





Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" headed out last Saturday for a sea bass run despite the rainy weather. They did not find the best bite, but some nice fish made their way to the deck, including this 21.5" and 5 lb. 15 oz. knothead caught by Waybe Small. It is currently our Heaviest Sea Bass for MD this year!



We don't see a lot of weakfish, and especially not this size! Andy Ralston from Spotsylvania, VA caught this 28" and 6.5 lb. tiderunner on a minnow & squid combo while drifting in the south OC Bay. He was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Mason Herthertion on the charter boat "Lucky Break".





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This picture of Camryn Baeder from North East, MD is a good summary of the action at the Marine Electric on sea bass opening day last week! She shares the pretty 18" knothead she caught and the crowds and smooth water behind her! She was fishing on the "Unreel" with Capt. Joe Schweiger.



Ocean City Reel estate magnate Ed Balcerzak decided to run south and get in on some of the black drum action at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. This is one of 12 drum caught using sand fleas in 35' of water on a slack tide.







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This Week Last Year

- While still cool, the Memorial Day forecast for last year was more seasonable, and as the temps rose, so did fisherman's hopes!
- The cover of last year's edition was a 347 lb. thresher shark caught on the "HotLine". The 88" shark was caught on a whole mackerel at the Fingers in 57° water.
- The first tunas of the 2022 season were reported this week last year. Capt. Skip Daisey and the crew of the private boat "Take Em" took a chance and ran 71 miles to an eddy of warm water in 800 fathoms, southeast of the Poor Man's Canyon, almost halfway to the Washington. They returned to Harbour Island with a mix of 10 yellowfins and bluefins.

The big story of last week would of course have to be about sea bass. Opening day for the season in Delaware, and Maryland Virginia opened last Monday on the 15th. While you will see lots of knotheads in this issue, we did enjoy a diversity of fish from our inshore waters and the surf despite some rain and persistent winds! Several new Heaviest Fish for the season were also set. There are of course sea bass, but also for black drum and bluefish too.

While not an offshore event, I would like to highlight the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament that was held last Saturday. Over 400 anglers participated in the this event raising a lot of funds and awareness for

pancreatic cancer research. You can see the wining fatties on page 53!

Now to the offshore report. Normally opening day is a busy affair with what seems to be hundreds of boats fishing the near shore reefs and wrecks. Perhaps that it was a Monday or that the winds from the northeast were blowing, many reported that the sites were crowded but not as much in years past. Many reported 'sporty' weather even though several of the pictures in this week's edition make it look like it was a lake out there! It seems the bass too were a little less crowded. While there were plenty of reports of limit catches like the charter boats "Restless Lady II" with a 9 man limit of 135 fish, or the "Pole Dancer" returning to the Indian River Marina with 104 lbs. of the delicious fish, all reported having to wade through many smaller fish, especially in the morning hours. Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" made several trips last week including opening day, and had to work at several sites and deal with the 'unders' each trip to find enough to fill the creel. One trip saw regular customer Howard Kelly snag a 4.25 lb. fish that put him on top for the Heaviest Fish for the season, however, that crown was passed only a few

www.coastalfisherman.net days later when Wayne Small from Southern MD reeled up a 21½", 5 lb. and 15 oz. beast while fishing on the headboat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. That is going to be a hard one to beat! It is over a pound heavier than the Heaviest from last year.

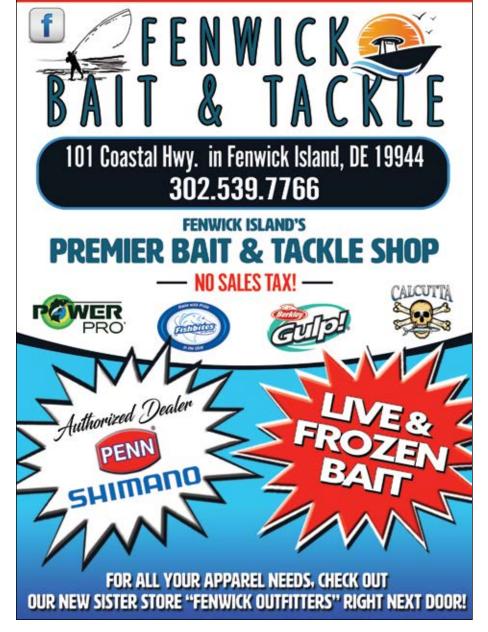
The surf up and down the coast was still yielding some quality rockfish, but in fewer numbers as they are finishing their northern migration. The crew from "Bad Wind Charters" ditched the boat and fished off the sands of Assateague Island

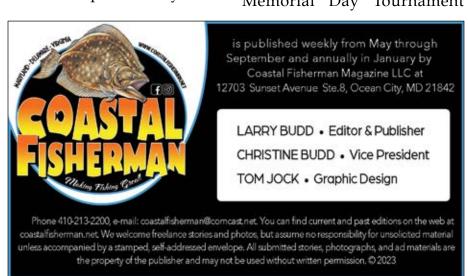


one morning last week and beached 3 nice stripers including at 32" keeper for Steve Goff before the new MD slot size regulations of 28"-31" went into effect. Note that in VA and DE the new regulation has not yet been enacted, so their 'slots' remain 28"-36" and 28"-35" respectively. We are anticipating those states to implement the ASMFC change in late June or by the July 2nd deadline.

There is much happening in the bays and backwater with good flounder, black drum, bluefish and tiderunner catches, so make sure to read our DE, MD and VA Fishing reports.

Lastly, our first offshore tournament is scheduled for this weekend. The 14th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament





www.coastalfisherman.net held by the Ocean City Marlin Club is Saturday and Sunday with weigh-ins at Sunset Marina's Tournament Scales from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

So until next time, I will see you at those scales! §

Upcoming Tournaments

- The first offshore contest of 2023 is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-28. The 14th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament is sponsored by the Ocean City Marlin Club. Weigh-ins will be at Sunset Marina's Tournament Scales from 4:30-7:00pm each day. More at OCMarlinClub.com.
- The 2nd Annual Blues for DU is on tap for June 2-4 at Bahia Marina & Fish Tales. This bluefish tournament raises money to support the programs of Ducks Unlimited.
- The Annual Tuna & Tiara's Ladies Tuna

 Tournament returns for it's 3rd season on June 16 & 17 at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Scales are open from 4 7PM. Come by and check out the action and Mickey Fins!





The crew of the "Myra HT" slipped out to their 'secret spot' on opening day of the sea bass season. Unfortunately for them the Marine Electric was not such a secret! Regardless of the crowd, J.L. Cropper reeled in this fat knothead while fishing with her husband Hugh and son Hugh Thomas.

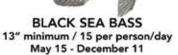


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Old Inlet Bait & Tackle once again hosted the Annual Cast for a Cure Surf Tournament last weekend. This event drew ~100 anglers from all over the region to compete individually and in 30 teams for prizes for most fish caught. This year's team, DNS of Jim Haug, Mike Walker, JR Griffith and Steve Merrick took 1st Place with 120 points, followed by team Reel Women with 85 and Fung Shway with 75 points. The real winner is breast cancer research as this tournament it is expected to raise over \$10,000.

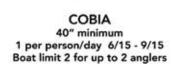




3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter

8" minimum

BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day





RED DRUM

18-27" minimum

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SHEEPSHEAD

4 per person/day

SPECKLED TROUT

14" minimum

CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day



4 per person/day

STRIPED BASS 28-31 Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day



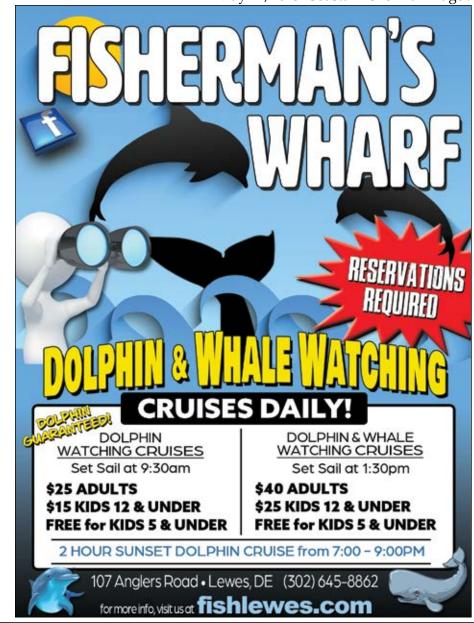
TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31

WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Jack Cael took this big bull black drum he caught at Slaughter Beach on clam to Rick's Bait & Tackle to get it weighed. Good thing he did. At 46.5" and 51.8 lbs. it not only qualified for a DE State Citation, it is the new heaviest for the season from DE!

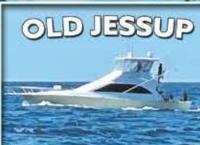








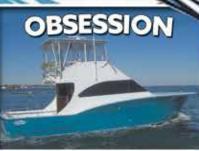
54' Chesapeake Capt. Buddy Whetzel 301-325-0420



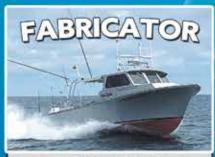
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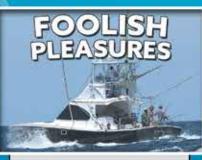
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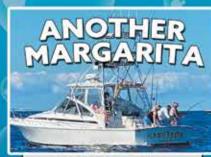
36' Custom Capt. Kevin Marshall 410-289-7438



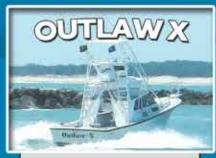
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35' Cabo Flybridge Capt. Steve Martin 732-735-0922



33' Blackfin Capt. Troy Collins 301-928-7620



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



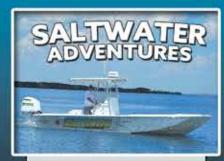
30' Century Capt. Wayne Anderson 443-880-7516



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FISHING REPORT by Capt. BJ Pietryak

Opening week of sea bass is always anxiously awaited by many anglers. This year sea bass did not cooperate the way they have in past years. With the states getting tougher on size and creel limits many anglers found themselves putting in a lot more effort to catch even a few fish to bring home for dinner. A few limits were had by various boats but many struggled to bring home a few nice keepers. Lots and lots of throwbacks was the word I got from many boats. Flounder remains strong in the back bays and continues to get better.

