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# COASTAL FISHERMAN



**VOLUME 44 • • • NUMBER 21 • • • SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

Last Sunday afternoon, anglers on the "Primary Search" returned from an overnight trip in the Wilmington Canyon with a 68-inch white marlin, 2 white marlin releases, a pair of yellowfin tuna that weighed 67 and 86 lbs., a 45 lb. wahoo, 2 golden tilefish, 2 blueline tilefish, 2 mahi and a mako shark release. Gus Everhardt caught the wahoo during the trip out on Saturday and Andy Becker battled and released the mako shark at night. The 3 white marlin broke their goal of 25 set for this season, so their 26th fish ended up in the smoker. Also fishing on the "Primary Search" were Tommy Clark, Anthony Clark, Sean Rosa, Jonny Brown, Jesse Rawls and Capt. Austin Ensor. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





While fishing on the "Gringo Loco" in the Wilmington Canyon, Nick Diguglielmo fooled this 39-inch, 37 lb. golden tilefish with a strip of squid. Nick and his fellow anglers also caught 2 smaller golden tilefish and 15 mahi during their trip.



Dave and Mike Toomey were hitting some Delaware structure during a morning fishing trip and got into some spadefish while using sand fleas and clams for bait. Dave ended up hooking the largest fish of the day. The spadefish weighed 4 lbs. 4 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Laura James of Ocean City, MD hooked her very first white marlin while fishing on "Gret's Three J's" with Alex Beane of Royal Oak, MD, John Conrad of Lititz, PA, Capt. Mitch Pierson and mate John Griffith (pictured). The white was fooled with a trolled ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. The anglers also caught 2 yellowfins, including another "first" for Laura, that weighed a combined 142 lbs.

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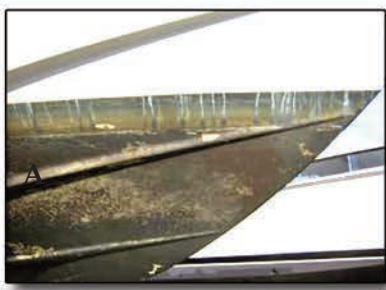
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by **Larry Jock** 

### This Week Last Year

- The effects of Hurricane Florence kept everyone at the dock at the end of the week and through the weekend.
- Mid-week, dolphin and white marlin were biting in the Poor Man's Canyon.
- The best flounder bite was literally under the Rt. 50 Bridge.
- The top flounder bait was live bunker, but minnows, squid and Gulp Swimming Mullet were right behind.
- The sheepshead bite died at the South Jetty.
- Boats had to move from 60-feet of water to 100-feet of water to catch sea bass and flounder on inshore structure.
- Bluefish and mackerel were caught while trolling spoons at Fenwick Shoal.

This is the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the 2019 season. Looking back, it really was a very good season of fishing out of Ocean City. It didn't start out that way with another bad winter striper season and a soggy spring, but when the weather turned nice fishing turned on.

The early yellowfin bite was good again, but the late summer action slacked off. Nobody can deny that dolphin fishing was fantastic, both in numbers and the size of the fish. In fact, we saw the Maryland state record broken twice after standing for 34 years. The blue marlin bite this year was as good as I can remember and white marlin have been snapping. The inshore sea bass and flounder bites were inconsistent, but have heated up in recent weeks. It looks like the effects from recent storms may have stirred things up a bit and moved the cold water off the bottom. We saw another great

season of cobia fishing along the coast, and finally, the bay flounder season was a good one, although anglers had to weed through a large number of throwbacks to get their keepers. When they weren't fishing for flounder, bay anglers found plenty of bluefish and small stripers around the Rt. 50 Bridge to make their trip interesting.

Unlike past seasons, the final couple of weeks have been hampered by bad weather. Offshore action was definitely dominated by dolphin last week with huge catches coming in from the Baltimore Canyon before the weather turned bad on Friday and Saturday.

One of the few boats that broke the Inlet on Saturday was the "Fish On" and they were rewarded with a blue marlin release that they estimated at 300 lbs., 4 white marlin releases, 10 mahi and a 68 lb. wahoo. All of the action was in the Baltimore Canyon.

Fortunately for most boats, it picked right back up on Sunday and we saw quite a few boats head offshore. Boats arrived back at the dock with loads of small to medium-size dolphin in addition to some nice size yellowfin tuna and white marlin releases. Anglers on the "Primary Search" had a good overnight trip, returning to Sunset Marina with a mako shark release, 2 big yellowfins, 2 white marlin releases, a boated white marlin, a 45 lb. wahoo, 2 golden tilefish, 2 blueline tilefish and a pair of mahi. The "Marli" also ventured out and anglers caught their limit of dolphin and had 2 white marlin releases

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Their largest yellowfin weighed 79 lbs. A few other boats had a good day with white marlin hook-ups. "Reel Chaos" had 5 releases in the Baltimore Canyon and the "Griffin" released 6 in the "Poor Man's".

Speaking of the "Challenge Cup", the teams from Ocean City squeaked out a win versus the Cape May (NJ) Tuna and Marlin Club. When I say squeaked, I mean they won by only 1 white marlin, 38 whites versus 37.

A few wahoo were also caught last week by anglers on the "No Quarter", "Reel Chaos", "Blue Eyes" and the "Primary Search".

Like I said earlier, the inshore black sea bass and flounder bites seem to be improving. We didn't see any epic days last week like we did the week before, but headboats reported many anglers catching their limit of knotheads or getting close to it. Like last year, the best bite is moving eastward into 100+ feet of water. The largest sea bass we saw last week were in the 20-inch range and were fooled with squid or clams. It will be interesting to see what this latest storm does to the flounder bite. The Old Grounds continued to look like it was worth the ride, but we also saw catches come from wrecks closer to Ocean City, such as at the Bass Grounds and African Queen.

In the bay, water clarity was not very good, but we did see flatties being caught in the East Channel, the West Channel and down behind Castaway's Campground. Live bait is the ticket right now, but Gulp artificial baits are still producing.

The sheepshead bite has been relatively quiet, but anglers on the charter boat, "On the Run" jumped back on the Heaviest Fish page with a 26 1/2-inch, 13 lb. 3 oz. fish caught on Sunday at the South Jetty with a green crab.

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With this being the last issue of the season, I want to take the time to thank some folks for what they do.

First, our advertisers who make it all possible. Since we continue to be a "priceless" publication, we rely on advertisers to pay the bills. Many of these advertisers have been with us over 15 years. Needless to say, a great way to say "thank you" is to shop local because these businesses not only make it possible to bring you the Coastal Fisherman each week, but they are also the backbone to our fishing community. The internet is convenient, but please think twice before you hit the "buy" button. Keep it in the family!

I also want to thank our columnists, Franky Pettolina, Mark Sampson and Steve Katz. Unless you have ever done it, writing a weekly column is not as easy as it looks, especially when you are fitting it in with your regular job. I think our guys do a tremendous job and I appreciate what they do.

I would like to thank our small, but great staff at the Coastal Fisherman. My brother

Tom, my wife Mary, my mom Maureen and my son Larry do a great job every week to pull this whole thing together and keep me somewhat sane. Since everyone is family, I probably don't say "thank you" enough, but I really appreciate the job they all do.

Finally, a big "Thank You" goes out to our readers. Not a week goes by where we don't receive nice comments from readers telling us how much they enjoy reading the Coastal Fisherman. To say we appreciate these comments would be an understatement and some weeks, when you are really dragging, these nice comments give you the jolt you need to put out another issue that readers will have fun reading. For this, I return the "thank you" and please don't ever think for one minute that we take your loyalty and appreciation for granted.

The next issue on the schedule is our big Winter Issue that hits the streets right before the New Year. If you have any pictures of catches that you would like to submit, please don't hesitate to do so. You can email the information and the



Back in 1974, Warren Kawans enjoyed catching white marlin on light tackle and on this day he captured a 61 pounder on 6 lb. test line. Warren was fishing in the Washington Canyon on the "Kim-Bar" with Charlie Hayden, Capt. Frank Stewart and mate Reggie Bell. Reggie, who submitted the picture, believes it set a White Marlin World Record for it's line class. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier in Ocean City, MD.

picture (at Actual Size) to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net).

Until then, let's hope that white and blue marlin keep snapping, big schools of yellowfin tuna make a return appearance, dolphin keep filling coolers, the inshore sea bass and

flounder bite finish strong and we actually have a fall/winter striper bite. That's not asking too much!

Until the next year, I'll see you on the water, hopefully with a big flounder or striper at the end of my line.

