

NEWS RELEASE



MARYLAND
PUBLIC
TELEVISION

ANNAPOLIS
HAGERSTOWN
SALISBURY

FREDERICK
OAKLAND
OWINGS MILLS

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For immediate release

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NOTE: Interviews are available upon request. A complete program schedule can be found at mpt.org/bayweek and additional Chesapeake Bay Week® resources are available [HERE](#).

MPT documentary *Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style* premieres April 20

*Fifth installment of the popular Eatin' series is presented as part of
statewide public TV network's Chesapeake Bay Week® lineup*

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Maryland Public Television (MPT) will premiere its original documentary *Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style* on Thursday, April 20 at 8 p.m. during its 19th annual Chesapeake Bay Week®. The 30-minute film will debut on MPT-HD and will be available to view live and on-demand using MPT's [livestream](#), [online video player](#), and the [PBS App](#).

Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style features an unwelcome guest in the Chesapeake Bay that has become a welcome addition to menus, grocery stores, and dinner plates across Maryland. It is the fifth installment of MPT's popular *Eatin'* culinary series, which includes programs that have premiered during Chesapeake Bay Week since 2009.



Though Chesapeake cuisine is mostly known for its iconic native species such as blue crabs, oysters, and rockfish, local chefs are now touting the blue catfish as well. Researchers from the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and [Salisbury University](#) uncover the extent to which the population of this invasive species has mushroomed, threatening to upset the biological balance of the bay. Now, a coalition of wildlife managers, seafood marketers, commercial watermen, and recreational fishers have come together to tackle the problem, and they've found a solution that is as tasty as it is ecologically beneficial.

Viewers go into the kitchens of Baltimore restaurants such as Heather Smith's [Swill](#) in Pigtown, Zach Mills' and Pat Hudson's [True Chesapeake Oyster Co.](#) in Hampden, and Nick Schauman's [The Local Oyster](#) in Mount Vernon and Locust Point as they test creative and delicious ways to prepare and serve this savory predator. Chef Billy Kelley, of Davidsonville's [Renditions Golf Course](#) restaurant, gives a sneak peek into

his preparation for a blue catfish cooking competition sponsored by the [Restaurant Association of Maryland](#). The [Maryland Food Bank](#) and the [Frederick Rescue Mission](#) join forces to fill plates with blue catfish for those in need, illustrating how this new culinary movement can benefit the community in numerous ways.

An encore presentation of *Eatin' Blue Catfish: Chesapeake Style* will air on MPT-HD at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, the final day of MPT's 2023 Chesapeake Bay Week observance. For more information, visit mpt.org/bayweek.

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About Maryland Public Television

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates and distributes local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and Thinkport.org. MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit mpt.org.

About Chesapeake Bay Week®

Maryland Public Television (MPT) celebrates the Chesapeake Bay region once again in April with its 19th annual Chesapeake Bay Week®, a slate of more than 30 documentaries and public affairs programs highlighting the beauty, importance, and fragility of the nation's largest estuary. During the week of April 16-22, MPT will offer more than 22 hours of content celebrating the Chesapeake Bay's history, heritage, and resources as well as efforts to protect its diverse ecosystem. Chesapeake Bay Week is a unique programming initiative and part of the statewide public TV network's ongoing commitment to celebrating the bay and examining critical issues faced by communities throughout the Chesapeake region. Content will be available to view live and on-demand on MPT-HD, the station's livestream at mpt.org/livestream, MPT's [online video player](#), and the [PBS App](#). More information is available at mpt.org/bayweek.