Sea Bass

As I stated, the opening day saw tons of boats at all the inshore bass locations. Anglers had to jockey for position to catch the coveted prize. The Great Eastern Reef was the hot spot, with quite a few limits coming from this area. Even though the ratio was about 6 throwbacks to one keeper, the Great Eastern Reef did produce a better quality of fish than other areas. Fresh clam and jigs accounted for many of the limits. Captain

Victor Bunting of the "Ocean Chuck Sharp and his group Princess" reported it has been a rocky start to the sea bass season, but his last trips showed a better quality and quantity of fish. Hopefully the season will continue to get better. Monty Hawkins of the "Morning Star" said after laying up for a day he finally made it out to fish. A northeast breeze is never a good ride but he stated it wasn't terrible either. Fishing was not as productive as he had hoped but some nice fish were brought home. Monty said there is plenty of life, and the fish they kept had sand eels and krill in their bellies. The "Angler" run by Captain Eric Shoaff went about 20 miles off the Ocean City coast with squid, clams, sand fleas, and crabs and returned with a nice bunch of fish for his clients. I guess the variety of bait makes a difference when the fish are picky. Captain Eric reported that their best fish of the day was a 4.25 pound bass. Many anglers ventured a little further offshore to deeper water and came back with better catch than those staying closer to the beach.

get tangled in the balloon line. Brian Fenster had a slow start to the bass season and didn't find many of his regular spots willing to give up many fish. He, like many, moved to the Great Eastern Reef and found a decent bite, filling their coolers although not a limit. Tanner Virden along with Joe and Chris Huk had an awesome first trip bringing home their 9 man limit. The boat is the "Restless Lady 2". told me fishing was tough and took a little longer than usual, but the anglers fished hard and all managed a limit. The "Skipjack Sportfishing" boat said the wind laid down a little and had a decent bite to start off with, but that the bite soon turned off as other boats arrived. The crew worked hard all day, but fell just short of everyone's limit. Despite tough conditions the guys did manage to bring 75 tasty sea bass home for dinner. "Double J Sportfishing" also headed out this week on their opening day of sea bass and was rewarded with a fairly quick limit compared to many other boats. The "Ocean City Girl" ended up with an 8 man limit of 100 plus fish, but also conceded that the conditions and fish did nothing much in the way of cooperation. Much of this past week was a blow out or rough conditions

went down to Marine Electric, and although it took them a lot longer to catch keepers, they did manage a four man limit. Chuck stated that clam was working, but the better fish came on jigs. Team Ronin out of Ocean Pines, was also at Marine Electric and managed 45 keepers with one big 4.25 pound fish. They thanked Captain Minh Tri Dang for putting them on some nice sized fish. Walter Moore wouldn't admit it, but the 20+ mph winds did make him nervous. After three hours of fishing for a four man limit, including four different locations, he headed home with some nice fish. Walter stated there was not another boat anywhere around him and that they worked hard for every bite. To give you an idea how windy it was they picked up a Mothers Day balloon 20 miles offshore. Many anglers may not be aware but most charter boats will stop and retrieve balloons in the water to help protect the turtles and wildlife. This act only takes a few seconds and will help the turtles who are curious and



www.coastalfisherman.net so to all that ventured out in the tough conditions, congratulations on bringing home some of the seas most sought after prize... sea bass!

Flounder & Back Bays

Craig Cropper was at the RT 50 Bridge again catching a mess of bluefish. He said although the rock did not bite as hard as past weeks, the blues made for a great time. John Foreman got a quick two man limit near the Ocean City Inlet. He said the only hard part of the day was fighting the inlet parking during cruisers week. Russell Lederman, who has been catching big stripers all spring, reported he caught his smallest one of the year on sand fleas but didn't want this small guy to feel left out. John Darwicki finally got on the board when he pulled a beautiful 35" rock off the beach at Assateague Island. Besides a few skates that was his only real bite all day. Ryan West saw some good action on the RT 50 Bridge this past week and hauled in a giant overslot rockfish. Behind the airport, Jose Martinez got a nice rock while casting from shore. Angler Brock Coleman was at the bridge and caught a 28" striper on a speck rig as well as a double catch of redfish.

Beach Fishing

Fred Berfel had a nice day on the beach catching big Nate Miller got bluefish. a big 40" rock off the surf using fresh clam. George Kalorouma pulled in a 40" and a 38" rock using clam and fleas. Suzannah Cornue had a few great days on the beach catching a few nice blues. She said the highlight of the trip was watching a new foal come out of the woods still on wobbly legs. And we will finish this week's report from Steve Maddox who pulled in 4 redfish and a striper.

Until next week...
Tight lines and fins up

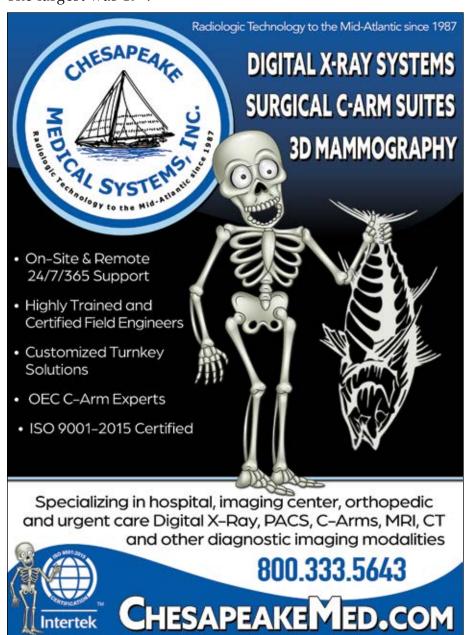




York, PA anglers Jeff & Jody Dunlap had a great day on the bay aboard the "Reel-Lee". They fooled these 4 keeper flounder in the Thorofare using a Deadly Double in chartreuse and pink. The largest was 19".



We have a new Heaviest Bluefish for the season thanks to Shaun Flaherty and Big Bird Cropper. The boys got their limit of blues from working the Rt. 50 Bridge and the South Ocean City Jetty with Roy Rigs and Stretch lures. Shaun's largest was 11.7 lbs.





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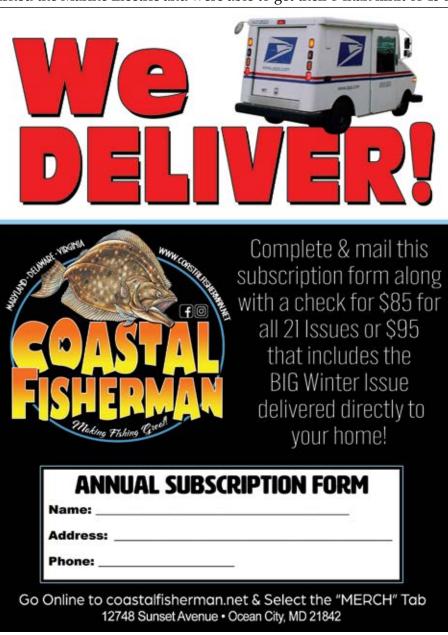
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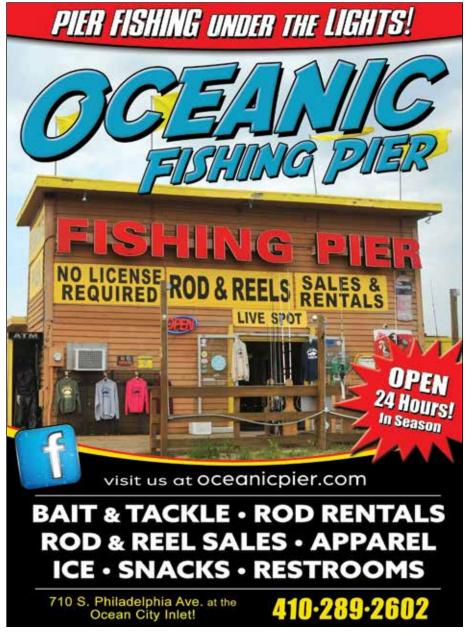


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While it may appear that Allan Webster and Kevin Grapes are trying to achieve sea bass zen, they are actually just sharing the results of their 'Knucklehead Classic' from opening day of sea bass season! They were part of team "Ronin" out of Ocean Pines with Capt. Minh Tri Dang that fished the Marine Electric and were able to get their 3 man limit of 45 sea bass including a 4.25 lb. knothead!







Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish	May 19		Thresher Shark		
	Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.		-		
Black Drum	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna	May 5 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
Cobia			Bluefin Tuna		
Summer Flounder	May 6 David Borrell Thorofare 5.75 lbs.	May 19 Monica Powell Lewes Canal 4.93 lbs.	Longfin Tuna		
Sea Bass	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna	May 6 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
Sheepshead	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty 1.8 lbs.		Dolphin		
Striped Bass			Swordfish		
Tautog		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	Blue Marlin		
Wahoo			White Marlin		



We think Ryan West's big smile tells the whole story! He ventured to the Rt. 50 Bridge for a little night fishing using a plastic shad on a jig head. He was rewarded with this 50" striper that he released after a quick pic!



Noah Trindal wrapped up the Winter/Spring tog season by catching his 'personal' best tog at 13 lbs! He was fishing with Capt. Jamar Campbell on the "Jay Sea II" at an ocean structure when this fish hit on white crab. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina.



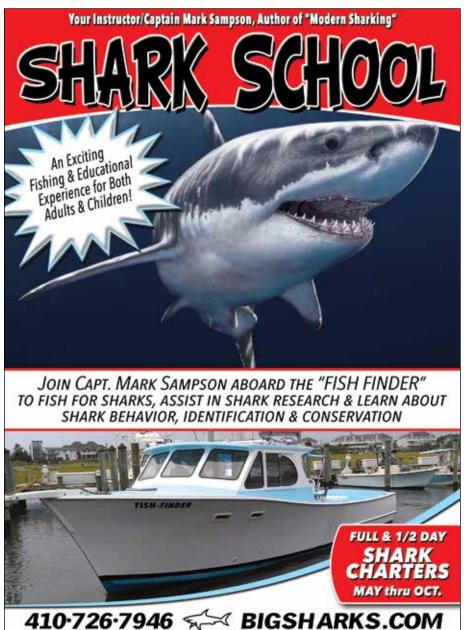
FSINGE ARTERS

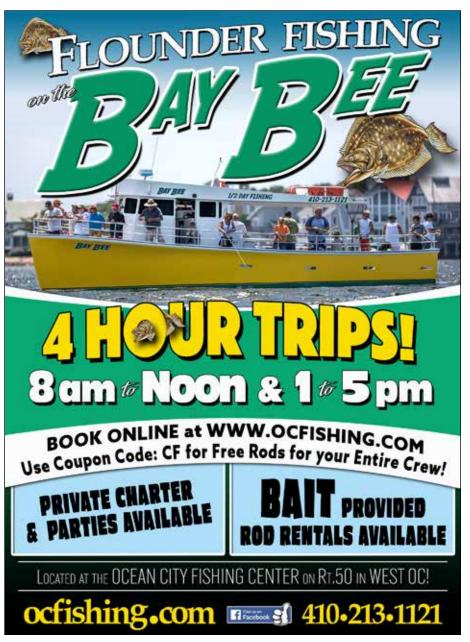


The crew on the headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina saw a lot of fish on sea bass opening day, but they definitely had to work for them. Capt. Eric Shoaff had them out about 20 miles and had to deal with strong currents and more lead on the line to hold bottom!



