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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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It was an epic tournament for the Capt. and crew of the "Boss Hogg" during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic held last weekend. Capt. Brian Porter with owner Howard Berger and anglers Richie McCann, Greg Beane and Mike Dahl with mates Alex Beane, Jack Hannum & Marshall Freng had chosen to fish the second 'window' of the event as did 91 of the 97 boats participating. They were busy catching tuna in the Wilmington Canyon boating 9 longfin tuna as well as 3 chunky yellowfins, but that was not the lead story for them! The mates set a marlin spread and Capt. Brian Porter went to deep water and started to work his way back to the shallows. As he did, they connected with a white marlin that Mike Dahl got to the boat in only 3 minutes, a very cooperative fish! Once at the dock the fish tipped the scales at an impressive 76 lbs. and as the only white marlin to qualify took all of the Heaviest White Marlin Divisions and the White Marlin Winner Take All earning the crew the top tournament payout of \$225,000.



It was another solid day on the "Covered Up"! Capt. Keath Puller with mates Jim Frazetti & Jake Banda had Pasadena and Eastern Shore anglers Mickey Bell and Josh Roach near the Massey's Canyon. They worked the tuna into a frenzy chunking with butterfish and got 10 sizable yellowfins in the box! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Riley Thomas hooked into a monster sea bass at the Del-Jersey Reef. He caught this 21" knobhead using a high/low rig tipped with squid. He was fishing with his dad Brian and his brother Cory. The trio caught 13 keeper sea bass in total along with 3 dolphins. They also released a 150 lb. sandbar shark.

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Another cobia off the beach! Tyler Adams of York, PA was casting in the surf off of Ocean City using cut whiting when he connected with this man in the brown suit keeper at 41 inches.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

This Week Last Year

- The OC Marlin Club's Heels and Reels Tournament was held with "Knot Again" taking top honors in the Billfish Release Division with 4 white marlin releases. They started at the Rockpile and worked their way east.
- East of the Baltimore Canyon in deep water was the hot spot for white marlin. The "Bent Tent" also released a spearfish there. Blue marlin were spread from the lower Wilmington to the Poor Man's Canyon.
- The "Nina's Revenge" caught a 257 lb. bigeye tuna after a 5 hour fight and having to clear the line from their running gear.
- Several large wahoo were caught including a 92 lb. speedster caught on the "That's Right". The big ones were at the Hot Dog and 19 Fathom lumps.

It was exciting this past week offshore! Mostly decent weather gave anglers lots of options to get on the rip. We also saw an explosion of activity during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic last weekend. Last week saw many captains were still chunking for yellowfins with butterfish at inshore lumps, but as the week progressed into the weekend, many returned to trolling in the canyons and began to target bigeyes as the 'big fish' with great success. The marlin bite remains fickle and hard to find, but another billfish jumped into the scene over the past week with dozens of swordfish catches and releases reported, with some nice ones during the tournament. With over 90 boats participating in the

9th Annual Big Fish Classic, most of the offshore action from the weekend was tied into this 3 day event, so let's get into it!

The 9th Annual Big Fish Classic again had a purse of over a million dollars this year. This event offers anglers a number of ways to participate, from basic entry levels to more advanced levels and Winner Take All Jackpots resulting in a nice distribution of winnings. You can see all the many options in our tournament summary on page 66. Unique to this event is also the concept of fishing 'window'. Most other tournaments allow boats to fish a certain amount of day with daily line in and line out limits. The White Marlin Open for example is a 5 day event where boats may fish 3 of the five days with lines out by 3:30 each day they fish. In contrast, the Big Fish offers boats a choice of two 32 hour fishing windows. One from 7AM on Friday through 3PM on Saturday, or the same hours from Saturday to Sunday. The weather often plays into which window is selected and the same was true for this year. A forecasted Friday overnight storm offshore resulted in only 6 of the 97 boats registered heading out for the first window. Boats do have the option to return to the

scales before their window closes if they feel they have an exceptional catch or are looking for some of the daily prize money, but this year saw no boats come to the scales on Day 1. Day 2 saw 5 of the 6 boats in the first window find their way to the scales. Two of which set the lead in a category and held it! Notably the "Low Profile" from New Jersey was waiting at the dock for the scales to open at 4PM. Little did they know they were setting the tone for the tournament with the 3 bigeye and 5 yellowfin tuna they caught in the Wilmington Canyon. All the eyeballs were over 100 lbs. with the largest at 225 lbs. that took 3rd Place for Heaviest Fish. They also weighed a 66.5 lb. yellowfin tuna that resisted a lot of competition to take 1st Place in the Heaviest Yellowfin Division, besting the 2nd Place fish by 0.5 lbs.! The "Big Stick" also came in strong, weighing a 170.5 lb. swordfish they caught in the Poor Man's Canyon. While nearly 10 swords came to the scales, theirs held onto 1st Place in the Heaviest Swordfish Division as well as 2nd Place for Heaviest Billfish.

Day 3, Sunday was crazy. Of the 91 boats that were eligible to weigh fish that day, an amazing 51 did! That shows you how tight the categories were, especially for heaviest yellowfin and heaviest stringer with most of the fish being similar in size. The yellowfins ranged from the 40's to the eventual top fish at 66.5 lbs., so it was worth



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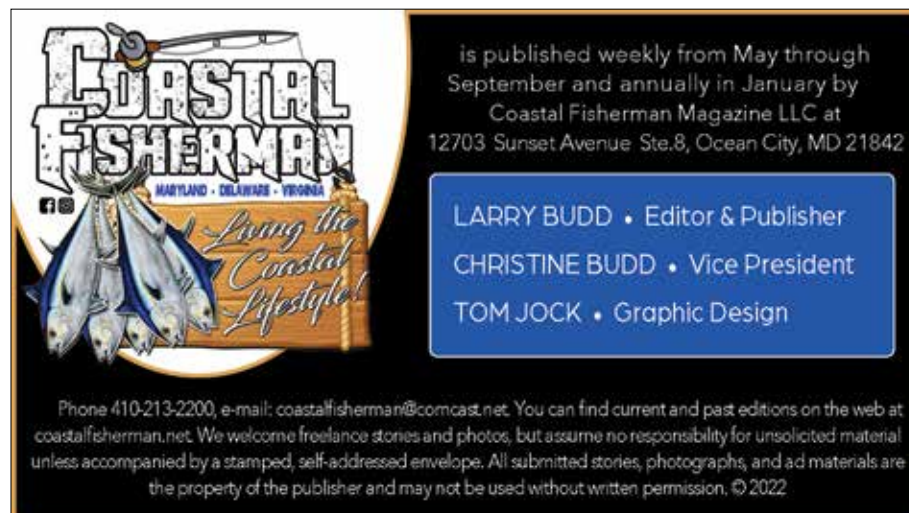
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weighing anything you had! The marlin categories were also wide open and two boats made a truck load of money bringing in the only white marlin and blue marlin. The "Gret's Three J's" was first with a 436 lb. blue marlin they caught in the Baltimore Canyon, only taking 20 minutes to get in the boat. That singular blue took top honors at the single Heaviest Fish, Heaviest Billfish as well as several other categories to earn the 2nd largest payout of the tournament. The next marlin to the scales came from the "Boss Hogg". They went deep past the Wilmington Canyon and worked their way back to the shallows where they hooked into a 76 lb. white marlin. It too was the only fish in its category taking all of the white marlin purse totaling the events largest payout! There is so much more and you can see our coverage starting on page 66.

From the data we captured during the tournament, let's break down the best catch over the last week.

Tuna

This past week was all about bigeyes. During the tournament over 20 were brought in with 11 over 200 lbs.! Most started with targeting the eyeballs. Many who started there and did not see any bites switched to targeting yellowfins on the troll or chunk. The latter did not produce the kind of catch volume of the past week, usually only 2 or 3 fish. More success was had trolling and finding a pod of 50 or 60 lb. fish. The Wilmington Canyon was the clear winner for both the heavier yellowfins and the 200 lb.+ bigeyes.

Billfish

We had a dozen reports of swordfish catches as well as releases last week from the Baltimore Canyon to the Poor Man's Canyon being where most were reported. They ranged from just under

100 to about 130 lbs. with the tournament winner at 170.5 lbs.

While marlin fishing remains tough, we did have reports of about a dozen white marlin catches and a handful of blue marlin as well. Beyond the white caught by the "Boss Hogg", the "Showtime!" released one in the Wilmington and the "No Limit" found one in the Poor Man's. Blue marlin releases were reported from the Wilmington by the "Hall Pass" and the "Restless Lady" who had an 83" fish. The "Blood Money" released two in the Baltimore Canyon during the tournament. With the upcoming White Marlin Open we are hopeful this fishery continues to improve.

Until next week, I will see you at the scales! §


Upcoming Tournaments

• Up next this weekend is the Ocean City Marlin Clubs "Heels & Reels" Ladies Tournament to benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund. This is the 14th year for the event that will be held on August 5th & 6th with weigh ins at Atlantic Tackle. Always a fun event with lots of action and costumes from the lady anglers. Registration is Thursday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM and scales from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. More at OCMarlinClub.com.

• The big show is next week! The 49th White Marlin Open hosted at Harbour Island in Ocean City is from August 8th-12th. The world's richest white marlin tournament is always a show! Different for 2022 is the location of the Marlin Fest viewing and vendor area which is being held in the Ocean City Inlet parking area immediately adjacent to the Inlet. This location is a great option to watch the boats come back as well as see the weigh ins on the jumbotron. Scales are from 4:00 - 9:15 PM every day.




It was a team effort for Nate(18), Eufemia(19), Reese(13) Babikow and their parents. They all helped land these 2 yellowfin tunas and a couple peanut mahi while chunking in the Massey's Canyon on the "Green Edge". Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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A hot spot for flounder last week was in the south Ocean City Bay around the Ocean City Municipal Airport. Pat Clapp from Towson, MD hooked into this fattie 23" flounder there using live minnows for bait.



