

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 50 • • • ISSUE 7 • • • June 18, 2025



The first white marlin release of 2025 has arrived. Angler Hannah Melvin released Ocean City's prized fish at 7:25 a.m. on Saturday, June 14th. Hannah was fishing aboard the "Wrecker" with Captain Bobby Layton and mates Zach Little and Cody Smith, and fellow anglers Miranda McKay, Cierra Hood, Megan Humphrey, Suzanne Kennedy, and Taylor Sears. Hannah is the first lady angler to release the first white marlin in Ocean City in 20 years. The crew was trolling the Washington Canyon for tuna, for Tuna and Tiaras, when the marlin came in on a spreader bar. Soon after, the fish fell back to the long rigger, and the fish was hooked up. An hour after Hannah's release, the Wrecker had another bite from a marlin but was unsuccessful in hooking it up. Alongside their big catch, the crew also boated five yellowfin. Congratulations to Hannah and the "Wrecker" for releasing the first of many white marlin in 2025.



On the "Reel OPPORT-TUNA-TY's" first charter of the season, Steve Szymanski, of MD, Andrew Kelnhofer, of VA, Jack and Curt Girouard, of MD/IL, and Nick and Tim Joseph, from VA, found some yellowfin tuna. They went out in the Washington with Capt. Ken and Capt. Adam along with mate Noah Fowler.



While fishing in heavy fog from the OC Inlet to Washington Canyon, Anglers Arde D'Amico and Mark Gross on "Faze Four" with Captain Mike Berkhiemer and mate Nate Berkhiemer caught this Yellowfin. D'Amico claims he saw lots of life in Washington, including half a dozen sharks, two marlin, pilot whales, and even porpoises.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JUNE

School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 18 - 22 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

10th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 20-22 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

46th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament

June 21-22 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam

Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 21-22 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off

July 4-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown

July 9-12 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

38th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 11-13 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Jimmy Johnson's Atlantic City "Quest for the Ring"

July 13-19 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

21st Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 19-20 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

11th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic

July 25-27 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

Cape May Marlin Tournament

July 24-27 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

AUGUST

Marlins for Mason

August 1-2 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 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



Angler Michael Butler landed this 20" flounder in the Assateague Surf. He made his catch while dragging a large white Gulp and a flat sinker in the first trough.

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There's been major success on the "Capt. Ike II" recently. Angler Ron Brooks scored a 52 lbs. yellowfin in the Baltimore Canyon, while Evan Smith, Drake Smith, Chad Sullenberger, Ben Stonesiffer, and Evan Gailimore teamed up to land golden tilefish and blackbelly rosefish. This crew from Lancaster, PA, went out with Capt. Dave Collins and mate Alex Neiss.

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THE Offshore Report

by Joey Marowski

Welcome back to another offshore fishing report, and it is with great excitement that this week we have finally received a push of tunas well within reasonable charter range. Starting with the week of events in Morehead, another eventful Big Rock tournament has come to a close, with an impressive release count of 238 blue marlin, 109 sailfish, and 73 white marlin totaling 420 release flags being flown. Congrats to the "Wave Paver", running away with the release division as well as some daily money, earning the team a little over \$207,000. Bringing home the dolphin division with a

47.2 lb bull worth \$558,000 was "Sea Wish". The first qualifying blue marlin of the tournament was the 449.7 lb fish caught by lady angler Lizzie Montague, which held onto second place along with \$603,750. Bringing home both first place overall and the fabulous fisherman prize for first fish over 500lb, a huge congratulations goes to the team on the "Big Trouble" whose 517lb blue earned them a spot on the wall, not to mention a payday of \$2,585,125. Thank you to all of the hardworking staff and sponsors down in Morehead for putting on the best run tournament in the country, we look forward to next

year and another chance at our own spot on the wall. Sliding up the beach, it should come as no surprise that the charter fleet out of Oregon Inlet continues to impress with steady catches of yellowfins, mahi, wahoo, and billfish releases. The Virginia Beach crowd is also getting in on the tuna action as well as both warmer water and fish seem to have appeared along the 100 fathom line almost all the way to New Jersey. Here at home, mid way through last week boats began to return to the dock with catches of yellowfin tuna, with fishing seeming to improve daily with impressive catches from Charter boats including "Talkin Trash", "Foolish Pleasures", "Boss Hogg", "Marli", "Wrecker", and "Restless Lady". The love continued to spread into the weekend where decent weather combined with good fishing found 63 teams competing in the 5th annual Tuna and Tiaras ladies tournament. The scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center were busy well into the night as many teams had fish to weigh on both days. Some of the

notable winners were as follows, team "Sea Hag" with single heaviest tuna as well as second place stringer earning the team \$69,952. Heaviest stringer was won by the "Instigator" bringing home \$39,352. The dolphin Calcutta was won by the "Water Damage" whose fish earned \$8325. Although non of their tunas brought in any money, "Wrecker" and crew had a memorable Saturday with the first white marlin of the year out of ocean city being caught by Hannah Melvin, earning the prize from the Marlin Club and Town of Ocean City. For those looking to get in on this hot tuna action now is the time to act, with decent weather forecasts for the week don't wait to call one of the many charters waiting to give you an amazing offshore experience. For those looking to get in on the fishing with their own rigs, reports have been spread out up and down the line anywhere from the Baltimore to the Norfolk with fish being caught on both ballyhoos and spreader bars making it a great opportunity to troll around with a chance for success. Hopefully this fishing continues as we have all been waiting anxiously for its arrival. Tight lines to all those able to get on the water this week.

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Richard III, Richard Jr., and Andy Dripps Jr. from Harbour Island took their new Mate Will Peace from Chestertown out on the new PYY Cape Horn. The crew did it in style, being the last boat to get to Washington and being one of the first to leave... along with their 126 lbs of yellowfin!



Bri Smith of Delmar, DE, reeled in this 46" red drum off the Assateague Surf. Bri was using cut spot to make her catch.

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Captain Ken and Adam along with Mate Noah Fowler were able to go an astounding 7 for 7 on Yellow Fins this Saturday aboard the "Reel OPPOR-TUNA-TY" at South and Deep. This ecstatic crew included Rick Hammon and Timothy Sipe from Shippensburg, PA, and David Martin, Gene Hammon, Nolan McNew, and Blake Hammon from Chambersburg, PA.



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Angler David Moore landed this 50-inch red drum off the Asateague Surf. David also landed four sandbar sharks and a sand tiger that same night.



Angler Brittany Lee, of Dagsboro, DE, reeled in these two flounder. She was using bucktail with Gulp. Brittany was fishing the Old Grounds.

2025 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA				CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES			
	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program			
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release			
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"	*** Use curved-fork-length measurements			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"	eregulations.com			

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean city brought windy conditions with scattered storms especially near the end of the week which made venturing offshore a little tough. The back bays and inlets continue to improve providing anglers with a plethora of different species to be caught. Many of these fish are undersized and must be thrown back, but larger flounder are starting to arrive just in time for our summer expansion of tourism. The deeper nearshore wrecks are still holding some big sea bass however the ratio is about 13 throwback to every keeper. The surf fishing is at its summer zenith with large sharks, rays, smaller spot, and kingfish now in the suds.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore wrecks are beginning to hold larger flounder on the down current side. Sea bass is made up of tons of undersized fish along with a few keepers. Metal jigs as well as locally made sea bass jigs are accounting for many of the keeper fish being

caught. Targeting deeper water as well as smaller lesser known wrecks is also a good decision at this time of the year. "Fin Chaser Sportfishing" headed out last week with the crew from Technical Solution Specialist from Pine Grove, PA. With relatively calm seas the group was able to land several keeper bass. The crew made about ten moves due to them running out of keepers with Murph even landing a big 22.5 inch bass to win the pool. Kevin McNelis went out with his dad and stated that the wrecks did not disappoint, providing them with over 40 flounder. They only kept 4 with the biggest being around 20 inches. They also caught their first triggerfish of the year. The "Ocean Princess" had a few good trips with clients hooking fish after fish and bringing home enough keepers for a good fish fry. A few big flounder were also found on the nearshore wrecks. The "Morning Star" had a good week on their full day trips with anglers bringing home coolers full of tasty black sea bass. Despite unfavorable

weather throughout the week, the crew managed to find the windows between storms to put Thor anglers on the fish. The "Angler Headboat" found a few nice weather days and returned to the docks with some big sea bass along with a few flounder. "Bad Wind Charters" said the bite seems to be getting stronger with larger fluke being caught each day. A few of his trips even finished with limits of the tasty flatfish. "Double Trouble Charters" checked off all the species boxes this past week catching blues, bass, flounder, rosefish, and tiles. Captain DJ Churchill stated between the offshore wrecks and the inshore one the fishing is really heating up. Bahia Marina reports the "Miss Kathleen" had plenty of success despite not finding any limits. The anglers returned to the dock with more than a few dinners loaded in the coolers.

John Foreman of "Bottom Bouncer Fishing" took a group out targeting sharks and landed a big sand tiger during one of his 3 hour trips

last week.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlet waters have warmed considerably with more fish arriving daily. Anglers are finding a lot more strike when fishing the main channels and inlet areas. Many of these fish are still undersized but provide anglers with steady action. Craig Cropper and Nature Boy fished the RT 50 Bridge catching a nice 32 inch redfish along with a few nice bluefish. "Miss OC Fishing" had several good trips last week and although the keepers were hard to come by, the sheer number of bites kept the angler busy all trip long. Levi Dunlap fished the inlet and caught a nice 29 inch rockfish. After fileting the fish, he found 14 juvenile flounder in the fish's stomach. Rockfish eat all sorts of small fish however this one seems to really like baby fluke. Baitwatch Fishing had a nice mix of fish on their trip catching their first weakfish of the season along with a couple flounder. Brandon Miller caught another limit of fluke in the back bays including a dandy 25", 6.7 pound flounder. Greg Allen fished the bays of OC and was rewarded with more small rockfish than he could count. He also caught

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a nice sheephead and a few Tautog. The "Miss Ocean City" reports anglers are catching lots of fish with an occasional keeper thrown in to delight anglers. The "Bay Bee" also had several good trips catching loads of fish including some keepers. The said they're looking forward to the crowds coming to town for the air show. Their big fish of the week was a nice 21.4 inch doormat caught by John.

Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has slowed with many anglers only finding sharks and rays willing to bite their line. Anglers should change to a kingfish rig to target the smaller spot and kingfish that are arriving in our waters. Many anglers still leave one rod with a mullet rig to target the sharks and bluefish in the area. David Moore had a final tally of 6 redfish and a large blacktip shark on his night of fishing the southern part of

Assateague Island

How To:

This week's how to is on bridge fishing. If fishing from the bridge itself, a medium to heavy rod and reel should be used with 20-30 lb line with a 6 or 8 oz sinker will be sufficient to reach bottom. Above the sinker should be about 20 feet of leader with a 6/0 circle hook tipped with a live spot fish. Fish the down current side of the bridge and set up directly over a descending piling and allow the rig to sink down the face of the piling. When the sinker hits bottom let the sinker bounce away from the structure 3-5 times before reeling in and re-setting the rig. Allowing the rig to travel too far away from the bridge will result in a snag. Bluefish and rockfish are the main target here but flounder can also be found.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up!



Fisherman John Townsend, of Oxford, PA, reeled in this 19", 2.31 lbs. flounder. John was fishing near Masseys Ditch on an outgoing tide using squid and Gulp.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

46th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
 Registration: June 20, 6:30-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 21 & 22
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43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
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 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 4, 5 & 6
 Weigh-Ins: July 4, 5 & 6
 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

17th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT *
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
 Registration: July 31, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 1 & 2
 Weigh-Ins: August 1 & 2
 5:30-7:30pm at Fisherman's Marina

45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
 Registration: Sept. 10, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 11, 12 & 13
NO WEIGH-INS
 Release reports turned in nightly to OCMC Clubhouse 6:00PM - 8:00PM

21st ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
 Registration: July 18, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 19 & 20
 Weigh-Ins: July 19, 3:00-6:30pm and July 20, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

2ND ANNUAL LABOR DAY INVITATIONAL
 Registration: August 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 3) August 29, 30 & 31
NO WEIGH-INS:
 This is strictly a release tournament.
 Release reports MUST be turned in to OCMC Clubhouse on your fishing day BY 8:00PM

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Hooked The Story

by Anna Williams



How Coastal Fisherman Came to Be with Dale Timmons

Since 1976, **Coastal Fisherman** has been more than just a weekly newspaper — it's been a trusted source for fishing reports, a snapshot of Ocean City's charter docks, and a community connection point for nearly five decades.

Founded by Dale Timmons, the paper started as a simple effort to document local fishing life with stories, reports, and photos — and quickly became a must-read for anglers, captains, and anyone drawn to the water.

Timmons ran the paper for over 20 years before handing it off in 2005 to longtime contributor Larry Jock, who later passed it on to Larry Budd. In spring

2025, Coastal Fisherman entered a new chapter under publisher Dave Messick, founder of Unscene Productions. With a background in production and a passion for local stories, Messick brings new energy while staying rooted in the legacy that Timmons began.

Before looking forward, I caught up with Dale to talk about the early days — and how a kitchen-table operation turned into a lasting part of Ocean City's history.

Q: What do you remember most about putting together those first few issues of Coastal Fisherman?

A: Well, I remember I really didn't know what I was doing to start with, and it was always

hectic. It took longer to do a 20-page paper then than it does to do a 100-page paper now, primarily because of the technology — we didn't have any, really... We were working out of our home, and every Sunday night it would be laid out on the kitchen table. All the flats, of course. There was no nothing, no computer. It was quite a while after that that we stopped using flats and did it all, uploading it from the computer.

Q: Did you think the paper would last when you first started?

A: I had no idea. I was just worried about it lasting through that first summer, really. I mean, like you, all I had was an idea. You're trying to sell it, you know — it's a tough nut to crack, especially since there were so many publications.

Q: What gave you the idea to start your own paper?

A: Well, I had done work for some of those other publications. I had done fishing reports, and in fact, the first thing I ever did for a paper was for the old Beachcomber, and I wrote a fishing column. A friend of mine was working there as a reporter, and I told him I could write a fishing column. That's what I ended up doing... One of the reasons I started it was that I thought I was going to be able to get paid for going fishing. It didn't work out that way, because usually I was working while everybody else was fishing.

Q: What was the Ocean City fishing scene like in the '70s when you were just getting started with the paper?

A: Well, it was primarily concentrated in downtown Ocean City because there was no Sunset Marina or Ocean City Fishing Center in those days... Fishing was competitive, but

www.coastalfisherman.net it was more limited. The big tournament in the early '70s was the Marlin Club Labor Day tournament.

Q: Is there a story or moment that really stands out to you from your time running the paper?

A: I remember one time a kid caught a swordfish in the surf — that was pretty memorable. That was at Indian River. I drove all the way up there to take his picture.

Q: You wrote a short story series called Fishing With Ben Sykes. What inspired that character?

A: So Ben Sykes — that's all fictional stories. Some of them are based on the truth, but mostly fiction. I came up with the character, and in the first one I wrote, he was just called "the man." I thought, well, I need to come up with a name for this guy if I'm going to do it. And I said, "Well, it's all BS anyway," so that's where Ben Sykes started.

Q: Do you remember how the Ocean City community responded when the paper first launched?

A: Not really. I remember Hale Harrison — I went to high school with him — he said, "Now I'm going to take this back page and have it as long as I want it." That was him telling me that it was going to survive, basically. I tell people that without Hale Harrison, there wouldn't have been a Coastal Fisherman.

Q: What's it like knowing that the paper still comes out every week all these years later?

A: It's nice to know that something I started is still surviving.

Q: What did you enjoy most about writing and running the paper?

A: I met a lot of people and, you know, made a lot of friends — which was the best thing about it. And I learned so much. I learned about fishing and about people and about techniques that I didn't really know about when I started.

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Ocean City, Maryland

A weekly news magazine for Del-Mar-Va anglers

June 18, 1976

Layton Boats 1st Marlin

Ocean City's first white marlin of the 1976 season was caught June 10 by veteran angler Reese Layton while fishing aboard the "Captain Talbot" with captain Dale Brown.

"It was the damndest fish I ever saw. I've never spent that much time on a white. If it hadn't been the first of the year, I would have cut him off and forgot the whole thing," Layton said afterwards.

Layton, who said he has probably caught "three or four hundred" marlin, was referring to the unusual circumstances surrounding this year's first. According to Captain Dale Brown, the 75-pound fish apparently took the bait in his mouth, but then "threw" the hook and it caught him in the back just under the dorsal fin. Foul-hooked, the fish was much harder to control.

"He ran off all the line from the first reel, and we tied on the second rod and threw the first one overboard. We damn near never got the first rod back," Layton said. "I've never spent much more than 10 minutes on a white, and this one took 40."

The fish was taken in the Norfolk Canyon southeast of Ocean City on a trolled squid. It was six feet, ten inches long.

For Layton, who has been fishing Ocean City waters "since the inlet broke through," and for Brown, a charter boat captain for many years, catching the first white of the season was a first. "This is the first time I've ever done it," beamed a happy Brown.

The captain didn't even seem to mind being thrown in the bay by his fellow captains and mates, a traditional dunking administered to those lucky enough to snag the first white of the year.



"Ocean City's Ernest Hemingway," veteran angler Reese Layton of Annapolis, caught the first white marlin of the season on June 10, tying a record set in 1974 for the earliest catch date. Layton was fishing aboard the "Captain Talbot," with Captain Dale Brown out of the Talbot St. Pier. The fish weighed 75 pounds and was six feet, 10 inches long.

The cover of the Coastal Fisherman, from 1976, during its first year of publication. This issue was published exactly 49 years prior to this issue on June 18th and also features the first white marlin caught of the season on the cover. This marlin was caught by Reese Layton or as Dale Timmons wrote, "Ocean City's Ernest Hemingway."


HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

2025

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



Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 		May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	Weakfish 		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 lbs.	
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
Flounder 	June 4 Ryan Edsell East Channel 7.3 lbs.	May 17 Isaac Mitchell Lewes and RB Canal 4.34 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna  	June 13 George Hall III South of Washington Canyon 64 lbs.	
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler Poor Man's Canyon 8 lbs.	
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



The "Tips Up" has been on a hot streak with tuna. Capt. Chris Ragni brought back nine yellowfin to the dock only missing one during his trip.



"The Colonel" claims they were able to find "the X" on a foggy Thursday in the Poorman's when they were able to reel in six yellowfin tuna, all weighing in around 40lbs. Captain 'Mad Mike' from Ocean View had a great time with anglers Liam Darref and Matt Hanson who both caught three yellowfin each!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Check out this crew that landed a bunch of yellowfin tuna aboard the "Spring Mix."



Mandi from Carlisle, PA, and John Hubbard of Alexandria, VA, had a successful day aboard the "Bay Bee," reeling in some impressive flounder while fishing just outside the South Sea Wall. Mandi landed a solid-18 inch, while John topped the day with a 21 1/4" catch. The duo was joined by boat owner Michael, and they found success using a classic bait combo of shiner and squid.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Boss Hogg" had a great day of tuna fishing, bringing 16 tuna back to the docks at Sunset Marina. Hopefully this crew tipped the fish cleaners well.



An angler on the "Ms. Kathleen" reeled in this flounder, winning himself some prize money! He went out with Capt. Eric Shoaff to the Great Eastern Reef.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This crew went out on the "Tortuga" and landed a few keeper flounder with good fishing conditions all day long!



This angler aboard the "Happy Hooker" reeled in a rockfish. As you can see by his smile and the young girl's excitement, they had a great day fishing.

