



MARYLAND SALTWATER  
SPORTFISHING  
ASSOCIATION  
MSSA.NET

The MSSA is Working to Provide A Unified Voice to Preserve and Protect the Rights, Traditions, and the Future of Recreational Fishing

September 26, 2013



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## Regulatory & Legislative News

### **MSSA Striped Bass Committee Engaged as ASMFC Explores Reductions in Striped Bass Mortality**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will soon meet in October to discuss the recent benchmark stock assessment and the potential reductions needed to the striped bass fishery. The commission continues to be concerned about relative low levels of recruitment over recent years as well as recent downward trends in recreational landings, as this is directly correlated to fish abundance. Given this information and in anticipation of the final results of the benchmark stock assessment, the Board tasked the Plan Development Team to begin drafting an addendum to explore reductions in fishing mortality for possible Board review in October at the Commission's Annual Meeting (Oct 27-31; Atlanta, GA).

We would like to assure our members that the MSSA is engaged and looking at all options in order to protect your rights as anglers while ensuring a sustainable and healthy striped bass fishery.

**We Need Your Voice!**

**Join MSSA on Facebook!**

Click Icon Below



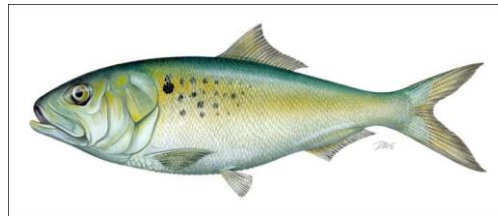
**Check Out All MSSA Activities**

For more information or to express your concerns please contact the MSSA main office at 410-255-5535 or [fish@mssa.net](mailto:fish@mssa.net)

**Thank you for your support and please ask your friends and family to join. Your voices will be needed in the coming months!**

[Click Here to Join!](#)

## **ASMFC Begins Preparations for Atlantic Menhaden Benchmark Stock Assessment**



Arlington, VA – This winter, the Atlantic States Marine

Fisheries Commission will continue work on the 2014 benchmark stock assessment for Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*). The assessment will be used to

evaluate the health of the Atlantic menhaden stock and

inform the management of this species. The Commission's stock assessment process and meetings are

open to the public, with the exception of discussions of

confidential data, when the public will be asked to leave

the room.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

<b>SEP</b> <b>29</b> Sun	<b>all-day</b> Northern Bay Chapter Girl Scouts Fishing Event
<b>OCT</b> <b>3</b> Thu	7:00 pm Carroll County Chapter Annual Crab Feast @ VFW #467
<b>OCT</b> <b>5</b> Sat	<b>all-day</b> Frederick Chapter North Carolina King Mackerel Tournament
<b>OCT</b> <b>12</b> Sat	10:00 am Youth Angler Club Event – Boat Building Tour at the Judge Yachts Facility @ Judge Yachts Facility, Denton, MD
<b>OCT</b> <b>13</b> Sun	<b>all-day</b> Susquehanna Chapter Annual Crab Feed
<b>OCT</b> <b>20</b> Sun	<b>all-day</b> Essex-Middle River Chapter One-Day Rockfish Contest
<b>NOV</b> <b>7</b> Thu	6:00 pm Youth Angler Club Seminar – Boating Safety (US Coast Guard) @ Alltackle, Annapolis, MD
<b>NOV</b> <b>23</b> Sat	<b>all-day</b> 21st Annual Fall Classic @ Chesapeake Bay, MD
<b>DEC</b> <b>15</b> Sun	<b>all-day</b> Susquehanna Chapter Annual Christmas Party
<b>DEC</b> <b>17</b> Tue	7:30 pm Essex-Middle River Chapter Annual Christmas Party @ Commodore Hall

## **NEW MSSA GEAR**

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## **2013 MSSA Captain of the Year**

**Dave Rankin (pictured below) Leads by Only 11 Points...It's Gonna Be Close!**

As you may or may not know, the MSSA Captain of the Year contest is based on points earned from four tournaments making up the MSSA Tournament Series. The Series begins in May with the World's Largest Striped Bass Tournament, The Championship on the Chesapeake (The Championship). Moving through the summer months with two coastal tournaments, the Tuna-ment and the Beach N Boat Flounder Tournament; ending in November with the Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic.



Needless to say the diversity of fishing gear, tactics, and locations make this one of the most grueling and difficult tournament series in the world, making the Captain of the Year contest a true measure of a Captain's ability to not only fish, but catch fish.



Below you will find the standings through three tournaments. 2013 is the closest we have seen the top 50 in recent years. First and second places are only separated by 11 points. With First and 25<sup>th</sup> only separated by 200 points. While 200 points may seem difficult to overcome, the Fall Classic, November 23 & 24, is the perfect opportunity to make a move. Remember, Captains will receive 1 point per pound, on three of their heaviest fish.

I want to thank all of our Captains and tournament anglers for their support and participation in this year's Tournament Series.

