

MSSA FREDERICK CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Working to Provide a Unified Voice to Reserve and Protect the Rights, Traditions, and the Future of Recreational Fishing!
No Unity, No Voice, No Fish.



www.mssafrederick.com

The Official MSSA Frederick Chapter VHF Channel is 71

President's Message

By Ed Susa

I don't know about you guys, but if I don't see another snowflake the rest of my life, it would be too soon. For the first time in the chapter's history we had to cancel a meeting due to inclement weather. It's funny, how what we deem as little things can truly be a big part of our life. I really missed not being able to go to our meeting, socializing with all you guys and it seemed that I had been robbed of an activity that means a great deal to me. Hopefully, we'll never cancel another meeting.

With all the snow that we endured, I wonder what impact it will have on the upcoming spring season and the effect it may have on our Spring tournament. The main concern is all the fresh water, salt and (only the Lord knows) what chemicals will wash into the Bay. My gut feeling that this, coupled with all the record cold temperatures may push back the spawning cycle by a week or two. This could really impact the Chapter tournament in a positive way, resulting in some really big fish being weighed in this year. So, this may be a good reason for everyone to sign up to fish our chapter tournament this year. Sign up sheets will be at the meeting or see Rob Pellicot with any questions you may have.

An adverse effect of cancelling our meeting was that we were unable to solicit volunteers to march on D.C regarding our rights as recreational anglers. We did post a solicitation for volunteers on our website and sadly, not one person responded. Guys, one of our main goals is to fight for our rights to fish without absurd regulations imposed by the government based on flawed data provided by commercial fisherman and environmental advocacies. Therefore, I again, ask each of you to volunteer in some way to help our organization.

Fish Hard

Next Meeting

March 10, 2010

Food Service begins at 6:15 pm. The meeting starts @ 7:15 PM.

Speaker: Capt. "Walleye Pete" Dahlberg

Pete is a well known local guide that specializes in light tackle, and fly fishing on Chesapeake Bay from the Susquehanna Flats down to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel all year round.

Pete will speak to us about light tackle fishing Anyone that has never attended on of Pete's presentation is in for a treat.



www.fourseasonsguideservice.com

Vendor: Tyler's Tackle Shop



Routes 260 & 261 in Chesapeake Beach
(410) 257-6610

Last Month's Raffle Winners
Meeting canceled due to weather

MSSA Frederick Meets at

New Market Firehouse
76 W Main Street
New Market, Maryland 21774

Directions to Meeting

Take exit 62 off of I-70, then go north on MD 75. Turn left at the stoplight, Rt. 144, and the firehouse is on the left about 0.9 miles down the road. Turn left next to the firehouse.

Chapter News

MSSA-Frederick Fishing and Boating Demo Day

On Saturday March 27 from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm the we will be holding a Fishing and Boating demonstration in the parking lot of the Sports Authority at 5420 Urbana Pike in Frederick Md.

We will have boats on display rigged up with both Offshore and Bay fishing tackle and equipment. Offering tips, tricks and tactics for both inshore and offshore fishing.

The Coast Guard is offering **FREE BOAT INSPECTION** at the event so bring your boats and have the Coast Guard inspect while you look around at all the fishing equipment.

Annual Chapter Shake Down Cruise

On Saturday April 3 we will have our annual Shake down cruise out of Sandy Point State Park. We will be launch at roughly 11:00 am and will head over the Kent Narrows to have lunch at The Jetty restaurant and Dock Bar.

This is a great opportunity to test run your boat before the season begins. It's an easy cruise with lunch in sight. Bring family and friends for a nice test run on the Bay. There will be a 5 dollar poker hand per boat, to be drawn at lunch.

Any questions please call Jeff Townsend 410-903-9416.

2010 Frederick MSSA Fundraiser

Once again, our annual fundraiser will be a premium, five-night premium cruise for two aboard Carnival Cruise Lines. Booking for the trips is through Antietam Travel Service in Frederick.

The winner will be drawn on September 8, 2010. You may design your own cruise or choose from any package that Carnival Cruise Lines offers. Some restrictions do apply.

Contribution for each ticket is \$10.00 that goes towards the support of the Chapter. Estimated value of cruise is approximately \$1,500

Each of member will be given ten (10) tickets to sell. For every ten (10) tickets that you sell you will receive one (1) a free ticket to the September 18th crab feast and picnic. It is important that everyone makes a concerted effort to assist in selling these tickets as the chapter supplements all of our activities from these funds. Please everyone, show you support to our chapter by selling your ten (10) tickets.

For more information, see Bob Pellicott at the meeting.

Fishing Reports

Chincoteague Action

By Charlie Koski

Now on to fishing, when weather allows one to get past the inlet big Tautog are being caught at the inshore wrecks. This is a fishery that is pretty much untouched around here. Patience is a virtue when trying to catch one of these big lipped slippery fish. Tog are not a migrating fish, they stay on or around the wreck pretty much all of their life. They will tuck themselves in a hole and wait for the next tasty morsel to flash in front of them. Blue crab, sea clams, green crabs or chowder clams are their favorites. They are very good at stealing the baits so it takes a knack to catching these. If you get a chance to go out they are mighty tasty nice white fillets.