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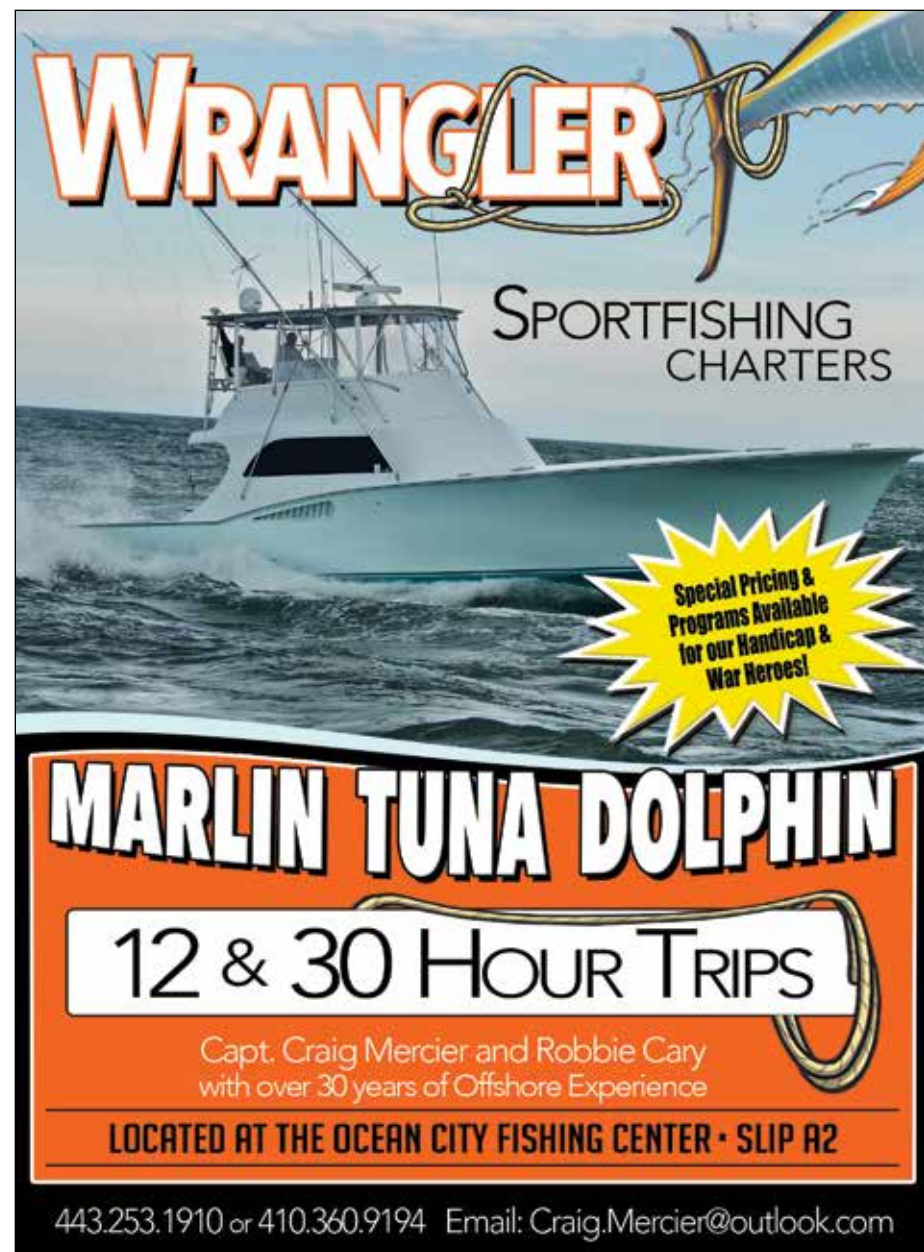
FISHING CHARTERS




While fishing on the “Morning Star”, on Friday the 13th, Ricky Holmes was able to overcome the bad luck and catch the largest sea bass of the day to win the biggest fish pool. Seems like Ricky is bringing home the big bucks!



Vince Taylor and Capt. C.L. Marshall holding a hammer red drum. The crew with Tangier Sound Charters had a rough start attempting to catch bluefish, but found good fishing when this drum showed up.



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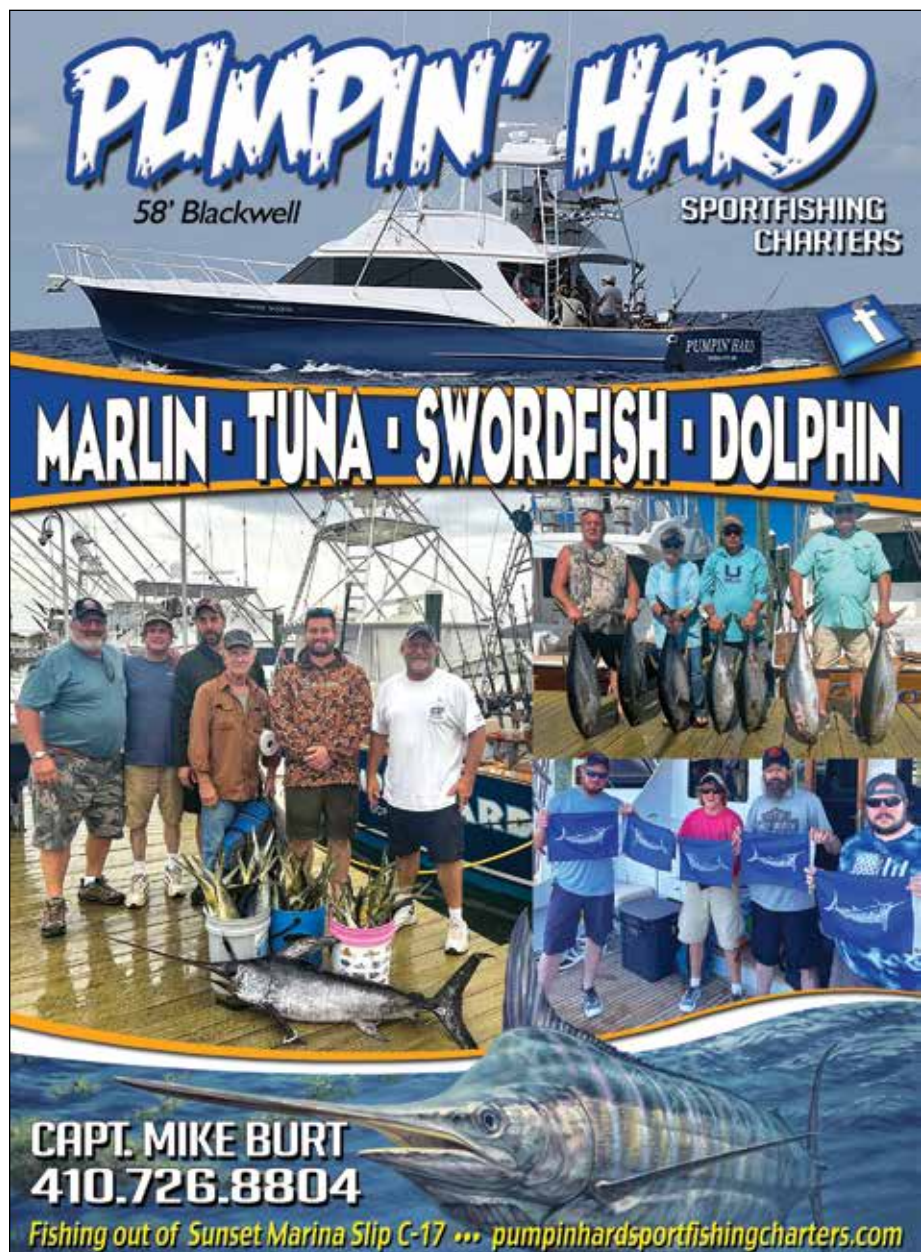
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FISHING CHARTERS



These happy anglers aboard "Fish Bound" charters have their hands full with good sized flounder.



These anglers aboard the "Ocean Princess" had a great day on the water! During a 14-hour tilefish trip, there was consistent action. Anglers landed multiple blueline tilefish over 10 lbs., along with a steady catch of golden tilefish, making for a highly successful and fun trip!

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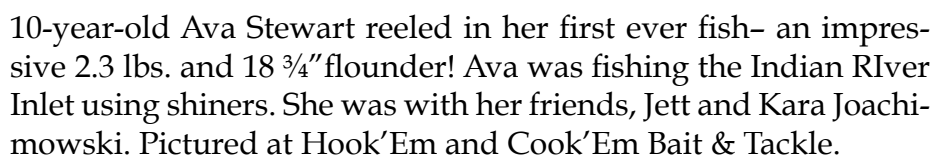
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Angler Mark Stull reeled in this 67-inch stingray from the Assateague Surf. "What a workout!" Mark said.



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Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



Getting the Kids Involved: Family Surf Fishing at Assateague

When it comes to fishing with kids, surf fishing can be one of the most forgiving and rewarding experiences out there. It's easy to stay patient when there's so much fun to be had—and Assateague's OSV (Over-Sand Vehicle) zone never seems to disappoint. Shell hunting, digging for sand crabs, exploring the dunes, and playing in the surf usually keep the kids more entertained than any beach toys—especially between bites. For us, it's usually a full family affair, often

accompanied by campfires and cookouts. But with all the fun, it's easy to get distracted—not only from your fishing lines but also from the few real dangers that come with being on the island.

Setting Up and Staying Safe

When we arrive, the first thing out of the truck is usually the sand spikes and rods. Skylar's oldest two—Jaxon (8) and Finn (5)—usually help by taking the rod holders to their approximate spots and gently placing them in the sand. Once the rods are out, it's important to be

mindful of the hooks. We always keep loose hooks stored safely out of reach or in a closed container. If hooks are on rods in the holders, they should be reeled up above eye level—ideally higher than the tallest person in the group. As with any fishing, it's critical to be aware of your surroundings when casting. But with all the excitement, kids often follow you down to the water's edge—so always look twice before casting if kids are nearby.

The surf can be rough, and some of the deepest water on the beach may be just 10 yards from shore. Kids should either be strong swimmers, wear life jackets, or stay in water no deeper than their knees. We allow our kids to explore much of the beach, but they're always reminded to stay away from the wild horses and never play in or near the vehicle ruts. During the spring and summer, there are often areas closed for nesting birds—those closures should always be respected by kids and adults alike.

Bait, Learning, and Fun

Surf fishing offers a wide variety of bait options, depending on what you're targeting. Most days, we catch fresh sand crabs right on the beach—which just happens to be one of the kids' favorite tasks. Right after the rod holders are placed, they grab their shovels and buckets and head to the shoreline. Cut

bait is another staple we use, which might include blue crabs, bunker, or even bluefish or kingfish caught in the surf. Depending on the kids' age and ability, preparing bait can be a great teaching opportunity—showing them how to properly cut and rig for different species. It's also important to keep bait and food coolers separate. Especially with kids around, the last thing you want is for a great beach day to end with a ruined sandwich—or worse, a case of food poisoning.

