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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 47 • • • • • MAY 11, 2022

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Angler Calvin Malone from Willards, MD got the surprise of a lifetime when he was fishing on Assateague Island on April 23th! He was looking for some drum or rockfish action with some Fishbites when something much larger took the line. After a struggle he pulled in this 5' shortnose sturgeon. These are a protected species and extremely rare in our waters, so he kept the fish wet long enough for a pic and sent her back to the deep! Thanks to Brenda Malone for sharing the catch.



There were several flounder tournaments on the Virginia Peninsula last week including the Russ Gordon Memorial Tournament hosted by Sea Hawk Sports Center. Despite the winds and dirty water, angler Diane Whiteside put in the work and snagged this respectable 5½ lb. flat fish to take 1st Place.



Norm Thurston from Pasadena, MD did get lucky on the "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford catching his limit of flounder from the Thorofare using Ottertails and minnows. Capt. Jason found one more for a total of 5.

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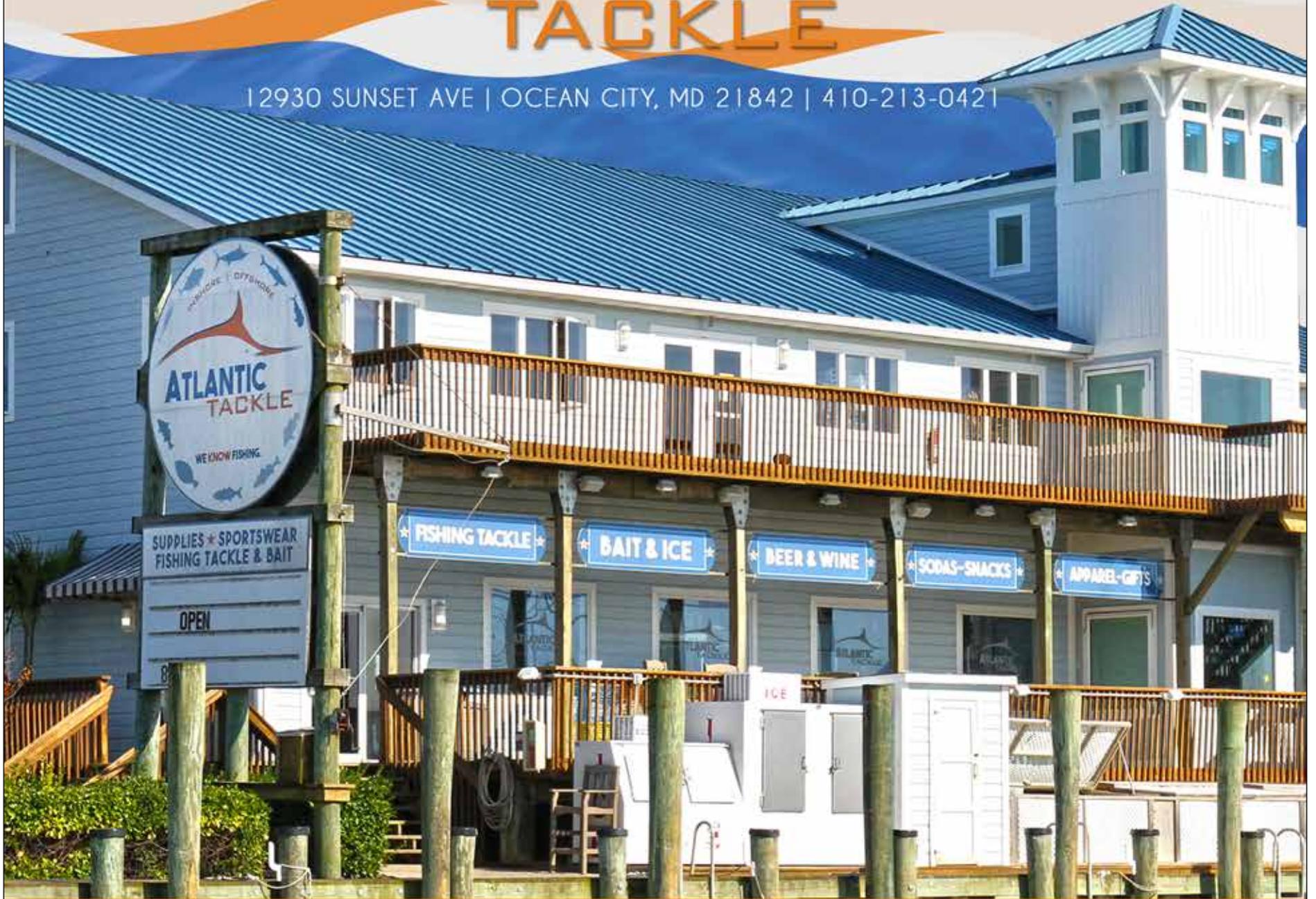
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Despite the cold and incessant wind, friends Dave Borrell, Brian Weibly and Rich Morder from Pennsylvania killed it in the Thorofare landing 8 keeper flounder, best day ever for the group. They used a variety of Gulp colors to find these flatties ranging from 16.25" to 18". Note the new regulation in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia is 16" for summer flounder.

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The tog action remained strong up and down the coast before the blow. Alex Artese found these two using green crab while fishing at Site 10. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Dan Hudock of Ocean View, DE got quite the surprise when he went shad fishing at the Indian River Inlet on the last day of April. Despite his small jig he managed to catch & release this 40" striper. Lucky for him, other anglers had a net to get it up for the picture!

A promotional poster for the PBR Challenger Series. At the top, a bull is silhouetted against a sunset sky with the text "Bull on the Beach". Below that is the "PBR CHALLENGER SERIES" logo. Two cowboys in blue shirts and cowboy hats stand on either side of two large bulls. The cowboy on the left has "RESISTOL" on his vest, and the cowboy on the right has "COOPER TIRES" and "ARIAT" on his vest. At the bottom, it says "JUNE 3, 4 & 5TH Ocean City, MD" and "More information and Tickets at TICKETMASTER.COM".



This Week Last Year

- The story for this week last year was warming weather bringing out the flounder and rockfish. Tog was still working but anglers needed to work a little harder to lure these fish out.
- Offshore waters remained cold with only a handful of boats heading truly offshore to the canyons. One was the "Hot Lick" from Sunset Marina. They made a long run to the south to the Norfolk Canyon and caught the first bluefin tuna for the season in 1000 fathoms.
- The water warmed and cleared up and the flounder started snapping! In Delaware, the Lewes Canal was the hot spot. The Thorofare was the spot in OC. The "Get Sum" had a party of 5 that were only 1 short of their limit bringing back 19 keepers!

This spring has felt more like the opening of a now famous novel quote;

"It was a dark and stormy night - except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by violent gusts of wind...!"

It feels as if the wind has been blowing since last September and last week was no exception. The weekend through the middle of this week were a washout, however, anglers who were able to get out at the end of last week found some success offshore, and by offshore we mean right off the coast! Assateague Island on both the Maryland and Virginia parts were still active with black drum, however not at the levels of prior weeks. There



was still plenty of action though with many large stripers being caught in the over 45" range. A little further out several headboats like the "Judy V" at the Indian River Inlet, the "Angler" at the Talbot Street Marina and the "Morning Star" at the Ocean City Fishing center were having success at wrecks and reefs with tog.

We did have some notable catches over the past week. One is on our cover, a 5 foot shortnose sturgeon that Calvin Malone caught while fishing for drum and stripers on Assateague. This is a rare and endangered fish in general and even more rare to see this far north. Given the size, that fish could be 30 years old! Calvin got a quick pic with the fish in the surf and then back in surf it went! Further north saw a new pending Delaware State Record for tautog. Capt. Brent Wiest on the "Katydid" boated a huge 20.48 lb. fish beating the existing record set in 2005 by 3 ounces. Like the sturgeon, that size tog is over 20 years old. Nice catch by both!



The water offshore remains cold and most of the battlewagons are in their slips or even on the hard. Their crews though are hard at work finalizing prep work or even undertaking major renovations of mechanical, cabin and cockpit enhancements. So if you are looking to book a charter this

www.coastalfisherman.net summer, there are lots of nice choices.

We expect the offshore action to pick up starting next Sunday, opening day for sea bass. The current forecast is for temps in the 60's and fair winds, so it should be a good day! Other captains are looking a shark trips looking for threshers and potential a mako before their ban takes effect in June sometime.

As a wrap up I want to thank all the readers who liked our Dock and Dine maps in last weeks issue, we will be reposting those periodically over the summer season. That idea came from a reader! This issue has a photo about how to properly measure a flounder, another idea from a follower on Facebook. If you have some ideas for content, please share them with us at CoastalFisherman@comcast.net or on social media and as always keep those catch pics coming!

Upcoming Tournaments

- The Lewes Harbour Marina hosts the Joe Morris Memorial Flounder Tournament to benefit the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. This one day event on May 20th is focused on fishing in the Lewes Harbor. Details at LewesHarborMarina.com.

-Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts their Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament on May 21st to benefit the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund. More at OldInlet.com.

- The first offshore tournament of the season is the 13th Annual Frankie Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament. This two day event is May 28th & 29th. Details at OCMarlinClub.com.



Some warm weather images are good for the soul, especially with our recent weather. Holly Wingate from Millville, DE had her flight home canceled, so she went fishing! She caught this mahi on the troll with a naked ballyhoo 5 miles outside the Saint Lucie Inlet in Stuart, FL. She was fishing with Capt. Del Baker and mate Dillon Baker on the "BLU BYE U".