You have to look close, but there are 5 keeper flounder on the table! Jamie Fangman and Dave Motta caught these in the Thorofare while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On the Run" charters. Pictures at the Bahia Marina.

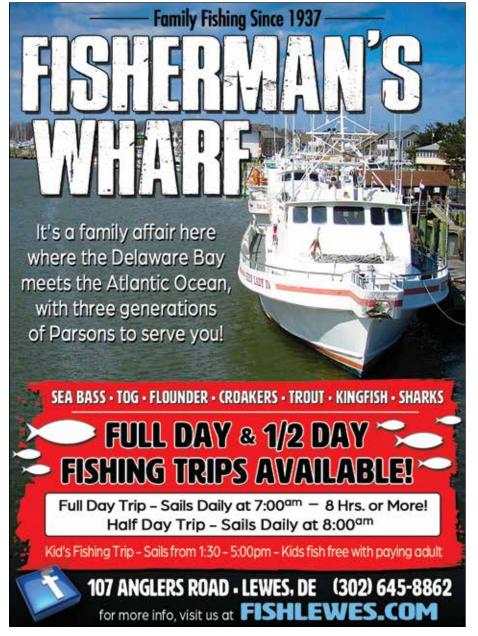


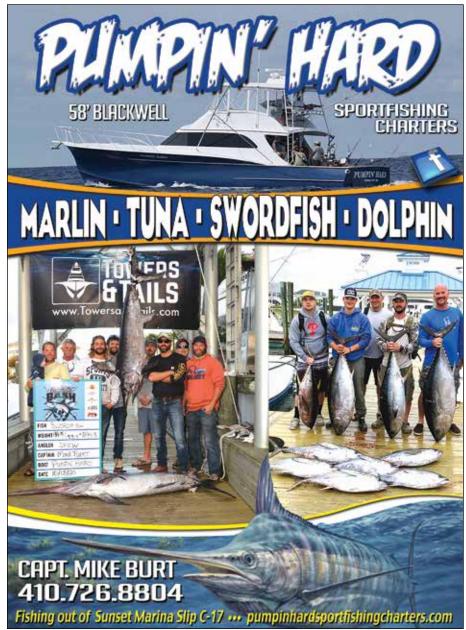






This is what 104 lbs. of sea bass looks like! Anglers Jimmy Mohn, Jeff McCoy, Mike Shupp, Rick Messner, Kevin Templin and Kevin Templin, Jr hit them hard on opening day. They were fishing on the Indian River Maria based charter boat "Pole Dancer" with Capts. Mike and Wendy Martino.





FSH CCHARIERS



It may look like Capt. Chris Huk on the charter boat "Restless Lady II" is fishing in the Keys, but this was a local reef on sea bass opening day! Joe Whaley and his group had to deal with tons of small fish, but still ended the day with their 9 man limit of 135 knotheads.



Father and son Dan Keim and Dan Keim, Jr. landed 5 decent bluefish and a sweet spanish mackerel using Spec Rigs from the Indian River Inlet. They were fishing with Capt. Aaron Hurd of "Gale Force Charters". Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



FISHICCHARTERS

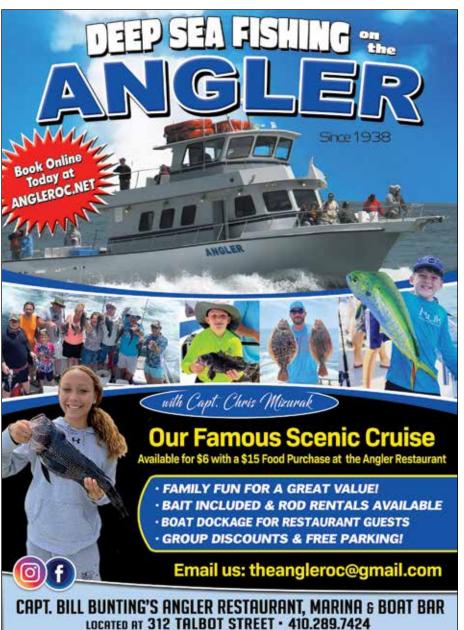






The headboat "Angler" Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich & Steve got in several trips last week around the winds and saw several nice days on the water. Regular Bob Telford on the left did not get the memo about opening day for sea bass and caught a nice keeper flounder! Howard Kelly (right) briefly held the title of Heaviest Sea Bass for the season last week with his 4.25 lb. knothead! The "Angler" is based at the Talbot Street Pier.



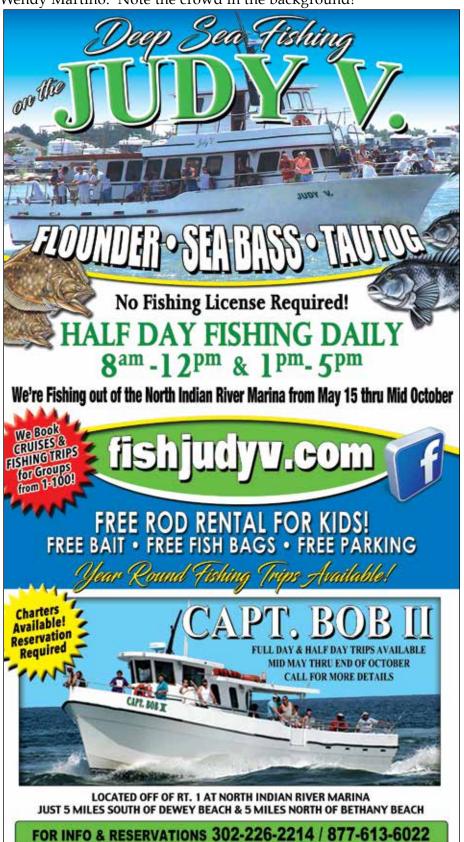


FISHINGCHARTERS





Despite reports of sporty weather, Plowville, PA's Mike Shupe found some calm water and some keeper sea bass on opening day! He was fishing on the charter boat "Pole Dancer" with Capts. Mike and Wendy Martino. Note the crowd in the background!





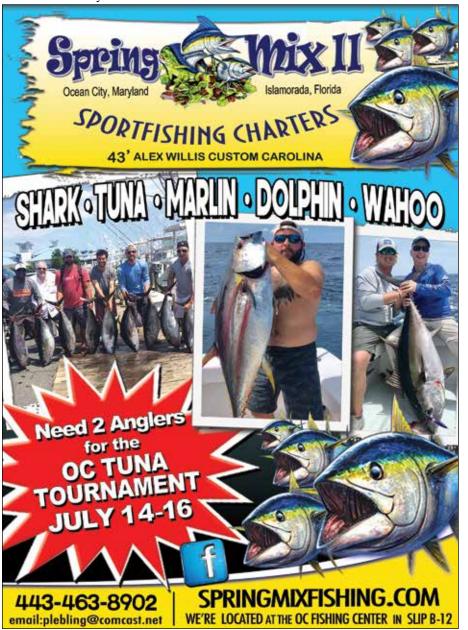
Nadine Porman from Millsboro, DE may think this is a dream, but she and Scott actually did sail on the headboat "Judith M" on opening day of the sea bass season! Capt. Eric Shoaff put the couple 20 miles off the OC coast finding knotheads using a buffet of squid, clams, crab and sand fleas.



FISHING CHARTERS



Apparently the anglers on the headboat "Morning Star" played a game of bass, bass, bass, cutlass! last week! Capt. Monty Hawkins read the weather right on day 2 of the season finding calmer winds mid day. Not a spectacular fishing day with lots of smaller fish, but several keeper bass made their way over the rail as did this cutlass fish, a random 21" flounder and almost a tog!







Eric Feinauer and Tristan Ament from Morgantown, PA had an epic day on the Delaware Bay! They were fishing with Capt. Christopher Kelly on the charter boat "Action Jackson" where they caught 3 big black drum, releasing one. The largest caught by Eric was 53 lbs. and they all fell for clams that the crew got from Lewes Harbour Marina.





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Earl Bentz, CEO, Caymas Boats



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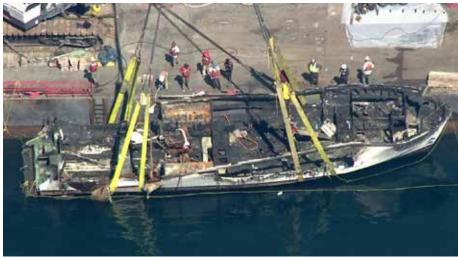


STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE by Steve Katz

Smoke on the Water... an Alarming Idea

Have you ever considered the scenario of a fire on your boat? Most boaters carry the required fire extinguishers, mainly because it is a USCG requirement, some carry more and bigger fire extinguishers as an extra level of precautions. That's a great start to being prepared in case of a fire on a boat. Unlike a home or car evacuating a boat that is on fire is not as simple, since it requires abandoning ship in possible unfavorable conditions and that brings upon other life threating situations.

The best scenario to prepare for is fire prevention along with early detection and the means to control or extinguish the fire and finally evacuation if no other option is available.



Besides fire extinguishers, the USCG seems to be very quiet about smoke detectors and egress on board boats. The USCG keeps track of vessel fires and reports that the injuries, property damage and death are relatively low compared to other boating accidents. Though the USCG statistics don't tell the whole story since they only keep track of the fires

that occur when a vessel is underway in open water, not at the dock, at anchor or stored on land, where there seems to be many additional accidents.

Standards

Look around almost any boat that has a sleeping berth and you probably will not see a smoke detector! While at home, in a hotel, restaurant, or most any public or private buildings and dwellings there are strict requirements and adherence for smoke detectors, the first line of defense against a fire. We have become accustomed to seeing smoke detectors everywhere we live and work and sleep. Even in the hardware stores, there seems to be an endless number of choices when it comes to smoke detectors, along with prices for any budget with prices starting less than \$10.

Notice I mentioned hardware store? How many smoke detectors do you see at the marine store? Probably none. The is because the USCG requires vessel smoke alarms to meet Underwriters Laboratory (UL) standard 217 (UL217) for marine use and there are limited or no marine smoke alarms that meet the standards.

The Coast Guard requires that smoke detectors/alarms be installed in the sleeping compartments of inspected vessels (those carrying paying passengers). Under CG guidelines, the smoke detector should meet Underwriters

www.coastalfisherman.net Laboratories standard 217. The National Fire Protection Association also calls for adherence to UL 217 in vessels over 26'.

Interestingly, UL217 is designed for recreational vehicles, or RVs, not boats. However, its surprisingly stringent testing criteria include high humidity, temperature extremes, and extended-duration salt-spray testing, this is why you don't often see marine rated smoke detectors/alarms on boats.