Big Rods, Small Anglers

Surf rods are typically too large and heavy for young kids to cast on their own until their early teens. That said, with a little help or the right technique, a 5- or 6-year-old can still handle a 10-foot rod and even reel in a 30-pound black drum. We've watched Jaxon do it a few times—usually by bracing the rod butt in the sand, pulling back, and reeling down until one of us grabbed the leader at the water's edge. There's just something magical about pulling a fish from the sea. Whether it's a small kingfish or a quirky pufferfish, the excitement on their faces is always the same.

Each trip is a chance to teach them something new, and year after year, as the kids grow, so does their love and passion for these beachside fishing adventures. So if you're new to the idea—or just haven't been in a while—pack up the rods, light a fire, spark up the grill, and wet a line. Assateague is waiting.

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Michael Butler and his daughter went out for some family fishing out on Assateague. His daughter landed this 99" or 8'3" sand tiger that ate part of a blue fish. Michael said that the shark was probably about 350 lbs., and it only took her about 15 minutes to reel it in!



Zack Winkler, of Pittsville, MD, reeled in this monster 48" red drum. Zack was fishing off the Assateague Surf using cut spot for bait

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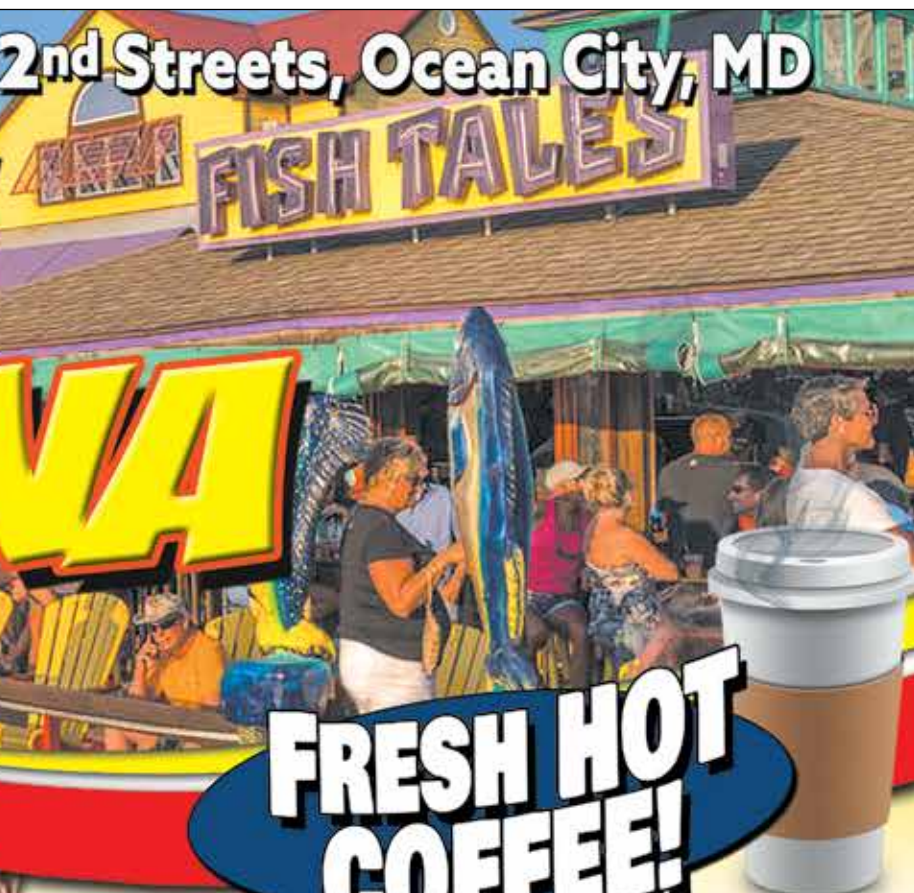
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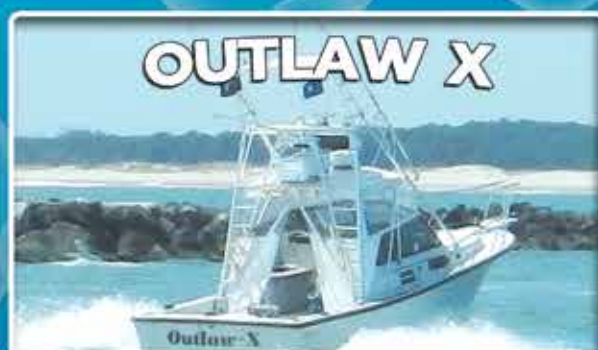
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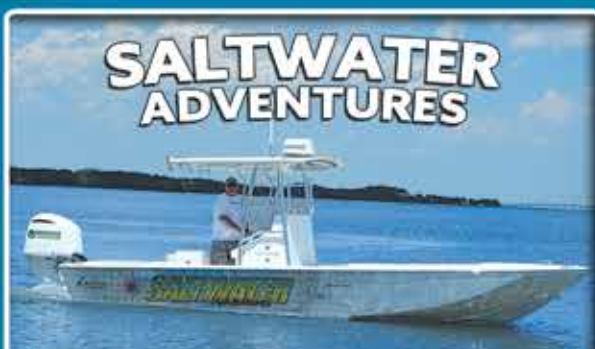
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Jeff Beard from Fenwick Island was fishing the Thorofare and was able to bring in these two nice keepers measuring 18" and 19". Beard was using Deadly Double tackle, gulp and shiners.



Angler Marcus Harris, of Selbyville, DE, reeled in this 18" sheepshead. He was fishing at the South Jetty on the "Turn Me Loose" with Capt. Dave Weller. Marcus was using sand fleas as bait.

2025 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

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 BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31	 BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day	 COBIA 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers
 CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day	 RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day 12" minimum	 SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day
 STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day	 SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"	 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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Angler CC Weller caught this throwback on gulp behind OC with her dad and grandfather.

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- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

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

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
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Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish 	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish 	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
Black Drum 	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna 	June 5 Jack Disney Restless Lady II Baltimore Canyon	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
Cobia 		June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder 	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo 		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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Photo credit: George Poveromo.

DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware brought some stormy days with brief periods of sun and warmer temperatures. The 80-plus heat of the days has warmed our nearshore waters and the back bays. The wrecks offshore are producing some keeper bass, but the number of keepers to throwbacks has grown exponentially. Using jigs is the best way to target keeper sea bass. The inlets, back bays, and the Delaware Bay are starting to show much more life as the water nears 70 degrees. Keeper flounder are being found both in the DE Bay and in Indian River. Surf fishing has slowed with smaller spot and kingfish making up most catches, along with occasional sharks and rays.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral Grounds

The nearshore coral ground near the Old Grounds have been producing

better quantities of keeper flounder. Many anglers are finding bigger baits and larger bucktals are sparing them the trouble of weeding through the many undersized fish. The Coral Grounds have also been producing sea bass however the ratio is around 20 throwbacks to every keeper. The Fenwick shoals are starting to produce spadefish as well as a few trigger fish on the wreck in 30 ft of water. Brittany Lee fished the open bottom outside the shipping channel using Gulp grubs on a jighead and was rewarded with a beautiful 21 inch flounder as a result. Brittany fished with Larry Lee and stated not fog, rain, or lightning could stop them from their quest of finding a nice flounder to bring home for dinner. Great job Brittany! Captain Chuck Cook checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with a nice 26

inch 6.6 pound fluke. "Flip N Fins" had a few good days fishing the bottom structure near Fenwick landing several flounder up to 6 lbs. "Wreck Dawg Sportfishing" returned to the docks with limits of sea bass again this past week. The crew switched over to jigs and even landed a flounder limit. This crew seems to have the fish dialed in. The "Michael D" checked into Hook'Em and Cook'Em tackle after trolling the Fenwick shoals for bluefish and drifting sand fleas for sheepshead. Jason Murrow of York PA had the big fish at ten pounds even. That is a big sheepshead for this early in the year. George Rockwell had a good morning in the Lewes Canal when he landed a huge 5.81 pound flounder. That's a big fish for any fishery.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlet

continue to improve as the warmer days heat our back bay waters. Many anglers are finding flounder of keeper size ready to bite the hook. The evening hours are still producing bluefish and rockfish along the rock wall of Indian River inlet with paddle tails and jigs being the best baits when targeting these fish. The Delaware Bay has slowed for black drum with many fish already spawned out and heading north for their summer areas. Trout and croaker have replaced these fish. The croakers are still generally small but will readily bite a small hook tipped with squid. The breakwall and ice breakers at the mouth of the bay have started to show signs of life, with sheepshead starting to be caught. Greg Allen fished the southside of the inlet and landed a nice 16 inch sheepshead while drifting sand fleas on an incoming tide. Jon Blaine also fished the inlet and had a great night catching bluefish one after another. Cut bait and swim jigs accounted for this great evening on the water. Bob

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Riden caught a big 35" bluefish from the south side of IR Inlet. Jamy Yochis was fishing Rehoboth Bay when he hooked a nice 22.5 inch, 5.2lb fluke on a live minnow. 10 yr. old Ava Stewart was fishing with friend Jett and Kara Joachimowski when she caught her first fish ever. It was an impressive 18.7", 2.3 lb flounder while using live shiners. An impressive feat for one so young, great job Ava!!

Briley Brooks took a sunset cruise on the Lewes Canal and ended up catching 4 fluke with two being keepers at 18 and 24 inches. Ricky Rothenberger limited out on flounder with the largest being 22 inches.

Nick Garcia fished the DE Bay with his Grandpop and his buddy Tim. The crew caught 2 keeper flounder right off despite the rain. As the day went on they landed a few more keepers and had a wet ride back home. Nick reports the water was very dirty and read 67-69 degrees. A great start to the season with tons of throwback added in. Dylan Barbour ended his day with a limit of slammer bluefish.

Surf Fishing

We have reached our summer time at the beach. With the warmer water, the larger fish have ventured further north, leaving the beach fishing to the summer doldrums of spot, kingfish, and small blues. A few rockfish and drum can still be found, but have become the oddity rather than the norm. Anglers are changing over from the springtime rigs to the summer pompano/

kingfish rigs with small strips of squid.

Crabs and Clams

Clams remain strong with more large soup/chowder clams being raked up as opposed to the smaller ones we saw in past weeks. Crabbing has improved with larger male crabs entering the traps than in the past weeks. The pots are still loaded with small crabs and pregnant females, leaving us with a ratio of around 6-7 keepers per pot. Although this number is still lower than past years, the size of the keepers is larger, with many crabs well above the 5-inch minimum.