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These boys have it easy, they just fish the East Channel off of their bulkhead at 4th St. in OC! David Germroth from Manchester, MD and Fred Zolonas of Reistertown, MD caught these 5 flounders, up to 22", using squid and minnow.



Cousins Nathan Moyer from Perry Hall, MD and Chase Pitruzzella from Baltimore caught a nice mix of 7 kingfish and spot casting Fishbites Bloodworms in the surf at 142nd St. in Ocean City.

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After settling for some smaller prey on his last trip to the Fenwick Shoals, angler Mike Halfen of Newark, DE headed a little further to fish the nearshore lumps. Heading about 25 miles out on a solo trip he trolled up 6 false albacore tunas up to 35" and landed a personal best yellowfin. The 44" and 63.5 pounder was also the first on his own boat.



David Lawrence from Frederick, MD, Tom Maduskuie of Ocean View and Todd Herman down from Hanover, PA caught nine keeper flounder and a like number of throwbacks fishing at Site 10 near A Buoy. The biggest were Dave's at 22" and 4 lbs. 1 oz. and Tom's at 23" and 4 lbs. 5 ozs. All fish were caught on a combination of Gulp and minnows/squid.



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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week's weather in Ocean City remained hot! The fishing is now in full summer mode and the fish are seeking deeper water. Flounder have become the main target both in the back bays as well as the ocean reefs. The heavy boat traffic in the main channels is also putting fish down to the bottom and making bites harder.

Flounder, Sea Bass & Triggerfish

Flounder at the nearby OC reefs remains fairly strong. The fish have been located on the down current side of the wrecks and will readily take bucktails and high low rigs tipped with Gulp. Bucktails are less likely to hang up on the wrecks but must be put right alongside the wrecks to capitalize on the targeted flounder.

African Queen & Bass Grounds

The "Angler" head boat was hitting the inshore reefs last week with good success on sea bass and flounder. Keith Chu caught fluke up to 4 pounds. Right behind him was Bobby

Telford with limits up to 3.5 pounds. Sounds like Captain Chris Mizurak is really on the fish! Captain Mizurak also reports decent catches of sea bass along with the big flounder. Lucas Siple was out at the Queen last week and managed to catch 15 sea bass, but only 3 were keepers. He managed to capture a pair of 18" flatties as well as one just under 23". "Fish Bound Charters" was out all week. Captain Kane reports the 8 hour trips are focused on the flounder and the 4 hour trips more on the spanish and blues. He said the flatties are really starting to turn on with some quality fish coming onto the lines. Deeper water and searching out less targeted wrecks and structure has been the key to their success. The crews caught some near citation size fish mostly on deeper wrecks and rock piles. The "Ocean Princess" was out this past week and reports that sea bass are getting smaller as the summer heat continues. Matt Moran reported that those who kept the bait fresh and fished hard did find some keepers to bring home. The

"Ocean Princess" reported the flounder bite really turned on in the past week with much bigger fish coming over the rails.

Triggerfish are also showing up on many of the wrecks and are a welcome sight for anglers. Triggers are a very tasty fish and often if you leave one hooked in the water the rest of them on the wreck will swim up to see what the commotion is all about, allowing you to hook a few more on the surface. Kevin McNelis was out at the Old Grounds and caught his personal best of this year weighing 5 lbs. Not bad for an afternoon trip. The African Queen site remains the best inshore hot spot of last week. With the cable piles and lobster habitat being the best locations here for sea bass. The longer barges and ships remain best for flat fish. For sea bass you want to use fresh or salted clam and for the fluke, big Gulp baits and long strips of squid.

"Bad Wind Charters" put their clients on some really nice flounder. Tommy and Joe

were out with them and the fishing was quite challenging to say the least. Water temps are as low as 61 degrees in some areas. The guys fished hard into overtime and managed to box a few nice fish. Later that week Captain Bruce took time to do a little fishing for himself and brought home some doormats for dinner.

Further Offshore Areas

The Jack Spot has been hit or miss this week with lots of throwbacks. For those who work hard and watch their rods for bites, keepers can be found. The Great Eastern Reef was a little better with some nice sized fluke coming off the wrecks.

Back Bays

In the backwaters of Ocean City, flounder has definitely picked up. There are still several short fish to pick though, but keepers are on the rise! Bob Walther caught a nice 24", 5.5 lb. fish off the south wall jetty. Mike Brockmeyer got a whopper 7.85 lb., 27.5" flattie weighed in at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Todd Adams caught a nice 23" fish while fishing the boat "Wet Dreams". Fish were caught on white Gulp. 10 year old Harrison Kincade was fishing live spot on the East Channel and brought



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home a 20 incher. Joseph, Jonathan and Michael Hager had a great day bagging 5 flounder all around 17" in the Thorofare while using minnows. Captain Nick had a good catch of fluke with Jessica, Jacob, and Ryan Yingling while fishing the south side of the jetty. "Back Bay Adventures" ran their 2.5 hour trips and brought back several fish for their customers. "Ocean City Guide Service" also fished the back waters and caught several nice flounder as well as a few sheepshead. Riley Neall caught a beautiful 29" rockfish on a paddle tail next to the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Mahi & Sheepshead

The mahi have started to show up on the inshore wrecks and humps. Targeting the inshore sea bass pot balls as well as the channel markers is a great place to start. Ted Proseus was trolling and told me that the fish are super picky but

will take a chugger or squid trolled behind the boat at a slow speed. Ted managed to bring home several mahi for dinner. Raymond Young trolled from the light to A Buoy, then to B Buoy and reported having some really nice marks which he believes were falsies or yellowfin. They did hook several nice size mahi as well as a couple more knockdowns that didn't hook up. Small chuggers as well as strip baits are the best baits for trolling, and squid strips on a circle hook are best for tossing at fish holding on balls and markers. As the next few weeks continue the mahi should move closer inshore and be ready to take a bait with a hook in it.

Maureen Betchtel was out on the south jetty wall and caught a 21" and 7.1 lb. sheepshead. The south wall of the jetty is on fire!


Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up §

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The Brown Boys from Ocean View got in on the chunking action dropping their cut butterfish inside the Massey's Canyon. Richard and Rick Brown took Jim Gaffney from Levittown, PA and Walt Gazdzik, also of Ocean View, out on the "Miss Darlene" and put Jim onto his first tuna catch ever.

2022

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 BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11	 BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel
 CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit	 RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD No limit	 SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit
 STRIPED BASS 28-35" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day <u>Catch & Release only from</u> 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds	 SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day	 TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31	 WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 5 Mike Botsaris S. OC Jetty 12.5 lbs.	 July 18 Tommy Schlauch Jr. Fenwick Ditch 12 lbs. 3 Oz.	 Thresher Shark	May 30 Dan Cavey Fingers 373 lbs.	
 Black Drum	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	May 22 Mike Strain Coral Beds 78 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	July 23 Crew - Wrecker Washington Canyon 276 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Reel Fast" Washington Canyon 220 lbs.
 Cobia	June 25 John Stackhouse Kelly's Reef 46.25 lbs.	July 15 Scott Brooks Off Bethany Beach 89.2 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	June 10 Corey Healy Baltimore Canyon 243 lbs.	
 Flounder	 July 29 Mike Brockmeyer East Channel 7.85 lbs.	July 20 Jesse Norman Ocean Structure 10.4 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		June 5 Chad Tingle Wilmington Canyon 49.5 lbs.
 Sea Bass	May 31 Justin Eddy Poor Man's 4.7 lbs.	May 26 Kase Andrews Ocean Structure 3.125 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	June 30 Brian Mayer Washington Canyon 85.5 lbs.	June 10 John Savoca Baltimore Canyon 75 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 27 JC Dennis OC Inlet 13.75 lbs.	July 4 Jason Whaley Ocean Structure 12 lbs.	 Dolphin	 July 31 Jordan Hammell Wilmington Canyon 27 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	May 20 Bud Martin Rt. 50 Bridge 17.19 lbs.		 Swordfish	June 30 Steve Stallings Poor Man's Canyon 288 lbs.	
 Tautog	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	 July 31 Mike Tenuto Wilmington Canyon 436 lbs.	
 Wahoo	July 16 Ryan Spilman Massey's Canyon 87 lbs.		 White Marlin	 July 31 Mike Dahl Wilmington Canyon 76 lbs.	

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




A woman with blonde hair and sunglasses is kneeling on the wooden deck of a boat, holding a large, dark fish vertically. The fish has a prominent yellow fin. The background shows the ocean and a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent watermark is overlaid on the image, reading: "Property of Coastal Fisherman To order photo call 410-213-2200".

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FISHING CHARTERS



More swordfish are starting to show up at the docks. Capt. Willie Zimmerman on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" caught their first sword of the year during an overnight trip last week. They also caught a couple yellowfin tunas and released a mako shark. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Anglers on the party boat "Angler" have been pulling in some nice sized sea bass and flounder this past week. Capt. Chris Mizurak with mates Rich & Steve worked both natural and artificial reefs on their 8 hour and 3/4 day trips.

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The "Restless Lady II" with Capt. Chris Huk had a very nice haul from the Hambone bringing in 12 fat yellowfin tuna to the docks at the Talbot Street Pier.

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- Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos & always Smile!

We do our best to run the pictures we receive, however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.

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FISHING CHARTERS

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Team Martin had a busy day on the charter boat "MARLI" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Jake Pilkerton & Jax Moore. They caught 10 big yellowfin tunas chunking at the inshore lumps with 30 lb. fluorocarbon on Penn rod and reel combos. Great angling by all!

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was family fun day for the Vincents. They booked a 1/2 day trip with Capt. Roger Meekins on the headboat "Judy V" based at the Indian River Marina. Young Ellie Vincent caught this 4.9 lb flounder and took home the winnings for heaviest fish. They also took home some cool sea bass in an ice bag!



The picture is a little grainy as this estimated 250 lb. blue marlin was on the run. Capt. Jake Shaffer on the charter boat "Turnin' Fins" took the shot of one of only a few blue marlin released so far this year.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judith M" had his son Colin aboard for this trip to the Bass Grounds. Colin and the other anglers used squid, clams and shiners to get a mix of sea bass, flounder and an occasional triggerfish.