DIY

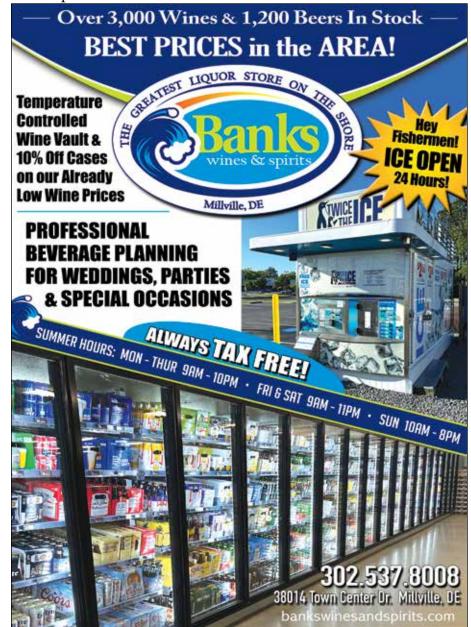
Just because there are no UL217 marine smoke detectors available doesn't mean you should ignore smoke alarms. Turns out, you can install your own household/commercial smoke detector/alarm and it may possibly save your life! Do this today!

Any smoke detector/alarm is better than none! Though when shopping for a smoke detector/alarm you should choose based on the type of vessel you have. A smoke alarm/detector is most critical in a boat that has an enclosed berth or sleeping area and of course larger vessels with multiple staterooms and machinery spaces.

The best type of smoke detector/alarm to purchase for a medium or larger boat is a battery powered wireless interconnected system. This type of system is comprised of two or more individual smoke detector/alarms that are battery powered (hard to find 12v DC units and not all boats have 110V power all the time) and located in critical areas around a boat. If one of the units detects smoke, all the units on the boat signal the alert. These are readily available, as an example Home Depot sells a Kidde two pack of 10-year battery powered interconnected smoke detector for \$90 (May 2023) and this system can be expanded to include more units.

Installation

Whichever unit you choose, install one on both sides of every door in all berthing areas, so a closed door doesn't





prevent an alarm from sensing smoke and sounding. While this list may vary from vessel to vessel, here are recommended alarm locations:

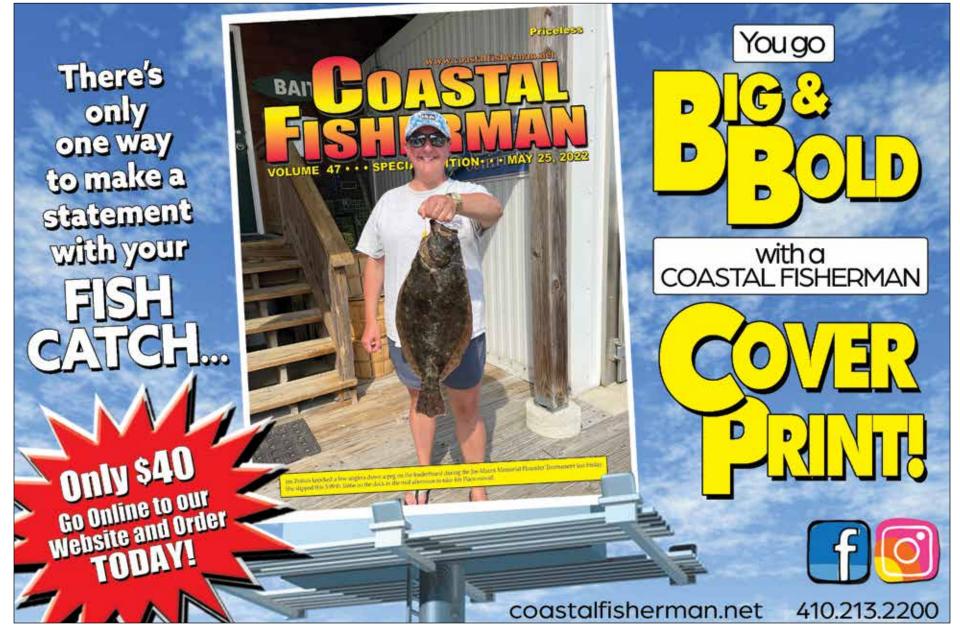
- ·Every sleeping cabin/area
- ·Passageways
- · Engine room and engineering spaces
- · Behind electrical panels and helm consoles
- · Under a flybridge helm console or other protected deck areas. If linked with other units, it can be heard by the boat

operators, or those nearby.

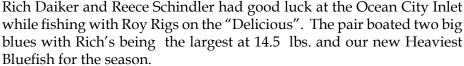
I would like to recognize Maryland based Captain John McDevitt, a Marine Industry Safety and Fire Protection Consultant and an NFPA Technical Committee Chair on NFPA302 Watercraft standards. Captain McDevitt has been an outspoken proponent of smoke detectors and general fire and safety on vessels and from whom I have learned much about fire protection on board vessels. §



Jay Kennedy from Middletown, DE reeled in a nice pair of sea bass using Sand Eel Jigs and Ocean Arsenal Wreck Bombs! He and Capt. Beau Fibelkorn were fishing ocean structures on the "Undaunted".









The last day of the Winter/Spring Tog Season ended last week and Archer, Emily and Seth Morgan along with David Fritsch III spent the last day fishing the Wall by Lewes. They saw lots of action and managed 10 keepers. The largest by Seth was 21" and weighed 9 lbs.

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS 3-200 Miles





66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 54
Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler



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



BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip

47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip

27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip

47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip



BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)
1 per person / 15 per Headboat



Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



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



WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

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

78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

PROHIBITED SHARKS

Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov

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- · Canyon Runner APP so All of the Above is At Your Finger Tips
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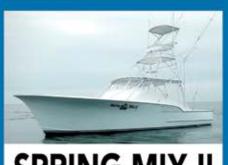
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Flounder

by Capt. BJ Pietryak

only be called lackluster at best. The grounds were full of boats and anglers all jockeying to get their share of the coveted black beauty. Most boats held seasoned anglers, however even the most experienced found the sea bass uncooperative. A few boats did manage their limits of 15 per person, however most anglers found the keeper sea bass tough to find. Flounder is picking up with some reports that the ocean is starting to give up the flatties.

Sea Bass, **End of Tog Season**

The end of tog season showed a good bite for the last few days. Taiwan Meekins was out of Indian River when he hooked a nice tog as well as a 34" rockfish. Brandon Miller reported they got nine tog to end the season, each up to 20". Brandon fished the next day and despite the 25 mph winds they stuck it out and pulled in a few more fish. Zach Kobosko was also lucky enough to hook a tog, unfortunately it was after the season closed so the fish was returned to the water. It's a shame because it was a fatty. Sea bass fishing is off to a rather slow start with dock with less than a limit. Michael Gurczenski, along with Joseph Pergeorelis, and 3 others managed their five man limit and had one hell of a day. The spot was kept a secret but the bait was fresh clam and shrimp. Great job guys! Wendy Reynolds was out on the "Pole Dancer" and her crew returned to the docks with over 100 keepers. "Top Fin Charters" also returned to the dock with a limit for their clients. The anglers had to work hard for the prize but prevailed in the end. Linda Orr reports the "War Horse" out of Indian River returned to the dock with around 40 keepers for their crew. She reported it was about five throwbacks to one keeper. John Clancy Jr, stated that although the numbers were not as good, and the quality of the fish was much better. "Ocean Arsenal" reported sea bass opener for them was mediocre to on fire depending on where you were fishing. Anglers found the fish full of small sand eels. Those who fished a sand eel presentation seemed to do much better than those with a piece of bait on a bare hook. I personally switched to their sand eel sea bass style hooks

Opening week of sea bass could most boats returning to the a few years ago and love the results. The "Bill Slayer" said it wasn't their best opening day; they fought crowds and tough fishing with lots of short fish. They did manage to bring home some keepers but not a limit. I don't think I can recall a vear when this boat didn't have a limit on opening day. "Top Fin Charters" was out for the opener, and after picking through hundreds of shorts did manage a limit for their six anglers. Great job everyone. "Bad Wind Charters" had Kyle, Charlie, John, and Durwood fill the table at the dock with a fat catch of bass. It wasn't easy and they had a lot of shorts, but did manage after a long day at sea to return with some quality knotheads. "Jay Sea 2" had a good opening day using white leg crabs. They stated they got away from the fleet and began to catch more quality sea bass that hadn't been harassed by a million boats. The bite started off hot in the morning and then turned off as more boats began to crowd the area. Beau Fibelkorn of the "Skipjack Sportfishing Inc" said he had Jay Kennedy of Milton, DE, and ended up with a double header of keepers for the day.

The great Joe Lewes Memorial Canal Tournament was on Friday and the anglers showed up in support of this great cause. Several nice fish were brought to the scales with your winners as follows:

Monica Powel was the first place winner with a 4.93 lb. fish, Wesley Scott finished second with 4.06 lbs, Kyle Torbert in 3rd with a 3.66 lbs., James Joseph with 3.65 lbs., Kinsley Hazel was 5th with a 3.59 lb. fish, and 6th place went to Jim Park with a nice 3.42 lb. fish. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all that participated with this fine tournament. Philip Sexton brought a respectable 3.25 lb. flounder to Lewes Harbour Marina. Tony DiPietro had a strong week and brought home 3 respectable keepers from the Delaware Bay. Scott West caught a nice 4.06 lb. flattie on Friday. Alex Neiss found a few still chewing and brought home a nice group of four to join him for dinner. Price said NNE 20+ mph wind and dirty water didn't stop him from his limit of the flat fish. Several anglers reported keeper flounder while fishing for sea bass this week. Minnow and squid combos are your best bet for this early flounder season. The main channel at Indian River as well as the channel near the VFW are the hot spots in the bay and on the ocean areas near



www.coastalfisherman.net deep wrecks are producing the best flounder.

Surf Blues & Drum

With the start of sea bass, not as many anglers struck out onto the DE beaches as in past weeks, however, several nice drum and blues are still being caught on the surf. Fresh clam and crab are the best baits. Shane Kapser reported into Delaware Surf Fishing that he was the only one on the beach Monday and was rewarded with several nice size bluefish. Bill Markel was out with his buddy Mike on the DE bay and landed a nice eating size black drum last Monday. "Flip N Fins" also got in on the drum action bringing home a nice fish for dinner. The 1st Annual Month of May Black Drum Tournament has a new leader with Beau Fibelkorn bringing a giant 46" drum to the scales. The tournament runs till the end of the month. Good luck to all.

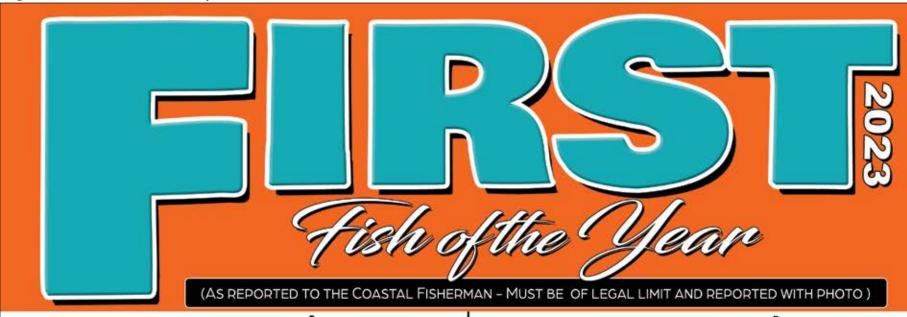
Jamie Lawson was casting a big plug on the beach and happened upon a nice striped bass for her effort. Ayden Verbos from PA caught a big drum on his 14th birthday this past week. Jay Werner landed a 26" blue while fishing the Fenwick Ditch out of his kayak bouncing metal spoons off the bottom. And last but not least, Don Polk hooked a beautiful over slot rockfish last Friday.