Tight lines.....

Ocean City Action

By Sue Foster

February, 23, 2010

Water Temperature (WTMP): 39.2 °F

Capt Monty on the Morning Star caught some big tautog up to 17 pounds! Still too cold for any inshore fishing reports.

No surf reports this week. Water temps are the lowest we've seen all winter. It can only go uphill from here!

Larry Jock of the Coastal Fisherman

reports:

No report this month

Chesapeake Bay Action

Cold temperatures, snow and just what we need; "a little more rain". It has not been hard to conjure up images of Johnny Cash's song Five Feet High and Rising when waterfront towns are partially flooded and rivers and streams are swollen to their limits. Maryland seems to be in a pattern of lot's of rain since last summer and although we're getting tired of it; it is doing some good. It

could turn out to be just the catalyst we need for good spawning conditions for anadromus fish this spring. Late February and March rains will wash nutrients from the marshes and swamps into the upper watersheds and if everything goes right; a plankton bloom and subsequent zooplankton bloom (the little guys who eat plankton). The zooplankton in turn become food for newly hatched striped bass larvae in April. It's a long shot but everyone would agree that Maryland would not mind a strong year class of striped bass.

Fishermen who've had enough TV and sitting around have been attending the Outdoor and Fishing Shows this month fighting cabin fever or perhaps looking for a new piece of fishing tackle. Your Fisheries Service will be at the Pasadena Sportfishing Clubs big Fishing Flea Market on February 13th and 14th and the Eastern Sports Exposition in Harrisburg from the 6th to 14th of February. Be sure to stop by and say hello and see the freshwater tank filled with a variety of live sportfish.

Fishermen who love their "hard water" fishing or ice fishing as most call it are enjoying wonderful fishing opportunities at Deep Creek Lake, Lake Habeeb and Piney Reservoir all in western Maryland. Western region fisheries biologist Alan Klotz mentioned that the North Branch of the Potomac and the Youghiogheny are ice free and offering great trout fishing opportunities for anyone willing to trudge through the surrounding snow. Others are out casting for chain pickerel in the upper reaches of tidal rivers and ice free impoundments. Yellow perch are schooling up in some of the deeper areas of the bays tidal rivers and the lower Susquehanna and Northeast Rivers have been a real "go to" place to fish this month. Fishermen are casting tubes, Gulp Minnows and similar soft plastic jig head lures down deep to enjoy catching and releasing large numbers of yellow perch.

Virginia Beach Action

By Dr. Julie Ball

February 26, 2010

Milder weather this past week allowed some boats to get out. The biggest news is on the deep dropping front. Two boats, the Rudee Angler and the Rudee Whaler, sailed out of the Virginia Beach Fishing Center and headed for deep water this week. Captain Skip Feller reports that the water was calm until they hit the 50-nautical mile mark, where the boats were then greeted by 25-knot winds. Although fishing was difficult, Captain Skip and Captain Mark Sterling held anglers on good areas of fish in 50 fathoms of 49 degree water. In spite of strong currents and

seemingly endless dogfish, the crews hit the docks with coolers full of nice blueline tilefish. They weighed in twenty blueline tile citations, with the biggest pushing over 16-pounds. Captain Steve Wray out of Long Bay Pointe Marina also had a good day deep dropping this week, with similar conditions. The crew of the Ocean Pearl hoisted a good selection of blueline tilefish and blackbellied rosefish from the depths. Black seabass also supplemented the catches, but were basically thrown to the seagulls due to the continued closed season.

Tautog is always a good choice this time of year. The best locations are in water deeper than 60-feet, or further south where the water temperature is sitting in the mid to high 40's. I hear of many folks catching smallish fish. It is common to catch smaller fish on clam. If you are interested in larger fish, all expert tog anglers know you must put your time into securing the right bait. Clam is an excellent choice in the spring with the closer inshore wrecks. For hard core winter toggin, crab of any variety is the premium bait. Since crabs are hard to come by right now, planning for your trip is involved, so research and call ahead to secure your bait. Crabs such as blue crabs, frozen peelers, hermit crabs, green crabs, Jonah crabs, or stone crabs work well. Some fish in excess of 10-pounds are available on many offshore locations, with the Triangle Wrecks a favorite.

Folks are still finding a few agreeable speckled trout within the hot ditch and hot water discharge area in the Elizabeth River. Angers are reporting various swim baits and Mirrolures as the best choice, which are also attracting both puppy drum and striped bass. Some specks are also hitting trolled lures. One boat scored with a nice fish in excess of 8-pounds using this method lately. James Monroe of Virginia Beach had a good day of fishing in the discharge area when he landed a nice 7lb, 5oz beauty from the shoreline on a Mirrolure. The speck action is on the down-swing in this area, and once the croaker show up in the Elizabeth River, consider the trout bite done.

With the more temperate temperatures, striped bass are showing a more positive trend. Boats are reporting more catches within legal waters this week, although the fish are still hanging in warmer Carolina waters near Corolla. Working birds reported within 2-miles of the beach are giving up rockfish up to around 40-pounds. Hopefully this trend will continue to move northward as these fish head closer to the Bay as they think more about the impending spawning season.

