

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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By all other reports it was a slow tuna fishing day last Saturday when we got a call from Capt. Jim Barbey about a fish that was coming in on his boat "Full Service". His son Capt. Brendan Barbey was running the boat that day and reported a couple big yellowfin catches. Once to the dock at Sunset Marina it was clear that anglers Bob, Matt and Kyle Clark with Nick Kuklane, Ryan Bonpyra and Graham Burton had indeed something special. They had been fishing deep in the Baltimore Canyon in 1000 fathoms with mate Mike Davis when they hooked a couple big yellowfin tuna on naked ballyhoo. The largest took all of the anglers' efforts and 40 minutes to get to the boat. Once on the scale it weighed 161 lbs., setting not only a current seasonal record, but one that will be very hard to beat!



Mike Newcomb crushed it last week on flounder. He caught these two monsters at an ocean structure with the largest on the right tipping the scales at Lewes Harbour Marina at 9.6 lbs. That sets a new bar for Heaviest of the season for Delaware.



We thought the black drum run in the surf was done, but Chad Wells from Woodbine, MD proved us wrong! He shared this straggler drum catch that he caught from the Ocean City surf. He was using sand fleas tipped with Fishbites as bait.

This is a large advertisement for Lewes Harbour Marina Fishing & Boating Outfitters. At the top, there are two red starburst graphics: one on the left says "TAX FREE SHOPPING YEAR ROUND!" and one on the right says "Authorized FISHING & HUNTING LICENSE Agent". The background shows the exterior of the store, a wooden building with a sign that reads "LEWES HARBOUR MARINA Fishing & Boating OUTFITTERS". In the foreground, there is a display case filled with various fishing lures and tackle. At the bottom left, there is a blue banner with the store's name and logo, and a list of services: "LARGE SELECTION OF TACKLE • LIVE & FROZEN BAITS", "Boat Supplies • Gas & Diesel Fuel • Fish Cleaning", "Sportswear • Foul Weather Gear • Crab Pots", and "Fishing Reports • Free Parking • Gift Certificates". Below this list are logos for Shimano, Penn, St. Croix, Baitmasters, Jigging, Nomad Design, and Daiwa. At the bottom right, there is a graphic that says "Follow Us on Social Media!" with Facebook and Instagram icons.

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13 year old Jordan Coston from Jacksonville, FL caught not only his first white marlin, but a big one too! He hooked this one while trolling in 500 fathoms at the Poor Mans Canyon on the charter boat "Grande Pez" with Capt. Pat Svehla and mate Ryan Freese. That fish could have been worth real money if it was caught in August!







Claude Davis from Bethany Beach, DE brought a real treat to Old Inlet Bait & Tackle. He shared this monster tiderunner that he caught at the Indian River Inlet using soft bait. The sea trout was 3 feet long and weighed 11 lbs. 6 ozs. and set a seasonal Heaviest that will be very hard to beat!


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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

Looks like summer has finally arrived in full force, just in time for the 4th of July! The week that was saw stifling heat persistent south winds. Not the best conditions for the canyons, but still, captains got out on the deep blue (and we mean deep!) and had some great catches, while others struggled. Tuna was the hot bite for the week with several large hauls of yellowfins as well as some very heavy fish. We saw new seasonal records for bigeye and yellowfin. The first couple longfins of the season were reported, with one also setting a seasonal record.

There were only a handful of billfish reports with a couple notable ones and some decent sized mahi were in the mix. We also saw

three tournaments over the weekend, with two of them having offshore components, so lots to share!

For anglers targeting tuna, it seems it was the best of times and the worst of times. Many went out to find one or two bites or no bites. Still, others had banners days. The middle to end of last week seemed to have offered better days as the wind made the weekend sporty. One of our early reports came from the charter boat "Boss Hogg". They were returning from trolling east of the Poor Mans Canyon in 1000 fathoms when I got a call they were headed back to Sunset Marina with 13 yellowfins. They were pretty chunky too once they laid them on the dock. The crew on the "Bad

Habit" had two good trips. The first to the Washington Canyon in 200 fathoms where they caught their limit of 12 yellows by 10:45 AM. The captain shared that group seemed to like the purple 353 Custom Tackle spreader bar and naked ballyhoo. Their second one was back to the Washington in deep water where they reeled in a 56" and 120 lb. allison tuna. The charter boat "Spring Mix II" based at the Ocean City Fishing Center also reported a couple good trips. They too were east of the Washington and had 5 yellowfins from one trip and 7 on another. Clearly, the Washington was the hot spot for the week, but not the only place.

The "Magic Moment" took her first trip of the season and saw a very slow start, but ended the day with a bang. They were in 300 fathoms between the Poor Mans Canyon and the Rockpile when at about 4:30 PM they got a double bigeye hookup on a diving plug and a blue marlin lure. By the time they got back to Sunset Marina, the scales were closed, but Capt. Jim Bugg estimated the larger of the two would have been over 200 lbs. The charter boat "Oppor-Tuna-Ty" was also in the Poor Mans and put 2 yellowfins and a mahi in the box.

Two notable catches both

www.coastalfisherman.net set Heaviest of the season records. The first was a new record for bigeye tuna. Angler Tony Nicholas was fishing on the "Rumor Has It" in the Washington Canyon when he hooked a big eyeball on a red Joe Schute rigged with a ballyhoo. It took 2.5 hours to get the 229 lb. fish to the boat setting the season record, and it was the first bigeye caught by the boat! The "Full Service" is no stranger to setting records for both First Fish and Heaviest, so it was not really a surprise when I got a call from Capt. Jim Barbey as his son Capt. Brendan Barbey was headed back to Sunset Marina with something big. They spent the day in 1000 fathoms of water outside the Baltimore Canyon. They caught four yellowfins, with 2 large ones. The largest was a 161 lb. allison tuna that easily set the Heaviest of the Season record and will be a hard one



to beat.

The longfins have arrived. We had three reports last week, the first from "Don't Ask". They hit the scales at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina on June 18th with a 38 pounder from the Baltimore Canyon. Congrats to angler Mark Steiner for the 1st of the Season and the current Heaviest. Last Friday, Capt. Tony Bauer on the "Reel Naughty" reported a longfin caught by Amber Miller from



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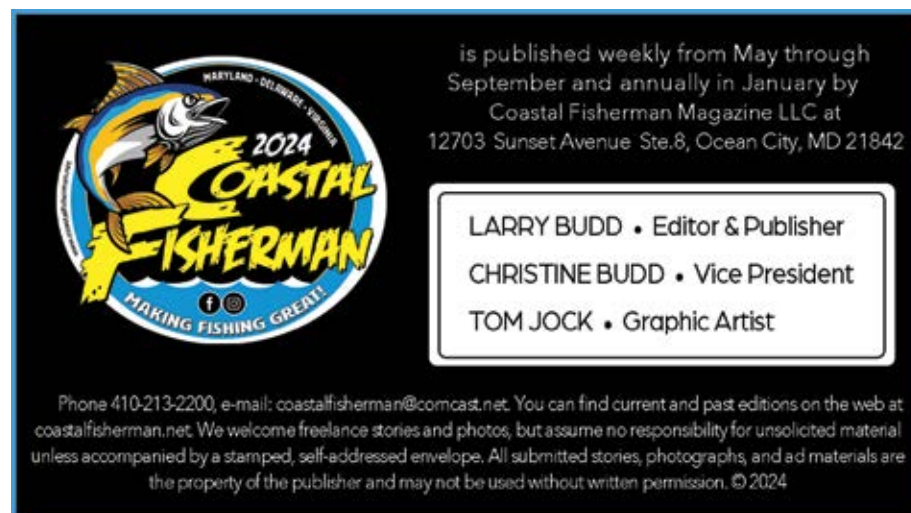
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his charter to the Wilmington Canyon. It was their only tuna bite for the day and the first longfin for a Maryland based boat. Capt. John Griffith on the "Gret's Three J's" gave me a ring on Saturday with another longfin catch.

While still slow, we did get several releases reported. Capts. Brian Porter and Alex Beane are having another great year so far with tuna, but they also scored the First Blue Marlin Release for an Ocean City Marlin Club boat. That title also comes with a \$2,500 prize. Congratulations are in order for 10 year old Mary Gessler who won the top spot for Billfish in the Indian River Marina's Kid's

Catch All Tournament over the weekend. She was fishing on the "Boys Toy" outside the Baltimore Canyon where she released a white marlin that hit on a naked ballyhoo. The weather was rough out there too making the catch even more remarkable. Another junior angler with a marlin release was 13 year old Jordan Coston from Jacksonville, FL. He was on the charter boat "Grande Pez" with Capts. Pat Svehla and Ryan Freese in 500 fathoms of the Poor Mans Canyon. The marlin, his first, was big. It would have been worth big money if he caught it in August! The charter boat "Wrecker" found luck a little closer to home. They released a white marlin in only 100 fathoms at the Baltimore Canyon. One other billfish to share was from the "Reel Fast". They put an 80.4 lb swordfish they caught in the Washington Canyon using squid.



It was a money catch for this crew on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" last week. In addition to catching a mahi and yellowfin tuna, they released the first blue marlin by an Ocean City Marlin Club Member for 2024. That earns them a \$2,500 prize from the club!



Myrtle Beach, SC resident Ken Currey caught a gaffer of a mahi on the "Terra Jessica". He was fishing in the Baltimore Canyon when the 30 pounder hit on a skirted ballyhoo. It was just a half pound short of tying for the Heaviest Mahi of the season. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

We are seeing more mahi reported, all caught on the troll. While we got a couple captains that shared they saw some weedlines, but reported they did not see any life around them. Several gaffers came back to the docks and Ken Currey from Myrtle Beach, SC just missed by half a pound tying the record for Heaviest of the season with a 30 lb. dolphin he caught on the "Terra-Jessica" on a skirted ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon.

The weather for the upcoming week looks windy offshore with only a couple fishable days, but as they say it is early! The upcoming weekend is also the last one without a tournament until the end of August, so buckle up and get ready for tournament season! Keep track on what's next in our upcoming tournament listing.

So until next week, I will see you at the docks, and as always, share with us what you are catching! §

Upcoming Tournaments

- The MidAtlantic Cup Blue Marlin Tournament will be held on July 4th and is the largest open boundary tournament. More at southjerseytournaments.com/midatlantic-cup
- The Ocean City Marlin Club hosts its 42st Canyon Kick Off Tournament on July 5, 6 & 7. This is a fish 2 of 3 day event with weigh ins at Sunset Marina from 5:00 - 7:30 PM each day. You do not have to be a member to fish this event. Details at ocmarlinclub.com/tournaments
- The world's largest tuna tournament returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on July 12-14. The 37th Ocean City Tuna Tournament promises more action and big money payouts. Purses over the past 2 years have exceeded \$1M. Scales will be open at the Fishing Center from 4-8PM on Friday & Saturday and 4-7:00 PM on Sunday.



