in my tackle bag.

Immekus says that accuracy is key to working piers. Errant casts are not time efficient. He says some thirty years ago when he first fished the river, he wasn't in tune with the patterns. He spent time in his back yard with makeshift cover in the form of picnic tables and benches and lawn chairs. He'd cast to the legs of the backyard furniture and says it helped him once he hit the water.



Rachel Dawson with a 20.4 lb. beauty, sporting a 9 1/4" beard.



Captain Brian Immekus shows a 4-pound bass caught from a Northeast River dock on a Speed Worm.

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Ed Kiser with a Alaskan Brown Bear taken this past June. Photo courtesy of Kiser Insurance.

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Framework sets up rationale for blue crab management decisions

By Carl Hershner

The current management of the blue crab stock in Chesapeake Bay is a case study of the application of the Bay Program's Decision Framework.

Officially adopted by the Program in 2012, the framework is designed to implement effective adaptive management for all Bay Program activities. The process of setting explicit goals, developing well-informed management strategies, carefully monitoring and assessing system response to those strategies, and then adapting management based on what is learned is exemplified by the present crab management.

The blue crab abundance outcome statement in the new draft Bay agreement is the current goal of Bay crab management. As explained below, present and future efforts to achieve the outcome follow the basic outline of the decision framework.

Blue Crab Abundance Outcome

Maintain a sustainable blue crab population based on the 2012 target of 215 million adult females and continue to refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.

Decision Framework

- **Articulate Outcome:** Important characteristics are that the goal be explicit, measurable and time bound. This goal provides two performance metrics: maintenance of a sustainable

population and continued refinement of the population target. Both of these are measurable/observable, and they are time-bound in the sense that "sustainable" and "continue" imply immediate and constantly iterating efforts.

- **Describe Factors Influencing Outcome Attainment:** The science behind the outcome recognizes that in addition to fishing pressure, habitat quality, recruitment success and predation all potentially affect the maintenance of a sustainable population.

- **Assess Current management Efforts:** At present, the primary management effort is controlling fishing pressure. While the Chesapeake Total Maximum Daily Load is aimed at increasing habitat quality — more SAV and less hypoxia — there are no other specific efforts aimed at blue crabs.

- **Develop a Management Strategy:** The current strategy is refined management of fishing pressure, specifically fishing pressure on overwintering female crabs. Further efforts to manage commercial and recreational fisheries may be necessary to achieve the outcome. Additional habitat management efforts may also be necessary (e.g. sanctuaries).

- **Develop a Monitoring Program:** The current monitoring of the overwintering population of females is excellent. Monitoring of the commercial and recreational fisheries' pressure is less robust. The current population drop occurred despite the existence of ample female crabs. This is evidence that other factors (e.g. habitat quality, recruitment, predation) are also very important for sustaining the target population. It will be necessary to monitor those factors to learn what

additional management efforts might be necessary.

- **Assess Performance:** Managers have already concluded that the current management effort, in terms of a minimum of 215 million female crabs, is obviously insufficient to ensure a sustainable population.

- **Manage Adaptively:** The assessment that the current management strategy is insufficient will motivate a reassessment of the understanding of critical factors and the management strategies designed to address those factors. Revised strategies and targets should be the adaptive response.

The challenge confronting the Bay Program as it moves to articulate new goals and desired outcomes is to structure those statements and the supporting management strategies so they reflect the same basic logic evidenced in the crab management effort.

A key to establishing the framework for learning and improving management is to make explicit the reasons for undertaking any action.

When the outcome, in terms of the change in existing conditions or procedures, is clear it becomes possible to assess management efforts and determine whether continuation is justified. The important question is not "what are we doing?" but "why are we doing it?"

Once the work under the new agreement is framed in this way, the Bay Program will be positioned to continually improve its efforts to improve the Bay and provide increased transparency and accountability for the public.

Courtesy of the Bay Journal



Clyde's customer hooked this 32 lb. 48" Striper taken in late April.



Corey & Byron Toler were on the birds on Youth Day. Photo's courtesy of Clyde's Sport Shop.



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Captain LT with Diving Ducks Outfitters has Paul Wiley & Sons from Willow Grove, PA on the Cow Nose Sting Rays, better known locally in Tilghman Island, MD as double heads. The two shots above were from past shoots last year.



James Ogden with a Shark release at Assateague, Va.