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It's been a great season for cobia fishing off the Delmarva coast and Travis Baker from Ashburn, VA jumped in on the action when he boated this 41-incher after hooking it on a plug at Little Gull Shoal. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Bait & Tackle.



Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat, "On the Run" hated being off the Heaviest Fish page for sheephead, but he jumped back in the lead last Sunday when Nick Dean from Annapolis, MD captured a 26 1/2-inch, 13 lb. 3 oz. sheephead on a sand flea at the South Jetty. Nick was joined on the trip by Ben Dean and Ed Goodwin. The "On the Run" is docked at Bahia Marina.

 An advertisement for Bank of Ocean City. It features a large, detailed image of a fish (likely a bluefish) jumping out of the water. The text includes the bank's logo, "SUPPORTING THE FISHING COMMUNITY SINCE 1916", and contact information for the Ocean City Branch.
 

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Eugene Halbleib, Kyle Heisey and David Hubler (not pictured) fished the incoming tide around the Rt. 50 Bridge and caught 20 bluefish, 2 flounder and 4 short stripers



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Ben Moody from Lewes, DE was soaking a bucktail tipped with a Gulp artificial bait around "B" Buoy when he caught this pair of big flounder. His largest weighed an even 4 lbs. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Last week, anglers on the "Blue Eyes" went 5 for 7 on white marlin in addition to catching 30 dolphin and a 45 lb. wahoo. All were fooled with ballyhoo in 100 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. Fishing with Capt. Jason Blake and mates Chase Nader and Tyler Davis were Jamie Ross, Jeff Greenwood, Matt Gardinia, Christian Adams and Jose Cabanna. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Angel Pope from Gouldsboro, PA, Jan Dunkling from Auburn, PA, Mikey Pharr from Phoenix, MD and Luanne Jamison from Planes, PA had a good day of sea bass fishing during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. All of the sea bass, plus a triggerfish, were caught on natural ocean bottom while using squid and clams for bait.



Gabriel Dalfonso, age 10, from West Ocean City, MD hooked his first white marlin while fishing in the Baltimore Canyon on the "Tara Jessica" with his dad, David Dalfonso, Capt. Greg Wendell and mate Spencer Cropper. David also released his first white marlin during the trip.

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Last week was not a good week to be a dolphin off the coast of Ocean City with several boats returning with their limit in the box. One of those was the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Brian Porter at the wheel and mates Rick Tshudy and Marshall Freng in the pit. The anglers brought home 60 dolphin and an 86 lb. yellowfin tuna after fishing in the Wilmington Canyon. The yellowfin was caught on the troll and the dolphin were caught while pitching cut bait. Pictured back at Sunset Marina are Karen Millar, Carla and Bryan Long, Chad Kellner, Kyle Lankford and Rob Nakielny.

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# CHUM LINES

by Capt. Mark Sampson



There's still a lot of fishing season left in the year so there's no need for anyone to start putting their tackle or boats away yet. But sooner or later, it's sure to happen that external conditions will be such that even the most diehard anglers will finally toss in the towel and choose one of two options; either head to southern latitudes where they can keep on fishing until the "spring thaw" occurs up here on Delmarva or stow their boats and tackle away and go into some form of hibernation for a few months.

Given the chance, I think most fishermen would choose the former of the two alternatives. It's always better to fish than not, and better still, you can do it in a warm tropical environment in the middle of the winter. Of course, most folks simply can't pull up stakes and head south just to catch a few fish and dodge a few snowflakes, so for so many, "make like a bear and hibernate" is the only way to get through the long fishless winter.

When I was a kid, too much downtime between fishing seasons made the

winters absolutely brutal on me. Still too young to drive and being in school 5 days a week meant that any hunting, fishing, camping or ski trips were at the mercy of my parent's busy schedules. I was impatient and desperately needed something to keep me occupied between outdoor adventures. Recognizing my discontent one winter, my mother bought me a beginner fly-tying kit to give me something to do. Talk about creating a monster! For the rest of that winter I did nothing but study pictures of flies in an Orvis catalog and then try my best to duplicate them on a little fly vise clamped to the very desk where I should have been spending more time doing my homework. I learned not only how to tie flies, but also that the next best thing to "fishing" is working on the tackle and equipment that would eventually allow me to go fishing. That next spring when the action finally resumed, I surely wasn't lacking for flies!

It's interesting the way that life turns out. As a captain and fishing guide, I now do for a job what I used to do for fun.

These days my winter downtime only lasts until the end of January when I head south to get back to the "work" of fishing, but that still allows opportunity to take on projects that will make the upcoming season in Florida and Ocean City run more smoothly.

The process typically starts in early November when I start taking tackle and equipment off my boats, running through the winterization and storage process and making a list of the various tasks I'll need to take care of between now and spring. Having a written list allows me to prioritize items and schedule projects. Obviously there will be things on the list like "painting" or "fiberglass work" that are very weather-dependent and must be done either on a nice day in the fall or not until spring. Inside work is always reserved for the cold, bleak days in the heart of the winter when I'll get the additional benefit of enjoying some hands-on work that makes me feel a bit less removed from the upcoming fishing season. Let the snow fly and the ice form because today I'm warm as toast sitting at a work bench tweaking out the drags on fishing reels so they'll be ready for action this spring! You get the point.

There will always be plenty of maintenance and repair projects that pop-up during

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the fishing season, but those who fish a lot don't have much time for the "hobby" type of work that can and should be done during the winter months. Anything that can be done in the off-season will make life so much easier later when it's time to focus more on catching fish. And it's for that reason that I already have a to-do list in the works for this fall and early winter that will keep me more than busy in the off-season and ahead of the game when it's time to get back to the business of fishing. So far, my list includes: making lead-head jigs, tying some flies, cleaning and fixing some reels, repairing a couple rods, re-spooling reels, updating my inventory of leader, new bearings in a boat trailer and way too many projects on my boats than I care to mention.

If ever the size and scope of this punch-list starts to get me down, I just remind myself that even though I "must" do these things for my business, many of the tasks are no different from what I once did as a kid for "fun" and a way to maintain some sanity during the no-fishing months. I'm betting there's a lot of young, old and anywhere in-between anglers out there who would benefit and get a lot of enjoyment from picking away at fishing related hobbies of their own and right now, while



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we're all still fishing, boating and doing what we so much like to do, is the best time to start that list. That squeaky reel you fished with last weekend, the bad light on your boat trailer or that broken rod holder - get those off season chores on paper and it will be a lot easier to prioritize, budget for and eventually knock out what you'll need to get done before next season.

By the way, once you get all your "stuff" ready for the next season, how about getting yourself ready? Maybe the last line on your to-do list should be something like "go south and practice!" And if you're so inclined and find yourself down in the lower Florida Keys in February, March, or April I hope you'll consider joining me on a full or half-day backcountry flats fishing trip to chase tarpon, bonefish, permit, barracuda, sharks and any of the other species found in the shallow and incredibly beautiful waters we fish between Big Pine Key and Key

West. I can take up to two anglers at a time on my Maverick flats skiff and while I can never "guarantee" fish, I can promise you'll get a lot of fishing - and certainly casting "practice" that will make you a better angler when you get home.

This might be the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for 2019, but there's a lot of great fishing yet to be had on Delmarva before the snow starts to fly and our fishing holes ice over. I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy what's left of the summer and has a great fall and winter of hunting, fishing and knocking out their to-do lists before the start of the 2020 season!

*Capt. Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center. During the winter months, Capt. Mark runs charters in the Lower Keys.*



Dave Lorry from Lebanon, PA was drifting shiners in the East Channel, south of the Rt. 50 Bridge when he caught this 21 1/2-inch flounder during a trip aboard the headboat, "Happy Hooker".

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Thomas Tyler caught and released this blue marlin while fishing on the "Layin' Lines" with Tyler Storm, Ben Storm, Charlie Storm and Samson Mathews. The anglers were trolling between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons around noon when they hooked up with a pair of blue marlin. They lost one after a 10 minute fight, but got this one to the boat in 3 hours and 33 minutes.



