

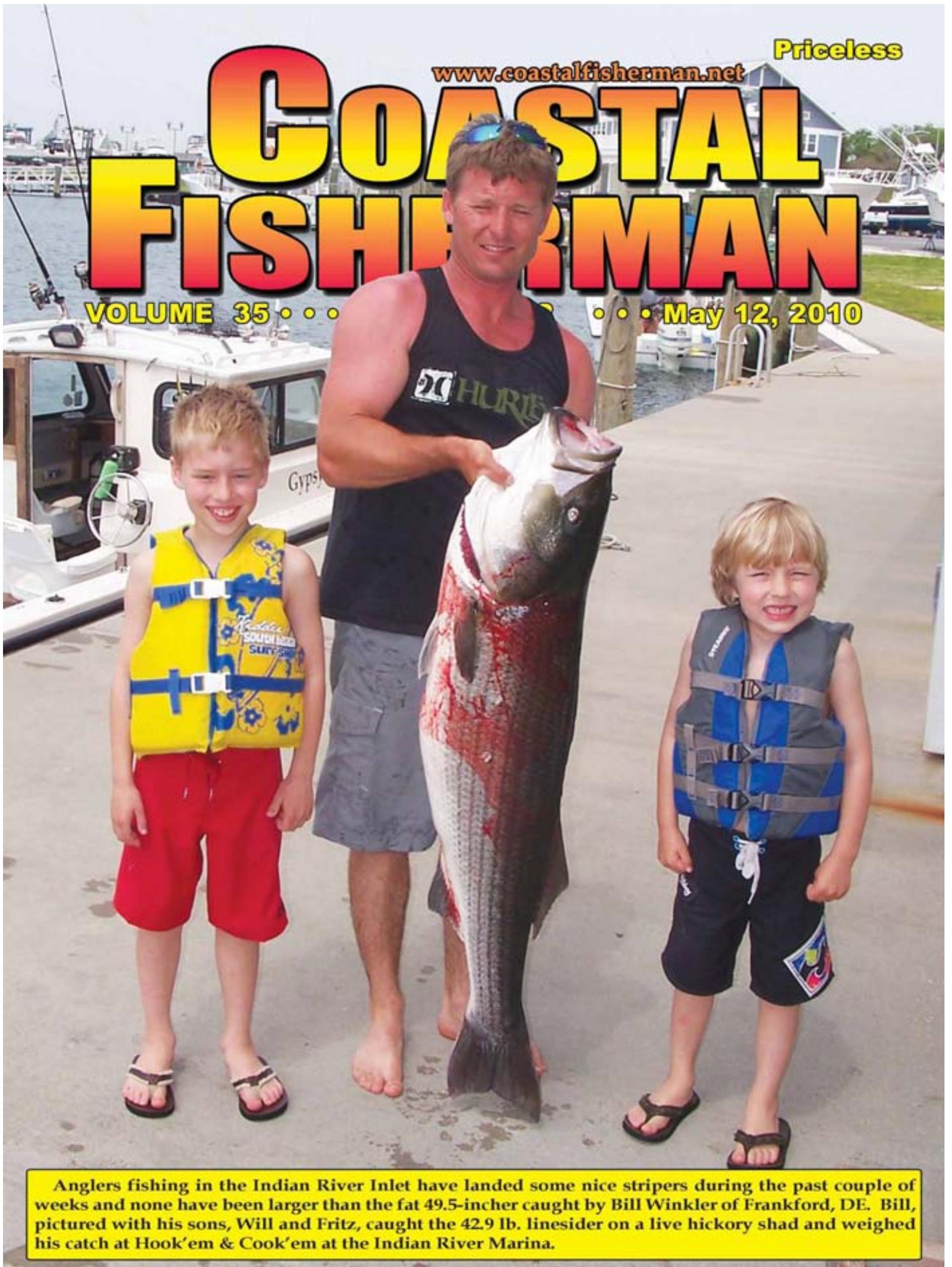
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VOLUME 35 • • •

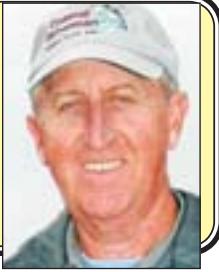
• • • May 12, 2010



Anglers fishing in the Indian River Inlet have landed some nice stripers during the past couple of weeks and none have been larger than the fat 49.5-inch caught by Bill Winkler of Frankford, DE. Bill, pictured with his sons, Will and Fritz, caught the 42.9 lb. linesider on a live hickory shad and weighed his catch at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

Double Lines

by Dale Timmons



Bluefish and shad made their way into the bay just inside the inlet last week, much to the delight of anglers who appreciate their fighting ability and “just want to pull on something.” Ever since I informally started keeping track of it, probably for at least 30 years, it seems that the blues have shown up in the bay in early May whenever the incoming tide fell in the late afternoon or early evening. That started me thinking about how many species can be counted on to appear at almost the same time each season, no matter how bad the winter has been. The exception might be if we have extremely cold water in the spring. Think about it—the bigger, migrating cow stripers can be counted on to show up

moving north along the beaches in late April or early May, the small black drum will hit the surf about the same time, while the flounder are usually in the bays by early April. This year, in spite of our cold, snowy winter, some species have even put in a slightly early appearance. Red drum were found early down around the southern Virginia barrier islands, and the word is that the cobia have been putting on a spectacular show off Cape Hatteras—a couple of weeks earlier than usually expected. The variation will never be very radical, however. The question in my mind has always been—how do the fish know when to show up where? How does the information get passed from one generation to the

next? There is probably a scientific answer tied up in the lateral line, or DNA, or something even more complicated, but it’s another one of those mysteries better left unsolved, I guess, because it makes life more interesting...



If you want to target those blues in the bay, use a plain bucktail jig, a spoon or a Hopkins metal with a single hooks rather than a treble. Unless you simply enjoy buying new lures, wire leaders in the 8 to 12 inch class are recommended, and they won’t affect the bite...



After I wrote about some new Mustad hooks last week, especially the 10/0 for red drum or stripers in the surf, someone asked me, “Why do you need such big hooks? They catch marlin on 5/0 or 6/0 hooks.” The simple answer is more about the bait than the fish. Many surf anglers targeting large stripers

or red drum use big baits, such as a bunker head or a chunk (often called a “tenderloin”). If the hook is too small, it is difficult to go through the bottom jaw and out the top of the head or through a chunk and still have enough hook protruding to catch the fish. In the “old days,” when we all used j-hooks, which normally have a wider gap than a circle hook, the larger hooks weren’t usually necessary, and I have caught many reds on 5/0 hooks, although usually with smaller baits. With circles, however, I don’t like to use them if the knuckle of my index finger won’t pass through the gap between the point and the shank. I figure my finger is about the same size as the jawbone of a large red drum, and the hook has to wrap around it. Not very scientific, I know, but it seems to work for me. Another factor is that there isn’t much uniformity in the circle hook world. A 10/0 made by one

Continued on page 6



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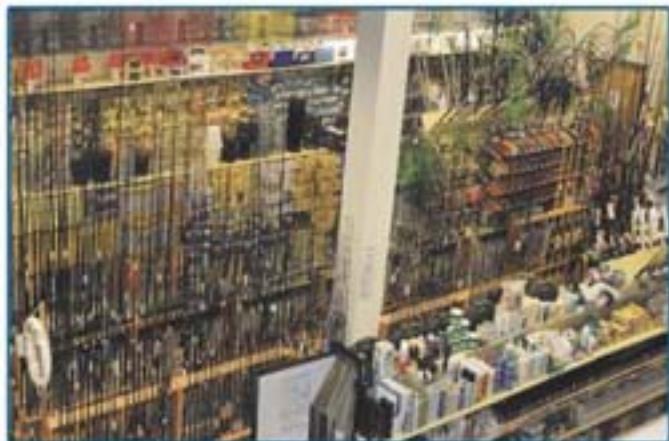
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It may not be big, but it was the first tautog caught in 2010. John Smith caught this tog on January 7th while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani.



David Feilinger of Westminster, MD was fishing from the surf off Assateague Island when he hooked into this 37-inch, 24 lb. striper. The fish was caught using bunker for bait and weighed at Oyster Bay Tackle.

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Steve Flohr of Dover, PA has landed some nice fish this spring as shown by these two flounder caught while trolling a minnow near the Rt. 90 Bridge. The largest flattie measured 25-inches and weighed 5 lbs. 6 oz. with the second fish coming in at 23-inches and 5 lbs. 2 oz. Steve was fishing on the "Flounder's Nightmare" with Roy Yeager and Jesse Chronister, both from Dover, PA.



No stranger to the pages of the Coastal Fisherman, Greg Showell of Frankford, DE caught this 45-inch striped bass while fishing at night in the Indian River Inlet. The 37 lb. linesider ate a pink and white fly and was weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Double Lines continued: manufacturer might have a completely different gap and be a different size than one made by another company, which I don't understand at all, but so far, at least, that's the way it is...



The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board voted last week to give states the option to institute a new sea bass season that would add 90 days to what had been proposed earlier. The proposed new season will run from May 22 through October 11, with an additional open period from November 1 through December 31. According to the RFA (Recreational Fishing Alliance), "The increase in fishing days became possible after the recent release of 2009 black sea bass landings. Projected 2009 landings had been mandating a 44% reduction in landings for 2010,

but the updated data showed that only a 21% reduction was needed, allowing for the liberalization." Individual states will have to implement the new proposal. My question is, "Why the need for 'updated data'? Every time the ASMFC or NMFS comes out with some extreme draconian season or limits, and the public screams in outrage, there is "updated data" that shows the numbers were completely screwed up in the first place. At the very least, somebody should be fired. Even better, Congress should wake up and clean house and start all over again, since "Fisheries Management" has become a classic case of mismanagement at practically every level...



It's that time of year when blue crabs shed, and I understand the "peeler run" has been excellent on the Chesapeake Bay and started to improve rapidly in the coastal bays, though the little cold

snap we just had may have slowed them down for a bit. Peeler crabs make excellent bait for a lot of species, including red and black drum, kingfish, speckled and gray trout, tautog, stripers and even flounder. A few of the local bait shops sell live peelers, and though they are a little pricey, they are definitely worth a try. I did a short piece last year on how to cut up and use peelers as bait, so I won't get into all that again, but if you have never tried fresh peeler, I highly recommend you start to include them in your arsenal of "go to" baits, especially in the spring of the year...



Gray trout, or weakfish, have been on an extreme down cycle in their population for several years, and this year fisheries officials have finally done something about it and cut limits drastically. Recreational anglers are only allowed one fish, while commercial fishermen can

possess up to 100 pounds. There are apparently a few older, very large trout around, however, that have survived for many years. A friend of a friend of mine who is a crabber and sets a few gill nets commercially on the Chesapeake Bay side recently caught a trout that measured an incredible 41 inches. The fish was estimated at over 20 pounds. To give you an idea of just how big this trout was, the Maryland state record is 16 pounds. It was caught in the Ocean City Inlet in the fall of 1976. The all tackle world record is 19 lbs., 2 ozs. Hard to tell exactly how old a 20 lb. trout would be, but my guess would be over 20 years...maybe it's time for a hunk of that fresh peeler crab on a bucktail at the south jetty...