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Chad Moore	\$1,809
Ron Huybert	\$1,105

Main Tournament

Place	Captain	Weight(lbs)	Species	Weigh Station
1st	Todd Dickerson	222.1	Bigeye	Sunset, OC
2nd	John Travers	214.6	Bigeye	Chinco.,VA
3rd	Ron Huybert	180.6	Bigeye	Sunset, OC



Chad Moore wins the Dolphin category with a combined weight of 3 Dolphins at 55.7 worth \$1809.00



Todd Dickerson on Top Dog Wins 25th Annual Tunament 222.1 lb and 211.7 lb bigeye tunas. Todd is from Germantown, MD

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By Jim Gronaw

As a child growing up in the Randallstown, Baltimore area, I was blessed to be in a region that was still country in the mid 1960's, and there were numerous options for fishing back in that day. There were many farm-ponds around, some of which still exist to this day. And the small streams and creeks that snaked through the woodlands and farms gave me my first experience at 'moving water' fishing. Suckers, chubs and the occasional smallmouth bass would be high on the list of 'favorites' and catching them was a schoolboy's challenge.

As I got older, my dad bought a boat, and things really opened up then! We fished Liberty and Loch Raven, catching mostly crappies, bluegills and the elusive, to us anyway, largemouth bass. As time passed on, we graduated to things like graphite rods, braided lines and new-fangled lures that would surely catch us the big one. But through all the trips, and all the tackle and technology changes, I still have a blast every time I take a child out fishing. It brings me back to my roots, grounds me once again and put a capital 'P' on priorities in life.

During the 2013 season, I finally got back to some of those roots and enjoyed some great times with some great kids by introducing some of them to the world of fishing. Nothing fancy, mind you, just straight forward, simple bobber and worm dunkin' for cooperative bluegills and pumpkinseeds. A couple of the youngsters caught impressive largemouth bass, and some caught citation-sized sunfish, too big to grasp.

A few had sunburn, bug bites and needed shade and water. And often, a

"Fishin' Back East"

INVESTING IN A CHILD

visit to the local fast food joint soothed the souls of young anglers as hot fries and cold milkshakes made up for any discomfort. Yes... it had been a good day...a great day!

I am looking forward to more of the same this year, as much of the fishing I did as a kid I find myself doing the same to this very day. Bluegills, bass, crappies, carp, catfish, put-and-take trout, watching your step through a cow field, slipping in the mud and getting dirty. I know it won't raise too many eyebrows



Matt, and his daughter Elena with a local catch of sunfish...

from seasoned outdoorsmen and women, but to me, these are the things that make life grand, and keep me grounded. Giggling children who are trying to unhook a sunfish are soothing as well. That is one of the reasons why I teach a basic 'Teach Me to Fish' class at Hashawha Environmental Center, in Westminster, Maryland, each summer. It's a combo of parent/child fishing, most of whom have never caught a fish, including mom or dad! Often, the parents are more excited than the kids...what's wrong with that?

One thing for sure...if you want to teach a child, or anyone for that matter, how to fish, you have to donate your 'on-water' time to them completely and totally. Your fishing day will come, but it is critical that you devote time and effort to them for this entire day, or evening, or night. Yes, kids can be long on fussy and short on attention...it takes an effort. And there are things like sun and bugs and poison ivy and hunger and thirst and yucky worms that just might not sit well with kids initially.

And our job is not to force it on them, but to at least give them the chance to enjoy it and marvel at fish, fishing and anything else that comes into view as God's creatures. Some will catch on, and some will not. Some young eyes and ears may find wading in the water, chasing crayfish, far more fun than staring at a bobber. Some will enjoy the post trip treats at the local McDonalds more than the fishing. And that's

OK, too. It's not always about heroic battles and big fish. That, too, may come in time.

I guess I look at things a little differently now that I am a bona fide geezer with two grand daughters. My son Matt and I took 4-year old Elena for her first fishing trips last year and she got into it, which was cool.

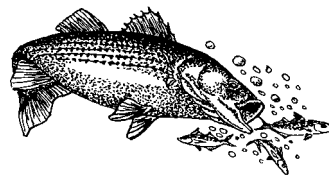
Elena always wanted to touch each and every fish, and squealed with joy when the scaly, slimy texture touched her fingers. She wants to go again. Couldn't quite cast, couldn't quite reel in a fish, and she would rather play with worms than use them for bait. That's kids for you! This year, she has graduated to her own Barbie rod, but still needs an assist for that writhing pumpkinseed or baiting a hook.

Yes indeed...I am looking forward to more trips with the girls this year, and more trips with local children who may not have that person in their life to pass on such a tradition. Keep the bass boats, the tournaments and the trophies...I'm investing in kids this year. And hopefully, many more.



Chris Fenzel had his Remington 870 on target. Photo courtesy of Shore sportsman.