Capt. Monty Hawkins reported a slamming sea bass trip last Thursday, one of the best he has seen size wise since May. About half the anglers got their limit of 15 with everyone in the double digit catch range.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with mate Ethan Nock got this group onto a mess of fish! They were over an ocean wreck using squid and pulled in a mix of triggerfish and spanish mackerels.



Capt. Joe Drosey on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" had another successful trip targeting yellowfin tunas. He and mates Eric Strauss & Mario Rosales worked the inshore lumps to get these anglers from Clifton Contracting onto 5 sizable tunas. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina in West Ocean City.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was all smiles for Jessica, Jacob and Ryan Yingling after their trip on the charter boat "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Willie Poole. They fished with white Gulp on their ½ day trip in the Ocean City Bay getting 4 keeper flounder, mostly from the south side of the Ocean City Jetty.

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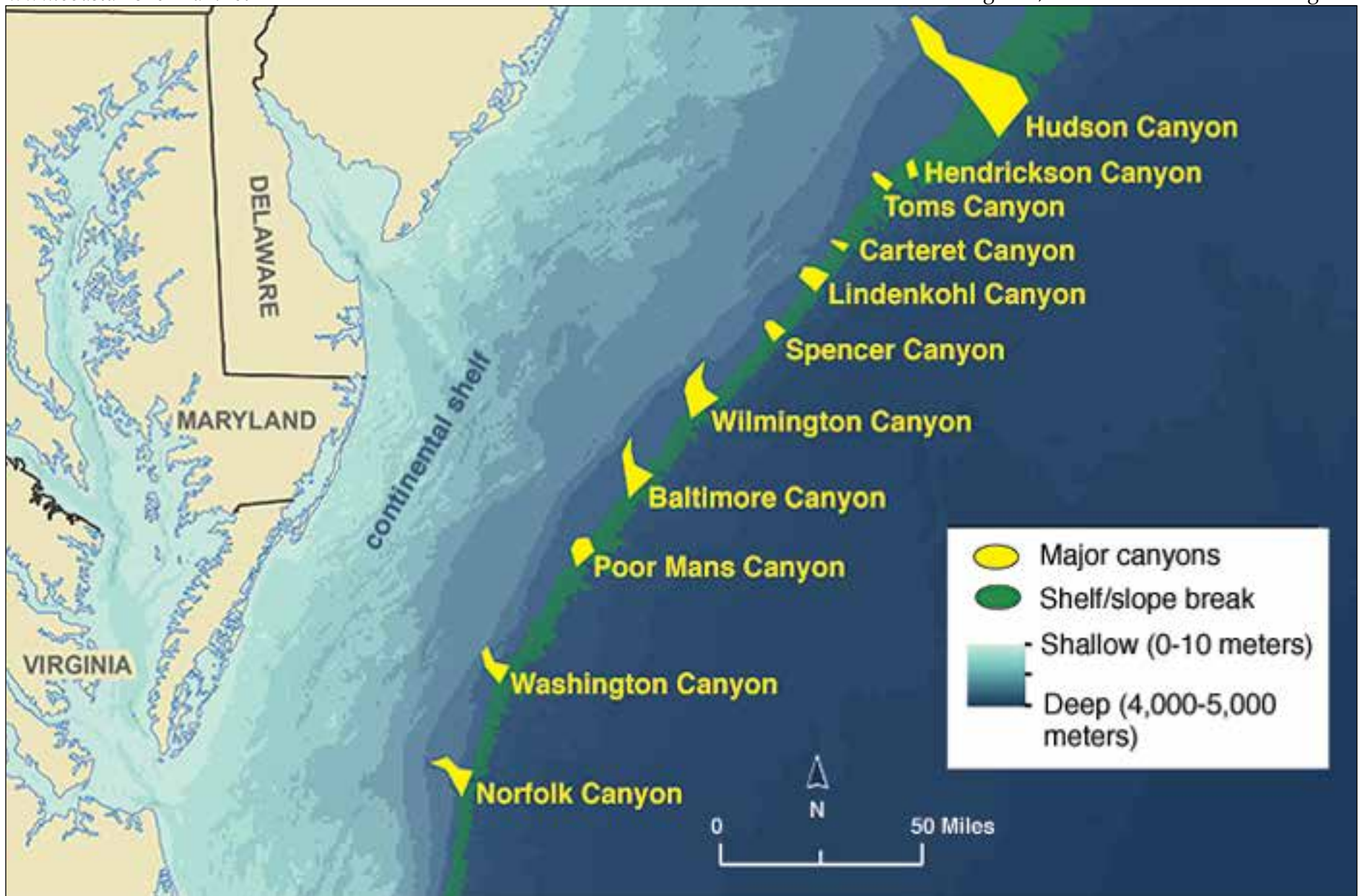
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Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6

Weigh-Ins: August 5 & 6
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64th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT*

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

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 2, 3 & 4

Weigh-Ins: September 2, 3 & 4 6:00-8:00pm
at Sunset Marina

44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: Sept. 7, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 8, 9 & 10

No Weigh-Ins

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Tournament Talking

The handheld satellite communicator was once a futuristic device on Star Trek, but now many offshore boaters carry a similar device. With tournament season in full swing, most offshore captains, crew and anglers want and need a way to communicate to other distant boats or to friends and family on shore. There are over a half dozen two-way satellite communicators available today, though there are a few rugged satellite communicators that are a good match for offshore boating.

The Garmin InReach, Iridium GO! and the new ACR Bivy Stick. These are all two-way communicators, able to send and receive a text message to any text capable phone or device. Garmin InReach,

ACR Bivy Stick and of course the Iridium GO!® all use the Iridium satellite network to send and receive messages. The



differences are in the hardware functionality and the costs, both initial purchase and airtime plans.

The InReach starts at \$350, The Bivy stick is \$250, and the Iridium GO!® starts at \$800.

InReach

In 2011 DeLorm launched a device called "InReach," a worldwide handheld satellite communication and SOS device that fits in your pocket. The company was purchased by Garmin 6 years ago and the InReach device is still one of the most popular satellite communicators. The product received a Garmin makeover and was originally offered in two Garmin versions, one with a built-in map and one without. In the following years Garmin introduced additional InReach products to fill out their product offering to meet the needs of consumers -currently: inReach mini, inReach® Mini 2, GPSMAP® 86i and GPSMAP® 86sci. The inReach includes a smartphone app that allows users to use their smartphone to send and receive messages and integrates their existing contacts.

The 86 Series devices include a screen that allows you to use the device without a smartphone. The SOS function connects you to the IERCC, International Emergency Rescue Coordination Center based in the USA to coordinate emergency service.

Note: the newest inReach Mini 2 has a better battery, better screen, more storage memory, more GPS satellite systems, built in compass and other improvements over the inReach Mini 1, though it still requires a connected smartphone for full functionality.

ACR Bivy Stick

The newest marine oriented satellite communicator is the ACR Bivy Stick. Introduced a year ago by ACR, this device is the most compact and least expensive satellite two-way satellite messenger and app, the Bivy Stick also includes an SOS function in conjunction with a global rescue center. The Bivy Stick offers an innovative and affordable option for sending



SMS messages, tracking, sharing location information, accessing GPS maps, viewing live weather forecasts and initiating a distress call in an emergency. With no activation fees and one of the lowest monthly costs starting at \$20/month, this is the least expensive airtime plan in the marketplace. Additionally, the Bivy Stick service is good for seasonal users, allowing you to use the service on a month to month basis without long term plans or activation fees. The Bivy Stick ties into the ACR app on a smartphone that synchronizes with your contacts. The SOS



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functions work with "Global Rescue", a US based company that specializes in travel emergencies.

Iridium GO!

The Iridium GO! is like the above devices, with one major additional feature – voice phone calls. Using the accompanying Iridium GO! smartphone app, you can make voice calls or send text messages with the device. It can also



connect you to an email service and some social media services. The Iridium GO! has a flip up antenna, small status display and built in networking to connect up to 5 smartphones or similar devices, though you can only use one device at a time. The SOS function connects you to the same service as the inReach uses the IERCC, International Emergency Rescue Coordination Center based in the USA.

Coverage

These three devices transmit and receive data to the Iridium satellite constellation which offers true global coverage. Iridium has 66 active satellites



in a low earth orbit (485 miles above the earth surface). The Iridium constellation is comprised of six orbital planes spaced 30° apart, with 11 satellites in each plane. This allows for continuous global coverage, meaning you do not need to wait for a satellite to pass overhead to send or receive a message. Side note: there are a few countries that limit or regulate satellite communicators, including but not limited to: India, China, Iran, Cuba, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Chad,

Sudan, Thailand, Vietnam, Russia, and North Korea so be aware where you travel with your satellite device.

Emergency Use

The private rescue center coordinates a rescue by alerting local agencies in your geographic area and provides rescuers with your information and location so they can take over the rescue. For comparison, an EPIRB's or PLB's are automatic rugged floating lifesaving devices whose only purpose is to

send an emergency signal to "government" satellites that are monitored by a regulated worldwide network of international government agencies who coordinate a global rescue. There is no cost or fees to subscribe to the EPIRB/PLB monitoring network and often no charge for bonified emergency rescue.

These satellite communicators offer a low-cost, straightforward way to stay in touch with friends and family on land and others on the water. They are a good fit for all offshore boaters. §



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Big smiles for Trent Gast-Woodard, Brendon Clay and Emilee Gast-Woodard after they spent the day with Capt. Brian Ludwick on the "Barracuda" out of the Indian River Marina! They were chunking butterfish in the Massey's Canyon and fooled these three yellowfin tunas.



Big Bird Cropper and Shawn Flaherty were on the bluefish again last week. Using a combination of Roy Rigs and their dredging style using Stretch lures, they caught a lot of small rockfish as well as getting their 2 man limit of 6 bluefish.