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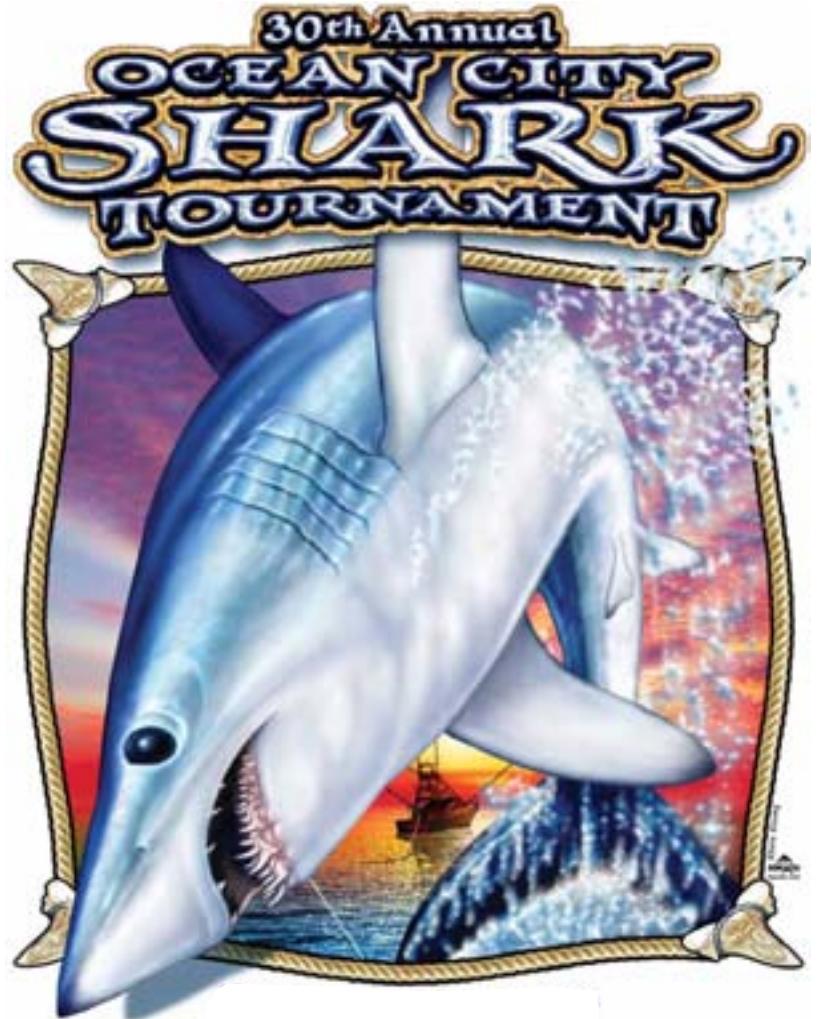




Joel Robinson from Lewes, DE was tossing a Storm lure from the Indian River Jetty when he hooked into this 22 lb. 6 oz. striper. Joel is pictured with his son, Vaughn. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



George Henning needed some time off from his hectic days as "King of All Dockboys" at the Ocean City Fishing Center so he decided to go fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. George ended up catching this 5 lb. 12 oz. cod on an artificial reef while using green crab for bait. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



It was a tough week for fishermen. The wind blew steady and some days hard, making it difficult to get out. The sad part is that the ultra-clean water we had in the middle of the week got roughed up pretty good and is now dirty.

From the Surf

We didn't see any blitzes this past week, and the bite has definitely slowed down since all of the action around April 23rd, but that doesn't mean some nice fish weren't caught.

Assateague surfcasters had to battle through numerous skates and dogfish sharks if they wanted to hook a keeper striped bass, but it did happen.

We didn't see the good striper bite from the beaches in North Ocean City that we saw the week before, however some anglers were able to hook into some chopper bluefish around the MD/DE line.

Anglers continue to get the best results from using bunker heads and bunker chunks. Some are needing to put their



The Assateague surf continued to produce nice catches of striped bass and Brian Everhart of Salisbury, MD was there to land this 45-incher while fishing with his buddies, Josh Ballard and Matt Snyder. The fish weighed 33 lbs. and was caught on a bunker head at the Bullpen.

baits on floats to keep them off the bottom and away from the crabs.

Flounder

With clean water most of the week, I thought we would see more keeper flounder hit the docks, but this 19-inch minimum is making it tough this early in the season.

Water temperatures in the bay cooled off slightly as the weekend progressed. Heading into Thursday, the water temperature hovered between 67-degrees and 74-degrees, with a spike up to 77-degrees during the incoming tide on Friday. However, by the time the weekend came to a close, we were down between 60 and 65 degrees.

Anglers are catching flounder, it's just that they really need to put in their time to catch a keeper. I spoke to one veteran angler who told me that he has caught almost 40 flounder so far this year,

and hasn't had a keeper yet.

On Wednesday, anglers on the "Bay Bee" had 3 keepers and 22 throwbacks. Capt. Bob said that quite a few of the throwbacks were in the 18-inch range, just shy of the 19-inch minimum. Two of the flounder were caught on squid and shiner combinations while the third keeper was caught on a salmon belly. Capt. Bob has been focusing his action in the bay behind Assateague Island.

One angler who I've seen a few times this year is Steve Flohr from Dover, PA. Steve stopped in with two keepers, weighing 5.1 lbs. and 5.4 lbs. He has had good luck bump-trolling near the Rt. 90 Bridge. Steve's technique is pretty slick and definitely effective. He has a small boat with two 8-hp motors. Once he arrives at his spot, he shuts one off and trolls with the other. This allows him to troll slowly and quietly. An interesting and effective way of doing it.

On Friday, the "Bay Bee" returned to the bay behind Assateague and returned with 3 more keepers, with the largest measuring 21.75-inches.

Steady winds accompanied the arrival of the weekend, which kept most anglers at the dock. The "Get Sum" did go out on Saturday morning and anglers caught throwback flounder before switching over to tautog fishing.

The most productive flounder fishing spots right now are in the Sinepuxent Bay near the duck blinds, around the airport and up near the Rt.

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90 Bridge. Anglers are finding success using bull minnows, shiners and Gulp! Alive white swimming mullets.

Striped Bass

Striped bass anglers who are insomniacs had the best luck this week landing stripers around the Rt. 50 Bridge this past week. The best bite happened late, between 11 pm and 2 am in the morning when the outgoing tide slowed and and made the switch to the incoming tide.

Bridge anglers, a secretive bunch, have been limiting out with most fishing off the north side of the bridge and letting the current bring their lure back to them. Storm lures, Gotcha plugs and bucktails all produced fish.

Small stripers were also caught in good numbers by anglers casting bucktails tipped with curly tails around the Assateague Bridge.

Tautog

With the sea bass season

still closed (opens May 22nd), inshore anglers continue to target tautog. Mid-week, Matt King kept two tog measuring 22.25-inches and 25.5-inches while fishing on the "Morning Star". Both were caught on green crabs. On Sunday, Capt. Monty braved the strong winds and got onto some tautog at Great Gull where Michael Mancini caught 4 keepers and Willie Thomas landed himself a 20.5-incher.

Remember, effective May 16th anglers are only allowed to keep 2 tautog with a minimum size of 14-inches.

Bluefish

By far, the most interesting catch of the week came in from Darrell Zepp of Westminster, MD. It's not that Darrell's 25-inch bluefish was that unique, it was the way he caught it. Taking his cue from striper fishermen in the Chesapeake Bay, Darrell built two planer boards, one to use for the incoming tide and one for the outgoing tide. The

planer boards were attached to cords that were tied to the 4th Street Bulkhead. Darrell used release clips that slid down the cord and were attached to his fishing line. This set-up enabled Darrell to get his line out and away from the bulkhead, a notorious spot to get snagged.

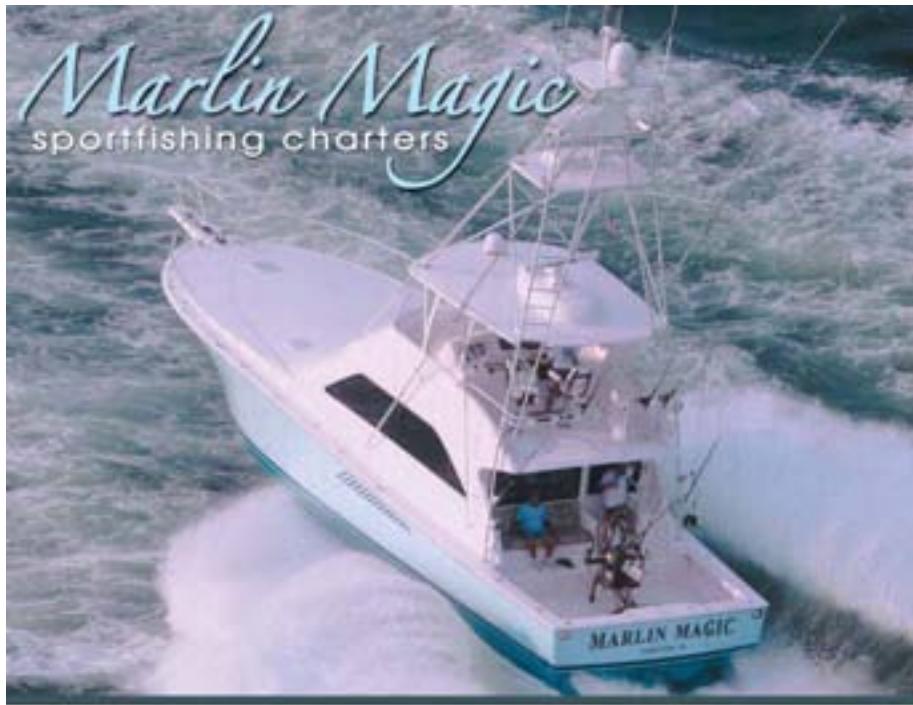
This is the first time I have ever heard of an angler using this method to fish. Darrell checked with the DNR Police and was told that as long as his set-up didn't interfere with boaters in the East Channel, he was free to continue fishing that way.

My guess is that this method is fine right now, but

May 12, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 9 come the busy season it would be impossible to fish this way due to heavy boat traffic.

Tournaments

A new tournament will kick-off the season this year. The Ocean City Marlin Club is bringing back a bluefish tournament to Ocean City. Veteran Ocean City fishermen told me that there used to be some great bluefish tournaments in town, and many are happy to see one return. The tournament is on Memorial Day weekend, May 29th and 30th. If you want more information, you can call 410-213-1613.



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Matt Shollenberger of Emmaus, PA muscled in this 16 lb. 2 oz. tautog during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. The big tog was hooked on a green crab at a natural reef. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.



Anglers on the "Bay Bee" have been hooking a lot of flounder over the past couple of weeks and here are 3 of the larger ones they have brought to the scales. Scott McGriffin of Hebron, MD caught 2 flatties, measuring 24.5-inches and 19.25-inches, while Lou Mumpower of Ocean City, MD captured a 19.75-incher, all while fishing in the bay behind Assateague Island. Scott's fish were caught using squid and shiners. Lou's flounder was hooked on a salmon belly. Capt. Bob Gowar was at the helm and Mate George Lenz worked the deck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Ron Humphress of Berlin, MD beached this 36.75-inch striper after hooking it on a bunker chunk on a float. The fish weighed in at 18 lbs. 8 oz. and was caught off the beach on Assateague Island, just south of the Bullpen. Pictured at Harbor Tackle.



