

Scott Peters won the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Award for Top Male Recreational Angler with a total of 19 catches. Many of those were from this trip on July 8th on the private boat "Lights Out". Capt. Chester Sims with mates Steven Stallings and Mark Stephens set out to troll for white marlin with anglers Scott Peters and Seth Hetherington. They headed about halfway between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons. They found 77° water and put out their marlin spread of naked ballyhoos and mullet & squid dredges. It wasn't long before they caught their first white and Scott Peters shared they were catching white marlins "all day long", 15 in total when the day was done.



This group of anglers took advantage of one warmer day in November to head offshore with Capt. Eric Shoaff and mate Drew Imperial on the head boat "Judith M". They headed to just north of the Jackspot and dropped squid, shiners and Gulp. By the end of the day they had 200+ keeper sea bass, 3 flounder, and one triggerfish!









Capt. Chris Miller on the private boat "Reel Escape" out of Ocean Pines had a heck of a first season on his 33' Grady White. He started by releasing the first white marlin in Ocean City on May 23rd (earliest catch on record) and on his last trip for 2020 this crew headed out 65 miles and tricked this swordfish with a bonita strip! Pictured are Jeremy Vanover, Joe Bish, Carl Sauer, Capt. Chris Miller and Jordan Sauer.



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW by Larry Budd

It was hard to consider doing a "Year in Review" for 2020. Do we really want to go through it again?! With all the bad, there was some good fishing this summer, so we will focus on that. The following is a summary of the weekly issues fishing reports for Ocean City and Delaware from the summer of 2020 in the Coastal Fisherman. Issue dates are in bold. Enjoy!

MAY 22, 2020 - Larry Jock graced the cover of this first issue in 2020 with a huge rockfish he caught in 2017. He had a passion for rockfishing and this fishing community. His presence continues to be missed.

Weather was the issue in late May, keeping most at the dock or in the bay only. Rockfish were being caught by the Rt. 50 Bridge and the Rt. 90 Bridge mostly in the two hours after high tide. Flounder were mainly in the East and West Channels and in the mouth of the Commercial Harbor. The back bay behind Assateague was also a good choice if you found the right spot. Gulp tipped with squid or minnows was doing the trick. The sea bass season opened on May 15th and the headboats and private boats had success at the Jack Spot. Squid was the bait of choice for many, however fresh or salted clams was the choice for the veterans. A couple of boats braved the weather to go offshore. The "Wrecker" brought a 74" swordfish and several tilefish to the docks. Late April saw one yellowfin catch report, but several were reported to the south around

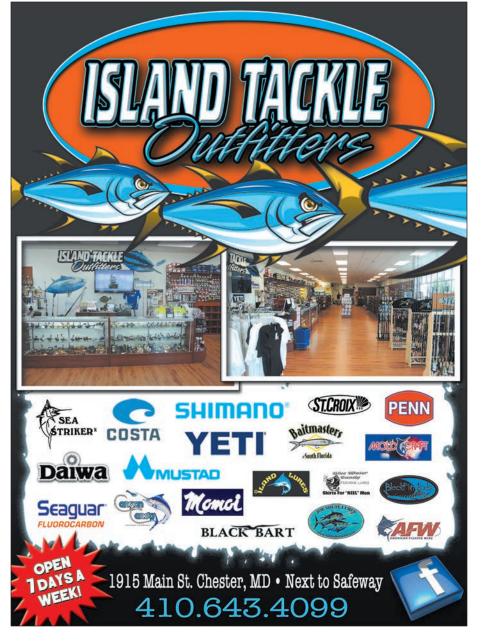
Chincoteague, so we knew they were coming.

<u>June 9, 2020</u> - A couple of weeks passed until our 2nd issue of 2020 to adjust for the pandemic and a new publisher! The big news was the release of the first white marlin for 2020 and the controversy surrounding it. First of all, no white marlin had been on record as being caught this early in May, yet on May 23rd, not 1, but 2 whites were released. After review of the catch timings, it was Capt. Chris Miller on the "Reel Escape" who earned the First White Marlin Release award for 2020 and recording on earliest record. Angler Andy Bleinberger was on the cover with the 445 lb. Blue Marlin he caught while working the area between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyon while fishing on the "C-Boys". While a catch of a lifetime, unfortunately the fish did not survive the fight and was boated. The first mahi catch of 2020 was also reported, caught south of the Washington Canyon by the "Reel Fin Addict". The yellowfin were in full swing by this time with several catch reports in the double digits. The Poor Man's Canyon area was the hotspot for these meat fish. Bigeye tuna were also showing up, "Full Service" brought a nice 217 lb. tuna to the scales. at Sunset Marina, "Magic

Moment" brought in 2 as well. Inshore and the bay saw continued improvement in rockfish and flounder. The deep holes near the Ocean City Airport and by Harbor Island were top spots. Nearshore flounder fishing was had been slow due to colder water temps. The surf was yielding nice bluefish, black drum and red drum, especially on the southern end of Assateague.

<u>June</u> 24, 2020 - This issue marked the return of weekly publishing. We saw reporting on the first tournaments of the 2020 season with the boys on the ""Oppor-Tuna-Ty" on the cover with their tuna catch from the Ocean City Marlin Club's Small Boat Tournament. They took 1st and 3rd place for their 2 bigeve and one yellowfin tunas earning over \$17,000. Tuna was the headline story for these 2 weeks. Nice mixes of bigeye and yellowfin were being reported from the southern Poor Man's Canyon. Charter boat "That's Right" hit it hard catching their limit of yellowfin in just 2 hours. The first longfin tuna was also reported by "PYY Fishing" from the Poor Man's Canyon as well. The first wahoo was also reported by the "Last Call" pulling in a nice 79lb. fish.

The winds made the bay dirty and made it hard to cast on the beach, really limiting the catch. A saving grace was the sea bass fishing. It could be a rough ride and there were many throwbacks, but there were keepers in the mix. We also got reports of cobia at





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www.coastalfisherman.net the Little Gull Reef.

July 1, 2020 - This week's cover featured a doormat of a flounder, 27" and 7.1 lbs., caught at an inshore wreck on the charter boat "On the Run". Offshore the story continued to focus on tuna. Even though the yellowfin bite slowed, the quantity and size of the bigeyes being brought to the dock increased as more captains focused on deep drops for these monsters. The "Always Late" brought 14 bigeye to the dock they found in 200 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Anglers on "That's Right" went 7 for 8 on bigeye tuna, also in the Baltimore. Charter boat "Primary Search" returned to Sunset Marina after an overnight trip with 9 yellowfin, a mako and a swordfish from the Washington Canyon. Longfin tuna remained elusive, but we did hear of a 61.5 lb. fish caught between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons. Small mahi were being found to the south, largest this week was 19 lbs. Billfish bites remained consistent, usually mapping to the success or not of the tuna bite and being caught on tuna spreads. A highlight this week was the 620 lb. blue marlin caught by the crew of the "Bird Dog" out of the Indian River Inlet Marina. The crew connected with this one at 5AM in the Baltimore Canyon and fought it for 6 1/2 hours. A couple of swordfish came in from overnight trips.

The near shore and bay fishing picked up this week after the winds settled down. Sea bass fishing did well at the Jack Spot, but the throwback ratio was still in the 10 to 1 area. Clams on jigs was the winning combo. Slammer bluefish were found at the nearshore wrecks with lots of snapper blues creating great action in the bay. Cut bait at night off the Rt. 50 Bridge or the 3rd Street causeway were good spots. Cleaner water improved the flounder bite in the bay and keepers were found in the usual

spots ... Ocean City Inlet & Commercial Harbor entrance, behind Assateague, Indian River Inlet up to the marina entrance as well as by the power plant in the bay. Shiners and minnows were the choice in Ocean City areas. but the folks in Delaware leaned toward white Gulp. Near shore hot spots were the coral grounds and area around A Buoy reported the best catches. In the surf, anglers were targeting kingfish and snapper blues and also catching a lot of rays on their mullet rigs.

July 8, 2020 - This week's cover featured the crew "Reel Chaos" with a 281 lb. swordfish from Washington Canyon! the finally entered tournament season of 2020 this week with the Ocean City Marlin Club's Canyon Kick-Off. Lots of vellowfin tuna were brought to the scales from several different canyons as well as the Hotdog. "Lucky Duck II" held the lead with a 51.4 lb. catch and "Grande Pez" was 2nd with a 51.2. lb. tuna. "Roll Groove" slid into 3rd late on day 3 at 50.8 lbs. Unlike the weeks before, no bigeye or longfin were brought to the scales. In the billfish division, "Fish On" and "BuckShot" and "First Light" reported 5 white marlin releases in a single day. It came down to the last two of those boats for the division win with 8 apiece, but in the end "Buckshot" prevailed with the earliest 8th release. There were not many mahi weighed, but the "Makenzie Rae" locked first place with a 36 pounder they found in 150 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon. Outside the tournament ... single digit yellowfin tuna catches were consistent, mostly from between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons. Blue marlin release reports were few and far between, however a 650 lb. blue was brought into Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

Tog opened season Maryland and Delaware this



More late September action for Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Dakota Bittner on the charter boat "Marli". Chad Muse and the gang from Greensboro, MD worked the Wilmington Canyon and raised these 8 tuna on daisy chains and spreader bars..



week. Early anglers headed to deep water spots in the Jack Spot and NJ/DE reef to target these fish. Warmer water moving into the area slowed the sea bass bite, but deeper & cooler water still produced nice keepers. The warmer water combined with the beach crowds put pressure on the surf fishing. Evening and nighttime fishing were still producing some blues, sharks and the occasional The back bays of Maryland were red hot with flounder, squid tipped with minnows working the best, followed by the reliable Gulp. In Delaware, A and B Buoy was the place to be, but did require working through some throwbacks.

<u>July 15, 2020</u> - It was the crew of the "Big Stick" on the cover with their 195 lb. bigeye tuna that took 1st place for the Single Largest Fish caught in the 33rd Annual Ōcean City Tuna Tournament. Tropical storm Fay rolled up the coast this

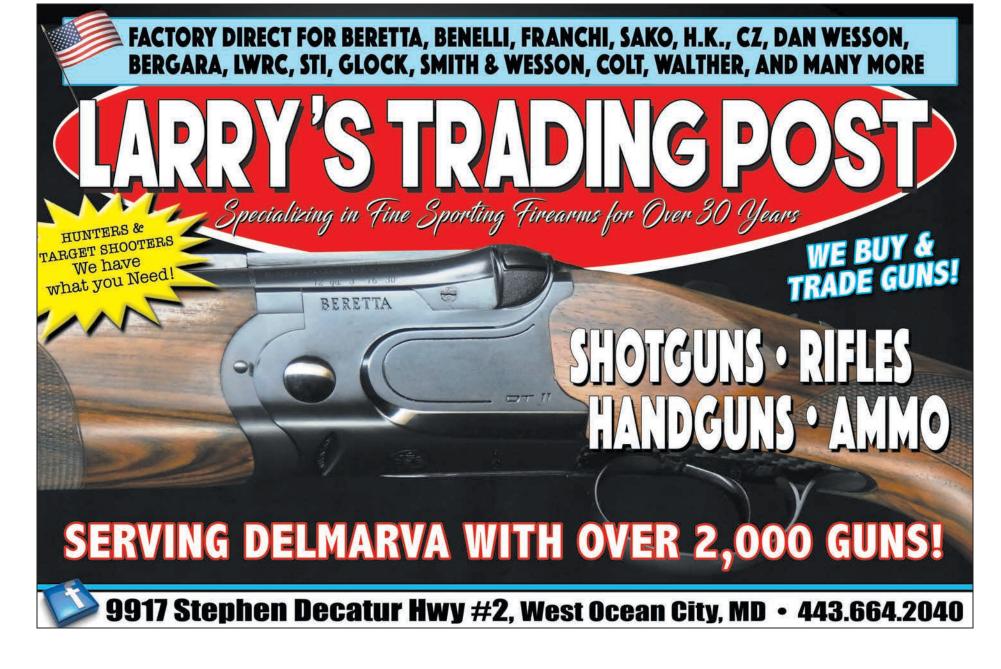
City Tuna Tournament. As Fay washed out any fishing on Friday, the tournament was modified to a 2 day event with each of the 32 registered boats fishing 1 of the 2 days. Bigeye tunas were found between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons in slightly cooler waters. White marlin fishing got hot and remained constant with those trolling for tuna. A real standout this week however was the "Lights Out", releasing 15 whites in a single day. Parker Wheeler released a blue marlin he caught in 100 fathoms in the Washington Canyon that was estimated at 200 lbs. Tuna catches kept on going, and they are closer, especially the yellowfin with many double digit catches. The "Restless Lady" returned the "Wrecker" with 17, with 11 yellowfin from the southeast corner of the Poor Man's Canyon, "Always Late" found 11 yellowfins at the Rockpile. Two 'rare for 2020' catches reported out of

Chaotic" harvested 2 longfins out of the Baltimore Canyon and the "Katydid" caught a bluefin tuna. Some bull dolphins started showing up in Massey's Canyon. The "Wreckless Pursuit' landed a 45 inch, 35 lb. bull. Finally, the cobia have arrived! Anglers worked the inshore reefs like the Little Gull.

Flounder remained strong in the bays and inshore with many reports of limit catches. "Lucky Break" had 6 keepers near the OC Airport. Top reports this week were from the Ocean City Inlet, Jack Spot, African Queen and Site 10. A rare snowy grouper was caught in 500' of water on the edge of the Washington Canyon. Oversize rockfish were being caught at night in the Indian River Inlet and kingfish were plentiful in the surf.

<u>July 22, 2020</u> - Anglers Jack Willard, Grace Willard and Finn Stine made the cover for their 1st place win in the 16th

week threatening the Ocean Lewes, DE this week. "Reel Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Kid's Classic with 4 white marlin releases from the Norfolk Canyon while on the "Fish On". Offshore was once again dominated by yellowfin tuna. As most captains moved from trolling to chunking, the Hotdog became the place to be! The "Rhonda's Osprey" had a busy morning landing 14 vellowfins with several quad and triple hookups. "Restless Lady" took its first chunking trip to the Hotdog and boated 17. The "Marli" hit 7, "Magic Moment" had 12 and the "That's Right" got 11. It was not a good week to be a yellowfin tuna. Tilefish were getting hot. The "Seacurity" landed a 30 lb. golden tilefish in 125 fathoms in the Poor Man's, Marty Jones got one 43.8 lbs. in the Baltimore Canyon. Captains were running further south for billfish in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. "The Zipper" boated a 335 lb. blue marlin that did not survive the fight in the Norfolk Canyon.





Mahi bite was strong mixed in when chunking butterfish for tuna.

Nearshore the story was the continued strength of the sea bass bite, it is the strongest and longest its been in a decade. Tog were following the summer pattern and are harder to find. Deeper wrecks still hold some keepers. "Out of Control" landed a 59 lb. wahoo just inside of the Poor Man's Canyon. Bay flounder fishing remained strong at all the usual hot spots with the Lewes Canal with the Old Grounds being the go to spot near shore. Many reports of limit catches from Lewes to Assateague.

July 29, 2020 - The HUK Big Fish Classic was the cover shot this week showcasing the 384 lb. blue marlin caught by the "Seacurity. tournament was the first big one of the Covid 2020 summer with 106 boats participating as well as setting a record for the tournament payout of \$891,560! The Heaviest Tuna

Division was taken by one of the few bigeyes brought to the scale. The Heaviest Stringer Division was won by "Whisky Kilo" after they found a school of yellowfins in the 60 lb. range. Early in the week was another crazy yellowfin bite at the Hotdog. Many double digit and limit catches from chunking. Juvenile mahi were being caught inshore at the Hotdog as well with bulls being boated in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons.

Tog fishing has slowed with mostly undersized fish being caught at the Ocean City inlet rocks, same for the offshore. Flounder in the bay areas was getting better every day. In Ocean City, the area in front of Martha's Landing up to the Rt. 50 Bridge was producing nice keepers. Next was by Harbor Island. Live spot was the bait catching the big fatties. In Delaware, the Lewes Canal was the hot spot as well as the Indian River Inlet using Gulp. Some with cut spot, John Chance wrestled in a 4 pounder he got fishing at the 3R's.

August 5, 2020 - Team "Billfisher" was on the cover for their win in the Billfish Release Division of the 12th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Ladies Tournament -"Heels & Reels" with their 6 releases. Most of the marlin action was in the Baltimore Canyon in over 500 fathoms with some just outside the Poor Man's Canyon. Once again, a larger yellowfin won the Tuna Division when "Liquid RX" brought in one at 63.4 lbs. While the Hotdog remained the go to spot for chunking, others found success at the Hambone and in the Massey's Canyon. Nice sized mahi over 30 lbs. were being found outside the Baltimore Canyon. King and spanish mackerel were also plentiful at the nearshore wrecks and even in the mouth of the bays. The Fenwick Shoal was a hot spot.

had luck on from the beach Ryleigh Archer boated an 84 lb. wahoo she landed on her first offshore trip ever. She was on the "Slaughterhouse" at the South Dump Site toward the Baltimore Canyon in about 30 fathoms. With air temps in the upper 90's and low west winds, there was no doubt August had arrived. With the heat came reports of warmer water fish not usually in our area. A 15 lb. triple tail was weighed at Atlantic Tackle and several reports of tarpon were made. Sea bass just won't stop with big ones in 90 feet of water or more at the Jack Spot, The Great Eastern Reef and A Buoy. Flounder catches were still strong and the Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce held their 13th Annual Flounder Tournament. Justin Kreiser took 1st place with a 20 5/8 inch, 3.19 pound fattie. Sheepshead fishing was solid at the rocks of the inlets as well as inshore wrecks. Trigger fishing picked up at the wrecks as well.