2022 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day
 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit <small>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</small>	 BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to <73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat	 SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day	

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

PROHIBITED SHARKS

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, **Shortfin Mako**, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware we saw more heat and west wind. I'm not sure what is worse, the heat or the flies. Fishing was not stellar but definitely worth the trip. Flounder remains the big catch of the week with deeper wrecks producing some very nice size fish. Sea bass are surprisingly still around and I finally have reports of mahi mahi on the near shore reefs.

Flounder, Sea Bass & Tog Old Grounds

The flounder bite at the Old Grounds has really begun to turn on. The ratio of smalls to keepers is around 5 small to one keeper. The keeper sizes are getting bigger with lots of 5-7 lb. flatties showing up. If you put in the time, limits can be found on most days. Joseph Austin was out last week and his crew managed 6 keepers with all the fish being in the 20" range. Nicolas Asencio managed a couple real nice fish using Fluke Candy rigs. Many anglers including myself are using the Fluke Candy style floating rigs in search of flounder.

The rig floats a little off the bottom, keeping it from getting snagged up as well as providing lots of action for the fish to zone in on.

Carley Starkey pulled in a real nice 24 inch on a red pick jig head. Nice fish Carly! Nick Garcia and his buddy Kaelin were out targeting big fish and were rewarded with 4 keepers up to 20". Ricky Mills also got in on the action bringing home flatties for dinner along with a nice size triggerfish.

Although triggers are very hard to clean due to their tough leathery skin, they are a delicious white meat that makes great table fare.

Ryan Oberholtzer was out at the grounds last week and while targeting flounder found the pots loaded with small mahi. The reports on mahi are that they are very picky and will not just chase down a bait thrown in front of them. Fresh squid and small jerk baits are having the best results at hooking these prized fish. As the next few weeks progress, I suspect the

fish will be more aggressive and bite more regularly. Aaron Brommer finally got his citation flounder while fishing ocean structure on the "Surface Tension". The fish measured 27 3/4" and weighed 7.34 lbs. at Lewes Harbour Marina. Nice catch! Also coming into Lewes Harbour Marina was Croix Rust with a beauty measuring 21 3/4". Again, take a kid fishing and he will show you how it's done!

Bay & Lewes Canal

Ryan Sullivan caught a nice 3.6 lb. flattie while his fishing partner nailed a sweet 4.88 pounder from the Lewes Canal using minnows on a top and bottom rig. Ronald Rawley got a nice 24" fish in the Indian River Bay. Captain Carey and mate Josh managed to put their clients on the fish and returned with a boat load of flounder. At the Indian River Inlet, Lindy Bumbaco managed a big ribbonfish off the jetty at night. I haven't seen many around on my trips of late but nice to know they are still here. John Candeloro

was fishing the Indian River Bay and managed a nice keeper for dinner. The main entrance as well as the slew in front of the VFW are your hotspots. Last week in the bay Dave Pierce hooked a nice 22" 5.3 lb. flounder.

Sea bass has slowed up but some good catches are still being made. "3 Amigos Charters" had the Larry Hogan group out for the day and put together a nice box of keeper bass. The fish were cleaned at their home port of Indian River Marina at Hook'em and Cook'em Tackle. They do a fantastic filleting your fish catch!

Sheepshead

Fred Robinson was all smiles as he brought in a nice 9.3 lb. sheep while using sand fleas. The big fish have been around the Outer Wall and Ice Breakers the past few weeks. Jack Dixon and his dad fished with Captain Dave on "True Life Charters". Jack caught a citation convict weighing 10.37 lbs. using sand fleas. I can't get over how many citation sheepshead are being caught this year. Dallas Johnson was not to be out done with his citation 10.6 pounder, also caught on sand fleas.

I surf fished the beach at 3 R's

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last week and found the surf full of big sand fleas ready to be raked up. Various tackle and hardware stores around have sand flea rakes, and at low tide you can easily fill a bucket with big fleas. Digging just inside the water will produce the best catches. This is also a great way to keep children occupied and having fun. The kids have a blast and you get to go catch a big sheepshead after a nice day on the beach.

Surf Fishing

The surf has been a mix of spot and kingfish in the surf with a few pompano thrown in. Sand fleas and Fishbites are the main bait for surf fishing right now.

Lots of rays and sharks are also just off the beach and will take cut bait, especially right at dark.

George Frigm said what a difference a day makes. His first trip last week was slow,

but the next time was loaded with over 30 kingfish up to 13" all caught on the incoming tide at Fenwick State Park between 2-6 pm.

Spot are also in the surf and will readily take Fishbites on a pompano rig. A few short stripers are being caught mostly at night.

Clams & Crabs

Crabs are averaging 7-10 keepers per pot, however I'm getting a number of reports of pots being stolen or emptied in the bay.

Clamming is excellent! On a recent outing, myself and Carl Littleton raked our limits of 100 clams in about 1.5 hours. Many of the clams are just below the sand and easily found. The areas near the VFW as well as the sand bars near the inlet are great spots to target.

Until next week...

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Longtime friends Andrew Jobs and John Jensen originally from Havre de Grace, MD probably did not think they would both end up living in Ocean City when they were roommates at Frostburg State, but here they are! On this trip they caught this 17.25" flounder in the East Channel by De Lazy Lizard.

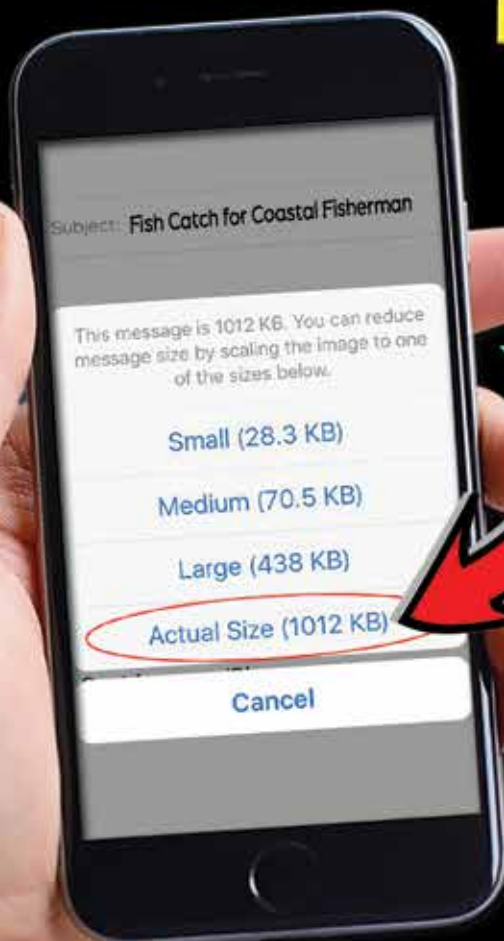


Peter, Lauren and Alena Kirsh had a great day trolling in the Washington Canyon last Thursday fishing with Capt. Brandon Spielman on the "American Lady". The trio managed to box 3 keeper yellowfin tunas.

The 2022 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.

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- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Tilefish with White Wine & Shallots

Ingredients:

1-2 lb. tilefish fillet (skin-on, scales-off)

2 tablespoons honey

2-3 large shallots, sliced into rings

2 tablespoons butter

2 cups white wine

Salt

White pepper

Olive oil

Directions:

Simmer some butter in a small sauce pan on medium heat and add your sliced shallots. While they're browning, heat up a larger skillet on high and grease it lightly with olive oil. When it is good and hot, place your fillets skin-side-down on

the skillet and let them cook for a few minutes (you want that fatty skin to get nice and crispy so don't move or flip the fillets - leave them alone!). Toss the shallots so they brown all over and then add the white wine and butter, as well as a pinch of salt, and stir on low heat.



Once the flesh of the fish is white nearly all the way through, take a spatula and scrape the fillets off the pan and flip them over.

Turn off the heat, and quickly drizzle a spoonful of honey on the crispy brown skin of the fillets, then spread the honey

evenly across the surface of each fillet. Sprinkle the fish with a pinch of salt and white pepper, then serve the fillets over a bed of rice, pasta, polenta or another grain of your choice. Spoon the shallots and wine/butter sauce over the fish and enjoy!

Smoked Fish Dip

Ingredients:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup whipped cream cheese spread, at room temperature

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

2 teaspoons refrigerated prepared horseradish

1/2 teaspoon hot sauce, plus more for serving



1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1/4 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning

8 ounces skinned and boned smoked oily fish (such as amberjack, Spanish mackerel, trout, or cobia)

Saltine crackers, for serving

Directions:

Whisk together mayonnaise, cream cheese spread, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, parsley, horseradish, hot sauce, Worcestershire and Old Bay in a medium bowl.

Pulse smoked fish in a food processor until finely chopped, about 10 times. Add chopped fish to mayonnaise mixture, and fold to combine. Cover and chill at least 2 hours or up to 3 days. Season with additional Old Bay, lemon juice, and/or hot sauce if desired. Serve with saltine crackers and hot sauce.

Baked Flounder with Panko & Parmesan

Ingredients:

4 (4 oz.) flounder fillets

4 tablespoons butter, melted, divided

1 cup panko bread crumbs

2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 pinch dried thyme

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Ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Lightly grease a large, shallow baking dish.

Lay flounder fillets in the prepared baking dish and brush with 1 tablespoon butter.

Combine remaining 3 tablespoons butter with bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese, salt, thyme, and pepper in a bowl; sprinkle over flounder and pat down lightly.

Bake in the preheated oven until fish flakes easily with a fork, 15 to 20 minutes. Carefully transfer fillets to a plate with a thin spatula.

Restaurant Style Oysters Rockefeller

Ingredients:

24 oysters live in shell

4 tbsp. butter

2 shallots finely minced

10 oz. baby spinach

12 oz. heavy cream

½ cup Romano cheese

½ tsp. black pepper

1 tbsp. lemon juice

¼ cup panko bread crumbs



Directions:

Rinse and clean the oysters

Carefully open the oysters and using a paring knife cut under the oyster releasing it from the shell. Place the open oysters on a sheet pan and refrigerate until

needed.

In a large saute pan or wide bottom pot, melt the butter.