The crew of the “Bad Habit” had to stop tuna fishing at 10:45 AM as they hit their limit! They were fishing in the Washington Canyon and these yellowbirds seemed to favor a 353 Customs purple spreader bar as well as naked ballyhoo. Capt. Jeff Rosenkilde and mate Alex Clark left the rest of the tuna chewing and were back to the dock by 12:30 PM.

2024 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 NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit	 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 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter 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, Bigeye Thresher, 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



Big sea bass have been hard to find this season with all the shorts being caught. That's why we appreciate Charlie Donohue sharing this catch by PJ Clauser. He caught this 16" knothead while fishing with Charlie on the "Lucky 1" over a natural reef using white Gulp.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The Maryland waters continued to warm, bringing many more fish to our area. Several more keeper flounder are being caught in the back bays as well as the ocean. Sea bass saw a nice upswing, with more keepers being caught on nearshore wrecks.

Cobia are dominating the southern waters of Virginia and should be arriving any day in our backyard. Several speckled trout and weakfish are also being caught in our waters.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore wrecks are now holding big flounder along with a little better quality sea bass. Flounder are being caught on the normal Gulp baits as well as squid

and minnow combinations. Fishing the down current side is the best place to target the flatfish, and the deeper water has been producing better quality fish than the more shallow areas, such as the Bass Grounds. The "Angler" had another great week with their clients catching some trophy size fish. The crew reports, although they had to pick through smaller fish, most anglers went home with some quality fish in their coolers. Anglers aboard the boat scored a few big flounder. The "Morning Star" reports good catches of sea bass on their full day charters along with some big fluke. The anglers were also rewarded with a unique catch of windowpane flounder. Over the past few years more and more of these

fish are showing up in our waters. Judy Schaible caught a 24.5 inch, 4.8 lb. flounder while out fishing on an ocean structure.

"Covered Up Sportfishing" had a good trip catching tons of flatties as well as cutlass fish. Their biggest catch was 24 inches. The cutlass or ribbon fish were hitting hard on anything thrown into the water. This is early in the summer to see anglers catching this specie. Just south of the inlet the shoals are teaming with spot and mullet bringing in the cobia. Anchoring up on the rises and chunking pieces of mullet will bring in the man in the brown suit. Mullet on a circle hook free lined back to the fish should entice a bite. These fish make hard fast runs, so be sure to use a beefy rod and reel with a good drag system. Anglers should not be surprised when these fish make long strong runs. After the initial run most fish will begin to tire, making it easier to gain line and catch the fish.

Backwaters & Bays

The backwater areas of OC are really starting to heat up with anglers catching bigger fish more frequently as the water continues to warm. "Flip N Fins" was out tossing bucktails and scored some juvenile stripers off the rocks at the inlet. "Bay Bee Charters" reported that on many trips last week they were less than 30 minutes into the trip and got covered up with fish. Many of the them were short but still brought smiles to their anglers. They saw several big fluke come over the rails, and were quickly invited to be the guest of honor for dinner. The boat targeted fluke and bluefish. The crew reports that the fluke were more than

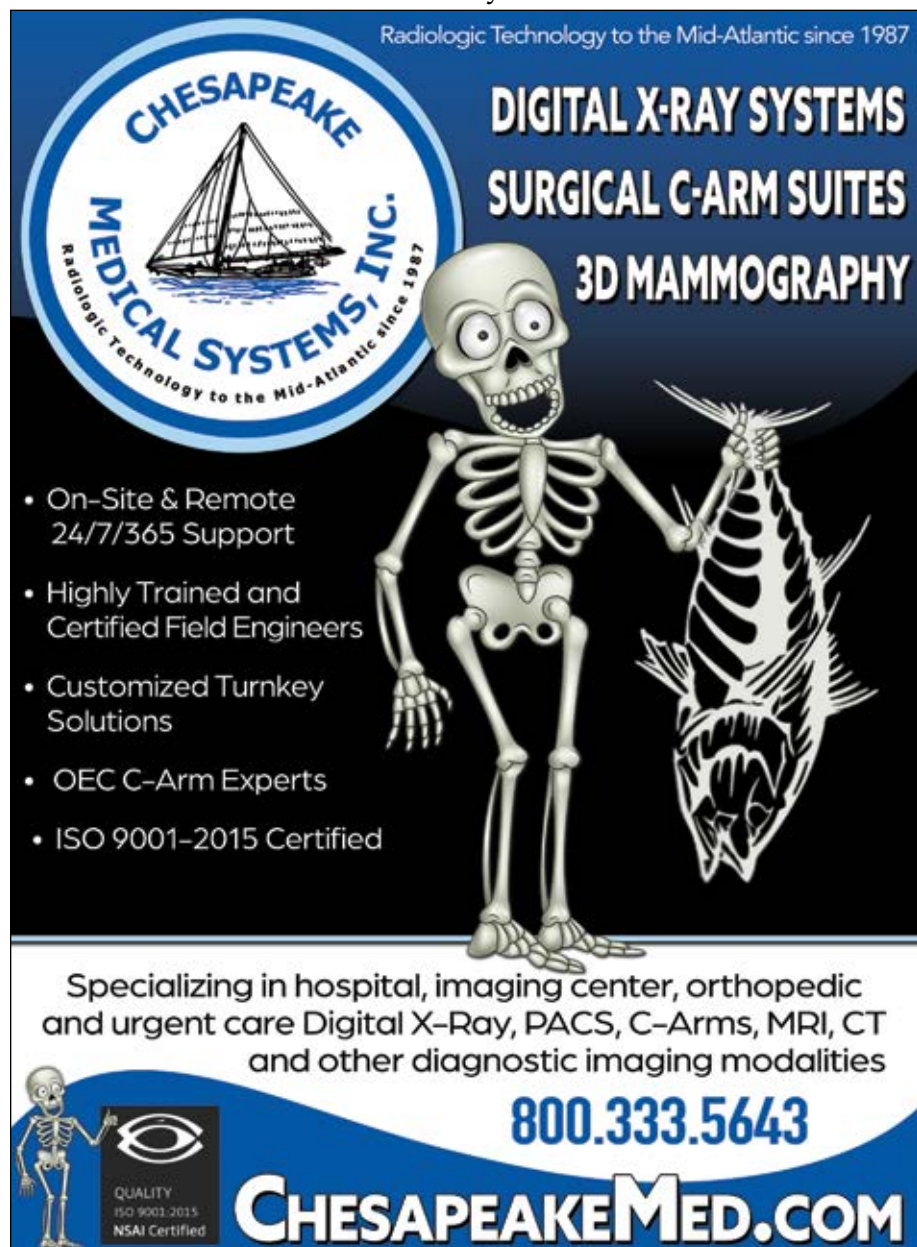
www.coastalfisherman.net willing to put on a show and bite anglers lines, although many were undersized. Even so, the anglers managed to bring home keeper fish on a regular basis.

The "Miss Ocean City" also had several good trips last week. Captain Joe reports the groups caught everything from flounder to bluefish on each trip. Several of these trips also had our Assateague Ponies making an appearance to delight tourists that had never seen our wild ponies. Rich Fiore landed two nice flounder in the back bays. One fish was 22.5 inches and the other was 19.5 inches. Brian Reynolds was out with his wife Crystal and dad Brian Sr. and found a few nice blues willing to take the hook. The biggest fish was around 30 inches. Brian fished later in the week with his buddy Sean and landed 5 rockfish and 5 bluefish. Sean landed the big striper measuring 32 fat inches.

Nick, Bob, and Craig Cropper had a good day getting a triple limit of blues off the south jetty. The group of course used a Roy Rig to catch their fish. Kevin McNelis fished the south jetty and landed a big flattie. Peter Renzi along with Skip Courtney had a good night fishing the Rt. 50 Bridge catching tons of stripers along with bluefish. The duo caught and released more fish than they could count by night's end. Bluefish and even rockfish will hang around the bridge pilings for most of the summer. These fish can be targeted by boat or from the bridge.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has slowed down with the warmer water. Plenty of spot and kingfish in the surf along with a few left over black drum and bluefish. Small pompano rigs are the primary lure being used. These lures are tipped with sand fleas, bloodworms or Fishbites.



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Clinton Ross was fishing high tide on Assateague Island using kingfish/pompano rigs tipped with shrimp. He was in for a surprise as a big black drum swallowed his rig and took off. After a nice fight on his light line he landed the fish safely onshore. The beach of Assateague Island is also giving up a few large red drum. Dave "Chic" Chicchirichi Jr. got his personal best redfish. The 36 incher was caught using cut mullet. Dave also reported tons of kingfish in the surf.

Ben Witmer had a fun morning on the island hooking big fish that kept breaking off his Hi-Lo rigs. He also hooked and landed a nice dogfish shark. With all the bait located inshore, tons of smaller fish are targeting these bait fish, and of course that brings the sharks who target the bigger fish. Chad Wells was fishing near 88th Street using a kingfish rig tipped with a sand flea along with bloodworm Fishbites. During the morning he had several kingfish hook ups. Suddenly he was hit by a big black drum. Despite a tough fish on his kingfish rod he landed the brute safely onto the beach. §

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up



It was a solid season opener for this colorful crew on the "Magic Moment". After a slow day trolling in 300 fathoms between the Poor Mans Canyon and the Rockpile, the action picked up at 4:30PM when they got hit with a double header on a diving plug and a blue marlin lure. Chris Daugherty caught the *smaller* one and Anna Schumann muscled in the big one estimated at 200lbs. They were fishing with mate Richard Hutchison, Garrid Hutchison, J R Spies, mate Neil Ireland and Capt. Jim Bugg. Pictured on D Dock at Sunset Marina.

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Brian Valentine and Kristen Faust came up from Cocoa, FL and got on the water with local flounder legend Danny Cox. He had them fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge where Kristen caught this 27" striper, her first, using live spot.