This 22-inch weakfish couldn't resist the live mullet that Matt Schuler of Seaford, DE was using for bait while fishing in the Indian River Inlet. The weakie weighed 3 lbs. 10 oz. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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Daria Williard from Harrisburg, PA celebrated her birthday with a fishing trip on the headboat, "Judy V" with Capt. Chris Adams. Daria caught a 24 1/2-inch, 5 lb. 5 oz. flounder while drifting a live minnow at Site 10. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



The Outer Wall has been a hot spot over the last several weeks for anglers looking for sheepshead and Sandy Toomey took advantage of it, catching a 5 lb. 3 oz. sheepshead and adding a 2 lb. 8 oz. triggerfish for good measure. Both fish were caught while using sand fleas for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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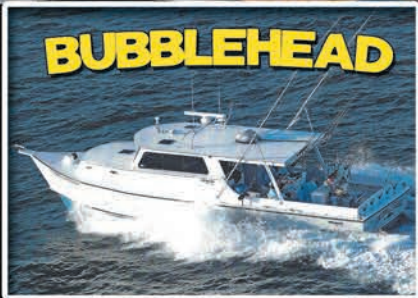


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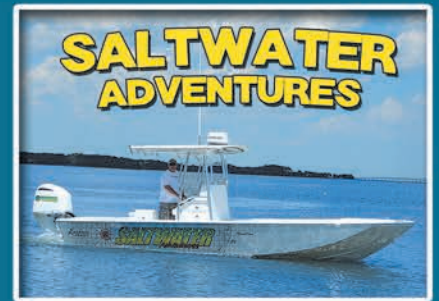
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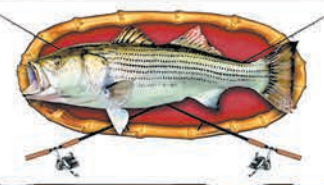
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# FISHING CHARTERS



Justin Hardy jumped on the "Priceless" with Capt. Pat Petrera and mate Rodney Evans and released his very first white marlin while trolling along a weed line in the Baltimore Canyon. This was only Justin's second time offshore fishing.



Paul Coughenour loves heading out on the headboat, "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting and on this day he captured a bunch of black sea bass, including this 15-incher, while using squid and clams for bait. All of the action was at the Bass Grounds. The "Judith M" is docked at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Ty Becker from Lincoln, DE used a sand flea to fool this 9 lb. 6 oz. sheepshead while fishing at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay aboard the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Anthony Miller and Alex Goffredo from Mahwah, NJ returned to Frontier Town with a good catch of Spanish and king mackerel after spending a few hours fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. The mackerel were hooked on trolled spoons over shoals just off Ocean City, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Numerous limits of black sea bass were caught on this day last week by anglers fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. There were also a handful of good size flounder and a 16 1/2-inch triggerfish mixed in as well. Paul Coughlin led the way for sea bass with a 20-incher and Mike Meszaros' 22-incher was the largest flounder of the day. Also fishing were Cathy Creel, "Hurricane" Murray Adams, who was the first to catch a limit of 15 sea bass, Mike Bell, Greg Helman, Mike McGonigal and Ray McGonigal. All of the fish were caught primarily on squid and clams over ocean structure.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Bob and Adam Lake are now 3 time pool winners for catching the largest fish during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo. This knothead, hooked on a chunk of clam, measured 19-inches and weighed over 3 lbs. It was a good day of fishing after the effects of Hurricane Dorian blew through with several limits around the rail.



Devin and Donna Tarr joined up with Terry Murray to catch a dozen mahi (3 pictured) while pitching cut ballyhoo and squid just north of Massey's Canyon. Their largest fish weighed 12.6 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Chad Meeks was at the helm of the charter boat, "Boss Hogg" and mates Rick Tshudy and Marshall Freng were in the pit when this group of anglers boated their limit of 60 dolphin, 2 yellowfin tuna and released 3 white marlin, all in the Wilmington Canyon last week. Pictured are anglers Lucio, Ole and Seyn Castro, Patrick Blasi, Dan Aiken and Jeff Klein. The yellowfins weighed a total of 115 lbs. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



On Sunday, Mason Hurst, Jamie Willis and Matt Hurst ventured out to the African Queen and caught a 20-inch triggerfish, 4 flounder measuring between 17 and 20-inches and 8 sea bass (not pictured). Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



This 10 lb. 3 oz. sheephead was hanging out around The Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay when it made the fatal mistake of going after the clam and sand flea combination being dropped by Daryl Mergenthaler of Delaware City, DE. Daryl was fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Last week was a great one if you were looking to stock the freezer with dolphin fillets and this group on the charter boat, "Marli" had enough for several freezers after spending the day trolling in the Baltimore Canyon. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Dakota Bittner and Josh Lowery were Rob Simington, Ed Hileman and Karen Cooper who each released a white marlin during the trip, Tammy Simington, Ben Cooper and John Wooldridge. The 60 dolphin were caught on cut ballyhoo and squid while the white marlin were hooked on trolled ballyhoo. The anglers also chaffed off a blue marlin, also in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Ross Quilter and Donny Post found a large school of chopper bluefish attacking menhaden around the Rt. 50 Bridge and Ross managed to lure a 24-incher away with a Rat-L-Trap during the incoming tide.



Kelly Kappus had 3 great trips on the "Primary Search" with Capt. Austin Ensor and mates Jonny Brown and Brian Suschke, releasing her first blue marlin, her first white marlin (pictured) and catching countless mahi in the Baltimore Canyon.

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Anglers on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" got into a variety of pelagics while trolling in the Baltimore Canyon early last week. They returned with 5 white marlin releases, a 54 lb. yellowfin tuna, a 58 lb. wahoo and a half dozen mahi-mahi. Fishing with Capt. Anthony Matarese, Sr. and mates Mike Matarese and Jake Graves were Jim Scoggins, Shawn Carter, Shawn Carter, Jr. and Eric Werner, who each released white marlin, Doug Scott and Bruce Boyd. Doug muscled in the yellowfin and Shawn, Sr. captured the wahoo. Pictured back at the dock at Sunset Marina.



Do we even say anything about the leopard print robe worn by angler Trish Purcell after a trip aboard the "Partnership"? Nah, since she was celebrating her birthday with Cate Calogero, who released her first white marlin and her first blue marlin, Susan Cropper, Capt. Mark Cropper and mates Spencer Cropper and Bob Purcell. The anglers also caught 3 small dolphin with all of the bites coming in the Wilmington Canyon. Look for the Trish Purcell Robe Collection debuting in next month's Saltwater Sportsman magazine.



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Marissa Van Lil was fishing on the "Mud Skipper" at a reef in 35-feet of water off the coast of Ocean City when she captured this 17 1/2-inch, 4 lb. 8 oz. triggerfish while using clams for bait.



Baron and Rich Daiker caught their limit of 8 flounder (4 pictured) while fishing on the "Delicious" in the West Channel, both north and south of the Rt. 50 Bridge. All of the fish were caught on live spot and bunker with their 2 largest weighing 2 lbs. 9 oz. and 3 lbs. 4 oz. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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# FISH

## STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



It was the third week of June, 1991. I was walking along the bulkhead at the world famous Honokohau Harbor in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Only a few days prior I was wearing a green cap and gown and walking along the aisle to accept my diploma from William Stubbs, then Principal of West Deptford High School, located oddly enough, in Westville, New Jersey. As a gift for my high school graduation my Grandmother on my Mother's side (I called her MomMom) had taken me to Hawaii. The first time I had been to Hawaii was when I was a toddler, on a trip with my Mother and Grandmother, so MomMom thought it was only fitting to take Mom and me back again to commemorate my reaching adulthood. I don't think I realized how much she had to sacrifice to do so at the time. I was young and had my eyes on nothing but the future. MomMom, on the other hand, knew she was not a young woman anymore and wanted to be able to create another memory with her only grandson.

There was a man doing some maintenance on a rather less than impressive looking boat tied at one of the moorings. The boat was named "Janet B". As I was scanning the water and

taking in each boat, the man smiled and struck up a conversation with me. He introduced himself as Captain Kenny. Young as I was, I was still no stranger to the charter business myself and I quickly realized that I was being given a sales pitch. It must have been a good one however, because a few minutes later I was explaining to Mom that we were going fishing the next day, even though we had already booked several days on a much larger, and more well known boat later in the week.

MomMom wasn't much on fishing so she stayed back at the hotel while Mom and I went down to the Harbor again the next morning. By the time we were clearing the rocks I knew that Kenny's last name was Llanes and that his mate was a burnt out surfer from California named Richard. The plan for the day was to go live baiting for blue marlin. After an hour or so of bait fishing, the first of the baits was bridled to the 130 pound class Penn International. In that hour I had learned that Richard had not yet caught a marlin and he was there to learn from Kenny. I caught my first blue marlin as a mate when I was 13, so I had years (four of them to be exact) more

experience than Richard. But in those years, I caught only three other blue marlin. Capt. Kenny didn't seem too concerned. He had several "granders" (thousand plus pound marlin) under his belt and had caught more blue marlin than he could remember. I was beginning to wonder just how much of this was more sales tactics, how much was real and if I had been duped.