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Captain Rachel Dean: High School Teacher by Weekday, Waterman by Weekend

By: Rebecca Sheir

Thirty-two-year-old Rachel Dean is kneeling beside a plastic baby pool, as she shows a cluster of kids a whole mess of marine life — like this horseshoe crab.

“You want me to kiss him?” she asks with a grin. “Mmmwah! Ewww!”

Rachel found the twelve-legged arthropod in the Patuxent River near the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons, Maryland. It’s getting on dinner time, and the Calvert County native has spent all day on the dock entertaining visitors as part of the museum’s grand re-opening festival, which is celebrating the facility’s \$2-million renovation.

“I don’t know which is more tired,” she says with a laugh. “Me or the animals!”

But here’s the thing: Even after the crowd heads home, Rachel Dean has a bit more entertaining to do, this time on her 40-foot boat, The Roughwater.

“I’m going to slip the boat out of the boat basin, we’ll go out on the Patuxent River and I can show you how we work the dredge,” she says. “And if it looks like we can get away with it, I’ll drop the patent tongs, show you how those work, too.”

See, in addition to teaching young people — and the mother of two actu-

ally teaches professionally: high-school English — Captain Rachel Dean also works on and around the Chesapeake Bay as a waterman.

“As a schoolteacher I hear so many kids say, ‘Oh, there’s nothing to do around here; I can’t wait to grow up and move out of here,’” Rachel says. “And I just say, ‘This playground? You want to leave this?’”

“I went to college, and I have a master’s now, but I’m always going to come back to [the water];” she explains. “You hear the old-timers say ‘Once it’s in your blood, it’s in your blood.’ For my husband and I, we’re both first-generation [watermen], so it must have gotten injected somewhere, because it wasn’t inherited!”

Rachel and her husband, Simon, supply rockfish, crabs and oysters to local businesses through their company, Patuxent River Seafood. They also run Solomons Island Heritage Tours, making them part of a growing number of watermen offering what are known as Watermen Heritage Tours. The Chesapeake Conservancy, Coastal Heritage Alliance, Maryland Watermen’s Association and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum have been training people like Rachel and Simon to show off their way of life to tourists: from setting up crab pots to dredging for oysters.

On today’s private tour, after Rachel calls in her scientific-collection permit (necessary to do demonstrations off season), she shows how she harvests oysters with her boat’s jaw-like/claw-like patent tongs, as well as the power dredge: a heavy chain bag attached to a long rope.

“You can feel it; you can feel the rope,” she says. “You can feel it hitting the oysters on the bottom, feel it vibrating.”

She then dumps the oysters with a crash onto a metal culling table.

“That’s [sic] some pretty oysters right there,” she says as she sorts through the speci-

mens. “Some real big oysters. They have a lot of growing bills on them. Looks real good for next year. If we can keep them alive, we can keep them happy, we’ll have a good year, and many years after that, too.”



The way Captain Rachel Dean sees it, she and her fellow watermen want nothing more than to keep species in the bay happy. But she worries those of us who aren’t on the water every day might not get that.

“The waterman’s way of life is something people don’t know much about,” she says. “And when you don’t know much about something, you kind of start to speculate, or you go on things that you hear, so there’s a lot of things that people really don’t know about us, that if I can bring them out here on the boat and I can show them, then maybe we can gain their support, they’ll start to buy the fresh, local seafood. So much of our seafood comes from out of the state, and really, out of the country!”

Rachel says her tours often highlight the challenges watermen face — like encroaching development and increasing sedimentation in the bay.

“Oysters need a hard surface to be able to grow,” she explains. “So we’re struggling with the populations of the oysters, because these oysters aren’t finding that clean substrate to set on. So we have a lot of sediment.”

“You hear people say, ‘Oh, we shouldn’t be harvesting oysters. We’re at one percent of historic

populations.’ But it really isn’t the harvesters compared to, you look around, and you see all these houses and you know what’s happening to our waterways.”

In fact, she says, if anybody is truly invested in where these populations are going, it’s a waterman. And yes, she does think of herself as a waterman — not “waterwoman.”

“I don’t want that distinction,” she says.

Though females are in the minority, Rachel says there are several female watermen in the area.

“We have one that got her captain’s license after just completing the Heritage training program,” she says. “There’s a couple of lady charter boat captains, too. There’s a young lady, I believe she’s out of Anne Arundel County, she works her own boat full-time. She, like I did, was out here pregnant!”

Rachel actually charter fished until she was about six months pregnant. And now, she says, her daughter is part of the crew. “She asked Daddy for a cruise shirt for Christmas, so she got it,” Rachel says with a smile.