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Terry Murray of Dagsboro, DE, pictured with his son, Gavin, caught these two stripers on live herring while fishing at night in the Indian River Inlet. The largest linesider measured 41-inches and weighed 25 lbs. 13 oz. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Mike Brockmeyer of Fallston, MD and Bob Miller of Bel Air, MD were drifting in the bay behind Assateague Island near marker #14 when they hooked into these two 20-inch flounder. One flattie was hooked on a minnow and squid combination while the other was caught on a bucktail tipped with a shiner.

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12-year-old Michaela Porch was fishing with her father Michael, when she caught this 41-inch striper while fishing from the Ocean City surf north of 6th Street. Michaela used herring that she caught in the Pocomoke River for bait. The fish had a 19-inch girth and was estimated to weigh 26 lbs.

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Colin Boteler of Beltsville, MD caught this 8 lb. 10 oz. tautog while fishing on the "Karen Sue" with Capt. John Nedelka. The fish was hooked on a green crab at Site 11 and was weighed at Hook'em and Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



"What the heck is a tautog?"

Tautog, also called blackfish up north, is a member of the wrasse family. Its scientific name is *Tautoga Onitis*. The name originated from the American Indians who called the fish a taut. The plural was tautaoog. And thus we got the name tautog!

Anyway, tautog live on the sea bottom in structure such as rocks, wrecks, mussel

beds, bridge pilings, inlet rocks or slabs of underwater cement and of course, artificial reef structure! They are found from Nova Scotia to South Carolina with a few being caught in Georgia. They are generally black, but since they pick up the color of the surrounding bottom, they are often molted in color and can be grayish or brownish. They are distinctive in that they do not have regular scales. If you ever tried to scale a tautog you would learn fast, that they don't come off and you really need to skin a tautog to get their beautiful white fillets to the table.



Male Tautog



Female Tautog

In Ocean City, anglers catch them really well in the spring and fall. They will bite all summer, but tend to run small in our bays and inshore. They are especially targeted in the spring and fall when the bite is on and the fish are larger. Besides structure, tautog like deep running water. In Ocean City, we find tautog in the following hot "tautog spots":

From the shore, anglers catch tautog in the Ocean City Inlet, at the very end of the Oceanic Pier, off the sea wall behind the Oceanic Pier, from the bulkhead from 2nd through 4th Streets on the bayside, at the end of 5th and 6th Streets, off the Route 50 Bridge, and some over by the Homer Gudelsky Park on the west side of the bay. Some are

caught from the 9th Street Pier as well.

If you are in a boat, anglers cast into holes around the South Jetty or along the rocks just south of Homer Gudelsky Park. If your boat is big enough, you don't have to go far offshore to catch tautog. Anglers catch them right at Little Gull Shoal. Buy a set of the Ocean City Reef Foundation Charts and you can zero in on some good tautog fishing. There's good "close-in" tautog fishing around Russell's Reef as well. Later on, these same reefs will produce catches of triggerfish, sea bass, and flounder.

Ocean going party boats go out of Ocean City for tautog in the spring and fall and even during the winter if the season is open. When nothing else is biting, there's always a chance of catching a tautog. Tautog fishing is not everyone's cup of tea. They dive into structure and get you hung up. They are sometimes crafty and nibble and peck your bait right off your hook without you feeling it. They can make a good man cuss. But the rewards are one of the hardest fighting fish you can catch and some great table fare if you catch a keeper.

You can fish all day with a live minnow or a strip of squid and never catch a tautog. Tautog like crabs, clams, and sometimes shrimp. Any kind of crustacean or mollusk is the bait of choice for tautog. Anglers in Ocean City generally fish for tautog with green crabs (imported from New Jersey) or mole crabs, otherwise known as sand fleas (those little crabs the kids dig up on the beach all summer). Some anglers flip over rocks at low tide and catch marsh crabs (a little tiny black crab that's way too fast for me!) Others catch fiddler crabs in the green marshes. I've seen one guy smack open snails. Little speckled calico crabs cast netted in the surf are also a tautog delicacy. The local tautog anglers can get very creative with their tautog

baits. I watched a man on the jetty one day put a fish head on a string and dangle it between the rocks into the water. Little rock crabs would cling to the fish head, and he was putting them in a little tin can. Wow! (It's a whole lot easier to go to a store and buy some bait!)

"I've gone fishing for sea bass on a party boat. Is tautog fishing similar?"

Party boat fishing for sea bass is pretty simple. Bait up the hook, put it on the bottom, and the sea bass hop on the hook. For tautog fishing, you have to concentrate. The most important factor is to keep your bait still on the bottom. As the boat rocks up and down, you need to let your rod tip go up and down with the boat motion, so your sinker stays still on the bottom. Don't let slack get in your line either or the tautog will either steal your bait without you knowing it, or it will pull you into the structure and hang you up.

Every day, and even every tide, is different with the bite. Some days the fish SLAM the bait. Other days or tides the fish will just pick. Tautog have a set of grinding teeth in the back of their throat that look like molars. When the tautog picks up the piece of crab he pulls it into his throat to these back molars to crush it. The fish will give a telltale jerk or twitch when he does this, and this is when the angler should set the hook. You can set the hook too soon. And whoa! You can also set the hook too late! If you think the fish is there, pull up on the rod slowly. If you feel the weight of the fish, set the hook. If not, slowly set it back down there. Do the same thing if fishing from the shore.

Keep your bait fresh, as the tautog like to pick out the crab guts and leave the rest. Pinch the crab between your fingers to let out the juices (Yuck! - But it works!)

"How do you hook a green crab?"

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popular of tautog baits. Cut it in half with scissors, pinch the bait to get the juices flowing, and jam the hook in the leg socket. Some people, like me, pull off the back, cut off the legs, and insert the hook in the leg socket.

"How do you hook a sand crab?"

Sand crabs are the second most popular baits. Insert the hook in the apron and out the outer shell. OR hook it thru the tail section and out the outer shell. You can give them a pinch too! (Take a rag to wipe your hands!)

Tautog don't move around a lot, so sometimes you have to move to the tautog if you are fishing from the shore or a boat. If you aren't getting bites in one spot, move to another. Even a slight move may take you to a better hole. Concentrate on the bottom, and if you feel the sinker go deeper into a hole, let some line out so it stays in the deeper hole, then bring in the slack, stop, and hold. A bite will be coming if the tide is right.

The rig?

Keep it simple. At least a 40 lb. test leader is a must. Make a dropper loop for the sinker which should be a bank, round, cushion, torpedo shaped or flat sinker. Go up a few inches and make another dropper loop three to five inches long and insert a Kahle or Octopus hook into the loop. Anglers inshore tend to use a 2/0 to 3/0 black Octopus style hook. Offshore in deeper water anglers tend to use a 2/0 to 3/0 Kahle hook. Anglers in party boats use two hooks. Inshore anglers generally use one hook.

Tautog fishing is a lot of fun, and good eating too. Many anglers in the spring make a habit of releasing the females that are obviously full of row. Good fishing....

Sue Foster is an outdoor writer and co-owner of Oyster Bay Tackle in Ocean City, MD and Fenwick Tackle in Fenwick, DE.

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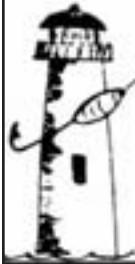
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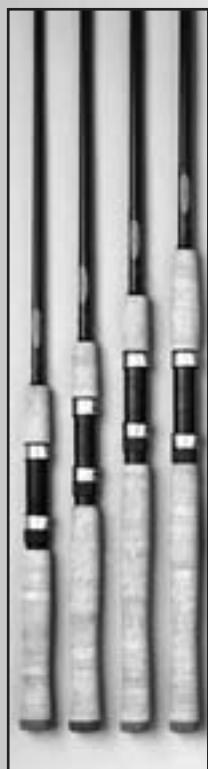
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www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/survey/vasurvey

Special thanks to Keith Fraser and AllTackle.com for supporting this helpful volunteer angler survey!



There has been a good striper bite at night for anglers fishing off of the Rt. 50 Bridge and Buddy Martin of West Ocean City, MD was there on Friday night, hooking this 31-incher on a Storm lure. Buddy caught the fish at the end of the outgoing tide.

THE'S BACK!



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Calvin Smack of Ocean City, MD released this striped bass while fishing from the surf off Assateague Island. The fish was hooked using fresh bunker for bait. Photo courtesy of Allen Sklar.



James Lutz of West Ocean City, MD landed two flounder measuring 19.5-inches and 22-inches, while drifting a minnow/Gulp! combination. The fish were caught at the end of the outgoing tide in the Sinepuxent Bay behind Castaway's Resort & Campground.



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Flounder with Herb Butter Sauce

1/2 cup flour
4 skinless flounder fillets
3 TBSP. canola oil
1 shallot, minced
1/2 cup white wine
1 tsp. grated zest
1 TBSP. lemon juice
1 tsp. minced fresh thyme, or 1/2 tsp. dried
5 TBSP. butter
2 TBSP. finely chopped fresh parsley

Place flour in shallow dish. Pat fish dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper.

Coat fish lightly with flour. Heat 2 TBSP. of oil in a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat until just smoking.

Cook fillets until golden and fillets flake easily, about 3 minutes per side.

Transfer to platter and tent with foil.

Wipe out skillet.

Add remaining oil and shallots to empty pan and cook until softened, 2 to 3 minutes.

Add wine, lemon zest, lemon juice and thyme and simmer until reduced by half, about 2 minutes.

Off heat, whisk in butter and parsley.

Season sauce with salt and pepper and pour over fish.

Serves 4.

Drunken Striped Bass

4 striped bass fillets
2 eggs, beaten
Beer, enough to cover fillets
Bread crumbs
Salt and pepper
Garlic powder
Parsley

Cover fillets with beaten eggs and beer.

Refrigerate for 24 to 48 hours, the longer the better.

Remove fish, shake off excess moisture.

Place in paper bag with bread crumbs, seasoned with salt and pepper, garlic powder and parsley.

Deep fry in oil until golden. Serves 4.

Striped Bass Baked in Wine

4 striped bass fillets
1/2 cup white wine
1 large onion, diced
1 green pepper, diced
1/2 cup celery, thinly sliced
1 can tomato sauce (15 oz.)
4 oz. can sliced mushrooms
2 cups flour, seasoned with salt and pepper
Tomato slices
Grated cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

In a skillet, saute onion, pepper and celery in a 1/4 cup of wine until tender.

Add the tomato sauce and mushrooms; simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cover.

Season fillets with salt and pepper.

In a large oven-proof baking dish, place the fillets in the other 1/4 cup of wine for 3 minutes. Turn fish and bake for another 3 minutes or until fish flakes.

Pour sauce over fish, top with sliced tomato and grated cheese.

Place back in oven for 5 minutes.

Serve over noodles or rice.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass Chowder

1 1/4 cups diced onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
4 ribs celery, diced
12 oz. small red potatoes, diced
1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning
1/2 tsp salt
3 TBSP. cornstarch
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 lb. striped bass fillets, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 tsp. lemon zest
1 cup half-and-half or whole milk
Chopped parsley

Combine onion, garlic, celery, potatoes, Old Bay and salt in a 4 quart slow cooker or soup pot.

In a bowl, stir, stir together cornstarch, broth and 1 1/2 cups water. Pour over vegetables.

Cover and cook until potatoes are tender, 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high for slow cooker or 1 1/2 hours at a simmer on the stove.

Adjust heat to high if using low heat on the slow cooker; stir in the fish, lemon zest and half-and-half. Cook until fish is cooked through, 20 minutes for slow cooker or 15 minutes at a simmer on the stove.