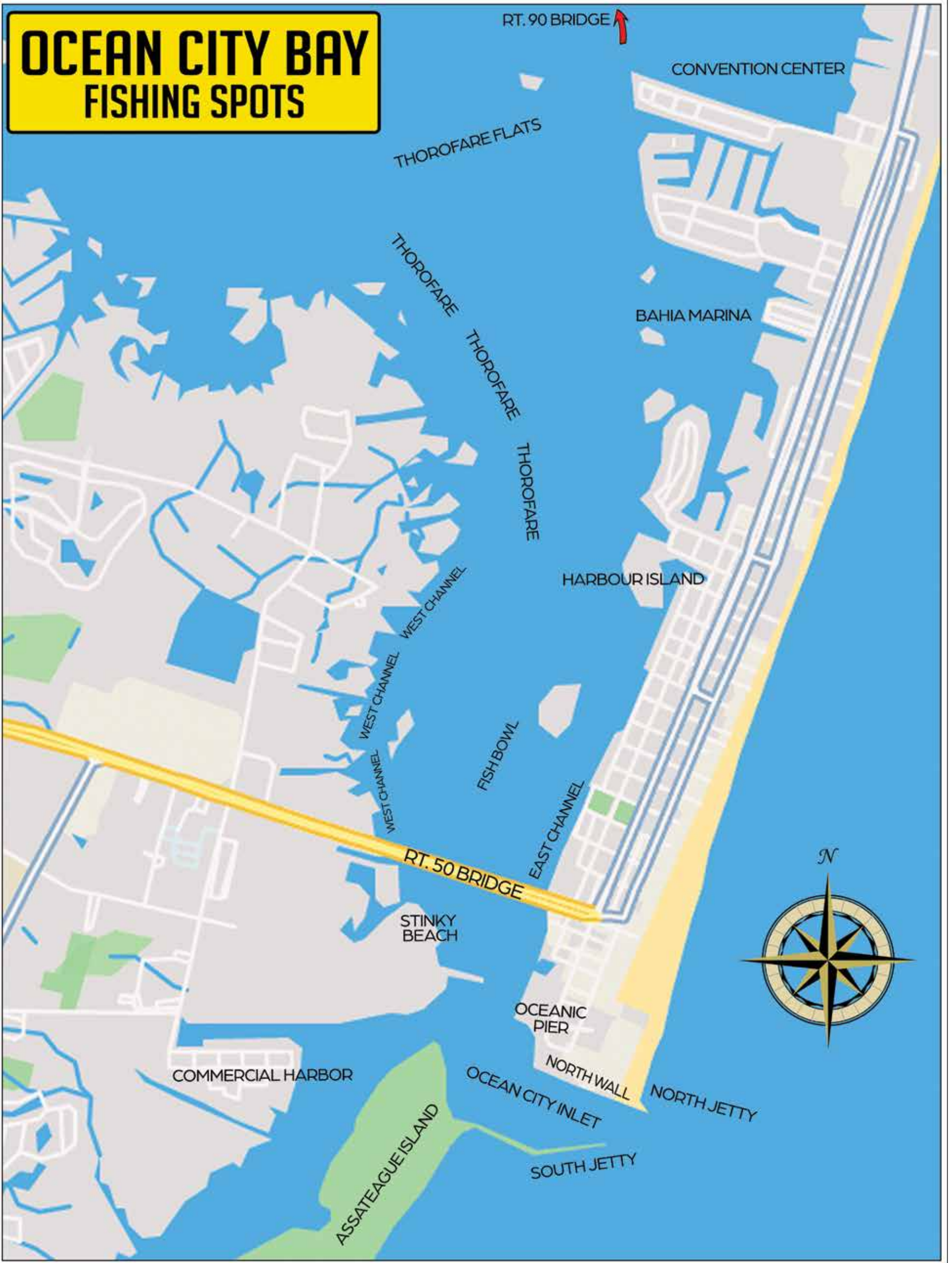
The bays behind Assateague Island were fruitful for Jeff Beard, his wife and 1st mate Vickie. He caught this 18 1/2" flounder using a Deadly Double flounder rig.

2024 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **	<u>VA</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **	<u>VA</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	-	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*	80"	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	47"	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"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	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"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program
 ** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release
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It was a Father's Day trip to the Ocean City Inlet for the Williams boys of South Bethany, DE on their boat "The One Eyed Dog". Young Tyler took the heavy fish for the day with a 33" bluefish caught on a flounder rig with a minnow. They also managed two keeper flounder.



Salisbury paramedic Chris Boston is serious about his flounder fishing. He should be as he landed this 27" doormat at the Ocean City Inlet using a chartreuse Gulp with a minnow. At 7 lbs. 3.5 oz. it set a new record for Heaviest of the season for Maryland.



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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	May 17 Josh Frantz 3R's 12.25 lbs.	 Weakfish	May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	 June 17 Claude Davis Indian River Inlet 11 lb. 6 oz.
 Black Drum		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	 June 18 Tony Nicholas Washington Canyon 229 lbs.	
 Cobia	June 8 Tyler Adams OC Beach 40 lbs.		 Bluefin Tuna	June 14 Crew "Loaded Up" Poorman's Canyon 160.5 lbs.	June 12 Will Hall Poorman's Canyon 143 lbs.
 Summer Flounder	 June 19 Chris Boaston OC Inlet 7 lb. 3.5 oz.	 June 16 Mike Newcomb Ocean Structure 9.6 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 24 Tom Sullivan Ocean Structure 5 lbs.		 Yellowfin Tuna	 June 22 Crew "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon 161 lbs.	
 Sheepshead	 June 23 Capt. Wayne Anderson Ocean Wreck 11 lbs. 10 oz.	 June 19 Dan Sander Ocean Structure 10.8 lbs.	 Dolphin	 June 14 Lisa Cherivtch Poorman's Canyon 30.5 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	 Swordfish	June 1 Bobby West Poorman's Canyon 125 lbs.	
 Tautog	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 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 tuna are in town in earnest! There were several large yellowfin tuna catches last week and one of the first was from Capt. and Ocean City Marlin Club President Ryan Freese and mate Chris Evans on the charter boat "Grande Pez". They trolled the Poor Mans Canyon and their anglers got 13 yellowfins in the box! Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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This family got lots of sea bass action when they went fishing on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak. They had all the shorts they wanted to catch with a few keepers mixed in!



If you are going to catch your first flounder ever, you may as well go big! Kim Page of Steamboat Landing in Milton, DE caught her first measuring 21.5" while fishing with Capt. Brin Parson on the headboat "Thelma Dale V" out of Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a beauty of a catch for anglers Ben Overholt, Trace Say, JT Hazzard, Wes Logue, Shane Moore and Christian Cropper on their trip aboard the charter boat "Wrecker" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center. Capt. Bobby Layton and mate Cody Smith had the crew trolling in only 100 fathoms at the Baltimore Canyon when they caught and released this white marlin.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was a very memorable trip for Lancaster, PA anglers Tim Doutrich, Stacy Nass, Chris Sullivan and Lorana Martiniz. They fished the Indian River Inlet with Capt. Aaron Hurd on the charter boat "Gale Force" and caught 7 keeper flounder up to 21" and a 29" in the slot striper using live minnows! It was their first flounder for both the ladies. Pictured at Indian River Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers Cleon Atkins, Teryn Birgensmith, Tim Raysor, Russ Zies, Jeff Sommerfield and Tom Birgensmith stuffed the box on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" with 7 yellowfin tuna. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter had them in the Washington Canyon where the tuna hit on ballyhoo and spreader bars.



Capt. Walt Hammond on the headboat "Judith M" reported his trips last week saw his customers busy catching lots of short sea bass like these, with a few keepers in the mix. Still, everyone had fun with smiles all around.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The captains on the headboats "Judy V" and "Capt. Bob II" based at Hook'em an Cook'em at the Indian River Marina said the bite last week was slow. Flounder has been the best bite, but only hitting for about 30 minutes per trip, but yielding multiple hook up and quality fish.



Anglers Warren Hall, Ben Spencer, Scott Spencer and Allen Reed were kept busy on this trip with Capt. Brian Porter and mates Alex Beane & Jack Hannum. They spent the day deep in the Poor Mans to 1000 fathoms and returned to Sunset Marina to put 13 yellowfin tuna on the dock.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Even the big yellowfin tuna is happy to be on the docks at the new and improved Fisherman's Marina with anglers Brian Messick, Damian Davis, Josh Davis, Tyler Messick and AJ Cesario. The group spent the day on the charter boat "Oppor-tuna-ty" deep in the Poor Mans Canyon with Capts. Ken Thompson and Adam Thompson.

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Michael Jones of Wilmington, DE ran his 21' walkaround offshore to make a few drifts over an ocean structure. He used buck tails with Gulp to jig up these 4 keeper flounder up to 20".



It was a family affair for Brian Reynolds Jr. with his wife Krystal and dad Brian Sr. They headed out from the West OC boat ramp to find some bluefish! Krystal caught her very first one, a big 30 incher and they all returned with their limit from the Rt. 50 Bridge and the Inlet using live spot.

2024 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>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</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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Fishing buddies Trent, Mike and Les headed offshore to drift over some coral off the Delaware coast on the "Ocean Blue" at one of Trent's secret spots. It was a good spot as they came back with 10 keeper flounder after sorting through 20 shorts. The largest was Trent's at 21.5" and 3.6 lbs.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The Delaware waters saw warmer days with nice cool evenings. The amount of fish in our back bays has also greatly increased. Several big pods of spot and mullet are being observed bringing in a plethora of fish to both the back bay areas as well as the nearshore reefs. Large flounder are being caught along Massey's Ditch and in the Delaware Bay, along with the inlet at Indian River. Cobia are showing up in our nearshore waters. Big black drum are still being found, although not in the numbers of past weeks along the coral grounds of the DE Bay. Surf fishing has slowed, with kingfish and spot being the main catches.

Nearshore Coral & Wrecks

The nearshore wrecks and coral grounds are alive with baitfish.

Big schools of spot and bunker are being seen along the coast bringing with it big spanish mackerel along with flounder and kingfish. Closer to the inlet the cobia are beginning to show up. Slowly trolling around the shoals just south of the inlet is a great way to target these big fish. Using a bucktail or eel type lure casted forward of the fish will likely entice a strike. Anchoring up on the shallow shoals and chumming is another good method. This approach works great but will also bring in sharks, which can become a nuisance. Live spot freelined away from the boat is the best bait however, bucktails and eels also work well. On the coral grounds the flounder have become consistent with many fish easily making the new 17.5" regulations.

Sea bass was a little better last week but still not great. Many anglers are at least getting a few keepers for dinner.

Andy Merendino had his first triple header while fishing out of IR with two out of the three being keepers. White flounder rigs did the trick. Site 11 along the redbird reef was also good for the flatfish. Steve Kuhlman reports the morning bite was slow due to a lack of drift, but as the current began to move steadier in the afternoon the bite picked up delivering some quality fluke along with a few big sea bass. Sharon Martin had the family out with "MandaLu Sportfishing" for an inshore trip on Wednesday and the group caught sharks, skates and rays along with the normal bass and flatfish.