Several hours later there were two blue marlin on the swim step. A 273 pounder that was my first as an angler and a 130 pounder that was my Mom's first in any capacity. The story behind the landing of each one will make for another column at another time, but my opinion of Kenny was very high at the end of the day and it was just too hard not to like Richard, even though he didn't know squat about fishing. Before the end of my Hawaiian vacation I fished with Kenny several more times and learned a bunch on each of those days. He taught me about fishing in Hawaii, fishing as a sport, as a way of life and as a family tradition.

I think it was about five or six years ago that I came across a lure advertisement on the internet for Bomboy fishing lures. There is a saying that the lure has to catch the fisherman as much as the fish, and in this case the pictures on the website caught me. BIG blue marlin and a variety of other species, all caught on lures made by Bomboy. Clicking my way through the different icons on

[www.coastalfisherman.net](http://www.coastalfisherman.net) the site, I stopped to learn more about the lure maker himself. Then I really stopped. Bomboy Llanes. Native of Kona and son of famed charter skipper Kenny Llanes. I immediately ordered some lures and included a note in my order that I had fished with his father back in '91.

Much to my surprise a few weeks later when my lure package came, there were a few extra lures along with a note that said "Dad says hi. Try these for those white marlins over there."

One of the great things about social media is that it has made the world a smaller place when it comes to keeping in touch with people on the other side of this big blue and green marble. Bomboy and I became internet "friends" and I was able to reconnect with his father. One of the first things Kenny did was ask about my Mom and politely inquire as to whether MomMom was still with us. While MomMom unfortunately is not with us any longer physically, her presence is with me every day and this was another case of a part of my life with her staying with me.

A couple of years ago, Bomboy came over to Ocean City to catch some of these "small marlins" during the White Marlin Open. He was fishing with a mutual friend of ours, Capt. Jon Yost. It was the first time I ever met Bomboy in person, but I was greeted with a warm embrace and the feeling of a lifelong friendship. I thought back to his father's words about fishing as a way of life and as a



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family tradition. I only wish we had more time together that week.

Bomboy came back again this year to fish the Open with Jon. Seeing him in the cockpit of Jon's boat I immediately went over to welcome my friend back to the East Coast. After catching up for a while he said to wait a minute and went into the cabin. He came out with a cardboard tube and said he had made me something. My excitement was only curbed because I did not have something to give him in return. I told him I would open my gift later.

When I got home that night I opened the tube. In addition to being a fisherman and a lure maker, Bomboy is a talented artist. Inside the tube was a colored pencil drawing of a white marlin. I called the Framing Corner immediately to see when I could bring in my art for proper matting and framing. Such a wonderful gift from my friend.

Twenty eight summers have passed since I met Kenny Llanes on that vacation with my Mom and MomMom. Each one faster than the last. Just like these past

twenty one weeks since my first column of the 2019 season have flown by. Those of you that have followed me from the beginning know that I think of it as another twenty one marbles out of my jar. It was another great summer in Ocean City. Fishing was good and the friendships were even better. I would like to thank Larry and the Jock family for having me on for another summer (even if most columns, this one included, came in after deadline). Even more so, I would like to thank all of you, my readers, for welcoming my fish stories into your lives. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoy writing them. Have a safe, healthy and happy off- season, and don't be afraid to reach out to me and share one of your own fish stories! Aloha Coastal Fisherman fans, and Aloha MomMom.

*Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club. If you would like to book a charter on the "Last Call", please call 443-783-3699 or 410-251-0575.*



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Dominic DePompeo caught his first keeper flounder while drifting minnows and Gulp artificial baits in the bay behind Castaway's Campground. Dominic's flattie measured 19 1/2-inches.



Last Sunday, anglers on the charter boat, "Marli" had another great day of dolphin fishing and even added in a 79 lb. yellowfin tuna and a couple of white marlin releases. Ralph Kozielec and Gary Jackson each released white marlin while fishing with Robert Thacker, Tom Jones, Sam Tippett, Sean Armstrong, Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Josh Lowery and Dakota Bittner. The dolphin were caught pitching cut bait and the yellowfin and white marlin were hooked on the troll in the Baltimore Canyon.

# MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION SIZES

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	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Shark:		
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"			

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program  
 \*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements

\*\* Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs



# White Marlin vs BlueMarlin



## Size

Commonly 5.5 feet up to 7.5 feet. Weight ranges from 55 lbs. up to over 90 lbs.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- First anal, first dorsal and pectoral fins blunt or rounded at tips (first anal fin shape most consistent characteristic); most of first dorsal fin low. Anal vent is usually 3-inches from anal fin.
- Pelvic fins short, extending no longer than length of pectoral fin.
- Lateral line single (not chainlike), arched over pectoral fins, then almost straight to caudal fin.
- First dorsal fin blue-black with small dark spots; other fins brown to black.

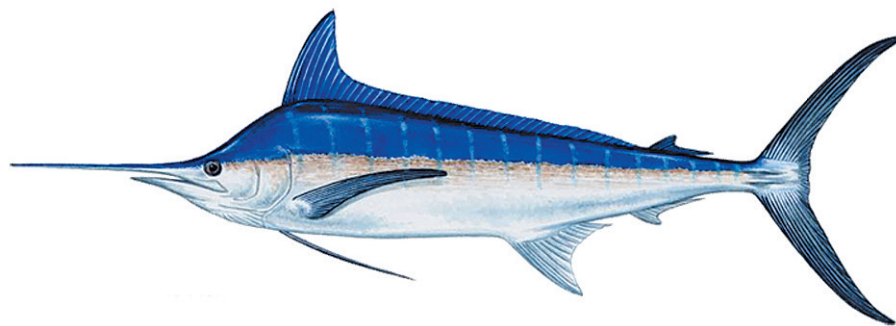
## Habitat

Offshore, usually upper 65-100 feet, depending on water temperature; associated with water temperature greater than 68-degrees

## Similar Species

**Blue marlin** - has first dorsal, pectoral and first anal fins with pointed tips; chainlike lateral line along body; lacks fin spots on first dorsal.

**Roundscale spearfish** - 6-inch space between anal vent and anal fin



## Size

Commonly 8-9 feet up to 14.5 feet. Blue marlins over 350 lbs. are most likely female.

## Distinguishing Characteristics

- First anal, first dorsal and pectoral fins generally pointed at tips; most of first dorsal fin low
- Pelvic fins short, extending no longer than length of pectoral fins.
- First dorsal fin blue-black, lacking fin spots; other fins brown to black.
- Lateral line chainlike over entire body surface (rather than single line) in juveniles, unclear in adult.

## Habitat

Offshore; usually in surface water between 71 and 88-degrees.

## Similar Species

**White marlin** - has first dorsal, pectoral and first anal fins with rounded tips; spotted first dorsal membranes.

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# DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Larry Jock



Bad weather at the end of the week and into the weekend put a damper on fishing, but before and after the blow we saw some good fishing.

At Lewes Harbour Marina, Tommy said that flounder fishing has been good in the Lewes Canal, particularly up towards the Roosevelt Inlet since the fish are now starting their move out towards the ocean. Most of the keeper flounder are in the 18 to 20-inch range and are being caught on spot, bunker, minnows, squid and Gulp artificial baits. Anglers are also finding small stripers and some weakfish in the Canal as well.

In the Delaware Bay, sheepshead and triggerfish are being caught around The Walls and also out along the rocks at Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse. Reef sites around the Bay are holding plenty of puffers, some

weakfish in the 2 to 3 lb. range, triggerfish, flounder, croaker and bluefish.

Inshore anglers are finding flounder fishing picking up around Sites 10 and 11, according to Tommy, and the DelJerseyLand Reef is still providing good action on sea bass and flounder. Drifters are also hooking into some small mahi around several inshore locations as well, but the incredible mahi action is out in the canyons.

Matt at Fenwick Bait & Tackle reported a good bluefish and small striper bite in the surf off Fenwick Island. Fresh bunker and mullet have been the ticket.

Matt did say that he ventured down to the South Jetty in the Ocean City Inlet and in one outing, while only using sand fleas for bait, he hooked into short stripers, red drum,

flounder, sheepshead and pompano. His largest sheepshead was a 5 pounder. A very cool trip!

Unfortunately, Matt said that action in the Fenwick Ditch continues to be slow. This time of year, the bite should be pretty good, but the warm water temperatures seem to have hurt the bite this season.

At Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams said that anglers are catching small striped bass at night and bluefish and Spanish mackerel during the day by anglers casting spoons. Short tautog are being hooked along the rocks on the south side of the Inlet and flounder fishing is hit-or-miss. Bert believes that the flatties have already made the move offshore.

Good action was seen by anglers fishing inshore shoals only 1 to 3 miles off the beach.

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Last week, they caught black drum, pompano, triggerfish, sea bass and bluefish.