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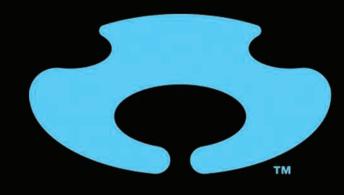


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Marlin Open week had arrived! The winning monster 97 lb. white from the "Canyon Blues" was on the cover earning \$1,850,000. Another storm caused the WMO to extend the tournament to an unprecedented 7 days. 443 boats competed for over \$6 million in prize money. A swordfish won the new Biggest Fish award winning \$375K. Tropical Storm Isaias messed up the week. Before she hit and after deep water over 1200 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon was where to find white marlin. The Hotdog still held vellowfin tuna. Mahi was in deep water in the Poor Man's, "Jenny Poo" brought a 58.5 lb. fish to the WMO scales. Wahoo were in the Baltimore.

Before the storm clouded the water, flounder were hot at A & B Buoys, OC Inlet to Stinky Beach and the mouth of the DE Bay. Lots of blues and rockfish to be had in the Indian River Inlet and Rt. 50 Bridge at night. Beaches were closed due to the storm.

August 19, 2020 - Trish Walsh made the cover with a 149 lb. allison/yellowfin tuna she caught on the "Big Stick" in the Poor Man's Canyon in 1000 fathoms. This would have been the week of the Poor Girls Open, but it was cancelled given many participants were cancer surviors and more susceptible to COVID. The new "Rebels Release" ladies' tournament was launched. The white marlin bite slowed a bit and was scattered, but the blue marlin bite increased. The "Rhonda's Osprey" had a Billfish Grand Slam catching a sailfish, white and blue marlin in one day in the Baltimore Canyon. Bull mahi were in the Poor Man's, cobia and king mackerel at the Fenwick Shoals.

The Old Grounds was White marlin were being the place for large keeper caught up and down the flounder, other keeper at the line from the Wilmington to OC Inlet and the Oceanic the Norfolk in single digits. Fishing Pier. Red and black "Work Release" out of Indian drum were found at the outer River released a blue marlin

<u>August</u> 12, 2020 - White wall in the DE Bay and the Marlin Open week had sea bass just kept coming off arrived! The winning monster the wrecks!

August 26, 2020 -MidAtlantic tournament hit Ocean City this week with 114 local boats entered and over \$4M in payouts. 126.5" and 815 lb. blue marlin caught in the Washington Canyon by the "Griffin" during the tournament was on the cover. Another large blue was caught earlier but was disqualified due to a shark bite in the tail as it was boated. The "Blood Money" brought a huge 91 lb. white marlin to the scale from the norther tip of the Washington Canyon. Lots of whites were brought to the scales from the southern canyons. "Reel Character" boated a 381 lb. blue marlin caught just 30 miles offshore. Mahi had moved into the area in large numbers, inshore at the Rockpile and the southern canyons for nice bulls with several over 30 lbs. tuna action remained mainly yellowfin from chunking at the Hotdog and the Hambone. Not much offshore action outside the tournament because everyone was in it!

Hotspot for flounder nearshore was Site 10. Both bays and the Indian River Inlet offered many options for keeper catches. Headboats Angler, Judith M, Judy V and Fisherman's Wharf all reported strong catches of sea bass and flounder at ocean structures.

September 2, 2020 - A couple of themes for this week, weather kept many boats from going out, crews were recovering from the MidAtlantic and the dolphin were going crazy. No better example of that then "That's Right" on the cover with 45 mahi on the dock they caught in the Baltimore Canyon. Actually, they were everywhere, inshore and off. White marlin were being caught up and down the line from the Wilmington to the Norfolk in single digits. "Work Release" out of Indian



Capt. Charlie Duerr and the boat "Sea Hag" had strong fall sword fishing. On this early October trip specifically to target the flat bill fish, they headed to 'their spot' in the Baltimore canyon and on the 2nd drift using dolphin belly they had the bite! The fish came up instantly and made one jump then was down and dirty for the next 4 hours, making very long mean runs! Mate Kenny Bruce fought the fish and mate Matt Murphy handled the darting.



Fall fishing has great options from the shore. This angler took advantage of a warm October day and the bay access provided by the Oceanic Fishing Pier in Ocean City to land this nice sheepshead.

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at 300 lbs. Tuna was finally slowing down to single digit catches. A couple unusual for 2020 longfins were boated from the Poor Man's and the Sausages. Nice sheepshead were being caught in DE at the Outer Wall and in MD off the inlet rocks. Flounder were hard to find in the bays, anglers had to move around a lot to find a few keepers. Nearshore had better results at Site 10 and the Old Grounds.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 - It was the 63rd Labor Day White Marlin Tournament by the marlin club. "Buckshot" was on the cover for their 1st and only white marlin, 3rd place tuna and 1st place mahi. The had another trip outside of the tournament releasing 5 at the Rockpile. Weather once again impacted the weekend and tournament making it pretty rough for those that went out. White marlin were found at the Rockpile and the Wilmington and Washington Longfin tuna Canyons. finally arrived in larger numbers with many from the Wilmington Canyon. "Marli" caught their limit of 18 and "Boss Hogg" had 10. Captains had gone back to the troll for yellowfin tuna. They were still here in the southern canyons. Mahi was still hot, but mainly juveniles at the Hotdog, Del-Jersey and Twin Wrecks. The cobia and mackerel were close to shore with catches at the Indian River inlet to the OC inlet. Nice wahoo were being found in the Baltimore Canyon, "Stollaway" caught a very nice 73", 69.2 lb. wahoo there. Lastly the flounder fishing was hit or miss, but when you did get a hit it was a biggie. In MD, the East Channel, Thorofare and Rt. 50 bridge produced, nearshore was the African Oueen and the Bass Grounds. North in DE it was Site 10 & 11 and the Indian River Inlet.

SEPTEMBER 16, **2020** - The Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder Tournament had finally arrived. Winner Rich

in the Baltimore, estimated Daiker was on the cover with the giant 8.9 lb. doormat he caught with live bunker on the outgoing tide near the Rt. 50 bridge. Well above the 3 pounders that tied for 2nd. This was a surprise as the warmer water had slowed the bay flounder bite. The nearshore wrecks like Del-Jersey, Site 10, Old Grounds and the Indian River Inlet were still vielding fatties. Evan Falgowski boated a 32", 11.5 lb. flounder at a Delaware wreck he would not identify! The marlin bite slowed with only a few singles released in the southern canyons. Larger mahi over 20 lbs. were caught nearshore at the Jack Spot and Del-Jersey. Many captains switched to deep dropping for swords and tilefish in the Poor Man's Canyon in 700+ fathoms. Nice drum and tiggerfish catches were reported at the Outer Wall in DE. The Indian River Inlet and bay produced some nice keeper rockfish and the cobia bite continued at the Fenwick Shoal.

> SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 - Our last issue for the 2020 season showed the shift to deep dropping with a swordfish on the cover from the "Sea Hag". This 422.5 lb. sword was caught in 150 fathoms in the Washington Canyon on squid and artificial eel. Weather and wind plagued September and this week was no exception. Some boats did brave the elements offshore. The "Cabana" headed to the Washington in 220 fathoms and landed 3 swordfish up to 200 lbs., a 222 lb. bigeye tuna and over 20 mahi! Other swords were found in the Baltimore as well as golden tilefish. Sea bass would just not quit with keepers still coming up from wrecks with depths over 120 feet. Sheepshead were plentiful at the OC Inlet Jetties and the Outer Wall in DE. Flounder fishing was tough in the bay, but keepers could still be had in many spots in the Fenwick Shoal and the Jack Spot.

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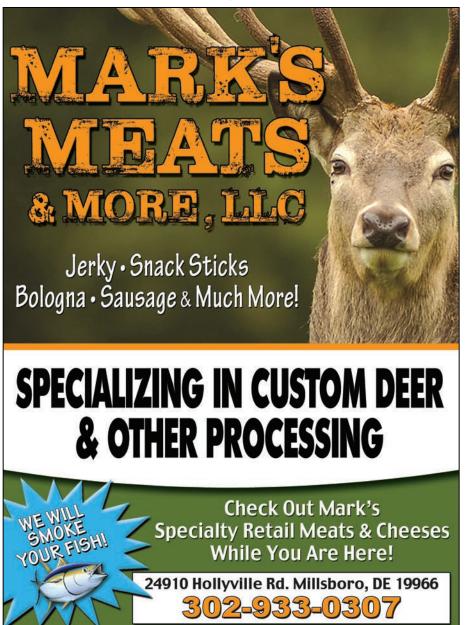
DELAWARE STATE RECORDS

SPECIES	WEIGHT	ANGLER	DATE	LOCATION
BLUEFISH	24.8 LBS.	LUIS MISPIRETA	11/16/2015	DEL-JERSEY-LAND REEF
COBIA	82 LBS.	JOE COSTELLO	7/7/2012	RUSSELL'S REEF
CROAKER	5 LB. 3.5 OZ.	CATHERINE SIMPSON	9/12/1980	INDIAN RIVER
DOLPHIN	56 LB. 9 OZ.	BUTCH EMMERTT	7/6/2014	BALTIMORE CANYON
DRUM, BLACK	115 LBS.	KENNETH SMITH	5/20/1978	DELAWARE BAY
DRUM, RED	75 LBS.	JAMES VANDETTI	6/15/1976	UNKNOWN
FLOUNDER, SUMMER	17 LB. 15 OZ.	WILLIAM KENDALL	10/07/1974	INDIAN RIVER INLET
FLOUNDER, WINTER	NO CLASSIFICATION			
KINGFISH, ROUNDHEAD	4 LBS.	BILLY HASTINGS	10/13/1973	BETHANY BEACH
MACKEREL, KING	48 LB. 9 OZ.	GORDON HARRIS	10/18/1985	B BUOY
MACKEREL, SPANISH	6 LB. 4 OZ.	ERIC LUDWIG	8/06/2000	LIGHT SHIP
MARLIN, BLUE	820.0 LBS.	BRUCE KING	7/8/1986	POORMAN'S CANYON
MARLIN, WHITE	120.0 LBS.	WILLIAM GARNER JR.	9/25/1972	BALTIMORE CANYON
PORGY	5 LB. 5 OZ.	HERMAN SCHMIDT	5/31/1979	NOT RECORDED
SEABASS	7 LB. 6 OZ.	STEVE SAMLUK	9/09/1988	FENWICK SHOAL
SHEEPSHEAD	17 LB. 1 OZ.	DAVE WALKER	9/30/2014	DELAWARE BAY REEFSITE
SPADEFISH	NO CLASSIFICATION			
STRIPED BASS	52 LBS.	BEN SMITH	12/08/2012	SURF AT 3R'S ROAD
SWORDFISH	358 LBS.	KURT LORENZ	1978	POORMAN'S CANYON
TAUTOG	21 LB. 4 OZ.	GLEN CAVE	6/18/2005	DELAWARE BAY
TILEFISH, BLUELINE	22.2 LBS.	ANDY ORR	8/19/2015	BALTIMORE CANYON
TILEFISH, GOLDEN	46.0 LB. 8 OZ.	TOM SCHANNO	8/25/2017	BALTIMORE CANYON
TRIGGERFISH, GRAY	6.34 LBS.	BUDDY MASTEN	9/30/2012	ICE BREAKERS
TROUT, GRAY (WEAKFISH)	19 LB. 2 OZ.	WILLIAM E. THOMAS	5/20/1989	DELAWARE BAY
TROUT, SPECKLED	NO CLASSIFICATION			
TUNA, BIGEYE	NO CLASSIFICATION			
TUNA, BLACKFIN	NO CLASSIFICATION			
TUNA, BLUEFIN	873 LBS.	DAN DILLON	2005	ATLANTIC OCEAN
TUNA, FALSE ALBACORE	22 LB. 9 OZ.	JASON CONRAD	7/13/2019	19 FATHOM LUMP
TUNA, LONGFIN	80 LBS.	DAVID FRANCELLA	9/15/1987	ATLANTIC OCEAN
TUNA, YELLOWFIN	NO CLASSIFICATION			
WAHOO	106 LBS.	WILL STAHLGREN	9/22/2007	ATLANTIC OCEAN
SHARKS				
BLACK TIP	NO CLASSIFICATION			
BLUE	NO CLASSIFICATION			
HAMMERHEAD, SCALLOPED	NO CLASSIFICATION			
HAMMERHEAD, SMOOTH	NO CLASSIFICATION			
MAKO	975 LBS.	THOMAS BARNES	7/22/2000	POORMAN'S CANYON
THRESHER	NO CLASSIFICATION			
TIGER	NO CLASSIFICATION			

Note: All Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 22, 2020



The Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association have announced their winners of the 2020 Anglers of the Year. Congratulations to Budd Heim for winning the Bay Category having caught the largest of three different species and a tie won a fourth. The fish were flounder 23", sheepshead $18\frac{1}{2}$ ", tog 18", and the tie being a croaker at $10\frac{1}{2}$ ". Dale Christensen secured the win in the Ocean Category for his catch of 5 species of striped bass $42\frac{1}{2}$ ", blueline tilefish $31\frac{1}{2}$ ", yellowfin tuna 44", dolphin 40", and a white marlin 59". Pictured at Ocean Pines Marina.





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Welcome the Coastal to Fisherman 2021 Winter Edition everybody!!! Hard to believe I am typing that as I sit at my desk on Christmas Eve (Old Ebenezer Budd gave me a deadline of Christmas for my column so here I am in my Santa hat sipping egg nog out of a Marty Moose commemorative cup with an RV in my front yard.... In his defense I was given the deadline back in the first week of November... Procrastination, the gift that keeps on giving the whole year round Clark...)

Those of you that follow my column may remember that back in the final regular season issue of the paper I wrote about catching a tagged white marlin. For those of you that need a memory jog, here is a snippet.

"Personally I have never been shy, or quiet, about my opinion of ICCAT. I will not go into that here, so as not to lend any bias to the forming of your opinion. Likewise I will hold my tongue and curb my keyboard when it comes to my thoughts on tagging. Over the years I have tagged many fish, and been involved in the recapture of many tagged fish. Somehow however, this was the first tagged white marlin I have ever caught off of Ocean City. Brooke Duvall has been fishing with me since 1997 and his resume includes trips to Australia, Cabo San Lucas, Costa Rica, the Galapagos, Guatemala, Isla Mujeres, Kona and Venezuela, along with all of the East Coast hot spots. This was his first tag recapture ever! We are both anxious to hear about the travels of this particular white marlin once ICCAT responds to

our recapture correspondence. I will share that information in the Winter Issue of the Coastal Fisherman, along with some other tagging stories... "

I will hold true to my word

I will hold true to my word and update you on what I have found out about that white marlin recapture. Surprising as it is, I did not procrastinate in trying to find out about that fish's history. We caught it on September 16, and I began my quest to find out where that bugger had been caught just a few days later. There is a phone number on the tag that says to call with information. There is also the word "reward". HA!!! I called the number. The automated reply instructed me to enter a prompt to report my info. The prompt led to me promptly being disconnected. I tried several more times before trying the other prompt option which only got me slightly Unfortunately by further. further I mean that it got me to another automated response that was only good for satellite tags. One big dead end!

As luck would have it, a few days later I was speaking with Elliot Stark, former editor of In The Bite magazine. He has gone on a different career path with his own sporting travel oriented website and he writes freelance articles for a variety of publications. It just so happens that the reason he was calling me was to get some quotes for an article on the Billfish Foundation and their tagging program! He got an earful of quotes right away I'll tell ya! Thankfully Elliot and I are pretty good online and over the phone "friends" so he took my verbal barrage in stride. He even offered to help solve my problem for me. Turns out that he is buddies with someone in the ICCAT tagging program and he forwarded my number to that fellow. He never gave me the guy's name though... hmmmm...

Lo and behold, not ten minutes later I received a text from the ICCAT chap. He was sitting in a meeting so he couldn't talk, but asked me for the tagging

www.coastalfisherman.net info and he would get me the results. I sent him a photo of the tag and all of our recapture information. This was on the 2nd of October. I felt good that we would soon know some history on our fishy!

I should have remembered that it was October 2, in the year 2020. Of course something would go awry. IT WAS STILL 2020!!! Not two hours later the fellow from ICCAT informed me that they had not received any information on that tag being placed on any fish. He also told me that the tag had been sent as part of a bundle of tags to an address in Greensboro, NC, nine years earlier. 9 YEARS! Not to worry though, there was a physical address on file for the person who requested the tags. Guy from ICCAT was going to try and find him and get me the scoop.

A few days later, with no scoop arriving, I requested the name of the tag recipient as maybe I would have some luck firing up the old coconut telegraph. A marlin fisherman in NC? If I didn't know him I would have to know someone who did. Unfortunately the ICCAT dude was not at his desk at the time of my query, so I got "Bobby something or other" with maybe five possible last names. Then nothing else for two months.

On December 6th, out of the clear blue sea, I was texted by the Man from ICCAT. I now had the name of the tag owner to work with! It took a whopping ten minutes after I posted "Does anybody know so and so" on social media to have a contact for the guy. A private message was sent through FB messenger and my new wait began.

This wait didn't take long. I found out that Bobby owned a boat that was based out of Pirate's Cove in North Carolina but also spent time at most of the billfish hotspots in the Atlantic. They even come up to OC for the White Marlin Open and the Mid Atlantic. We had a great online exchange. We talked about people, places,



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www.coastalfisherman.net and fish that we had known. Turns out we have many mutual friends, and we were even dock partners in Mexico years ago. What I also found out is that Bobby and his crew do not tag white marlin. Ever. They save the tags for blue marlin exclusively. He thought it might have been possible that his crew would have loaned the tags out to someone else on the docks somewhere. We chatted a bit more and made plans to meet up for a drink next time we were in the other's neck of the ocean. And thus ended my quest for information on my first ever white marlin tag recapture out of Ocean City. I wish there was more to tell.