Until next week... Tight lines and fins up. §



Shawn Hastings from Frankford, DE brought in some of the first flounder we have seen from the Indian River Bay! He caught these 2 using minnows with the largest at 22" and 2.5 lbs. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em a the Indian River Marina.





	(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)				
Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
Bluefish	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	Thresher Shark		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
Black Drum	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	Bigeye Tuna	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia		June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	Bluefin Tuna		May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Summer Flounder	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	Longfin Tuna		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
Sea Bass	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	Yellowfin Tuna	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
Sheepshead	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	Dolphin	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
Striped Bass	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish		June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	Blue Marlin		June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
Wahoo		June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	White Marlin		June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon



OC boys Jim Emche and Ed Balcerzak, Jr. found some nice flat water and fat black drum using sand fleas at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.



Capt. Jamar Campbell of the charter boat "Jay Sea II" had a plan for opening day of sea bass season. He took regulars Big Fish Fred, Darryl, Joe, Mack and Larry out and got away from the fleet to find their big sea bass catch. They also took the last of their white crab legs to snag a couple tog on the last day of the winter/spring season!



THE GALL EVEN Sty Chef Christine

Pan Fried Sea Bass with Lemon Garlic Herb Sauce

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons butter divided
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive
- 1.5 lbs. sea bass
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt plus more if needed
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper plus more if needed
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken stock/broth or water, in a pinch

Juice of 1 lemon

- 1 tablespoon fresh oregano roughly chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme roughly chopped



1 tablespoon fresh parsley roughly chopped

Lemon wedges for serving optional

Directions:

Pat the fish dry with a paper towel.

In a shallow dish, mix together the flour, salt, and black pepper. Dredge each piece of fish in the flour mixture, coating the entire surface, and shake off any excess.

In a large skillet, preferably stainless steel or nonstick, melt 1 tablespoon of the butter over medium high heat and add the olive oil.

Cook the fish in the skillet for 3-4 minutes on each side, until golden brown and fully cooked. Try not to move the fish too much, especially if you are using a pan that isn't nonstick, otherwise the fish may be more likely to stick to the bottom and not get browned as nicely.

Remove fish from the skillet to a plate.

Turn down the heat to low. Add the white wine to the skillet to deglaze, stirring up any browned bits. Continue heating until almost all the wine has evaporated.

Add one more tablespoon of butter to the skillet. Once it's melted, add the minced garlic and fresh herbs to the skillet and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Add the chicken broth and bring to a simmer. If sauce seems very thin, continue simmering until reduced and thicker to your liking.

Turn off heat and stir in remaining 1 tablespoon butter and lemon juice. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.

Serve sauce on top of fish.

Bluefish with Beer Batter

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds bluefish
- 1½ cup flour
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons lemon pepper seasoning
- 10 ounces beer
- 3 eggs, beaten



Directions:

Fillet and skin bluefish. Cut dark streak out of fish. Cut into serving size pieces.

Mix in bowl the flour, baking powder, salt, and lemonpepper. Add beer and eggs to mixture, stir. Put fish in batter and let set for about 20 minutes.

Deep fry fish until golden brown. Leftover batter is great for frying oysters, without a fishy taste.

Panko Crusted Baked Flounder

Ingredients:

2 lbs. flounder fillets

½ cup Panko breadcrumbs

½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon extra virgin olive oil

Salt & pepper to taste

Lemon wedges optional, zest half your lemon if desired

Directions:



Preheat your oven to 425°F and pat the flounder fillets with paper towels to thoroughly dry all surfaces.

Place flounder fillets on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper and season with salt and pepper.

In a small mixing bowl combine the panko, parmesan cheese and olive oil until the



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www.coastalfisherman.net breadcrumbs are slightly moistened. Sprinkle the panko mixture over the fillets.

Bake at 425°F for 15 minutes or until the flounder reaches desired doneness.

Remove from oven and serve immediately with lemon wedges.

One-Dish Rockfish

Ingredients:

5 cups fresh spinach2 (6 ounce) fillets rockfish

10 cherry tomatoes, halved ½ cup vegetable broth

2 tablespoons minced fresh dill



½ teaspoon lemon pepper ¼ teaspoon garlic powder ¼ teaspoon onion powder Salt and ground black pepper to taste

2 slices lemon slices

2 slices onion slices

1 teaspoon butter

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Layer spinach on the bottom of a 2-quart baking dish.

Arrange rockfish on top and scatter tomatoes around the fish.

Pour in broth and season the fish with dill, lemon pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and pepper.

Place a slice of lemon and onion on each fillet; top with butter. Cover the entire dish with aluminum foil.

Bake in preheated oven until the fish flakes easily, 20 to 25 minutes.

Marinated Seared Ahi Tuna

Ingredients:

2 Tbsp regular strength soy sauce, or gluten-free tamari sauce

2 Tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 Tbsp Asian toasted sesame oil

2 tsp garlic powder

2 tsp granulated sugar

1 tsp kosher salt

1 tsp freshly cracked black pepper

 $2 \frac{1}{2}$ pounds fresh ahi tuna steaks, about $1 \frac{1}{2} - 1 \frac{2}{3}$ " thick

3 Tbsp canola or vegetable oil, for searing

Optional: freshly chopped cilantro, green scallions, sesame seeds for garnish.

Directions:

In a bowl, whisk together the first 7 ingredients to make a marinade. Towel dry tuna steaks and place in a glass or ceramic dish. Pour marinade over the fish, turning to coat well throughout. Cover tightly and chill several hours to overnight; turn fish over at least once in the middle of marinade time.

Heat 3 Tbsp oil in a large heavy skillet – use aluminum or stainless steel; not nonstick, as it won't sear – until oil is smoking. Sear ahi steaks 1 1/2 minutes per side on high heat, taking care to flip carefully with



a flat, steel spatula. (If your tuna is less than 1 1/2 inches thick, sear for only 1 minute per side.)

Transfer seared ahi to a large cutting board and let rest/cool 10 minutes. Use a very sharp (serrated works well) knife to slice thinly across the grain.

Serve chilled or at room temp. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and cilantro or green onions, if desired.

Manhattan Clam Chowder

Ingredients:

6 slices bacon chopped

1/2 cup onion diced

2 carrots peeled, quartered and sliced

1/2 cup celery sliced

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1/4 cup tomato paste

1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

1 bay leaf

1 pound Russet potatoes peeled and diced into 1/2 inch cubes

2 - 8 ounce bottles clam juice

2 cups chicken broth

28 ounce can diced tomatoes do not drain

10 ounce can whole baby clams drained

Salt and pepper to taste

2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Oyster crackers and cooked bacon for serving, optional

Directions:

Heat a large pot over medium heat. Add the bacon and cook, stirring occasionally, until crisp.

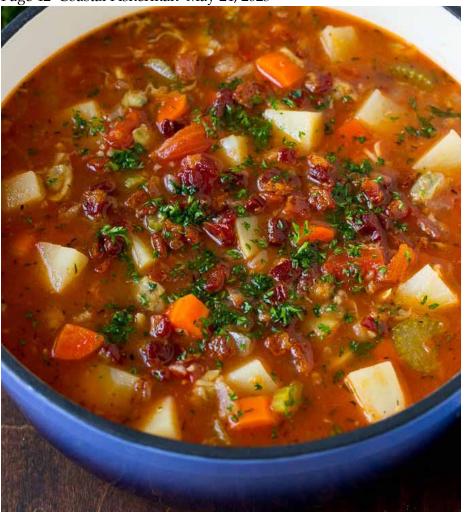
Remove the bacon from the pot and drain on paper towels.

Add the onions, carrots and celery to the pan. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 6-8 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds.

Place the tomato paste, thyme, bay leaf, clam juice, broth and potatoes in the pot. Stir to combine. Bring to a simmer.





Cook for 10-15 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Stir in the tomatoes and baby clams. Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste.

Simmer for 5 more minutes. Stir in the reserved bacon. Top with chopped parsley. Add oyster crackers and more bacon if desired, then serve.

Coastal Coestail Hour

Fresh Strawberry Mojito

Ingredients:

6 mint leaves, plus additional for garnish

3 ripe strawberries, plus more for garnish

2 ozs. white rum

1 oz. lime juice

1 oz. simple syrup or maple syrup

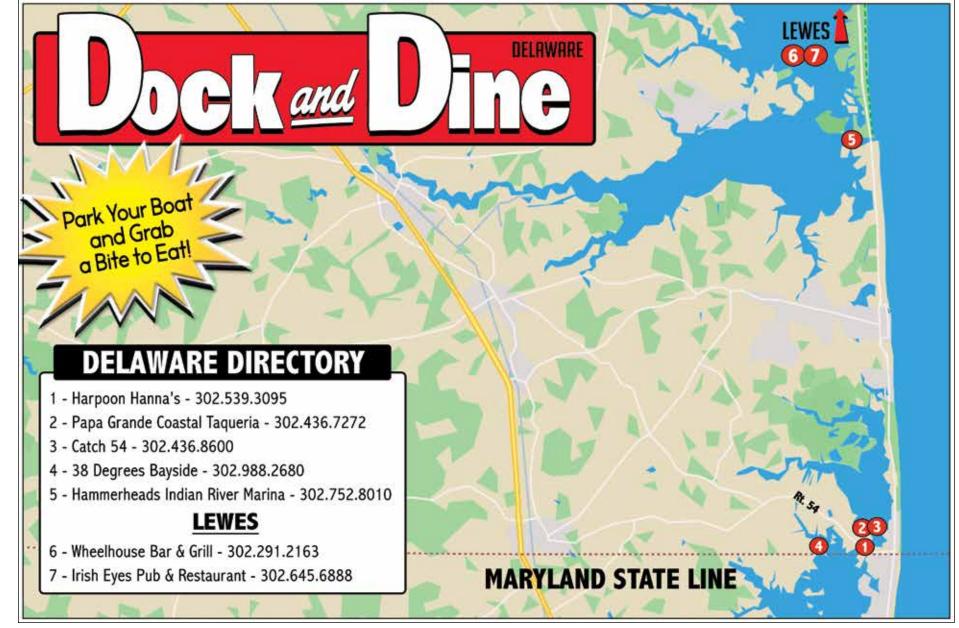
4 ozs. soda water

Directions:

Slice the 3 strawberries in half. In a cocktail shaker, muddle the mint leaves. Add the strawberries and muddle again. Add the rum, lime juice and simple syrup and fill the cocktail shaker with ice. Shake until cold.