Indian River headboats are running 10 miles from the Inlet and finding good flounder fishing. Bert said that it isn't "great", but definitely on the upswing with several fish last week in the 3.5 lb. range being hooked on bucktails and jigs tipped with squid or Gulp artificial baits. Bert said that the effects of Hurricane Dorian seems to have stirred up the water and warmed things up a bit, creating better flounder and sea bass fishing. Some boats are finding better action when they get into 100-feet of water.

Offshore boats out of Indian River found plenty of dolphin in the canyons, particularly the Baltimore and the Wilmington, but they also got into some good size yellowfin tuna as well. The Ostrowski family ventured out to the Wilmington Canyon over the weekend and returned with 3 yellowfins caught while trolling Moldcraft lures and Hawaiian Eyes. Their 2 largest yellowfins tipped the scale at 74 and 78 lbs. They also caught

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some mahi that weighed up to 13 lbs.

Capt. Mike at Rick's Bait & Tackle reported that his customers had good luck flounder fishing last week at the Old Grounds on the west side of "A" Buoy. They had good numbers of fish, but nothing big. Mike also said that the DelJerseyLand reef site is continuing to produce good numbers of sea bass for anglers soaking squid and clams.

In the Delaware Bay, Mike's anglers caught sheepshead and triggerfish around the Haystacks and the Ice Breakers.

Flounder fishing in the Indian River Bay saw anglers dealing with a lot of throwbacks and those who fished in the Indian River Inlet caught schoolie stripers during the incoming tide.

Surfcasters are primarily dealing with bluefish during the day and the typical line-up of sharks, skates and rays at night.

Finally, Mike said that he has never had so many customers express an interest in swordfishing as he has had recently. This reminds me of

what we saw a few years ago with tilefishing and with anglers seeing that daytime swordfishing can be lucrative, it wouldn't surprise me to see a lot more swordfish pictures in the Coastal Fisherman next season.

Since this is the final issue of the 2019 season, I want to extend a huge "Thank You" to Bert Adams at Hook'em & Cook'em, Matt Shoup at Fenwick Tackle, Mike Behney at Rick's Bait & Tackle and Tommy Serbin at Lewes Harbour Marina for all the input they provided each week for the Delaware Fishing Report. Also, thanks to Amanda Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina and Deanna Adams at Hook'em & Cook'em for sending in pictures.

**Upcoming Tournaments**

The Lewes Harbor Marina Tautog Tournament is set for October 19th to November 17th. Their Striper Tournament will run from November 23rd to December 22nd. Go to their Facebook page or give them a call at 302-645-6227 if you need additional information.

Until next year, have fun and tight lines!



During an overnight trip on the "Sea Biscuit" out of Pines Point Marina, Doug Stevens, David Stevens and Tim Socks released 3 hammerhead sharks, a blue marlin and caught a bull dolphin in the Washington Canyon. Doug battled the blue marlin, estimated at 450 to 500 lbs, for 2 hours after hooking it on a 30 Tiagra spooled up with 30 lb. mono and a 130 lb. leader.

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## Mahi-Mahi with Artichokes and Sun-Dried Tomatoes

### Sauce

- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 TBSP shallots, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup garlic, finely chopped
- 7 TBSP fresh lemon juice
- 3 TBSP dry white wine
- Kosher salt to taste
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 2 TBSP sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 2 TBSP artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 2 TBSP cold butter, cut into pieces

### Mahi-Mahi

- 1 cup all-purpose flour

- 1 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 mahi-mahi fillets
- 1 TBSP olive oil

Melt 1/4 cup butter in a large skillet over medium heat.

Cook and stir shallots and garlic in butter until soft and fragrant, about 5 minutes.

Pour lemon juice and white wine into the skillet and season with kosher salt and black pepper.

Cook the liquid at a simmer, stirring occasionally, until the liquid reduces enough to stick to the back of a spoon, 20 to 30 minutes.

Stir tomatoes and artichoke hearts into the reduced sauce and cook until warmed, 2 to 3 minutes more.

Remove skillet from heat. Add cold butter pieces and

swirl skillet off heat until the butter melts and emulsifies into the sauce.

Stir flour and seasoned salt together in wide, shallow bowl.

Dredge mahi-mahi fillets in flour mixture to coat.

Heat olive oil in a separate skillet over medium heat.

Pan-fry mahi-mahi in the oil until the fish flakes easily with a fork in the center, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

Transfer mahi-mahi to a platter and top with the sauce. Serve.

## Cajun Blackened Shrimp

- 1 lb. shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 2 tsp. paprika
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp. dried basil or oregano

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- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper

In a medium bowl, combine the shrimp, oil and spices.

Use right away or cover with plastic wrap and marinate in the fridge for up to 24 hours.

Heat a large heavy-duty non-stick pan to medium-high heat for 2 minutes.

Once the pan is hot, cook the shrimp in batches for 2 minutes per side or until charred and cooked through.

Do not overcrowd the pan. Serve on tacos, salads, burritos or rice.

## Grilled Striped Bass with Fresh Herbs

### Marinade

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 TBSP basil, chopped
- 1 TBSP oregano, chopped
- 1 TBSP Italian parsley, chopped

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- 1 TBSP dill, chopped
- 1 TBSP thyme, chopped
- 1 TBSP chives, chopped
- Juice of 1/2 a lemon
- 1/2 tsp. lemon zest
- 2 striped bass fillets
- A few extra herb sprigs and lemon wedges for garnish

Combine marinade ingredients and marinate fillets in fridge for 30 minutes.

Use indirect grilling method by separating coals to make a space in the center with no coals under fish.

If using gas grill, use medium heat

Brush excess marinade off of fish and place skin side up on the grill for about 4 minutes.

Don't touch the fillets. Let them firm up and develop nice grill lines.

Carefully flip the fillets grill for another 4 to 7 minutes or until fillets are barely opaque in the center.

Serve with herb garnish and lemon wedges.

### Lobster Bisque

- 2 TBSP butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 TBSP flour
- 3 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup tomato puree
- 1/4 cup sherry
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 lb. lobster meat, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 tsp. tabasco sauce
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 2 plum tomatoes, chopped
- 1 TBSP fresh parsley, finely chopped

Saute onion in butter over medium-high heat for 5 minutes.

Stir in flour and cook for 3 minutes.

Stir in next 4 ingredients and bring to a boil.

Simmer on low, covered, for 10 minutes.

Add lobster and simmer for 6 minutes or until meat is opaque.

Stir in next 3 ingredients and cook over medium heat

for 3 minutes.

Stir in tomatoes and parsley.

Serve.

### Baked Flounder Fillets in Lemon-Soy Vinaigrette

- 2 flounder fillets
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 TBSP fresh lemon juice
- 2 tsp. soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 TBSP olive oil

Preheat oven to 450-degrees.

Arrange fillets in a ceramic

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or glass baking dish just large enough to hold them in one layer.

In a small bowl combine garlic, lemon juice, soy sauce, sugar and salt.

Whisk in oil until emulsified and pour vinaigrette over fish.

Bake fish in middle of oven until just cooked through and no longer translucent, 5 to 7 minutes.

### Wahoo Fish Tacos

- 1 lb. wahoo, cut into 4 pieces
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 cup red wine

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Dolphin were really snapping last week and this group of anglers fishing on the charter boat, "Marli" really got into them, returning with their limit of 60 after pitching them cut bait in the Baltimore Canyon. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Josh Lowery and Dakota Bittner were Mike Bostic, Sr. Mike Bostic, Jr., Mike Cardian, Brian Marshall (not pictured), Joe Taylor and Bob Pino, who released a white marlin during the trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.

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jalapeno. Mix well.

Place the fish on a dish and pour the marinade over it, making sure to coat the fish well on both sides.

Allow to marinate for 20 minutes.

Heat a nonstick saute pan over medium-high heat.

Remove fish from the marinade and place it in the hot pan. Season with salt.

Cook fish for 4 minutes undisturbed, then turn over and cook for another 2 minutes.

Remove pan from the heat and flake the fish into the pan with a fork, making sure to mix in all the marinade that has stuck to the bottom of the pan.

Check for seasoning and add more salt if necessary.

Set aside.

Place four of the tortillas on a plate and sandwich them between 2 slightly dampened sheets of paper towel.

Microwave on high for 45 seconds.

Place the warm tortillas in

- vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. ancho chile powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 cup lightly packed fresh cilantro leaves, chopped, plus more for garnish
- 1 jalapeno pepper, stemmed and chopped
- Salt to taste
- 8 fresh corn tortillas
- Mexican crema, homemade or store-bought
- Fresh tomato salsa
- 2 limes, cut into quarters
- Cilantro sprigs, for garnish

Put the onion in a small bowl and pour in enough red wine vinegar to cover it well.