I used to try and tag every billfish caught behind the Last Call. It was disappointing when the hook pulled or the leader broke before a tag could be placed. One of my white marlin that was tagged in July off of OC showed up in Caraballeda in Venezuela two Decembers later. That was cool stuff! There is a plaque on my wall from back in the early 90s for tagging the most marlin during Ocean City Marlin Club tournaments for that particular season. It is a nifty wooden plaque with a carved marlin sporting a yellow wooden tag. It also has a piece of the bill missing because I dropped it during the move from my old house to my current townhome. The piece of missing bill, however, is a good segue for me to explain why I no longer tag fish with such frequency.

We tend to catch white marlin pretty quickly. They do a bunch of jumping on the leader, with the boat going rapidly in reverse, spray and smoke filling the air. In order to get a safe and accurate tag shot the fish has to be much much calmer. This means that you either need a great deal of luck or you have to tire the fish out more. Tiring the fish out is bad. We want to release them as quickly and safely as possible, without adding any stress to the fish. Blindly swinging a 5 or 8 foot tag pole



It was mid September when Josh Taylor and crew from Port Republic, MD booked a trip on the charter boat "Marli". Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Dakota Bittner kept the tuna action going taking them to the Wilmington Canyon to raise these 6 good size tuna! Sterling Tackle daisy chains and spreader bars did the trick that day. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

at a fish jumping 5 or 8 feet in the air leads to tags in the fish's eye or other vital spots. Just not a good scenario no matter how you think about it. It may even jump into the side of the boat and break its bill off... See what I did there? The White Marlin Open, along with many other tournaments, used to offer bonus points for tagging a fish you released. For the reason above that practice has gone by the wayside. I agree with that move. It is just better for the fish.

I always liked finding out where my fish have been. It would have been cool to find out where that white had traveled before Brooke wound it in back in September. I am betting it had some good old fashioned North Carolina barbecue in its tummy. That is probably the story I will stick with.

Talk to y'all again in the spring. Make the most of this offseason and hopefully 2021 is a more normal year for all of us! §



Hailey Groff from Hersey, PA is all smiles showing her first white marlin catch. This one fell for a naked ballyhoo. She was fishing with Capt. Ed 'Zip' Zajdel with mate Ed Zajdel in the Baltimore Canyon



12 year old Travis Gosnell of Ocean View, DE is all smiles after a day of fishing off the 2nd Street bulkhead in Ocean City, MD. While this one was not a keeper, it was one of many catches he and his dad landed on a beautiful fall evening in October.

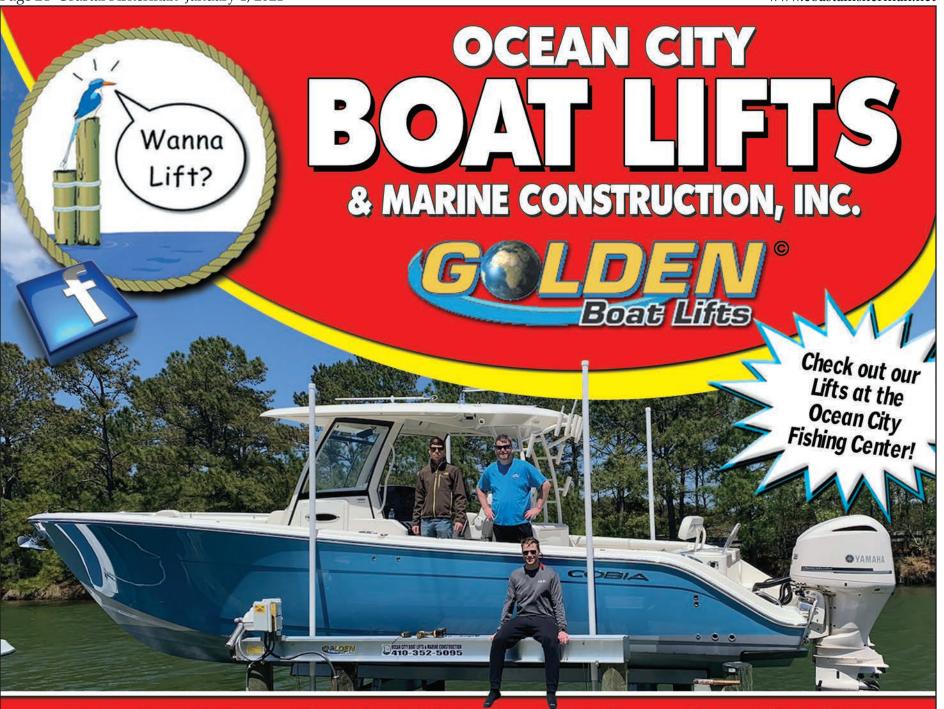


When the winds were not blowing, September offered some great fishing. This crew took a trip on the charter boat "Restless Lady" and filled the box with 39 mahi, 3 tunas and a nice wahoo! Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.





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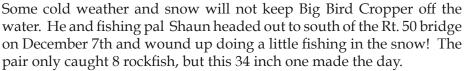




Happy anglers on the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler" from a late September trip! Jordan Hallowell (left) hit his limit of 4 flounder with the heaviest at 5 lbs. Jessica Hurst (right) landed this nice 4 lb. fattie on a buck tail. Both caught at an ocean structure with Capt. Chris Mizurak with mates Rich Fouts and Steve Anderson.

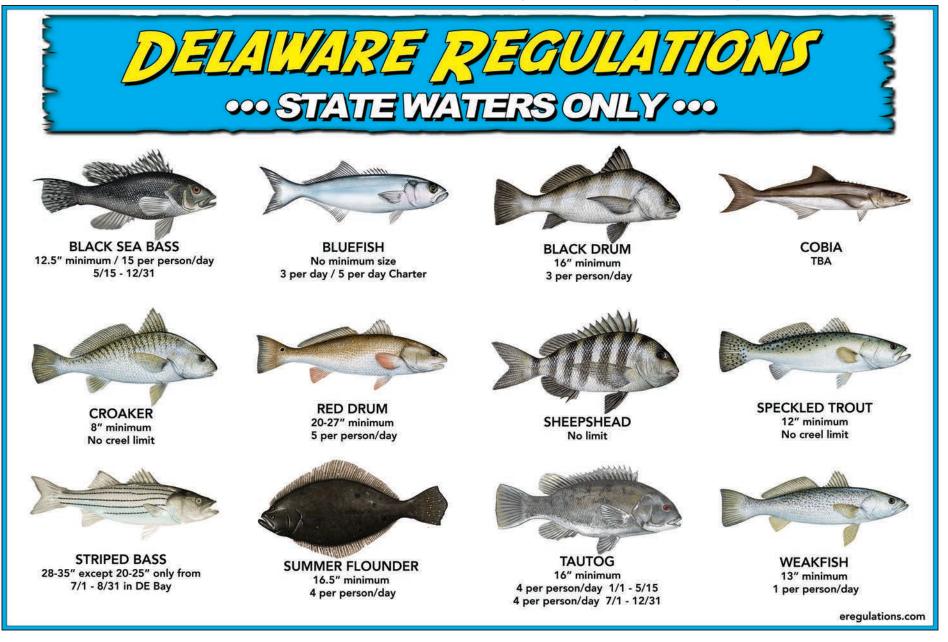








Mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break" took his mother Carla from Berlin, MD fishing in the south Ocean City bay behind Assateague Island. She caught this 26" throw back rockfish while casting bucktails. The group also caught 20 other throw backs.





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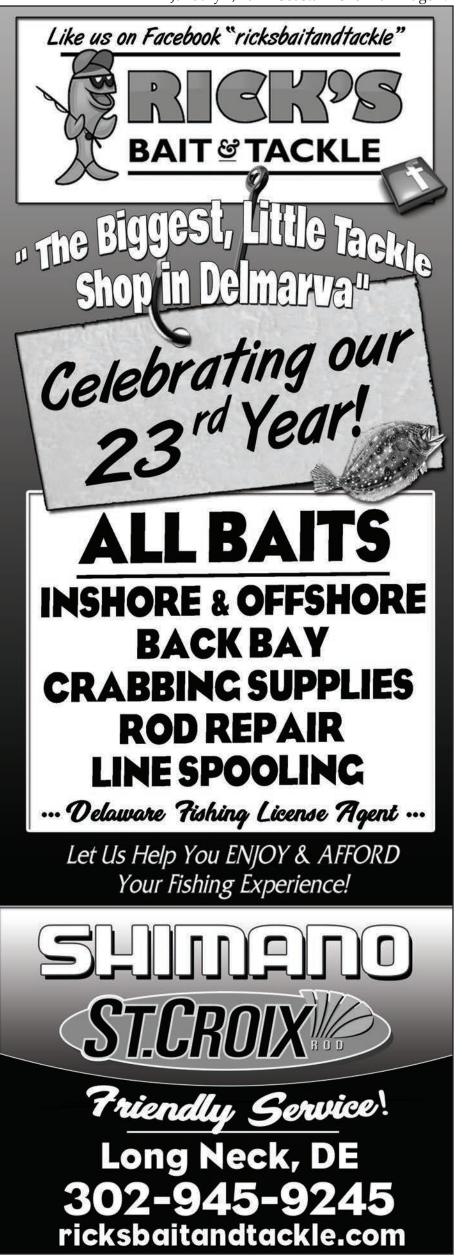




Charter Boat "Pumpin Hard" had a good day during the 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash. Capt. Mike Burt with mate Dave Burt and anglers Dan Burt, Adam Glushakow, Phil Townsend, Jonathan Harp, Bruce Dashiell and Zack Burt caught 2 (139.5 lb./155 lb.) swordfish on artificial squid and mahi belly. A tip of the 'Flemish Cap' to the crew!

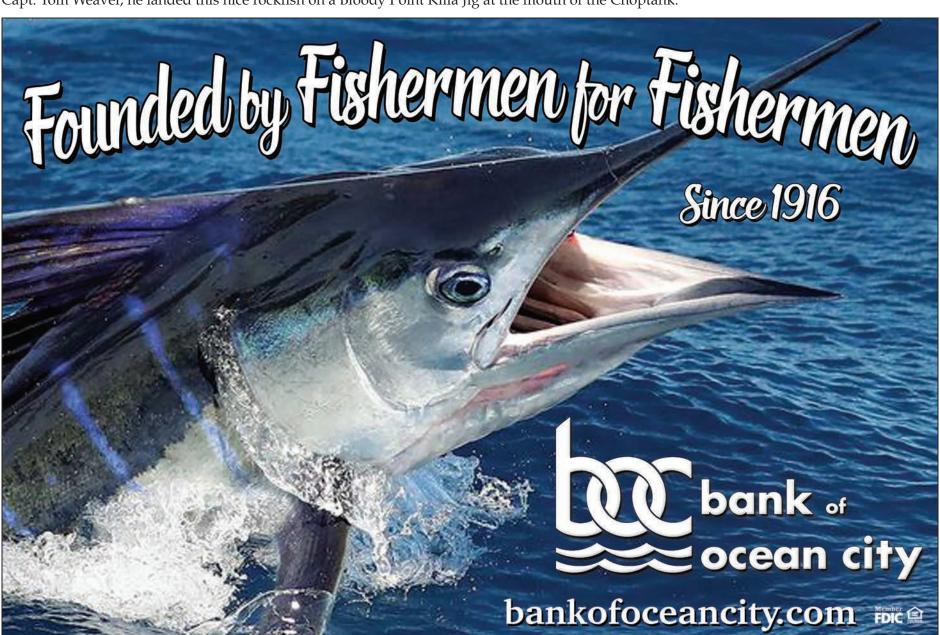


Rich Harpel from Millsboro, DE used sandfleas to catch this nice 6.2 lb. tog while fishing at Site 10. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.





Keith Fraiser, owner of All Tackle in Annapolis and West Ocean City, put his gear to work in early December. Fishing on the "Miss Jimmy" with Capt. Tom Weaver, he landed this nice rockfish on a Bloody Point Killa Jig at the mouth of the Choptank.



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New and upcoming products AND TECHNOLOGY

What's Trending for 2021

In this annual article we often review the newest electronics and technical products from marine electronics companies and specialty manufacturers in the marine sector such as Furuno, Garmin, Ray Marine and Simrad. The product life-cycle is geared toward the fall and winter boat shows for new product introductions. This year and next are a lot different without the typical boat shows and hyped in person product demonstrations. new products introduced this year during virtual events or just a simple press release; it looks like much of the same for this upcoming boat show season. New products and updates are still underway, though their introduction will be different this winter season. Keep an eve out for manufacturers' press releases and social media for new product announcements.

We could not review trending products without mentioning scanning sonar!

One electronic fishing product that is not new but gaining popularity exponentially is sonar, not the traditional fish finder but commercial sonar, using a large retractable transducer that can look all around the water under the boat, like underwater radar These systems were designed for commercial fishing applications and have quickly made their way onto sportfishing boats once people realized their unique capabilities. Many boat owners are convinced of the usefulness after seeing other captains locate, track and catch tournament winning fish they marked with the sonar. Furuno and Koden products are currently the most popular Sonars systems. The hardware cost for these sonar systems range in price from \$17,000-\$80,000 - though

one tournament winning fish can easily cover the cost of a Sonar system.

These two Sonars work differently and here is how they do it:

The Koden system (KDS-6000BB) has one transducer enclosed inside the tube that lowers into the water beneath the bottom of the boat. The transducer rotates in a predetermined arc, up to 360 degree - sending and receiving sonar signals in a horizontal based adjustable pattern, to mark fish in a large area in the water column beneath the boat. The data from the transducer is processed and displayed on a screen, in a similar fashion to a marine radar system, showing the boat in the center and echo returns in a radial pattern around the boat.

The Furuno Omni system (CSH-8LMARK-2) is similar but made up of many stationary transducers enclosed within the tube that also lowers into the waters beneath the bottom of the boat. These multiple transducers each send and receive a signal, almost simultaneously, painting a picture that is basically a live 360-degree sonar view of the water around the boat. This type of system is more expensive than others since it is comprised of numerous transducers and associated transceivers. If you have ever looked at the working end of this system in the engine room, you may notice the large bundle of 14 cables, each one of those cables contains multiple wires connecting the transducer the multiple elements to transceivers enclosed in a large cabinet, basically 14 sonar systems combined into one!

When cost and size requirements are not an issue, the Furuno Omni is the choice for most sportfish boats. If the Omni is too large for the boat or budget, a system like the Koden will also produce fantastic results unavailable with any other type of sportfish sonar system.

SEE AND BE SEEN! AIS (AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM)

By now most sportfishing boaters know about the AIS system to see and be seen electronically by other boats. AIS is a widely used maritime identification system, one of the best navigational and safety systems since the invention of maritime radar.

One confusing point about AIS is that there are two basic types of hardware, one that receives ONLY and one that receives AND transmits. While most commercial vessels are required to transmit

www.coastalfisherman.net and receive, typical pleasure boats (except for extremely large boats) are not required to transmit AIS but certainly can transmit. Adding to the confusion is the numerous types of AIS hardware available in a wide variety of price points.

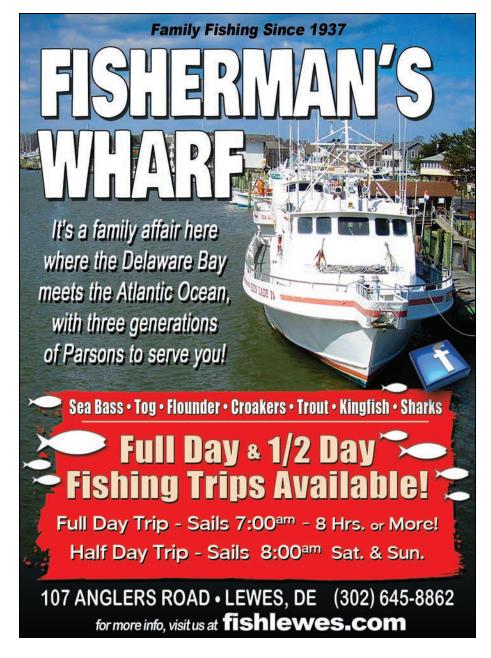
The least expensive option available is having AIS capabilities built into a traditional VHF radio. AIS signals operate within the VHF frequency band and therefore add minimal cost to a new VHF radio.

If you do not need a new VHF but want to receive AIS data, a standalone AIS receiver can be added to most helm electronic packages and can optionally share your existing VHF antenna to receive the signals over the air.

If you want to transmit AND receive, you will need an industry regulated stand-alone piece of hardware. The AIS system is an international regulated system, allowing it to be compatible with vessels from around the world and therefore the transmitting hardware is also regulated. A transmitter must have its own GPS antenna but can share an existing VHF antenna or connect to a specialized AIS antenna for optimal performance.

The AIS systems that transmit were originally classified as Class A and Class B and now a new standard is available - Class B+. These systems are often stipulated by regulations for the size and type of commercial vessel. The Class A systems are powerful and expensive designed for the largest regulated commercial vessels. Class B systems are less powerful and less expensive for smaller less regulated vessels and voluntary installations often found on Sportfish boats. The newest internationally approved system is the Class B+ AIS systems.

The Class B+ AIS systems, fitting in-between the two current offerings is sometimes referred to as Class B SOTDMA or Class B 5W. Why is this new offering important to Sportfish boats? The Class B+ has over twice the transmit power and range of the original Class B, now 5 watts which doubles the transmit range to 10-15 miles. Most important for Sportfish vessels, the Class B+ uses the same technology of the Class A AIS for sending messages - it has the same top priority when it comes to reserving a transmission time slot in the AIS airwaves, guaranteeing that it will always be able to transmit, even in busy AIS congested waters. For fast moving boats this is important as a missed Class B transmission can



www.coastalfisherman.net result in a vessel moving a long distance before it next manages to send a transmission.