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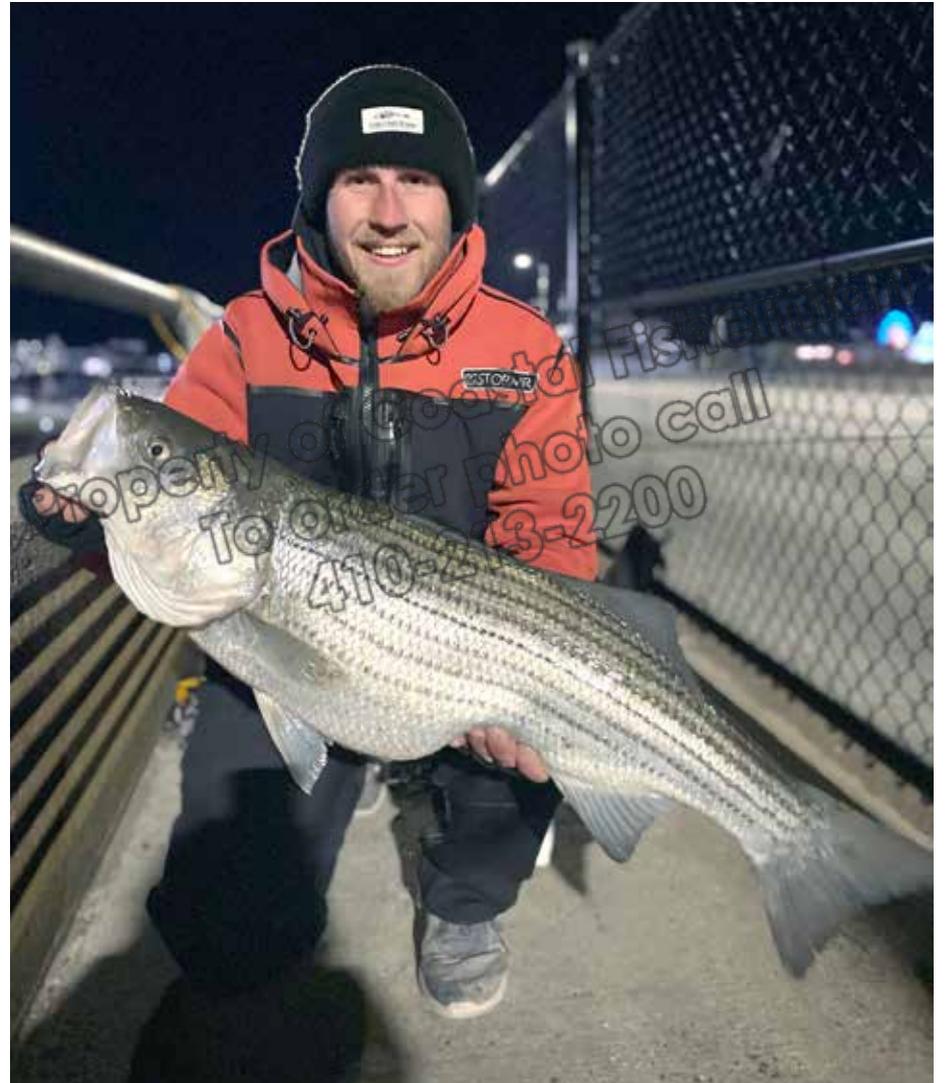
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A warm end of April saw some nice fishing. Mike Walters, Johnny Coffey, Luke Hornet & Chris Curlett headed out on the "2-Much" to land this limit of tog at Site 9 using green crab. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



When not making sure your packages are absolutely getting to you on time, FedEx driver Morgan Mericle likes to fish. Despite 20+ mph winds he reeled in this 34" striper from the Rt. 50 bridge on a swimbait in the last days of April using his new Daiwa Prorex 400 with an 11' Penn Battalion casting rod.

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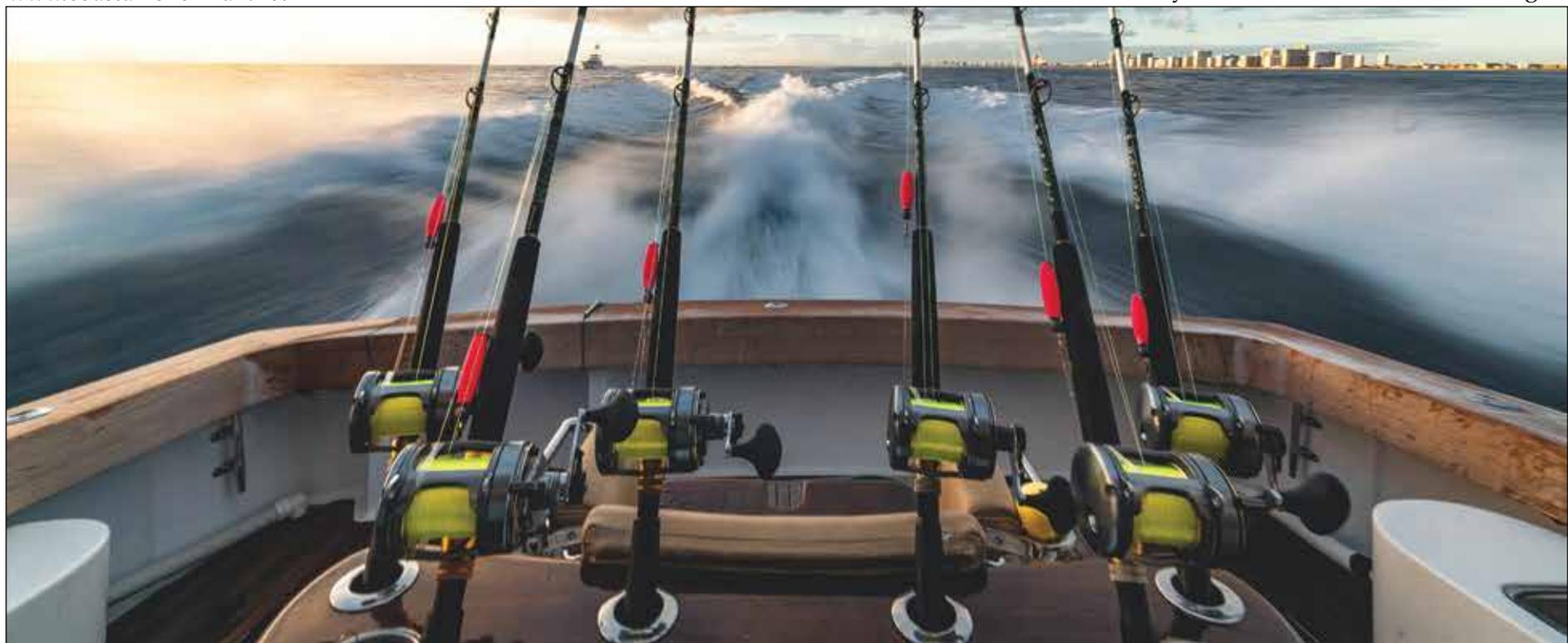
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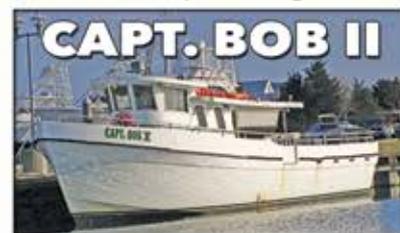
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Capt. Steve Rosier definitely put anglers Bud Trainor and Julie DelGiorno on some tog action. They fished with sand fleas at the Wall and some structures on the "Pamela" to get the togs, the heaviest caught by Julie at 6.98 lbs. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina.



Not to be left out of an issue, First Bluefish angler for 2022 Shawn Flaherty worked the Rt. 50 Bridge with a Stretch lure to boat this 31" and 11.46 lb rock last week while fishing with Big Bird Cropper.

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There was big doings down at the Ocean City Marlin Club this past week! Jon Duffie brought over this mounted blue marlin from Gray's Taxidermy to be hung in the Club. It is the one caught last summer during the MidAtlantic Tournament by Billy Gerlach on the "Billfisher". The 136.5" fish set a new Maryland State Record at 1,135 pounds.



TOURNAMENT SERIES 2022 SCHEDULE

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Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 28 & 29
Weigh-Ins: May 28 & 29 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

43rd ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
Registration: June 24, 6:30-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 25 & 26
Weigh-Ins: June 25 & 26, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

14th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*
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Registration: August 4, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 5 & 6
Weigh-Ins: August 5 & 6 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

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Weigh-Ins: July 1-3, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

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

18th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
Registration: July 15, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 16 & 17
Weigh-Ins: July 16, 3:00-6:30pm and July 17, 3:00-6:00pm 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

7th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT
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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The fishing in Ocean City and Assateague Island is starting to heat up. More and more reports are coming in with quality fish both in the bay, on the surf and in the ocean.

Flounder, Tog & Sea Bass

Flounder fishing in the bay has really started to turn on this week with a larger number of flounder being caught in the channels of Ocean City and behind Assateague Island. Squid and minnow combos on a long leader is accounting for many of these fish with a few more being caught on bucktails and Gulp baits. Many reports of flounder from the back bays state that the flounder are very spread out with most coming from deeper holes and channels. The main thoroughfare of Ocean City has produced the largest amounts with several nice keepers thrown in. Ocean City water temps are still around 52 degrees and quite cold for this time of the year. Targeting deeper holes with warmer water can make all the difference between a good day and a skunk. Slower presentations and allowing the fish to take hold before

setting the hook can also land you more fish. Tog season is coming to a close on May 16 as sea bass season opens on May 15. Several nice tog have been caught along the nearby wrecks and even some at the rock wall of the inlet. Mike Rivera caught a nice 19 lb. tog while fishing out of Ocean City on Wednesday. Vince Cannuli also hooked into a few nice blackfish, some out of season sea bass as well as a nice cod. Brian Reynolds also got a nice tog from his kayak. With water temps as cold as they are fishing from a kayak is the sign of a dedicated fisherman. Fishing wrecks in the areas of the Ocean City Reef Foundation locations such as the African Queen and Bass Grounds have been the most productive. As we look to the start of sea bass season, bear in mind that numerous boats will be on the water for the opening and many spots will be jammed with full boats and an abundance of anglers. Trying to target deeper wrecks will tend to have much less fishing pressure and provide a better opportunity for quality fish. The Jack Spot and Great

Eastern Reef are some of the most productive areas throughout the season. This is mainly due to the distance of 25 plus miles from the inlet. Many anglers in smaller boats are not ready to make the longer runs, especially with the price of fuel these days. A few extra gallons at the pumps can often make the difference of a few fish and a limit. So get out for the last few days of tautog fishing, and while you're there you can scout for the opening day of sea bass. Best baits for the tog and sea bass are fresh clam and cut crab. Opening season of sea bass is also a great time to target the fish with jigs. Ocean Arsenal has tons of new jigs in stock and all the ones I have used seem to work quite well. Ocean Arsenal is a local company and can be found on the web as well as Facebook.