Set aside for at least 30 minutes or up to several weeks.

Pour olive oil into a small bowl and add the ancho chile powder, oregano, cumin, chopped cilantro and

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a towel-lined basket or plate and cover. Repeat with the remaining tortillas.

To assemble the tacos, place a heaping spoonful of the marinated flaked fish onto the center of a tortilla.

Top with the marinated onions.

Serve accompanied by Mexican crema and salsa.

Garnish with lime wedges and cilantro sprigs

### Baked Swordfish

- 4 swordfish steaks
- 3 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 2 TBSP extra virgin olive oil
- Salt to taste
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 TBSP flat-leaf parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 375-degrees.

Add chopped garlic together with the extra virgin olive oil and a sprinkle of salt

in a nonstick oven-safe skillet. Place the swordfish steaks on top and rub them around the pan.

Turn them over so they are all coated in oil and garlic.

Add a little extra salt on top of each steak and bake for about 15 minutes.

Add lemon juice and chopped parsley. Bake for another 5 minutes and serve.

### Mexican Grilled Sea Bass with Avocado Crema and Mango

- Avocado Crema
- 1 small ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and diced
- 1 small shallot, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup cilantro leaves
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1/2 cup nonfat buttermilk, adjusted to desired consistency
- Sea salt
- Fresh ground pepper
- Mango Salsa



The Ostrowski family headed out to the Wilmington Canyon last weekend and caught a trio of big yellowfin tuna while trolling plastics. Their two heaviest yellowfins weighed 74 and 78 lbs. and they also caught some mahi during the trip. Pictured are John, Carmen and Christian Ostrowski. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Sasha Motsko of Berlin, MD showed the guys how it is done, catching a 73 lb. yellowfin tuna and releasing 2 white marlin while fishing on the "Grande Pez" with her dad, Jim Motsko, who also released a white marlin during the trip, Jim Giles, Capt. Pat Svehla and mate Parker Marshall. Sasha muscled in the yellowfin after hooking it on a dink bait with 30 lb. tackle. All of the action took place in the Baltimore Canyon where they also caught 4 dolphin.

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- 1 small mango, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 Fresno, serrano, or jalapeno stemmed, seeds and veins removed, minced
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro leaves, chopped
- 2 limes, juiced
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

**Grilled Sea Bass**

- 4 sea bass fillets
- 1 TBSP olive oil
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper

Prepare Avocado Crema by combining all ingredients in the blender or food processor bowl. Pulse until smooth.

Season with salt and pepper.

Check seasoning and consistency.

Add additional buttermilk if desired. Set aside.

Prepare Mango Salsa by combining all ingredients in a prep bowl.

Stir and check seasoning. Set aside.

Rub fish portions with oil. Sprinkle with salt and a few grinds of pepper.

Grill over medium-high heat on all sides until you get a nice sear. Cooking time varies according to thickness, about 6 minutes.

Spoon half the avocado crema onto a plate.

Set the grilled sea bass on top and spoon a generous amount of salsa over top.

Garnish with a bit of chopped cilantro.

Serve and enjoy!

*Thanks for another great season and a special thanks to all of you who submitted recipes to share with our readers. I will be stashing away recipes for our big Winter Issue, so if you have one to share, please email it to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)*

*Mary*

# NERVOUS?

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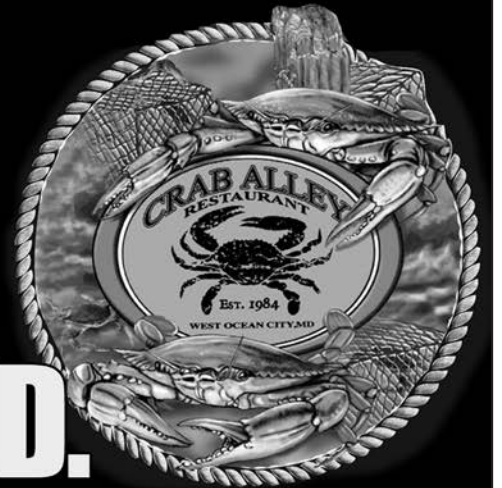
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Faith and Rick Kramer from Pasadena, MD each caught and released their first white marlin while fishing on the "Roncito" with Schrader Grady, Sharon Rittmeyer, Lisa Cherivtch, Ashton Cherivtch, Brent Lounge, Tommy Howles, Capt. Al Rittmeyer and mate R.J. Stallings. Both white marlin were caught on trolled ballyhoo in 500 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon. They also captured a few dolphin during their trip. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



During the Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder, Brandon Miller, Nathan Schatz and Cleon Atkins weighed a pair of 3 lb. flounder that they caught on live bunker. One came from the West Channel and one came from around the Rt. 50 Bridge.

# DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## ... STATE WATERS ONLY ...

 <b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 12/31	 <b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum size 10 per person/day	 <b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 <b>COBIA</b> No limit
 <b>CROAKER</b> 8" minimum No creel limit	 <b>RED DRUM</b> 20" - 27" minimum 5 per person/day	 <b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit	 <b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit
 <b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28" to 37" or 44" and greater 2 per person/day	 <b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16.5" minimum 4 per person/day	 <b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31	 <b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day



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Colin Beatty was fishing in the surf off Bethany Beach when he caught this 19-inch flounder while using a strip of squid.



Barista extraordinaire, Amy Smith was fishing off the beach on Assateague Island when she caught a pair of snapper bluefish on cut mullet.



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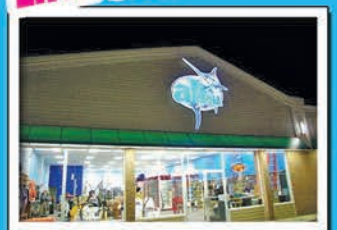
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**It's a wrap!**

While this may be the final "Ship to Shore" column for the 2019 season, there is still much more fishing and boating to be had throughout this fall.

With bountiful coastal waters and good weather, boats will be heading out for some fall fishing for weeks to come, with much less crowded waterways. While this is a benefit to most, it should also be noted that you may find yourself one of only a few boats in an area, so you must be prepared in case you need assistance.

The cooler weather and cooler water should be a reminder for boaters to check and recheck their safety gear along with the operating condition of the systems on their boat. Many hours get put on the boat during the summer that may have taken a toll on your boats systems, such as batteries, cooling systems, engine fluids, engine hoses and even exterior lighting.

It is wise to take the time during one of Fall's blow days

to go over your boat and check and repair any system that is not 100%. Fishing offshore or in a distant bay all alone is a lot of fun and often provides excellent fishing, but be sure your boat is up to the task. Being stranded this time of year can be more critical than during the peak summer season.

An experienced captain told me yesterday while working on a Sportfish's electrical system, "lets fix it right - I don't want to be stuck out there" after smelling concerning odors from the engine room throughout the day. Be sure you don't get stuck! Check and re-check your critical systems before departure.

Enough of cautionary tales. What interesting gear and technology is ahead for 2019 and beyond?

The fall and winter seasons are busy for manufacturers of boats and marine equipment. Most new and updated products are touted at the numerous consumer boat shows and industry trade shows during the fall and winter. Here are some upcoming events. Keep an

eye out for press releases and new product introductions timed with these events.

**Industry-Only Shows**

- NMEA Annual Conference & Expo (National Marine Electronic Association), September 16th - 19th.
- IBEX (Marine technology trade show), October 1st - 3rd.
- METS (international show for marine equipment, materials and systems), November 19th - 21st.

**Consumer and Industry Shows**

- Trawler Fest, Baltimore, MD, September 24th -28th.
- U.S. Powerboat Show, Annapolis, MD, October 3rd - 6th.
- Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, October 30th - Nov 3rd.
- East Coast Commercial Fishermen's Trade Exposition, Ocean City, MD, January 17th - 19th.
- New York Boat Show, New York, NY, January 22nd - 26th.
- Baltimore Boat Show, Baltimore, MD, January 23rd - 26th.
- Miami Boat Show, Miami, FL, February 13th - 17th.
- Seaside Boat Show, Ocean City, MD, February 15th -

17th.

- Palm Beach International Boat Show, Palm Beach, FL, March 26th - 29th.

What should you expect this fall with new technology and gear? Most manufacturers don't release any new product information in advance since they know we will spoil the surprise! If a manufacturer is not introducing a new product, they may offer incentives and/or rebates for existing products during the show season. If a new product is announced, the older product it replaces may be discounted to clear out existing inventory so if you see a good deal, act fast since marine manufacturers do not carry as much inventory as you might think and deals can sell out quickly.