How To:

This week's how-to involves fishing the Fenwick Shoals. Many anglers overlook this area and head directly to target flounder in the summer months. The Fenwick Shoals has a vast variety of fish, which include Spanish Mackerel as well as bluefish, sheepshead, triggerfish, and spade fish. Local anglers who fish this area will arrive shortly after sunrise and begin trolling small spoons as soon as light allows. Small #1 or 2 spoons trolled behind the boat at around 5-7 mph will produce strikes from Spanish as a

well as bluefish. If targeting blues slow down a bit and if spanish macs are the target speed up. Keep it simple trolling 2 to 4 lines to avoid tangles upon hook ups. After around 9 am this fishery will shut down and a new target, such as spade fish, should be targeted.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up!



Paul Plummer, of Ocean View, DE, and Gene Bauerle and Denny Lorah, both of Ocean City, MD, hooked this 299 lbs., 84-inch thresher shark. The crew caught this beast on the "Salty Hook" four miles due east of Indian River Inlet. They reeled the shark in using mackerel. Pictured at Hook'Em and Cook'Em.



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If I want to see everything, I need to go everywhere. That has been my mantra for the last 30 years. When the opportunity arose to go white marlin fishing in Mohammedia, Morocco, I did not hesitate. It only took two calls to my equally intrepid friends—Zak Smith of Route 113 Boat Sales and Kim Hermanowski from Boca Raton, Florida—to join in on this adventure. Also joining us would be writer/photographer Dave Lewis from Wales, United Kingdom, who would be writing for Marlin Magazine. We rounded out our international crew with our Italian captain, Marco Canu, and his mates from Senegal and Morocco, Alouine and Ahmed, along with the owner of the 41-ft Gamefisherman, French/Moroccan Laurant Sayhoun. My initial thought was, when we raise a white marlin, we're going to have to call out the position in four or five different languages. What could possibly go wrong?

Zak and I traveled to Casablanca non-stop via Royal Air Maroc from Dulles Airport in Virginia. We were absolutely pampered on this 7-hour, 13-minute flight. Upon arriving in Casablanca, we met Kim and our driver,

the undisputed sign language champion of the world, Sa'id. After a quick 40-minute ride, we approached the town of Mohammedia. We could see the calm eastern Atlantic Ocean and began to smell the savory, smoky aroma of grilled sardines being prepared by street vendors. I asked Sa'id to stop at a bread vendor, where I purchased five loaves of fresh-baked bread for \$1.00. We were staying at the Novotel Mohammedia, a modern hotel with a wonderful bar and restaurant, just a 5-minute drive to the marina.



Later that evening, we all gathered at a local restaurant, dined like kings, and shared



stories of fishing around the world. The excitement of world-class Moroccan white marlin was rising, but as fishermen always do when gathering together, we told stories of other places we had been. If there was one thing I learned, it was that I have so many more places I still need to visit.

Fishing is done by trolling small daisy chains and Squidnation Mini Flippy Floppy things on the shorts and small to medium hookless lures with conger eel tails acquired from the local fleet. We also deployed a Squidnation Lumo Green Fat Daddy dredge on the LP Dredge setup. This five-teaser spread is all very close to the boat. We all knew when that white marlin showed up! Our baits were simple: lip-hooked

of a double or a triple.

Once we raised a white marlin, the mates would tease them in as we would deploy our sardines with rod tips held high and arms overhead. We were instructed by Laurant and Marco to keep all line out of the water—hence the arms overhead. There really is nothing more exciting than seeing the powder-blue pectoral fins glide into the spread as the marlin's dorsal quivers behind our sardine—and we would drop the bait into the white's mouth. Over the next three days, we scored numerous white marlin releases. We all tuned in our pitching skills thanks to the excellent tutoring of Capt. Marco and IGFA world record holder Laurant Sayhoun.

The highlight of the trip was Zak Smith's estimated 110 lb



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white marlin release. I learned long ago that when the captain reaches for the camera, we have something special going on.

Morocco left such an impression on us that I could easily make this a two-part series. Of all the places I have visited, I would recommend four or five days of non-fishing touring. Our group spent two nights in Marrakech at the riad hotel El Fenn. We meandered through the medina in alleys that were dark and shoulder width. About the time we figured we were lost, we came to a simple wooden door with a sliding peephole and a tiny sign that read 'El Fenn.' We knocked, the peephole slid open, we announced ourselves, and the door opened to a menagerie of perfectly decorated atriums, cafés, soaking pools, and even a few tortoises that roamed freely throughout the hotel. Our suite was a four-story townhouse straight out of a movie. This was Moroccan opulence at the next level.



Later that evening, we strolled through the medina and shopped at spice shops, traditional Berber rug stores, and endless food stands and artisan shops. I even purchased a door that was shipped back to the U.S. We also dined on some oddities that were actually very tasty. A bucket of

snails to start. We followed that with roasted goat's head and finished off with a \$2 mystery sandwich that was fabulous. For those with a palate that is not quite as adventurous—fear not. Chicken, lamb, steak, and shrimp are available everywhere.



After touring snake charmers in the square, we all got a good night's sleep in anticipation of our morning helicopter ride over the High Atlas Mountains for a camel ride and a stay at the Berber Camp in the Sahara Desert. The experience was unique to Morocco and one that I will remember forever. Our hosts prepared sublime meals cooked in the traditional clay tagine. Later that evening under the Sahara sky, we were treated to a traditional folk music concert before retiring to our tents.

The next morning, the crew set up a traditional breakfast atop a sand dune as we watched the sun rise over the Sahara Desert. We even snuck in a four-wheeler dune tour, while our friend Kim went sand dune boarding.

To plan a fishing expedition in Morocco contact Captain Marco Canu. He can be found on Facebook at One More Sport Fishing or contact him by email: canumarco76@hotmail.com.



"Foolish Pleasures" had a great day on the water with this crew, landing five yellowfin on plastic. These anglers went out with Capt. Dale Lisi to the Washington Canyon.

THE GALLEY

From the Garden & Gulf

Garden Vegetable Skillet with Shrimp:

Fresh, vibrant and tossed together—garden goodness meets Gulf shrimp in every bite.

Ingredients:

For the Shrimp:

1 pound peeled and deveined shrimp

1/2 teaspoon Cajun seasoning or seasoning salt, or to taste

1/2 teaspoon Old Bay, optional

1/4 cup cooking oil, divided

For the Skillet:

2 cups diced, unpeeled red tomatoes

2 cups fresh green beans, trimmed and cut

1 1/2 cups halved, quartered and sliced Vidalia or other sweet onion

1 cup sliced mixed sweet bell pepper (red, yellow, orange and/or green)

1 large yellow summer squash, halved lengthwise and sliced

1 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and sliced

1 tbsp. chopped garlic

1/2 tsp. kosher salt, or to taste

1/4 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper, or to taste

1/4 cup of chopped mixed fresh herbs (rosemary, basil, parsley, sage)

1/2 cup sliced grape tomatoes or chopped fresh tomato

1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes, optional

Sprig of fresh rosemary, to garnish, optional

For the Grill Captain

Chimichurri Rockfish over Grilled Vegetables:



Directions:

For the Shrimp:

1. Thaw shrimp if frozen, drain and pat dry.

2. Season with Cajun seasoning and Old Bay; let rest while you prep the vegetables.

3. Heat 1 tbsp. of the oil over medium high heat in a large skillet. Cook shrimp, in batches, stirring regularly for 3 minutes adding oil as needed. Remove and set aside.

For the Skillet:

1. Add another tablespoon of oil and the potatoes; cook for 2 minutes, stirring regularly.

2. Add the bell pepper and onion; cook and stir for another 3 minutes.

3. Add more oil, if needed, and the remaining vegetables (except for the tomatoes), garlic, herbs, and seasoning.

4. Cook, gently stirring occasionally, about 8 to 10 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

5. Scoot veggies to the outside of the skillet, add more oil, the tomatoes, and return the shrimp to the skillet, gently tossing until shrimp is warmed through.

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6. Taste, add red pepper flakes and adjust seasonings as needed.

7. Transfer to a platter and garnish with a sprig of rosemary, if desired. Serve with cornbread.

Smoky, zesty, and grilled to perfection—rockfish that steals the show.

Ingredients:

Chimichurri Ingredients:

2/3 cup fresh parsley

5 tsp. fresh oregano, chopped

1 clove fresh garlic peeled, minced

1/4 tsp. red wine vinegar

1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

1/8 tsp. ground black pepper

1/3 cup olive oil

Grilled Vegetable Ingredients:

1 cup portobello mushrooms 1/4 - inch slices

1 1/2 cups red bell peppers sliced

2 cups zucchini halved and cut into 1/2 inch pieces

1 cup red onion cut into 1/4-inch rings

4 tsp. olive oil

1/4 tsp. kosher salt

1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

Fish Ingredients:

1 1/2 tsp. olive oil

1 tsp. paprika

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1 1/2 lbs. rockfish fillets, skinless

Directions:

1. Combine parsley (stem and leaves), oregano (stem and leaves), garlic, vinegar, crushed red chili flakes and black pepper in a blender. Process until smooth. Slowly drizzle in the first listed olive oil while blending.

2. Preheat the grill. Toss prepared vegetables with second listed oil, salt and pepper then grill all vegetables for 3-4 minutes per side until tender and char marks are visible.

3. For fish, mix the third listed olive oil and paprika together. Brush fish fillet on both sides. Cook rockfish until the internal temperature reaches 145F.

4. Place grilled vegetables on a plate and top with fish fillet and chimichurri.

For When You're Feeling Spicy

Spicy Cilantro-Jalapeño Cobia:

Bold, fiery, and fresh – this cobia brings the heat with a kick.

Ingredients:

1 lb. cobia fillets, patted dry

Large handful of fresh cilantro leaves

1 jalapeño, seeds removed

1/2 red chile, seeds removed (optional)

2 cloves garlic, peeled

1 tbsp. fresh ginger, chopped

1 tbsp. lemon juice

1/2 tsp. cumin

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

3 tbsp. olive oil

1/2 cup fresh mango, chopped

Handful of toasted pepitas (pumpkin seeds) or sunflower (seeds)

Fresh lemon or lime wedges for finishing

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 450 degrees.