The 2010 flounder regulations are now looking as if they are set at no closed season, with a bag limit of 4 fish at 18.5-inches. This

should seem like an upgrade from last year's limit of 5-fish at 19-inches.

Folks are getting excited about the bluefin tuna coming from the Carolina coast right now. These fish are basically on time, and will make their way up north to Virginia waters into April or May. Carolina reports also tell of a few blackfin tuna, as well as makos and bull sharks in the mix.

For more information, go to www.drjball.com.

Tips and Tackle

Spooling Spectra® on your Reel

Personal Safety: *We put safety first!*

Concerns about the likelihood for Spectra® to cause cuts have been grossly exaggerated. Spectra® is very small in diameter. But, as with monofilament, the smaller the diameter, the greater chance there could be for cuts. Spectra® should be spooled onto reels under tension, which emphasizes the need for precaution during this operation.

We suggest that you wear gloves when spooling Spectra®. Lightweight knitted polyester gloves work well; they are inexpensive and can be found in the sundries department of most supermarkets. Heavy-duty gloves are usually unnecessary except for very heavy lines requiring high tension. Spool slower when using higher tension to reduce any potential problem.

Spooling reels always involves at least one line cut. Spectra® is difficult to cut because it is made from hundreds of individual fibers; even sharp tools can be dulled quickly. Today, single edge razor blades are made mostly for scraping tasks rather than for shaving; some hardly cut Spectra® without hacking your way through. All dull quickly. They are not recommended.

X-ACTO® tools are very sharp with inexpensive replaceable blades. They are a much better choice than razor blades. The handle keeps your hands away from the blade and they stay sharp for a reasonable time.

Spectra® scissors are now offered by a number of companies. Most start out dull and get worse quickly. After a careful search, we have found just one design that works great and lasts a very long time. Ideal® Spectra Scissors make very clean cuts, do not compress hollow lines closed, and are safe to use. Ideal® Spectra Scissors are hands down the best way to cut Spectra®. They are so good that they will cut a slack line. Try that with any other brand. They also double as neat mono shears, two tools in one.

Corrosion Prevention: *An ounce of prevention for the reel.*

Spectra® fishing line has a very long useful life, years, unless seriously damaged. On its own, Spectra® does not cause any reel spool corrosion, but salts in water, over a long period, can. Aluminum reel spools are not corrosion proof. The anodizing process often is more for looks than for long-lasting corrosion resistance. For added protection, we suggest that you wax and buff the empty spool with a good carnauba car wax before spooling on line for the first time. Neutral color Kiwi shoe polish works as well. This high-melting temperature wax helps by sealing the porous surface of the aluminum spool against saltwater penetration and subsequent corrosion.

Getting Started: *Start with the free end of a line from a rotating spool!*

If you unwittingly start spooling off line from a bulk spool without first making sure that you don't have an under-wrap, you can create a major problem. With an unnoticed under-wrap, the line will spool off quickly for quite a number of yards, all-the-while digging into the service spool deeper and deeper, until tension becomes too great to continue, maybe even breaking the line. The first impression by the surprised observer is to believe that the spool contained many under-wraps from the factory. In subsequent actions, hoping to correct the problem he has caused, he creates even more problems along with great frustration. Too late, but upon serious reflection, he should realize that if the manufacturer fixes one end of the line to a spool and begins continuously winding on line, no under wrap can possibly result.

Before spooling, check that you have not created an under-wrap in the top few feet of line.

After removing a portion of the line from a spool, tape the end of the remaining line to the side of the spool so that an under-wrap is less likely the next time you take line from that spool. Make sure that you are taking off line from a rotating spool, not over the end of the spool, otherwise line twist will occur.

Myth Busting: *The truth about line slipping on the spool.*

Many mistakenly believe that Spectra® fishing line will slip on the spool unless you take draconian measures to prevent it. Experience has clearly shown that putting on several layers of mono, dacron or duct tape is totally unnecessary. This practice is not recommended to solve a problem that does not even exist. Braided line grips the spool much like tread on a tire grips the road better than a smooth one with an infinitely small contact area.

Before you start spooling a reel, pass the line around the arbor twice and form a good knot

such as the Berkley Trilene knot. Cinch it tightly on one side of the spool leaving a long tag end to be laid across the arbor. Spool the first full layer of Spectra® onto the spool in a close side-by-side fashion under tension of 6-8 pounds over the tag end. If this is done, the line will not slip! No exceptions have been reported but try pulling on it at this point if you have any doubts. When convinced, you might tell a friend that it works.

Continue filling the spool under tension without any exaggerated crisscrossing. Tension about 1/2 the drag pressure expected may be appropriate when spooling heavy-duty line. Exaggerated crisscrossing creates open space in the spool which may invite the subsequent layer to dig in. In any case, crisscrossing is a one-time-event because you would not attempt exaggerated crisscrossing when fighting a fish because to do so would give the fish the opportunity to shake the hook. Actually, even if you think you are laying the line tightly under tension in a close side-by-side fashion, it is likely that you can't see that you are crossing several wraps every turn because the line is so small diameter.