Place	Captains	Points
1	David Rankin	589.9
2	Steve Smith	578.85
3	Robert Granados JR	571.25
4	George Wendling	567.5

5	Robert McCormack	565.65
6	Joe Thorpe	537.5
7	Luke Thatcher	536.15
8	Robert Moreland	517.65
9	Dale P. Dirks	504.6
10	John Weber	498.95
11	John Travers	498.55
12	Darren Wroten	491.35
13	Charles Hash	481.55
14	Jim Boyersmith	469.25
15	Kevin McMenamin	455.2
16	Michael Vaughan	425.91
17	Rob Pellicot	411.15
18	Darren Helwig	409.65
19	Chad Moore	402.45
20	John Patchett	400
21	Harry Miller	400
22	Roy Butler	399.1
23	Sam Fisher	394.9
24	Jeremy Bandler	392.1
25	Troy Cook	387.55

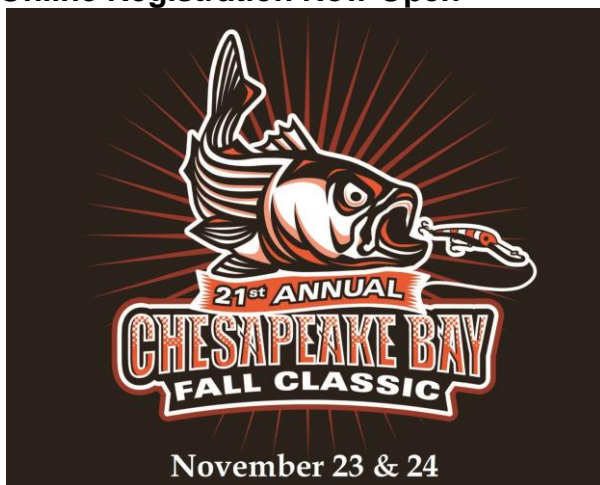
[Click Here for Complete Standings](#)

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## 21st Annual Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic  
Online Registration Now Open**



November 23 & 24

Entry Fee - \$175(boat) + Optional TWT's  
**2012 Cash & Prizes - \$90,000+**

### **Registration...Its Easy**

Online: [www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)

Phone: 410-255-5535

Captain's Meetings (all from 6-8PM):

Nov. 18 - BOE Marine – Kent Island

Nov. 19 - Commodore Hall – Essex

**Nov. 20 – Alltackle – Annapolis**

Nov. 21 – Solomons Pier Restaurant – Solomons  
Island

For more information please call MSSA main office at  
410-255-5535 or visit [www.mssa.net](http://www.mssa.net)

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## **MSSA Fishing Reports**

### **UPPER BAY FISHING REPORT**

By Frank Holden (MSSA-EMR President)

Bottom Fishing still holds steady in the Upper Bay. White Perch are still plentiful on about every lump and hump north of the Bay Bridge. While peeler crabs have been virtually impossible to obtain from tackle shops Bloodworms are the preferred baits for these tasty fish. Bluefish are all throughout the area and can be caught while bottom fishing or by casting into quarter acre marauding schools that eat everything in sight Crabbing is spotty. Scott at Ground Hog Bait and Tackle reported crabbing in Back River was great except 8 out of every 10 crabs were females that had to be returned immediately. He said double females in the same trap up to 8 inches were the order of the day. The Gunpowder River is still producing decent crab catches.

### **MIDDLE BAY FISHING REPORT**

By Frank Holden (MSSA-EMR President)

Liveling for Rockfish and Bluefish are the two hot numbers in the middle Bay right now. George at Tyler's Tackle in Chesapeake Beach reports " North of Poplar Island is still producing limits of rockfish. Anywhere else the bluefish re there is such large numbers that that have ruined liveling" Liveling should continue until the water gets too cold and it's impossible to catch spot. George commented in a recent trip to Poplar Island it took longer to run from Chesapeake Beach than it did to catch his limit of Rockfish.

## **ATLANTIC COAST FISHING REPORT**

By Ron Smith (MSSA-ACC President)

In the bays and rivers flounder can still be caught if your fortunate to find the right tide and clean water. Catches of Puppy drum have been becoming more frequent along the Rt. 50 Bridge and the Inlet. The past several days fishermen have reported catching trout along the south wall of the inlet.

Croakers and spot are still being caught along structure. Bluefish can be found thru out the bays with larger catches around the 50 bridge. Striped bass have been showing up with more frequency and some larger fish are starting to be caught at the 50 Bridge and the tips of the inlet.

Flounder bite has been really hot in the ocean especially around the wrecks south by the African Queen.

Offshore the Washington Canyon continues to be the hot spot especially chunking.

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## **MSSA Chapter News**

Essex-Middle River Chapter

The Essex-Middle River chapter held it's final One-Day Fishing contest of the year this past Sunday. The contest was for Catfish and White

perish and was a No-Boat contest. All fish had to be caught from a shore, pier, or bridge. Frank Holden took top honors with a 24 1/8" Catfish and an 8 1/4" White Perch. He also took third place in the White Perch division. Bernie Grainger took second place with his 22 3/4" catfish. Greg Andrews took third place in the catfish division with a 21 3/4" fish and second place with his 8" White Perch. This is the final contest in the chapter's 2013 series. The 2014 Yearly and One-Day fishing contests will start at out October 15 chapter meeting.

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