2. Combine cilantro through olive oil in a food processor and pulse several times until combined.

3. Lightly sprinkle both sides of the fillets with salt & pepper.

4. Place fillets in a rimmed baking sheet and pour the cilantro mixture over them, covering both sides. Bake for about 15-20 minutes (depending on how thick your fillets are). You can tell they're cooked when you touch them and the flesh is relatively firm and bright white.

5. Serve over rice or greens.

6. Top with fresh mango, pumpkin seeds, and a sprinkle of lemon or lime juice just before serving.

For When the Whole Crew's Home

Creamy Seafood-Stuffed Shells:

Creamy, cheesy, and packed with seafood – comfort food for the whole crew.

Ingredients:

8 oz lump crabmeat, roughly chopped

8 oz shrimp, roughly chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced, divided

Juice from 1/2 lemon

8 oz cream cheese, cut into cubes

1 tbsp. Old Bay seasoning

2 tbsp. finely chopped parsley, divided, plus more for topping

2 tsp. red pepper flakes, divided, plus more for topping

Salt and pepper, as needed

2 tbsp. butter

1 small yellow onion, diced

1/4 cup tomato paste

1/2 cup cognac

6 oz jumbo pasta shells (20 shells), cooked

1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Heat a thin layer of oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add the shrimp, crab meat, and 2 cloves minced garlic and cook until shrimp is pink and garlic is fragrant, about 2



1 (28 oz) can tomato purée

minutes.

3/4 cup heavy whipping cream

3. Add the lemon juice and stir, then add the cream cheese cubes

and stir until completely melted, about 3-4 minutes. Add the Old Bay seasoning, 1 tablespoon parsley, 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Stir to combine, then remove from the heat. Add salt and pepper to taste as needed.

4. Melt the butter in a deep skillet over medium heat. Once melted, add the remaining 2 cloves minced garlic and onion and cook until soft.

5. Add the tomato paste and stir into the vegetables to combine. Cook until beginning to stick to the bottom of the skillet, about 3 minutes. Deglaze the skillet with the cognac, then bring to a simmer and reduce by about half.

6. Add the tomato purée and heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Add the remaining red pepper flakes and parsley, then simmer until the mixture is thickened, about 5 minutes.

Season to taste with salt and pepper.

7. Transfer the sauce to the bottom of a 9"x13" - inch casserole dish.



Using a small spoon, stuff the shells with the crab mixture until full but not overstuffed. Arrange in the dish, nestling into the sauce.

8. Grate the parmesan over the stuffed shells, then place in the oven and bake until the cheese is melted, 20-25 minutes.

9. Remove from the oven and sprinkle with parsley and red

pepper flakes to serve.

For the Global Galley

Caribbean-Style Tuna Escovitch:

The taste of the tropics right at your table – no passport needed!

Ingredients:

4 tuna steaks

1 tsp. seasoned salt

1 tbsp. jerk seasoning

½ tsp. cayenne

¼ cup vegetable oil or oil of choice

1 medium carrot peeled and cut Julienne

1 medium onion thinly sliced

2 bell peppers, any color cored and sliced

1 Scotch bonnet whole

4 sprigs fresh thyme

½ tsp. Jamaican all-spice or regular ground all-spice

2 bay leaves

¼ cup natural rice vinegar or red wine

1 tbsp. sugar

Salt and pepper

Minced scallions, optional to garnish

Directions:

1. Season fish on both sides evenly with seasoned salt, jerk seasoning, and cayenne. Heat half of the oil (2 tablespoons) in a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat. Sauté fish until golden brown about 7-9 minutes, flipping once. Remove fish from pan; set aside.

2. Add the remaining oil to the same pan along with the Julienne carrots and a pinch of salt and pepper. Sauté carrots until they start to tenderize, about 3-4 minutes.

3. Stir in peppers, onions, and another sprinkle of salt and pepper. Sauté until they start to caramelize, about 6-7 minutes, stirring frequently. Add in all remaining ingredients (Scotch bonnet through sugar) and stir well. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer. Cook until vegetables are tender, another

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5-6 minutes.

4. Return fish to the pan and cover with the peppers to warm the fish back up. Check for seasoning and adjust if necessary. Divide between the two bowls to serve. Garnish with minced scallions if you wish.

For a Sweet Finish:

Refreshing No-Bake Pineapple Coconut Bars

Tropical vibes, zero oven required.

Ingredients:

For the Crust:

1 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs

½ cup shredded coconut (sweetened or unsweetened)

¼ cup granulated sugar

½ cup unsalted butter, melted

For the Pineapple Filling:

8 oz cream cheese, softened

½ cup powdered sugar

1 cup crushed pineapple, drained (reserve juice)

½ cup whipped topping

¼ cup shredded coconut

Directions:

Prepare the Crust:

1. In a mixing bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, shredded coconut, granulated sugar, and melted butter. Mix until well combined and crumbly.

2. Press the mixture firmly into the bottom of a greased 9x9-inch baking dish to form an even layer. Refrigerate for about 15-20 minutes to set.

Make the Pineapple Filling:

1. In a large mixing bowl, beat the softened cream cheese until smooth. Gradually add the powdered sugar and mix until combined.

2. Stir in the crushed pineapple (along with a tablespoon of reserved juice for extra flavor) until well combined. Gently fold in the whipped topping until the mixture is smooth and creamy.

Assemble the Bars:

1. Spread the pineapple filling

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evenly over the chilled crust. Smooth the top with a spatula.

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Rt. 90 Bridge

Rt. 50 Bridge



Pennie Cox reeled in this 44" red drum that she caught with crab. She was fishing at Tangier Sound.



Capt. Chuck Cook landed this 6.6 lbs., 26" flounder. Pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

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Angler Jordan Badorrek from Pittsburgh was able to catch this 20" flounder at the Route 90 bridge using a gulp on Saturday.



Twins Violet and Leo are extremely proud to show off their kingfish catch at Fenwick State Park on Thursday. Seems like Violet couldn't let her brother out fish her!



Father-son duo Mike and Ryan Duncan from Berlin MD both caught their very first flounder Sunday when surf fishing with Chris Taylor from Fish Assateague LLC. Ryan was able to catch two keepers and his dad Ryan caught one keeper. What a great memory!

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Tom DiCampi of Milton, DE caught this nice citation sea bass and a solid flounder at the Old Grounds on his boat "Patsea Ray". The sea bass weighed in at 3.4 lbs. and measured 19", and the flounder ended up weighing 5.6 lbs. You can tell by his smirk that he was satisfied with these catches!

2025

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31	 BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 COBIA 43" Minimum • 2 per person or 2 per vessel
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A Joyful Father's Day – with a Dramatic Twist at Sea

What started as a routine offshore trip turned into a heart-pounding rescue for two local fathers just days before Father's Day. At 9:07 AM last Thursday, their 57-foot sportfishing boat began taking on water and rapidly started to sink—34 miles off Virginia Beach, Virginia. In a race against time, the father-and-son duo sprang into action, deploying their life raft and activating their EPIRB. Thanks to their quick thinking and emergency preparedness, the U.S. Coast Guard arrived in under an hour, plucking them from the Atlantic and turning a potential tragedy into a story of survival and celebration.

"This successful rescue highlights the importance of preparedness and the effectiveness of coordinated efforts between multiple agencies and assets," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel Butierries, Sector Virginia command duty officer. "The quick response and the mariners' preparedness significantly contributed to the rescue."

The EPIRB proved to be the essential lifeline in this emergency, serving as the primary means of alerting rescue authorities, transmitting precise location data, and enabling a rapid response. While cell phones, Starlink, and VHF radios offer valuable communication capabilities, they

are not designed to function reliably in life-threatening maritime conditions. The EPIRB is purpose-built for such emergencies—capable of operating in harsh marine environments and even while submerged—making it the most dependable tool when every second counts.

Understanding How an EPIRB Works: A Lifesaving Device at Sea

In the world of marine safety, few devices are as critical—or as trusted—as the EPIRB, or Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon. Whether you are a weekend boater, long-range sportfishing captain, or commercial mariner, understanding how an EPIRB works can mean the difference between rescue and disaster.

What Is an EPIRB?

An EPIRB is a compact, waterproof emergency beacon designed to alert search and rescue services when a vessel is in distress. When activated, either manually or automatically, the beacon transmits a powerful distress signal containing location data via satellite to rescue coordination centers. These devices are regulated globally by organizations like the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and must meet specific performance standards.



Photo credit: Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Lally U.S. Coast Guard District 5

How Does It Work?

An EPIRB's effectiveness lies in its ability to communicate rapidly and accurately with rescue authorities. Here's a step-by-step breakdown of how an EPIRB operates:

1. Activation

- **Manual:** Most EPIRBs can be activated by pressing a button or lifting a safety cover.

- **Automatic:** Some units are hydrostatically released from a bracket if submerged, usually at a depth of 3-12 feet. These automatically float to the surface and begin transmitting.

2. Signal Transmission

Once activated, the EPIRB transmits a **406 MHz digital distress signal**. This signal is picked up by the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system—a global network of satellites dedicated to search and rescue.

3. GPS Positioning

Modern EPIRBs are equipped with internal GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) receivers (often GPS, Galileo, or GLONASS). This allows them to send highly accurate position data—typically within 100 meters. Older models without GPS rely on satellite triangulation, which is slower and less precise.

4. Satellite Relay

The distress signal is relayed to **Mission Control Centers (MCCs)** on land. These MCCs determine the signal's origin and pass the information to the appropriate Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) for action.

5. Rescue Coordination

Once the RCC receives the alert, search and rescue teams are mobilized. The beacon's 15-digit HEX ID is linked to a registration database, providing critical vessel information, including owner name, vessel type, and emergency contacts.

Safety Features and Requirements

- **Battery Life:** EPIRBs are required to operate for at least 48

www.coastalfisherman.net
hours once activated.

- **Strobe Light:** Most include a high-intensity strobe to aid visual detection, especially at night.

- **Floatation:** EPIRBs are designed



to float upright for optimal signal transmission.

- **Registration:** Registration with NOAA (U.S.) or local authorities is mandatory. It's free—and essential for effective response.

EPIRB vs. PLB

While similar in function, Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) are generally intended for individuals (e.g., hikers or crew overboard), and often require manual activation. EPIRBs, on the other hand, are marine-specific, have longer transmission durations, and are more robust in saltwater environments.