NOTE – if you are wondering if your vessel is required by the USCG to have an AIS system, you can review the regulations here:

https://navcen.uscg.gov/ ?pageName=AISRequirementsRev

PROTECTING THE UNDERWATER GOODS

Foulfree and Lightspeed

Many boaters are familiar with the unique coating Propspeed, used to inhibit growth on underwater running gear. The Propspeed

product is applied like a paint but results in a smooth surface that marine growth does not seem to stick to, keeping your underwater running gear clean and operating at optimum performance.

Oceanmax, the makers of Propspeed, make similar specialty products, though much easier to apply, called Lightspeed for coating the metal of underwater lights and Foulfree for coating the working face of depth transducers.

Foulfree was designed industry-leading engineers at Propspeed and Airmar as a certified transducer coating, Foulfree releases marine growth, reducing the maintenance needed to keep transducers clean and streamlining water flow. until now, the only solution to keep marine growth from fouling a transducer face was regular cleaning and or the application of a water-based bottom paint. Neither of these solutions were great, but we learned to live with it. Based on the generally acceptable performance of the popular Propspeed product, this new Foulfree product introduced in 2020 will should eliminate the need of constant maintenance of the transducer faces between regular haul outs.

Fouling on the face of transducers can reduce their sensitivity, bottomecho returns and positive fish targets. Transducers also perform best with minimal turbulence over their surface during operation. Foulfree is a specialized foulrelease coating that is biocidefree and does not poison marine growth. Once cured, Foulfree forms a super-slippery surface over the transducer, preventing marine growth from attaching to its surface. Offering a long service life - it lasts a minimum of 12 months, with an even longer life span in cooler climates.

"Foulfree is an exciting new coating specifically made to

enhance the performance of transducers," said Chris Baird, CEO, Propspeed. "Bringing together our revolutionary product design and working with the experts in transducer functionality from Airmar, we are able to offer boaters around the world a new solution to an ageold problem and improve sonar performance for anglers and cruisers alike."

Lightspeed is the first transparent foul-release coating specifically developed for underwater lights. Underwater lights generate light and heat, creating environmental conditions that favor marine growth.

Conventional antifouling paint designed to prevent marine growth on hulls and running gear is unsuitable for underwater lights as it is not transparent. Lightspeed is a clear silicone-based product that rejects growth from marine fouling, including barnacles, ovsters, mussels, seaweed and algae. Lightspeed adheres to all types of surfaces regardless of whether they are metal, polymers, plastics or glass. An application coating of this product is designed to last about one year and can be used to recoat the light as needed during the next haul out.

ELECTROSEA CLEARLINETM SYSTEM

How often do you need to clean the seawater cooling systems on your boat? Seawater is the most popular way to cool refrigeration systems, air condition systems, stabilizing systems and other on-board heat generating equipment. Even the newest cooling systems using a freshwater loop have a seawater heat exchanger that needs to be cleaned. Microorganisms living in seawater can attach themselves to the seawater plumbing systems, causing a buildup of marine growth and eventual restriction of flow and even stoppage of water flow. This is very dependent on the location of your boat and the use of your boat, but most sportfish boats suffer this issue no matter how they are used or maintained. Over the years many ideas and techniques have been tried to reduce or eliminate the growth but most sportfish crew schedule regular cleanings to keep their systems at maximum efficiency. These regular cleanings are time consuming, expensive and there is always a chance of damage when removing and reassembling manifolds, piping, valves etc.

Created by an inventive boat owner, using his own Florida based sportfish as a R&D platform, the CLEARLINETM System by

Electrosea is an "ingenious" solution to the barnacle problem is not to remove them-but to prevent them growing in your raw water lines in the first place". The system incorporates a specialized sea strainer that uses a small amount of electricity, regulated by a computerized control unit with external sensors to monitor the seawater system. This control system can even integrate with sophisticated boat systems such as OcotoPlex used on Viking Sportfish boats. The specialized strainer is an electrochlorinator, producing controlled amounts of chlorine from the seawater itself. This low level of chlorine is compatible with copper nickel, titanium and other marine alloys at the same time eliminating barnacles, biofilm, and marine scale from growing inside the seawater piping systems. The chlorine level is similar to that found in tap water. Customers starting with a descaled or new seawater system have reported little or no growth during regular scheduled maintenance.

NEW PRODUCTS FOR 2020

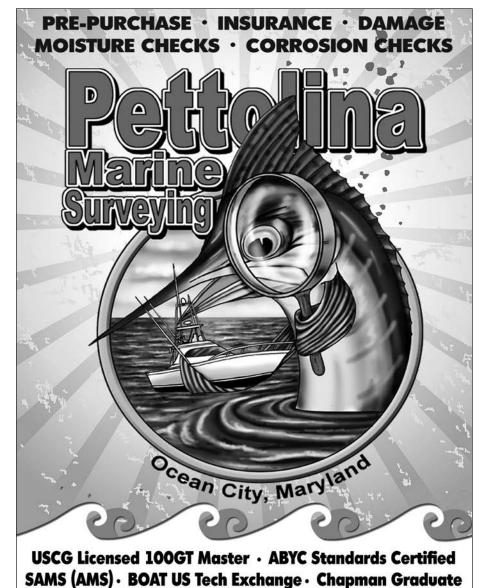
Navigation Electronics

There were new product releases this year by the top marine electronic manufacturers, not

January 1, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 33 necessarily just in the top-ofthe-line products. Check out Garmin's GPSMAP 7x3, 9x3 and 12x3 chartplotter series, Furuno NavNet TZTouch 3 multifunction display with builtin CHIRP sonar and Simrad's Evo3s. The new Furuno SCX20 NMEA 2000 Satellite Compass is a great addition to any electronic package to provide super accurate heading information for most any brand chartplotter/multifunction display and autopilot - allowing removal of the often-finicky fluxgate heading sensor associated with most autopilot systems.

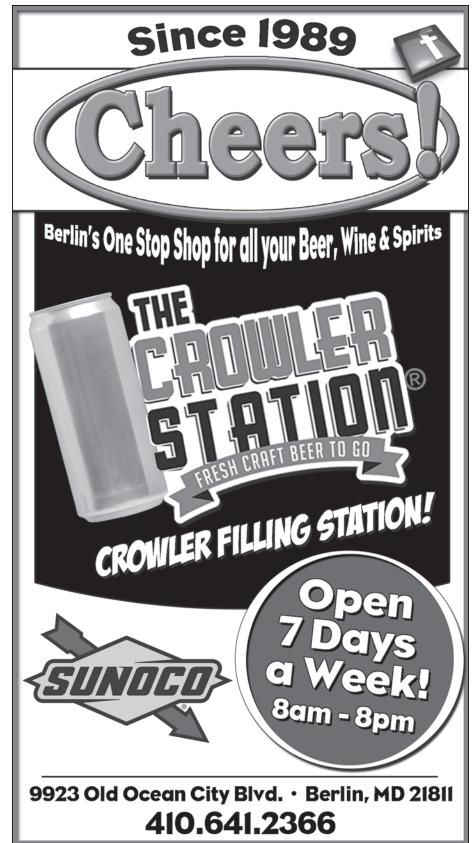
Seakeeper 1

By now, most boaters have heard and seen the Seakeeper system in action, a gyroscopic device used to stabilize the rolling motion of most any boat. Seakeeper has recently introduced the smallest Seakeeper unit in the line-up, a Seakeeper 1, a good fit for boats between 23-30 feet. This small unit, weighing 365 lbs. and about the size of a deck cooler, can fit easily under the helm seat or other small space, adding stabilization using 12-volt battery power, creating a stable fishing and boating platform for the smallest of boats.



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Ethan Abell from Pocomoke, MD landed this big 44" red drum near Smith Island on soft crab. He was fishing on the charter boat "Seahawk Sportfishing" with Capt. Matt Abell.



OTHER MARINE ELECTRONICS

Every The vear National Electronics association, Marine (NMEA) holds a product award competition voted on by the 700+ member companies of the NEMA. This list is a good barometer of products worthy of review by Captains and boat owners, since the award is a vote of confidence by those who manufacture, sell, install and service the equipment. This year the following products won awards of excellence:

- MARINE VHF—ICOM M605
- Radar Furuno DRS4DNXT Solid-State Doppler
- Satellite Communications Antenna – KVH TracPhone V3-HTS
- Multi-Function Display Garmin GPSMAP 8616xsv
- Multimedia Entertainment Fusion Apollo RA770
- NMEA 2000 Sensor—Furuno SCX20 High Precision Satellite Compass
- Autopilot—Garmin Reactor 40 with SmartPump v2
- Satellite TV Antenna KVH TracVision UHD7
- Fishfinder Furuno DFF3D Multi-Beam 3D
- Marine Camera FLIR M364C
- AIS—Vesper XB8000 smartAIS

- www.coastalfisherman.net
- Marine PC Software—Nobeltec TZ Professional V 4.1
- Remote Monitoring GOST Apparition SM GPS XVR
- Wi-Fi /Cellular Device KVH TracPhone LTE-1 (tie)
- Wi-Fi /Cellular Device—Wave Wi-Fi Tidal Wave AC + Cellular (tie)
- Marine Apps-Utility Garmin ActiveCaptain
- Commercial Furuno FAR2228BB 25kW IMO Radar
- Marine Specialty Maretron N2KBuilder – NMEA2000® Network Design Software (tie)
- Marine Specialty Furuno
 "Deep Impact" DI-FFAMP High-Power CHIRP Amplifier (tie)

Garmin was voted as NMEA Manufacturer of the Year; this award is available to a manufacturer who has demonstrated superior support of their products by all who install and service their products in the field.

Whether safety, maintenance or just a desired upgrade, there are numerous new technologies and products that will help keep your boat in good condition and help to provide owners, captains and anglers a safe and productive fishing trip... Stay Grounded! §



Capt. Anthony Matarese, mate Mike Matarese, Anthony Matarese Sr. and Mark Humphrey headed to the Poor Man's Canyon on the "Reel Chaos" last November to target swordfish. Instead they were only able to boat this bigeye tuna! Pictured at Sunset Marina.



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Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters put himself to work in early October, landing this nice sheepshead near the Ocean City inlet.



Looks like serious taco time for anglers Billy Holloway, Jeremwy Hudson, Brian Widgen, Brian Bowden, Austin Bowden and Robby Schwinn. In late September they headed to the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and mate Daniel Ames on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" which is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch) 2020 2019 Species 2020 2019 Species Bluefish **Mako Shark** May 29, 2020 April 16, 2020 May 18, 2019 April 17, 2019 **Brandon Malamphy Ron Griggs** Kathy Grab **Big Bird Cropper** "Finatic" "Finatic" Fenwick Island South Jetty Wilmington Canyon **State Park** Wilmington Canyon **Black Drum** Thresher Shark April 19, 2020 May 18, 2019 June 13, 2020 April 9, 2019 **All Anglers Bill Grubb Charlie Boyles** Allen Sklar "Over-Board" "Hook It Up" Fenwick Island **Assateague Surf** Jackspot **State Park Old Grounds** Cobia June 21, 2020 **Bigeye Tuna** May 27, 2020 May 27, 2019 June 2, 2019 Aaron Reeves Ryan Turner **Pat Petrera Tony Lane** "Full Service" "On the Run" "Priceless" **Fenwick Surf** Norfolk Canyon **Poor Man's Canyon** South Jetty Flounder **Bluefin Tuna** May 7, 2019 June 9, 2020 April 4, 2019 May 5, 2020 **Scott Wells Shannon Gore Mackenzie Cathell Kristin Lennox** "Restless Lady II" **Baltimore Canyon Thorofare** Sinepuxent Bay Wilmington Canyon May 15, 2019 **Longfin Tuna Sea Bass** May 15, 2020 June 9, 2020 June 1, 2019 **Brent Bortner** Tom Lane **Evan Winterbottom** Ed Luhrman "Green Machine" "PYY Fishing" "Morningstar" **Baltimore Canyon** Offshore Wreck Poor Man's Canyon **Artificial Reef** May 26, 2019 Sheepshead **Yellowfin Tuna** June 12, 2020 May 25, 2019 April 29, 2020 **Keith Smith** Mark Shwetz Ryan Young **Dylan Wiley** "On the Run" "On the Run" "Brenda Lou" Washington Canyon South Jetty Poor Man's Canyon South Jetty Dolphin **Striped Bass** May 23, 2020 May 19, 2019 May 7, 2020 April 12, 2019 Jeremy Phares **Bill Johnson Patricia Cropper Kern Ducote** "Bubblehead" 'Reel Fin Addiction" Rt. 50 Bridge Rt. 90 Bridge Wilmington Canyon Norfolk Canyon **Tautog** Wahoo January 2, 2020 January 4, 2019 June 18, 2020 June 23, 2019 **Jack Hannum Patrick Enoch** Vince Cusimano Dan lacangelo "Blood Money" "My Time" "Morningstar" "Morningstar" Poor Man's Canyon Washington Canyon **Artificial Reef Ocean Wreck** Weakfish White Marlin May 23, 2020 June 17, 2020 May 19, 2019 June 1, 2019

Jackson Chin

Indian River Inlet

Muhamad Arshad

Oceanic Fishing Pier

Carl Sauer

"Reel Escape"

Washington Canyon

"Uncle Keith"

Poor Man's Canyon





SWORDFISH WITH MUSHROOMS, LEMON & CAPERS

Ingredients:

2 lbs. swordfish steaks, about 1" thick cut into 4 portions

1 T olive oil

Kosher salt

Fresh cracked pepper

4 T unsalted butter (1 half stick)

3/4 lbs. mushrooms, cleaned and sliced

Zest and juice of 1 lemon (about 3 T juice)

1 green onion, sliced

1 splash dry white wine

1 T capers

2 T chopped parsley

Directions:

Heat your oven to 400 degrees. Rub the swordfish with the olive oil and season on both sides with salt and pepper. Heat a griddle pan or cast iron pan on high. Sear the fish on both sides for a couple minutes on each side. Turn off



the heat and put the skillet in the oven to finish, about 10 minutes, depending on the thickness of your fish.

In a separate skillet melt butter on medium high. When the butter is hot add mushrooms, green onions, lemon juice and zest and splash of white wine. Saute for 5 - 6 minutes until mushrooms are tender and there is very little liquid left in the sauce. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Plate the swordfish on individual plates topped with mushrooms and garnish with capers and parsley.

WINTER CITRUS BUTTER SALMON

Ingredients:

1 2 lb. salmon fillet

1 garlic clove minced

11/2 tablespoons brown sugar

1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

1 blood orange thinly sliced

Herb Butter:

3 tablespoons unsalted butter melted

1 tablespoon chopped fresh herbs basil, oregano, sage, thyme, etc

Pinch of salt

Winter Citrus Salsa:

1 blood orange segmented and chopped

www.coastalfisherman.net 1 orange segmented and chopped

1 small shallot diced

1/2 jalapeno pepper seeded and diced

2 tablespoons fresh chopped cilantro

Juice of 1 lime

Pinch of salt and pepper

Directions:

Preheat the broiler in your oven to



high and set the oven rack about 6 inches below it.

Place the salmon on a baking sheet. In a bowl, stir together the brown sugar, salt, pepper, garlic and lemon zest. Add the olive oil to make a wet rub. Rub the mixture all over the salmon. Place





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the blood orange slices on top.

Broil the salmon for 6 to 8 minutes, or until just opaque and flakey with a fork. Drizzle with the herb butter and serve with the winter citrus salsa. I also like to eat this on a salad with feta or with a brown rice and quinoa blend!

Herb Butter

Stir together the melted butter, fresh herbs and salt.

Winter Citrus Salsa

Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until combined. This will last for about a day in a sealed container in the fridge.

OLD CHARLESTON STYLE SHRIMP AND GRITS

Ingredients:

3 cups water

2 teaspoons salt

1 cup coarsely ground grits

2 cups half-and-half

2 lbs. uncooked shrimp, peeled and deveined

Salt to taste

1 pinch cayenne pepper, or to

1 lemon, juiced

1 lb. andouille sausage, cut into 1/4-inch slices

5 slices bacon

1 medium green bell pepper, chopped

1 medium red bell pepper, chopped

1 medium yellow bell pepper, chopped

1 cup chopped onion



1 teaspoon minced garlic

½ cup butter

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup chicken broth

1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Directions:

Bring water and 2 teaspoons salt to a boil in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Whisk grits into the boiling water, and then whisk in half-and-half. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until grits are thickened and tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Set aside and keep warm.

Sprinkle shrimp with salt and cayenne pepper to taste. Add lemon juice, toss to combine, and set aside to marinate.

Place sausage slices in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, 5 to 8 minutes. Remove sausage from the skillet.

Add bacon to the same skillet and increase heat to mediumhigh. Cook until evenly browned, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer bacon to paper towels to drain, then chop or crumble when cool enough to handle. Leave bacon drippings in the skillet.

Add bell peppers, onion, and garlic to the bacon drippings; cook and stir until onion is translucent, about 8 minutes.

Stir cooked sausage and

www.coastalfisherman.net marinated shrimp into the skillet with the cooked vegetables. Turn off the heat and set aside.

Melt butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour, stirring to create a smooth roux. Turn heat to low and cook, stirring constantly, until mixture is golden brown in color, 8 to 10 minutes. Watch carefully, mixture burns easily.

Pour the roux over the sausage, shrimp, and vegetables. Place the skillet over medium heat, add chicken broth, bacon, and Worcestershire sauce, and stir to combine. Cook until sauce thickens up and shrimp turn opaque and bright pink, about 8 minutes

Just before serving, mix sharp Cheddar cheese into grits until melted and grits are creamy and light yellow. Serve shrimp mixture over cheese grits.