Add the shallots to the melted butter and saute over medium heat for 3-4 minutes. Do not let them burn.

Add the spinach and saute until the spinach is wilted.

****If you want to add white wine, now is the time to add the wine to the pan.**

Add the lemon juice, heavy cream, Romano cheese and black pepper to the spinach. Bring to a boil and reduce the heat. Allow the mixture to continue cooking until the cream has reduced by half.

Place the finished mixture into the refrigerator. Allow the spinach mixture to completely cool and solidify.

Place one tablespoon of the spinach mixture on top of each oyster.

Top each finished oyster with the panko bread crumbs.

Place the oysters in a 375 degree F. oven for 15-20 minutes or until the topping is golden brown.

Serve the oysters on a bed of rock salt with lemon slices.

Fresh & Simple Crab Salad

Ingredients:

1 medium lemon

2 tablespoons finely chopped chives

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/2 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning

1 pound jumbo lump crab meat

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Serving options: lettuce leaves, halved avocados, or buttered, toasted hot dog buns

Directions:

Prepare the following, placing them in a large bowl: finely grate the zest of 1 medium lemon until you have 1/2 teaspoon; juice the lemon until you have 1 teaspoon juice. Finely chop until you have 2 tablespoons chives. Add

1/4 cup mayonnaise and 1/2 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning, and stir to combine.

Pick through 1 pound fresh jumbo lump crab meat for any shells, then add the crab meat to the dressing and stir until combined. Taste and season with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper as needed.



Serve plain, or if desired, on a bed of lettuce, scooped into halved avocados, or in a buttered, toasted hot dog bun.

Crispy Fried Spanish Mackerel Nuggets

Ingredients:

2 Spanish mackerel fillets

about 1 pound, cut into cubes approximately 1-1/2 x 1-1/2 inches square

1 cup buttermilk

1 cup yellow cornmeal

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1 tablespoon creole seasoning

1 teaspoon kosher salt

2 cups peanut oil

Directions:

Place the buttermilk in a bowl and add the fish nuggets. Stir to make sure all are covered and let sit for five to ten minutes. Set aside.

Add the cornmeal, flour, creole seasoning, and salt to a pie plate or large shallow bowl. Mix well.

Take the nuggets out of the buttermilk and let any excess drip off. Place the fish in the cornmeal mixture and toss. Make sure that the nuggets are coated on all sides. Place on a wire rack and repeat until you have all of the fish coated.

Place a cast-iron skillet or Dutch oven over medium-high

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heat and add the oil. You want at least 1/2 inch of oil in the bottom.

Before adding the fish, test to make sure the oil is hot by dropping in a pinch of the cornmeal mixture. It should immediately start to sizzle. If it doesn't, let the oil heat a few more minutes. The oil should ideally be at 375 degrees F. If the oil is too cool, your fish will be greasy if the oil is too hot, the crust will burn before the insides cook.

When the oil is hot, add the nuggets and make sure not to crowd them. You will most

likely have to cook the fish in two batches.

Let the fish fry, turning as needed, for a total of two to three minutes or until the nuggets are golden brown and crispy on all sides.

Use a slotted spoon or fish turner to remove the nuggets from the oil. Place on a paper towel or wire rack to drain.

Repeat as needed until all of the fish is cooked. Serve immediately.

Killer Lemon Butter Sauce

Ingredients:

4 tbsp unsalted butter , cut into pieces

1 tbsp fresh lemon juice

Salt and finely ground pepper

Crispy Pan Fried Fish:

2 thin white fish fillets about 4-5 oz. each, skinless boneless

Salt and pepper

2 tbsp white flour

2 tbsp oil (I use canola)

Lemon wedges

Finely chopped parsley, optional

Directions:

Lemon Butter Sauce:

Place the butter in a light colored saucepan or small skillet over medium heat.

Melt butter then leave on the stove, whisking and stirring now and then. When the butter turns golden brown and smells nutty, about 3 minutes, remove from stove immediately and pour into small bowl. Add lemon juice and a pinch of salt and pepper. Stir then taste when it has cooled slightly. Adjust lemon and salt to taste.

Set aside - it will stay pourable for 20 - 30 minutes.

Crispy Pan Fried Fish:

Pat fish dry using paper towels. Sprinkle with salt & pepper, then flour. Use fingers to spread flour. Turn and repeat. Shake excess flour off well, slapping between hands if necessary.

Heat oil in a non stick skillet



over high heat. When the oil is shimmering and there are faint wisps of smoke, add fish. Cook for 1 1/2 minutes until golden and crispy on the edges, then turn and cook the other side for 1 1/2 minutes (cook longer if you have thicker fillets).

Remove immediately onto serving plates. Drizzle each with about 1 tbsp. of sauce (avoid dark specks settled at the bottom of the bowl), garnish with parsley and serve with lemon on the side. §

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Measurement

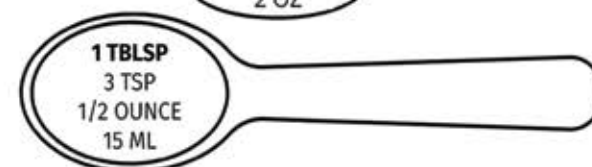
CUP	ONCES	MILLILITERS	TABLESPOONS
8 cup	64 oz	1895 ml	128
6 cup	48 oz	1420 ml	96
5 cup	40 oz	1180 ml	80
4 cup	32 oz	960 ml	64
2 cup	16 oz	480 ml	32
1 cup	8 oz	240 ml	16
3/4 cup	6 oz	177 ml	12
2/3 cup	5 oz	158 ml	11
1/2 cup	4 oz	118 ml	8
3/8 cup	3 oz	90 ml	6
1/3 cup	2.5 oz	79 ml	5.5
1/4 cup	2 oz	59 ml	4
1/8 cup	1 oz	30 ml	3
1/16 cup	1/2 oz	15 ml	1

Temperature

FAHRENHEIT	CELSIUS
100 °F	37 °C
150 °F	65 °C
200 °F	93 °C
250 °F	121 °C
300 °F	150 °C
325 °F	160 °C
350 °F	180 °C
375 °F	190 °C
400 °F	200 °C
425 °F	220 °C
450 °F	230 °C
500 °F	260 °C
525 °F	274 °C
550 °F	288 °C

Weight

IMPERIAL	METRIC
1/2 oz	15 g
1 oz	29 g
2 oz	57 g
3 oz	85 g
4 oz	113 g
5 oz	141 g
6 oz	170 g
8 oz	227 g
10 oz	283 g
12 oz	340 g
13 oz	369 g
14 oz	397 g
15 oz	425 g
1 lb	453 g



LIQUID MEASUREMENTS

8 ounces = 1 cup
2 cups = 1 pint
16 ounces = 1 pint
4 cups = 1 quart

2 pints = 1 quart
4 quarts = 1 gallon
3 tsp = 1 tbsp
2 tbsp = 1/8 cup

4 tbsp = 1/4 cup
8 tbsp = 1/2 cup
1 pinch = 1/8 tsp or less

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Nicholas and Andrew Zaccala from Pompton Plains, NJ made some great family memories when they went fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break". The pair caught these 2 keeper flounder in the south Ocean City Bay on Otter Tail Curly Short in white with minnows. The heaviest was 3.5 lbs.



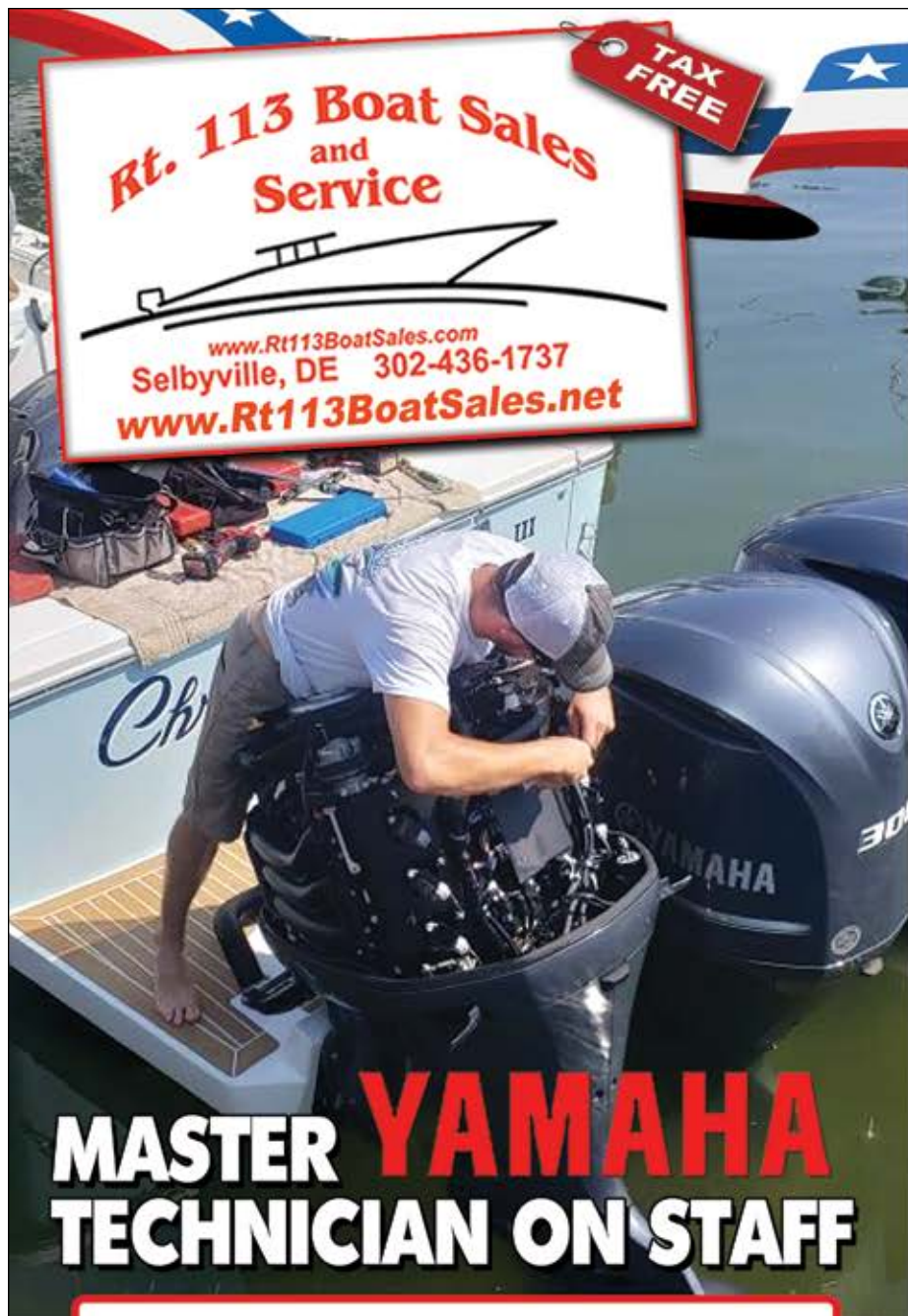
Maureen Bechtel of Ocean City proudly shows off the 21" and 7.1 lb. sheephead she caught on the inside wall of the south Ocean City Jetty. She was fishing on "Anchor Management" with her brother Jack Pavlik of Gilbertsville, PA and her son, Capt. Ken Bechtel from Annville, PA.