Rockfish, Bluefish & Black Drum

The beaches of Assateague Island are finally coming alive with numerous reports of fish being caught in the surf. Starting with bluefish, the season has been a little slow,

much the same as past years. The years of big schools of slammer blues crushing the beach have become a season of the past. Despite the numbers of big fish, many anglers are still able to come away with a big blue or two. Timothy Eller fished Assateague on Monday and caught a nice 22" bluefish. Shaun and Craig "Big Bird" Cropper managed 6 nice blues as well as all the small rockfish you wanted from near the Rt. 50 bridge. Also fishing the beach was Morgan Mericle, fishing in 20+mph wind trying a new rod and reel. He was rewarded with a nice 34" rockfish. Just goes to show that tough conditions can be very rewarding. Ben Hostetter reported he and his dad caught a nice 37" rockfish off the surf at Assateague Island which was released unharmed back into the surf. David Moore reported he caught 4 rockfish on 4 cast off the beach. David reports all the fish were over 40". He further reports the commercial boats were so close to the beach that he snagged one with one of his casts. Black drum are also being caught off the beaches. Davis Moore reported he caught several nice black drum while fishing for stripers. Most black drum are quite big with monsters over 50 lbs. a common sight. Fresh clam on a large circle hook and fish finder rig are the best way



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to target this specie. With the colder water temps many of these fish are still south of us in Virginia. As these fish make their way to the Delaware Bay to spawn we should see a much increased activity and catch of these ugly brutes. Fresh clam is a key here folks... frozen will work if you can't find fresh, but your hook ups will be about half that as if you were using fresh baits. Several tackle shops in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have fresh surf clams, however they don't stay in stock very long.

Clams & Crabs

A few reports of crabs have come in but many are waiting for the weather to warm a bit before setting pots. 6-8 keepers per pot seems to be the average right now. Clams are still deep in the mud and it will be a few weeks before clamming gets underway.

Until next week...
Tight lines and Fins up



Avid surf fisherman Allen Sklar shared this image of Dennis Ruhl releasing a 46" rockfish he caught off of the Maryland part of Assateague Island on May 4th using sand fleas.

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Joe Ribinsky found some early flounder in the Indian River Bay in late April. The bigger of these two keepers measured 19". Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Their smiles tell it all! Luke and Lee McAteer from West Ocean City had a blast and tore it up last week shad fishing on the west side of the OC Inlet!

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



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



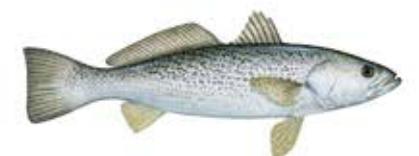
STRIPED BASS
28-35" except 20-25" only from
7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay
1 per person/day
Catch & Release only from
4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds



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



Dagsboro Delaware residents Capt. Del and Sharon Baker got some valuable time in Florida this winter! In January Sharon reeled in and safely released this atlantic sailfish while trolling naked ballyhoo on the "BLU BYE U". Nice fish!



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P: 267.507.2559 | F: 215.563.2750 | E: nolan.soulas@nm.com



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SEPTEMBER 11**

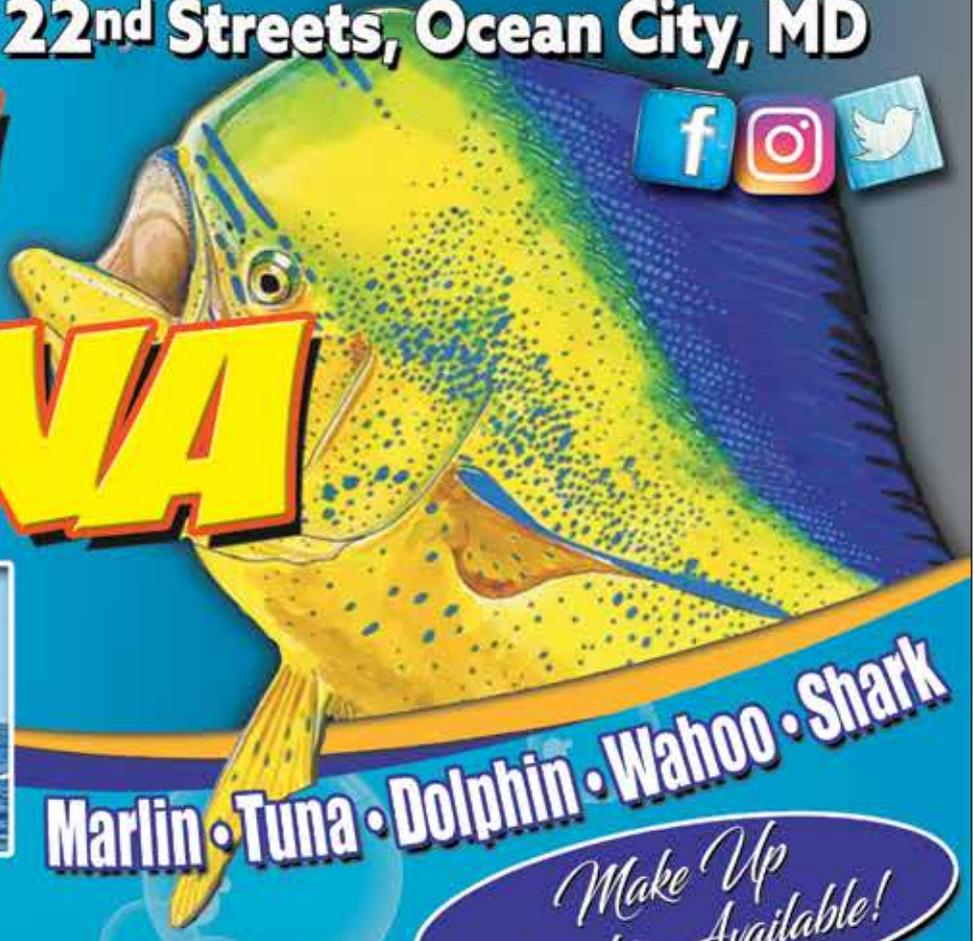
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On the Bay between 21st & 22nd Streets, Ocean City, MD

BAHIA MARINA



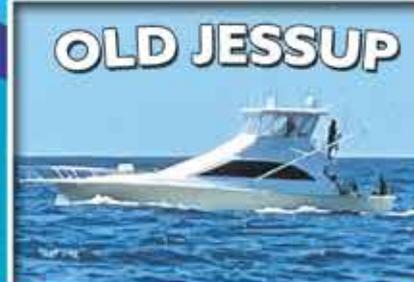
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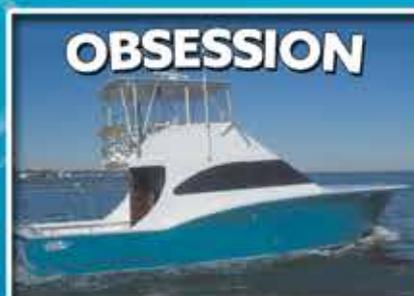
OLD JESSUP

48' Ocean Yacht
Capt. Robert Grimes
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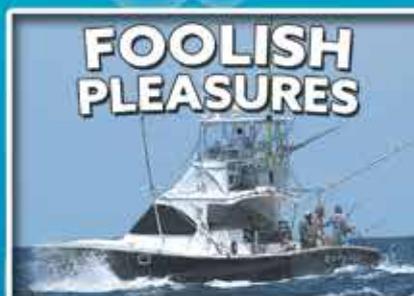
JACKED UP

45' Ocean
Capt. Dean Metcalf
717-404-3331



OBSESSION

45' Custom Sportfish
Capt. Bobby "Mack" McCormack
443-624-7179



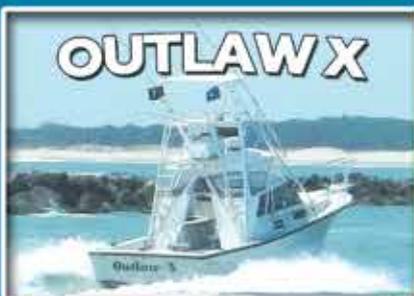
FOOLISH PLEASURES

36' Custom Sportfish
Capt. Dale Lisi
443-397-8455



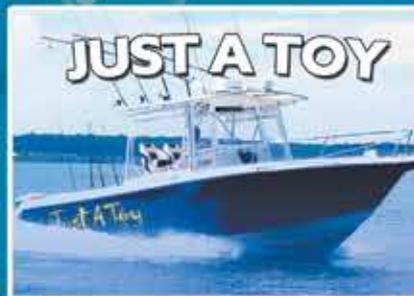
CAH-CHING

35' Cabo Flybridge
Capt. Steve Martin
732-735-0922



OUTLAW X

31' Rampage
Capt. Mike Hutchins
443-871-7354



JUST A TOY

30' Century
Capt. Wayne Anderson
443-880-7516



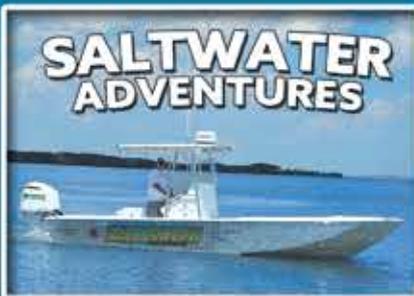
ON THE RUN

28' Parker
Capt. Dave Caffrey
410-251-9645



BILL COLLECTOR

27' Grady White
Capts. Lisa Dudley & Buddy Whetzel
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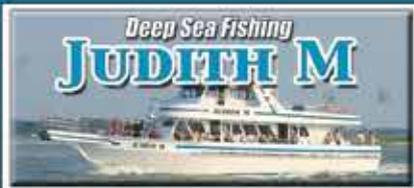
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FISHING CHARTERS



At this point, we are not sure if the headboat "Angler" is allowed to leave the dock without fisherman Bob Telford! On one of the many trips this year with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Stephen Anderson, he landed this 9.5 lb tog while fishing with crab at an artificial reef.

Capt. Chase Eberle on the charter boat "Chasin' Tides" squeezed in a few trips before the weather washed in last weekend. On this one, the crew caught and released this big female tog.

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Ocean City, Maryland

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FISHING CHARTERS



One of the many marlin caught by locals Kristin Quinn, Sean Welsh and Michael Diehl puts up a fight during their trip to 2 of the Cape Verde Islands in April.

Owner of the "Restless Lady" charter boat Sean Welsh got restless himself and wandered down to Cape Verde in Africa with Kristin Quinn and Matthew Diehl for some marlin fishing. Over the course of 5 days they went 12 for 16 and even had a shot at a black marlin. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Giorgio Assolari with mates Matthew Diehl, Piteu Totx Sousa and Romain (Johnny) Zanni.