TUNA STEAK BURGERS

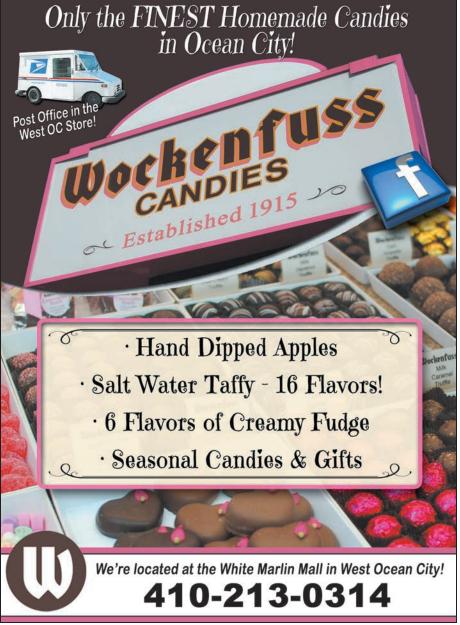
Ingredients:

Chipotle Mayo:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons adobo from a can of chipotle peppers





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2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley

1 tablespoon minced capers

1 tablespoon minced shallots

2 teaspoons sherry or white wine vinegar

1 teaspoon grated ginger (grated on a rasp grater)

1 clove garlic, grated on a rasp

Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper

Tuna:

4 fresh or frozen tuna steaks, about 4 ounces each and 3/4 to 1 inch thick at room temperature

Olive oil for drizzling

Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper

4 brioche or potato rolls, split

Butter, for the rolls

1 clove garlic, peeled

Butter lettuce leaves, for topping Pickled red onions, for topping

1/2 jalapeno, thinly sliced

Fried Shallots:

6 to 8 medium shallots, very thinly sliced on a mandoline

Canola oil, for frying

Kosher salt

Directions:

For the chipotle mayo: Whisk together the mayonnaise, adobo, parsley, capers, shallots, vinegar, ginger and garlic; season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

For the tuna: Preheat a large grill pan on high heat until very hot.

Drizzle both sides of each tuna steak with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Sear the steaks on each side for about 2 minutes for medium.

Meanwhile, toast the rolls, spread with a little butter and rub with the garlic.

Spread both sides of each roll with the chipotle mayo. Then layer on lettuce leaves, a tuna steak and some pickled red onions,

January 1, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 43 jalapenos and fried shallots.

Fried Shallots: In a medium, heavy-bottomed pot, add the shallots and enough oil to cover by at least 2 inches. Place the pot over medium-low heat and bring to a low simmer, stirring frequently so the shallot rings separate. Cook at a low simmer until most of the bubbles subside and the shallots are browned and crispy, 20 to 25 minutes. Use a slotted spoon or sieve to remove the shallots, place on a paper towel-lined plate to drain and season with salt. Let dry at least 1 hour. If the shallots are not completely crispy, dry in the oven at 200° for another 5 to 10 minutes.

OUICK EASY ROCKFISH STEW

Ingredients:

1 lb. rockfish fillet

4 slices bacon

1/2 cup onion, chopped

1 cup red potatoes, raw, diced

2 cups water

1/4 cup flour

1/2 cup clam juice

1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk

3 tablespoons butter

1 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon white pepper

Directions:

Cut into bite sized (1/2 inch pieces) and set aside.

In a small skillet sauté bacon until crisp. Remove bacon, blot excess fat with paper towels, crumble and set aside.

Discard bacon dripping except for approximately 2 tablespoons. Add onions and sauté in bacon fat until tender but not brown.

Transfer onions to a deep saucepan and add potatoes and water. Cover and bring to a gentle boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add fish and simmer for about 10 more minutes or until fish and potatoes are done.

In a small bowl combine flour and clam juice and stir with a fork until smooth. Add to fish and potato mixture stirring constantly to blend flour into cooking liquid.

Stir in evaporated milk, butter and salt and pepper to taste.

Continue heating over medium heat until chowder thickens.

Garnish with crumbled bacon before serving. §



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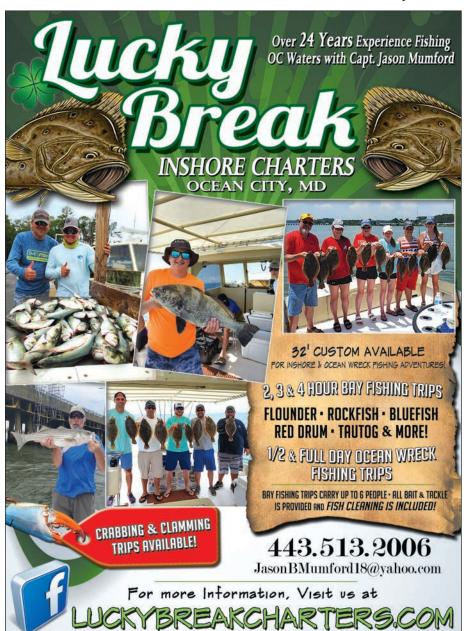
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Amanda Heilman from Ocean City, MD is one happy fisherwomen. She caught this 32 inch rockfish while casting plugs under the Rt. 50 bridge on the flood tide. She was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break".



December has been tough fishing. The crew of the "No Limit" out of Indian River Inlet Marina have been grinding it out to get bites. Mid month they were able to raise some blackfish, this one 8.5 lbs.





Angler Steve Awak braved the cold weather to venture out with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve on the "Angler" to an ocean structure. He was rewarded with this nice 5.5 lb. sea bass caught on squid.



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This is one happy boy after landing this nice tautog while fishing at the Oceanic Fishing Pier on the Ocean City Inlet & Bay this fall.



Chad Bayless from Ellendale, DE was fishing from the beach with bloodworms and caught some nice white perch. The largest was 1.06 lbs. and earned Chad a citation for the catch!



Ned Norris shows off a nice puppy drum he caught on Oct.10 on a sand flea during the incoming tide at the Ocean City Inlet. Net man was Mike Bruce from Arnold, MD who also released the fish.



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Many of the local charter boats head south for the winter season. Charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" is no exception with Capt.Joe Drosey taking her to Sailfish Marina at Singer Island, Fl., his 42nd season at this marina! Local Duffie Boatworks crew of Lindsay Harrington, Kourtney Duffie, Sarah Delligatti, Sarah Evans, Kathy Huyett (in the back) and Amy Burbage paid a visit for a trip with a smiling Capt. Joey Drosey!



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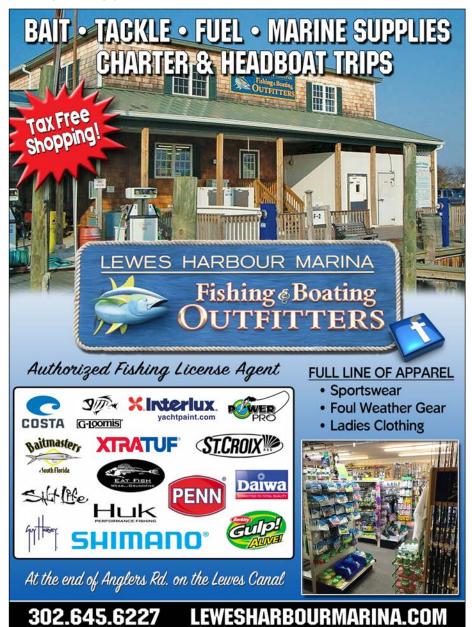
Fishing & Boating OUTFITTERS 2020 TOURNAMENT



A great option during the pandemic was the annual 2020 Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament. Many anglers took part in the month long event from mid October through November 21st attempting to land the biggest tog. 1st place winner James Hill stood out with this 7.84 lb. keeper he caught using green crab purchased at ... where else but Lewes Harbour!



The stars were shining bright on Ron Keeler during this year's annual Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament. He caught this 6.75 lb. tog in early November and held on to win 2nd place overall in the tournament.





Ted Garman came in early and strong during the month long 2020 Lewes Harbor Marina Annual Tautog Tournament landing this 6.74 pound tog in late October. Ted played cool in this picture despite his catch holding off several challengers to take 3rd place in the tournament!



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Kasey Ford and Kyle Reavis from Edgewater, MD took advantage of the long running yellowfin tuna bite this season. They headed out in early October to the Washington Canyon with Capt. Harry Gessford on the "Hooked on a Feelin'". It was a beautiful day and they went 2 for 5 on tuna using a Green Machine and managed to land a few mahi as well!



October fishing remained strong especially with the crowds slimming down. This group headed out in early October with Capt. Brian Porter on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" and had a nice haul of mahi and tilefish!

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES Atlantic Coast

	MD	DE
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"
Blue Marlin**	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum*	36"	45"
Sailfish*	Any Size	*
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"

^{*} Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

	MD	DE
SHARK:	The state of the s	
Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
TUNA:		
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
White Marlin**	Any Size	Any Size

^{**} Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

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^{***} Use curved-fork-length measurements



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Congratulations to Squidnation owner Bill Pino and team "King and I" for being the champions of the 26th Annual El Salvador Billfish Tournament held Nov. 18-21! Bill joined fellow anglers Andres Coco Morales, Juan Pablo Ramos and Sergio Alverado with Capt. Victor Cabellos and mates Ronal Morales, Zulaay Hernandez & Alejandro Bolilla to take 1st place in the marlin & sailfish divisions as well as 3rd place in meatfish. Overall they caught 67 sails and 5 blue marlin during the Squidnation sponsored event, earning them several prizes including a new BMW and large screen TV . Pictured at the Bahia Del Sol Hotel, Casino and Marina.





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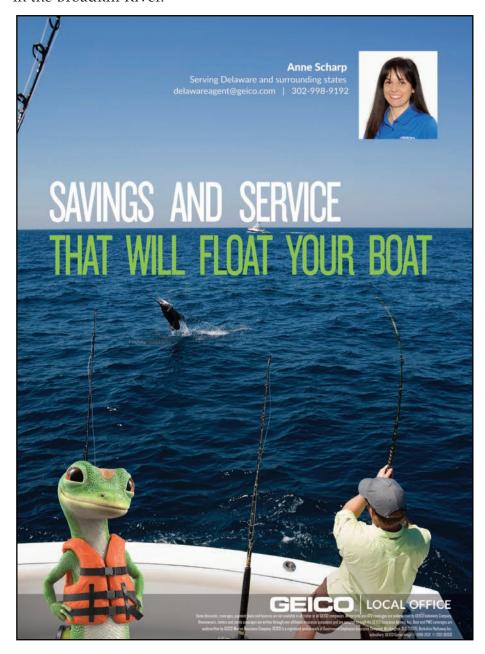


Capt. Carey Evans on charter boat "Grizzly" has built loyal customers. This group of local regulars show off one of the nicest fall mixed bags you could ask for. Using green crabs and sand fleas the group caught their limit of tog along with some sheepshead, triggerfish, and sea bass.





Brian Smith is showing how you make a 12.3 lb. striper look 20 lbs.! He was fishing with a top water popper when this one smacked it in the Broadkill River.



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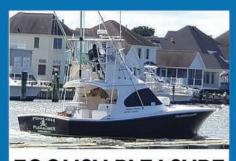
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Capt. Joe Drosey on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" gets another white marlin to the boat!



Paul Elwood had major bragging rights after catching this 31", 12.7 lb. flounder at an ocean structure in October. He fooled this one with a bucktail tipped with Nuclear Chicken Gulp while fishing on the "Katydid" with Dave Furio, James Hill, Eric Knoeller and Capt. Brent Wiest.





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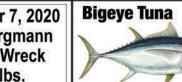






Benjamin Attanasi **Broadkill Beach** 82.4 lbs.

September 7, 2020 Wally Borgmann Inshore Wreck 78.5 lbs.



Charlie Boyles Weights

Cobia

July 1, 2020 **Justin Cronshaw** Little Gull Bank 32 lbs.

Kyle Mooney

Rt. 50 Bridge

21.5 lbs.

June 21, 2020 **Griffin Wingenroth** Poor Man's Canvon 270 lbs.

Reported

June 25, 2020 Jerry Calder **Baltimore Canyon** 214 lbs.

Old Grounds

321 lbs.



September 19, 2020 Rich Daiker Rt. 50 Bridge 8.94 lbs.

September 1, 2020 Evan Falgowski **Ocean Structure** 11.48 lbs.

Bluefin Tuna

August 3, 2020 Travis Ort Shallow Water North 114.5 lbs.

No Weights Reported



May 27, 2020 Conrad Lesnewski Offshore Wreck 3.5 lbs.

June 29, 2020 Levi Wingert **B** Buoy 2.9 lbs.

Longfin Tuna

September 8, 2020 John Woolridge Poor Man's Canyon 65.5 lbs.

September 2, 2020 **Russell Marsh** Poorman's Canyon 49.9 lbs.



June 17, 2020 **Derek Taylor OC Jetty** 11.6 lbs.

July 18, 2020 **Hunter Walsh Outer Wall** 10.5 lbs.

Yellowfin Tuna

August 15, 2020 **Trish Walsh** Poorman's Canyon 149 lbs.

August 21, 2020 **Tommy Hughes** Poorman's Canyon 59.9 lbs.





July 11, 2020 **Rich Daiker** Rt. 50 Bridge 15.6 lbs.

June 14, 2020 Sue Krepshaw **Indian River Jetty** 13 lbs.

Dolphin

August 7, 2020 **Matt Wagner** White Marlin Open 73.5 lbs.

July 19, 2020 Michelle Dadisman **Baltimore Canyon** 34.8 lbs.



No Weights Reported

July 30, 2020 **Kevin Cross OnShore Wreck** 13.69 lbs.

Wahoo

September 18, 2020 Steve Strawbridge Jr. Poorman's Canyon 84.5 lbs.

August 30, 2020 **Brad Boyer Baltimore Canyon** 69.2 lbs.

Weakfish



No Weights Reported

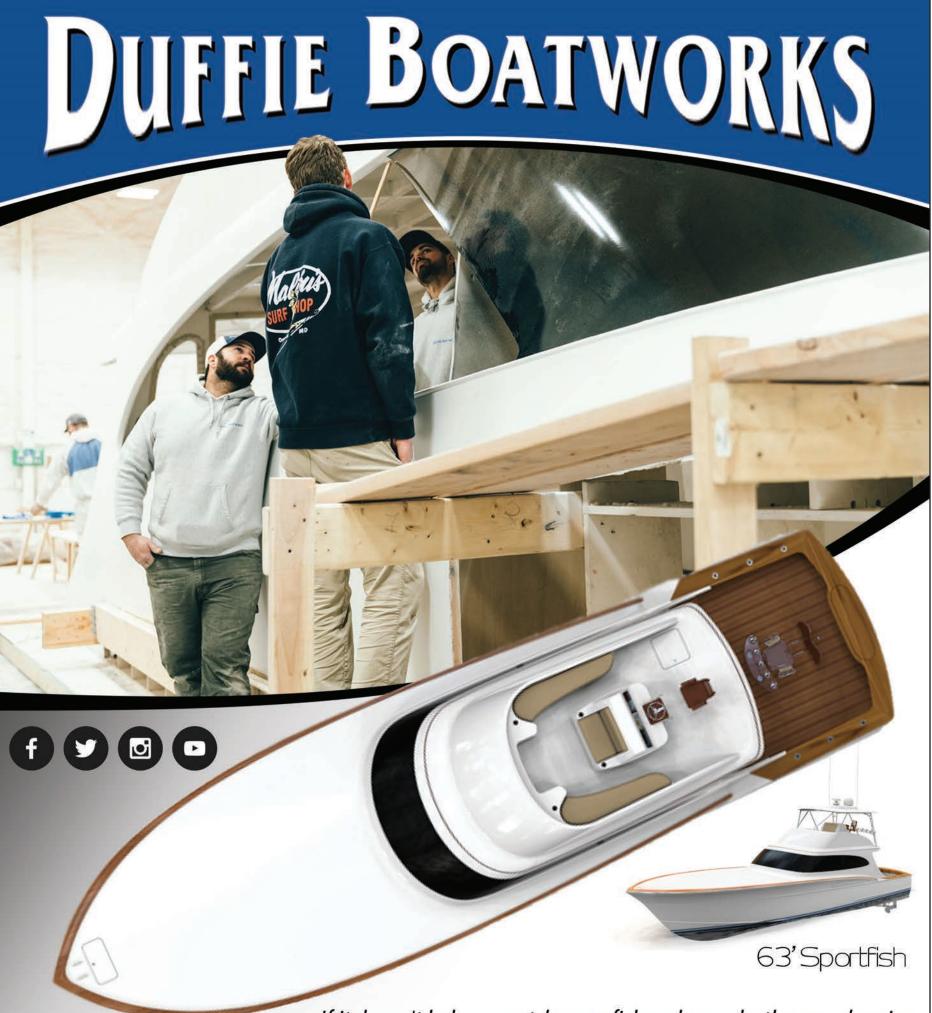
July 16, 2020 **Hunter Grundy** DE Bay 2.37 lbs.

White Marlin

August 8, 2020 **Brandon Golueke** Norfolk Canyon 97 lbs.

August 8, 2020 **Shannon Toth** Poorman's Canyon 72 lbs.

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to coastalfisherman@comcast.net



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Fishing this fall was good when the weather cooperated. Kenny Eidinger, Kenny Eidinger Jr. and John Hergert, all from Baltimore, MD headed out in early October with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On The Run". They caught a nice mix of sheepshead, tautog and flounder! Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Charter boat "Fish On" got a strong start to their southeast Florida winter season taking 3rd place in the sailfish release division of the Dust'Em Off Sailfish Warmup held December 3-5. Capt. Andrew Dotterweich and crew earned \$15,915 in award money!



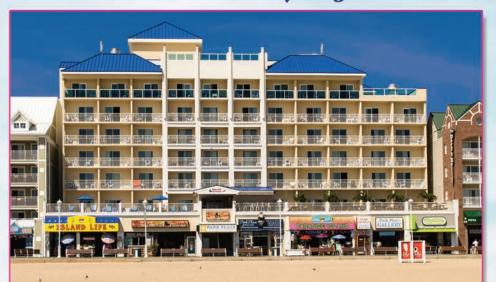
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THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD?

"You have the greatest job in the world!" he said as he handed me a wad of hundred dollar bills. "It's my dream to someday retire from my contractor's job, get a boat, and JUST do this for the rest of my life. Man you have it made!"