Not that all watermen are quick to embrace a woman on the water. Captain Rachel Dean loves talking about the superstitions held by more old-timey watermen. Like how you shouldn’t paint your boat’s bottom blue. How you shouldn’t let dogs on your boat. Or bananas.

“And can you believe they think a woman on a boat is bad luck? Yeah! I’ve heard that one, too! It’s never really bothered me much!”

Courtesy of http://wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/14/05/14/waterwoman

Holiday Spaghetti and Crabs!

Cooking and cleaning the Blue Crabs.

You will need 1 ½ dozen live crabs for this recipe. Female crabs are thought to be sweeter and never disappoint. Place the bagged crabs into your freezer for 30 minutes to slow them down and make them manageable. Wear some gloves and peel off the main shell, from the live crab, just as you would a steamed crab. Throw away the Devil or lungs, apron and shell. Some folks like the “innards” or “mustard” in their sauce as well. The fat in the points of the shells inside also add flavor. These can be added to the sauce and simmered.

I break the cleaned crab in half so I have 2 pieces with legs and claws still attached. Place the crabs into a large pot with a quarter cup of oil in the bottom. Cover and cook the whole crabs until they turn red.

Build your sauce on top of the cooked, whole crabs. Add the quart of tomatoes, tomato paste, 5- 6oz. cans of tomato paste, and 10 6oz. cans of water to the pot on top of the whole crabs.

Sprinkle your Spaghetti “Spatini” packet over the top. Feel free to add any other spices to your taste. Just remember to not overpower the sweet flavor of the Blue Crabs. A teaspoon of sugar also adds sweetness.

Simmer for 2-3 hours. Prepare the spaghetti pasta to serve under the Spaghetti and Crab sauce. If I have a pound of cooked crab meat, I will add it about 30 minutes before I serve the dish.

Serve with Italian Bread and a roll of paper towels!

From Montana Grant.....



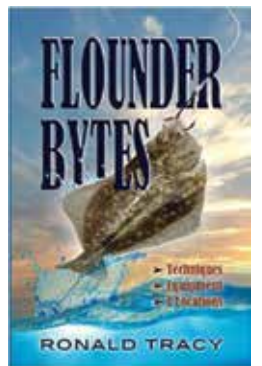
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can see the techniques I describe in action and learn that they work. For instance, have you ever caught a flounder in under a minute? There is a video link where I show you how I did this using the techniques outlined in this book. I call it “The 1 minute flounder”. In this video clip, (which is the first video clip I ever filmed by myself) I describe what I am doing before I cast out my line. Watch the clip and count the seconds from when the bait hits the water to when I hold the fish and you may be just as amazed as I was when filming the video. And while you are there click the subscribe button and it will inform you when new information is posted. It’s free. Here is a tip, the links work best in the eBook format, you just click on the link and it takes you there, and the eBook format is available on many different reading devices. I have a downloaded copy on my smart phone and it works the way I had envisioned. Now in this book, I cover the basic tackle and equipment that I like to use because it works very well for the inshore fish that we are after. And yes, I have included a video link that shows you what I look for in the baits and lures that work for me so that you will know what to look for in baits and lures that can work for you. Now manufactures are bringing out new baits and lures all the time, which is part of the reason we spend so much time in the fishing section of our favorite stores... To see what is new and buy what we think will work. This is a section I am considering developing for the Flounder Bytes website so you can keep up on the latest developments in the fishing industry.



Harriet Hassle traveled from Dowagiac Michigan to fish with her grandsons Daniel and Jonathan Irons age 10 and 12. They caught these fish trolling in Eastern Bay on 6/8. Fish were caught with storm umbrellas.

Grandma showed up her grandsons catching perch in Wye river. Keep up the great work on the Journal. We really enjoy it. Mike Irons - Queenstown, MD

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Bill Bosserman with a nice Caribou. Photo Courtesy of Macrotech.



Jerry Heinefield of Skinners Neck, MD was heading out for some perch fishing, instead it looks like catfish fingers for dinner.



Will Shepherd with a 48 1/2 inch Striped Bass, weighing in at 53.8 pounds. Photo Courtesy Of Ron's Bay Pro Shop.

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Jamie Lepole found the North woods of Maine a good spot to bag this 870lb Moose with a 45 inch spread. Photo Courtesy of Clydes Sport Shop.



Captain Brian Cuncell aboard 'Sea Dux' hooked this 80 lb. Black Drum while live lining above the Bay Bridge last month.



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By Grant Soukup

Deer hunters and hunting have changed. The deer hunting brotherhood is now also a sisterhood. Women and youth in the outdoors are a wonderful trend. Modern hunters and gatherers want to provide those they love with healthy, quality food while getting an adrenaline rush.