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FISHING CHARTERS



As they say, you only need one and Capt. John Prather of the "Ocean City Guide Service" got his one with solo charter angler John Lappin from Maryland. He caught his limit of keeper flounder on a warm May 2nd.



Galvin Doulin, Hunter Warnick, Michael Stuart and Connor Doulin had a big day on the charter boat "Lucky Break". They caught these 4 keeper flounder (up to 19") as well as several throwbacks, one rockfish and a few shad using Ottertails and minnows in the South Bay and OC Inlet.

Spring Mix II

Ocean City, Maryland Islamorada, Florida

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Spring Mix II

FISHING CHARTERS



May started with a bang for tautog fisherman across the region. Capt. Brent Weist on the "Katydid" out of Lewes, DE got these anglers on some nice fish. Scott Schoup grabbed a 10.96 lb fish, while Glenn Melrose snagged one at 10.14 lbs, and not to be left out, Al Maah's blackfish tipped the scales at 9.33 lbs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Matt Abell of the charter boat "Sea Hawk Sport Center" found some nice fatties for the father/ daughter team of Tim and Lillian with father/ son squad Jay and Jameson. These flounder caught on the Virginia Peninsula and fell for a mix of minnows and silversides.

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4:30 to 6:00 Aug. 1 - 18
4:00 to 5:30 Aug. 19 to Sept. 5

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\$500 up to 20 people (1.5 to 2 hours)
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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Nick Clemente put the charter boat "Get Sum" in early and got these anglers onto some nice tog using green crab while fishing at the Ocean City Inlet Jetty. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Capt. Chris Mizurak had to deal with low winds and slow currents in early May. This put some extra work on his customers on the headboat "Angler", but on this trip Bobby put in the effort and landed this tog just short of 12 lbs.

KEYS TO TAKING A GREAT FISH PICTURE!

Or call us at the office and we'll come take your photo!

Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net
410-213-2200

- INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:**
- 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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- Ability for all Team Members to Coordinate “Buddy Boat” Fishing Teams While Offshore
- Our Average Member owns a 34’ Center Console & Fishes Mid-Shore and Inshore 70% of their trips – As such, this is a Major Focus of Ours
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- Facebook Fishing Forum for all Team Members to Contribute Info – Communicate – Share Intel
- 24/7/365 Direct and Personal Access to Our Coaching Team Captains
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Hope You Join the Team! – The Crew of the “Canyon Runner”, “Restless Lady” and the “Rebel”

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The Indian River Inlet was productive for Ed Heite! He caught several shorty stripers as well as a 5 lb. speckled trout and a keeper 31" striper while working the Inlet on May 3rd. They all hit on a lead head with a sassy shad. Pictured at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



Bruce Lynch Sr. wants us to get up close and personal with this 25" flounder he caught in the Indian River Bay while fishing with his son Bruce Lynch Jr.! This one fell for a Bad Wind bottom dragger lure.



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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Wow, what a challenging week to find success on the end of your line. The windy, unsettled weather has certainly added an aspect to our sport that allows us the opportunity to remind ourselves that the chase is just as important as the trophy. However, even with these metaphoric sandbars placed in our channel, there is still great fishing to be had!

The Lower Maryland portion of the Chesapeake has provided good action on trophy rock as anglers soaked hard to find peeler chunks in sheltered shallow waters. Along with a supersized striped quarry, there's been some good opportunities on bull reds as well as illusive speckled trout to round out a possible Tangier Sound Slam!

The lower Chesapeake and adjacent inlets have seen some of the same weather related constraints as the rest of us. I spoke to Chad

Parks from Earnings Stripes Sportfishing yesterday. Chad reported that reds and blacks are still biting on crabs and clams. Anglers have been forced to focus their efforts on more shelter areas like Oyster and inside Machipongo Inlet. When the threat of wind and waves allowed, the shoals of Fisherman's Island have produced both red and black beauties along with some pretty rockfish which must be released until the middle of the month (but still a lot of fun). The biggest surprise was while fishermen braved the elements in search of tasty togs, they were rewarded with some nice sheepheads. Capt. Kenny Eshleman seconded the excitement in regard to these unexpected early arrivers. He has spent this week on a quest for backwater reds to sight cast. Cloudy water was his main hurdle, however, the image of a big red taking your bait right before your eyes

makes hours of relentless searching wash away like the tide.

The Virginia Barrier Islands from Chincoteague to Quinby are still producing decent flounder fishing even though the water has been fairly turbid. The fish continue to focus in on white, chartreuse and pink double rigs tipped with a combination of Gulp and minnows or silversides. The tide has not been as much of a factor as it was last week, the fish seem to be most active when the water conditions allow for improved visibility. Remember... if you can't see your prop, then the environment may not be conducive for good flounder fishing. Sea Hawk served as the weigh station for the Russ Gordon Memorial Flounder Tournament. The fishing was better than expected with several quality fish registered. Miss Diane Whiteside took home top honors with

a very respectable 5 1/2 pounder. The proof is in the muddy water, patience and determination will pay off with good memories that will last longer than the longest stormy weather. The surf has still had a few black drum and some stripers that will go on to battle in the wash another day.

Earlier this week I had the opportunity to go fishing just for a little while just for fun. The weather was threatening, and the wind was blowing. But most importantly, the fish were biting. They weren't trophies by the definition that we have all come to expect, but they were some undersized fat, healthy rock along with a couple of quality specs. While these fish were not monsters to sit around the bar and brag about, they were undoubtedly FUN! Sometimes we forget that we all are bound to this sport in pursuit of enjoying some of what God has blessed us with. So don't worry about the weather and get out and enjoy this awesome place we call home.

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Rick Hess took 1st Place in the 31st Annual Capt. Zed's Flounder Tournament hosted at Trident Tackle & The Island House Restaurant in Wachapreague, VA this year with this 5 lb. & 13oz fattie beating the next closest fish by 4 ozs.

31ST ANNUAL FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT APRIL 22ND - MAY 1ST

1ST)	RICK HESS	SLBS 13oz.	24"	PA
2ND)	PAUL ELIAS	SLBS 9oz.	25 1/4"	MD
3RD)	BOB FORD	SLBS 6oz.	24 1/2"	WV
4TH)	John HARTNETT	5 lbs 4oz	23"	PA
5TH)	JAMES JOSEPH	5 lbs 2oz	24 1/2"	DE

YOUTH	FEMALE	LOCAL
ASHER HINES	BONNIE CROUSE	SCOTT HINES
4LBS 8oz.	4 LBS.	5LBS 2oz.
23"	22"	23 1/4"

The 31st Annual Capt. Zed's Flounder Tournament was held from April 22nd through May 1st and was hosted by The Island House Restaurant & Trident Tackle in Wachapreague, VA. This early tourney is a bell weather for flat fish to come to the MD & DE areas. Congrats to all the winners with the top 5 all posting fish over 5 lbs.



The top Female Angler for the 31st Annual Capt. Zed's Flounder Tournament in Wachapreague, VA was Bonnie Crouse for this nice 4 lb. fish.

An advertisement for G&E Hardware. It features a green gas pump with a digital display showing '00.00'. A red starburst graphic contains the text: 'WE ARE THE FIRST STORE IN DELAWARE TO OFFER THIS GRADE!'. Below the pump, it says '89 OCTANE REFORMULATED NON-ETHANOL GASOLINE!'. At the bottom, the address '30264 Cedar Neck Road • Ocean View, DE' and hours 'Open Monday - Saturday 7am - 8pm • Sunday 7am - 6pm' are listed, along with the website 'Shop online at Hockersmarkets.com'.




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GAME OVER

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Capt. Steve Pfeiffer



TALKIN' TRASH

58 FT. GILLIKIN
Capt. Chris Little



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GET SUM

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JULY 8-10 2022

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Capt. Mike Moss



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KEYS TO TAKING A GREAT FISH PICTURE!

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INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- 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.

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles



BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit



WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit

NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 60
Charter Limit 10 per person/ 60 per Boat



YELLOWFIN TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
3 per person/day



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



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



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



SAILFISH
Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/1 - 10/31
3 per person (Recreational)
5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



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

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.

71" Minimum Fork Length
Male Shortfin Mako

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

83" Minimum Fork Length
Female Shortfin Mako

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, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White



The charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford is usually one of the earlier boats of the season to get out on the water. He and mate Ethan Nock put 8 year old Jason Mathews and 7 year old Tylor Gibson onto these two flounder using minnows on the incoming tide in the south Ocean City Bay. The largest measured 20".

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Another state record bites the dust! This time it is the Delaware State record for tautog. Capt. Brent Wiest of the charter boat "Katydid" out of Lewes headed out on May 5th to do a little fishing for himself and landed a beauty. These fish are difficult to catch, especially the larger ones but Capt. Brent is an expert here! This blackfish tipped the scales at 21.48 lbs. beating the previous record set in 2005 by over 3 ozs.

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- 64th Street Market - 64th St.
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- Acme - 92nd St.
- Liquid Assets - 94th St.
- 7-11 - 119th St.
- Wawa - 120th St.
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- Primos Hoagies - 134 St.
- 7-Eleven - 139th St.

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- Wawa - Rt. 50
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- Short's Marine
- Rick's Bait & Tackle





I lost it. It got away. It broke off. It busted off. It pulled off. It jumped off. It came unglued. It's gone! So many ways we have to describe what happens when we are suddenly no longer attached to a fish that we worked so hard to get on the line.

Ending our day with a "one that got away" story is just a part of being a fisherman, but it's still a lousy situation and unfortunately one we all come to know too many times in our fishing careers. It happens to all of us - to some more to others.

Although it's not as often written about, learning how not to lose a fish is just as important a skill to have as learning how to hook one in the first place, and since I've lost more than my share over the years and watched my charter clients lose more than just a few of their own, I figured I could come up with a pretty good list of "do's" and "don'ts" on the topic.

First - It's not caught until it's in the boat! I don't know how many times I've watched someone lose a nice flounder, sea bass, or some other fish because, after cranking it up, instead of lifting it out of the water and directly into the boat they let it hang over the side until it drops off the hook and back into the water. If you plan on keeping a fish, it's not really caught until it's IN THE BOAT! So if it's a smaller fish that's not going to be netted or gaffed it should be lifted smoothly and in one motion from the water into the boat.