2022 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11	 BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day	 COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers
 CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day	 RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day	 SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day
 STRIPED BASS 28-35" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day	 SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day	 TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31	 WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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What a great day for Capt. Heath Berger and the crew of the "Stress Reel-ief". Anglers Eric Hummel, Bob Kannanberg, Capt. Fred Winward and Bryon Flick released a blue marlin at the Sausages and then headed to the Hambone where they boated a 54 lb. yellowfin tuna and a stud dolphin.

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Jan 25th crew hooked a few anglers down a peg on the waterboard during the Joe Morris Memorial Pier Fishing Tournament last Friday. She stepped this 3.29 lb. fish on the dock at the end of the afternoon at the 4th Place event.

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One winter, while down in the Florida Keys I was on a reef fishing with a bunch of clients for snapper and grouper. We also had a kite up in the air with a live ballyhoo under it just in case there was a barracuda tooling around the area that might want to play. Part-way through the morning something hit the ballyhoo and twenty minutes later I was amazed when the angler cranked in not a barracuda, but the biggest king mackerel I'd ever seen.

Most of the kings we catch down there run from eight to about twenty pounds - with really big ones sometimes making it to thirty. This mackerel was about five feet long and over 60-pounds, so large that at first glimpse I thought I was looking at a large wahoo! As a matter of fact, I was wishing it was a wahoo, because Florida's king mackerel season had just closed two-weeks prior.

So, rather than grabbing the gaff I went for the dehooker. Unfortunately, before I could get the fish released a four-

foot barracuda rushed in, bit the mackerel at the base of the tail and swam away. The mackerel died instantly leaving us with a big dead fish that we couldn't legally bring back to the dock.

Fresh king mackerel makes for a tasty meal so you can bet that my six clients were really hoping I could come up with some kind of "creative" idea on how they could bring that fish home. Of course there wasn't one so all we could do was drop the very dead mackerel back into the water and watch as it sank to the bottom, its destiny to become a meal for crabs and sharks.

The episode ignited some interesting discussions on the boat, as a few of the clients had a problem with what they considered "wasting" such a good fish. These guys were all hunters and the thought of killing something and not properly making good use of it was very much against their ethics. Someone even made the comment that the regulations should somehow allow fish that are going to die

anyway to be kept, so that the meat doesn't go to waste.

I could certainly see their point, but the bottom line was that there was no way we could legally bring that fish home, and if we were caught with it, explaining that it died and we didn't want it to go to waste wouldn't have won us any sympathy from the Florida Fish & Game Patrol.

So we just let our catch of a lifetime become crab food, and we all felt pretty bad about it. But did we really do anything wrong? Did we really "waste" the fish? I can honestly say that if we had known that the barracuda was going to come along and kill the mackerel we never would have put the extra bait out in the first place. It was just one of those freaky things that happens now and again that no one can predict or prevent.

I'm periodically reminded of that little episode whenever I hear either recreational or commercial fishermen complain that they should be allowed to keep fish they catch that, for one reason

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or the other, come in dead because it would give the fishermen a way to make good use of the catch rather than it being dumped overboard and wasted.

"Good use" usually means that instead of the catch becoming crab food at the bottom of the ocean it should be able to be eaten by the angler or sold at market. This argument is nothing new, and has probably been pitched ever since the first catch limits were ever imposed on fishermen, and at first glimpse it might appear to make sense - why let it go to "waste"?

Of course we all have our thoughts on such matters and I'm no different. I have a real problem with that sort of rationale, and it correlates directly to our incident with the king mackerel. First and foremost is the assertion that if we accidentally kill a fish that shouldn't be killed, that eating it, or selling it somehow makes things right. Whether it's a commercial fisherman looking to make a few bucks, or a recreational fisherman who will end up with a few extra fillets in their freezer, the argument I always hear is that it's better to bring the fish home rather than letting it "go to waste." To which I will argue the notion that a

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 dead fish lying on the bottom of the ocean is going to waste is simply man's definition of what goes on after a fish dies. Certainly none of the critters that come out to feed on the carcass are going to consider the death of the fish "a waste," to them it's a life-sustaining smorgasbord!

How arrogant are we to think that the wrongful death of a fish is somehow made better when a fisherman is able to benefit from the death? Maybe it can make the fisherman feel better if he or she is able to bring the fish home for dinner, but as far as conservation goes, it really doesn't make a difference if the fish gets eaten by humans or crabs, when the fish is dead it's dead, it's out of the gene pool, not going to produce any more offspring, it has passed on, crossed over, kicked the bucket, bit the big one, eaten its last meal - it's done!

Commercial and recreational fishermen always have, and always will have, situations when unintended mortality occurs. Fish die from swallowing hooks too deep, after being brought up from great depths, getting chomped-on by sharks, and sometimes from exhausting themselves during a long fight. They die in commercial nets, on long-lines and in traps. Killing fish or game and not making good use of it goes against the ethics of most sportsmen, but unfortunately it happens. Rather than accepting the unintended mortality, the best a fisherman can do is resolve to make an honest effort to minimize their by-kill by changing their gear (circle hooks are a good start), avoiding areas where there's a high incidence of interaction with unwanted species, quit pulling fish up from great depths, move away from shark zones, or to just quit fishing for the day if that's what it takes. \$

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Mike & Margaret Orchulli had the grandkids in town and headed out on the "Reel Addiction" for some fishing in the Ocean City Bay. Cade Campbell from Nazareth, PA caught 2 bluefish at the Rt. 50 Bridge as well as a 22" rock at the South Jetty. His twin brother Jack caught 2 throwback rocks with the largest at 24". The stripers were caught using Roy Rigs.



Capt. Anthony Matarese is normally in the canyon piloting the charter boat "Reel Chaos", however on this day it was definitely time for some 'inshore' action. His daughters Amelia, Maddie and Emma Matarese dug and raked for the clams that they all cooked and ate the same day!

2022 MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

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

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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Tipsy Tiki Capt. Jeremy Michalski from Ocean City took the crew of Capt. Ron Smith of Snow Hill and E. Wilson Haldeman from Ocean City on the "Bound and Determined" for some flounder & sea bass fishing at the African Queen. The flounder bite was slow but the crew managed 5 keepers, up to 22" and 10 knotheads up to 18". The flounder were caught on Gulp and bluefish strips.



Alexander Arters brought a whopper of a sheephead to Lewes Harbour Marina. He caught this state citation sized 25" and 11.77 lb. convict at a structure in the Delaware bay using sand fleas.



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The boat "York Fire" was on fire last Friday. Michael Kapsak from York, PA was fishing at Site 10 using a special jig and Gulp. That was enough to trick these 2 flounder, with the largest at 22". Michael's got a pretty good Delaware stretch going there!

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We are getting some nice reports on rockfish catches in the evenings at the Rt. 50 Bridge. This is the second picture we received from Nick Ager this season, a 40" striper he caught in the East Channel by the Cambria Hotel. He caught it on a white shim shad from Lunker City two hours into the outgoing tide.

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Another example of children measuring sticks! Sully McCarthy caught two yellowfin tunas and a golden tilefish almost as tall as he is, and a few blueline tiles! He was fishing in the Washington Canyon with his dad Chris and Capt. Ed Meadows on the "Doghouse".



Mary Eddy from Ellicott City, MD had a fun surprise while fishing with JD Eddy at an ocean wreck. Instead of a tog she was targeting, up came a starfish!

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The other day I heard a customer that was in the store describe the current situation as "summer doldrums". He was correct. The weather is hot and balmy and the fishing seems a little sluggish and lack luster. All of which seem to be the recipe of negativity and general grumpiness in regards to our local anglers. However, there are positive aspects to even the most pessimistic properties of this inhospitable time of year.

The offshore scene is making waves, literally. Unsettled weather has kept some anglers moored in the slip. Nevertheless, there have been a few windows that allowed for the pursuit of pelagic prey. The inshore lumps off Chincoteague have been a little spotty with intermittent catches of yellowfin and mahi on both the troll as well as the chunk. The Washington has been a little more consistent with groups of whales pointing us in the direction of our treasured

trophies. Most of the activity has consisted of mahi, yellowfin and a few bigeyes, but we did get a report of the first wahoo aboard Chincoteague's own "10-4 Joker" with Captain Crazy Larry. There has also been some deep dropping opportunities for tilefish to offset days where the screaming reels go silent.

The inshore and nearshore scene has still been dominated by some pretty good summer flounder fishing. Inside the inlets the bite had been confined to the last of the flood and first of the ebb. Combinations of Gulp and minnow or silverside are getting results when paired with a brightly colored teaser. There has also been a fair amount of hardheads lurking in these salty seaside sloughs. Most of these croaking critters are small, but we have seen a few that literally "made the cut" to the fillet table.

