

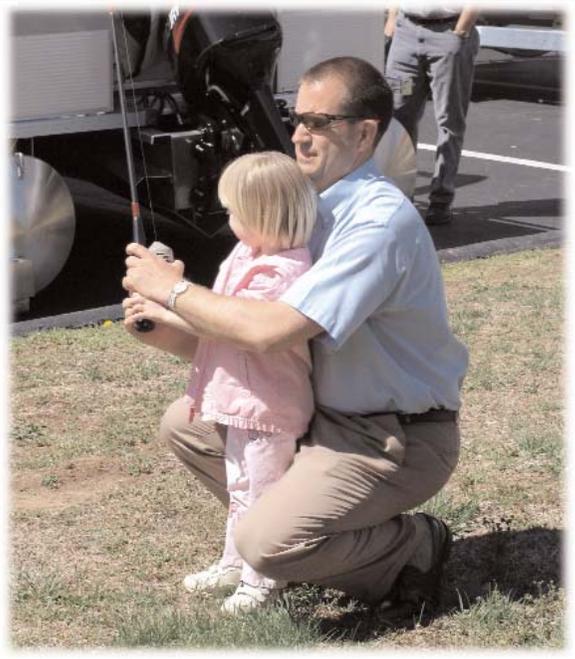
The Southern Maryland Chapter 19, one of fourteen regional chapters of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association, is a service organization devoted primarily to fishing in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Mission

The MSSA works through its regional chapters to provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions, and the future of recreational saltwater fishing, as well as the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Purposes

- The Southern Maryland Chapter, like its parent organization, serves four primary purposes:
1. Provide services that cultivate interest in fishing, particularly among the youth who will become the fishermen of the future
 2. Learn about the various factors that affect fish populations and the health of the Bay
 3. Support public policies that optimize the fisheries and enhance the health of the Bay
 4. Build relationships and networks among members



Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in joining the MSSA in support of its mission, and dues are \$20 per year for individuals. The Southern Maryland Chapter has about 700 members and is the largest chapter of the MSSA, which has about 7,000 members.



Finances

As with other service organizations, the Southern Maryland Chapter of the MSSA raises funds to support its work. Funding comes from three primary sources: annual dues; its Fishing Fair; and advertisements in the Chapter's newsletter.

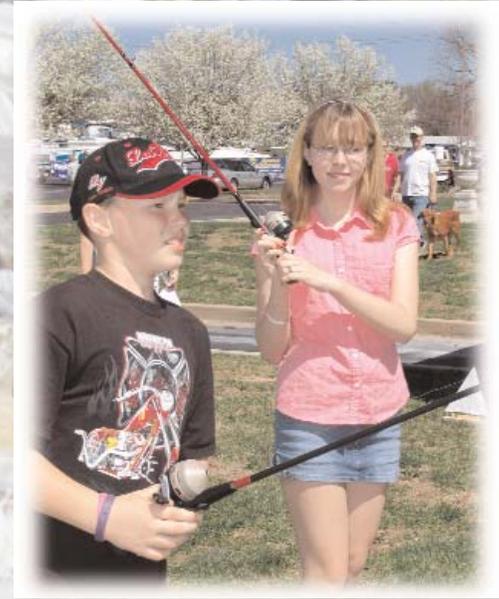
MSSA Statewide Office

The state office is located at 8039B Fort Smallwood Road, Baltimore, MD 21226. The telephone number is 410-255-5535, and the Web address is www.mssa.net.

Chapter Leadership for 2014

The primary work of the Southern Maryland Chapter is conducted through the leadership of its executive committee, consisting of four or more elected officers, and five additional officers appointed by the president:

- ✿ Bruno Vasta President
- ✿ Leon Smith, Vice President
- ✿ Martin Duby, Vice President
- ✿ Jerry Gaff, Secretary
- ✿ Rich Mervine, Treasurer



Southern Maryland Chapter 19
Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association



For Additional Information:
see the web site at www.mssasmc.com
Also contact William Luke ✿ billluke@erols.com ✿ 410-394-3890 or
Jerry Gaff ✿ gaff@aacu.org ✿ 202-686-0626 ✿ 410-326-9046

Major Activities

1. Cultivate interest in fishing

- **Scholarships.** The MSSA Scholarship Foundation provides grants to qualified college students interested in careers related to the marine environment. In 2005, ten students received grants totaling \$17,000.
- **Children's Casting Contest.** The Chapter sponsors this contest at the Hollywood Boat Show, and it drew 150 youths in April.
- **Fishing Fair.** This annual fair offers exhibits for individuals to shop for rods, reels, lures, and supplies from more than forty vendors. This is the Chapter's major fund-raiser to support its service activities for the year, and it attracted 1,200 persons in April.



- **Youth Program.** The Chapter is developing its own youth fishing group to provide ongoing instruction and practice in fishing, safety, boating, and environmental soundness for children aged twelve to sixteen.
- **Greenwell Program.** In July, 30-40 children aged eight to thirteen, some with disabilities, attending summer programs sponsored by the Greenwell Foundation are taken fishing by chapter members.
- **Hooked on Fishing.** Children from educational enrichment camps gather for an outing at the Point Lookout Fishing Pier. As many as 400 children aged from six to fifteen years are aided by three dozen Chapter members in this annual activity done in cooperation with the St. Marty's County government.
- **Veterans Fishing.** In the fall, compliments of Chapter members, veterans (mostly of World War II) residing in the Veterans Home in Charlotte Hall have an outing to the Fishing Pier at Point Lookout State Park.



2. Learn about fish and the Bay

- **Scientist Speakers.** Periodically scientists speak about the condition of Bay, pollution, grasses, and conservation strategies at Chapter meetings.
- **Newsletter.** The MSSA office publishes a bimonthly newsletter, Tidelines, containing reports such as surveys of spawning successes, results of recent research studies, and techniques for safely releasing undersized fish.
- **Member Expertise.** Many members have professional expertise and are knowledgeable about conditions in the Bay, which contributes to informed discussions and helps set an agenda for further studies and policy positions.

3. Develop public policies

- **Collaborations.** The enactment of public policies requires concerted action among multiple organizations. Partner organizations include the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Solomons Charter Captains Association, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Environmental Defense, and the National Coalition for Marine Conservation.

- **Representation.** MSSA represents members in public hearings and advisory boards of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- **Lobbying.** The MSSA lobbies the legislature on issues concerning fishing and the Bay. Examples include regulation of menhaden; development of artificial reefs as habitat that attract and hold game fish; and a Freedom to Fish law that forbids efforts to designate certain areas as off-limits to fishing.

4. Build relationships and networks

- **Monthly meetings.** Meetings are held at Lenny's Restaurant in California, MD, with invited guest speakers, including charter captains, scientists, and officials from Maryland's Department of Natural Resources.
- **Local Newsletter.** The newsletter includes a column on what is biting where as well as chapter business.
- **Tournaments.** Members participate in amateur MSSA-sponsored Bay-wide spring and fall tournaments.
- **Fishing Activities.** Members, family, and friends get involved in local fishing contests and a night fishing trip.
- **Parties.** A picnic is held in the fall, and a Christmas holiday party is held in December for members and their families to celebrate achievements of the year.