"Bad Wind Charters" was back on the water using their newest Ball Clacker rigs to pull in some big flounder and a few sea bass. These rigs are a version of a Hi-Lo rig that makes noise to simulate fish actively feeding. I started using these rigs the past two years as opposed to the longer leader flounder rigs and found that the hook-up ratios were actually much better than using the longer leader rigs. Clacker rigs are available at

Rick's Bait and Tackle along with other tackle shops in the area. The beaded hooks really seem to entice the fish to bite better. John Spence caught six fluke with the biggest being 18.5 inches.

The "Katydid" hauled in 18 fat flounder. When I say fat flounder I mean FAT! The largest one measured 29.5 inches long and weighed 9.06 lbs. Although not the 10 pound trophy that anglers always shoot for, it is still a better fish than most anglers will catch in a lifetime. Dante Williams was also on the ocean last week catching the elusive flatfish. Using a squid rig he caught a bunch of short fish but managed a cooler full for the table.

The "Judy V" out of Indian River Marina had a good week of fishing with many of their clients catching keeper flounder as well as a few sea bass. The crew reports each day gets better with bigger flatfish being caught.

Mike Newcoln checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with two big flounder. The largest one was 9.6 lbs.

Captain Foreman of "Bottom Bouncer Fishing" was out catching fluke and bass using a double tandem diamond minnow rig. The crew had a few family groups last week that had a blast reeling in fish after fish. Although many were smaller than regulations require, the crew said the kids

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were worn out reeling all the fish in.

Dan Sanders was fishing an ocean structure and used sand fleas to entice his citation 27 inch 10.8 lb. sheephead to bite the line. The big sheep was weighed in at Rick's Bait and Tackle.

Back Bays & Inlet

Back bays and inlets are producing quality fish. The area of Massey's Ditch as well as the Ice Breakers of the DE Bay are the top areas. Derek Sherman caught a nice 23" sea trout off the wall near the ferry entrance. Claude Davis also pulled in a nice 11 lb. 6 oz. trout measuring 36". The fish was weighed in at Old Inlet Tackle.

Marrick Strickland was fishing the northside of the inlet and reeled in 2 keeper fluke measuring in at 18 and 21 inches.

Surf Fishing

Cobia alert!! Once again another cobia was taken off our DE beaches from the surf. Mark Lettieri was fishing 3R's Beach using Fishbites bloodworms when the big 37" cobia snatched up his bait and made its long fight to try and escape. Despite the light line he was using, he managed to bring in the fish for pictures and measurements. Although these fish stay close to the beach, catching one from shore is not a common occurrence. Well done Mark!

Tina Kent stated that the surf at 3R's is full of kingfish that are easily caught using bloodworms and pompano rigs.

Crabs & Clams

Crabs are yielding about 10 keepers per pot using bunker and about 7 per pot using chicken.

While clamming at Holts landing I raked up 67 clams in about 45 minutes. Many large chowder clams were found however, I also scored several littlenecks for clam casino. §

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Our First Fish chart gets another entry this week, this time for the first longfin tuna of the season. Angler Mark Steiner caught the 38 lb. fish in the Baltimore Canyon while fishing on the "Don't Ask". Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



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We have not seen a lot of big knotheads, so we were excited when Capt. Steve Spindler shared this 23" sea bass he caught while drifting cut bait at the African Queen. Pictured at the dock by Sunset Provisions.



The private "Reel Fast" brought a beauty of a swordfish to the scales at Hook'em & Cook'em. Robbie and Bill Lowry of Elizabethtown, PA with Jim Disilva from North Scituate, RI were fishing in the Washington Canyon where young Robbie landed the 80.4 lb. sword using squid.

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5 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY applies to qualifying purchases of Suzuki outboard motors sold and delivered to the retail purchaser, for pleasure (non-commercial) use only, from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2025. See Suzuki Limited Warranty for additional details. Suzuki, the "S" logo, and Suzuki model and product names are Suzuki Trademarks or ®. © 2024 Suzuki Marine USA, LLC. All rights reserved.















It may not be the biggest flounder caught last week, but Bevy Strine of York, PA was sure excited about it! She was fishing south of the Rt. 50 Bridge on "The 7up" when she fooled this 19.5" flatfish with white Gulp.



We have officially tagged Numen Bilal as 'Ray Man'. He loves to target these difficult to land fish off the beaches of Fenwick Island, DE. He finally got out this season with a group of friends and landed 3 including this 200+ lb. roughtail ray using whole spot. Each one took almost an hour to get to the beach and all were safely released.

2024 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

eregulations.com

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Since 1981, Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires recreational vessels to carry visual distress signals.

This regulation requires all boats when used on coastal waters, which includes the Great Lakes, the territorial seas and those waters directly connected to the Great Lakes and the territorial seas, up to a point where the waters are less than two miles wide, and boats owned in the United States when operating on the high seas to be equipped with visual distress signals.

The only exceptions are during daytime (sunrise to sunset) for:

Recreational boats less than 16 feet in length.

Boats participating in organized events such as races, regattas, or marine parades.

Open sailboats not equipped with propulsion machinery and less than 26 feet in length.

Manually propelled boats

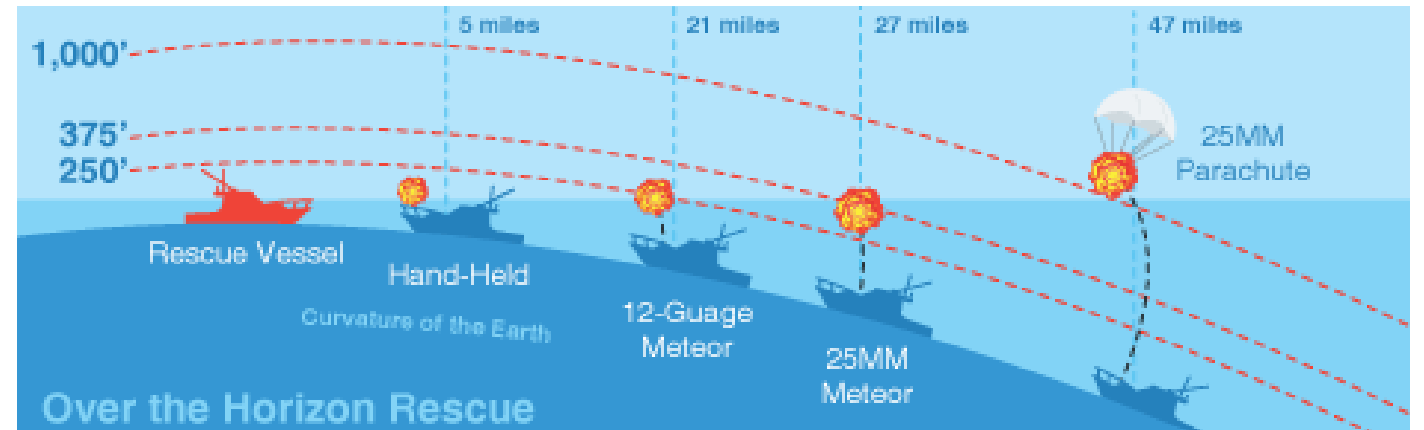
These boats only need to carry night signals when used on

these waters at night.

Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signaling Devices

Very often, pyrotechnic devices "flares" are selected to meet the requirements, there are a few types of USCG Approved

accordance with the Coast Guard requirements. Expired marine flares may be carried as extra equipment but cannot be counted toward meeting the visual distress signal requirement by the Coast Guard.



Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals such as:

Pyrotechnic red flares, handheld or aerial

Pyrotechnic orange smoke, handheld or floating

Launchers for aerial red meteors or parachute flares

If you are using pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals, be aware that Pyrotechnic flares including aerial flares, handheld flares, and smoke flares, expire 42 months after the date of manufacture in

Non-Pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signaling Devices

There is also the option of non-pyrotechnic devices to be in compliance with the law, though they must carry the manufacturer's certification that they meet Coast Guard requirements. They must be in serviceable condition and stowed to be readily accessible.

This group includes:

Orange distress flag

Electric distress light

No single signaling device is ideal under all conditions and for all purposes. Consideration should therefore be given to carrying several types. For example, an aerial flare can be seen over a long distance on a clear night, but for closer work, a hand-held flare may be more useful.

Electronic Flares

The newest addition to this 1981 regulation is the electric

distress light, sometimes called an electronic flare, E-Flare, electronic visual distress signal (EVDS) or electric s-o-s distress light. These devices utilize LED lights to simulate the functionality of traditional pyrotechnic flares. These devices offer several advantages over their pyrotechnic counterparts, including increased reliability, longer shelf life, and reduced environmental impact. Additionally, electronic flares are not classified as hazardous materials, making them easier

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The USCG first approved the electronic flare in 2015, and in 2018 included a flashing light in the updated standard. The flashing light pattern of the EVDS is three short flashes, three long flashes, and three short flashes in a continuous repeated cycle. Many will recognize this pattern as the universal S-O-S distress signal. It was found that the EVDS was most noticeable on the water when flashing a known pattern, versus just a bright distant light that may appear to randomly flicker or flash depending on conditions.

If you choose to carry EVDS in place of traditional flares, be sure to carry a distress flag, meeting the requirements of 46 CFR 160.072.

Combining an compliant EVDS and a compliant Distress Flag will meet/exceed the requirement for carriage of approved day and night visual distress signals (found in 33

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CFR part 175).

Advantages of an EVDS in place of Traditional Flares

Electronic boat flares offer benefits that contribute to enhanced safety at sea. Their reliability in adverse weather conditions, extended battery

life, and reduced risk of accidental ignition make them an attractive option for boaters, other advantages include:

- No expiry date
- Safe for families (no open flame)
- Simple to use (suitable for

children and novice boaters during emergencies)

No concerns about strict disposal rules for pyrotechnic flares (classified as hazardous)

Waterproof & Floats

- One-time buy (reduces long-term expenses)
- Environmentally friendly
- No disposal challenges
- Non-Hazmat shipping

As boating technology evolves, so too do the options for distress signaling. While traditional pyrotechnic flares have long been the standard, more boaters are now making the switch to electronic boat flares that offer a modern alternative that meets or exceeds regulatory requirements. By understanding the legal considerations and advantages of electronic flares, boaters can navigate the seas safely and responsibly, ensuring they are prepared for any emergency that may arise. §

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

42nd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 5, 6 & 7
Weigh-Ins: July 5, 6 & 7
5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2024 SCHEDULE —

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

44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
Registration: Sept. 11, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 12, 13 & 14
Weigh-Ins: NO WEIGH-INS This is strictly a release tournament. Catch reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club Office nightly Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

16th ANNUAL FRANKY PETOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT *
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
Registration: August 1, 6:00-8:00pm
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3
Weigh-Ins: August 2 & 3 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

66th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *
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Species	2024	2023	Species	2024	2023
Bluefish 	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	Weakfish 	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay	
Black Drum 	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	Bigeye Tuna 	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poorman's Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabiella Kendus Faithful Steward	Bluefin Tuna 	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon
Summer Flounder 	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	Longfin Tuna ★ 	June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon	
Sea Bass 	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	Dolphin 	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poorman's Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon
Tautog 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poorman's Canyon	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo 		June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	White Marlin 	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon

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



The private boat "Horizon" out of the Indian River Marina reported a beautiful day on the water last week. The trip started out breezy, but settled down allowing the crew of Jack Hamilton, Kraig Leiby and Mary Leiby to pick at the flounder all day at the Old Grounds. Their efforts paid off catching 9 keepers with one at 5 lbs. using bucktails and Gulp.