When I first went to hunting camp, I was surrounded by veteran hunters. Wooden tree stands, blinds, rock piles or stumps were the property of a single hunter for years. These "hot spots" were earned, tried and true.

Tidbits of knowledge were passed down and with time, deer stands were inherited. The stories, meals, and camp adventures were legendary. Hunting camp characters and memories were unforgettable. Hunting camp would become "Home Sweet Home" for 2 weeks every fall.

Musty smells, bugs, mice, and squirrels were all part of "camp." Smoking, cooking, fuels, and human smells permeated the stale air. The snoring hunters were put in separate sleeping quarters. Red and green Woolrich was the uniform of choice. Cotton long underwear, knit gloves, and goofy hats with huge ear flaps, was the style. Leather boots or felt insoles were foot ready.

The 30/30 rifle was the buck buster's tool. If you had a 4 power scope, you were special. My first rifle buck came after I finally bought a scope. You needed magnification to see a legal 3 inch spike trophy buck antler. 100 yards was a long rifle shot. Shotgun ammo called "Punkin Balls" were accurate to 50 yards with luck.

Any legal buck was a trophy. The meat, photos, and stories were shared by all in the camp. Granddad's smoke stained antlers from the big buck in 1950 still hung over the woodstove. The camp harvest would hang on the meat pole of honor! Hunters could enjoy the view on the way to the outhouse.

AHHHH...Deer Camp!

Today, many hunters are solitary hunters. Stealth, HECS, camo, GoreTex, and Under Armor are scent free. Deer camp is a motel or hunting near home. Hunters are more selective and willing to put in there time to score a trophy buck.

Bows are rarely made of wood anymore. Modern compound bows are a web of cams, guides, loops, and peeps. Range finders, sights, re-

"Montana Grant"

CHANGING OF THE GUARD!

leases, and noise reducers are tools of the trade today. Rifles and guns are covered with gadgets and gear to give the hunter any advantage. Long distance shooting is the trend. As a kid, I was told that adding gadgets to your weapons was just adding excuses.

Scent management today is huge. Smoking and unnatural smells are taboo in the woods. Deer attractants, "doe in heat" gels and liquids, silver laced GoreTex, compression clothing, and space-age gear allow the hunter to hunt scent-free and comfortable in any weather conditions. Rattling and calling critters have taken the place of classic, still hunting. Custom comfortable tree stands are the tactic replacing group deer drives. Techno this and that gadgets are commonplace. Trail cameras allow you to see your potential "gifts" of big bucks before you open them.

Modern hunters harvest does! Spike bucks are preserved by antler restrictions and hunters looking for a "wall hanger." 3 and a half year old bucks and bigger are common in today's deer woods.

Meat is often donated to soup kitchens. PETA does all it can do to protect "Bambi" while car insurance companies are thankful for higher bag limits. No one wants to crash into deer on the highway. Gardeners and farmers curse the herds of deer that feed on their efforts. CWD, Lyme's Disease, Blue Tongue, and other diseases are more easily transmitted by higher deer populations. Americans are more willing to accept hunting if it helps to keep us safe and their gardens intact.

Deer are more abundant than ever and not just in the remote mountains. Urban deer populations are on the rise. You can hunt closer to home and more often. Two week deer camps are a tradition lost. The modern hunter doesn't smoke, is in good physical shape, looks good, doesn't drink, and lives in the trees. Humans are hunters. We are carnivorous meat eaters. It's in our DNA.

How, where, and why we hunt has changed over time? It would be cheaper to buy meat at the grocery store, but somehow it's just not the same. There's just something about sunrises and sunsets. The smell of acorns, leaves, and the feeling of the outdoors is who we are. Our senses come alive when we hear a twig break, see the flicker of a tail, or touch an antler. There is no better and healthier addiction than hunting, fishing, and the outdoors.

Buck Commander, Team Realtree, Chasing Tail, and other hunting and fishing shows display a different, more ethical hunter with a purpose. Educational videos teach

us how to be better hunters and outdoorsmen. This reality entertainment shows us a healthier and exciting way to live. The image of hunters continues to change in good ways.

Today's hunters are more knowledgeable and responsible than ever. Hunter Safety courses are mandatory. Hunting gear is better and safer than ever. Licenses, regulations, limits, and laws are based upon science and not special interests.

The most important thing is to keep on hunting! If we ignore our DNA tendencies, we will fail to live up to our "hunter" identity. Hunters share an important role in wildlife management and protecting the ecosystems we all love.