Sprinkle with parsley.

Serves 6.

Horseradish Crusted Striped Bass

1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 TBSP. horseradish
1 TBSP. bread crumbs
1/2 tsp. minced garlic
1 anchovy fillet (optional)
1 pinch pepper
4 rockfish fillets
Flour to coat

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Blend mayonnaise, horseradish, bread crumbs, garlic, anchovy and pepper in a food processor.

Dredge striped bass in flour, then coat with horseradish mixture. Bake for 9 to 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

Serves 4.

Microwave Flounder with Lemon-Herb Sauce

1 cup thin, julienne-sliced carrots
2 TBSP. water
1 lb. flounder fillets
2 julienne-sliced green onions
2 TBSP. butter, melted
1 TBSP. lemon juice
1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme or 1/4 tsp. dried thyme leaves, crushed
1/2 tsp. salt

Place carrots and water in a 1 quart microwave-safe casserole; cover.

Microwave on HIGH for 3 to 4 minutes or until carrots are crisp tender; drain.

Place fillets in a 2 quart microwave-safe baking dish. Arrange carrots and green onions over fish.

In small bowl, combine butter and lemon juice; drizzle over fish and vegetables.

Sprinkle with thyme.

Cover with plastic wrap and microwave on HIGH for 5 to 6 minutes, rotating dish 1/4 turn halfway through cooking. Sprinkle with salt.

Serves 4.

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Popeye's Flounder

- 4 flounder fillets
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 TBSP. flour
- 3 TBSP. canola oil
- 1 10 oz. bag frozen yellow corn
- 3 TBSP. lemon juice
- 1 10 oz. bag baby spinach
- 1/2 pint small cherry tomatoes

Season fillets with 1/2 tsp. of salt and dust with flour.

Heat oil in a large non-stick saute pan over high heat.

Add flounder; cook for 2-3 minutes until lightly browned, flip and cook for another 1-2 minutes.

Transfer to a baking sheet and place in a warm oven.

Stir in yellow corn, lemon juice and remaining salt and cook for 2 minutes.

Add spinach and continue cooking and stirring for 2 minutes until just wilted; then toss in the cherry tomatoes.

Divide evenly onto four plated and top with flounder.



Mike Kilakis of Millsboro, DE tossed a Storm lure into the Indian River Inlet and hooked into this 37-inch, 15 lb. 11 oz. striper. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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<p>32nd Annual Challenge Cup Captain's Meeting: September 16 Fishing Days: September 17 & 18 Fish 2 of 2 Days Awards: Saturday, September 18</p>		

Letter to the Editor

by Capt. Monty Hawkins



My friend Jimmy Jackson passed away in late April. A young man and among the best of men: I can not guess the depth of sorrow for those closest to him. I never knew a more talented nor gifted man; everything he worked on was made beautiful.



His family requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Ocean City Reef Foundation in his name.

In my darkest hour, Jimmy's knowledge of boats saved my business. I aim to see a great reef built in his honor.

When I was younger, working deck, I might only see 4 or 5 small boats reef fishing a year. Now I often see twice that many in a single day. The ocean is getting smaller & more crowded.

People who plainly see how well artificial reefs are working know that all it takes to make fish flourish is to build more reef.

Even though there were far fewer boats bottom fishing 30 some years ago, we would sometimes go to the African Queen and not be able to fish at all. We'd have to steam 7 more miles just because a dive boat or another fisher was already there.

Then it was just the site of a single shipwreck. Now it's a well built-out artificial reef site. Even if there were 10 boats there you could still easily get on the reef, the next boat as well.

Back then you could have fished every square inch of the

Great Eastern Reef for months and not catch a sea bass. Now, with its well, grown-in reef substrates, this huge artificial reef site produces fish for thousands upon thousands of visitors each year. And the Twin Wrecks, just a mile inshore, are far more productive now than they were before the reef was built East Southeast of them.

Some say reef building aggregates fish for easier catch. Nonsense. Creating more habitat can not concentrate fish. It has to thin them out. It must. Were aggregation the goal, fishers would remove reef so that fish have even fewer places to shelter and spawn.

Instead, and in just a short time period, reef building, increasing real reef habitat, makes fishing far better. Fish aggregations on artificial reef are no more unnatural than their gatherings on natural reef. It is where they feed, shelter, grow and spawn.

There can, however, be a wholly unnatural depletion of habitat in which fish flourish when given some slight improvement.

The mussels, corals, crab, shrimp, squid and fish of a mature artificial reef are no more artificial than cicada, ants, birds, raccoon, opossum and deer in a large farm tract left untilled for a decade.

The only reason any sea bass, tog or triggerfish are now caught at the Bass Grounds is because of artificial reef efforts going back to 1969. The Bass Grounds were once a super huge natural sea whip field, an area of soft corals so big it was fished by boats even before the Inlet was cut. The area so big that party boats would spend the entire season there after the scup were caught-up off Fenwick. The

Bass Grounds were so full of life that marlin fed there into the early 1960s & bluefish even longer. Then came the surfclamming boom and the habitat was almost completely lost, leaving enough natural reef there to equal a small wreck.

It took 6 years to permit that entire area for artificial reef. We now have 88 subway car reef units there. Surely the fish will thrive on these new reefs as they have on every thing else the Reef Foundation has sited and will site.

At the Jackspot in 2003 only one boat could fish. Now, thanks to the Susan Powers Reef, there's room for many.

At Russell's (Great Gull) - Kelly's (Little Gull) - Purnell's (just north of the inlet) no tog were ever caught, no triggers, no flounder, no sea bass, and certainly no spade fish. Today we have reefs there and catch fish there.

In every instance of reef construction I have seen fantastic fishing where there

was none. In every instance, I have seen fish spawn where none would have. In every instance soft and hard corals have grown where once there was only sand. In every instance the tiniest juvenile fish have sheltered and fed, then grown to spawn themselves.

In no instance has artificial reef drained away life from any nearby remnants of our natural reef. No, those reefs improve as well.

The fish do not know what we have done to the ocean in just the last century; theirs is a natural response when we make restorations.

Please make a donation to the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Reef Fund. The beauty and productivity of our mid-Atlantic corals will serve his memory well.

Note: Contributions to the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Reef Fund can be mailed to the Ocean City Reef Foundation, P.O. Box 1072, Ocean City, MD 21843.



Eric Grossman of Ocean City, MD made over a hundred casts off the North Jetty before he hooked this 34-inch, 11 lbs. 5 oz. striped bass on a Crippled Herring lure. Weighed at Talbot Street Tackle.



Bob Stewart from Essex, MD was fishing off the North Jetty when he hooked into this beautiful 36-inch striper. The fish was hooked on a bucktail and weighed an even 17 lbs. on the scale at Ake Marine in West Ocean City.



James Whitten traveled all the way down from Queens, NY to go fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. James was rewarded with this 27-inch, 14 lb. 7 oz. tautog that he caught using green crabs on an ocean wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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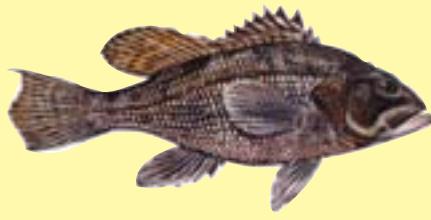
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BLUEFISH
8" minimum 10 per person/day



CROAKER
9" minimum 25 per person/day



TAUTOG
14" minimum
4/person/day till 5/15
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WEAKFISH
13" minimum 1 per person/day



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New Law Requires Children Under 13 to Wear a Personal Flotation Device

Governor Martin O'Malley signed a bill into law to strengthen protection of children on Maryland waterways. Under the new law, effective April 27, 2010, any child under the age of 13 is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) while aboard a vessel that is underway. The law will also require children under the age of 16 to possess a certificate of boating safety education before they can operate a vessel unless they are supervised by an adult or someone 18 or older who has a boating safety certificate, effective Oct. 1.

Formerly, any child under the age of seven had to wear a PFD on a recreational boat 21 feet or smaller, unless the boat is moored or anchored or the child is below deck in an enclosed cabin.

The State averages 12 boating related fatalities a year. In 2009, Maryland had 17 boating related fatalities; 16 of the victims were not wearing PFDs.

Raising the age requirement puts Maryland in line with federal regulations and 34 states, including Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Washington, DC. The federal regulations do not supersede the state, but the National Transportation Safety Board strongly encourages states to update their PFD requirements.

"USS Radford" Set for Summer Sinking on Artificial Reef

DNREC Secretary Collin P. O'Mara signed a transfer agreement accepting title to the retired destroyer USS "Arthur W. Radford", which will become the longest vessel ever reefed in the Atlantic Ocean when sunk later this year.

The 563-foot-long "Radford" is tentatively scheduled to go down in August onto the Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Reef site, located 26 miles southeast of the Indian River Inlet. The reef's name comes from the three states, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland, partnering with the U.S. Navy to enhance fisheries habitat and recreational diving opportunities by putting the

"Radford" on the ocean floor. The Navy also is sharing cost of reefing preparations, including transport of the ex-warship to its resting place in Delaware waters.

"Delaware is proud to be at the helm of a conservation project from which sportsmen and the environment alike can expect to derive great benefits," said Sec. O'Mara. "We believe our artificial reef program's renown will become an even bigger draw through the "Radford's" sinking, and of course, drawing fish for anglers and divers is why we're reefing the ship as marine habitat in the first place."

The "Radford" will be towed a short distance within the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where it's now berthed, to Pier 5, Dry Dock 2, to be cleaned and prepared for sinking. Cleanup will follow EPA best management practices for reefing vessels and will be undertaken by American Marine Group, a Virginia-based contractor that has reefed many vessels along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

The ex-destroyer, named for Navy admiral Arthur W. Radford who served as the commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Command and chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was commissioned in 1977 and decommissioned in 2003. Following final inspection and clearance in August, the "Radford" will be towed down the Delaware River and to sea over the reef site, where it will be positioned for several days while the hull is strategically sliced open to allow for a methodical sinking by flooding its compartments.

The collaborative Del-Jersey-Land Inshore Reef, which consists primarily of sunken retired ships and fishing boats, comprises an area of about one square mile with a depth of 120-130 feet.

"Having title really throttles up our anticipation for the sinking, because as we've said from the beginning, the "Radford" is an

exceptionally good reefing candidate," said Jeffrey Tinsman, manager of the Delaware Reef Program of DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife. "We are excited about adding this great vessel to a mid-Atlantic reef site that's accessible from ports in three states."

For more information, call Jeff Tinsman, Delaware Reef Program administrator, at (302) 739-4782.

ASMFC Votes to Increase Sea Bass Season

In a vote supported by all member states of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board, member states will now have the option to liberalize the 2010 black sea bass season in state waters by an additional 90 days. The proposed new season will run from May 22 through October 11, with an additional open period of November 1 through December 31. The proposal would keep the size and bag limit the same of 12-1/2 inches and 25 fish per angler.

The increase in fishing days became possible after the recent release of 2009 black sea bass landings. Projected 2009 landings had been mandating a 44% reduction in landings for 2010, but the updated data showed that only a 21% reduction was needed, allowing for the liberalization. For the new regulation to go into effect, individual states will have to implement the new proposal, but given the unanimous support of the states for the motion, implementation is expected.