Place ice into a glass, and strain in the liquid. Top off the glass with soda water. Garnish with additional mint leaves and sliced strawberries. §



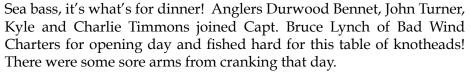


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MD

eregulations.com







The dynamic duo of Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty kept their momentum going! This trip to the South Ocean City Jetty saw two keeper stripers at 30" and 31", a 21" flounder and the release of a 37" rock as well. The stripers fell for Bird's famous Roy Rig while the flounder preferred a tube.

MD

ARYLAND DELAWARE VIRGINIA CITATION DELAWARE SIZES

	MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	8 lbs. or 22"
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.
Red Drum*	36"	45"	V.
Sailfish*	Any Size	i i	0 <u>4</u> 0
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"
Speckled Trout	24"	<u> </u>	5 lbs. or 24"
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"

Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
SHARK:			
Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
TUNA:			
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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Chum Lines by Capt. Mark Sampson

Last week I was going through some ancient photos and found one of an old fishing and hunting friend of mine. "Bobby" was standing in a corn field holding a couple geese we'd just shot. He's been gone for about a decade or so but the image sent me on a trip down Memory Lane that had me remembering and reliving the times we spent chasing critters with fur, fins, and feathers offshore, inshore, in thick woods and open marshes. I cherish those memories just as I miss my friend.

A life-long resident of Ocean City, Bobby was around for the opening bell of at least six decades of fishing seasons, more than half of which I knew him as a friend and part-time first mate on my charter boat. Bobby was an ex "surfer-dude" who

turned fisherman, hunter, and barbeque guy extraordinaire, who, like so many that depart so unexpectedly, left those of us who knew him with a definite void in our world. Bobby was a real character of life and even though we would not cross paths for weeks or even months at a time I could always figure that if it was hunting season he'd be hunting, and in fishing season he'd be fishing, and when we managed to get together stories of his exploits would always dominate the conversation.

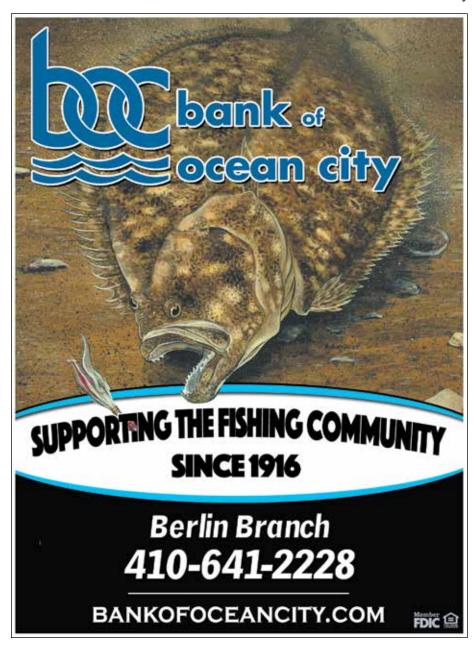
It's interesting that as I think about all the times Bobby and I fished together that I can hardly remember any of the fish we caught. I remember the fried chicken from Food-Rite that he used to bring along for his breakfast and lunch every

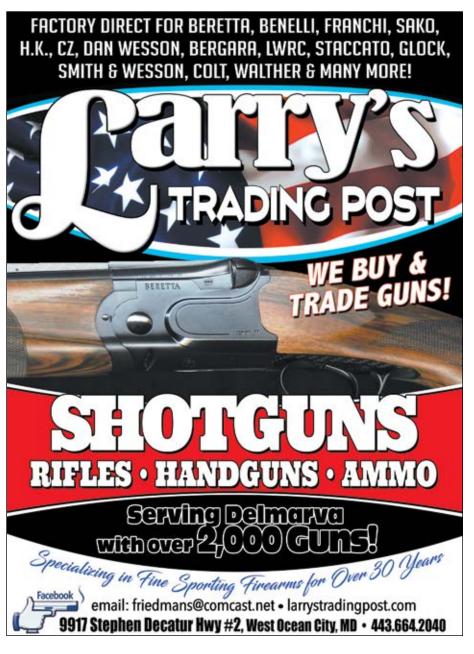
day, I remember him being aboard when we experienced two of the worst storms I've ever encountered offshore, I remember how well he got along with all of our clients and that he always wore a pair of ratty old Sperry Topsider shoes, and that there didn't have to be much spray coming over the side before he'd don his rain gear and probably wear it the rest of the day. If we were fishing he'd be talking about hunting, and if we were hunting he'd be talking about fishing.

I can flip through old pages from my logbook and see that Bobby and I caught a lot of fish together, but I'll be darn if I can remember much about them, finally bringing me to the point I'm trying to make... we fishermen too often seem to put way too much importance on

what we catch or don't catch. No matter how good an angler we are, every time we go fishing we start out knowing that there is a chance that we won't catch a darn thing. Sure, when things are "right" success could be as close to a slam-dunk as it comes, but there are always enough variables involved to keep a little uncertainty in the outcome of every outing. Sometimes the fishing is downright "lousy" and yet we still go out just to give it a try day-after-day-afterday. Heck, I have customers all the time who ask to go fishing even when I warn them that the bite is off and we'll be lucky to catch anything at all – they just want to go.

Pondering this, it's easy to conclude that there is so much more to fishing than actually catching fish. No doubt that there's a certain level of satisfaction when our day ends with us bellied up to the cleaning table proudly carving away at tomorrow night's dinner. But just the same, even





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when we return home without the smell of fish on our hands it's not likely we'll consider the day a loss. It's far better to "go" and not catch than not to go and miss everything else that tags along with our time on the water. The tackle shop smalltalk as we grab a few extra items before heading out, our morning coffee from a thermos, clearing the inlet just as the sun peeks over the horizon, the sight of a skimmer plowing glassy-calm water along the edge of a marsh, waking to the sound of the engines throttling back after a long ride offshore, it's a day of fishing, anything can happen or nothing can happen, ether way - success is guaranteed.

For even the most ardent fishermen, days spent on the water are far fewer than those spent away from it. The season might be many months long, but most days out of the year we have only memories of past trips to keep us energized until we have the chance to go again. These days too many folks get

so caught up in the drama that hovers around fishing that they lose track of what our sport is really all about. And extra inch or two of size limit or a smaller creel limit might make it tougher to put a fish dinner on the table, but it will never diminish the opportunity for anglers to go out and create fishing memories that will last them a lifetime, because when you flesh it all out it's really not the "fish", it's the "fishing" that provides us with something to take home.

My friend Bobby and I caught a lot of fish together, and though I don't remember a single one I sure remember the good (and the bad) times we spent on the water. Now that he's gone, memories and a few old photos are all I have left of him. As this new season unfolds and we fishermen can finally get back to doing what we've been looking so forward to all winter, I wish everyone the best of luck at catching a few pounds of fish for dinner and tons of memories for the future. §

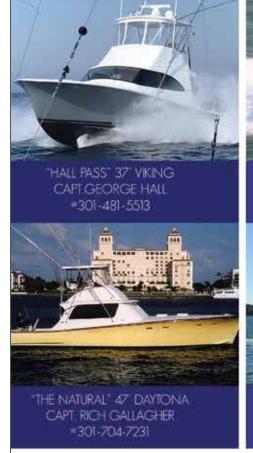


Sam Broadhurst was part of the crew on the charter boat "Surface Tension" on opening day for sea bass. She reeled in this beauty that hit on a Nomad jig. She was fishing with Capt. Keith Beene, mate Aaron Brommer and fellow anglers Tre Elliott, Ben McCall, Hunter Tipton and Matt King.

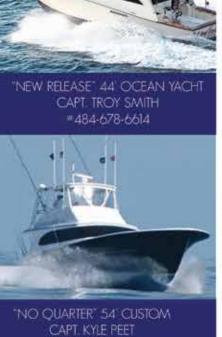


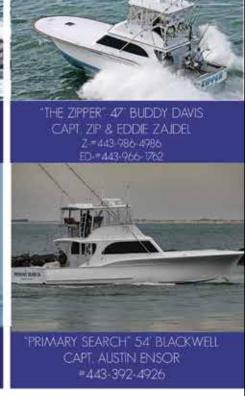


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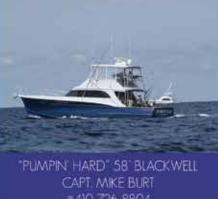




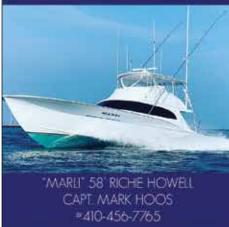
C-BOYS" 57" DEAN JOHNSON CAPT LUKE BLUME #410-251-1889



TROUBLEMAKER" 57" DEAN JOHNSON CAPT KAYVAN BAHRAMI #410-310-6961

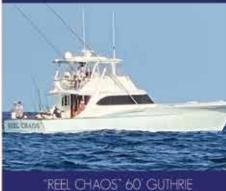


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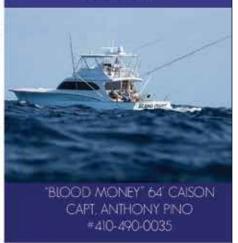
CAPT, MICHAEL SALMON



"BUCKSHOT" 62' SPENCER CAPT GARY STAMM #443-783-2765



BIG STICK 64' WEAVER CAPT. RONNE FIELDS #561-762-0096

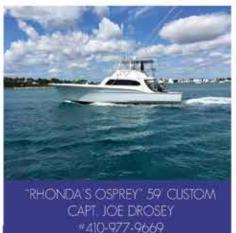




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Nightime is the right time to be on the Rt. 50 Bridge! Young Brock Coleman spent an evening there and landed this keeper 28" striper on a speck rig double reds.