Hunters of today are the same as hunters in the past when it comes to management. Hunter dollars continue to pay for the public open spaces we all enjoy then and now.

The next time you are enjoying a walk, bike ride or campout in the great outdoors, thank a hunter!

Good luck and hunt safely!
Montana Grant



Ms. Montana Grant crafted a great Maryland Crab using a bushel basket lid and a jig saw.



Montana's "Grand Slam" on trout from Deer Creek last month. A Brown, Rainbow, Golden, and a Brookie! It took alot of throw backs but he was victorious!

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Coastal Report

By Capt. Mark Sampson

Although May and June are the two months when sharks are pursued most by local anglers, they're available to Delmarva fishermen from the spring right into the fall. But no matter when it's done, in most cases "shark fishing" involves "shark chumming" where the goal is to stream out a long chumline (or scent-line) that traveling sharks will intercept and choose to follow to its source where they eventually encounter the anglers baited hooks.

If the boat is anchored, the direction and distance of the scent-trail is determined primarily by the current, the stronger the flow - the farther the scent will travel during a given period. If the boat is drifting the actual direction of the chum flow is more difficult to figure out because it's a result of the direction of the current as well as the course the boat is drifting which is usually determined by the direction of the wind. Even though the boat will travel far and fast when the wind and current are moving in the same direction, the scent-trail might not extend as far from the boat as when wind and current are going in opposite directions. Therefore, what to some anglers might seem like a "good drift" could actually just be them drifting with their chum all day rather than away from it.



It's safe to say, however, that in most cases when a boat shuts down and starts leaking chum the scent will be carried away in such a manor that anglers will have a shot at tempting in some sharks. Since most chum is made from fish that have been ground-up to the consistency of burger, after leaving the chum bucket, the bits if chum drift down and away from the boat and eventually hit the seafloor, unless they get eaten by some small fish along the way. As the bits of chum sink they release their scent, which is carried along by the current. Because the bits of chum are always sinking down, the scent fans out from the boat and can eventually cover the entire water column from the surface to the bottom.

I provide this description because anglers commonly make the mistake

of thinking that the scent trail leaves their boat in a line directly opposite from the way they're drifting and that it stays in the upper water column close to the surface. Knowing what's really going on with the chum should help anglers plan out their strategies and choose the right place to anchor their boat or start their drift.

Knowing that their scent trails cover not just the surface but the entire water column should help anglers keep their cool when another skipper doesn't follow proper fishing etiquette and runs his vessel across their chumline, because, contrary to the prevailing thoughts of many, running across someone's chumline does not "break the line" and minimize its effectiveness. Detouring around someone else's chumline shows common courtesy to other fishermen but it's not the end of the world if someone doesn't do it for you.

What actually can be a problem for sharkers is when another boat sets up a chumline too close to another boat. Think of the chumline flowing from the boat as a long fence. Sharks traveling from the left or right will swim into the fence, become interested in the scent, then turn and follow the fence to the boat. So what happens if another boat sets up their own chumline on one side or the other from you? With now "two" parallel fences, any shark traveling in from the side of the other boat is going to encounter that chumline first and very possibly go to that boat instead of you. By setting up close to you the other boat may have reduced the potential number of sharks in your chumline by 50%. Needless to say, that could be the difference between having a "great" or a "slow" day of fishing.

So how close is too close? The answer to that question probably depends a lot on the location and the prevailing winds and currents. But as a rule of thumb I like to be at least two-miles from any other shark fishermen to feel somewhat confident that we're not competing for the affection of the same sharks. But whenever possible I like to fish where I have a shot of not seeing another boat anywhere on horizon. Of course places like that can be tough to find on a nice day in prime season.

Even if they are able to stay more than two miles apart, anglers who have to set up within sight of another boat should also avoid choosing a starting location is up or down current from them otherwise the two scent-trails might eventually merge into one long stream and, again, have them trying to catch the same sharks.

Armed with a good understanding of what happens from time the chum leaves their boat until a shark picks up on its scent, anglers should be able to not only choose a proper and productive place to start fishing, but also to keep their blood pressure at a reasonable level even if boatload of "yahoos" (who didn't read this article) pass through their chumline.

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Jesse Lowers with a "Mixed Bag" of fish from last month on the Susquehanna River. Rock, Channel cat's, White perch which made for a great fish fry.

\$10,000 Diamond Jim on the Loose!

The hunt is on! The Diamond Jim component of the 2014 Maryland Fishing Challenge kicked off today when DNR biologists and members of the Maryland Youth Fishing Club caught, tagged and released the first round of striped bass into the Chesapeake Bay. One of these tagged fish is the official Diamond Jim, worth \$10,000 to the angler who catches it before midnight on June 30, 2014. The other tagged "imposter" rockfish are worth at least \$500 each if caught and registered before midnight on Labor Day, September 1, 2014.