White Marlin Open Brings In \$16,000,000

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White Marlin Open generated more than \$16 million in total economic impact in 2009, according to a study recently completed by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's Division of Marketing & Communications - Office of Research. The study evaluated expenditures by visitors during the 2009 White Marlin Open, measuring the total impact of those visits on statewide and local economies.

The study also showed that in addition to the \$16 million in total economic impact, salaries totaled \$4.9 million. Spending by White Marlin Open visitors created and supported 130 jobs in Maryland, with 70 of those jobs being directly related to visitor spending during the five day competition. More than \$745,000 in total tax revenue for the state and local governments was generated.

Figures released in the study represent both direct and secondary impacts. The study collected data on the event fees, accommodations, travel expenses, food and beverage and retail purchases to determine the total

economic impact. During the 2009 White Marlin Open visitors generated total spending of \$2.2 million per day over a 7 day period.

Based on attendance data provided by the tournament organizers, DBED estimates the White Marlin Open draws more than 5,000 visitors from outside the state during the five day competition. Tournament organizers estimate that 75 percent of participants are from outside Maryland. Each year more than 300 boats and 3,000 anglers compete for greater than \$2 million in prizes. The tournament attracts thousands of fishing enthusiasts, families and curiosity seekers who watch the nightly weigh-ins, hoping to catch a glimpse of a million dollar marlin.

"The economic impact of this event generates tremendous benefits for the State and provides significant revenue and jobs to our economy as well. We are ecstatic to continue the tradition and host this year's 37th annual White Marlin Open on August 2-6, 2010 in Ocean City" said Jim Motsko, President of the White Marlin Open.



During an early March trip aboard the "Morning Star", Tom Lane caught himself a nice size tog while Capt. Monty Hawkins boated a delicious, 30-inch cod while using clams for bait. The interesting thing about Capt. Monty's catch was the variety of content in the fish's stomach. The cod had recently eaten a herring, mackerel, a sea horse, a sea mouse and a crab.

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Species	2010	2009	Species	2010	2009
 Sea Bass	April 18, 2010 George Henning "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 26, 2009 Dean Lo "Arno" Wilmington Canyon	 Mako Shark	NONE REPORTED	May 22, 2009 Jim Hughes "Nontypical" Baltimore Canyon
 Tautog	January 7, 2010 John Smith "Morning Star" Offshore Wreck	January 4, 2009 Billy Collins "Ocean Princess" Offshore Wreck	 White Marlin	NONE REPORTED	June 10, 2009 Terry Layton "Nontypical" Poor Man's Canyon
 Striped Bass	January 1, 2010 Max Thumma "Hard Times" Little Gull	January 3, 2009 Baron Daiker "Baron Sea" Little Gull	 Blue Marlin	NONE REPORTED	June 10, 2009 Jake Burger "Marlin Magic" Poor Man's Canyon
 Weakfish	April 16, 2010 Tim Thorpe Assateague Surf	May 13, 2009 Rich Bell Sinepuxent Bay	 Bluefin Tuna	NONE REPORTED	May 23, 2009 Butch Bradshaw "DILLIGAF" Baltimore Canyon
 Flounder	April 5, 2010 Paul Turner Thorofare	April 18, 2009 Bo Smeltzer "Gotta Jones" Verrazano Bridge	 Yellowfin Tuna	NONE REPORTED	June 8, 2009 Kelly Horning "Fish Whistle" Poor Man's Canyon
 Bluefish	April 17, 2010 Dana Zapcic "Get Sum" Sinepuxent Bay	May 13, 2009 Henry Busby Bethany Surf	 Longfin Tuna	NONE REPORTED	August 4, 2009 Don Klein "Gun Dawg" Wilmington Canyon
 Black Drum	May 2, 2010 Lucas May "Jam-Man" Coral Beds	April 25, 2009 Chris Tenbusch Assateague Surf	 Bigeye Tuna	NONE REPORTED	June 19, 2009 Michael Branson "Reel Compromise" Washington Canyon
 Sheepshead	NONE REPORTED	May 23, 2009 Tassos Argyros Ocean Wreck	 Dolphin	NONE REPORTED	May 21, 2009 Chuck Dammann "Restless Lady" Poor Man's Canyon
 Thresher Shark	NONE REPORTED	May 25, 2009 Ron Sckenk "On Delivery" Lightship	 Wahoo	NONE REPORTED	July 18, 2009 Keith Wolf "Gerri Lynn" Hambone

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



Larry Katz tagged and released this 25.5-inch female tautog while fishing at an artificial reef aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani.



Stripers hit the beach at Cape Henlopen on May 1st and these surfcasters got on the bite while using fresh bunker and clams. Curt Stephens caught a 19.7 pounder, Drew Stuchlik beached a pair of 38-inches and Charles Fouraker landed a 22.1 lb. citation bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Capt. Wade Lober



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42' Hatteras
Capt. Anthony Thomas



Fish Bonz
42' Ocean
Capt. Mark Radcliffe



Ranger
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Capt. Mike Conner



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BLACK BART



Tackle Shop

by Larry Jock



One day I was walking around the boatyard and noticed a few guys furiously scrubbing on the props of their boat. It reminded me of an article I wrote in this column two years ago



which the Mad Scrubbers obviously hadn't read because they would have saved themselves a load of time and trouble by using a product I reviewed called Acid Magic.

This product really lives up to its claims when it comes to removing barnacles and scale from props and other boat surfaces. You literally pour some Acid Magic on a rag and wipe the prop clean, restoring it to its original, shiny appearance.

The product is safe to handle. No gloves or special precautions are needed. The company considers it a "muriatic acid replacement that is safer to ship, store and handle. It offers the cleaning and pH reduction of powerful acids while providing increased safety and usability."

The company claims that Acid Magic will effectively clean algae, barnacles and scale from boat hulls. You can even use it in raw water coolant systems as a flush to remove build-up.

If you have ever spent time trying to scrub scale off of a prop, you know what a pain in the neck it is. This product is worth every penny, and is a mainstay in my dock box every year.

You know how sometimes you don't realize how important something is until you don't have it anymore? Well, that's what happened to me when I

had to send my RipCurl tide watch back to the company to get a new module put it.



I purchased my RipCurl Oceantide watch (left) about 6 years ago and I can't tell you how many times it came in handy when I was wondering what state the current tide was at or when the next high/low tide was going to occur. It really comes in handy, and I don't think too many fishermen really think about purchasing one. It is easy to program and some watches even allow you to track the tide for multiple locations.

The RipCurl Oceantide watch is made of stainless steel and comes with a rubber wrist band, date and time, a pre-programmed moon phases, dual time, countdown timer, stop watch and an alarm.

The RipCurl Oceantide

retails for \$110.00.

If you are looking for a fancier looking tide watch, Park Place Jewelers in Ocean City is selling a tide watch manufactured by Reactor Watches called the Graviton (right). This is a good looking watch and features stainless steel construction, tide information for 275 worldwide locations, dual alarm and chronograph and multiple countdown timers. Ocean City is not included in their 275 worldwide locations, but you can easily create the location yourself.

The cool feature about this watch, besides the tide function, is that with a push of a button, you can eliminate the digital readouts and be left with an analog look.

The Graviton comes in 4 models with two featuring black rubber wristbands and the other two having stainless steel wristbands.

The watch retails for between \$300 and \$350 depending on which model you choose.

If you don't have a tidewatch, give one a try. You'll wonder how you lived without it.

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Dave McKay of West Ocean City, MD was tossing a bucktail tipped with a white curly tail around the Rt. 50 Bridge when he hooked into this 29-inch striper. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Tom Walker of Leesburg, VA, Larry Albright from York, PA and Moon Mullen of Glen Burnie, MD had a good day fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate George Lenz, bringing back 3 keeper flounder from the bay behind Assateague Island. Moon's flattie was the largest of the day, coming in at 21.75-inches, and was caught on a squid and minnow combination. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Debbie Roach of Wilmington, DE is all smiles after landing this 22.5-inch flounder in the Indian River Inlet. The flattie was hooked on a white bucktail tipped with a minnow and weighed an even 4 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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 A yellow fishing boat with a white cabin is on the water. The boat has "BAY BEE" written on its side. Several people are visible on the deck of the boat.

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Atlantic Coast

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Tuna:			Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb.
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs.	Striped Bass	40"	20 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs.	Sailfish *	any size	-
Bigeye ***	60"	75 lbs.	Seabass	20"	3 lbs.
Bluefin ***	60"	75 lbs.	Shark:		
Yellowfin ***	50"	75 lbs.	Blue Shark *	any size	100 lbs.
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Hammerhead *	any size	100 lbs.
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs.	Mako *	any size	100 lbs.
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	any size	100 lbs.
Croaker	18"	3 lbs.	Tiger *	any size	100 lbs.
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs.	Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs.	Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs.
Red Drum *	any size	-	Spot	12"	-
Flounder	24"	7 lbs.	Speckled Trout	24"	-
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs.	Swordfish *	any size	any size
Blue Marlin **	any size	any size	Tautog	24"	7 lbs.
White Marlin **	any size	any size	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs.
			Weakfish	24"	9 lbs.

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

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

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Delaware Fishing Report

by Rick Willman



Hi folks. Did you ever try "kite fishing" for flounder or stripers? It may be something we want to try if these winds don't stop. It certainly has put a damper on the fishing action.

The flounder in the back bays have started to spread out and will soon be found in the usual summertime spots. The area around Burton's Island and the holes off Gull Point are starting to hold fish. A few bluefish are beginning to move in and stripers are also beginning to travel.

Eric at Rattle & Reel Sports Center on Long Neck Road tells us that flounder are still being caught in the VFW Slough of the Indian River and stripers have been hooked in Rehoboth Bay on fresh bunker.

At Henlopen Bait & Tackle



Anglers have pulled some fantastic stripers out of the Indian River Inlet this spring as shown by the 43-incher caught by Jamie Wells of Ocean View, DE. The 30 lb. 10 oz. morone saxatilis was hooked on a Storm lure and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

on Savannah Road in Lewes, Denise reported a 10.20 pound tautog caught at the Wall by Debra Snedley of Milton, DE. She also reported stripers at Herring Point and a mix of blues and flounder from the pier at Cape Henlopen State Park.

From Hook'em & Cook'em Bait & Tackle in the Indian River Marina, Mrs. Bert

(Deanna) reported that rockfish have still been hitting in the Indian River Inlet, but have admittedly slowed down some now that the water temperature is on the rise. You will probably see more smaller ones being brought in than larger ones now. With that said, Bill Winkler of Frankford, brought in a 42.9 pounder that he caught while

fishing in the Inlet using a live hickory shad. For fishing the Inlet, Storm lures and flies are the tackle that most are choosing, but if you are able to catch bunker, herring or even a shad (and keep them alive) you can use them to land a nice keeper as well.

Rockfish are still in the surf, but word has it that the blues are starting to show up as well. Most surfcasters are still using fresh bunker. Remember, the key to using bunker is to cut the head off about a 1/2" back from the gill. Use the remainder of the fish as chunks for the bluefish. The tautog bite has slowed a bit in the Inlet. Marcus Munday of Felton, DE brought a 6.6 lb. fish in on Thursday. He beat his father fishing, but we won't rub it in.

Flounder are still being caught in the back bays. Debbie Roach of Wilmington DE brought in a 4 lb. flounder on Sunday. She was fishing with her family (the only girl and the only one to catch a fish on a pink rod) in the inlet. She was using a minnow on a bucktail. The bait and tackle of choice has now changed to minnows and squid on a variety of things from plain bottom hooks to bucktails to green machines. I guess the fish are hungry and not too picky about color.