On a similar note, anglers often lose fish at the boat because they lift its head out of the water before it's in the net. The extra pressure applied to the hook when a fish's head is brought out of the water can be enough to pull the hook, particularly if it causes the fish to freak out and start shaking its head and thrashing around all over again. Done properly, a fish will

be brought to the surface of the water (not above it) and smoothly ushered headfirst into the net.

And while we're talking about nets; many fish are lost because of lousy net jobs, and one of the most rookie mistakes is trying to net a fish from behind. Fish are designed to swim forward quickly but are not so good at going backwards. Therefore the net should always be put in front of the fish so that it basically swims into the mesh instead of easily away from it which will happen if you come in from behind. The angler should assist the netter by bringing the fish close to the surface and directing the fish to the net.

Fish often break off because the angler and crew stand idly by and allow the line to get wrapped around something such as the anchor line, propeller, lower unit, chum bucket, another angler's fishing line, a trolling motor, a bridge or dock piling, a buoy or float line.

Such accidents can usually be avoided by acting preemptively and minimizing the threats. Trim an outboard or trolling motor up and out of the water, bring in the chum bucket, get the boat moving so that the fishing line can be maneuvered around stationary objects. And by all means - the angler must be ready to quickly react by putting the rod tip deep into the water if the fish goes under the boat to keep the line from getting fouled on anything on the hull and then be ready to take the rod up and around the bow to clear the anchor line if that's going to be a problem.

Fish are often lost due to angler error during the fight - but not in a way we so often hear about. Often, if a fish throws the hook the angler is blamed for giving it slack because they "stopped cranking the reel" or because they "didn't crank fast enough" and yes it's possible that a hook will come out of a fish for those reasons - particularly when bottom fishing anglers are bringing fish straight up from below the boat. However, when a fish is more "out" than it is "below" the angler, the resistance on the line created by the moving

fish and/or the boat provides more than enough pressure on the hook to hold it in place.

So the common practice of blaming an angler for the loss of a tuna or other offshore species because they momentarily "stopped cranking" is hogwash. If the angler is to blame for a fish getting off it's more likely that they were too aggressive in their fighting technique.

Lift up - crank down, lift up - crank down, or "pumping the rod" as it's usually called, can be both a great way to land a fish and a great way to lose a fish. Experienced anglers will know when to gain line by pumping and when to gain line just by holding the rod steady and cranking. Inexperienced anglers will either waste their own energy by cranking when they're not gaining line, or pump like crazy when all they have to do is calmly crank the handle.

Anglers should always strive to keep a steady pressure on a fish and simply direct it towards the boat. If the fish has relented and is easily coming in the constant back and forth surge of pressure on the hook when the rod is pumped only increases the chances that the fish will be able to shake its head and throw the hook. Pumping the rod is usually reserved for when a fish is turned broadside to the angler, but it must be done at a moderate to slow rhythm that keeps a consistent bend in the rod and therefore no slack when the rod is lowered.

Another good way to lose a fish is to set a drag too heavy. Sure, your 50-pound line can handle 40-pounds of drag and your 20-pound line can probably take 15-pounds of drag without breaking, but that much drag applied to a hook in a fish's jaw might not work. When setting drags, anglers must consider the size and strength of all the terminal tackle they'll be using including hooks, leader, and all connecting knots. The size of the fish and the strength of it's jaw must also be taken into consideration. I've seen hooks straightened and fish pull their jaws apart after making a strong run against heavy drags.

My final thought about losing fish is actually a question. Every "one that got away" story seems to be about some monster fish that would have won a tournament, set a record, or filled a freezer. How come no one ever loses a small fish?

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We only get to see keeper trophy size rockfish for 2 weeks a year in May and only from the Chesapeake Bay since the regulations changed limiting stripers to 35" max everywhere else. That makes them even more of a special catch for anglers. Erika Hurley caught her first trophy sized 41" rockfish this year near Deal Island, MD while fishing on the "Can't Catch S*@t" with Philip Lewis and Dalton Tubbs. Peelers did the trick for this one.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



20-Minute Baked Flounder au Gratin

Ingredients:

4 - 6oz. flounder fillets

No flounder? You could use any white fish for this recipe.

2 TBSP extra virgin olive oil, divided

1 cup panko breadcrumbs

2/3 cups freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese

1/2 tsp kosher salt

A few grinds of cracked black pepper

1 tsp dried thyme, You could also use a dried Italian herb mix.

Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish
Lemon wedges, for serving

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400° F.

Place the flounder fillets on a parchment-covered sheet pan or lightly oiled baking dish. Lightly



blot them with a paper towel to absorb excess moisture and let the fillets come to room temperature by leaving them out for about 15 minutes before placing them in the oven. (This will help you get a more even cook.) Season the fillets with a sprinkle of salt and pepper, then brush the tops of the fillets with 1 TBSP of the olive oil.

In a small bowl, combine the

panko breadcrumbs, grated cheese, a pinch of salt, and dried thyme. Add the rest of the olive oil to the crumb mixture and mix with a fork until the crumb mixture becomes buttery, crumbly, and golden in color.

Sprinkle the crumb mixture over the fillets and lightly press the crumb mixture down into the fillets.

Bake the fish for 10-12 minutes, or until the fish is opaque, flakes easily with a fork, and reaches an internal temperature of 145° F.

Garnish with freshly chopped parsley and serve with lemon wedges for spritzing.

Tautog Florentine

Ingredients:

For the Fish

1½ lbs tautog about 2 fillets from a 16" fish, bones/skin removed

½ cup flour all purpose

2 eggs



1 oz milk or light cream

3 tbsp parmesan cheese freshly grated

½ cup panko breadcrumbs

2 pinches Salt & Pepper to taste

1 pinch cayenne pepper optional

2 tbsp oil olive, canola, or vegetable for frying

For the Spinach

10-15 oz fresh spinach destemmed

1 tbsp butter

1 tbsp olive oil

1 large shallot finely chopped

2 cloves garlic minced

½ cup light cream

¼ cup parmesan cheese freshly

grated

2 tbsp cream cheese

1 pinch red pepper flakes optional

Directions:

Preparing the fish:

Heat oven to 350° F.

Set up a breading station. First place flour on a plate with some salt and pepper for dredging. Secondly, scramble the eggs in a bowl with the milk (or light cream). Lastly, mix the breadcrumbs, parmesan and fresh ground pepper on a plate.

Cut each fillet into serving size portions (typically 1/2 of a fillet per person).

Bread one side of the fish. Dredge both sides of the fillet in the seasoned flour and shake off any excess. Dip only one side of the fish into the egg (preferably the flatter side). Dip the egg coated side into the parmesan/breadcrumb mix. Press firmly to ensure the breadcrumb mix is consistent. Set aside until ready to pan fry.

Heat the oil until its shimmering. Place the fish breadcrumb side down into the oil. Do not overcrowd the pan. Fry for about 4 minutes until the breadcrumb side is golden brown. Be careful flipping the fish over as to not

separate the breading coating from the fish. Flipping too early can cause the fish to stick. Pan fry the other side for 2 minutes then set aside on a parchment lined sheet pan.

Place the sheet pan in the oven for 10 minutes to finish cooking the fish. While its cooking, prepare the spinach.

Preparing the Spinach:

Heat the olive oil and butter in a large pan (you will have to fit the spinach later). When hot, add the shallot and garlic. Sauté until golden brown.

Reduce the heat to med/low.

Add the light cream, cream cheese, parmesan cheese, and red

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pepper flakes and continue to cook until the cream cheese is fully incorporated.

Add the spinach and mix with the sauce. Do not overcook the spinach, it will only take about 3-4 minutes to wilt to the desired consistency. It should be wilted but not mushy. Remove from heat and immediately plate.

Serving:

Serve the spinach in the center of the plate with the fish on top. Sprinkle a small amount of grated parmesan atop the fish.

Baked Bluefish

Ingredients:

- 1 (1/2- to 1-pound) bluefish fillet
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 to 5 very thin slices fresh lemon
- 3 pats butter (about 1 teaspoon each)
- Several sprigs fresh herbs such as tarragon, thyme, fennel fronds, and/or parsley (or 1 teaspoon dried herbs such as Italian seasoning or herbes de Provence)
- 3 tablespoons dry white wine

2 tablespoons lemon juice
Directions:
Preheat oven to 350°F.
Place fillet skin-side down in foil-lined-roasting pan:
Cut a piece of foil large enough to enclose the bluefish fillet. (You can double layer the foil if you are working with thin foil). Place the foil in a roasting pan. Rinse the bluefish fillet and place it in the center of the foil, skin side down.



Add salt, pepper, lemon slices, butter, herbs:
Sprinkle the fillet with salt and pepper. Lay a layer of thin lemon

slices on top of the fillet. Arrange pats of butter along the top of the fillet. Lay several sprigs of fresh herbs on top of the butter and lemon slices.

Add white wine and lemon juice, seal foil packet:

Create a boat shape with the foil around the fish so that liquid does not leak out. Pour white wine over the fish, and sprinkle with the lemon juice. Crimp the edges of the foil together so they are relatively sealed.

Bake:

Place in the 350°F oven (or you can put the foil packet on the grill) and bake for 15 to 20 minutes or so, until the fish is cooked through and opaque.

Serve:

Carefully lift the fillet from the foil and place on a serving dish. Pour the cooking liquid over the fish to serve.

Hot Crab Dish

Ingredients:

- 3 cups frozen potato tots (about 60 tots) (from 1 [28-ounce] pkg.)
- 1.75 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning,



divided

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 medium (1 1/2 ounce each) shallots, finely chopped (1/2 cup)
- 1 large (2 1/2 ounces) celery stalk, finely chopped (1/3 cup)
- 2 tablespoons (1 ounce) dry vermouth
- 6 ounces (3/4 cup) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh chives
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (such as Tabasco)

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1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest (from 1 lemon)
 1 pound fresh lump crabmeat, drained and picked over

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°F. Arrange tots in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet lined with aluminum foil. Bake in preheated oven until crisp, about 20 minutes. Transfer to a medium bowl; toss with 1/2 teaspoon of the Old Bay. Do not turn oven off.

While tots bake, melt butter in a medium skillet over medium. Add shallots and celery; cook, stirring often, until softened, 5 to 6 minutes. Add vermouth; cook, stirring constantly, until mostly evaporated, about 30 seconds. Remove from heat.