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Madeira-Style Tuna Steaks

Ingredients:

- 4 cloves garlic, peeled
- 1 Tbsp coarse salt
- 1 Tbsp oregano, dried or fresh, chopped
- 2 Tbsp basil, dried or fresh, chopped
- 1 tsp black pepper
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4 6-8 oz tuna steaks, about 1-inch thick

Directions:

In a food processor or a blender combine the garlic, salt, oregano, basil, and pepper and pulse to a paste. Slowly drizzle enough olive oil to achieve a spreading consistency.



Rinse the tuna steaks off in cold water. Drain and blot dry with paper towels.

Using a spatula or your fingers, spread the spice paste on both sides and put in a shallow baking dish large enough to hold them in a single layer.

Pour an additional ¼ cup olive oil over the fish and turn to coat.

Place in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes or up to 3 hours.

When ready to cook, preheat the grill to high.

Remove the tuna steaks from the marinade. Brush with an additional 1-2 Tbsp olive oil.

Grill the steaks until cooked to your taste. We like them cooked medium, about 4-6 minutes per side.

Tuna Kebabs with Ginger-Chile Marinade

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons unseasoned rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons finely grated peeled fresh ginger
- 2 tablespoons peanut oil
- 2 tablespoons Asian sesame oil
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 serrano chile, seeded, minced
- Freshly ground white pepper
- 1.5 pounds, 1 1/4" thick ahi tuna, cut into 1 to 1 1/4" cubes
- Nonstick vegetable oil spray
- 1 large red bell pepper, cut into 1" squares
- 1 large sweet onion cut into 1" squares

6 12-inch-long metal skewers

Additional chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

Whisk first 8 ingredients in medium bowl to blend; season to taste with ground white pepper. Transfer 3 tablespoons marinade to small bowl and reserve. Add tuna to remaining marinade in medium bowl and toss to coat. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes and up to 45 minutes.

Spray grill rack with nonstick spray. Prepare barbecue (medium-high heat). Alternate tuna cubes, bell pepper squares, and onion squares on each of 6 metal skewers. Grill to desired doneness, turning frequently, about 4 minutes total for medium-rare. Transfer to platter. Drizzle reserved



marinade over; sprinkle with chopped cilantro.

Easy Flounder Ceviche Appetizer

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. flounder fillets, skinned, cut into 1/2" by 1" or so strips
- 3 scallions, white and light green part, chopped
- 1 shallot, minced
- Juice and zest of 2 lemons
- Juice and zest of 1 orange
- Salt to taste (1-2 tsp)
- Sriracha to taste
- 2-3 Tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

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Directions:

Combine juice of 2 lemons, 1 orange, salt and Sriracha in a small bowl. Whisk to stir well. Set aside.

Combine chopped scallions (both white and light green part), minced shallot and flounder in a large bowl. Stir to combine.

Add liquids, and stir to coat well - you want the fish to be submerged as much as possible. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 10-15 minutes or until fish is "cooked" (opaque white all the way through).

After the fish is cooked, add parsley for garnish.

Serve chilled with tortilla chips, sweet potato chips, or something else crunchy.

Spicy Sheepshead on the Grill

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. sheepshead fillets
- 1 Tsp olive oil
- 1 whole lemon
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 1 bunch fresh chives, chopped
- 1 tablespoon thyme
- 1 bunch fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1 tablespoon marjoram
- Pepper flakes
- Old Bay seasoning

Directions:

Prepare sheepshead fillets with the skin still on. This gives you an excellent side of protection from the heat of the grill. This

skin layer may stick to the foil when fish is cooked. Do not be afraid the meat will come right up.

Prepare your seasoning and marinate the night before. Place your sheepshead into a gallon size Ziploc bag. Cut your lemon in half and squeeze in all the juice. Add your garlic, chives, thyme, rosemary, pepper and marjoram into the bag and shake all together. Let the fish marinate for 4 hours or overnight.

Cover your grill with aluminum foil and coat with olive oil to ensure fish does not stick.

Heat your grill to a medium heat, and when the grill hits 250 to 300 degrees it is ready for the fish.

Place the fillets on the aluminum foil with the skin side down. On the meat side, lightly sprinkle some old bay seasoning. This



will make the dish a little spicy but should pair well with your already marinated sheepshead fillets.

Take another piece of aluminum foil and cover the fish to ensure the moisture stays in and the sheepshead does not dry out.

Cook on low to medium heat for 8-10 minutes or until the fish is done.

Triggerfish with Toasted Pecan Butter

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. triggerfish, cut into 2 portions
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 1 Tbsp. peanut oil
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans



Cayenne pepper, salt & pepper
Lemon

Directions:

Heat your oven to 350. Layer your chopped pecans on a baking sheet and bake for about 5 minutes. Remove and set aside.

In a shallow dish, mix together flour, a dash of cayenne, a dash of salt, and a dash of pepper.

In another shallow dish, add milk. Dip fish fillet in the milk and then dredge in flour

mixture.

Heat oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Add fish and saute 4-5 minutes on each side until cooked through.

While fish is cooking, melt butter in a small skillet. Add pecans and a pinch of salt and a pinch of cayenne. Stir and pour over fillets. Voila - super easy and delicious meal in under 30 minutes!

Note: The skin on triggerfish can be pretty tough, so I score it before cooking to keep the fish from curling too much.

Avocado Corn Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 lb cherry tomatoes, halved or quartered
- 3 ears of corn, cooked, shucked and cut off the cob
- 2 avocados, peeled, pitted and sliced
- 1/2 medium red onion, thinly



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sliced
 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped (1/2 small bunch)
 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
 2 to 3 Tbsp lime juice, from 1 to 2 limes
 2 garlic cloves, pressed or finely

minced
 1 tsp sea salt , or 3/4 tsp table salt
 1/8 tsp black pepper

Directions:
 In a large salad bowl, combine sliced tomatoes, corn kernels,

sliced avocado, thinly sliced red onion, 1/4 cup chopped cilantro and press in 2 garlic cloves.

Drizzle the top with 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil, 2-3 Tbsp lime juice (adding it to taste). Add 1 tsp sea salt and 1/8 tsp black pepper, or season to taste. Toss the salad gently just until combined and serve.

1/2 a bunch of fresh mint
 10 baby potatoes
 20 capers
 1 lemon
 200 ml white wine
 200 g tomato and basil sauce

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Finely slice the whole fennel, peel and finely slice the garlic and lightly crush the fennel seeds. Place a medium pan over a medium heat and add the olive oil and half the butter. Once hot, add the fennel and fennel seeds and fry gently for around 5 minutes. Add the garlic and continue cooking for around 5 minutes, or until the fennel is soft, golden brown and sweet. Set aside to cool.

Stuffed Sea Bass

Ingredients:

2 whole sea bass cleaned and gutted, head and tail on
 1 whole fennel
 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
 2 cloves garlic
 50 ml olive oil
 35 g butter
 1/2 a bunch of fresh dill
 1/2 a bunch of fresh flat-leaf parsley
 1/2 a bunch of fresh basil

Meanwhile, place a medium pan over a high heat and cook the potatoes for around 5 minutes, or until parboiled. Drain and set aside. Finely chop all the herbs together and add to a bowl along with remaining

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butter, then mix well until combined and set aside. Ensure the sea bass is clean inside and out, pat dry with kitchen paper and make 3 diagonal cuts into one side of the fish down to the bone. Stuff the cuts with the herb butter and fill the cavity of each fish with 2 slices of lemon and the cooked fennel.

Gently transfer the fish to the inside of the foil bag or onto the foil. Add in the whole potatoes, capers, tomato sauce and white wine. Seal the foil bag at the end or, if you're using foil, fold it up like a parcel.

Place the foil bags onto a baking tray and pop into the oven. Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until cooked through. Remove from the oven and allow to sit for 2-3 minutes, then place onto a serving plate, carefully open and enjoy with a crisp green salad or steamed vegetables. §

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David Ostrowski from Chadds Ford, PA had a nice white marlin release deep in the Baltimore Canyon. He and Capt. John Ostrowski were in about 1000 fathoms on the "Shortfin" when the white hit on a ballyhoo.



It was his first fishing trip and first flounder for Jack Gizinski of Jarrettsville, MD. He was fishing on the headboat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins about 12 miles off the coast. He used squid to lure the 18" flounder and also caught 20 sea bass.



Mate Tony Nicholas put a big one on the scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center! His 229 lb. bigeye tuna now leads the Heaviest for the season, besting the last one by 40 lbs. He was fishing in the Washington Canyon on the "Rumor Has It" when the eyeball hit on a red Joe Schute lure rigged with a ballyhoo. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Roy Gertz, Casey, Brad Roberts and Billy Oass. This was the first bigeye caught by the boat and a great start!



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The Ocean Pines Angler Club held their 1st Annual Flounder Tournament with 29 anglers competing. Capt. Larry Wilkens in the center above locked in top honors with a 17 7/8" fish. John Rakowski took 2nd Place with a 17 3/4" fish with Ron Kuhar sliding into 3rd Place with his 17 5/8" flatfish. Pretty tight grouping.



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Capt. Richy Eason of Oxford Charters with Brennen Eason trolled in the Baltimore Canyon last week. They only had one bite, but it counted when the gaffed this nice mahi.



Danielle Boyer has a good grip on her first bluefish catch for the season! She fooled this one at the Rt. 50 Bridge on a high tide using a hot pink rattle trap lure.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JULY

MidAtlantic Cup

July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off

July 5,6,7 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown

July 10-13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

37th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 12-14 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Jimmy Johnson AC/Ocean City Fishing Week

July 14-20 • AC & OC • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

Paradise Bay Tournament

TBD • ParadiseGrillDE.com • 410-213-1613

20th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 20-21 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Cape May Marlin Tournament

July 25-28 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

11th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic

July 26-28 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

AUGUST

16th Annual OCMC Franky Pettolina

"Heels & Reels" Tournament

August 2-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

17th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament

August 3 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

51st Annual White Marlin Open

August 5-9 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder

TBD • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

31st Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open

August 15-17 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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CAPT. AUSTIN ENSOR
443-392-4926



"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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by Capt. Mark Sampson



Natural Selection

The other day I was pondering about some of the fish that used to be, but are no longer so very abundant off our coast and back bay waters. Big bluefish, Atlantic mackerel, sea trout, croaker, spadefish, lingcod, codfish, blowfish just to name a few. Sure, some of these fish are still caught around Delmarva, but in nowhere near the numbers or the sizes they used to be. What happened?

