



Maryland Charter Boat Association, Inc.

January 2018 News

Captains,

I wanted to give everyone an update from the Maryland DNR and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). The Technical Committee met over the weekend and reviewed the Department's request for a 19 inch fish and approved the numbers and methods to achieve this. The easiest way to explain this is as follows; to get two fish at 19 inches the recreational fishery would have to use circle hooks only when doing anything other than trolling for Striped Bass. The commercial industry will be allowed to use whatever type of hook they want. This would be a regulation so it would be difficult to change the hook type. Additionally, the regulation would have no sunset which means this would be the hook we will be required to use for the foreseeable future. This would also mean that if the reduction ended, we would still have to use circle hooks.

Eddie and I have brought up the difficulty in enforcing this and I was told the enforcement division is discussing the methods they believe they'll use to effectively enforce the new gear type. Where we are at now, I was told, is that if you are in an area that is known for chumming or live lining (The Hill, Love Point, False Channel for example), you will be required to use circle hooks. I know this is vague but this is what I have at this point. I want to remind everyone that this is information that we just received and the board has not yet discussed it with the Department. We are trying to meet with the entire fishery section on January 19th to get more information. The plan is in the process to be submitted to the actual ASMFC Commissioners to be voted on.

In summary, if this plan passes we will be fishing this year on:

(2) 19 inch fish

Using circle hooks when chumming, live lining, jigging (commercial not included)

In areas of high concentration of fishermen you will not be able to use the excuse that you are fishing for Bluefish or Catfish -- you will be required to use circle hooks.

Again, this process has just begun and will change a little through the next few months but this is what we have now.

We will be having a board and general meeting shortly but I am going to wait until after the meeting with the Department on January 19th.

I will send out a more informative newsletter about other topics and the recent meetings Eddie and I have attended later. I just wanted to get this out as soon as possible to limit the rumors that will follow about this circle hook proposal.

Thanks, Ken Jeffries (410-507-1117)

President, MCBA

Email: president@marylandcharterboats.com

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ps You can now find Newsletters posted at www.marylandcharterboats.com/news.htm .

NOTE: If you haven't paid your MCBA dues for 2018 (\$140) ...

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Huntingtown, MD 20639

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