Stir together cream cheese, chives, mayonnaise, sour cream, hot sauce, Worcestershire sauce, lemon zest, and remaining 1 1/4 teaspoons Old Bay in a large bowl. Fold in crab meat and shallot mixture. Spread mixture in a 1-quart gratin baking dish. Top evenly with tots. Bake at 425°F until crab mixture bubbles around the edges, about 15 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes.

Creamy Garlic Shrimp with Parmesan

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil
 1 pound shrimp, tails on or off
 Salt and pepper, to taste
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 6 cloves garlic minced
 1/2 cup dry white wine* or chicken broth
 1 1/2 cups reduced fat cream**



1/2 cup fresh grated Parmesan cheese

2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley

Directions:

Heat oil a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season shrimp with salt and pepper and fry for 1-2 minutes on each side, until just cooked through and pink. Transfer to a bowl; set aside.

Melt the butter in the same skillet. Sauté garlic until fragrant (about 30 seconds). Pour in the white wine or broth; allow to reduce to half while scraping any bits off of the bottom of the pan.

Reduce heat to low-medium heat, add the cream and bring to a gentle simmer, while stirring occasionally. Season with salt and pepper to your taste.

Add the parmesan cheese and allow sauce to gently simmer for a further minute or so until the cheese melts and sauce thickens.

Add the shrimp back into the pan, sprinkle with parsley. Taste test sauce and adjust salt and pepper, if needed.

Serve over pasta, rice or steamed vegetables.

NOTES:

*Use a good quality dry white wine such as a pinot griot or chardonnay.

White wine can also be substituted for chicken broth or left out completely. The flavor in the sauce will be altered.

**I use reduced fat cream (or light cream) for this recipe. Substitute with half and half if you wish, being careful not to bring the sauce to a boil or it may curdle. You can also use evaporated milk as a low calorie substitution.

Heavy or thickened cream may also be used and will not require thickening with cornstarch. Allow cream to reduce in a gentle simmer until thickened to your liking.

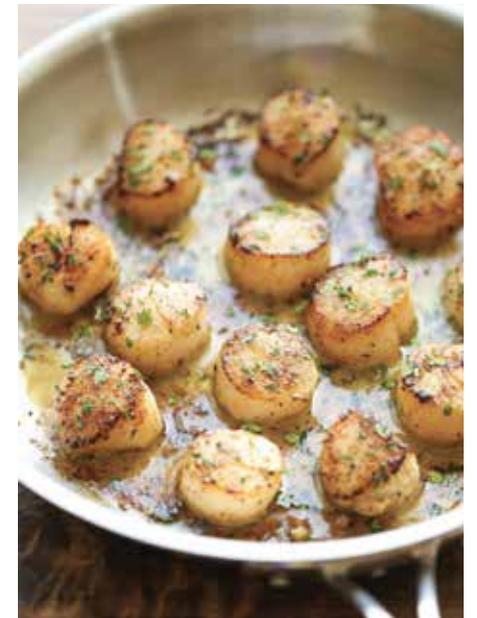
Lemon Butter Scallops

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon unsalted butter
 1 pound scallops
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

For the Lemon Butter Sauce:

2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 2 cloves garlic, minced



Juice of 1 lemon

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley leaves

Directions:

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a large skillet over medium high heat.

Remove the small side muscle from the scallops, rinse with cold water and thoroughly pat dry.

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- WHITE WINE**
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- SPARKLING WINE**
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Season scallops with salt and pepper, to taste. Working in batches, add scallops to the skillet in a single layer and cook, flipping once, until golden brown and translucent in the center, about 1-2 minutes per side. Set aside and keep warm.

To make the lemon butter sauce, melt 2 tablespoons butter in the skillet. Add garlic and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in lemon juice; season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Serve scallops immediately with lemon butter sauce, garnished with parsley, if desired.

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Capt. Richard Harpel from Lewes, DE got his limit of perch from the Rehoboth Delaware Canal using bloodworms on kingfish/spot rigs with yellow and red floats and a 1 oz sinker!



Another lucky angler on the charter boat "Lucky Break". Shelby Bozman from Deal Island, MD caught her limit of flounder using Overtails & minnows on an outgoing tide in the Thorofare. Biggest flattie was 21".

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HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year



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

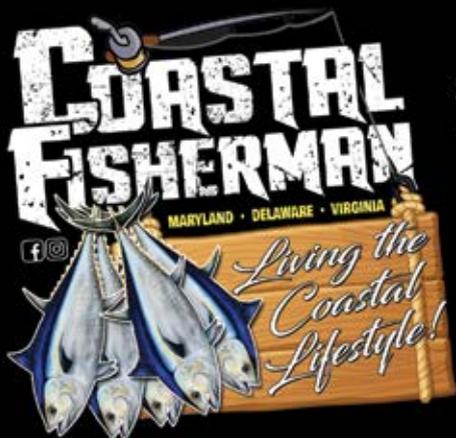
Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 		No Weights Reported	Thresher Shark 		
Black Drum 	April 16 CW Wells Assateague Island 70 lbs.	April 23 Joe Burns Indian River Inlet 6.1 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 		
Flounder 	April 8 Danny Cox Thorofare 3.6 lbs.	April 26 Frank Marshall Ocean Wreck 2.1 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 			Yellowfin Tuna 		
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 		
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 	April 22 Kelly Langion-Milano Artificial Reef 18 lbs.	April 22 Billy Thornatore Ocean Wreck 7.5 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



The big rockfish are here! Lots are being caught in the surf by Assateague Island, but must be released. Angler Joel Deutsch scooted up to the Chesapeake Bay to fish during the 2 week striper Trophy Season there. He found his keeper near Chesapeake Beach that measured 50½" with a girth of 25"!

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We have been posting the updated flounder regulations in DE, MD & VA to our social media accounts and keeping our Regulation Charts in the paper up to date. Al Rittmeyer follows us on Facebook (CoastalFishermanOC) and raised a good point... does everyone know the best way to measure a flounder or any fish for that matter? As this picture shows the best method is to have the measuring tape or device UNDER the fish. Pulling a tape measure over a fish could falsely grow the measurement up to a 1/2". A cooler with built in measurements is a good alternative to a tape as is a fish board like this one or a custom ruler installed as part of an Aqua Traction flooring system!

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

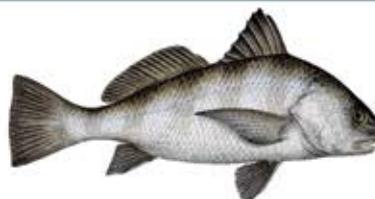
STATE WATERS ONLY



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

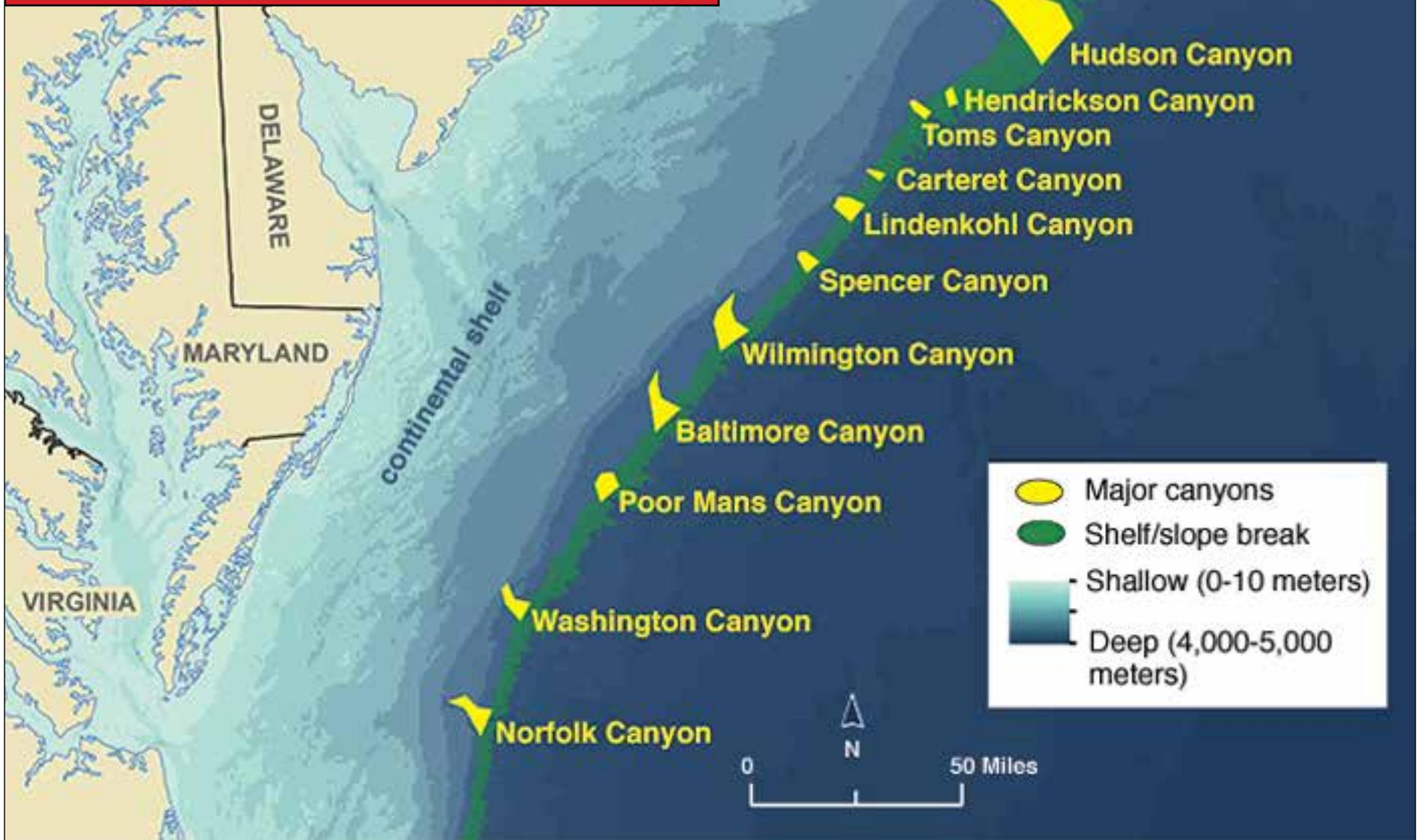


TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day

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STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Reaching for the Stars

The stars have been a navigation tool for mariners since the inception of offshore navigation. The sextant was first used in the mid 1700's. Satellites in the sky's above have replaced the reliance of the stars. Overhead, we have more than 4,000 satellites orbiting the earth, with a handful of them of major importance to mariners, the GPS satellites which provide position information to our navigation equipment. Satellites also provide



communications, such as the Iridium satellites that powers the Garmin InReach, GOST boat tracking, telephones and other communications systems. Other satellites provide voice and data services to dedicated stabilized VSAT antennas on the boat from KVH and Intellian. Let us not forget the Dish and DirecTV satellites that provide TV programming to vessels though KVH and Intellian TVRO antennas.