Drum fishing is starting up in the Delaware Bay on the Coral Beds. A young man named Lucas May caught an 85 pounder. The fish looked to be as big if not bigger than the angler. Use whole surf clams for those monster black drum.

Offshore fishing has not started yet, and we can't wait to see the first yellowfin hit the table. I have not heard of any bluefins being fished for out in the ocean. Let's hope that they will fill the void when tautog fishing closes and we wait for the sea bass season to open.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said wind-hampered anglers during the last few days of the spring tog

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Include in the email:

- Angler's name
- Town
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait or lure used
- Location of catch

Please send the photo file at full size. Do not compress it and do not run it through any photo software.

season, which closed on May 12th. However, when conditions were better, boaters found blackfish cooperative along the rocks of the Inner and Outer Walls and at the Ice Breakers. The Star Site and Brown Shoal artificial reefs gave up tog also. Robert Adams got a 9.2 pounder while togging at the Outer Wall. Jo Hershey hooked her 9.19-pound citation winner at the Wall aboard the "Miss Kirstin". Kevin Knotts captured a pair of citation tog weighing 7.7 and 7.5 pounds at the Breakers. Rick Shoemaker checked in a 7.6 pound tog, and Brian Staller stuck one 7.38 pounds. Tog season reopens on July 1st.

Striped bass made an appearance along the Outer Wall. Anglers reported success while drifting and casting artificials to the rocks during moving current. Favored hard baits included Bomber, Rapala, MirrOLure and Stretch 12+ plugs. Soft plastics such as Storm shads, Bass Assassin Sea Shads, Gulp! 6-inch grubs and jerk shads also worked well.

Black drum were caught along the edges of Broadkill Slough, in the Coral Beds and on the submerged piles off Slaughter Beach, but the big bite has yet to materialize. Drum action should pick up around the approaching new moon.

Joe mentioned that the shop will have fresh surf clams for the next few weeks, but suggests calling ahead to reserve bait for your trip.

Flounder fishing was good in the Lewes Canal. Most flatties were short of the 18½-inch minimum, but flukers culled enough keepers to make it worthwhile. Jigs tipped with minnows, shiners, smelt or bunker strips were effective. Gulp! Swimming Mullet in pearl white, chartreuse or pink were also popular offerings.

The Annual Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament will be held Friday, May 21. Fishing is to be

done by boat and is confined to the Lewes Canal, Broadkill River and Roosevelt Inlet from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on that day. Entry fee is \$25 per angler, \$5 of which is donated to the Camp Awareness Youth Fishing Programs. Contestants must sign up and pay cash at Lewes Harbour Marina before May 21. Cash prizes will be awarded for the six heaviest flounder caught and weighed in by properly registered anglers during fishing time that day. Entry monies go into a pool, and the value of the prizes will be determined by the number of fishermen. The more anglers, the bigger the prizes! Call 302-645-6227 for further details.

As I said earlier, we hear that the flounder are starting to spread out and are being found in the usual spots. Wally Jackson fished in the Rehoboth Bay and caught a 22-inch flattie. Steve Bishop fished from the pier at Massey's Ditch and landed a 5 lb. 14 oz. flounder. Amanda Williams of Millsboro, DE took a 23 lb. 2 oz. striper from the Indian River Inlet. Jim Musumeci took his boat, "Renegade" to Site #10 and caught an 8 lb. 15 oz tog. On the same trip, Dalice Cordy boated a 7 lb. 12 oz. tog and Richard Cordy gave them all a schooling with his 9 lb. tog.

On a final note, in an effort to raise money for the family of fellow fisherman Joel Thompson who was lost in the Indian River Inlet, local bait & tackle shops have banded together to collect funds for the family in this trying time. All contributions are greatly appreciated and you should find a container at Bill's Sport Shop, Rick's Bait & Tackle, Old Inlet, Henlopen Bait & Tackle, Ole Salt, Lewes Harbour Marina, Rattle & Reel and A & R Bait & Tackle.

'Til next week, have fun and be safe!

Rick and his wife Deb are owners of Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Clay Harrison took the trip down from Pennsylvania and landed these two flounder while fishing with shiners in the Indian River Inlet. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.



Amanda Williams of Millsboro, DE used herring to fool this 22 lb. 5 oz. striper while fishing in the Indian River Inlet. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



DELAWARE REGULATIONS

(State Waters Only)



BLACK DRUM
16" 3 per person/day



BLACK SEA BASS
Season closed until May 22nd



BLUEFISH
No minimum size
10 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
18 1/2" minimum 4 per person/day
January 1st to October 12th



TAUTOG
Closed until 7/1
14" 10 per person/day 7/1 to 8/31



BLUE CRAB
5" minimum 1 bushel/person



RED DRUM
20" - 27" 5 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum No creel limit



STRIPED BASS
28" minimum 2 per person/day



CROAKER
8" minimum No creel limit



WEAKFISH
13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Video Tours of Boats and Interviews with Captains





Matt Farr of Ocean City, MD is digging life after hooking this striper while fishing in the Delaware River near Trenton, NJ. The fish was caught while tossing herring into a rock formed eddy.



Ralph Plummer from Greenwood, DE caught this 9 lb. 8 oz. tautog while using green crab at a Delaware Bay reef site. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



Big stripers moved into the Ocean City bays over the last few weeks and Lenny Potenzo of Selbyville, DE caught himself two linesiders measuring 39-inches and 42-inches. The fish were caught on 6-inch Tsunami Blue Back Swim Shads off the beach at Gudelsky Park in West Ocean City. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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2010 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2010

Heaviest Fish of the Year

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 Sea Bass	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	 Mako Shark	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Tautog	February 2, 2010 Frank Graziano "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 10 oz.	April 27, 2010 Brian Osborne "Karen Sue" 10 lbs. 2 oz.	 Thresher Shark	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Striped Bass	April 23, 2010 Tom Walker Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 4 oz.	NEW May 7, 2010 Bill Winkler Indian River Inlet 42 lbs. 15 oz.	 Cobia	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Weakfish	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	 Bluefin Tuna	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Speckled Trout	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	 Yellowfin Tuna	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Flounder	April 24, 2010 David Trout Sinepuxent Bay 7 lbs. 1 oz.	April 15, 2010 Brian Wirts VFW Slough 11 lbs. 5 oz.	 Longfin Tuna	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Bluefish	April 23, 2010 Capt. Skip Maguire Rt. 50 Bridge 8 lbs.	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	 Bigeye Tuna	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Sheepshead	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	 Dolphin	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
 Black Drum	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	May 2, 2010 Lucas May Coral Beds 85 lbs. 8 oz.	 Wahoo	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED

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

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Mike Hastings of Ocean City, MD caught these two stripers while fishing off Assateague Island at the end of April. The fish were caught using bunker for bait. Photo courtesy of Allen Sklar.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



Just like most local anglers, each week when the latest issue of the *Coastal Fisherman* hits the streets, at first opportunity I grab a copy and start reviewing the pages. But probably unlike most folks I'm not interested in checking out the pictures of big fish or reading the columns - that'll all come later. The goal of my first peruse is to check out the ads from other charter boats and guides to see what the other guys are up to. As with every business - it's important to know what others are doing even if they aren't direct competitors. Seeing who's promoting "what" and "how" provides a snapshot of our local charter industry and helps me to better understand where my own business is positioned within it.

During this early part of the season what really catches my eye is what captains are running what boats and what boats are at what marinas. Each winter there's always a little reshuffling of the deck as captains come and go, boats are sold or replaced, new guys get their captain's license and get into the business while others retire. And last week, while doing my homework, I was struck by how few charter boats were listed in the ads of some of the local marinas. Going through some back issues of the paper I came to

realize that over the past three years the number of boats listed in the charter fleets of the larger marinas is down by about 40%. As evidenced by the number of boats tied up to the docks rather than out fishing each day it's been obvious for the last few years that a lot of captains have been struggling for charters, but to think that the fleet may have dropped by almost half is a sobering testimony to the state of things.

I've heard from a number of captains who claim that since they're not getting the bookings they need they can't justify paying the high slip fees here in Ocean City and, therefore, they'll be keeping their boats in places like Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, or on the Chesapeake Bay this season. Other boats will still be here but not running charters because the owners figure they won't recover the additional advertising, insurance, licensing, maintenance and other expenses they'd have to pay to keep their boat in service. Like any other business, you can only lose money for so long before you've got to pull the plug and move on.

Certainly a lot of the trouble in the charter industry can be blamed on the economy. For most, recreational fishing is a

"luxury" and during times like this, when so many families are forced to tighten their belts, it can be tough to justify paying the expense of a charter fishing trip. Compounding the problem is the high price of fuel which is a major factor in determining how charter prices are set. Captains know that if they could charge less for their trips they'd get more business but they have to take into account the price of the fuel they burn, and that price just went up "again" last week!

But the economy and the price of fuel aren't the only villains working against the charter industry these days, Mother Nature has had her hand in it too. For the last couple of decades the tuna fishery has been the driving force behind our local charter industry. Tuna are still available to local anglers but not in the "crazy jumping-in-the-boat" kind of quantities they were in the 90's and early 2000's which, by the way, was a time when "everybody" seemed to be getting into the charter business and the fleet grew tremendously. Now, as catches have fallen to more realistic levels it seems the mad dash to book a boat and catch a freezer full of fish in a single trip is over. There are no longer days during the summer when the demand for charters outnumbers the supply of boats. Like everything else these days it's become a buyers market.

This is not to say that the charter industry isn't totally guilt-free from playing a hand in it's own troubled times. During the "good times" a lot of boat owners elected to trade their 28 to 40-some foot vessels for much larger, fancier, and certainly faster rigs that would get them out and back in style and in plenty of time to make "Happy Hour" at the end of the day. Of course the downside of a big boat is the baggage of a big mortgage, big maintenance bills, and big fuel consumption which all translates to big charter prices. But still, it all seemed to work until the economy dove, fuel

prices soared, and the fishing moderated, which brings us to "now" when a lot of guys in this industry are realizing what the term "overcapitalization" means.

Naturally, with less charter boats in town those who are still active will have less competition for bookings. But I don't think that's going to mean that those of us who are still here will just be able to keep on doing business as usual. Remember, it's a buyers market so prospective clients will likely be a lot more discretionary in who they turn their hard-earned cash over to. I think the days are over when just anyone with a boat, a captain's license and a website will have folks lining up to go fishing with them. Now, more than ever, it's going to be the courteous, professional crews, on clean, safe boats, that charge reasonable prices that get the bookings. The days of Easy Street are over.

Some of this will be good for the industry because it will help weed out the rip-rap and fly-by-nighters. Unfortunately there has already been collateral damage to some upstanding captains who for years have been credits to the fleet but for reasons beyond their control are now forced to look for other lines of work - that's not good. The industry will get through this because it has certainly seen hard times before. The good news is that no matter how bad it gets, people who have the desire to go fishing will find a way to go; the question is whether or not they'll be able to afford to do it aboard a charter boat. In the meantime I'd suggest that anyone who has definite plans to book a charter this summer to go ahead and make the reservation now instead of waiting until the last minute. You'll have more dates to choose from and the booking might really be a moral boost for your captain.