Some believe that Spectra® should be spooled on wet. This is not needed, but if it makes you happy, OK. The main concern with wet spooling is that often insufficient tension is applied. Fresh water causes no problems, but I would not use sea water which has about 3.5% salt (about 1/3 pound per gallon). Salt causes spool erosion. You would be saturating the line with salt all the way down to the bottom of the spool to start trouble later.

Line Winding Machines: *A wise option: Well worth it.*

Most well-equipped tackle shops have a sturdy spooling apparatus to spool Spectra® onto reels properly, that is, with sufficient tension. A few shops may need your input in that regard. Because large reels hold a lot of Spectra®, versus mono, it takes more shop-time, so don't be surprised if you are charged extra for spooling; it's well worth it if the job is properly done.

Spooling line on too fast is not good practice because it makes it difficult to do a good job of laying the line on uniformly, side-by-side. Also, with very fast spooling, a lot of heat is generated by any frictional device or your gloved hand used to tension the line. Heat is an enemy of plastics. We suggest that you use low gear when spooling 2-speed reels, especially those to be filled with 80lb test or greater.

Some of the newer advanced design linewinders, like the Triangle Model HD140, have a mechanical brake assembly which includes fine adjustment of drag disc against

a heavy flywheel. The drag setting is consistent and smooth with very fine adjustment possible, even while spooling. Be especially careful winding line next to the sides of the reel spool so that line does not pile up here or leave a gap. If the line piles up vertically against the spool wall, it could fall over and bury the line and cause problems later, especially when line peels off with a running fish. If you leave a gap, subsequent spooling might allow the line to slip in deep and bind later.

Respect the dangers of working with any rotating equipment. Anticipate possible mishaps.

With five colors of Spectra® now available, tackle shops should become aware of the desirability of cleaning spooling apparatus when changing from one color to another. A little of the color from one spool may transfer to the equipment and then to the next line being spooled. While this causes no harm, it could detract from the appearance. The equipment can be cleaned quickly with a small amount of solvent, being especially safety conscious with flammable ones. The inexpensive white gloves, recommended to protect your hands while spooling, should be changed depending on the color being spooled.

Measurement of Line: *The right answers.*

Line counters which rely on a positive gear drive give very accurate measurements. However some line counters rely on a gravity/friction connected counter which rides atop the service spool, not positively connected to the line being measured. This type counter may tend to slip on the Spectra® so that more line is put on to the reel than the counter would indicate...not good news for a shop owner selling line by the yard. Also, this could lead to the erroneous conclusion that there was less than labeled number of yards on the purchased spool. Slower speed reduces the possible error.

Control Check: *Tight enough?*

When you finish spooling line onto your reel, it should feel solid, not soft and spongy; if it is hard, be confident that you should have no problems. If it is soft, this indicates that you did not spool the line on under enough tension to prevent the line from digging in later.

The large service spools are not generally spooled on very tightly as they come off the braiding machines. To do so might affect the nature and quality of the braid. Therefore, care should be taken when loading a reel, so that you apply some of the tension between the service spool and the reel-not just to the service spool alone; this technique reduces

the chance that line will dig into the service spool. Tension on the spool may be applied by pressing a gloved hand onto the line on the spool rather than onto the plastic spool side plate. The knitted gloves serve another useful purpose by removing any excess color-coating as the line is guided onto the reel.

We emphasize spooling because carelessly spooled line is the major cause of line-breakage when the line gets wedged down in the spool. Obviously you can put the line on tighter when first filling the reel than during normal fishing conditions. It is this solid base that is most important.

Digging Down into Spectra®: *What causes it to happen?*

Many are puzzled why Spectra® seems to dig into the spool more often than mono. One factor may be the effect of drag forces on small Spectra® versus that on larger mono of the same breaking strength. Recall that pressure = force/area. The projected area of the Spectra® is much less than that of the mono, so you can see that the pressure, in pounds per square inch on the Spectra® is many times that on the mono at equal drag (force) settings. To resist this higher pressure, it is not surprising that we need a more tightly packed spool of Spectra®.

Another factor worth considering is the physical space between adjacent wraps of small diameter line compared to that of adjacent wraps of larger diameter line but the same breaking strength. In order to slip line between two adjacent wraps of line, they must be at least one diameter apart. Since Spectra® is 1/3 the diameter of equivalent mono, this spacing must be very close indeed or else there will be room for it to slip in between and bind. Spacing on the larger line can be larger before problems occur.

There may be more differences, but these are important ones we can do something about.

Line Maintenance: *To wash or not to wash.*

Some folks have misled a few Spectra® users by telling them that they must remove the line from the reel and wash it frequently, with their equipment of course. The line is so inert that repeated exposure to any water that you would fish in causes no damage to the line and would not create any urgent reasons to wash it. A very few have reported that they wash their line after several years only because they detect an odor. More plausible reasons to take off the line and wash it are to protect the reel spool by moving salt from the line or to check for damaged or frayed line or because you have a lot of time on your hands.

Cleaning detergents, and products such as OxiClean, Clorox, Salt-X, or enzyme detergents do not harm Spectra®. Darkened

line is normally caused by tiny diesel smoke particles which are not easily removed anyway.

Spectra® does not promote or contribute to the growth of any bacteria or algae. Proponents of very frequent washing must be remembering the old days when lines were made of biodegradable linen fibers. Washing certainly does no harm but remember that you face all the challenges of spooling the line back onto the reel again afterwards.