AIS EPIRB

An AIS EPIRB is an Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon that includes AIS (Automatic Identification System) technology in addition to the traditional 406 MHz satellite distress signal. This dual-transmission capability



enhances the chances of a faster and more localized rescue by alerting nearby vessels directly.

How an AIS EPIRB Works:

When activated, an AIS EPIRB transmits **three types of signals simultaneously**:

1. 406 MHz distress signal

- Sent to the Cospas-Sarsat satellite network
- Used for global alerting and coordination with Rescue Coordination Centers (RCCs)
- Includes the beacon's ID and location (if GPS-equipped)

2. 121.5 MHz homing signal

- Used by nearby aircraft or rescue boats to home in on the beacon once in the area

3. AIS (Automatic Identification System) alert

- Broadcast over VHF Channel 70
- Seen by AIS-equipped vessels within range (typically 5-10 NM)
- Appears on chartplotters as a distress icon with position info

Benefits of an AIS EPIRB:

- **Faster local response:** Nearby vessels can respond immediately without waiting for shore-based rescue coordination
- **Enhanced visibility:** AIS distress targets show up on other ships' ECDIS, MFDs, or AIS receivers
- **Better coverage in busy waters:** Ideal for high-traffic coastal or fishing zones
- **Redundancy:** Provides both global satellite alerting and local VHF broadcasting

Ideal Users for an AIS EPIRB

- Commercial vessels and offshore fishing boats
- Yachts and bluewater cruisers
- Vessels operating in AIS-dense areas (e.g., busy harbors or shipping lanes)

Bottom Line:

An AIS EPIRB gives you the **best of both worlds**—global satellite rescue notification and immediate local awareness through AIS. It's a smart upgrade for mariners who want the fastest, most redundant path to rescue.

Real-World Applications

Whether you're 10 miles offshore or crossing an ocean, an EPIRB gives peace of mind that help is only a signal away. Countless rescues—from capsized pleasure boats to commercial fishing vessels taking on water—have been successful thanks to timely EPIRB alerts.

Final Thoughts

An EPIRB is not just a piece of marine equipment—it's a lifeline. Understanding how it works and ensuring it's properly maintained, registered, and accessible can turn a worst-case scenario into a successful rescue. In a world where minutes count, this beacon is your voice to the world when all else fails.

Need-to-Know Checklist:

Register your EPIRB

- Test it monthly (per manufacturer guidelines)
- Replace the battery before expiration
- Keep it mounted or stored in a float-free bracket



Troy Celesky from Carlisle, PA was able to reel in this pair of 18' Flounder using Minnows while kayak fishing in the Lewis Canal. It's hard to be happy than Troy when he has flounder in his hands.

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On the "Reel OPPORT-TUNA-TY's" first charter of the season, Steve Szymanski, of MD, Andrew Kelnhofer, of VA, Jack and Curt Girouard, of MD/IL, and Nick and Tim Joseph, from VA, found some yellowfin tuna. They went out in the Washington with Capt. Ken and Capt. Adam along with mate Noah Fowler.

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Angler Jamy Yochis was fishing out in the Rehoboth Bay when he hooked this 5.2 lbs., 22½" flounder. He made his catch on a live minnow. Pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



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Sherry Raitt, of Baltimore MD, reeled in her first keeper flounder, measuring 18"! Sherry was fishing at the Thorofare, and she was using white Gulp. Sherry fished with Linda Wisnewski, of White Marsh, MD, caught and released her first flounder! Linda's catch was made using white Gulp at the Thorofare.

A promotional graphic for the 52nd Annual White Marlin Open. The background is a blue grid pattern. On the left, there is a map of Maryland with various fishing locations marked, including Ocean City, Baltimore, and Washington. A large illustration of a white marlin is in the center. Text on the right side of the graphic includes: "Purse in 2024 OVER \$8.6 MILLION", "OVER \$230,000 AWARDED IN SMALL BOAT LEVELS LAST YEAR!", "New For 2025! Outboard Division Expanded Small Boat Division", and the website "whitemarlinopen.com". At the bottom, contact information for the tournament is provided.

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Brandon Miller reached the limit when he reeled in this 6.7 lbs., 25-inch flounder on a rainy day. Brandon said "fishing in the rain was therapeutic!"



When on "Island Girl", Angler Hunter Mauk from Greenbackville, VA brought in this 21" and 4lbs flounder using Mud Minnow at the As-sateague Channel.

FACTS ABOUT FLOUNDER

- The IGFA world record summer flounder weighed 22 lbs. 7 oz. and was caught in Montauk, NY in 1975.
- The IGFA world record winter flounder weighed 7 lbs. and was caught in Fire Island, NY in 1986.
- Color of the body depends on the habitat. Flounder are usually brown colored with various red, orange, green and blue markings on the body. They can change the color of their body to blend in with the colors of the environment in 2 to 8 seconds.
- The color of the body also indicates the emotional state of the flounder. Threatened animals are usually pale-colored.
- Flounder have bulging eyes on two short stalks that are located on one side of the head. Their eyes can move independently from each other. Based on the position of the eyes, flounder can be divided into two basic categories: right eye and left eye flounder.
- Flounder are a carnivore (meateater). Its diet is based on fish, shrimp and crabs.
- Flounder are ambush predators. It lays motionless and waits for potential prey to appear and grabs it in a blink of an eye.
- Well-camouflaged flounder are also safe from numerous sea predators when it lays motionless on the sea floor.
- Flounder use it's fins to bury itself into the sand. Eyes are usually the only visible part of the body.
- Natural enemies of flounder are sharks, eels and humans.
- Mating season of flounder takes place during the warmest months of the year.
- Female flounder release up to 100,000 eggs in the water at the same time when male flounder release sperm cells. Larvae (fry) hatch from the fertilized eggs a couple of weeks later.
- Larvae look like typical fish with eyes on both sides of their head. It freely swims and feeds on miniature crustaceans and plankton.
- Flounder can survive from 3 to 10 years in the wild.

Source: softschools.com





While fishing on “No Static” at the Old Grounds, angler Dough Whittam from Harfield, PA caught this 5 lbs, 24” flounder using spot.



Angler Erik Michael reeled in this 33 ¼” rockfish. Erik was fishing the Indian River Inlet.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 18 Third Quarter	High 01:30 am High 02:08 pm	Low 07:46 am Low 08:10 pm
THUR. JUNE 19	High 02:24 am High 03:11 pm	Low 08:35 am Low 09:16 pm
FRI. JUNE 20	High 03:22 am High 04:14 pm	Low 09:27 am Low 10:23 pm
SAT. JUNE 21	High 04:21 am High 05:14 pm	Low 10:22 am Low 11:30 pm
SUN. JUNE 22	High 05:19 am High 06:13 pm	Low 11:18 am Low -----
MON. JUNE 23	High 06:16 am High 07:13 pm	Low 12:32 am Low 12:15 pm
TUE. JUNE 24	High 07:14 am High 08:12 pm	Low 01:30 am Low 01:10 pm
WED. JUNE 25 New Moon	High 08:12 am High 09:09 pm	Low 02:23 am Low 02:03 pm

source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

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

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide

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Dave Lawrence, of Frederick, MD, caught two nice flounder measuring 18" and 2 lbs. and 23 1/2" and almost 5 lbs. Dave was fishing with his brother Greg Lawrence and Todd Herman, both from Hanover, PA near A Buoy on Todd's boat. Both flounder were caught on white Gulp and a live minnow combo in choppy seas.

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‘Mango on the Island’, of Frankford, DE, proudly smiles with this 40” stingray that he caught. He was fishing out on Assateague Island.



When Jodi Lutz isn’t reeling in huge sharks he can be found catching slightly a smaller specimen. Jodi is holding a spanish mackerel while aboard the “Action Jackson”. This fish was found on the Fenwick Shoal.

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The "Michael D." out of the Indian River Marina fished out at the Fenwick Shoal and trolled for bluefish. When they stopped trolling, Jason Murrow, of York, PA, hooked a 10 lbs. sheephead using sand fleas. Bryant Murrow, Tyler Bowles, Dan Cooley, Brady Taylor, Travis Klinefelter, Ben Johnson and Troy Smeltzer were also aboard. Pictured at Hook'Em and Cook'Em.

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Angler Bill Klinedinst of Center Valley, PA, reeled in this 22 ¼" flounder. Bill was jigging in the Thorofare when he made his catch. He was fishing with Capt. Shellfish on the "6 Pack."



Hurricane



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This crew who fished aboard the “Marli” lined up on the docks at Sunset Marina. The five landed eight yellowfin with Capt. Mark Hoos. The team were fishing in the Poorman’s Canyon.

2025 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day
 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit <small>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</small>	 BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Headboat/day or trip	 SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Limit Daily 10 per angler	 SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day	

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, 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, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



Michelle Klinedinst, also known as “Capt. Shell Fish,” landed these two flounder at 17 ¾” and 20 ¼”! Michelle was fishing in the Thorofare with Capt. Bill Klinedinst on the “6 Pack.” She was using minnows as bait.



A good looking 15½” sheephead caught by angler Brian Reynolds this past week. Brian also said his father Brian Sr. was able to reel in twin 27” bluefish. What a catch!