The nearshore structure has also

been home to some fine tasting flounder. Anglers have jigged large 5"-6" Gulp grubs to tempt keepers onto the ice. Triggers have been supplementing the action with a willingness to gobble up small chunks of clam floated over some of the same wrecks and reefs that you could find flounder. Cobia have been scattered throughout the area. It would be a good idea to have an eel ready to be deployed if the opportunity presents itself.

The middle Chesapeake has definitely cooled down as the water temperature has heated up. The cobia, while still around, are spread out from the Smith Island target ship all the way to the CBBT. Anglers have had some success bottom fishing with hardheads, spot and kingfish coming over the gunwale. The top prize in the Tangier has been some nice mid summer black drum. A chunk of crab, a shell bottom and some patience are all that is needed to

bend a rod and stretch your line.

We checked with my buddy Capt. Chad from "Earning Stripes Sportfishing" for some news from the lower bay. Chad reported excellent Spanish mackerel trolling from the cell reef down to the bridge tunnel. Clarkspoons behind planers trolled along the channel edges did the trick. Captain Nathan Beach of Beach's Chesapeake Charters has been on the meat with some excellent red drum action which is expected to get even better as we move into August.

One day this past week, my son Sammy who works at Tom's Cove Visitors Center on Assateague, asked me to take him fishing after work. I was busy and time was in limited supply. I hesitantly agreed to try the surf for some spot and kingfish. Within minutes Sammy and I were totally engrossed in pursuit of panfish perfection. We had double headers of spot, kingfish and even a trout.

But most of all we had... FUN! So get out there and make time and memories, but most of all, enjoy this wonderful place we call home! \$



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Team "10-4 Joker" out of Chincoteague, VA and sponsored by "Sea Hawk Sportfishing" participated in the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic last weekend. Lead by Capt. 'Crazy Larry' the team had a lot of fun, including catching this nice wahoo on Saturday.

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The "Restless Lady" had another big catch after an overnight trip to the Massey's Canyon. Bangor, PA anglers Keith Kutz Jr., Jason Albert & Tyler Hess with Ed Lillman, from Kunkletown, PA, Duke Frinzi of Easton, PA and Lee Rissmiller from Nazareth, PA killed it chunking for tuna, boating 13 before turning to deep dropping for tilefish and landing a mess of bluelines.



Billy & Jules Mister AKA Mr. & Mrs. "Love to Fish" did what they love last week. It didn't take them long to catch several flounder including this keeper and a triggerfish. The highlight was the 8.25 lb. state citation sized sheepshead they caught around the Wall with sand fleas. The heat eventually chased them back to the dock. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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LEWES

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5

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Capt. Brian Porter with mates Alex Beane & Jack Hannum on the "Boss Hogg" put Mike Weissman and his group onto some nice yellowfin tuna. They were chunking with cut butterfish in the Massey's Canyon.



This big bluefish made his way pretty far up north. Angler Thomas Schlauch Jr. from Frederick, MD snagged this one on a live spot in the Fenwick Ditch that connects the Assawomen Bay with the Little Assawomen Bay. At 12 lbs. 3 ozs. the 32.5" fish is the new Heaviest Bluefish for Delaware! Thomas was fishing with his wife Hanna Rizkallah.



OCEAN CITY INLET

TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUG 3	High 12:02 am High 12:32 pm	Low 06:09 am Low 06:34 pm
THUR. AUG 4	High 12:42 am High 01:21 pm	Low 06:53 am Low 07:32 pm
FRI. AUG 5 <small>1st Qtr. Moon</small>	High 01:28 am High 02:19 pm	Low 07:41 am Low 08:34 pm
SAT. AUG 6	High 02:24 am High 03:24 pm	Low 08:34 am Low 09:39 pm
SUN. AUG 7	High 03:27 am High 04:31 pm	Low 09:31 am Low 10:47 pm
MON. AUG 8	High 04:32 am High 05:36 pm	Low 10:33 am Low 11:53 pm
TUE. AUG 9	High 05:36 am High 06:39 pm	Low 11:38 am Low -----
WED. AUG 10	High 06:38 am High 07:38 pm	Low 12:52 am Low 12:39 pm

source:usharbors.com

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.

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FACTS ABOUT... WHITE MARLIN



Key Distinguishing Markings:

- The white marlin's upper jaw is twice as long as its lower jaw.
- The upper jaw forms a bill, which is long and slender in comparison to many other billfishes.
- The body is dark blue above and silvery white below, with brown spots on the sides of the white portion.
- In some specimens, many rows of blurred white lines may run the length of the body.
- The first dorsal fin, which runs almost the length of the body, is dark blue with many black spots, although these may fade towards the back of the fin.
- The second dorsal and pelvic fins are dark blue.
- First anal, first dorsal, and pectoral fins are blunt or rounded at tips.
- The pectoral fins and caudal fin are blackish brown; the long pectoral fins may be tipped in white.
- The body has a dense covering of bony scales.
- The lateral line is distinct, and with the exception of a single curve over the origin of the dorsal fin, runs straight along the body.

Size:

- The white marlin is smaller than many other billfish.
- The maximum length for the white marlin is 110 in and maximum weight is approximately 180 lbs.
- More commonly, white marlin range from 51–83 inches in length.

Habitat:

- Its distribution varies seasonally, reaching higher latitudes in both the northern and southern hemispheres only during the respective warm seasons.
- White marlin are considered oceanodromous, that is a migratory fish that migrates within the seas only.

Spawning:

- Once a year, white marlin migrate into subtropical waters to spawn, with peak spawning occurring in early summer in deep oceanic waters.
- The spawning areas are found in deep and blue oceanic waters, generally at high temperatures ranging from 68° to 84°F.
- In the western North Atlantic, spawning grounds have been identified northeast of Little Bahama Bank, northwest of Grand Bahama Island, and southwest of Bermuda.

Fishing Tips:

- The white marlin is a popular game fish, which can be caught trolling at or close to the surface.
- The largest fishery for this species occurs in the summer, between Cape Cod, Massachusetts and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.
- Baits including ballyhoo, mullet, mackerel, herring and squid as well as lures, such as green machines, can be successful in getting a white marlin to bite.
- When fishing for white marlin, it is advisable to wear protection on your hands when handling your catch since they are capable of inflicting serious wounds due to the roughness of the bill.
- A furious battler when hooked, white marlin engage in tall-walking and fantastic leaps into the air.
- The Highly Migratory Species Division (HMS) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) manages Atlantic highly migratory species including Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, sailfin and longbill spearfish) and Atlantic swordfish to ensure long-term, sustainable fisheries for these species. Owners of vessels used to fish recreationally (i.e., no sale of fish) for Atlantic HMS (billfish, swordfish, sharks and tunas) are required to obtain an HMS Angling category permit from NMFS.

Fun Facts:

- While swimming, they commonly display a technique known as "tailing," in which only the dorsal lobe of the caudal fin is visible above the surface of the water.
- White marlin are generally not considered a schooling fish and most often appear solitarily or in pairs.
- Small schools of 5 to 12 fish are occasionally seen feeding on schools of bait, or tailing; however, loose aggregations of numerous fish scattered over fairly large areas are most typical.
- The Maryland state record for white marlin is 135 lbs, taken in Poor Man's Canyon in August 1980.
- The I.G.F.A. World Record white marlin weighed 181 lbs. 14 oz. and was caught off Vitoria, Brazil in December 1979.
- The White Marlin Open record was set by Steve Bass in 1980 when he captured a 99 pounder.
- White marlin live to be 25–30 years of age.
- Tagged white marlin have been recaptured after being at liberty for almost 12 years.

Source:
maryland.gov

9th Annual BIG FISH Classic

TOURNAMENT RESULTS JULY 29-31, 2022

BASIC ENTRY - DIVISION A

HEAVIEST FISH - BASIC ENTRY - PURSE 20,000

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$15,000
2	NO LIMIT	BIG EYE TUNA	258.5	\$3,500
3	REEL TIGHT	BIG EYE TUNA	258	\$1,500

BIG FISH CLASSIC - DIVISION B

HEAVIEST FISH - B1 - PURSE \$31,500

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$20,475
2	REEL TIGHT	BIG EYE TUNA	258	\$7,875
3	MERAKI	BIG EYE TUNA	236.5	\$3,150

HEAVIEST FISH - B2 - PURSE \$50,400

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$32,760
2	REEL TIGHT	BIG EYE TUNA	258	\$12,600
3	LOW PROFILE	BIG EYE TUNA	225	\$5,040

HEAVIEST FISH - B3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$70,200

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$70,200
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TALBOT STREET STRINGER - DIVISION C

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C1 - PURSE \$29,250

1	NO LIMIT	TUNA	686	\$19,013
2	LOW PROFILE	TUNA	653	\$7,312
3	REEL TIGHT	TUNA	534	\$2,925

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C2 - PURSE \$53,100

1	LOW PROFILE	TUNA	653	\$34,515
2	REEL TIGHT	TUNA	534	\$13,275
3	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$5,310

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$43,200

1	NO LIMIT	TUNA	686	\$43,200
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BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D1 - PURSE \$26,100

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$16,965
2	BIG STICK	SWORDFISH	170.5	\$6,525
3	ALL BODES WELL	SWORDFISH	161	\$2,610

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D2 - PURSE \$45,000

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$29,250
2	BIG STICK	SWORDFISH	170.5	\$11,250
3	FFMD	SWORDFISH	129.5	\$4,500

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D3 - PURSE \$26,100

1	BIG STICK	SWORDFISH	170.5	\$16,965
2	ALL BODES WELL	SWORDFISH	161	\$6,525
3	FFMD	SWORDFISH	129.5	\$2,610

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D4 - PURSE \$41,400

1	BIG STICK	SWORDFISH	170.5	\$26,910
2	FFMD	SWORDFISH	129.5	\$10,350
3	MARGOT'S EYES	SWORDFISH	125.5	\$4,140

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$36,900

1	BIG STICK	SWORDFISH	170.5	\$36,900
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BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D6 - PURSE \$22,500