Sea trout, bluefish and croaker are pretty good examples of what I'm getting at here. We used to catch the heck out of big ones; 4-8 pound trout, 8-18 pound bluefish, and filling a cooler with 2-pound croaker was pretty common. The crazy thing is that local anglers are still catching plenty of those fish but, with few exceptions, they're all small, and in the case of the trout and croaker, they're not just sub-legal small - they're "tiny" small! And unless things have changed out there, I'm pretty sure that little fish still come from big fish which means that the big

fish have to be somewhere. But where?

All that brought to mind an African myth about an elephant graveyard where old elephants go when they're about to kick the bucket, the anthill, or whatever it is they kick after a long blissful life of chasing lions and stomping pygmies. Apparently his myth came to be many years ago when ivory hunting was big business and, as you can imagine, if someone were to find this "graveyard" they'd make a quick easy fortune in elephant tusks without so much concern about becoming a Serengeti pizza by an angry pachyderm!

Around the world there are other myths and facts about animals that gather together in mind boggling numbers, and when you think about it, if most of any one type of critter is bunched up in one place then the other place or places where they should be - they probably aren't.

With all the fancy hi-tech gadgets screwed to our boat these days, some of which can

pretty much help you find a minnow in a hurricane, you'd think that by now someone would have discovered where the mother-load of these fish have been hiding for the last decade or so - but apparently not! Or at least if they have, that information must be known only to a coalition of fishermen who are able to keep their knowledge about their super secret stash of fish well among their own ranks. (We've gotta find those guys! Hummmmm - maybe start with some tournament winners?)

But when you think about it, if there is such a place where ALL the big fish are hiding out in mass as they wait for us humanoids to forget they ever existed, running above them in a boat should light up a skipper's depth finder screen so much that it should appear that the boat is about to run over mount Everest.

"Yikes Skipper, turn the boat around! We're about to strike bottom!"

"No way Gilligan, that can't be the bottom, we're 80-miles

offshore."

"Doesn't matter. Look at the screen, we're coming up on some kind of huge underwater blob of something. Spin'er around and let's get out of here!!!"

Maybe these days we're just relying too much on our electronics to tell us where to go, so that when an event happens that the tiny pea-brain circuit boards programmed by some dude sitting in a valley in the middle of China didn't anticipate, we just let the plastic boxes steer us away from the mother load of fish every angler dreams of!

If Darwin had it right when he suggested that the fittest and the "smartest" species will survive, it could lend credence to my own warped theory that all the big fish have banded together someplace where we can't find them. At least to me it makes sense that it would be the big dumb ones that would have been caught up first, and therefore eliminated from the gene pool thus leaving the smart ones behind who would know how to avoid the hooks, nets, traps, boats and anything else that would betray their presence and eventually lead to their demise in the bottom of someone's Yeti. After that

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 it's all genetics as the bluefish, mackerel, croaker and other Einstein species pass their twisted strands of DNA stuff on to the next generation of "smart fish".

Traditionally, fishery managers have applied statistics to catch reports, surveys, observations, and a whole slew of other tricks they keep up their sleeves to estimate how many fish are out there before translating all the confusion into numbers that they think depict the amount of fish close enough for them to conclude what fishermen can take each season. Hardly an exact science, but that's the way it's done.

So here's my thought... perhaps someone should consider applying the "elephant graveyard theory" to fishery management. Remember, all those little fish out there have to be coming from somewhere. So if the brainiacs are only counting the little fish that anglers are encountering, perhaps only the tip of the iceberg is showing up on their balance sheets. That huge mass of big "smart" fish might be out there swirling around in the Bermuda triangle, under the polar icecap or some other offshore hidey hole pumping out little fish uninterrupted by fishermen save for the occasional tournament angler who plucks one of their kind out of the big fish bowl and then hightails it out back to the dock before someone gets wise to their secret spot - or the tournament scales close.

Yeah, as far as I'm concerned the answer to what we need to find out is not "how many fish are out there and what regulations are needed to bring their numbers back", but simply "where are they, and what's it going to take to catch'em?"

And if someone in fisheries wants to come up with a

regulation to do something about it, maybe they should let natural selection work for us by developing an IQ test that fishermen can give to the fish so that they can release the dumb ones and kill the smart ones! Guess that's like a lot of other fishermen who suddenly realize that they've lived long enough to be older than the dirt that clings to the wheels of their trucks, I'm increasingly compelled to relay "back in the day" stories to anyone willing to hold still long enough to hear my long-winded rants about how things used to be back when men were men, women were women, and even though we didn't know the sex of the fish we were catching, they were always bigger, more abundant, closer to shore, and certainly hungrier than what's been swimming about Delmarva's inshore and offshore waters the last couple decades.

We all know that, over time and for better or worse, things change in the watery ecosystem where we send our baits and lures. Some of these changes are what fishermen might consider "good" and while others maybe "not so much". Fish that were here back in the day - just aren't anymore. Good would be the numbers of tuna being taken during much of the late spring and most of the summer months. Not so good would be the recent lack of tuna at the end of summer and early fall. Good would be the great deep water fishing for tilefish and offshore reef fishing for sea bass, tog, and flounder. Not so good would be how challenging it has become to pull off a decent catch of bottom fish on the nearshore wrecks and reefs inside of ten or so miles from the inlet.

Also, not so good is the disappearance of a lot of fish that used to be staples. \$



Another new Heaviest Fish for the season is set. This time it was this 10.8 lb. citation sheepshead that Dan Sander caught at an ocean structure. Weighed and pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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2ND PLACE
 ROB ENGLISH
 STRINGER WEIGHT 26.5 LBS. \$2,000

3RD PLACE
 SEAN HITCHENS
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Over 50 paddlers participated in the 6th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam hosted at Atlantic Tackle. Over the two day event 44 kayaks brought fish to the scales, but it was these four anglers that rose to the top, earning over \$8,000 dollars in award money plus prizes.

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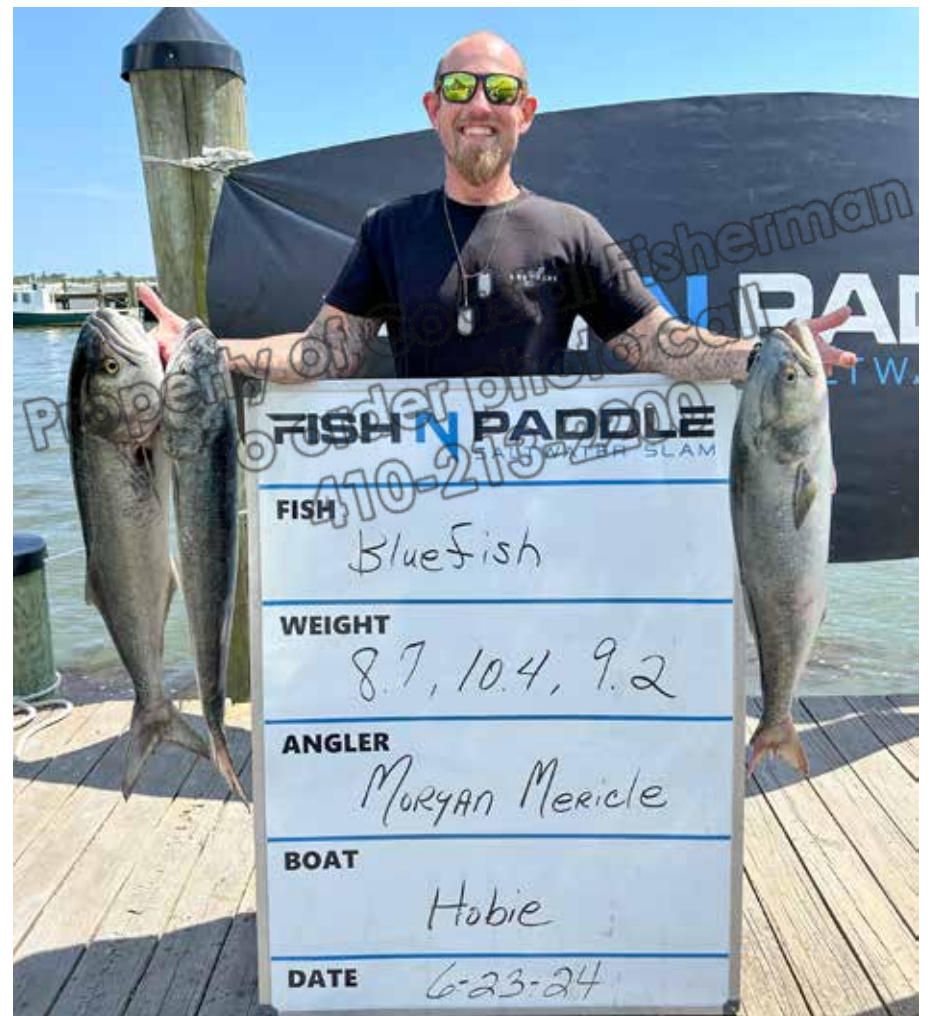
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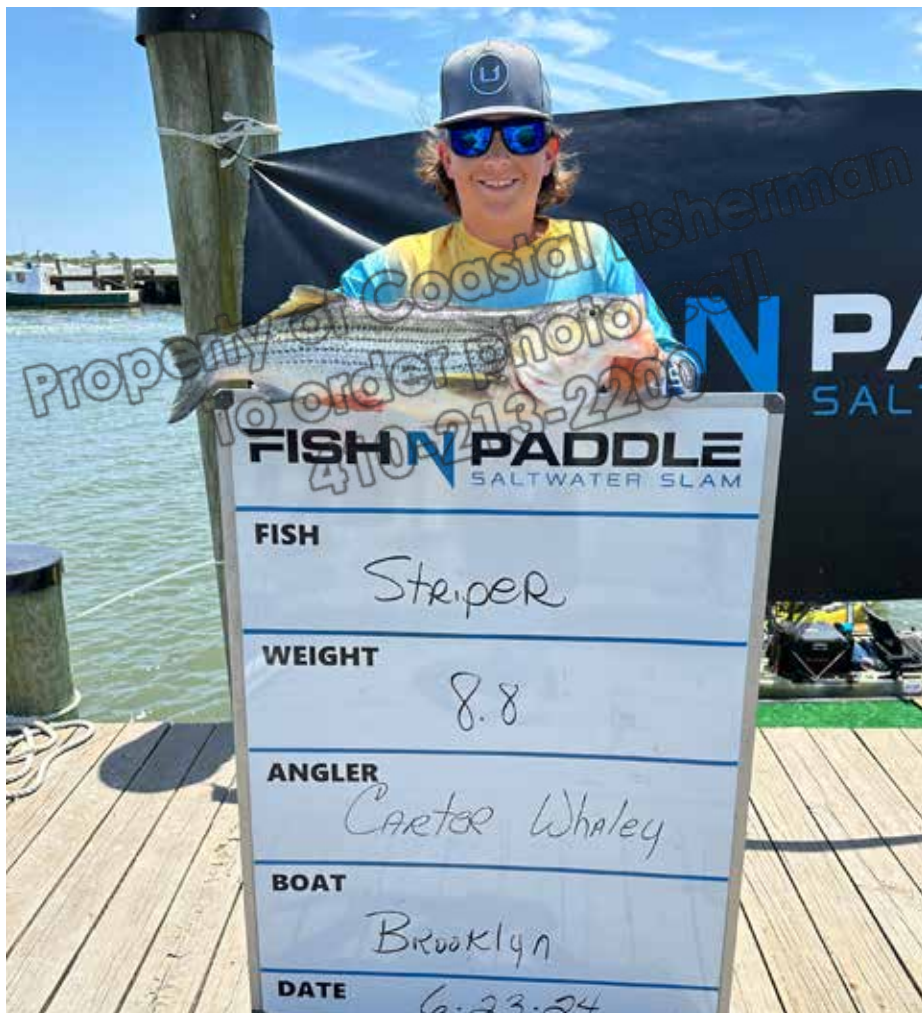
Morgan Mericle of Silver Spring, MD is no stranger to the Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam having won the event in 2021. During the 6th Annual event hosted at Atlantic Tackle he fished his Hobie hard with paddle tails at both the Ocean City Inlet and the Rt. 50 Bridge. Over 2 days he brought 6 bluefish and a striper to the scales to take 1st Place again with a top 3 fish total weight of 29.25 lbs. That earned him the top payout of \$4,000.