Regular Inspection: *An ounce of prevention.*

If the Spectra® is hollow and spliceable, you may want to remove the top 50 to 100 yards periodically and splice on a new section of line just in case you may have damaged the line by contact with a shark, wahoo, trigger fish, rocks, barnacles, another fisherman's line, the bottom of the boat, etc. It is the top portion of the spool that is most likely to be compromised and subject to subsequent line breakage which would never occur with virgin line. Spectra® lasts a long time. Unlike mono, Spectra® is not significantly damaged by ultraviolet in sunlight or most chemicals. Check all of your roller guides, particularly the roller tip. Spectra® is small in diameter; you don't want extra space between the roller and guide frame to capture, and then fray the line, causing line breakage later on.

If you ever experience a line failure, think first about what could have happened to damage the line long before the present event or just prior to the event. If you ever find a spot in hollow, spliceable line which looks flawed or damaged, simply cut out the damaged section and **splice** the ends back together using your loop puller. The splice will be good as new. You will not even notice it thereafter.

Any knot in any line, no matter how well the knot is made, is the weakest point in the line and suspect in any failure. That is why we recommend spliced connections when you can.

Kite clips often catch the line and fray it. We strongly suggest that you thread your line through a ceramic ring made for this purpose and then clip the ring to the kite release-clip.

Line Twist: *A case of "who done it?"*

No line can twist itself, whether it is monofilament, braided Spectra®, round, flat, hollow or solid. Someone or something must twist it. Every line is subject to exactly the same factors which cause twist.

Twist occurs if the line is taken off one end of the service spool as line is spooled onto a reel. To avoid twist, line must be taken off from a spool which is free to rotate. Likewise, if you attached your topshot to the line on

your reel and then reel on the topshot without rotating the coil, you will twist the full length of the topshot many times. Some believe that a twisted mono topshot can spook fish.

Twists also occur while fishing a lure without a line swivel, or by a rolling fish or a shark, or a chunk turning in the current.

Every spinning reel, by its very nature, twists the line with every turn of the handle, some six times per turn during retrieve. When cast, line comes off the stationary spool from the end, twisting the line in the opposite direction canceling the twist. However, a problem occurs if you turn the handle when you can not take line freely. In this event, twists in excess of those needed to cancel those of the cast are quickly added. This happens more frequently than most fisherman realize. When you have a big fish on and the drag is too light to take line, constant turning the handle twists the line. You must be able to retrieve line or you will create twists when using a spinning reel. This problem does not exist with revolving spool conventional reels.

Severe line twist can cause problems: Line breakage, tangles, knots and poor lure behavior. Two-time honored methods of removing twists are:

(1) Detach any terminal gear and then trail the line behind a moving boat for a while.

(2) Attach a weight to the end of the line and free spool the weighted line deep.

In either of those two cases, some residual twist can be taken out if you squeeze the wet line between your thumb and index finger as you retrieve slowly. The twist is moved along toward the free end much like the action of a jack screw.

This technique is also useful in those instances when line has been carelessly spooled on during retrieve. Line build-up in one area can bind on the frame. Loosely spooled line invites problems. This technique gives you the opportunity to rewind correctly and be ready for the next big fish.

Saving Money: *Hollow, spliceable line advantage.*

Splicing hollow braided lines is called for in a number of cases:

(1) When adding more line to a reel; this comes up when a damaged section of line must be replaced or when some line is lost to a cut or break. Splicing on an additional length of line is more economical than replacing the entire spool.

(2) When repairing a bad spot, rather than replace an entire section of damaged line, you can cut out just the short bad spot and splice the lines back together at that point. Since the top 50 yards or so are the most likely to be damaged, some anglers replace it

periodically so that they have confidence to land the really big one.

(3) When a tangle with another line appears too difficult or too time consuming: Cut out the tangle carefully and re-join the lines by making a line-to-line splice. This sometimes saves hundreds of yards of line or maybe a fish.

(4) When one breaking strength braided hollow line is to be connected to one of a different strength: the same splicing procedure is used as if they were the same breaking strength.

(5) When you have several lengths of hollow braided line but none are of sufficient length to fill one of your reels: Splicing these pieces together saves money with no sacrifice of strength.

(6) When connecting topshots, instead of using loop-to-loop connections for changing topshots, you don't need to form any end-loops on either of the two sections, just splice the two hollow ends together. It is quick, strong and almost invisible and, like all these splices, unquestionably 100% strong.

Topshots: *Spectra® to monofilament without a knot.*

A topshot is usually made up with a few feet of hollow Spectra® with a spliced loop formed in one end and monofilament inserted into the other hollow end and held in place with the aid of a Chinese finger cuff. No knot. The topshot can now be connected to a pre-formed spliced loop in the main Spectra® line by a simple loop-to-loop.

It is a quick connection that can be un-done without destroying either loop. In this way, a new one can be attached from your stock prepared in advance of your trip. It is common for fisherman to have several different test monofilament topshots handy if the conditions change. If you fight a fish which could have damaged the monofilament, a quick replacement of just the topshot, not the entire spool is in order.