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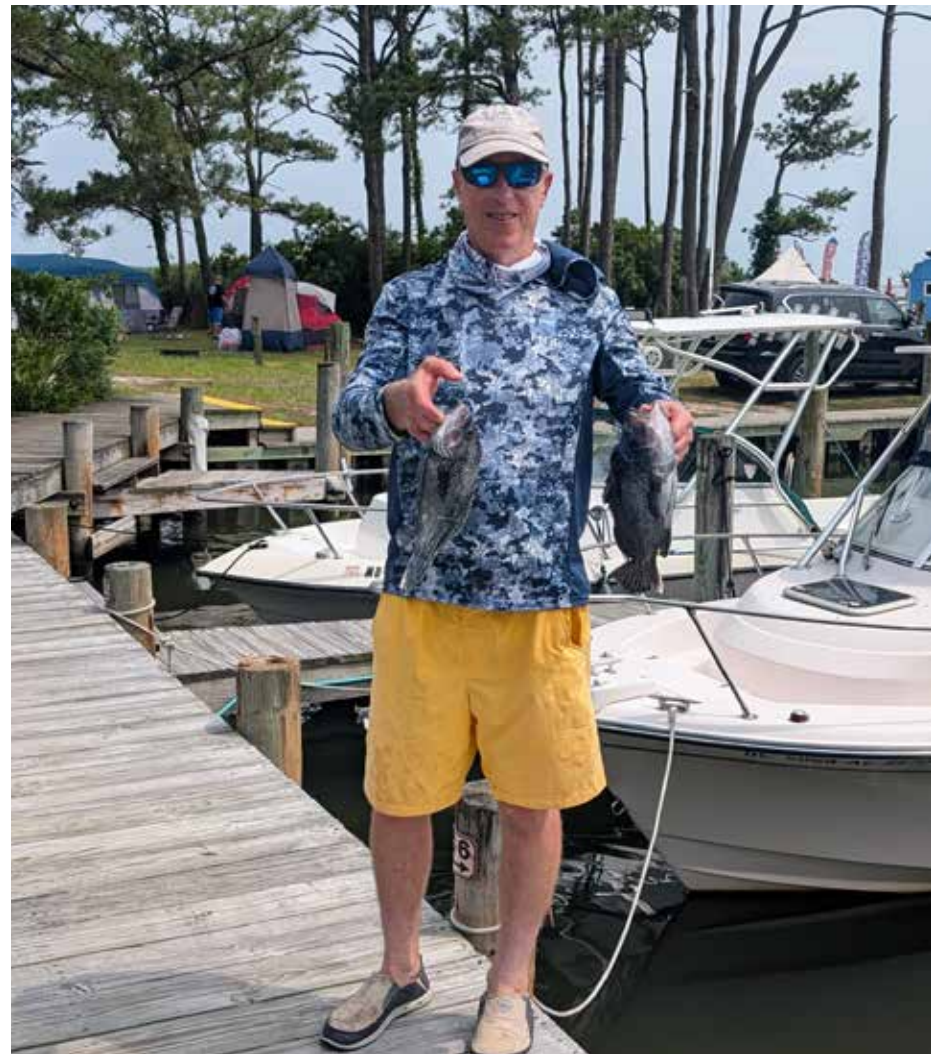
Team “Big Tuna Teasers” on the “Instigator” had a great run in the tournament, catching a 146½ lbs. big eye and three yellowfins. Their tunas awarded them the daily heaviest stringer on the first day, the heaviest stringer overall and the second heaviest tuna of the tournament. The “Instigator” was run by Capt. Jeremy Blunt with Lindsey Armell, Annalee Werelius, Alivia Spagnola and Mindy Spagnola on board. The team caught their tuna in the Washington Canyon at 200 fathoms.



The “Reel Chaos” hosted team “Tuna Chaos” who returned to the dock with a 111½ lbs. bigeye. The crews bigeye placed them in third for single heaviest fish. Team “Tuna Chaos” fished the Washington Canyon using ballyhoo. “Team Chaos” is Amanda Prather, Christina Henry, Kourtney Duffie, Jill Helms, Erin Brasher, Jessica Giardina, Jessica Matarese and Kelli Green. The “Reel Chaos” is run by Capt. Anthony Matarese.



Not too shabby for a Father's Day trip! Eric Dowell and Father-in-Law angler Lee Messer went out, on the east channel, and caught a nice Flounder on gulp with some fish bites. Talk about father-son bonding!



Lamont Hilbert had a fun day at the inshore wrecks on the boat, "Seabum". Hilbert had five keepers and a short flounder on squid and gulp, but he said that it felt like he had to release twelve for every one he kept!



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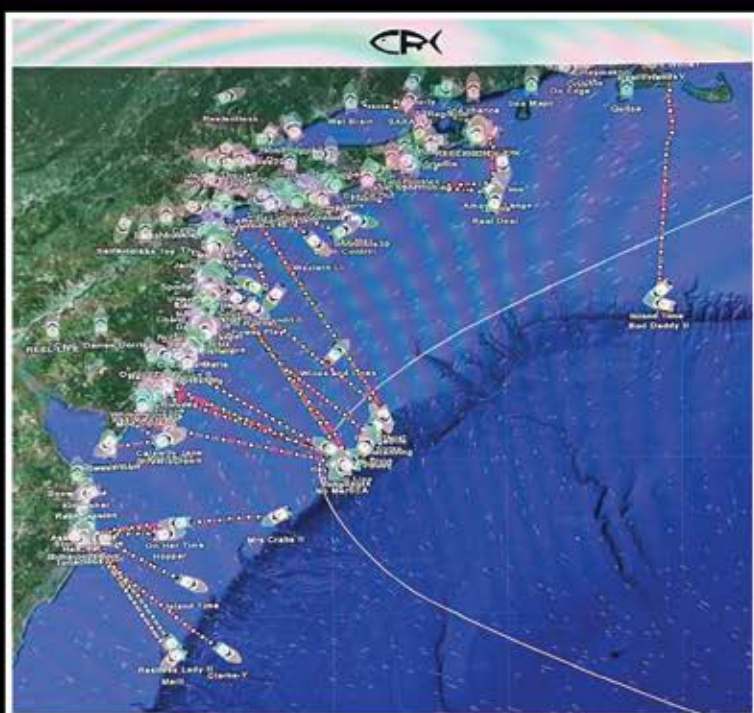
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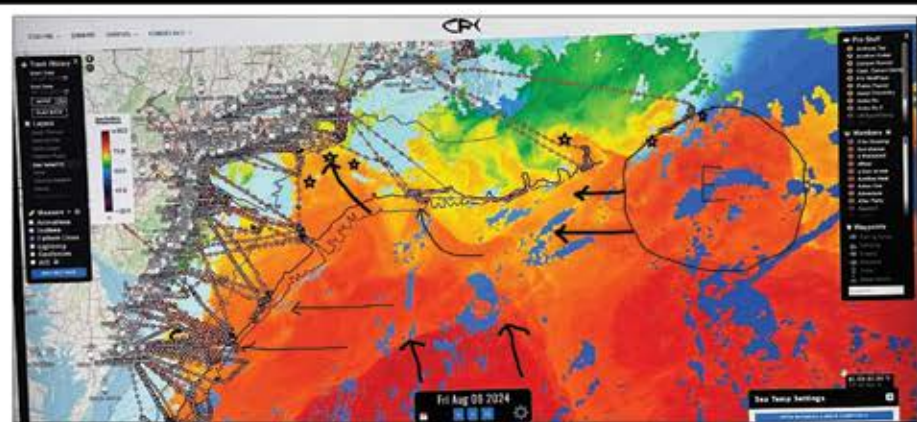
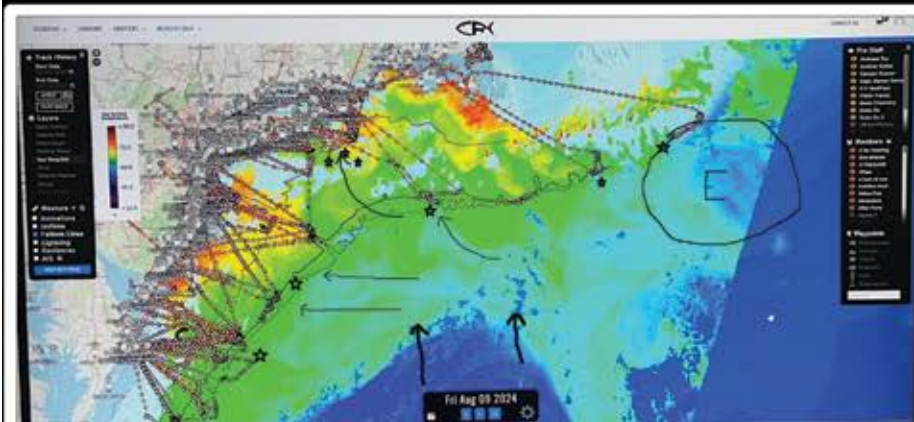
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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



This week brought in a few days of driving rains and torrential tropical downpours. But when the rain wasn't falling the fish were biting. Both the seaside and the Chesapeake offered action and excitement that would dry up all the tears and puddles, no matter how sad the weather was. All these fantastic factors are filling dreams of a fillet filled Fathers Day finale on Sunday!

The Chesapeake has continued to offer a palate of colorful pullage as trophies of red, blue, brown (suits), some with stripes and others with spots, take baits and bend rods in the salty shallows of the sounds. Reds have continued to stalk the grassy shallows in search of delicious soft crab delicacies. Most fish are tempted by a chunk of crab on a fishfinder

rig. While searching the sweet water of the sound, casting popping corks and mirrolures have pulled specs, rock and even the first few puppies from their grassy lairs. For us ,popping cork's had the best results when rigged with a 1/8-3/16 oz head and a gulp or assassin with a little procure to make it down right irresistible. In a little deeper water, around structure of natural and man made origins, scrappy sheepshead have been sinking their teeth into crab chunks on tog jigs. This week I have the privilege of taking the Kerrigan brothers on a charter. The rods were bent and the grins were anything but sheepish. We had several nice fish with one toothy trophy approaching the 10 lbs. mark. Around some of these same structures a healthy bunch of

blues have been patrolling in tight schools. Casting Rap-10's and surface walkers are all that is needed to enjoy the aerial antics of these speedy wolves of the bay, should the opportunity surface. The most anticipated arrival to the party will be fashionably dawning a brown suit. Cobia have appeared from Watts Island down to the CBBT, and just in time for the start of the season on 6/15. Chunks of bunker laid out on fishfinder rigs with 7/0-8/0 circles in a chum slick will definitely do the trick. Remember there is NO VA Cobia permit required, however, the minimum size has increased to 43". Even if they have to go back over the gunwale, it is a lot of fun to stretch your line on these crazy cobes!

The seaside has had some













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sheepshead action as well. Chincoteague anglers have targeted pilings and other structures to fill coolers with succulent striped fillets. Chunks of peeler crab and sandfleas have been on the menu. The flounder fishing is still fairly consistent with pink and chartreuse teasers tipped with silversides and minnows, bringing flounder to the boat both inside the inlets of the VA Barrier Islands as well as the many reefs just off the coast. While searching the reefs for fine tasting fillets keep a look out for triggers and spades that will always add a extra exotic element to the already delicious day. As long as we are talking dinner, seabass and tile fishing are still strong, but weather has been the limiting factor.

This Father's Day weekend get the kids, grab some oilskins (if needed), and do whatever is necessary to make new Dad Day memories or spend time reminiscing about old ones. Just get out there with the ones we love, and enjoy this wonderful place that we call home!

2025

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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