I thanked the gentleman, jammed my pay for the day in my pocket, and watched as he and his gang walked down the dock and into the nearby restaurant where they would cap off their day by having a wonderful dinner while overlooking the marina before returning to their beach front condo for the night.

Turning back to the Fish Finder I noted that it looked very much like a boat which had just endured a grueling 11-hour day of fishing. Fish and bait slime was everywhere, rods, reels, and terminal tackle in total disarray, it appeared as though a fish had literally exploded in and on the fishbox, someone spilled an entire bag of Cheez-Doodles on the cabin floor before trampling them into the carpet, the head was still reeking from the seasick guy who locked himself in there for a half hour on the ride home, and bygolly it was time for our 100-hour oil change!

Barring any "unforeseens", in a couple hours my mate and I would have everything done and the boat ready for tomorrow's trip - he'd take care of the outside and I'd handle the inside which, along with the normal stuff that evening, would also include the head, oil change and Cheez-Doodles. Then we'd both drive off to our respective homes for the night. Along the way he'd likely have dinner out of a Chick-Fil-A bag while I'd enjoy mine at home with my wife sometime between 8:30 and 9:00 with the guarantee of at least one or two interruptions by clients calling to talk about upcoming charters. After dinner an hour would be spent following up on emails, texts, and phone messages, updating the required catch reports, putting new line on a reel that I needed to use the next day, and taking inventory of my bait freezer. Somewhere between 10:30 and 11:00 I'd find my way to bed, but not before setting the alarm for 4:15 when it would be time to get up and do "the best job in the world" all over again. Yep, I've got it made alright - just living

But I guess can't blame folks

who charter boats or book fishing guides for being somewhat envious of what they see. After all, when someone steps aboard a nice clean boat in the morning and is welcomed by a happy crew that's eager to get out on the water and have some fun, it's not hard to come to the conclusion that they have indeed discovered "the best job in the world". But, of course, as I've already alluded to, what the average client witnesses is only a slight smidgen of what running a charter boat is all about.

Clients see only the harvest

To put things into a little more perspective I often liken charter fishing to farming. If someone were to follow around a farmer during harvest time they might conclude that farming is a pretty cool job as farmers get to work outside, drive big combines, and rake in all that money when they take their crops to market. Of course we know that getting paid for what they harvest is just the culmination of months of often grueling work and much worry over equipment failures, maintenance, weather, grain prices, labor issues, and everything else that goes along with running a farming business. And there's always the chance that a farmer's crops might fail or unforeseen expenses occur that leave nothing in the bank to show for it for a season's worth of work.

Such is the life of a farmer, and so too when someone tries to squeak out a living from charter fishing where it's likely that for every hour spent fishing they'll probably spend five doing all the other stuff that's needed to keep their boat running and services in demand. What our clients see while they're out on our boats with us is the absolute best part of the job - "the fishing", the time when all the preparation we've done since the end of last season comes to a head and we can get on the water, have fun, reap our harvest and finally bring in some money!

Each season the perception that charter fishing is the "perfect job" for someone who loves to fish tempts a constant flow of captains into the for-hire fishing industry. Many of those captains will later conclude that the decision proved to be the best career move they've ever made. However, there's also a constant outflow of captains who, after realizing what charter fishing is really all about, will cut their losses and fall back (or perhaps

"move up") to a more conventional way to put bread on their table. After 33 years of doing it, I've got a short list of things prospective captains should probably know about the crazy nature of charter fishing and inherent problems associated with trying to run a business that's reliant on keeping boats running, fish biting and customers calling:

It's a business that's not just about driving boats and fishing

Most captains start out as recreational anglers and are accustomed to heading out each day with no more care in the world than hoping to have fun on the water and try to catch a few fish. Over time, they gain experience and probably better at both fishing and boating at which point some will begin to entertain thoughts of going into the "business" of taking passengers for hire. But making the transition from "fun" fishing to "charter" fishing is like going from having friends over for dinner to actually opening a restaurant. Everything changes as soon as someone starts charging money and bringing the public aboard their boat. And being a good fisherman or a great captain does not mean that someone is capable of running a successful charter business because some folks are just not cut out for managing their own time, finances, customer relations, promotions, advertising, bookkeeping and everything else that goes into running a business.

Expenses are high profits small

I once overheard a couple guys who had just returned from an offshore charter speculating about how much money their captain probably makes each year. They had just paid \$2000 for a day of fishing and by their quick estimates of what the boat used in fuel, ice, and bait, they somehow figured that the captain probably took home about \$1500 that day. Apparently he had told them that he ran about 100 trips a season so they concluded that in a 5-month period he was making about 150-thousand dollars. "Not bad," one fellow said, "for less than a half year of fishing!"

Ooooh I wanted so much to crash their conversation and explain how the expenses of owning and maintaining the million dollar boat they were riding on that day would probably swallow up most if not all of the charter fees they paid, and that the captain (who was also the owner of the boat) would be lucky if he was able to save enough money to pay his slip deposit at the end of the year.

Most folks have absolutely no concept of how much time and expense it takes to keep an active charter boat and all the necessary tackle and equipment www.coastalfisherman.net up in running and in good state of repair. Maintenance and repair are typically one of the largest annual expenses of owning a boat and captains need to know that if they can't do a huge chunk of the work themselves they had better have another job on the side because the cost of paying someone else to do it for them could ruin their chance of actually turning a profit.

Might spoil the love of fishing

When I decided to go into this business, my biggest fear (besides going broke) was that turning my passion for fishing into a "job" would ruin my enjoyment of the sport. Three decades later I'm relieved that those fears were unfounded and I still love fishing as much as ever, but it doesn't work that way for everyone. Captains sometimes dive into the business with great enthusiasm but later find that the day-after-day grind of dealing with boats, equipment, clients, weather, and everything else that goes along with the occupation ends up stifling their zeal for the sport until chasing fish becomes nothing more than another grueling "job". I know that most avid fishermen would probably consider the thought "nonsense" that they could ever lose their desire to go fishing. "That would never happen to me!" But unfortunately, it does happen that after a while some captains just get burnt out on fishing and drift away to other interests.

Also, the transition from "angler" to "captain" can be a problem for some who go into the fishing business because they suddenly find that they almost never have a chance to catch a fish themselves. Charter captains must be able to make a very important transition, they must be able to forgo their own desire to be the angler on the boat holding the rod and catching the fish and be able to focus 100% effort on helping others (their clients) catch fish - not everyone can do that.

Must put life on hold

To be successful, charter operators need to build and maintain a repeat clientele. That's done by providing fair, honest, and reliable service to everyone they do business with. Clients will book a trip days, weeks, or sometimes many months in the advance, and when they commit to the captain they need to know that he's 100% committed to honoring that commitment. The first year I was chartering I missed my sister's wedding because I had a trip booked months before she set her wedding date. Clients want and need to be able to count on their captain, knowing that when they book a trip with him the only thing that might keep them from going is adverse weather. They set their



A real bright spot this year was the yellowfin tuna bite. It started in early and just kept going. Capt. Ed 'Zip' Zajdel with mate Dom DeSanto share one of their many large catches. These 15 yellowfin were caught in the Poor Man's Canyon on ballyhoo and spreader bars.



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travel plans, room reservations, job schedules and everything else they have going on in their lives so that they can fish that day and the last thing they want to hear is that the captain needs to cancel or reschedule the trip because the boat broke down or he's got a wedding to go to.

On a similar note, the fishing season only allows x-amount of days to make an income, so lost days can't be made up. A three day camping trip becomes an expensive affair for the guy who turns down three days of charter trips for it. When you're making a living running a boat there's no blanking out the calendar for days-off and vacations, you fish every day possible and save the other stuff for the off-season months.

Income

When I was in my twenties and hoping to start a career as a charter boat captain I found myself bouncing from bank to bank trying to find one that would finance a boat. The process was as eyeopening as it was humbling. The problem wasn't that I had bad credit, it was trying to convince bankers that I could pay back the loan with money I was going to make running charters. They knew darn well that the charter business was risky, but I was too pig-headed to heed their warnings or be swayed from the course I had set for myself. I eventually got the needed financing and actually paid the boat off a couple years early, but there was a lot of struggling along the way. The bottom line is that charter fishing is not a path to great wealth, it's a lot of work for a little money, with no unemployment compensation, healthcare, or retirement funds, and definitely no overtime pay!

The last thing someone in this business wants to do is divide their annual income by the amount of hours they work because it will only lead to depression when they see how much they make per hour. Minimum wage? Ha - not even close!

Unfair Competition

Imagine having a retail store that buys products for \$10 and sells them for \$15. Another guy opens a similar store on the same block and buys the same products for \$10 but sells them for only \$8. Not understanding why the guy sells his products at a loss you question him and he tells you, "I really don't need to make any money with my store, retail sales is just a fun hobby for me.

Welcome to the charter business one of the few occupations where a big chunk of the competition has no chance, intention, or even desire, to turn a profit! It should be understandable how this unique quark within the industry is something that a lot of full time captains might take exception to. After all, when someone invests 100% of their time and money into an occupation that they hope will pay the bills and feed their kids, it can be unsettling to see some rich, retired dude set up shop nearby and compete for the same customers.

Of course this is nothing new, it has pretty much always been that way. Anywhere there are boats for hire there have always been, and always will be the part-timers who are in the business for reasons that might have nothing to do with making money. The thing is, a lot of them are really top-notch captains who are a credit to the industry and the fishery, so I'm not suggesting that there is anything "wrong" with part time captains and boats, it's just something that anyone who is thinking about diving full time into the business needs to be aware of and ready to accept its quark.

CHARTER FISHING 101

Despite all its inherent quarks, a lot of anglers still consider charter fishing to be the best occupation in the world and every year there's a new batch that take the steps necessary to get their captain's license, a boat, a slip at a marina, a website, Facebook page, business cards and all the other "stuff" they think they'll need to make a living doing what they love. And just in case any of them are reading this column right now here's a few more insights and suggestions that I hope will help you reach your goal:

Put your ego on hold. It's not about you - it's about them

As a whole, I think we fishermen have some of the biggest egos on the planet. From the time we catch our first little sunny in a pond we are forever trying to catch more and bigger fish than anyone else, and when we do, by golly we want everyone to know about it! As captains it's our job to guide our clients to a catch that they can take pride in and get recognition for. Everyone knows the role that a captain plays in every fish that's caught aboard his boat, but at the end of the day he should ensure that the spotlight is not shining on himself, but on his clients who are the ones who financed the trip, caught the fish, and will hopefully return to fish with him again.

Learn how to fix your boat

There are only so many days in a fishing season and you don't want to miss a single one due to some kind of boat or equipment malfunction. The cost of repairs can be bad enough, the loss of revenues from downtime can be devastating. Losing a few days on the water as you wait for a repair technician to fit you into his schedule to take care of something you could have fixed yourself is not a place you want to be in the middle of a busy season. Some things can only be repaired by professionals, but there's a whole lot more that you can do yourself with the right parts, tools, and a basic knowledge of the workings of your boat and how it's put together. Being equipped to replace an impeller or fan belt at sea can be the difference between running your trip and making a paycheck that day or needing a towboat to get you home. Remember too that little issues can eventually turn into big problems, so don't put things off for a later date, take care of every little problem when it first shows up and you won't have to worry about it exploding on you later.

Don't leave the boat at the end of the day until it's clean and looking sharp.

Your boat is a billboard for your business and its appearance is a reflection on you. Walk around the docks at any marina and you'll see that at the end of the day most boats are left clean and orderly, but there will also be one or two that aren't. Appearance is everything and a boat that has rusty hooks and rigs hanging about, unemptied trash cans, dirty rags on the deck, empty beverage containers and other clutter isn't going to be as inviting to potential clients as one that looks sharp and well cared for.

Keep up with requirements and regulations that apply - there are many!

A necessary evil of being in the charter fishing business is keeping up to date on the countless permits, licenses, and regulations that come to play whenever you take paying passengers out to catch a fish. It's confusing, it's a hassle, and it's expensive for a charter captain to stay in compliance with all the state, federal, and local requirements but it's necessary and failure to be in compliance can put an immediate halt to your business right in the middle of a busy season.

Bookkeeping - Do it!

Captains need to closely monitor their cash flow (money coming in and going out) and maintain good bookwork. Yea, I know, most captains will say, "Hey I'm a fisherman not an accountant, I can't do that stuff!" And if that's the case you had better learn how to do it, or get someone to do it for you, otherwise you're on a road to failure. Poor accounting practices and the mishandling of revenues and expenses is a major reason why businesses go under.

Hire good mates

Just because someone can rig a nice bait doesn't mean they'll be

January 1, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 73 an asset to your business. On most boats the mate has more interaction want to with the clients than the captain does. It's your efforts that brought the clients to the boat, don't let the mate run them off. You can teach anyone how to bait a hook. You need a mate that's as reliable, courteous and professional as you (hopefully) are.

Fish the days you book

If you're trying to make money with a boat, you need to run a lot, not just when you feel like it. If things are going well there will be times when you might be booked without a break for many weeks. Unless you absolutely have to, don't schedule days off. Mother Nature will take care of that for you by whipping up a bad weather day now and again. The last thing you want to do during the season is sit at the dock when the weather is nice.

Follow up right away with texts, phone messages and emails.

Usually the last thing a captain wants to do after a long day of fishing is spend time on the phone or computer communicating with clients. But it's a very necessary part of the business. You bait the hook with all your advertising and promotions, and when the phone rings and the emails arrive, it means you've got a "bite". But unless you respond in a timely manner you'll miss the hook-set. We're now living in a world where people have been conditioned to expect immediate response when they make a request or attempt to purchase a product or service and when someone decides they want to book a fishing trip, it's now too easy for them to simply click over to the next website and book the other guy if they don't hear from you very soon. When out on the water we're often cut off from all outside communications so unless there's someone back on shore to handle our bookings it's important to respond to messages at the first opportunity.

Best job in the world?

Despite my comments assertions about the unique, challenging, and precarious nature of the business, for the right person charter fishing still has enough going for it that it can make for a great profession. After all, what other job allows someone to be their own boss, spend lots of time out on the water, tinker with boats, tackle and all kinds of cool fishing equipment, hang out at marinas, and fish every day? Basically captains get paid to do what other boaters and fishermen do for recreation. And when you think about it that way, if you can handle it - it's not a bad gig! §

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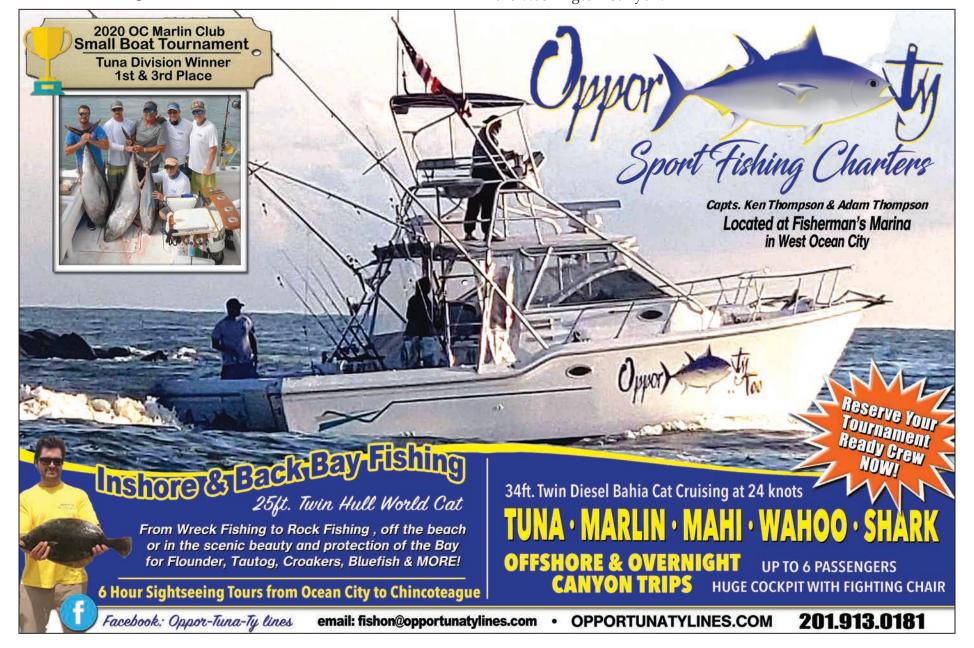
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While fishing on the charter boat "Oppor-Tuna-Ty" with Adam, Andy and Casey Thompson, Allyson Jablonski of Ocean Pines caught her first ribbonfish at the Twin Wrecks. The crew also boated over 3 dozen nice sea bass using the ribbon as bait!



Hugh and J.L. Cropper took the yet to be re-branded new "Myra HT" out on a warm November day to get a nice catch of seabass in the Washington Canyon.







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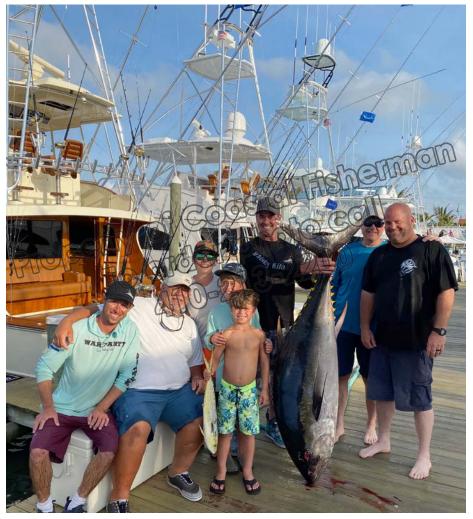
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A fourth day was added to the 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash due to weather impact to the original 3 days. Several boats took advantage of this to bring in big or multiple swordfish. "Fishing for Muscular Dystrophy" was not the exception bringing this 107.5 lb sword to the scales that they raised in the Washington Canyon using eels in 220 fathoms and 65° water. Anglers Ken Garufi, Phil Medlin and Danielle Robertson made up the crew with Capt. Paul Robertson and mate Joey Hurley. Pictured at Sunset Marina's tournament scale.