SAM CHITY High 11:53 am Low 06:21 am WED. MAY 24 High -----Low 05:40 pm Low 07:11 am High 12:26 am THUR, MAY 25 Low 06:32 pm High 12:42 pm Low 07:59 am High 01:14 am FRI. MAY 26 Low 07:28 pm High 01:37 pm High 02:06 am Low 08:42 am SAT. MAY 27 Low 08:26 pm High 02:36 pm **1st Quarter Moon** High 02:59 am Low 09:22 am SUN. MAY 28 High 03:35 pm Low 09:25 pm High 03:50 am Low 10:00 am MON. MAY 29 Low 10:24 pm High 04:28 pm High 04:38 am Low 10:40 am TUE. MAY 30 High 05:16 pm Low 11:22 pm High 05:24 am Low 11:21 am WED, MAY 31 High 06:02 pm source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge. Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide - subtract 45 minutes to low tide

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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

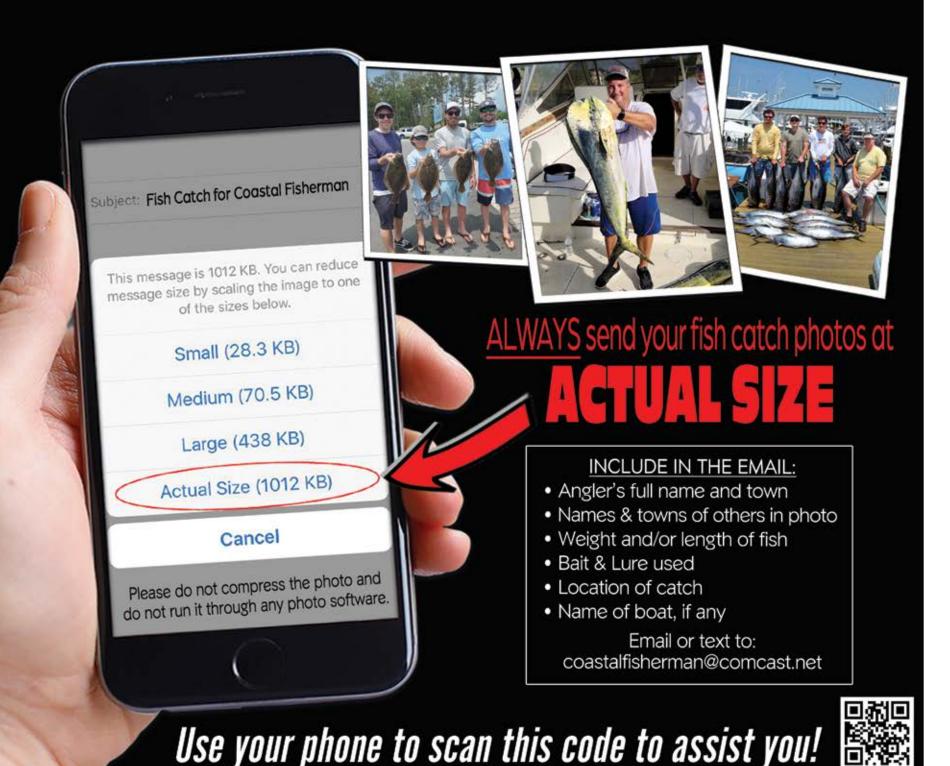


There are some bluefish in the bays! Eric Knight hooked into this 23.5" chopper blue while fishing at the docks at Massey's Landing using cut bunker. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Share Your CATCH WITH US!

The 2023 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.



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JOE MORRIS Flounder Tournament Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament



The competition was fierce during the Annual Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament last Friday. Angler Monica Powell set the bar early at 9:36 AM with this 4.93 lb. doormat that bested all challengers to take 1st Place in the event! Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.





It took until mid day to see some bigger fish hit the scales during the Annual Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament. Wesley Scott put this 4.06 lb. fattie on the scale shortly after 1PM to slide into 2nd Place.



Kyle Torbert weighed in this flounder at the same time as the 2nd place fish during the annual Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament. At 3.66 lbs. it slipped into 3rd place narrowly edging out a 3.65 fish for the honor!

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

14th Annual Franky Pettonlina Memorial Day Tournament May 27-28 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

2nd Annual Blues for D.U.

June 2-4 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament

June 16-17 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 21 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

8th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 24-25 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

44th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament

June 24-25 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

5th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 24-25 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

41st Annual Canyon Kick Off

June 30 - July 2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown

July 5-8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

AC Quest for the Ring

July 16-23 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

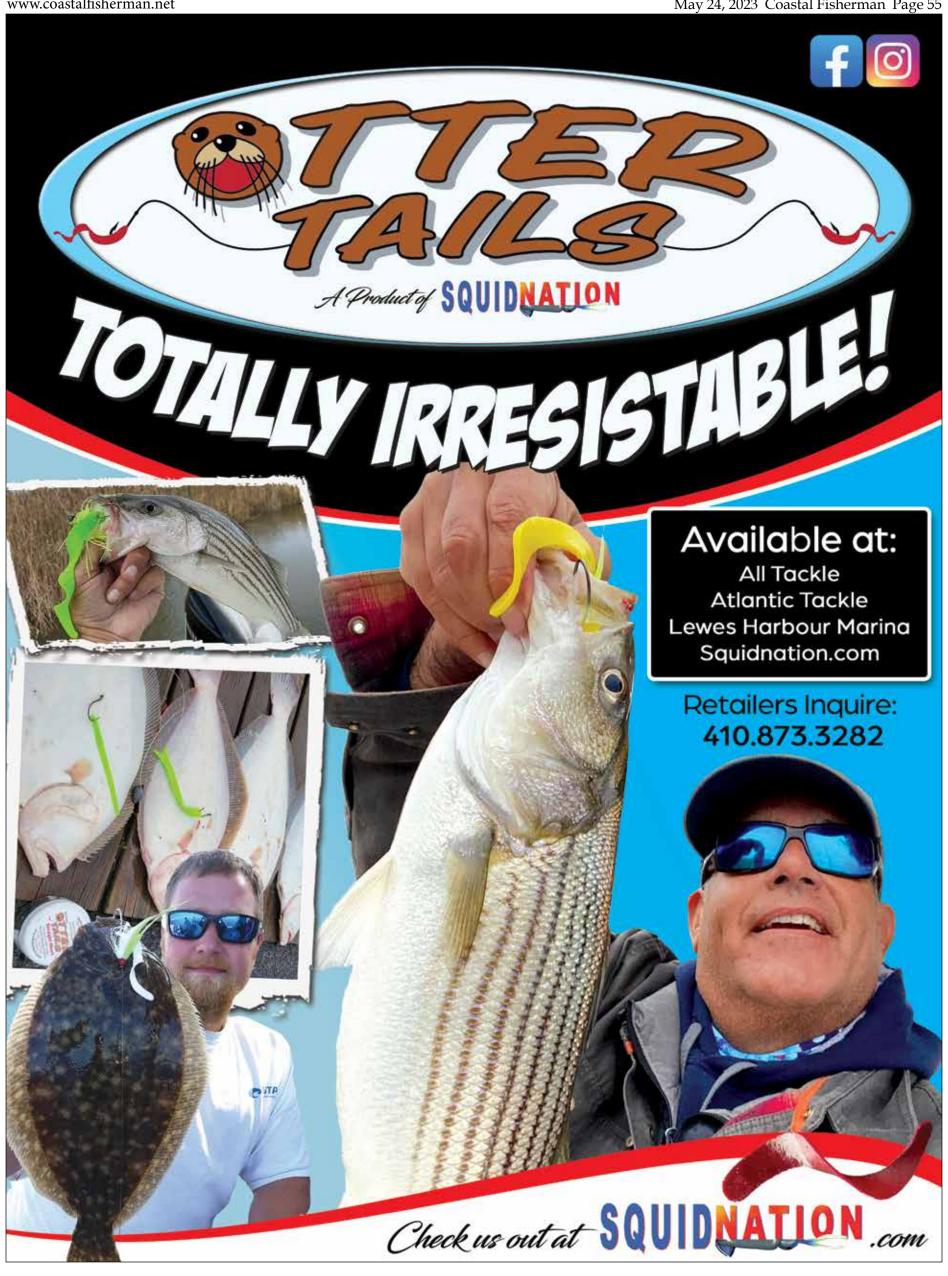
For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at

www.coastalfisherman.net



Kingsley Hazel caught this beautiful and colorful flounder in the Lewes Canal during the Annual Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament. The good looking fish tipped the scales at Lewes Harbor Marina at 3.59 lbs. and took 5th place in the event.





FISHING REPORT by Capt. Matt Abell

While the Eastern Shore is typically a paradise that shames an ideal utopia, this week's weather has been less than perfect. However, even when the conditions seem inhospitable and success seems unattainable, we on the shore are blessed with great fishing and good times that foster a pride that separates us from the rest of the world. two. On Wednesday, I had the privilege to take Captain Tom Platt of "Seven Saturdays" out of Chincoteague VA. We were fortunate to have a spec) as well as a great day of comradery that will be remembered for many tides to come. While numbers could have been better, we had bent rods on quality fish

The middle Chesapeake has still been fairly consistent at yielding trophies adorn with stripes and spots. The shallows of the Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds has produced some quality red, black, rock and spec fishing. Most fish have been lured to the gunwale by chunks of crab. However, casting soft plastics have also bent a rod or

privilege to take Captain Tom Platt of "Seven Saturdays" out of Chincoteague We were fortunate to have a Tangier-slam (red, rock, and spec) as well as a great day of comradery that will be remembered for many tides to come . While numbers could have been better, we had bent rods on quality fish even in twenty plus mile an hour winds. We had the most activity on popping corks with 4" paddle tails worked among grassy flats in the 2-4 foot depth range. Elsewhere, anglers that braved the choppy conditions in deeper water encountered decent black drum action. Crab, again was the critical enticement needed on the hard oyster rocks of

the Pocomoke.

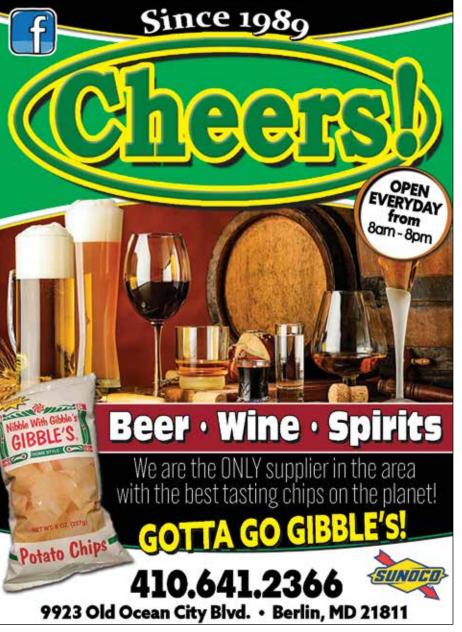
The southern Chesapeake continues to support good action both drum around the structure of the CBBT as well as the shoals off Kiptopeke. Clams and crabs on fish finder rigs have produced brawling battles with these crustacean crushers. While drowning crab baits near the pilings, anglers have had the opportunity to test their skills at boating a toothy advesary. trophy sheepshead Some have kept rods bent and smiles abundant. Lastly, the man in the brown had made a fashionable early entrance to the party. The first cobia have been boated and released as we get a taste of what is to come.

The high winds and turbid

waters put a damper on this seaside and this week's flounder catch. There were still a handful of good reports that all had one binding component....clean water. Clear water, with regard to flounder is the single most important factor on the road to success. All the best rigs, baits, and know how can easily be trumped by a river of mud. But still the seaside and surf, between the gusts of wind, still relinguished reds, blacks, and a few rock that were seduced by peelers hurled into the wash on modified fisher rigs. The beach also is starting to produce kingfish. These tasty treats have actively pursued bloodworm baited bottom rigs with small hooks and brightly colored floats.