1	BOSS HOGG	WHITE MARLIN	76	\$22,500
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HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D7 - PURSE \$34,200

1	BOSS HOGG	WHITE MARLIN	76	\$34,200
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HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D8 - PURSE \$55,800

1	BOSS HOGG	WHITE MARLIN	76	\$55,800
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HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D9 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$112,500

1	BOSS HOGG	WHITE MARLIN	76	\$112,500
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RELEASE DIVISION - DIVISION E

BILLFISH RELEASE - E1 - PURSE \$18,900

1	SEA FLAME ABSOLUT PLEASURE BLOOD MONEY	BLUE MARLIN	150 PTS	\$18,900
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TUNA DIVISION - DIVISION F

YELLOWFIN TUNA - F1 - PURSE \$31,500

1	LOW PROFILE	YELLOWFIN TUNA	66.5	\$20,475
2	FOOLISH PLEASURES	YELLOWFIN TUNA	66	\$7,875
3	ALL IN/LOW PROFILE/SCHOOLS OUT	YELLOWFIN TUNA	65.5	\$3,150

HEAVIEST TUNA - F2 - PURSE \$27,000

1	NO LIMIT	BIG EYE TUNA	258.5	\$17,550
2	REEL TIGHT	BIG EYE TUNA	258	\$6,750
3	LOW PROFILE	BIG EYE TUNA	225	\$2,700

HEAVIEST TUNA - F3 - PURSE \$47,700

1	NO LIMIT	BIG EYE TUNA	258.5	\$31,005
2	REEL TIGHT	BIG EYE TUNA	258	\$11,925
3	MERAKI	BIG EYE TUNA	236.5	\$4,770

HEAVIEST TUNA - F4 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$42,300

1	NO LIMIT	BIG EYE TUNA	258.5	\$42,300
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HEAVIEST STRINGER - F5 - PURSE \$54,900

1	NO LIMIT	TUNA	686	\$35,685
2	LOW PROFILE	TUNA	653	\$13,725
3	REEL TIGHT	TUNA	534	\$5,490

MEATFISH DIVISION - DIVISION G

HEAVIEST DOLPHIN - G1 - PURSE \$34,650

1	GOT GAME	MAHI	27	\$34,650
2	ALLISON'S NIGHTMARE	MAHI	21.5	\$8,663
3	REEL MOORE	MAHI	21	\$3,465

HEAVIEST WAHOO - G2 - PURSE \$25,200

1	GOT GAME	MAHI	27	\$25,200
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BIG FISH DAILY - DIVISION H

HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 1 - WINNER EACH DAY

1

HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 2 - WINNER EACH DAY \$11,925

1	LOW PROFILE	BIG EYE TUNA	225	\$11,925
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HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 3 - WINNER EACH DAY \$11,925

1	GRET'S 3 J'S	BLUE MARLIN	436	\$11,925
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SMALL BOAT DIVISION - DIVISION I

HEAVIEST FISH - I1 - PURSE \$18,900

1	PRIME HOOK	BIG EYE TUNA	220	\$12,285
2	GOOD COMPANY	BIG EYE TUNA	200.5	\$4,725
3	PRIME HOOK	BIG EYE TUNA	191	\$1,890

HEAVIEST FISH - I2 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$14,400

1	PRIME HOOK	BIG EYE TUNA	220	\$14,400
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HEAVIEST STRINGER - I3 - PURSE \$18,900

1	PRIME HOOK	TUNA	411	\$12,285
2	FOOLISH PLEASURES	TUNA	407.5	\$4,725
3	FISH WHISTLE	TUNA	292	\$1,890

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - I4 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$7,200

1	PRIME HOOK	BIG EYE TUNA	220	\$7,200
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HEAVIEST TUNA - I5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$9,900

1	PRIME HOOK	BIG EYE TUNA	220	\$9,900
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www.bigfishclassic.com



They call it the Big Fish Classic for a reason, it's all about big fish! The crew of the "Gret's Three J's" understood this well and brought a 436 lb. blue marlin to the scales on Day 3 of the event. Capt. John Griffith had the boat in the Baltimore Canyon trolling in 50 fathoms when the blue hit just one hour before lines out. Angler Mike Tenuto got it to the boat in only 20 minutes as the big fish stayed on top and Capt. John backed down on it hard. Rounding out the crew were owner John Conrad, James (JR) Bilney and Sean Davie. This was the Biggest Fish and Winner Take All for Billfish earning a combined total of \$201,885.



If the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic had a theme, it would have been bigeye tuna! Over 20 were brought to the scales during the 3 day event with 10 weighing over 200 lbs. Anglers Jeff Landis, Scott Jost and Jeff Azato with Capt. Jon Azato and mate Shane Silk on the "No Limit" were only 1 of 2 boats to bring 3 eyeballs to the docks they caught in the Poor Man's Canyon. Their largest at 258.5 lbs. combined with the other two and some hefty yellowfins put them in 1st Place for Heaviest Stringer and 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna earning a combined total of \$192,252 in prize monies.



Only 6 of the 97 boats that registered for the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic chose to fish the first 32 hour window of Friday to Saturday due to a storm forecasted for Friday night. It was a good choice for Capt. Ronnie Fields on the "Big Stick" with anglers RJ Boyle, Mitch Grooms, Gene Olmo and Amanda Grooms with mates Jon Henry & Brad Wilson. They spent their time in the Poor Man's Canyon trolling for tuna and deep dropping for swordfish. The strategy paid off when they brought this 170.5 lb. billfish to the scales on Day 2 setting a bar for Heaviest Swordfish that was not defeated. The crew took 1st Place for Heaviest Swordfish, Winner Take All Swordfish and 2nd Place for Heaviest Billfish for a total payout of \$98,550.

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It was a little after midnight on Monday, August 1st that the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic finally came to a close! With 50 of the 91 boats that fished the Saturday to Sunday window, the scales went well past the 8PM closure to insure all boats that checked in by 8 got to the scales. The "Boss Hogg" accepted their top money payout of \$225,000 for landing the only qualifying white marlin of the event.



The crew of the "Loose Knot" brought the only wahoo to the scales during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. Angler Stephen Russell had not caught a wahoo in 5 years, but connected with this one at the 800 Square when it hit a blue marlin plug. When he and Capt. John Weber and fellow anglers Ricky Clark, Nick Racey and Bradley Bell got to the scales the speedster weighted in at 41 lbs. Unfortunately the crew did not enter the Wahoo Division and missed out on a \$25,200 payout!



There were only 3 qualifying mahi brought to the scales during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. The first to the scales was 21 lbs., only to be bumped by the next boat's 21.5 lb. fish! It was however angler Jordan Hammell that took 1st Place for Heaviest Dolphin with this 27 lb. fish he caught in the Wilmington Canyon while on the "Got Game" with Dave Scott, Dave Guy, Keith Bonen, Robert Bascome, Capt. Doug Ortlip and mate Madison O'Donnell. The crew benefited as the wahoo money rolled to this category and they earned a total of \$59,850



Anglers Frank Greed, Wayne Smith, Dylan Baker and Don McLamb on the "Prime Hook" took advantage of the hot bigeye bite during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. They fished the 2nd window from Saturday to Sunday, spending their time with Capt. Hank Draper and mates Aiden Smith & Kennedy Hernandez in the Wilmington Canyon where they caught two bigeye tunas on spreader bars. They were one of the last boats to the scales on Day 3 and the 2 eyeballs tipped the scales at 191 and 220 lbs., propelling them into 1st Place in all of the Small Boat categories earning a combined payout of \$57,960!



The crew of the "Margot's Eye" got a workout during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. Their strategy was a focus on swordfishing and they had initial success on Saturday when Bryan Daniels caught a 125.5 lb. sword in the Poor Man's Canyon. Overnight and into Sunday the crew of Bryan, Luke Williams, Andrew Cooper and Brad Wood with Capt. Croft Upchurch and mates Joe Barrow & Brian Riley also released another 4! The one boated held on to take 3rd Place for Heaviest Swordfish earning \$4,140.



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There was a lot of excitement on Day 2 of the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic when word got out that Michael Jordan and the “Catch 23” were headed to the scales with a swordfish and some bigeye tunas aboard. The crew of MJ, Patrick Field, Chris David, Mark Nitzel with Capt. Stetson Turney and mates Anibal Moya & Nick Ewald had a productive 32 hours fishing. Overall they caught 6 swordfish, releasing 5 along with boating 2 bigeye tuna and a yellowfin. Micheal caught 4 of the swords including the 91.5 lb. fish weighed and both the 99 lb. bigeye tunas.

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The “Reel Tight” had some nice success during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. Anglers Brian Stewart, Nick Marcinowski, Dave Schwartz, Brian Stempowski, Chris Zinkl, Rick Cassidy with Capt. Steven Pilipauskis and mates Travis Jackson & Jeff Hardesty landed 2 bigeye tunas and a yellowfin in the Norfolk Canyon. Their 258 lb. eyeball took 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna as well as other Stringer Division awards earning a combined total of \$62,340.



The “Low Profile” was the first boat to the scales during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic. They were waiting at 4PM on Day 2 with an exceptional catch of 3 bigeye tuna with the largest at 225 lbs. as well as 5 yellowfins including a 66.5 pounder. The big eyeball and yellowfin earned the crew of Capt. Joseph Trainor, Aiden Jordon, Conner Jordon, Ken Kelly, Bill Jordon and Travis Marshall with mates Anthony Fraschator and Shorty a cool combined \$96,742 for top Yellowfin Tuna, 3rd Place Bigeye Tuna and Heaviest Stringer.



There were many stories of great fishing during the 9th Annual Big Fish Classic and one of those came from the crew of the “Finatic”. The 3 yellowfin tunas brought to scales do not tell the full story for Capt. Mark Malamphy, John Osteritter, Nick Brigham, Joe Brigham, Bryan King and Anthony Steffes. While in the Norfolk Canyon they caught the tuna, but also went 8 for 10 on white marlin, released 2 dusky sharks and saw a blue marlin eat a tuna as they were reeling it to the boat!

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