Most of the satellite services available to mariners have not change significantly over the years, until now. Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest person, creating innovative companies such SpaceX, Tesla, The

Boring Company, Neuralink, OpenAI and others has created The Starlink satellite internet service, a true game-changer in worldwide



internet connectivity.

Starlink is significant development to mariners and people on the go who desire to stay connected to the internet without traditional wires. Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX. Its goal is to provide satellite Internet access to users around the world. As of April 2022, Starlink constellation consists of over 2,100 mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO), which communicate with designated ground transceivers. Starlink has requested approval from the International Telecommunication Union for as many as 30,000 satellites. Each compact Starlink satellite weighs 573lbs and features a solar array for power, an ion thruster propulsion system, navigation sensors, and four powerful antennas for beaming internet to Earth.

How Can Starlink Service Mariners?

While Starlink internet is not yet geared to service on vessels, many fans of the service expect that the service and equipment will be available to boaters in the future. Starlink does not currently offer an in-motion antenna system for mobile use, the antennas are designed for fixed mount land use only. These antenna

www.coastalfisherman.net systems combine with GPS capabilities, allowing Starlink to know where each subscriber is located and therefore knows when the antenna terminal is moved away from its contracted subscription address.

One step towards marine service is that Starlink has just announced portability feature add-on, "Portability enables customers to temporarily move their Starlink to new locations and receive high-speed internet anywhere Starlink provides active coverage within the same continent," SpaceX says that portability does not mean mobility and indicates "Using the Starlink Kit in motion will void the limited warranty of your Kit"

If you are looking to travel out of the country with your Starlink, International travelers are restricted to using Starlink dishes "within the same continent as the registered service address." Starlink indicates "If you use Starlink in a foreign country for more than two months, you will be required to move your registered service address to your new location or purchase an additional Starlink to maintain service,"

Additionally, when it comes to Portability, SpaceX indicates that "Starlink prioritizes network resources for users at their registered service address. When you bring your Starlink to a new location, this prioritization may result in degraded service, particularly at times of peak usage or network congestion"

While the above service restrictions and limitations



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doesn't seem geared for marine use, the service and guidelines are constantly changing and even enforcement is spotty, there is much hope that Starlink will be able to provide a service geared to boaters and other mobile users.

If you are looking to get started with Starlink, many areas, such as most of Ocean City, Maryland are already at capacity and new subscribers are told "order now to reserve your Starlink. Starlink is currently at capacity in your area, so your order may not be fulfilled until 2023 or later" indicating a \$99 deposit is needed to hold a spot.

For those boaters who like experimenting, there are a handful of boaters who have installed their home Starlink system on a boat and successfully used the internet service at dock and while underway. The newest Starlink \$600 antenna is a 9lb rectangular satellite

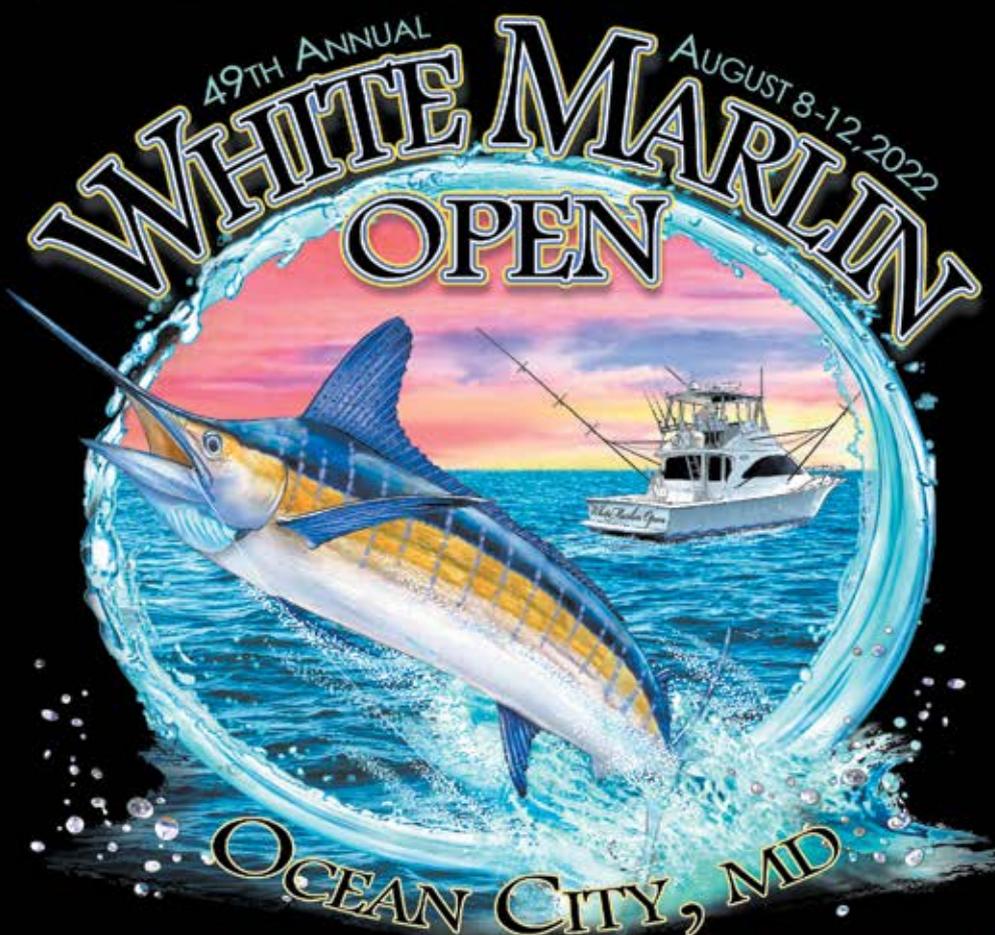
dish 19x12 inches that connects to a specialized Starlink Wi-Fi router. It does seem that many of these experimental users are coastal and not significantly offshore. Currently the Starlink satellites need to communicate with a nearby ground station, once the satellite-to-satellite laser mesh network is completed, it is expected to allow service from satellites that are not in range of a ground station.

The Starlink system and service is constantly expanding, just last week, on May 6th SpaceX launched a Falcon 9 rocket with 53 Starlink satellites from the Kennedy Space Center. If you are an early adopter, it is not too soon to get on the list for service and if you already have a home Starlink system, there are a lot of resources and information sharing on the internet by fellow boaters on how they adapted the antenna system to their boat. §



Big Bird Cropper gets out on the water it seems like everyday! It payed off in late April when he caught this rare 32" pollock in the Ocean City Inlet. He and Shaun Flaherty with Morgan Mericle also caught all the throwback rockfish they wanted as well as getting a few keeper bluefish.

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The action off of Assateague Island has shifted from black drum to trophy size rockfish! Owen Reed caught and released this 43" striper using sand fleas and clam bites. Proud Grandfather George Sauer provides additional support for the whopper!



We don't hear of a lot of anglers targeting skates and rays, but that is exactly what Steven Webb loves to do! These are quite tasty and over the course of a week fishing from Assateague Island he caught 43 skate as well as a stingray. 41 of the skate were caught in one night on a low tide using shrimp only 1.5 miles from the Maryland gate to the park!

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 11	High 04:36 am High 05:03 pm	Low 10:41 am Low 10:58 pm
THUR. MAY 12	High 05:23 am High 05:51 pm	Low 11:25 am Low 11:57 pm
FRI. MAY 13	High 06:08 am High 06:39 pm	Low ----- Low 12:09 pm
SAT. MAY 14	High 06:55 am High 07:27 pm	Low 12:51 am Low 12:53 pm
SUN. MAY 15	High 07:42 am High 08:17 pm	Low 01:42 am Low 01:38 pm
MON. MAY 16 Full Moon	High 08:32 am High 09:08 pm	Low 02:32 am Low 02:23 pm
TUE. MAY 17	High 09:23 am High 10:02 pm	Low 03:23 am Low 03:11 pm
WED. MAY 18	High 10:16 am High 10:57 pm	Low 04:16 am Low 04:03 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