Topshots of different lengths of monofilament are appropriate for different applications. For example, if the outfit is to be used for trolling; many select a very long 100-yard topshot. When live-bait fishing, a very short monofilament or fluorocarbon section is recommended, frequently only 25 feet long. These portable, re-useable topshots are a convenience as well as a time and money saver because you need to change only a small portion of the line.

Strength Measurements: *Label strength vs. true line strength vs. knot strength.*

For marketing reasons, the labeled breaking strength of premium Spectra® is usually less than the actual "test". A knot can lower

measured breaking strength 50%. From time-to-time one hears confusing reports of lower than labeled breaking strength. After testing errors are exposed, amazingly no retractions appear. Any good breaking strength testing method should avoid testing knot strength. If correctly tested, the line should be held by two eccentrics, or some other method without a knot to hold the line while tension is increased at a controlled rate. Even a very good bimini in Spectra® is not 100%. No knot that we know is 100%. A splice in hollow line is nearly 100%. A suitable Spectra® adhesive does strengthen most knots because the adhesive prevents slipping.

If there is a knot employed in the test device, the break usually occurs inches away from any knot, leading some to erroneously conclude that it was the line which broke in the test and not correctly that the knot caused the line to break at a lower than expected value. Careful study would demonstrate that as the knot slipped, the frictional heat weakened the line as it rapidly slipped through the knot to break as much as 6" away. Spectra® melts at a little above 300° F. This high temperature is reached under the tests incorporating a knot.

Another factor which influences line breakage is G-forces. Since the line stretches only 3%, a rapid increase in tension on the line creates huge G-forces to develop due to the acceleration. A stretchy line absorbs much of this shock to reduce the effects of G-forces. It is because of the low stretch in Spectra® that we feel the G-force of a fish jerking on the line. The fish feels it too and very often this sets the hook itself without our added help.

Spectra®: *Only the best for Line One.*

Spectra® is patented and trade-marked. There are imitators which are similar but not equal. They usually have lower tensile strength and lower abrasion resistance; they can not be labeled Spectra®. Spectra® itself can be furnished in many different diameter fibers to suit the particular application. The smaller the fiber diameter, the stronger it is but the more costly it is. Finer diameter fibers also result in a much smoother hand-feel in the braided product.

Neither Spectra® nor knock-offs can be dyed directly. Colored lines are fabricated from the natural white fibers by adding color to a coating. At Line One, we use a special thin polymer coating. Lower quality lines use a cheaper, thicker wax coating prone to flaking.

More on Safety: *Yours and that of others.*

As you reel in a fish, which has taken out a lot of line, the tension is generally enough to spool it on tightly enough to prevent future problems, especially if you spooled-on the line tightly to begin with. If you reel in a lot of

slack line, you should apply tension by squeezing the wet line between the flat of the index finger and the flat of the thumb. The sides of the fingers are much easier to cut than the fingerprint sides. Some fishermen use a protective self-adhering tape on thumb and index finger; others use a glove.

Line cuts are exacerbated by salt crystals which form on the line as the water evaporates when fished in ocean or brackish waters. The salt crystals act like a powerful abrasive when trapped in the small diameter braided line. New, dry unused line causes very few line cuts. Protect your hands; don't spoil your trip by getting a nasty cut.

Never grab a fast moving line with ungloved hands. It seems obvious, but often overlooked, that only running line cuts. If a fish is pulling line fast, (as much as 45ft per sec) there should be no reason to expose your fingers. If you are reeling, you control the speed; slow down or stop momentarily if you need to touch the line.

It is not only your own safety that ought to concern you. Crew and fellow fishermen helping you should be reminded not to take chances with unsafe practices. Be especially careful when untangling lines. If you suddenly get bit, someone could get hurt.

Remember that in the excitement of fighting a fish to guide your line away from any chance of coming in contact with a fellow fisherman. Take action quickly and shout out loudly to alert others. This danger is dramatically illustrated when a fast running wahoo cuts through a two inch thick braided nylon anchor rope in a matter of seconds. This has happened with monofilament as well as braided line. Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Fishing is Fun: *A day on the water does not count as one of your allotted days on earth!*

This discussion and these suggestions are meant to help make fishing more fun. The guidelines may seem numerous but once brought to your attention you might make better use of Spectra® and have a better chance to catch more and bigger fish. Using Spectra® is not more difficult or more complicated, just a little different, but it gives you a big edge over straight mono in many cases. We have known some who have not yet tried Spectra® out of some misguided concerns or fears, but we do not know many who have tried it with a little prior guidance who don't love it and use it now. We hope that this gives you some helpful hints and that you will help others have a happy experience as well.

Jerry Brown Industries

Off-Season Maintenance Tips

By Rob Pellicott

I usually go over the boat before winter and make a list of things that I want to undertake. Rod and reels, boats, motors, trailers whatever do not put it off. Schedule your items now so you are not caught in the spring rush.

A water pump, if you do not remember when it was done...it is time. I recommend every other year but others get by longer intervals. Why chance it?

Check your brakes and replace the fluid. Brake fluid attracts water and we operate in less than ideal conditions. I replace mine every year.