Captain Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and Captain of the charter boat "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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May 22nd - 25% off all Softpart plastics *Trigger X, Excite-A-Bite, Calcutta, Berkley Gulp & more*

May 29th - 25% off Rods & Reels - select models only - some exclusions apply

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Libby Kelly from Oyster Bay Tackle caught this gag grouper while fishing with Capt. Tom Wammack and Jerry Perzyk. Libby caught and released the fish on a reef out of Duck Key back in February.



Back in March, Stuart Mumford of Bishopville, MD caught this 32-inch striper on cut bunker at the Fenwick Ditch. The fish weighed in at 10 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Oyster Bay Tackle.

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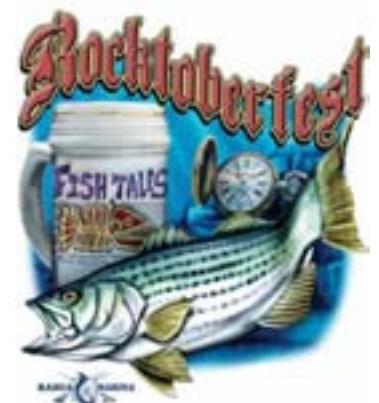


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Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



YOUR FIRST TRIP OUT ON THE WATER - ARE YOU REALLY READY?

Imagine it's a nice weekend. The sun is out. It's warm and there's a light breeze blowing. You decide to venture out in your boat for the first time since last summer. You've got the fishing rods and bait, the life jackets, and the snacks. You've fueled up the engines and you're ready to roll. What??? You haven't checked your electronic equipment?

Okay, so I know you're saying, "But it was working when I used it the last time and it's just been sitting there over the winter. What could be wrong?" The first time you apply current to an item of electronics that has been sitting over the winter, it is most vulnerable. So you should turn

all your equipment on and run it for several hours at the dock or at your home to see if it works and if it stays working.

There are a few things you should always do before you go out for your first real day on the water. Check your basic electrical wiring for any signs of corrosion. This includes any fuse panels, terminal blocks and connections to your battery. You would be surprised at the small amount of corrosion that is needed to affect the proper operation of your equipment. There are several types of anti-corrosion chemicals on the market that you can use to spray on your connections and it's a good thing to do on a regular basis. Gently tug at connections to make certain they are still secure and tight. A loose connection will have the same effect as corrosion when it

comes to delivering current. If you find a loose connection, you can usually tighten it with ordinary hand tools. Once tightened, it's a good idea to spray it lightly with some anti-corrosion mix.

Equally as important is your transducer. Check it carefully before you go in the water. Look for any marine growth and, if you find it, remove the bulk of it. Then lightly sandpaper the face of the transducer. Do not chip away at it with a sharp object like a knife or screwdriver. Once you have cleaned the surface, you may paint it with special transducer paint. Do not paint it with regular boat anti-fouling hull paint as that often contains metal that will ruin the operational effectiveness of the transducer.

If your fishfinder displays speed and temperature, there will also be a paddlewheel assembly affixed to the transducer. Make certain you can spin the wheel freely and look for the speed to change on the display. If you tap lightly on the bottom of the transducer, you will normally see some indication on the display. It will be small and it will only flash for a second so you have to be quick. Often you can feel and/or hear a buzzing or clicking sound that indicates your transducer is "firing" as it should. You may still have to wait until the boat is in the water to determine if it is still reading depth correctly. If your transducer is transom mounted, look closely and you will usually find a small metal "dot" about the size of the head of a

pencil's eraser. If you locate it, place your finger on the dot and look for the temperature on the display to change.

Check your GPS unit and look for two things. First, make sure the unit is picking up signals and is reading the correct position. Once you have that resolved, check to see that your waypoints are still stored. If you have one of the new cartography plotter units, check with your dealer or the manufacturer of the chart to see if there have been any changes in the chart. If so, it may need upgrading. Most manufacturers offer an update service. If you register with them, they will let you know whenever there have been changes or if new charts have become available.

Your communication device is arguably the most important item of marine electronics on your boat so don't short change it. Make a test call to check both your transmit and receive capabilities. Take a good look at your antennas. Has the fiberglass started to fray? That won't actually impair your operational capabilities but you will get nasty fiberglass splinters in your hands if you grab the antenna. A new antenna is a relatively inexpensive item and may be a good thing to replace.

Taking the time in advance to do these few things can really pay off in a successful and uneventful first day of boating.

Pat Schrawder and her husband, Larry are owners of L&L Marine Electronics in West Ocean City, MD.

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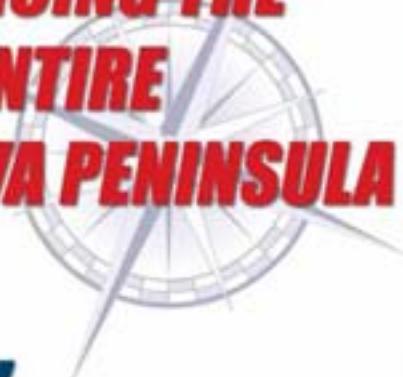
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Ashley Beardsley from Long Neck, DE was fishing in the Nanticoke River when she landed this 34-inch striped bass. Ashley was fishing on the "Reel LoKey" with Dean Lokey and caught the fish using bloodworms on light tackle.



Carl Devor, Lindsay Whetzel (top) and Teresa Eder (bottom) were fishing in the Chesapeake Bay aboard the "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and Mate Mark Hoos, Jr. when Teresa boated this 44-inch striped bass. All of the fish were caught while trolling umbrella rigs and tandem bucktails off Calvert Cliffs. The "Marli" charters out of Sunset Marina in the summer and spends each spring chartering striper trips out of Solomon's Island.

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Local anglers Tom Hart, Frank Watkins, Budd Heim and John McFalls caught these striped bass while fishing on the "Finally" in the Chesapeake Bay. The fish were caught on trolled tandem rigs and measured 32, 36, 39 and 40-inches. The crew launched out of Deal Island, MD and caught the majority of fish near Marker 72A.



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VA / NC Fishing Report

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
"The Saltwater Review"

Overview

The drum have arrived! Large black and red drum were reported from several locations this week, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel and the surf on the islands of the Eastern Shore from Fisherman's Island to the Assateague Beaches. Flounder action is hot out of Wachapreague and other seaside areas of the Eastern Shore. Croaker have arrived in the upper bay, and a few trophy striped bass have been picked up around the area as well.

Chincoteague

Donna, at Captain Bob's, reports that fishing is doing really well around Chincoteague, despite the blustery weather. Flounder are doing especially well, with anglers catching their limits in the Queen's Sound (on the North side of the bridge) and at

the Four Mouths near Markers 5 and 6. They have also been biting in the Assateague Channel, but the throwback ratio is higher in that area. Flounder have also been caught in front of Captain Bob's and Daisy's Dockside. Nice black drum were caught in Queen's Sound on squid and from the surf at Assateague Beach. Nice striped bass, 34 to 42 inches, were hooked from the surf at Assateague as well.

Wachapreague

Great flounder fishing was reported from the Wachapreague Marina this week. Anglers leaving Wachapreague are returning with limits of keeper flounder, and the largest fish this week was 26.5 inches. The hot spots have been in Drawing and Green Channels.

Staff at Captain Zed's agrees that the flounder fishing has been excellent. Anglers are catching a lot of fish, with a throwback ratio of 1 keeper for every 10 undersized fish. Bulls Head is producing, as well as Green and Drawing Channels and Seal Creek. Anglers are also catching black drum in the surf off of Paramore Island. The largest so far has been 77

pounds.

Cape Charles

Staff at Chris' Bait and Tackle reported red and black drum being hooked out of the surf on the Eastern Shore. Flounder are biting well on the seaside (near Oyster), and a trophy striped bass was caught at the High Rise of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel weighing over 40 pounds.

Lower Bay/Bridge Tunnel

Anglers are still catching flounder at the mouth of Back River, according to staff at Wallace's Bait and Tackle. There are a number of keepers reported from that area.

Staff at the York River Fishing Center report that croaker are running in their area. They have been caught throughout the area and at the Gloucester Point Pier.

Ken Neill, of the Peninsula Anglers Club and IGFA representative, contributed the following:

Bull reds are being pulled from the surf line along Fisherman's and Smith Island. Small to medium sized black drum are being caught in the same area and inside some of the seaside inlets.

Flounder have been hit and miss lately but enough fish are around to keep anglers fishing. The bite has been good in the Eastern Shore seaside inlets.

Croaker are biting in the rivers from the James to the Rappahannock with the occasional fish pushing the 3-pound mark. A few citation-sized speckled trout have been caught in the Mobjack Bay area. May 1 was the start of the two-week trophy striped bass season. You are allowed to keep one rockfish, at least 32 inches long, per person per day. Some nice fish are being caught at the CBBT around the rock islands and some larger rockfish have been encountered in the area of Fisherman's and Smith Islands. Small bluefish are throughout

the lower bay.

Tuna fishing continues to be very good out of Oregon Inlet. This past week, boats from Virginia got in on the action by running to the Triple 0s area.

Virginia Beach

Staff at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center reports catches of flounder, speckled trout, and puppy drum (juvenile red drum) in the inlet, and small bluefish from the beaches. At the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, anglers have seen good black and red drum fishing with a few trophy striped bass reported as well. Several flounder and speckled trout citations were reported this week.

Outer Banks, NC

Offshore fishing out of Nags head saw improved bluefish tuna landings compared to the last few weeks.

Yellowfin, bigeye and blackfin tuna catches were also reported. Other species chasing after trolled baits included dolphin and wahoo.

Deep bottom droppers were catching blueline tilefish, amberjack, and vermilion snapper.

Closer to shore, bottom fishing around the artificial reefs produced sheepshead, black drum and triggerfish. Pier and surf fishermen saw good numbers of bluefish, sea mullet, croaker and puffers.

In the sounds, seatrout and flounder were the mainstays. Look for the trout around the bridges and flounder in the shallows around some of the small islands.

South of Oregon Inlet, the drum fishing was still slow last week. Bluefish could be caught on metal and cut bait on the north beaches. Sea mullet, puffers, and some black drum were biting around Ramps 43 and 44.

Offshore fishing out of Hatteras Inlet produced good catches of king mackerel and yellowfin tuna when the wind allowed. Bottom fishing was good as well with black drum and tilefish. Inside the sound bluefish and puppy drum (juvenile red drum) were being caught.



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Ronnie Holloway, Sammie Ogle and Adam Grant caught these three stripers while trolling in the Chesapeake Bay on the MD/VA line around Buoy 64. The guys were fishing with Capt. Larry Tawes on the "Tina Louise".



Shelby and Josh Mackay from Ocean Pines, MD each caught their first sailfish while fishing on New Years Eve in Islamorada, FL aboard the "Fortune Cookie" with Capt. Dan Cook and Mate Nick Ewald (pictured).



Joe Walker of Boothwyn, PA was visiting Joe and Amanda Morris in the Keys this past winter when he hooked into this amberjack while bottomfishing at the Wilkes Barre Wreck south of the American Shoal. David released the fish after hooking it on a 4oz. Spro bucktail.

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16" minimum 1 per person/day



BLACK SEA BASS
12.5" minimum 25 per person/day
5/22 to 8/8 and 9/4 to 10/4



BLUEFISH
No minimum size 10 per person



CROAKER
No minimum size No creel limit



TAUTOG
Season closed 5/1 to 6/24



COBIA
37" minimum 1 per person/day



RED DRUM
18" - 26" 3 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
32" minimum 1 per person/day
5/1 to 5/15



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum 10 per person/day



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WEAKFISH
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On April 1st, Ed Balcerzak of Ocean City, MD was trolling 2.5 miles off the coast near 70th Street when he hooked this 39-inch striper on a deep trolled lure.