Rob English from Galloway, NJ returned to fish the 6th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam hosted at Atlantic Tackle, looking to defend his Heaviest Fish title from 2023, or even better it! From his Wilderness kayak he targeted big fish like sheepshead, black drum and stripers with sand fleas to build up his top 3 fish totals. The strategy worked as his two day top 3 total was 26.5 lb. securing him 2nd Place overall and \$2,000 in prize money.



Bluefish was the plan for Sean Hitchens of Dagsboro, DE during the 6th Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam hosted by Atlantic Tackle. He worked the Rt. 50 Bridge during both days of the tournament using live spot to bring a total of 4 blues to the scales, two each day. With the largest at 10.9 lbs. and combined with the next two heaviest, he earned a top 3 fish total of 25.5 lbs., 3rd Place overall and \$1,000.



Carter Whaley from Seaford, DE set a tournament record during the 6th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam hosted at Atlantic Tackle. His 8.8 lb. striper earned him the Junior Angler Award and was the heaviest for a Junior Angler in the events history! He caught the winning fish in the bay behind Assateague Island using a Heddon One Knocker Spoon. He also won a NRS Inflatable kayak.

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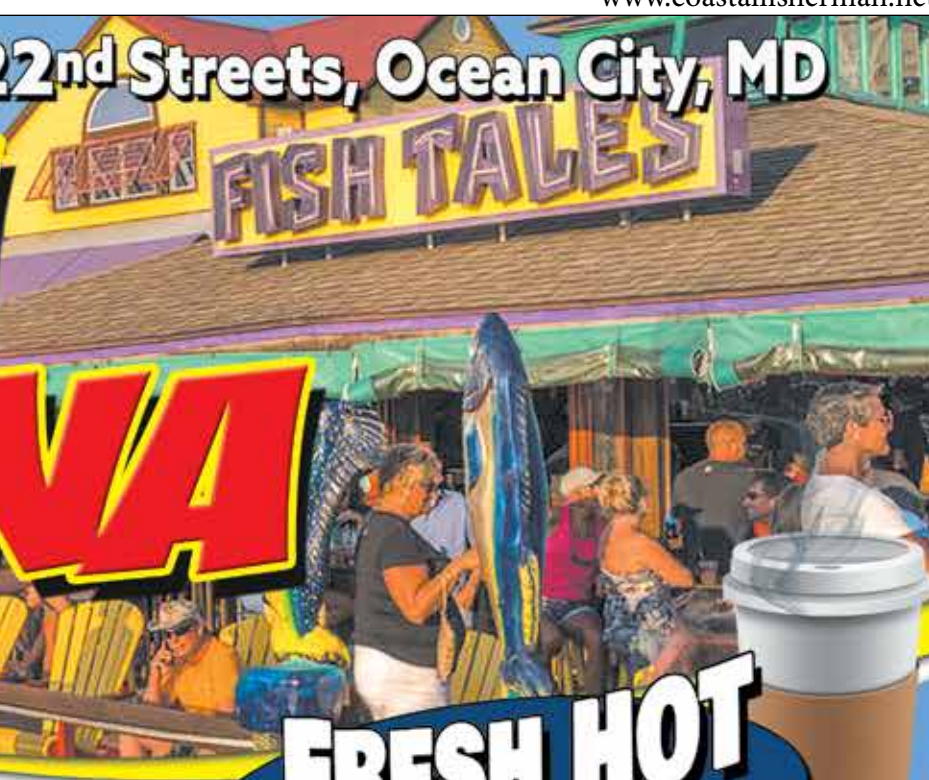
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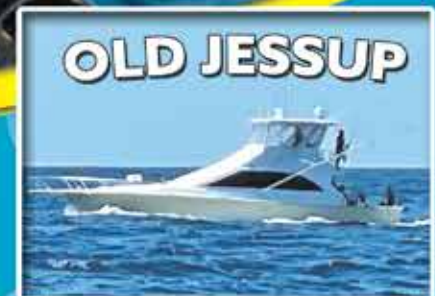
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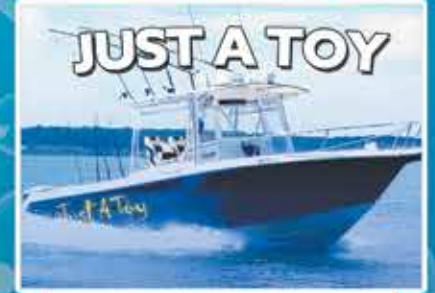
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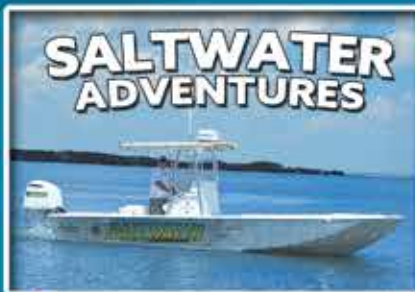
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The 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina saw two action packed day with lots of fish and blistering heat! The crew of the "Boy's Toy" anchored day 1 as the last boat to the scales. They spent the day outside the Baltimore Canyon and had a single bite that counted! 10 year old Mary Gessler, already a seasoned offshore fisherman, jumped on the rod and caught and released a white marlin that hit on a ballyhoo. She is pictured with her many cousins!



Young Kinsley Emmert caught one of the more unique fish during the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. She was fishing offshore on the "Double Trouble" with Curtis Reinhardt when she reeled in this 3.0 lb. triggerfish caught on squid, winning that division! Curtis also weighed a 2.2 lb. flounder he caught with Gulp.

9TH ANNUAL KIDS CATCH-ALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS JUNE 22-23, 2024

A portion of the proceeds benefits the
Lyme Disease Association of Delmarva, Inc.

BILLFISH	Mary Gessler	White Marlin Release
BLUEFISH	Jonathan Kemper	11.4 lbs.
CROAKER	Cullen Marten	.6 lbs.
FLOUNDER	Georgia Merrick	3.6 lbs.
ROCKFISH	Chase Foura	8.2 lbs.
SEA BASS	Julia Dadisman	1.2 lbs.
SHARK	Carson Bixler	2.6 lb. Dogfish
SHARK RELEASE	Ian Antonopoulos	10 Releases
SPOT	Joely Ackerman	.4 lbs.
TRIGGERFISH	Kinsley Emmert	3 lbs.
UNUSUAL CATCH	Hope Niebauer	Skate



143 KIDS ENTERED

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12 year old Georgia Merrick had a great day fishing with her dad during the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. They fished wrecks and reefs inshore using spot and minnows and Georgia was able to catch a 3.6 lb. Flounder to take the top spot for Heaviest Flounder. She also boated a 10 lb. bluefish and a sea bass.



Brothers 6 year old Cullen and 3 year old Hayes Martin had a busy weekend fishing in the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. They spent Saturday at Holts Landing and on the beach at 3R's. They reported seeing lots of wildlife like sand sharks and rays. Sunday they were on the beaches of Fenwick Island where Cullen landed this 0.6 lb. croaker taking top honors in that division!

9 year old Dawson and young Olivia Bachman kicked off the action at the scales on Day 1 of the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. Dawson has been fishing the tournament since he was 3 and it has become part of his June birthday celebration that he now shares with his sister. The pair caught these two spot using bloodworms and minnow at the Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier.

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17 year old Jack Cooper Sargent had a tale to tell at the scales during the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. He had planned to fish with a friend, but they canceled last minute, so he headed out alone! He fished off shore of Cape Henlopen and released 3 sand tiger sharks and lost a 4th using flounder carcasses and tuna heads. He estimated the largest at 300 lbs.



Nicky, Josh and Hope Niebauer with Fayth Pauley caught a lot of fish during the 9th Annual Kid's Catch-All hosted by the Indian River Marina. They used spot, pink Gulp, Fishbites and sand fleas to catch skate, spot, kingfish and croakers from the "Miss Ene III". It was 10 year old Hope's 3.6 lb. skate however that took home the trophy for Most Unusual Catch.