While most of the marine electronics manufacturers have relatively few product offerings, nowadays they can work wonders with software updates. Keep an eye out for new software that may give new life or add a much desired feature to your existing equipment. For example, the newest Garmin software update allows you to subscribe to SiriusXM Marine's Fish Mapping service. I expect other marine electronics manufacturers will

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offer this service soon, through a combination of hardware and or software offerings. Furuno's newest software for the TZtouch2 allows the use of CMOR High-resolution Digital Fishing and Diving Maps and Charts.

Seakeeper (gyro stabilizer) has been steadily adding to its product line-up, most recently with the reintroduction of the Seakeeper 5 gyro. Seakeeper recently reduced the price and increased the performance of the Seakeeper 2 gyro. Keep an eye out for Seakeeper's new products and offerings.

As many of you who have DirecTV at home or on your boat know they were bought by AT&T and have been going through a lot of changes. Usually technology changes are good and beneficial to the consumer. They also made some procedural changes - usually not good when you need to call DirecTV. There has been talk for a year or so about DirecTV changing

programming and transmission technology that may affect some older marine satellite TV systems. While this change is still in the works, the marine market does not have full knowledge yet on how or when this will affect DirecTV marine customers. Keep an eye out for marine satellite TV manufacturers offering new equipment or upgrade offers this fall and winter.

Electronic charts are an ever growing competitive market. One example is the relatively new CMOR High-resolution Digital Fishing and Diving Maps and Charts that have become more popular in the mid-Atlantic with their newest offering this summer, adding to their existing coverage in the Florida area. CMOR charts are compatible with Simrad, Lowrance, Raymarine and most recently Furuno NavNet TZtouch2. Look to CMOR and other electronic chart manufacturers for new offerings.

The NMEA (National

Marine Electronics Association) has been working on a new standard of data communications called OneNet, an open industry standard based on Internet Protocol (ethernet) using NEMA 2000 messages. This new standard can operate in parallel with NEMA 0183 and NMEA 2000, but offer faster speeds and carry more data than the existing standards. Look for this standard to be released in 2020 and soon thereafter adapted by marine electronic manufacturers.

Thank you to all of our readers for another great season here in Ocean City, Maryland. Look for our next column in the Winter Issue of the Coastal Fisherman.

*Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers. To reach Steve, call 410-231-3191.*



Dahlia Mattio from Closter, NJ was fishing with her poppy, Dan Mattio when she caught her first keeper flounder. Dahlia hooked the flattie during the incoming tide in the East Channel while using spot for bait.

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Charles Baumgardner caught a pair of flounder weighing up to 3 lbs. while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo. Both flatties were hooked on bucktails on a natural ocean reef.



Rich Daiker and Kenny Schoen had another great season of fishing and are still going strong in September with a limit of flounder, measuring up to 20-inches, a pair of striped bass measuring 28 and 30-inches, and a load of bluefish weighing up to 11 lbs. The duo can usually be seen fishing on the "Delicious" with live bait around the Rt. 50 Bridge.

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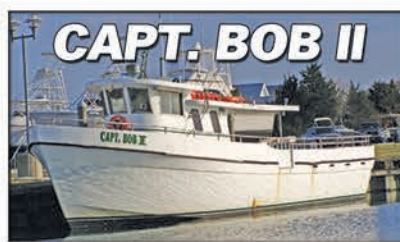
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They don't call him "Flounder George" for nothing. On this day, George Henning of Ocean City, MD won the fish pool with this 20-inch flattie caught during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins.



The day after the effects of Hurricane Dorian were felt off the coast of Delmarva, Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat, "Morning Star" broke the Ocean City Inlet and came upon an incredible black sea bass bite where everyone caught their limit, including "Hurricane" Murray Adams, pictured with a doubleheader hooked on squid and clams.

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After catching mostly short flatties on minnows this season, Sandy Davis was thrilled to catch this 22-inch flounder while fishing in the Broadkill River, just north of the Roosevelt Inlet. The flattie was fooled with a white Gulp Swimming Mullet.



The father and son team of James and Ethan Grier were drifting in the bay behind the Ocean City Airport when they caught a pair of 17-inch flounder. Both were hooked on jigs tipped with Gulp artificial baits. Ethan's was his very first keeper flounder.

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# “Mac Attack” wins CBSFA Flounder “Fall-Haul” with 20 3/4-incher



Anglers on the “Mac Attack” took 1st place honors in the Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder “Fall-Haul” tournament with a 20 3/4-inch flattie caught on a Gulp artificial bait at the Old Grounds. Fishing on the “Mac Attack” were Cory Armknecht, Ralph MacPherson, John Schwaninger, John Schwaninger, IV and Ben MacPherson. They also caught an 18-incher during their trip. The 1st place finish earned the team \$1,110 in award money. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City.



In the Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder “Fall-Haul” tournament, Mike Savage from Salisbury, MD caught an 18 3/4-inch flounder to win 2nd place in the tournament and \$500 in award money. Mike was fishing on the “Green Submarine” with Shauna McVey and Capt. Finn McCabe. The 2nd place flattie along with a 16 3/4-incher were hooked on live mullet in the West Channel.

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The Evan’s boys from Westminster, MD entered the 2019 Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder “Fall-Haul” tournament and ended up taking 3rd place with a 17 1/2-inch flounder, worth \$40 in award money. They also caught a 17 1/4-inch and another 17 1/2-incher with all 3 fish hooked on live minnows in the bay behind Assateague Island. Pictured at the Atlantic Tackle tournament scale in West Ocean City are Evan, Hunter, Johnny, Fulton and Ronald Evans.





Connor Harlackher of West York, PA caught his first keeper flounder while drifting live spot in the West Channel.



Anglers fishing on the "Marli" last week jumped on the incredible dolphin bite, returning with their limit of 60 after pitching cut bait around pots in the Baltimore Canyon. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Dakota Bittner and Josh Lowery were Rick Blades, Bruce Bolasny, Stu Handler, Franklin Blades, Matt Carter and Dave Kaplan. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Mike Quade and Kern Ducote were drifting white Gulp shrimp artificial baits and live mullet in the Thorofare when they almost caught their limit of flounder. Their 7 fish measured from 16 1/2 to 20-inches.



Steve Bishoff from Lewes, DE took advantage of some nice weather and hit the surf at the Cape Henlopen Park. Steve was soaking sand flea flavored Fishbites when he hooked into this 1 lb. 2 oz. pompano. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

# Federal Size & Creel Limits 3-200 Miles

 <p><b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p><b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum length 10 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SHARKS</b> <b>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</b></p> <p><b>No Minimum Fork Length</b> Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead,</p> <p><b>54" Minimum Fork Length</b> Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p><b>71" Minimum Fork Length</b> Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p><b>78" Minimum Fork Length</b> Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead,</p> <p>Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose and 1 Bonnethead may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained</p> <p><b>83" Minimum Fork Length</b> Female Shortfin Mako</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Prohibited Sharks</b> Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p>
 <p><b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No retention limit</p>	 <p><b>WAHOO</b> No minimum length 2 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> (Recreational) 2 per vessel/day/trip 27" to &lt; 47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 47" to &lt; 73" CFL</p>	
 <p><b>SWORDFISH</b> 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)</p>	 <p><b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No retention limit</p>	<p>(Charter Boat) (Head Boat) 3 per vessel/day/trip 6 per vessel/day/trip 27" to &lt; 47" CFL 27" to &lt; 47" CFL 1 per vessel/day/trip 2 per vessel/day/trip 47" to less than 73" 47" to less than 73"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Southern Trophy Fishery closed through December 31, 2019</p>	





It was thumbs up after Landen and Bennett Erbe took a trip out to the Great Eastern Reef on "The Rusty Hooker" and caught a load of throwback sea bass and 4 keepers while using squid and artificial mullets for bait.