A throwback bigeye catch from July since we did not see many this year. Anglers Peter Ross and Paul Satterfield with owner Dan Ross headed to the Washington Canyon with Capt. JoJo Joachimowski and mate Connor Tillman on the "Whiskey Kilo". It was flat calm in the mid afternoon when this 209 lb. bigeye hit their Slug-Go eel in 250 fathoms. It took over 2 hours and all of the crew to get this beast to the boat!



On November 14, Ed Bush from West Fenwick weighed this 10 pound striped bass he caught in a local golf course pond!! The pond is near the Assawoman Bay and evidently gets inundated with salt water on storm events and this bass got himself trapped!! It hit a grass shrimp.



Ocean City charter boat Capt. Ken Thompson and friends George Woodwiss, Gary Galati and Mike Peregoy had a great trip sail fishing in Isla Mujeres Mexico, here is one of many they released that trip. When in Ocean City you can find Capt. Ken on the "Oppor-Tuna-ty II" at Fisherman's Wharf Marina.





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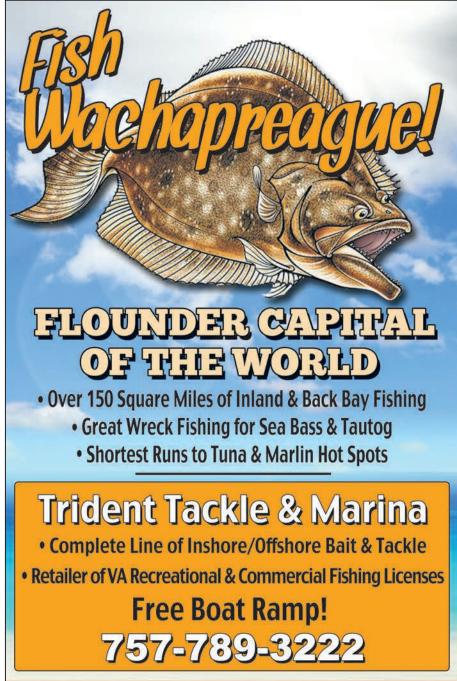
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Father Mike Glavich is getting his son Henry 'Huck" (4) addicted to fishing early! They headed down to the Sinepuxent Bay by the Verazanno Bridge in late December and caught and released Huck's first fish, a striper, on a Roy Rig.



Tommy Fowler of Northbay Marina got into the holiday spirit decorating his windmill palm trees. These are not in Florida, but in West OC! Apparently these are cold hearty ... the big one is 14 yrs old.



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'THE JAPANESE SCRAPBOOK'

It was midwinter in 1975. It was cold and damp in the Mid-Atlantic as most all midwinters are...but this winter we had a bonus planned. A group of us convened on a friend's 46' Bertram in St. Thomas in February for two weeks of fishing and running around the Islands. "Running around the islands" always seemed to include its share of drinking and raising Hell.

'This was a private boat trip devoid of agendas or itineraries. We were intent on just fishing and fun...and had plans for lots of both. My job for the fishing was primarily as mate although we did switch around a bit.

We left Red Hook and crossed to the British side. We started out fishing the South Drop, working from Rams Head on St. John, all the way up the chain to Salt and Peter Island, trolling the drops and edges all the way. We were fishing mostly rigged ballyhoo with sea witches on #12 wire....single strand. At the time this was pretty much all we knew. We were experiencing good fishing for white marlin, with occasional dolphin in the

It was all good. The weather held, we caught plenty of fresh fish for our grill...and even got a free bottle of rum with every 100 gallons of fuel we bought. What's not to like?

At some point in the trip, a winter swell (the result of a heavy northeast wind) started to lay out, so we decided to give the North Drop a go. The North Drop would provide us a better shot for blue ones and generally more action all the way around. In addition to the fishing considerations, we could anchor overnight in Little Harbor and trade fresh dolphin or tuna for lobster dinners and drinks.

So, off we run...18 knots with 8v71ti's pushing the heavy 46' loaded with not only fuel but seven guys and a full complement of gear. We passed through the Tortola/Jost Van Dyke cut, passed Anegada and were off to the Drop.

Once there. fishing the alternated between good and great. We released two blues, several whites and had enough meat fish daily for dinner trade. Although it was rougher than

boat. After all, they said, you really cannot beat fresh grilled wahoo steaks—especially they are served with lots of rum. Their argument was sound and everyone soon agreed.

The boat needed fuel. I offered to clean and steak the 'hoo while boys fueled up and scrubbed the boat. We fueled on Tortola, but the boys dropped me off at Cane Garden Bay to clean and steak our wahoo,

Equipped with the fish, a cooler, company. and a sharp knife I disembark at Cane Garden Bay. There was really nowhere to easily clean a big fish, so I headed off a ways in search of a suitable location. I was wearing khaki shorts and flip flops. I didn't bring along Japanese tourists!

www.coastalfisherman.net As I was about halfway through dispatching the wahoo, things were going well. The knife was sharp, the cooler was half full, and I was standing in knee deep water with my back to the beach. I was in deep concentration.

'Then, out of my reverie I hear a loud voice. The voice was clear and it spoke English with a heavy accent... Jolted from my concentration, it occurs in my head that perhaps I have

Without thinking, I quickly turn around to see who is there. Turning around, and providing something like some might call a "full frontal", I come face to face with a tour bus...full of



hell (even as the swell subsided a bit), it was a glorious time for bunch of young guys.

As the trip progressed we settled into a bit of a daily routine. Sometime around midafternoon, we'd typically pack up the spread and head to the anchorage to wash down. From there, we'd scrub the boat and ourselves before heading for Sydney's Peace and Love... our nightly dining destination. Usually we'd bring a couple tuna or dolphin to be used in bartering for our dinner.

On our next to last day, we caught a large wahoo that changed our routine. If memory serves, the fish weighed 78 pounds. It was a good wahoo.

A couple of the guys suggested that we just have dinner on the any rags or have any towels handy. Looking down at my khaki shorts, I begin to think that this might be a bit more difficult than I imagined.

As I pondered my situation, a plan emerged. I was maybe a quarter mile from town along a sandy beach and it was by now late afternoon. There was not a soul to be seen. My plan was to take my shorts off (I had nothing under them of course), leave the flip flops on the beach, and walk out into knee deep water to steak the fish. 'This way, I figured, I wouldn't need any rags and didn't need to worry about getting my shorts bloody either. There was plenty of clean salt water—I'd just slice fish and pop steaks into the cooler... perfect.

The bus was full and it seemed like each tourist had a camera. Every passenger was by now happily snapping my picture. Were this sight not strange enough, the guide's voice come over the loud speaker...."This is how the local island natives clean their fish!"

I sometimes think about that day on the beach. It makes me laugh. I also laugh when I think about the prospect of 50 year old naked pictures of me adorning vacation scrapbooks in Osaka or Tokyo. This may have been my earliest claim to marginal fame...?

"Fishing Well is the Best Revenge" is available now at Amazon.com and Beach Books. §



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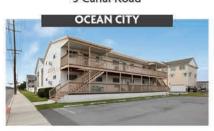
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Mark Yurkiewicz had a double header flounder hook up on his first drop of the day when he fished on the "Thelma Dale IV". This fish just made citation at 7.1 pounds. The rest of the day consisted of lots of throw back sea bass among keepers and porgies.



Dr. Jeff Greenwood with a nice pollack he caught on November 29th while fishing with Capt. Hugh Cropper on the "Myra HT" in the Washington Canyon.





Buying local makes a difference!



Big Bird Cropper and Bryan Mindte of Ocean Pines, MD. had a productive day on October 1st catching 4 bluefish and a nice rockfish. They were working the Rt. 50 Bridge on the outgoing tide using Roy Rigs and a blue Mann's Stretch 25+ to fool their prey.



Ryan Flenniken was as surprised as this yellowfin tuna when he landed this beauty in late September, his first tuna ever! He and Matthew and Neil Flenniken headed out to the notorious Hotdog on their boat "Deep Sedation" when this 44 lb., 29 inch tuna fell for their artificial lures on the troll.







It was a family affair in September when Donna and Anthony Matarese Sr. headed out to the Rockpile with their son Capt. Anthony Matarese and mate Jake Graves on the charter boat "Reel Chaos". Even though they own a charter business, Donna does not get out to fish often, so this was a special day on the water and with her family.





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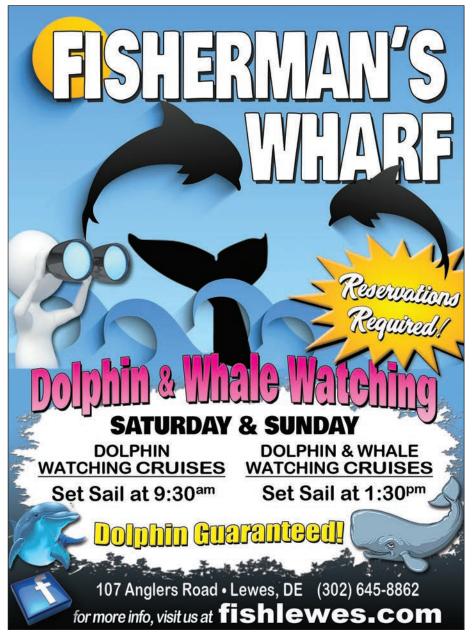
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In October the crew of local boat "Blood Money" and friends took a bucket list trip to Magdalena Bay in Mexico. In 3 full days of fishing the crew had 332 bites and released 193 striped marlin on the boat "Aussie Rules" with Capt. Mattia and Capt. Anthony Pino with mates Daniel Arrieta and Chiivito Vargas. The anglers were of Bill 'Squidnation' Pino, Chris 'Optical Galleria' Pino, Pete Gudaitis, Nevatya Knotts, Zak 'Rt. 113 Boat Sales' Smith, Ernie Eckenrode, Donnie Moore, Ross Anderson and Gunnar Zorn.







Another great day for the gang on the "Magic Moment". Maryland anglers Chris Daugherty and Jeff Rosenkiled with Capt. Jim Bugg and mate Brendan Barbey worked the Poor Man's Canyon on September 25th. They were in 60 fathoms with 69° water when Jeff connected with this 82 lb. wahoo on a diving plug and Mark caught a nice tuna on a ballyhoo.



Capt. Jason Mumford from the charter boat "Lucky Break" got to do some of his own fishing this fall. He landed this 6 lb. sheepshead at the Ocean City Inlet (the new Inlet Eye in the background was a giveaway!) using a sand flea on the outgoing tide with mate Ethan Nock.





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Now that's a happy family. Steven, Charlie and Kennedy Sweigert with family friend Michael 'Dessert Snack' Dzurnak hit the beach on Assateague for some surf fishing in early October. Steven tossed out a fresh fish head and connected with this 52" red drum, fighting it for 20 minutes before he could get it to the beach. I think Kennedy's face says it all!



EAN CITY MARL

2021 TOURNAMENT



12th Annual Memorial Day Tournament

To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Terry Layton & Chris Evans

Registration: May 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 29 & 30

Weigh-Ins: May 29 & 30, 4:30-7:00pm at

Sunset Marina

42nd Annual SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Chairmen: Colin Campbell, Boz Jefferson

& Bill Regan

Registration: June 25, 6:30-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 26 & 27

Weigh-Ins: June 26 & 27, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

39th Annual CANYON KICK OFF

Chairmen: Al Rittmeyer & Bob Althauser

Registration: July 1, 6:30-8:00pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 2, 3, 4

Weigh-Ins: July 2-4, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset

Marina

at Sunset Marina

17th Annual Kid's Classic

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott WAF Chairmen: Pam & Mark Hess, Ryan Freese

Registration: July 16, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 17 & 18

Weigh-Ins: July 17, 3:00-6:30pm and July 18, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

13th Annual OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Ryan Freese &

Amanda Shick

Registration: July 29, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 31 & August 1

Weigh-Ins: July 31 & August 1, 5:30-7:30pm,

at Atlantic Tackle

63rd Annual LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN Tournament

Chairmen: Jim Giles & Gary Stamm Registration: September 2, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 3, 4, 5 Weigh-Ins: September 3,4,5 6:00-8:00pm

6th Annual OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III Angler Meeting: September 9, 7:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 10, 11, 12 No Weigh-Ins

43rd Annual CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Andy Helms & Bob Althauser Registration: September 16, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 17 & 18 No Weigh-Ins

MPORTANT JATES:

Last Day of Fishing October 3, 2021 @ 5:00pm

Last Day for Catch Reports October 4, 2021 by 12:00pm

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Congratulates all 2020 OC Marlin Club

AWARD WINNERS!

Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat in 1 Day "Buckshot" - 15

Most Billfish Caught - 28' & Under "Big Billin" - 5

Most Billfish Caught - 29' - 38' "Fish Whistle" - 28 "Canyon Hunter" - 23

Most Billfish Caught - 39' - 48'
"Fish On" - 80
"First Light" - 44

"My Girl" - 20

"FFMD" - 30

Most Billfish Caught - Private Boat

"Billfisher" - 137 "D.A Sea" - 60 "Kilo Charlie" - 60

Most 1st Billfish Caught - Charter Boat "Fish On" - 34

Most 1st Billfish Caught - Private Boat "Kilo Charlie" - 14

Most Tuna Caught in 2020 – Private Boat "Killin Time" - 99

> "Christine Marie" - 91 "Reel Tight" - 70

Most Tuna Caught in 2020 - Charter Boat

"Marli" - 445 "Talkn Trash" - 415 "Reel Chaos" - 209

Most Tuna Caught - 28' & Under "Team Wallhangers" - 16

Most Tuna Caught - 29' & 38' "Game Changer" - 91

Most Tuna Caught - 39' - 48' "Fish On" - 118

Last Billfish of the Season:

Vincent Youndt (non-member)
"White Lightning" October 2 @ 10:50 AM

Top Junior Angler

Jon Charles Duffie - 18 Releases Rylan DiLodovico - 17 Releases Brian Marks - 10 Releases

Top Lady Angler

Judith Duffie - 26 Releases Valerie Dunn - 6 Releases Peggy Mumford - 5 Releases

Top Gentleman Angler

Darren Helwig - 37 Releases Ed Dunn - 31 Releases Steve Poore - 22 Releases

Charles E. Kratz Award 1st White Marlin Caught by a Junior Angler (Member)

Grayson Donohue "Griffin" June 20 @ 2:00 PM

1st White Marlin Caught on a Member Boat

Keat (non-member) "Talkn' Trash" May 23 @ 1:20 PM

Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mate on a Charter Boat Corey Schiable "Roll Groove"

Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mate on a Private Boat

Noah McVicker & John Henry "Billfisher"

Top Male Recreational Angler Award Scott Peters - 19 Releases

Top Feale Recreational Angler Award Christy Keller - 25 Releases

> Heaviest Tuna "Wrecker" 248 lbs.

Heaviest Dolphin

"Kilo Charlie" 65 lbs.

Heaviest Wahoo

"Primary Search" 84.5 lbs.

Most Sharks Released by any Boat "Schedule Sea" - 11

1st White Marlin of the Season

Carl Sauer (non-member) "Reel Escape" May 23 @ 11:30 AM

1st White Marlin for the Town of OC

Carl Sauer (non-member) "Reel Escape" May 23 @ 11:30 AM

Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat

"Roll Groove" - 102 "Reel Chaos" - 94 "Buckshot" - 81

Most Billfish Caught by any Boat "Billfisher" - 137

Most 1st Billfish Caught - Charter Boat "Fish On" - 34

Most 1st Billfish Caught - Private Boat "Kilo Charlie" - 14

1st Blue Marlin of the Season

Austin J Craig (non-member) "Whiskey Kilo" June 4 @ 11:57 AM

Most Blue Marlin Caught - Private Boat "Billfisher" - 7

Most Blue Marlin Caught - Charter Boat "Fish On" - 10

Most Billfish Caught - Private Boat in 1 Day "Lights Out" - 15

Billfish Release Clubs

100 Club

Roll Groove (102) Billfisher (137) 50 Club

Kilo Charlie (60) D.A. Sea (60) Tighten Up (63) Blood Money (71) Fish On (80) Buckshot (81) Reel Chaos (94)

25 Club

Marli (25)
Spring Mix II (27)
Griffin (27)
Fish Whistle (28)
The Chaser (28)

FFMD (30)
Gret's Three J's (31)
Grande Pez (32)
Electric Bill (35)
Boss Hogg (36)

Absolut Pleasure (36) Talkn Trash (40) Reel Joy (40) Pumpin Hard 58 (40) C-Boys (40)

First Light (44) Bar South (45) Cabana (47) Christine Marie (48) Page 96 Coastal Fisherman January 1, 2021

www.coastalfisherman.net



There were familiar faces for some of the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards. The Top Lady Angler this year was again Judy Duffie from the "Billfisher"! Her catch of 26 put her ahead of 2nd place Valerie Dunn on "D.A. Sea" with 6 and 3rd place Peggy Mumford on "Par Five" with 5. Photo from 2018 award banquet where Judy was also the Top Lady Angler!



The boat "Big Billin" pulled ahead to take the trophy for Most Billfish Released by a 28' and Under Boat for their 5 releases edging out "Sea Hunt 26" and "Ready or Not" with 3 a piece. Capt. Bill Vernon & Elisha Smith are shown picking up the award at the Marlin Club.





Scott Peters is pictured at home with his 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Award for Top Male Recreational Angler. His 19 catches include some of the 15 caught in one day with Seth Hetherington on "Lights Out", whose picture is on our cover. 2nd was Ed Specht with 11 followed by Phillip Keller with 8.



Capt. Jeremy Bendler on the charter boat "Schedule Sea" put a focus on shark fishing this year. This effort paid off with the boat winning Most Sharks Released by Any Boat in the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards. A total of 11 were released. Pictured with the trophy are Jake Bendler (12) and Kasey Bendler (10).