What about the trailer lights? Check your wires and especially the connections. The best way is to solder and shrink wrap or the heat shrink connectors. Regular crimps will fail and most trailer manufactures use them. Many problems are caused by grounds or lack thereof.

Sometime it pays to run an additional ground wire rather than rely on the lights mount to provide the ground.

DNR In the News

National Saltwater Angler Registry

Who Will Need to Register?

Beginning January 1, 2010, recreational fishermen will need to sign up with the new National Saltwater Angler Registry if they:

- DO NOT hold a saltwater fishing license from a state where they are automatically registered OR ...
- DO fish for or catch anadromous species in tidal waters; fish that spend part of their lives in fresh water and part in salt water. OR ...
- DO Fish in the Federal waters more than three miles from the ocean shore or from the mouth of harbors, bays and rivers. OR ...
- DO NOT meet any of the exceptions in the law.

Those exceptions include anglers who are under the age of 16; only fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit; or hold and are fishing under a valid commercial or subsistence fishing license or permit.

Learn more about the registry

<http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/mrip/>

This Month's Recipe

Seafood Gumbo

1 ½ tablespoon Cooking oil
 1 cup Chopped onion
 1 cup Chopped green pepper
 2 cloves Garlic, minced
 2 cups Beef broth
 1 16 oz. can Tomatoes
 or
 2 cups Fresh tomatoes, chopped
 ½ teaspoon Salt
 ½ teaspoon Thyme
 ½ teaspoon Red pepper
 or
 Several drops of hot sauce
 ½ teaspoon Oregano, crushed
 12 oz. Skinned and cubed (1-inch cubes) Bluefish, Catfish or Striped bass fillet
 1 cup Okra or
 1 10-oz. Package frozen okra
 Cooked rice*

Heat oil in large pot or Dutch oven. Add onion, green pepper and garlic. Sauté until tender. Add broth, tomatoes and seasoning. Simmer for about 15 minutes. Add fish and okra. Cook briefly until fish are done through. Serve over rice. *Serves 4.*

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 Clyde Hunt - 240-674-8646

Classified Ads & Service Fees

Members – personal ads are free
 Business ads are \$100/yr
 Non-Members - \$50/yr
 Contact Clyde Hunt
secretary@mssafrederick.com

Fishing Regulations

2010 Md. Flounder Season

The results of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Flounder Management Board meeting on February 2 require a 23.6 percent reduction in recreational fishing pressure in Maryland due to an overage in last year's catch. However, an apparent improvement in the total fish population allows for an increase in the allowable catch from 61,000 fish to 75,000. The problem is, Maryland anglers apparently harvested as many as 89,000 last year and must reduce their harvest to meet the 2010 target of 75,000 fish.

The first 4 options all had required 3 fish @18.5" but the season dates varied.

Option 1 - Season - 4/17 - 9/21 season

Option 2 - Season - 4/24 - 9/24 season

Option 3 - Season - 6/8 - 10/30 season

Option 4 - Season - 5/22 - 10/16 season

Option 5 - 3 fish @ 19.0" 4/17 - 11/22 season

2010 Va. Flounder Season

The 2010 flounder regulations were set for VA on 2/26/10 and we will have an 18.5" size limit and a creel of four fish per angler. Not what we really hoped for but we will have to live with it.

Frederick 2010 Yearbook

Bring the photo to meeting or e-mail them to secretary@mssafrederick.com

Chapter Buddy List

The buddy list helps members with boats find additional crew or for members without boats who want to go fishing.

To have your name put on the list, send your name and phone number to:

secretary@mssafrederick.com

Members looking for boats:

Jay Betts 301-831-9736

Bob Cannon 301-663-3024

David and Dennis Darragh 301-620-2699

Bob Lowery 301-898-7111

John Sivinski 301-620-0993

Vince Cercone & Schildt 301-845-7919

Members with boats needing crew:

Bob Cannon 301-663-3024

Tournament News

**Chapter Spring Striper Tournament
Solomons, Maryland
April 30 - May 2, 2010**

Sign-up for the Spring Tournament will begin at February's meeting. Everything is first come basis so make sure to sign up early. We will be at the Comfort Inn/Beacon Marina in Solomon's again this year. Rooms will run \$83 per night which is \$26 off of last years price. Slips will be reserved on the tournament entry form and need to be paid at the meeting. The slips are \$1 per foot per night and he's only charging us for 2 nights even though you will be there for 3 nights.

Entry Fee:

\$60/ boat if paid by March 11

\$85/ boat if paid after March 12 - April 14

Optional Calcutta:

\$100/ boat if paid March 11

\$125/ boat if paid after March 12 - April 14

The dinner will be Friday May 1st @6:30pm
Members: \$10 in advance / \$15 at the door.
Non members: \$15 or \$20 at the door. This will also be payable on the tournament entry. The last chance to sign up will be the April meeting.

The rules and sign-up sheets will be available at the meetings or on-line @

[Chapter Spring Rockfish Tournament Rules and Sign-up Sheet](#)

**Chapter Flounder Tournament
Chincoteague, Virginia
May 14-16, 2010**

The Chapter has secured discounted rooms at the Seahawk Motel starting at \$45 per night. Call Carey or Brenda at 757-336-6527 to make your reservations.