"Diamond Jim heralds the beginning of a summer filled with top-notch, diverse fishing here in Maryland," said Governor O'Malley. "The Maryland Fishing Challenge is an invitation to everyone — young and old, seasoned pros and first timers — to spend time outdoors and create memories with friends and loved ones."

Over the summer, hundreds of imposters and one genuine Diamond Jim will be pursued by anglers. Each month that Diamond Jim goes uncaught, the reward increases from \$10,000 in June, to \$20,000 in July, and \$25,000 in August. With a \$25,000 guaranteed payout, if Diamond Jim is not caught by midnight Labor Day the cash will be split equally among those who catch imposters.

Last year was the first time in the contest's nine-year history that the official Diamond Jim was caught. The captor, Blair Wheeler, 25 of Herndon, Va., walked away with the \$25,000, and other great prizes. A novice angler, Wheeler snagged the winning striper while fishing aboard a charter boat.

Now in its tenth year, the Challenge showcases Maryland as a premier sport fishing destination

with accessible, affordable, diverse and high-quality opportunities for anglers of all ages. Anyone who catches and registers a Maryland Angler Award-eligible sport fish will receive a certificate of achievement and free passes to the Maryland Fishing Challenge Finale, to be held in conjunction with the 2014 Maryland Seafood Festival at Sandy Point State Park on Sunday, September 7. There, these anglers will have the chance to win great prizes, including a boat, trailer and motor package from Tracker Marine; a tropical vacation package from the World Fishing Network; tackle packages from Bill's Outdoor Center and Bass Pro Shops; and collectable event t-shirts from Under Armour.

DNR will also randomly select 12 members of its Maryland Youth Fishing Club, who post any catch on the Youth Angler's Log, to win guided fishing trips sponsored by local fishing and conservation organizations. The winners will be presented with their prizes at the Maryland Fishing Challenge Finale.

"We thank our sponsors and recreational fishery stakeholders for making this tournament such a success year after year," said DNR Secretary Joe Gill. "Through their support, the Maryland Fishing Challenge has become more than a contest; it has become a celebration of the State's unsurpassed fishing and outdoor recreational opportunities."

New this year is an Invasive Species Award component, which recognizes anglers for reporting the harvest of blue and flathead catfish, and northern snakehead. Anglers may enter this category with an Angler Award entry, a new State record catch, or by submitting a report of the fish's catch and keeping to the DNR Angler's Log. An invasive species is one that is not native to Maryland and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause environmental and/or economic harm.

Anyone without a boat looking to get out on the Bay and join in the hunt can find a guide using DNR's online Map of Licensed Charter Boats & Fishing Guides at dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/charters/map.asp. Additionally, public access shore fishing is

available at State and county parks, such as Sandy Point in Annapolis and Matapeake on Kent Island.

The Maryland Fishing Challenge is a free, year-round tournament sponsored by DNR. To be eligible for the contest, all fish must be caught recreationally by rod and reel. To see the Angler Award species list and the official contest rules, visit dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/challenge.

Catch a fish is included in the Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, issued by Governor Martin O'Malley in April 2009. The Bill is part of the Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature, an initiative to ensure youth have the opportunity to connect with their natural world and grow to become informed and responsible stewards.

Keep up to date via Facebook at Maryland Fishing and DNR Fisheries Service, Twitter at @mddnrfish, and DNR Fisheries email list.


Freshwater striper record falls on Hudson



Eric Lester's 60-pound Hudson River striped bass established a new state record, topping the previous mark of 55 pounds, 6 ounces. Photo courtesy of DEC




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By Steve Huettner

“The last word”

Where’s the Elk?

I spent a few days this past spring chasing turkeys and wetting a line in North Central PA. It is a rugged and beautiful part of Pennsylvania. The terrain is mixture of mountains, streams, hollers, timber, public land and low human density. Pulling over to check out a potential trout fishing spot I was greeted by 3 cow elk who had come down to drink from the same stretch of water I was scouting. The elk spent a few minutes filling their bellies and headed off back into the timber at the base of the mountain. I have to say sharing a fishing stream with some elk was one of the highlights of the trip.

As my buddy and I headed back to the car, he asked, What ever happened to the plan to reintroduce elk to Western Maryland? While my buddy usually never asks any good questions, this one did get me thinking. To paraphrase the Wendy’s commercial of the 1980’s, where’s the elk?

Elk once inhabited the old line state back in the 1700’s but were hunted to extinction in the state and have not roamed Maryland for almost 200 years.