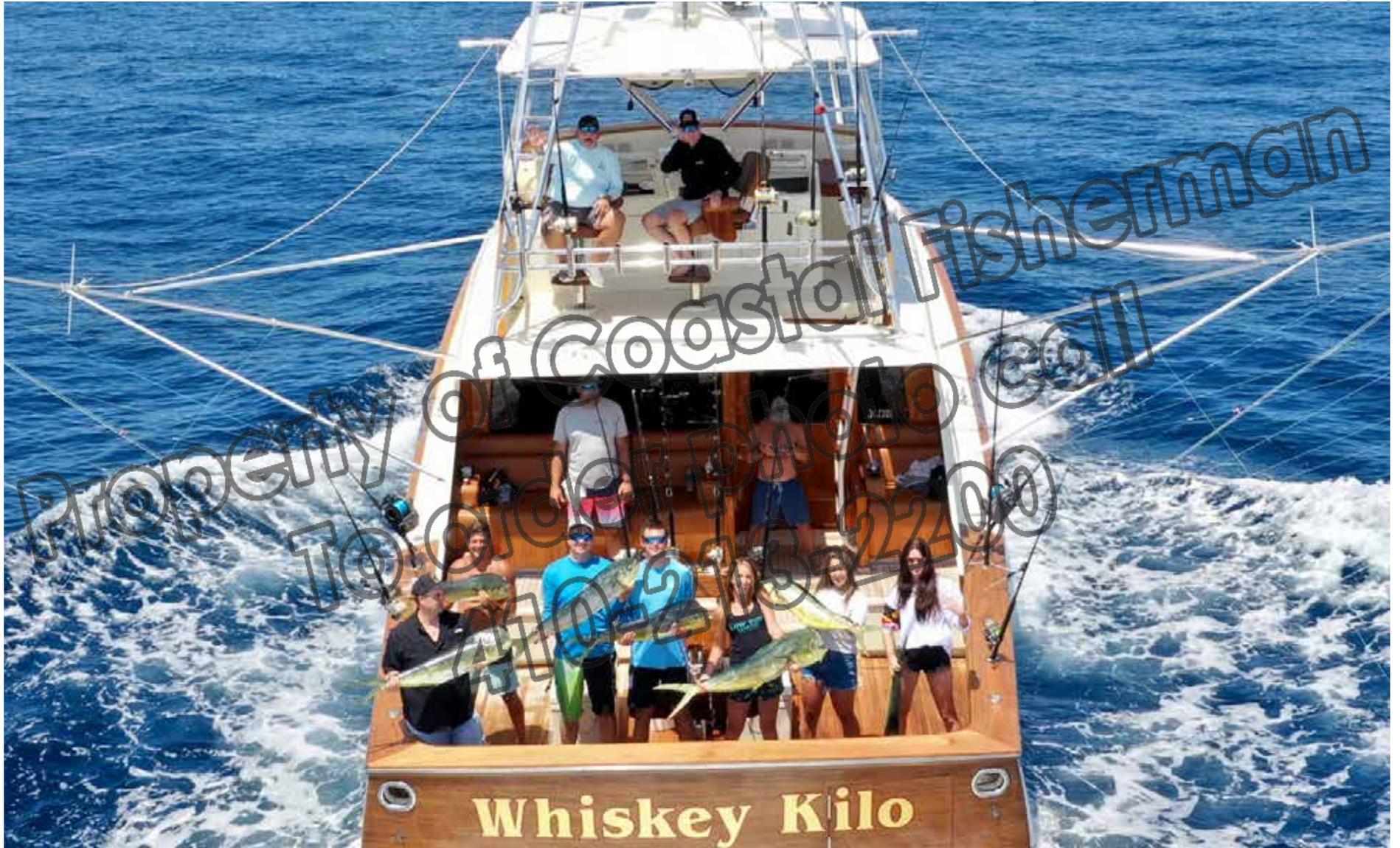
These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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While the life of a charter boat captain has long hours and is hard work, there are some fun times to be had! Capt. Jojo Joachimowski was bringing the "Whiskey Kilo" back to Ocean City from her winter berth in Florida and scored a nice batch of mahi outside of Charleston, SC!

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FIRST 2022

Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE REPORTED WITH PICTURE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF CATCH)

Species	2022	2021	Species	2022	2021
 Bluefish	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	 Thresher Shark		May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks
 Black Drum	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	March 31 Allen Sklar Assateague Island	 Bigeye Tuna		May 28 Pete Gudiatas "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Cobia		June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	 Bluefin Tuna		May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk
 Flounder	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	 Longfin Tuna		July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon
 Sea Bass		April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	 Yellowfin Tuna		May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's
 Sheepshead		June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	 Dolphin		June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	 Swordfish		New Category for 2022
 Tautog	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin		New Category for 2022
 Wahoo		June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	 White Marlin		June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon

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



Truly one of the last fish caught before the blow last weekend may have been this 24" bluefish! Chaz DiDomenicis worked the incoming tide of the Indian River Inlet on May 6th using a jig head with a paddle tail bait to trick this one. Pictured at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle.



Bob Ford is all smiles sharing this 5 lb. 6 oz. flounder that earned him 3rd place during the 31st Annual Capt. Zed's Flounder Tournament hosted by The Island House Restaurant in Wachapreague, VA.

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7 year old Presley Twilley of Newark, MD proudly shows of the first flounder she has ever caught! She was fishing with her day Joshua using a white haired jig tipped with flounder belly to trick this one. At 14" this one was released to grow just a little more!



If you read the Coastal Fisherman regularly, you know we like the unusual! Steve Kirshner from Willards, MD shared this image of a 12" southern blowfish he caught off of Assateague Island using frozen peeler crab. We zoomed in for the details, pretty cool!

MARYLAND & DELAWARE

CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **
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	SHARK:		
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"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	TUNA:		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
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



Epic surf fisherman Allen Skylar got into some nice rockfish action on May 4th on the beach at Assateague Island. He and several others caught and released several nice fish with this one caught using sand fleas being the largest at 48". Looks like he could have used some help to hold it!

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This week in Delaware was colder weather and wind has been the saga of the week. Despite the inclement weather, quality fish are being caught both in the bays as well as the ocean.

Flounder & Tog

This week the big news was the huge record pending tog caught out of Lewes Marina by the charter boat "Katydid" landed by Capt. Brent Wiest. He hooked and brought in a possible new record tog weighing in at whopping 21.48 lbs. For those of you who read my article the name "Katydid" Charters is no stranger. It is mentioned on most weeks as bringing in top notch fish and happy clients. Congratulations to Captain Brent for his great catch and hopefully new Delaware record tog! This week also saw several other nice tog taken off the wrecks just outside of the Indian River Inlet. This time of year many of the near shore wrecks at sites 10,11 and Coral Grounds all hold big tog. Cut

crab, peeler crab and fresh clam are some of the best baits you can use to bring up one of these tasty fish. Tog are notorious bait stealers and if the angler is not paying close attention to his line or is fishing from the rod holder, he will wind up nothing but empty hooks. Tog hang close to holes in the wrecks and will rarely venture far from their homes to get a meal. This has many anglers hung up on jagged wreck structure, as the tog grab the bait and return to the safety of the hole before the angler even feels a bite. Sea bass season opens on the May 15th and many boats will switch from tog to sea bass due to the ease of catching them. The knotheads will eat very voraciously unlike tog. But if you truly want to test your skills, now is the time to target tog and black drum. Any angler can catch a sea bass but only a skilled or very lucky angler comes home with a trophy tog. Capt. Jamar took the "JaySea" charter boat out for an early season shake down and was rewarded

with several nice blackfish for him as well as his crew. The new charter boat will be docked in front of the Lewes Harbor Marina this summer. Flounder is also getting a fairly good start. In the back bays the bite has been a little slow to start due to the colder than normal water temps for this time of year. Despite the cold water, several nice flounder have been caught. Many of these fish are coming from the main thoroughfare channel leading into the Indian River Bay from the ocean. Drifting a squid minnow combo is always a great strategy, however Gulp baits on a long flounder rig also work well. As the water warms up we should see bait fish such as spot start to arrive. These bait fish will surge the catches of flounder as fish begin to fatten up after a long winter offshore. Avery McCormick from Ocean View, DE, caught a nice 18" flattie fishing the main channel using a white Gulp. Brandon Hunt was fishing out of Lewes, Delaware on Tuesday morning when he

www.coastalfisherman.net hooked into a nice flounder around 19". This was Brandon's only keeper that day. This still made for a nice dinner... way to go! Adrian Decker from Ocean View caught a few short flounder using Gulp baits and also caught a personal best 6.4 lb. weakfish. This is a great catch for this early in the year. Bruce Lynch Sr. was fishing Indian River Bay and he caught a nice 25" flounder on a Bad Wind bottom dragger rig. This is a true trophy flounder any time of the year, but being that the water is so cold this becomes a once in a lifetime type catch. Great job Bruce!

Rockfish, Black Drum & Bluefish

Bluefish and rockfish have started off a little slow this year with several small stripers being caught along the rocks at Indian River and a few more coming off the surf. On the surf, the majority of stripers are being caught at 3R's Beach on bloodworms and clams. Grant Barnhart did manage a nice 34.5" rockfish while throwing plugs on the Fenwick Beach. The fish was weighed in at Old Inlet Tackle shop tipping the scales at 13.5 lbs. Kevin Trimble caught a nice slammer bluefish off the beach at 3R's this week. This is the first nice bluefish

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I have heard of this year out of Delaware. Further up the Delaware Bay, a few trophy fish have been coming in, however, the main group of rockfish does not seem to be here yet. Casting plugs and swim baits along the rocks especially at night seem to work great for the smaller peanut stripers and blues. Indian River usually sees at least one blitz during the spring season. On the surf, bloodworms for the juvenile stripers works fairly well with most anglers targeting the bigger fish using fresh clam or crab on a large circle hook. This time of year is also the time to target black drum off the beach and on the shoals of the Delaware Bay. Large surf clams and cut crabs are great baits for this specie. You should use hardy rods as many of these fish are well over 50 lbs. The end of the outgoing tides and the beginning hour of the incoming tide are usually the best for targeting black drum and larger rockfish.

Crabs & Clams

Crabbing in the Indian River bay is off to a good start with big males being found in the pots. The last two pulls of my pots revealed between 6-9 keepers each with many over 7". These numbers should increase as the water warms and given commercial crab prices this year well worth the effort! Clams are still hard to find with most being deep in the mud. Many anglers are also still not ready to venture into the 60 degree water to rake, so hopefully over the next few weeks as water temps rise so will the clams.

Until next week...
Tight lines and Fins up



Capt. Bert Adams took some time while running the "Capt. Bob II" to show the crew how it is done! Despite running two Hook'em and Cook'em stores in DE and the "Judy V" and "Capt. Bob II" headboats out of the Indian River Marina, he still has the skills! This tog was caught at Site 10 using green crab and shrimp.

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Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament

May 20 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament

May 21 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

13th Annual Memorial Day Tournament

May 28 & 29 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

1st Annual Blues for D.U.

June 3 - 5 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

2nd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament

June 17 - 18 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

South Jersey MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament

June 22 - 26 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

7th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 24-26 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

43rd Annual Small Boat Tournament

June 25-26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam

Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 25-26 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

40th Annual Canyon Kick Off

July 1-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown

July 6-9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

35th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 8-10 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring

July 10-16 • Atlantic City • www.FishHardEvents.com

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up
 the *Coastal Fisherman* every week from
 May through September or log on to our website at
www.coastalfisherman.net



Before the blow this past weekend, it was all about tog and stripers. This blackfish was pulled off of an artificial reef on the headboat "Angler".



For all the black drum action in our last issue, the bite shifted mainly to rockfish this past week. David Moore shows us one of a couple he caught from Assateague Island fishing with Morgan Mericle last Friday as the storm rolled in. The pair also beached and released 5 large stripers with Morgan setting a new personal best at 45".



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