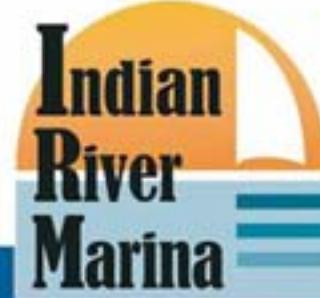
On the opening day of striper season on the Chesapeake Bay, Ken Hines, a familiar face in local tournaments, caught this 45.5-inch striper while fishing on the "Eversman V" with Capt. Ron Eversman. The fish weighed 36 lbs. and was caught in 65 feet of water near "CP" Buoy on a chartreuse umbrella rig.

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52.55 lb. Rockfish Wins M.S.S.A. Championship

The 27th Annual Championship on the Chesapeake, the country's largest rockfish tournament, concluded On May 4th with 580 boats and approximately 4,000 anglers participating in this year's event. The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA), the largest sport fishing group in the state, hosted this event.

For three days, starting on April 30, anglers from all over the East Coast put their skills to the test as they experienced world class fishing on the Chesapeake Bay and competed for some significant cash prizes and the title of Champion.

This year's champion in the amateur division is Kevin Howell of Edgewater, Maryland (pictured on right). Howell weighed in a 52.55 pound rockfish at the Rod N' Reel docks in Chesapeake Beach just after noon on Friday. Howell said he caught it just south of the CR buoy in 55 feet of water using a 9-inch white shad off his planer board. Howell's catch secured him first place in the overall tournament and first in three of the additional skill levels bringing his total earnings to \$21,750.

Second place went to Steve Smith of Hanover, PA who weighed in a 41.9 pound fish at Chesapeake Beach. Smith said he caught his fish near buoy 78 using a tandem rig with a 9-inch shad. Smith is the big money winner this year as he entered all of the additional skill levels and will win \$63,022.

Third place went to Jeff Schmitt of Baltimore for catching a 40.05 pound rockfish on the first day of the tournament. Because Schmitt entered additional skill levels he will be walking away with over \$12,000.

Additionally James Lutz, also from Baltimore, will be taking home a considerable amount of money for his 39 pound fish. Lutz entered in several of the skill levels and for that he will cash in for \$21,750.

Dave Smith, Executive Director of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association (MSSA) said they

have increased the prizes in the Kid's division as well as the Catch and Release division. The top fifteen kids will receive fishing gear and merchandise as well as certificates congratulating them on their catch.

"If we don't get our youth involved in fishing and the outdoors our sport will be in serious trouble and fishing tournaments provide that opportunity to get kids involved", Smith said.

The Catch and Release division was popular this year as anglers turned in their catch logs for a chance at some new fishing gear. The winner, Sam Fisher Jr, who has won this portion of the tournament before, will receive \$800 in fishing gear and merchandise from local tackle shops. Second through fifth place will also receive fishing gear for their efforts.

This year's Champion in the Professional and Charter Boat division went to Captain Ed O'Brien. Capt. O'Brien runs a charter boat, "Semper Fidelis III", out of Chesapeake Beach, Maryland. Captain O'Brien weighed in a 35 pound rockfish taking home nearly \$10,000.

Second place went to Capt. James Gray who brought in a 34.6 pound fish, earning him over \$10,000 as he entered several skill levels. Third place went to Capt. White who entered a 32.7 pound rockfish. But this year's big winner went to Capt. Sweitzer who secured fifth place overall and placed in several of the skill levels. Fortunately he entered the \$500 skill level which paid out \$9,000. In total Capt. Sweitzer took home \$12,972.

All awards and cash will be given out at the awards ceremony on Thursday, May 13 at the Columbian Center in Severna Park starting at 7:00 PM. All tournament anglers are invited as there are still prizes to be given out as "last chance awards" and door prizes. The big winners will receive checks and the Champion will receive the coveted Championship on the Chesapeake trophy.



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Some big stripers were caught in the Chesapeake Bay this spring by local anglers, as shown by the 28 pounder caught by Charles Sitskorn of West Ocean City, MD. Charles was fishing on the "Lady Katy" and caught the big linesider while trolling near Deal Island.

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It looks like Joe and Amanda Morris brought the "Lewes Harbour Stretch" down to the Keys with them this past winter. Here, the duo are pictured with some nice size mutton snappers. The fish were caught on pieces of ballyhoo on a size #2 circle hook tied to a 12 lb. spinning outfit. Joe and Amanda also caught wahoo, yellowtails, king mackerel, bonitos, jack crevelle, and grouper during their trip south. If you want to learn all about the "Lewes Harbour Stretch" and how it can make your fish look like a world record, you can contact Joe at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.

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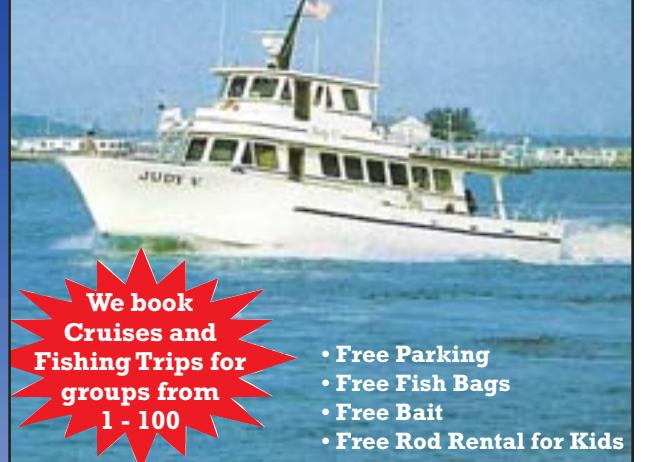
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TIDES & MOON PHASES

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. May 12	Low 01:16 am Low 01:03 pm	High 07:19 am High 07:53 pm
Thurs. May 13 New Moon	Low 01:59 am Low 01:44 pm	High 08:03 am High 08:38 pm
Fri. May 14	Low 02:42 am Low 02:26 pm	High 08:48 am High 09:23 pm
Sat. May 15	Low 03:26 am Low 03:10 pm	High 09:34 am High 10:08 pm
Sun. May 16	Low 04:12 am Low 03:58 pm	High 10:20 am High 10:54 pm
Mon. May 17	Low 05:01 am Low 04:50 pm	High 11:08 am High 11:42 pm
Tues. May 18	Low 05:54 am Low 05:47 pm	High ----- High 12:00 pm
Wed. May 19	Low 06:49 am Low 06:49 pm	High 12:33 am High 12:59 pm

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide,
 - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide
 These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

~ MAY ~

1st Annual Bluefish Tournament
 May 29-30 • Ocean City Marlin Club
 410-213-1613

Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament
 May 21 • Lewes Harbour Marina
 302-645-6227

~ JUNE ~

14th Annual Mako Mania
 June 4-6 • Bahia Marina
 410-289-7473

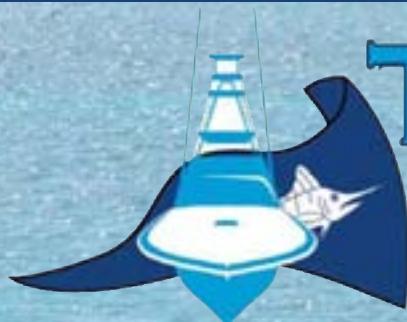
52nd Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
 Ladies Event - June 11
 Tournament: June 14-19
 Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

30th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
 June 10-13 • Cape May, NJ
 609-884-2400

30th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament
 June 17-19 • OC Fishing Center
 410-213-2442 or 410-213-1121

31st Annual Small Boat Tournament
 June 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club
 410-213-1613

21st Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment
 June 25-27 • Sunset Marina
 410-255-5535



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Phat Mann ~ 65' Paul Mann 2006. CAT C-32s w/ low hours. 3/2 layout, beautiful interior, many upgrades. Mezzanine, Eskimo ice, water maker, teak cockpit. Call Jimmy



\$2,495,000

Front Runner ~ 61' Spencer 2006. 1650 C-32 CATs. 3/2 teak interior. Pipewelders tower, 2 gens, ice & water makers, SAT phone & TV. Mezz w/cockpit AC. Call Jimmy



\$499,000

Playmate ~ 2003 60 Billy Holton. Twin CAT 3406E 800 hp power. Excellent charter boat and business. Maintained by full time crew. Motivated seller. Call Jimmy



\$1,795,000

Eye Roller ~ 1995 67 Scarborough. Repowered 12V2000 MTUs 1485 hp (2002). Tower, twin gens. Rupp riggers. Eskimo ice. Good electronics. Call Jimmy



\$975,000

Reel Deal ~ 2005 57' Dean Johnson. C-18 CATs. Cherry interior. Well maintained. Raises fish, great sea ride. Call Jimmy



\$375,000

Laura T ~ 53' 1986 Sunny Briggs. 8V92TI DD. Refit '92, new AC '03, gen '06, numerous updates. Great Carolina ride. Call Ben



\$499,000

Baby Grand ~ 52' Carolina Ricky Scarborough. 2003 DD 765 hp 892 DDC III. 2SR/2HD layout. Very clean. Great fuel economy. Call Ben



\$725,000

Olivia Grace ~ 54' 2006 Vicem Sportfish. 1050 hp MANs, bow thruster. 3/2 layout. Luxurious mahogany interior. Loaded. Call Jimmy



\$195,000

The Natural ~ 47' 1962 Daytona Detroit GMITI 330 hp engines. Mahogany trim by Rybovich. PB style controls. Super clean. Call Jimmy



\$79,500

Smiling Rat ~ 2002 26' Grady-White Express. Twin gas Yamaha 225 4 stroke. Hardtop, Furuno GPS, radar & fish finder. Call Steve



\$89,900

Just Right ~ 2004 28' Grady-White Saifish. Twin gas F-225 Yamaha engines, warrantied til 2010. Loaded, good as new! Call Steve



\$69,900

28' Ricky Scarborough 1978 ~ Single Cummins. Tower, rocket launcher, 3-sided enclosure. Clean boat! Call Steve



\$108,000

Ripple ~ 1998 Albemarle 305 Express. 3116 CATs, low hours. 70 hrs on gen. Economical fuel at 30 gph at a 26 kt cruise. Call Jimmy



\$59,900

Bottom Line ~ 40' 1987 Luhrs. 3208 CATs. Very clean. Motivated seller, bring offers. Call Steve



\$24,900

Raven Maniac ~ 1986 27' Albemarle Exp. Twin Volvo TAMD. New electronics, new steering, new price reduction. Call Steve



\$65,000

Custom SeaCraft 23 ~ 2005 Yamaha 300 hp HPDI, warranty til 2010. 2006 EZLoad tandem trailer. Bring offers! Call Jimmy

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Steve Trattner: 410-251-1817

Capt. Dave "Coconut" Hedges: 410-726-4743

Capt. Robby Lawson: 561-346-9863

Capt. Ben DeGutis: 561-310-2718

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35' 1974 Bertram Convertible 79,900 Call Steve

28' 2000 Carolina Classis Express 78,900 Call Steve

29' 1985 Cruisers Sea Devil 14,995 Call Steve

29' 1988 Phoenix Convertible 55,900 Call Steve

26' 1999 Grady White Tiger Cat 34,900 Call Steve