This 11 lb. 7 oz. sheephead that was caught by Charles Frutiger after it ate a clam and sand flea combination at the Outer Wall during a trip on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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# 2019 Heaviest Fish of the Year

# COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 <b>Bluefish</b>	July 7, 2019 John O'Donnell Massey's Canyon 15 lbs.	June 13, 2019 Ray Mast Delaware Bay 17 lbs.	 <b>Mako Shark</b>	June 23, 2019 John Dudley Washington Canyon 486 lbs.	June 2, 2019 Mike Baumgartner Poor Man's Canyon 159 lbs.
 <b>Black Drum</b>	No Weights Reported	May 22, 2019 A.J. Marta Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	 <b>Thresher Shark</b>	June 1, 2019 Marc Troch Fingers 553 lbs.	June 15, 2019 Dave Twardowski Old Grounds 528 lbs.
 <b>Cobia</b>	July 21, 2019 Wyatt Melocik Great Gull Shoal 60 lbs.	August 17, 2019 Nicky Ferrara Bethany Coast 72 lbs.	 <b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	June 19, 2019 Bill Pino & Bill Keller Poor Man's Canyon 237 lbs.	August 9, 2019 Ostrowski Family Wilmington Canyon 225 lbs.
 <b>Flounder</b>	July 2, 2019 Steve Ratcliff Blackfish Bank 8 lbs.	July 3, 2019 Sunny Crowell Site 10 10 lbs. 10 oz.	 <b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	May 27, 2019 Steve Brokenshire Poor Man's Canyon 155 lbs.	June 2, 2019 John Klerlien Baltimore Canyon 157.4 lbs.
 <b>Sea Bass</b>	May 15, 2019 Bobby Eberhard Ocean Wreck 5 lbs.	June 6, 2019 Elaine Becker Ocean Wreck 3 lb. 3 oz.	 <b>Longfin Tuna</b>	June 25, 2019 Mike Shekletski Baltimore Canyon 57 lbs.	June 1, 2019 Ed Luhrman Baltimore Canyon 54 lbs.
 <b>Sheepshead</b> <span style="color:red">NEW</span>	September 16, 2019 Nick Dean South Jetty 13 lbs. 3 oz.	June 27, 2019 Pete Hesson Indian River Inlet 12 lbs. 10 oz.	 <b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	August 9, 2019 Andrew Semprevivo Baltimore Canyon 150.5 lbs.	June 19, 2019 Kyle Bartley Baltimore Canyon 79.7 lbs.
 <b>Striped Bass</b>	May 9, 2019 Dan Rivera Ocean City Inlet 37.5 lbs.	May 9, 2019 Bob Holsberger Indian River Surf 15 lbs. 6 oz.	 <b>Dolphin</b>	August 16, 2019 Kristy Frashure Poor Man's Canyon 74.5 lbs.	July 20, 2019 Mary Gessler Baltimore Canyon 29.9 lbs.
 <b>Tautog</b>	May 7, 2019 Eddie Santiago "Fish Bound" 20 lbs.	January 7, 2019 Steve Kiibler Site 11 19 lbs. 13 oz.	 <b>Wahoo</b>	July 12, 2019 Andrew Koontz Poor Man's Canyon 109 lbs.	August 7, 2019 Allan Kazmierski Wilmington Canyon 45 lbs.
 <b>Weakfish</b>	June 6, 2019 Rich Daiker South Jetty 6 lbs. 8 oz.	June 5, 2019 Ryan Lewis Indian River Inlet 5 lbs. 6 oz.	 <b>White Marlin</b>	<b>Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)</b>	
				August 1, 2019 "Let It Ride" 13 releases	July 28, 2019 "Seaflame" 9 releases

**For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200**





Since 2001, the Ocean City Fishing Center has hosted an annual Spot Fishing Tournament, usually on September 11th, but this year they switched to the Saturday after the 11th and over 80 anglers competed in the 1-day event. In the prestigious Spot Division for anglers "10 & Under", Maeva Colona and Mason Hetherington tied for 1st place with 7-inchers. Mason also took "Most Fish Caught" honors with 62 fish caught during the 90 minutes of fishing. In the "11 to 16" Division, first place went to Andy Maynard with a 7-inch spot. Jeremy Blunt and Jody Gessford each caught 6 1/2-inch spot to win the coveted "17 & Up" Division with Ryan Freese's 4 fish taking the division's "Most Fish Caught" title. The "Most Unusual Fish Caught" award went to Josh Blume for a 19-inch striped bass that he released. The "Youngest Male Angler" was 3 1/2-year old Jack Gaba and the "Youngest Female Angler" was 2-year-old, Callie Husman. "Top Adult Anglers" were Ryan Freese and Jodi Lutz. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.

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Local angler, Jeff Waxman from Bethany Beach, DE teamed up with buddies Joe Perez and Dave Mutzbaugh to catch this 316 lb. swordfish while fishing with Capt. Fin Gaddy on the "Qualifier" out of Oregon Inlet, NC. The swordfish was caught on a rigged eel in 900-feet of water and put up a 90 minute fight on 22 lbs. of drag before the guys could get it in the boat. They also caught and released a bigeye thresher shark that they estimated at over 500 lbs. after hooking it on a rigged goggle eye (bigeye scad). Both fish were caught over soft bottom along the edge of a slope.



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Gull's Way Campground  
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Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26  
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**Tides & Moon Phases  
OCEAN CITY INLET**

Wed. September 18	Low 04:40 am Low 05:21 pm	High 11:15 am High 11:31 pm
Thurs. September 19	Low 05:19 am Low 06:10 pm	High 11:55 am High -----
Fri. September 20	Low 06:04 am Low 07:04 pm	High 12:11 am High 12:40 pm
Sat. September 21 <b>LAST QTR. MOON</b>	Low 06:55 am Low 08:03 pm	High 12:57 am High 01:35 pm
Sun. September 22	Low 07:51 am Low 09:04 pm	High 01:52 am High 02:42 pm
Mon. September 23	Low 08:52 am Low 10:07 pm	High 02:58 am High 03:52 pm
Tues. September 24	Low 09:56 am Low 11:08 pm	High 04:04 am High 04:56 pm
Wed. September 25	Low 11:03 am Low -----	High 05:07 am High 05:54 pm

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.  
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide  
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide  
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide  
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide  
 - 21 minutes for low tide  
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

*These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.*

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

## SEPTEMBER

**18TH ANNUAL HARBOR TACKLE  
RED DRUM TOURNAMENT**  
 SEPTEMBER 26-29 • OCEAN CITY, MD • 410-957-4516

## OCTOBER

**ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC  
SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
 OCTOBER 3-5 • OCEAN CITY, MD • 410-251-2203

**15TH ANNUAL A.M.S.A.  
RONALD BOUNDS FISHING TOURNAMENT**  
 OCTOBER 18-20 • KEEPERSOFTHEBEACH.COM

**LEWES HARBOUR MARINA  
TAUTOG TOURNAMENT**  
 OCT. 19 - NOV. 17 • LEWES, DE • 302-645-6227

## NOVEMBER

**LEWES HARBOUR MARINA  
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**Ronnie Fields**  
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**Joel McLeod**  
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**Mike Ivancevic**  
561-202-7102



**Brian Speedy**  
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**Steve Hedrick**  
717-586-9841



**Dave Shockley**  
561-262-6726



**Erik Anderson**  
850-974-5600



**Charley Pereira**  
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**\$3,490,000**

**MECHANICAL MAN** - 2008 68' Weaver Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



**\$4,750,000**

**MJLONIR** - 2016 70' Viking Call Jimmy Fields or Ronnie Fields



**\$2,750,000**

**BUGGYWASHER** - 2007 74' Viking Enclosed Bridge - Call Erik Anderson



**Seakeeper!**

**\$2,400,000**

**VAQUERO** - 2010 63' WEAVER Call Jimmy Fields



**\$1,795,000**

**PUSHY** - 2001 102' Destiny Call Jimmy Fields



**NEW PAINT!**

**\$1,950,000**

**TRIAL SIZE** - 2009 61' Garlington Call Jimmy Fields



**\$749,000**

**PERFEITA** - 1986 57' Island Boat Works Custom Carolina - Call Ronnie Fields



**NEW PRICE!**

**\$699,000**

**FLORIDIAN** - 1990 60' Custom Carolina - Call Jimmy Fields



**\$625,000**

**NATURAL** - 1978 53' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields



**\$599,000**

**HALCYON** - 1998 55' Viking Call Jimmy Fields



**\$599,000**

**SALVATION** - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



**\$575,000**

**2017 43' Everglades** Call Erik Anderson



**\$430,000**

**STEAMER** - 2008 41' Albemarle Express Call Erik Anderson



**\$399,000**

**IRONED OUT** - 1989 61' Buddy Davis Call Jeff James



**\$369,000**

**EYE CANDY** - 1962 45' Rybovich Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



**\$335,000**

**CHUBBY** - 1995 42' Liberty Call Jeff James



**\$255,000**

**OUT OF ORDER** - 1993 50' Viking Call Jimmy Fields



**\$169,000**

**DREAMIN' ON** - 2002 40' LUHRS Call Terry Layton



**\$149,000**

**DANA LYNN** - 2002 46' Carman Walkaround - Call Terry Layton



**\$165,000**

**CLEAR SHOT** - 2006 33' Rampage Express Call Jimmy Fields



**\$129,500**

**2004 35' Marlago** Call Terry Layton



**\$130,000**

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**\$104,900**

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