Whether the weather is good or bad, the fishing is fast or less than fast, don't waste a single day. Find a buddy, some bait, and a leeward bank and enjoy this wonderful place we call home! §







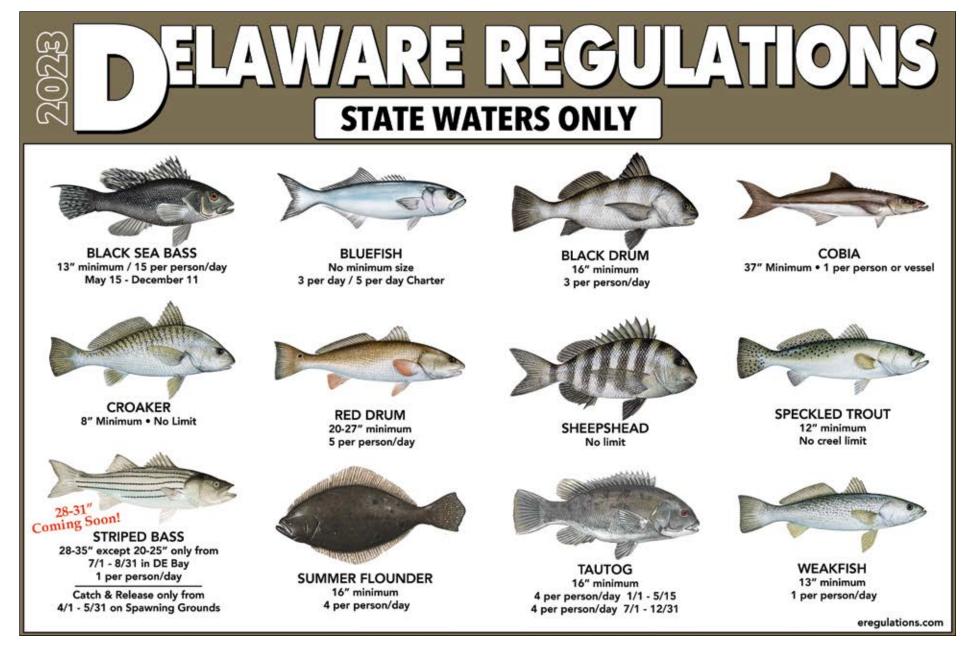
PA's Andy McMullen and Cody Hancock found some nice flounder while fishing out of Wachapreague, VA during this year's Annual Captain Zed's Flounder Tournament hosted by the Island House Restaurant. Andy's clearly larger flatfish faired better than Cody's! At $25\frac{1}{2}$ " and 6.5 lbs. it was heavy enough to hold onto 1st Place in the event. Andy's winner in picture was $25\,3/4$ ", 6 lb. 8oz.







This black drum is as big as Harrisburg, PA's Ayden Verbos who caught it! Ayden was on a fishing trip for his 14th birthday with Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat "Katydid". Happy Birthday Ayden!





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George and Marty Lockhart decided to try their luck with an evening trip to the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay. The bait of choice was surf clams from Lewes Harbour Marina and the boys snagged two black drum in the 30-50 pound range in no time.





* You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT

14th Annual Franky Pettolina MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Jemorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund Registration: May 26, 6:30 - 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 27 & 28 Weigh-Ins: May 27 & 28 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

44th Annual SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Registration: June 23, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 24 & 25 Weigh-Ins: June 24 & 25, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

15th Annual OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "Heels & Reels"*

nefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund Registration: August 3, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 4 & 5

Weigh-Ins: August 4 & 5 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

41st Annual Canyon Kick OFF *

Registration: June 29, 6:30-8:00pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 30, July 1 & 2

Weigh-Ins: June 30, July 1 & 2, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

65th Annual LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN Tournament *

Registration: August 30, 6:30-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3 Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3

6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

19th Annual Kid's Classic *

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Registration: July 21, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23 Weigh-Ins: July 22, 3:00-6:30pm and July 23, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

45th Annual CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: Sept. 13, 6:00-8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16 No Weigh-Ins



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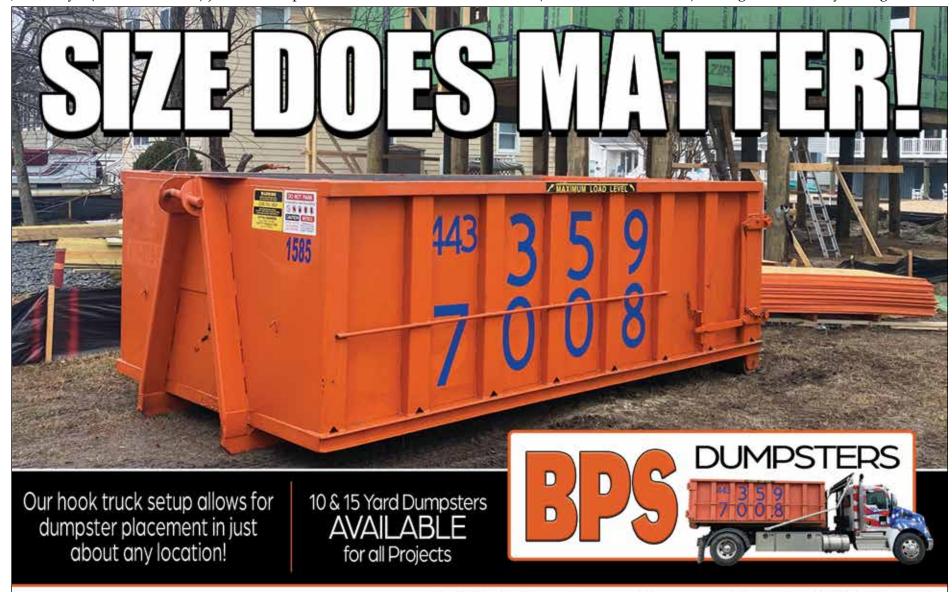
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A couple local boat builders were recognized last week as a part of an elite group of Custom Sport Fishing Boat builders during the 2023 Skip Smith Custom Shootout Fishing Tournament that was hosted at the Abaco Beach Resort in the Bahamas. Bear, DE based F&S Boatwork's John Floyd (2nd row far left) joined Bishopville, MD boat builder Russ Garafi (2nd row, 3rd from left) during the ceremony. Congrats!



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THIS WEEK'S FEATURED LISTINGS



57' Custom 2000 - Call Scott: 703.307.5900



56' Ocean 1999 - Call Jeremy: 410.507.4150



43' Everglades 2016 - Call Roger: 410.456.3659



Call Today! 410.390.3043



41' Valhalla 2024 - Call Today: 877.269.3021



37' Ocean 2012 - Call John: 301.991.3308



36' Custom 2008 - Call Scott: 703.307.5900



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The charter boat "Surface Tension" had a solid opening day for sea bass! Capt. Keith Beebe put the crew on some offshore structures and got them onto their limit of sea bass. Mate Aaron Brommer reeled in this nice flounder to boot! All the fish were caught using Nomad Jigs.



Capt. Chris Mizurak with mate Rich on the headboat Angler got a couple sea bass trips in last week despite the wind! While the bite was decent early on, the fish became more picky as the day progressed. Hillary Hummel still managed to snag a pair of knot heads.





The crew of Delaware's Bad Wind Charters decided to ditch the boat and head to the sands of Assateague Island for some surf action. The group of Capt. Bruce Lynch, Monty Whaley, Buck Pusey and Steve Goff landed 3 good sized rocks from the suds including Steve's 32" keeper. Note that the 'slot' in MD is now 28" - 31" as of May 15! They were using their Bad Wind Rigs with peeler crab on an incoming tide.

PICK UP YOUR COASTAL FISHERMAN AT THESE LOCATIONS

OCEAN CITY

Talbot Street Pier Oceanic Fishing Pier Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St. Reel Inn - 17th St. Bahia Marina - 22nd St. Minit Market - 31st St. Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St. Dough Roller - 41st St. Advanced Marina - 66th St. Holiday Inn - 67 St. Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St. Dough Roller - 69th St. Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St. Acme - 92nd St. Liquid Assets - 94th St. Carousel Hotel - 117th St. Wawa - 120th St. Montego Bay Market - 130th St. Primos Hoagies - 134 St.

WEST OCEAN CITY

7-Eleven - 139th St.

Wawa - Rt. 50 Mione's Pizza - Outlets Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets

WEST OCEAN CITY

Bank of Ocean City West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50 All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50 Bluewater Yacht Sales Ocean City Fishing Center Ocean City Marlin Club Atlantic Tackle Sunset Grille Shark Restaurant Sunset Marina Sunset Provisions Pure Lure Fishing Gear Harborside Bar & Grill Harbor Marine Optical Galleria - Rt. 611 Southside Deli - Rt. 611

BERLIN

Cheers - Berlin Food Lion - Berlin Crabs To Go - Rt. 50 Walmart - Rt. 50 Food Lion - Ocean Pines Rite Aid Royal Farms - Rt. 50

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

Fenwick Tackle Fenwick Hardware Lighthouse Liquors Bayville Package Store Food Lion Rt.54 Royal Farms Rt. 54 Harris Teeter Rt.113 Boat Sales

INDIAN RIVER

Indian River Marina Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop Old Inlet Bait & Tackle

DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes
Henlopen Bait & Tackle
Wheelhouse Restaurant
Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
Atlantic Liquors - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes
Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market)
Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1

G&E Supermarket
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26
Gull's Way Campground
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
Wawa - Rt. 26
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
Banks Wine & Spirits
Downtown Bethany by Bandstand
Bob's Marine
Giant - Ocean View
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Featured Boat of the Week



HADLOCK - 2002 61' Viking Convertible - Call Ronnie Fields



BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley **Call Steve Hedrick**

OUTNUMBERED - 1997 64' Mark Willis **Call Jimmy Fields**



1997 50' Alex Willis Custom Convertible Call Joel McLeod



SEA HUNTER - 2019 45' Mark Willis **Call Chris Workmon**



1985 47' Hines-Farley **Call Ronnie Fields**



POUND FOR POUND - 2000 42' Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



CALLIE MAY - 2011 40' Cabo Call Chris Workman



CONSTELLATION- 1984 37' Sunny Briggs **Call Ronnie Fields**

\$139,000



DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison **Boatworks Call Jeff James**



HIGHSHARE - 1996 38' Duffy Call Mark Pagano



1998 45' Ocean Yacht **Call Chris Workmon**



FOWL HOOKED - 1979 35' Custom Carolina Sportfish - Call Jeff James



1986 28' Ocean Master **Call Glenn Cameron**



Call Terry Layton



CARIBENA - 1982 34' Bertram **Call Jimmy Fields**



2020 18' Key West **Call Jimmy Fields**