We will also host an you can eat buffet dinner at Maria's Friday night at 7pm. The cost is \$15/person and includes 1 raffle ticket. We will raffle at least 1 rod and reel combo at the dinner along with a 50/50.

This should be a great time and the big fish will be there. Expect 3lb + fish

Entry Fee:

\$60/ boat if paid by April 14

\$85/ boat if paid between April 15 - May 12

Optional Calcutta: Winner take all for heaviest single fish of the tournament

\$50/ boat if paid before April 13

\$75/ boat if paid after April 14

Details and sign up forms will be at the meetings starting in February. Any questions call Mike Bean at 301-748-5791.

**Chapter King Mackerel Tournament
Morehead, North Carolina
October 2-9, 2010**

We have already beginning signing up people for the 2010 trip.

There are a limited number of rooms available so get your crew together and make plans for this now.

We will need a \$50 deposit and a credit card number to hold your room and boat slip. The deposit is non-refundable but will be credited towards to your fee which is due in July.

Information will be available at the meetings

MSSA Tournament - April 30-May 2

If you sign up for the main tournament at one of the shows you will get into the \$25 TNT for free. If you sign up by April 1st you will also get \$25 off the entry fee and receive a captain shirt as well. There will be monthly drawings for free entries into the spring and fall tournaments so get in early. The first 300 entries also get a tournament bucket.

Friends of the Chapter



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Membership is half price (\$12.50) for MSSA member if you sign up at the meeting.

Our group number is GA84945B



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MSSA Frederick Members qualify for a substantial "organization" discount. To receive your customer code contact Clyde Hunt www.versitex.com/versitex/home.html



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Attention Business Owners:
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To Get Hooked up
CALL WAYNE HOFFMAN

2010 Chapter Officers

- President: Ed Susa
Phone: 301-253-5597
E-mail: esus99@yahoo.com
- Senior Vice President: Rob Pellicot
Phone: 301-606-0392
E-mail: robert.pellicot@wellsfargo.com
- Second Vice President: Tim Helman
Phone: 304-268-0034
E-mail: tim@helmanlaw.com
- Secretary: Clyde Hunt
Phone: 240-674-8646
E-mail: secretary@mssafrederick.com
- Treasurer: Jim Bremer
Phone: 301-728-7830
E-mail: jbremer@fgmc.com

2010 Board of Directors

- Rick Thompson
Phone: 301-758-1059
Email: rick@RickthompsonTeam.com
- Charlie Appleby, Sr.
Phone: 301-910-7007
E-mail: moappleby97@verizon.net
- Mike Beans
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E-mail: npellicot@gmail.com
- Jay Betts
Phone: 240-409-6016
E-Mail: jayrbetts@aol.com

FREDERICK MSSA CHAPTER - 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.mssafrederick.com

- JANUARY** 14-17 - Timonium Fishing Expo – Timonium Fairgrounds
 20 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 21-24 - Baltimore Boat Show – Baltimore Convention Center
 22 - **Dinner Meeting** – Dutch’s Daughter Restaurant
- FEBRUARY** 5-7 - MSSA Convention, Ocean City, MD
 6 - Tri State Marine Flea Market – Free in Deale MD
 10 - **Frederick Meeting -**
 13-14 - Pasadena Flea Market – Earleigh Heights Fire Co, Pasadena, MD
 17 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 27 - Dorchester County Flea Market – American Legion Post 91 – Cambridge, MD
- MARCH** **10** - **Frederick Meeting**
 17 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 20-21 - Essex/Middle River Flea Market
 27-28 - Southern MD Fishing Fair – Solomons Fire Hall
 27 - **Chapter Promotion Day (Sports Authority – Urbana Pike, Frederick)**
- APRIL** **3** - **Frederick Shakedown Cruise/Brunch** – Sandy Point
 14 - **Frederick Meeting**
 10 - **Chapter Promotion Day (Sports Authority – Urbana Pike, Frederick) Rain date**
 21 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 17 - Opening Day - Striped Bass Season
 30 - 27th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
- MAY** 1-2 - 27th Annual MSSA Spring Tournament – Solomons
 12 - **Frederick Meeting**
 14-16 - **Chapter Flounder Tournament** – Chincoteague
 19 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
- JUNE** **9** - **Frederick Meeting**
 16 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 25-27 - 19th Annual MSSA Tunament – Ocean City & Wachapreague
- JULY** **14** - **Frederick Meeting**
 10-11 - **Chapter Live Line Tournament -**
 16-18 - **Chapter Tuna Trip/Tournament -** Chincoteague
 21 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
- AUGUST** **11** - **Frederick Meeting**
 18 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
- SEPTEMBER** **8** - **Frederick Meeting**
 15 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 18 - **Chapter Crab Feast and Picnic**
- OCTOBER** 2-9 - **Chapter North Carolina Kingfish Tournament**
 13 - **Frederick Meeting**
 20 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
- NOVEMBER** **10** - **Frederick Meeting**
 17 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 20-21 - 18th Annual MSSA Fall Tournament
- DECEMBER** **8** - **Frederick Meeting**
 15 - **Frederick Board Meeting**
 17-19 - **Chapter Trip to the CBBT for Striped Bass -** Kiptopeke, Virginia