Back in 2012 a survey (underwritten by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) was conducted by Responsive Management to ascertain how citizens of the Old Line state felt about bringing elk back to our state. The survey found that 72% of all Maryland residents and 68% of Western Maryland residents (where elk would be reintroduced) supported the reintroduction of elk.

The number crunchers figured that elk reintroduction to Western Maryland could generate \$3 million annually to the state’s economy. The economic impact from elk-related wildlife-viewing in western Maryland could result in 41 jobs; more than \$800,000 in salaries, wages and business owner income; and another \$230,000 in state and local tax revenue. So people were in favor of bringing elk back and it would generate money for the local economy.

Since I was in already in the area I figured I

would see the local impact of elk in Pennsylvania. My first stop was the elk visitor center in the town on Benazette. The state of the art center is run by the Keystone Elk County Alliance. The center currently receives over 100,000 visitors a year. Each year several hundred thousand people visit the center, along with tens of thousands of school children. Demand from schools and youth groups is so high that they are constructing and new 40 x 80 outdoor classrooms.

Benazette is a small town of about 250 people that boosts elk related business. In town you will notice restaurants, hotels, and vineyard all proud of the elk they have in their backyard. It seems that an entire industry devoted to elk has sprung up. Hotels and cabins, restaurants, vineyards and horse tours all set up for tourists that come wanting to experience all things elk.

The one thing I noticed all through town was how much people truly appreciated the elk. Whether it was a landowner, cub scout, business owner, hunter or conservationist you could see the passion they all

had for their elk.

Returning back home, I must admit I was a bit perplexed. More than 2/3 of locals support bringing elk back and there is a positive impact from a monetary point. Other states east of the Mississippi have elk (Kentucky and Tennessee) and other states are looking at bringing them back (Virginia and West Virginia). Would Maryland be the last state to the dance, or just hope that elk from our neighbors wander in? The cost of the study and reintroduction was being paid for by the RMEF (no tax dollars used), so why aren’t elk once again bugling in the Free State?

The naysayers complain about crop damage, traffic collisions, and probably that elk will secretly monitor activities of citizens for the NSA. The funny thing is that all of the questions and fears brought up the by the 1/3 that are opposed have already been answered by other states and their biologists. It’s not like we are importing a species that have never been in North America before, and that we have no research data on.

So I would like to propose the following question to elected officials, where’s the elk?



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I have a question I was hoping you could help answer. I live in the upper bay near the Key Bridge and I've long been curious what causes the brownish/dirty look of our waters? Pollution, sediments, tides, bacteria? I couldn't seem to find any definitive information on the subject. I would think that the amount of fresh water in the bay would create clearer conditions. What causes our water to appear so dirty versus waters in other areas of the world such as the Caribbean that are so crystal clear?

Don Duncan, Recreational Angler -

DNR Response: What causes differences in the color of ocean and coastal waters? The answer lies mainly in the absorption and scattering of light and the particles in the water. Larger volumes of particle-free water effectively absorb longer wavelengths of light like reds and greens, but scatter the shorter wavelengths of blue. In coastal waters like the Chesapeake Bay, however, the water is often teeming with particles like sediment and organic matter which can turn the water brown, or blooms of algae which can color the waters green or even shades of red. The crystal blue waters of the near shore Caribbean are created because there are generally less algae and particles in the water, allowing the blue hues to be seen. For more information, NASA has an excellent review of ocean color science. For information on Maryland's Chesapeake and Coastal Bay water quality visit DNR's Eyes on the Bay website.

Courtesy of Maryland Anglers log.



Brian Tsai, landed this 42.75 inch Blue Catfish in the Potomac River while fishing in a rowboat. It was fought on a custom striper jiggling rod with a Shimano Sahara 3000. Photo courtesy of Maryland Anglers log.

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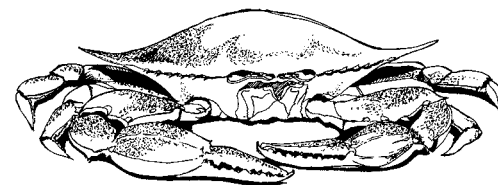
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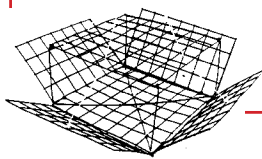
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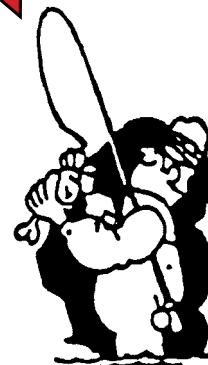
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