It was a close race for the Top Junior Angler Award for the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards. In the end the title went to John Charles Duffie on the "Billfisher" for his 18 catches. Following closely behind was Rylan DiLodovico, "Roll Grove" with 17 and Brian Marks, "My Girl" with 5. John Charles is pictured in action on the "Billfisher".



Christy Keller won this year's Ocean City Marlin Club Top Female Recreational Angler Award for the 25 billfish she caught this year. On her best day she landed 2 blue marlin and 7 white marlin! She is an important part of the "Tighten Up" team and is pictured here with Capt. Jason Genthner and mate Charles Porter.



For the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards, Grayson Donohue was recognized for his catch of the "First White Marlin Caught by a Junior Angler (member)". He caught the marlin while fishing on the private boat "Griffin" on June 20th at 2PM. Congratulations Grayson!



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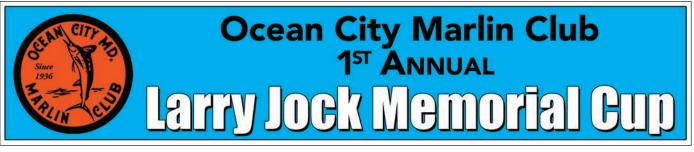
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Capping off a stand out year for Capt. Gary Stamm and the "Buckshot" was the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Award for Most Billfish Released in One Day by a Charter Boat. Pictured here on the day of the catch with 15 flags flying! The "Buckshot" also won 3rd place in the Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat with 81 total.





The Ocean City Marlin Club Annual Larry Jock Memorial Cup was established after the unexpected passing of this papers long time publisher, owner and friend to the Delmarva fishing community in early 2020. This award recognizes the Ocean City Marlin Club member boat that placed in the most finishing positions (1st, 2nd, 3rd) in the club's tournament events over the season, specifically for pelagic species. For 2020 the 1st annual award is presented to Capt. Gary Stamm for the winning boat "Buckshot". Pictured here is Larry's wife Mary Jock, son Larry III and his brother Tom Jock with club President Franky Pettolina. Pictured at the Marlin Club in West Ocean City.





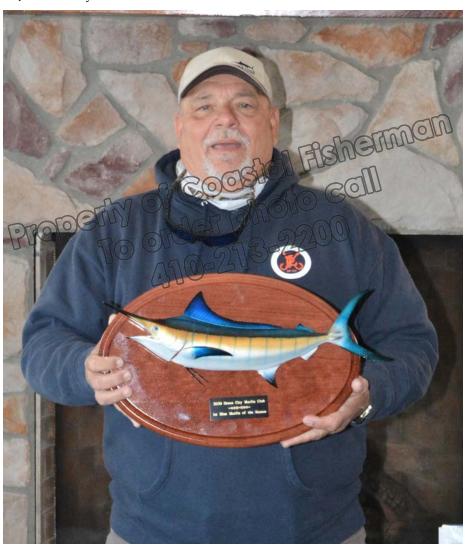
"Team Wallhangers" made the most of their first year as members of the Ocean City Marlin Club winning the club's seasonal award for Most Tuna Caught by a 28' and Under Boat for the 16 tunas landed this year. Pictured with the award at his home is Capt. Troy Cook.



Capt. Todd Willard and mate Jake Emche may need a bigger boat to hold all of the Ocean City Marlin Club Season Award trophies. "Fish On" was recognized in 2020 for Most Tuna Caught by a 39'-48' Boat, Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Charter Boat (10), 1st place in Most Billfish Caught-39'-48' Boat (80), Most First Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat (34) and for being in the 50 Club (80). Pictured at the Marlin Club.



Private boat "Kilo Charlie" had a very good year in 2020 and secured a few Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards. Pictured here picking up their trophies at the Marlin club for Heaviest Dolphin (65.0 lbs.), 3rd place in Most First Billfish Caught-Private Boat (60), Most First Billfish Caught by a Private Boat (14) and for being in the 50 club (60) are Chris & Jeri Kinsley and Liz & Scott Dolmetsch.



Capt. JoJo Joachimowski of the private boat "Whiskey Kilo" shows off the 2020 Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal award they won for catching the First Blue Marlin of the Season, caught by non-member Austin J. Craig.



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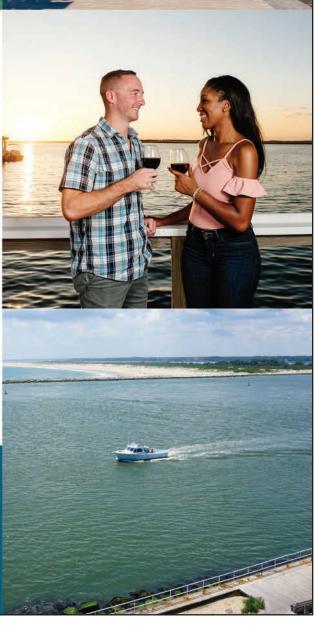
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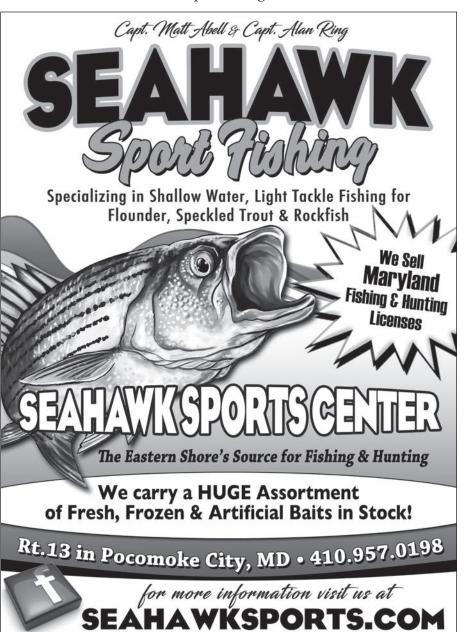




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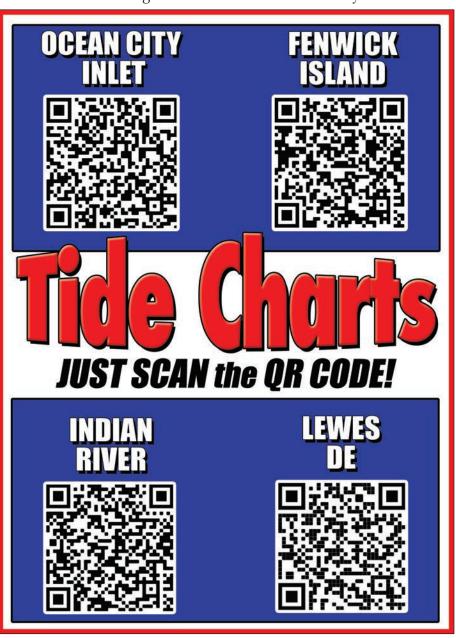


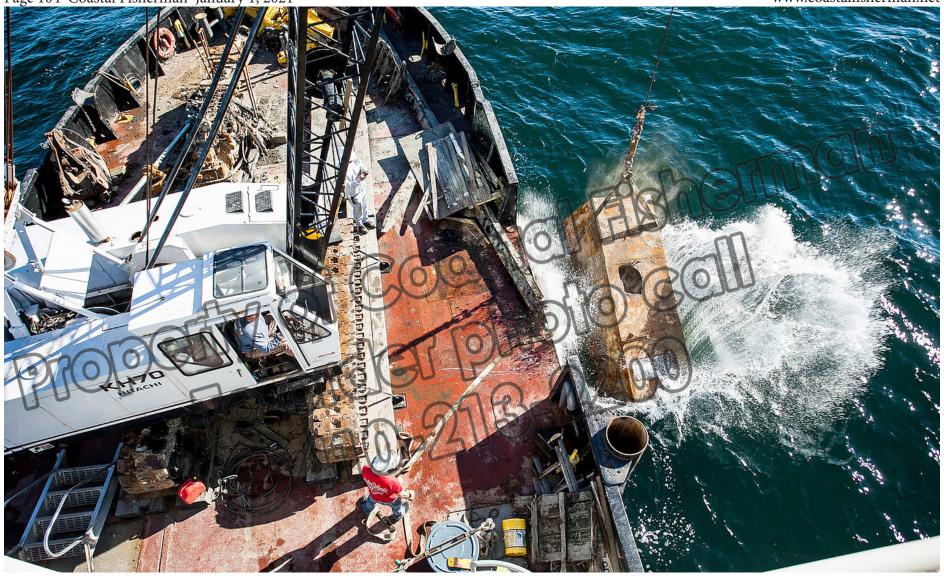
John Lorenz of West Berlin, MD can barely hold this 47" red drum he caught on cut spot in the south Chesapeake Bay while fishing with Capt. Matt Abell on the "Seahawk Sprotfishing"





We don't know who looks more surprised, Lori O'Rourke or the 16.5 inch weakfish she caught in October at the Ocean City Inlet!





At the end of all the fund raising, material acquisition planning and logistics is the actual delivery of material to the various reef sites. Above and below are nice shots of a large concrete blocks being sent to the bottom!





The Ocean City Reef Foundation is driven by donations, volunteers and goodwill! Here is one of the boats acquired by the foundation to become part of an artificial reef or ocean structure we sometimes call them!



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Logan Peed and crew from Bryantown, MD were all smiles after their busy day in late September aboard the charter boat "Marli". Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Dakota Bittner headed to the Wilmington Canyon and set their Sterling Tackle daisy chains and spreader bars to catch these 10 very nice tuna. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Richard Crosariol from Selbyville, DE has been a flounder catching machine this summer, mainly fishing by himself! On this October trip he landed a nice 21" keeper in the evening in the East Channel using Gulp. The water was cloudy and on the last of outgoing tide.



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First to the scales on the first day of the 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash, charter boat "Fish On" brought this 358 lb. swordfish to the dock. Angler Todd Willard hooked this one on mahi belly in the Poor Man's Canyon while fishing with John Centrella, Capt. Andrew Dotterweich and mates Jake Emche and Steven Stallings. This beauty held on to tie for second place in the Heaviest Swordfish Division. Combined with a 160 lb. sword they caught on 10/18, the boat was the tournament top money winner earning \$27,520 in award money.



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3rd Place • Kilo Charlie

358 lbs.

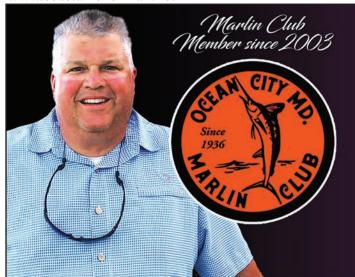
\$23,830



2nd place for heaviest swordfish in the 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash ended in a tie! York, PA anglers Christopher Kinsley and Scott Dolmetsch worked with Capt. Howard Lynch and mates Pete Pendleton and Burro Gonzalez on the "Kilo Charlie" to bring this 358 lb. beast to the boat. The sword fell for dolphin belly in the Wilmington Canyon in 150 fathoms of 67° water. The boat also took 2nd place in the Heaviest Tuna division with a 68.5 lb. bluefin winning a combined total of \$23,830 in award monies.



The 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash in honor of Rena Bishop was held in mid October to benefit the Burbage Regional Cancer Care Center. 15 boats entered in the inaugural event with a \$10,560 check from the tournament fees donated. When combined with individual donations it reached a total over \$30,000. Pictured is Rena Bishop with the ceremonial check at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City.



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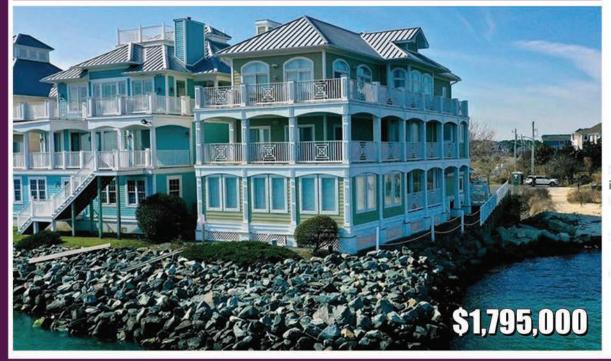
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The 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash saw lots of swordfish action culminating with this catch from the "Peixe Espada". Capt. Steven Wright with mates Mike Zorzi and Rhett Dumont and angler Mark Smith found this winner in 1500 ft of 64° water, south in the Washington Canyon. Caught on squid on Monday 10/19, a day added to the tournament due to weekend bad weather. The crew won \$7,470 in award money for placing 1st in the Heaviest Swordfish Division.



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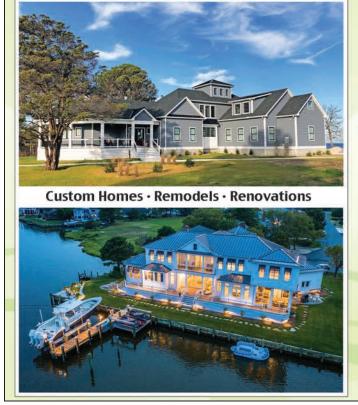








The 1st Annual Bishop Broadbill Bash Heaviest Tuna award went to mate Andrew Reier on the "Reel Allure" for this 116.5 lb. bigeye tuna. This winner fell for their squid bait in 300 fathom in the Poor Man's Canyon. Fishing with Andrew were Capt. Dave Reier, Three Corley, Jason Panner and Ted Honeywell. This late tournament catch won the Atlantic Tackle 1st Place Single Heaviest Tuna award of \$5,000. Pictured at Sunset Marina's Tournament scale.





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It was an October to remember for the crew of the private boat "Magic Moment", October 20th to be exact! Capt. Jim Bugg from Easton, MD with anglers Chris Daugherty from Glen Bernie, MD, Jim & Brendon Barbey from White Marsh, MD and Anna Schumann from Tunis Mills, MD headed out to the Poor Man's Canyon for some deep dropping. Lucky for them they had set their eels on electric reels otherwise this 154.5 lb. swordfish would have worn someones arms off hand cranking!



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The rivers of Wicomico County were full of healthy fat rockfish this fall and Squidnation owner Bill Pino with friends Bill Mengason, Donnie Moore and Dave Davis took full advantage. This beauty was caught on a Curly Short Otter Tails from Squidnation and bucktails.



Angler John Evans from Selbyville, DE caught this nice 17", 4.5 lbs. sheepshead in late September at the O.C. Inlet south jetty. Capt. Ed Harman from the "Cobia Hunter" was at the helm. The fish was fooled with sand fleas on the outgoing tide.



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2021 TOURNAMENTS

APRIL

30th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament April 23 - May 2 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

MAY

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament May 15 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

12th Annual Memorial Day Tournament May 29 & 30 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

25th Annual Mako Mania

June 4 - 6 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament

June 9 - 13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

6th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament June 25-27 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

42nd Annual Small Boat TournamentJune 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

3rd Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 26 - 27 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

39th Annual Canyon Kick Off

July 2 - 4 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown July 7 - 10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 9 - 11 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

17th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic July 17 - 18 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament
TBA • Long Neck, DE • www.BayTournament.com

Yacht Club of Stone Harbor Marlin Tournament

July 22 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

7th Annual Big Fish Classic
July 23- 25 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

13th Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament July 31 - Aug 1 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

AUGUST

12th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament

August 7 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

48th Annual White Marlin Open

August 2 - 6 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Ocean City (NJ) Marlin & Tuna Club Overnight Tournament

TBA • Cape May, NJ • www.ocmtc.com

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder

TBA • Long Neck, DE • www.BayTournament.com

28th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open August 12 - 14 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

The MidAtlantic

August 16 - 20 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

SEPTEMBER

63rd Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament September 3 - 5 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

16th Annual Flounder Pounder

September 12 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

6th Annual OC Marlin Club vs. Light Tackle Club Shoot-Out

September 10 - 12 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

2nd Annual Rebels Release Ladies Tournament September 10 - 11 • Sunset Marina • www.rebelsrelease.com

> 20th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 11 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

43rd Annual OC Marlin Club Challenge Cup September 17 - 18 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

OCTOBER

40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament TBA • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

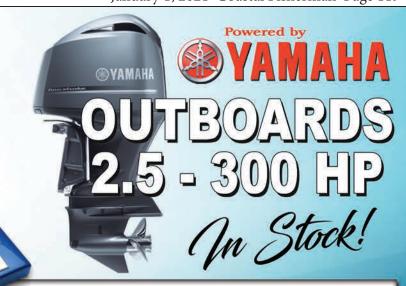
Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament October 23 - November 21 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

17th Annual A.M.S.A Ronald Bounds Fishing Tournament TBA • www.keepersofthebeach.com



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BUGGYWASHER - 2007 74' Viking Call Erik Anderson



APAVA - 1969 56' Rybovich Call Jimmy Fields



MEGABITE - 2004 57' Dixon Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



FLORIDIAN - 1990 60 Custom Carolina Call Jimmy Fields



TRIAL SIZE - 1986 57' Island **Boatworks Call Jimmy Fields**



THE STREAKER - 2005 44' Gillikin Call Ronnie Fields



NATURAL - 1978 53' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields



SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman 50' Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



HEBE - 1988 43' G&S Sportfish Call Ronnie Fields



DOUBLE TROUBLE - 2004 35' Marlago Call Terry Layton



SINDACO - 2008 33' Ocean Master Call Ronnie Fields



HALCYON - 1998 55' Viking Call Jimmy Fields



NO SWEAT - 48' 1986 Billy Holton Call Jeff James



CONSTELLATION - 1984 37' Sunny Briggs - Call Ronnie Fields



LIBATION - 2000 46' Buddy Harris Call Jimmy Fields



2007 33' Buddy Cannady Call Ronnie Fields



CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty Call Jeff James



2000 50 Hatteras Call John Caselli



2016 43' Everglades Call Jimmy Fields



2018 25' Custom Blackfin



Call Chris Workmon