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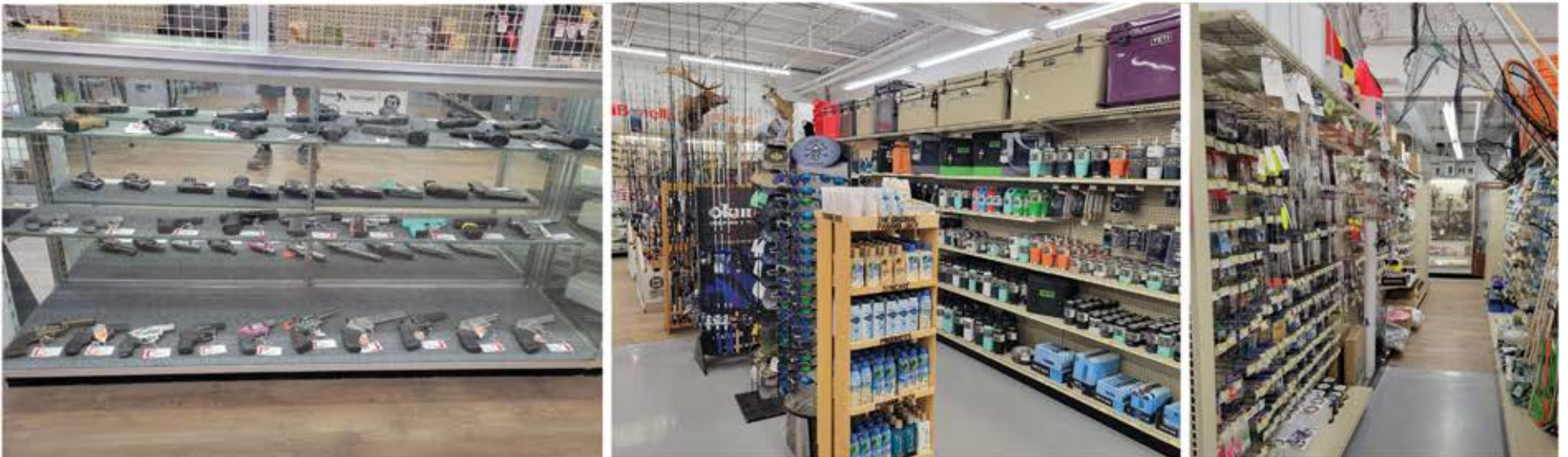


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OC locals Austin Purnell, Lee Kendall, Erik Dowell and Josh Phippen headed down to the ESVA to fish the Tangier Sound. They were with Capt. CL Marshall and he kept them busy catching bluefish, puppy drum and stripers.



Chris Keithley of Bishopville, MD proves that you don't need to go offshore to find fat flounder. He caught this 22 incher on an orange Gulp swimming in the Thorofare on the "J Marie".

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 26	High _____ High 12:06 pm	Low 05:57 am Low 05:57 pm
THUR. JUNE 27	High 12:34 am High 01:04 pm	Low 06:48 am Low 07:01 pm
FRI. JUNE 28 3rd Qtr. Moon	High 01:26 am High 02:07 pm	Low 07:39 am Low 08:06 pm
SAT. JUNE 29	High 02:22 am High 03:14 pm	Low 08:30 am Low 09:13 pm
SUN. JUNE 30	High 03:21 am High 04:20 pm	Low 09:22 am Low 10:20 pm
MON. JULY 1	High 04:20 am High 05:22 pm	Low 10:17 am Low 11:25 pm
TUE. JULY 2	High 05:17 am High 06:20 pm	Low 11:12 am Low _____
WED. JULY 3	High 06:12 am High 07:16 pm	Low 12:27 am Low 12:07 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.



Nick and his son Nathan lucked out when they got the chance to fish with Big Bird Cropper. He had them on their limit of bluefish straight away using his Roy Rig at the OC Inlet and Rt. 50 Bridge.

FACTS ABOUT... YELLOWFIN TUNA



- The current I.G.F.A. All Tackle World Record yellowfin tuna weighed 427 lbs. and was caught off Cabo San Lucas, Mexico in September 2012.

The yellowfin tuna is among the larger tuna species, reaching weights over 400 pounds, but is significantly smaller than the Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tunas, which can reach over 990 pounds, and slightly smaller than the bigeye tuna and the southern bluefin tuna.

- The second dorsal fin and the anal fin, as well as the finlets between those fins and the tail, are bright yellow, giving this fish its common name. The second dorsal and anal fins can be very long in mature specimens, reaching almost as far back as the tail and giving the appearance of sickles. The pectoral fins are also longer than the bluefin tuna, but not as long as those of the longfin albacore. The main body is a very dark metallic blue, changing to silver on the belly, which has about 20 vertical lines.
- Yellowfin tuna are epipelagic fish that inhabit the mixed surface layer of the ocean above the thermocline in 65 to 88-degree water. Sonic tracking has found that although yellowfin tuna, unlike the related bigeye tuna, mostly range in the top 330 ft. of the water column and penetrate the thermocline relatively infrequently, they are capable of diving to considerable depths. An individual fish tagged in the Indian Ocean with an archival tag spent 85% of its time in depths shallower than 246 ft., but was recorded making dives to 3,810 ft.
- Yellowfin tuna often travel in schools with similarly sized companions. They sometimes school with other tuna species and mixed schools of smaller yellowfin and skipjack tuna. They are often associated with various species of dolphins or porpoises, as well as with larger marine creatures such as whales and whale sharks. They also associate with drifting flotsam such as logs and pallets, and sonic tagging indicates some follow moving vessels

Spawning occurs throughout the year with the peak during summer months. They typically reach weights of slightly over 8 lbs. after only 18 months.

- Yellowfin tuna prey include other fish, pelagic crustaceans and squid. Like all tunas, their body shape is particularly adapted for speed, enabling them to pursue and capture fast-moving baitfish such as flying fish, sauries, and mackerel. Schooling species such as myctophids or lanternfish and similar pelagic driftfish, anchovies, and sardines are frequently taken. Large yellowfins prey on smaller members of the tuna family such as frigate mackerel and skipjack tuna. In turn, yellowfin are preyed upon when they are young by other pelagic hunters, including larger tuna, seabirds and predatory fish such as wahoo, shark and billfish. Adults are threatened only by the largest and fastest hunters, such as toothed whales, particularly the false killer whale, pelagic sharks such as the mako and great white shark, large Atlantic blue marlin, Pacific blue marlin and black marlin. The main source of mortality, however, is industrial tuna fisheries.

Yellowfins are able to escape most predators, because unlike most fish, tuna are warm-blooded and their warm muscles make them extremely strong swimmers, with speeds of up to 50 miles per hour. They can navigate enormous distances, sometimes crossing entire oceans.

- Yellowfin tuna have a typical lifespan of 8 years.

Source:
Wikipedia.com

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Capt. Chase Eberle & mate Nick Cayzedo on the charter boat "Chasin Tides" had to run to deep water in the canyons, but it was worth it to fill the cooler with golden tilefish. The largest was 34 lbs. but they all seem a good size.

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At 9 years old, Zayne Laudermilch of Stevens, PA has accomplished what many are still trying to achieve, he caught an *in the slot* keeper striper. This 10 lb. and 31" fish was caught on a 3 oz. bucktail at the northside of the Indian River Inlet



Angler Amber Miller holds only the 2nd longfin tuna we have seen this year! She caught the albacore in the Wilmington Canyon while fishing on the charter boat "Reel Naughty" with Capt. Tony Bauer and mates Alan & Kyle along with fellow PA anglers Ryan Miller, Sean Carroll and Brooke Carol. It was their only tuna for the day, but they did have a marlin bite. Pictured at White Marlin Marina.

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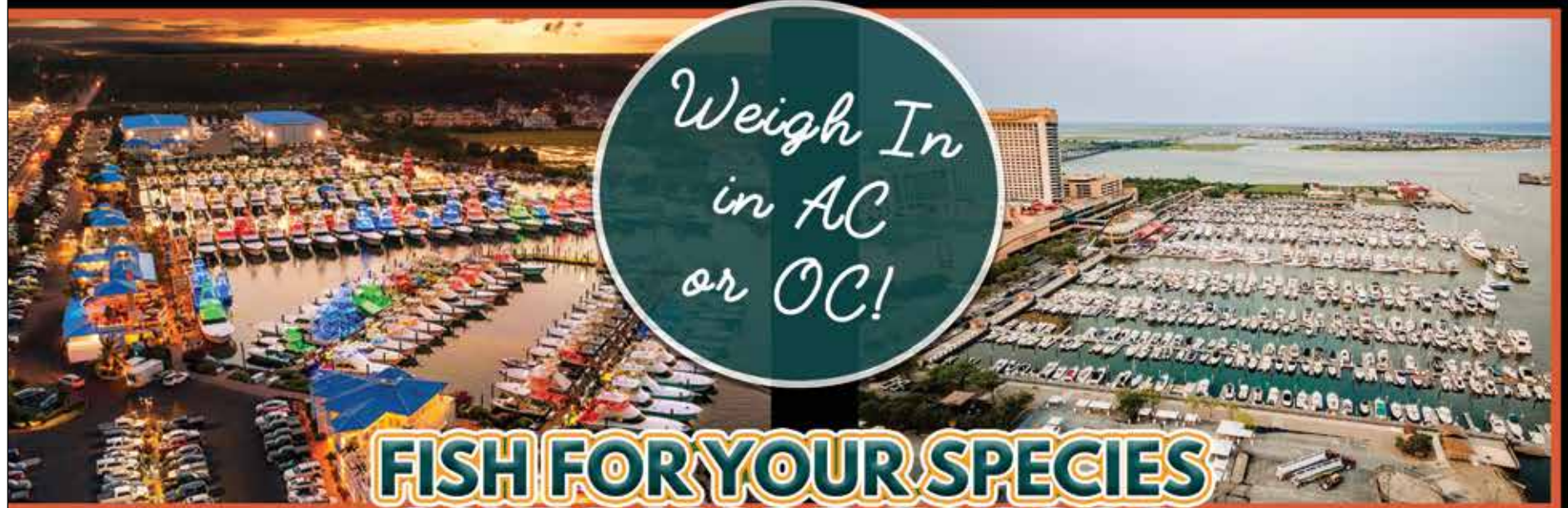
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45th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club
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3RD "REEL TEASER"	32.5 LBS.	

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3RD "LINE DANCER"	3.0 LBS.	

FLOUNDER

1ST "TRIGGER HAPPY"	3.2 LBS.	\$716
2ND "TRIGGER HAPPY"	3.0 LBS.	
3RD "CONCRETE HOOKER II"	2.6 LBS.	\$741
3RD "CAROL'S TEA KETTLE"	2.6 LBS.	\$18

SEA BASS

1ST "NATURAL BRIGHT"	4.0 LBS.	\$503
2ND "NATURAL BRIGHT"	2.0 LBS.	
2ND "CAROL'S TEA KETTLE"	2.0 LBS.	\$68
3RD "NATURAL BRIGHT"	1.5 LBS.	



19 BOATS ENTERED
 DAY 1 (18 BOATS) DAY 2 (1 BOAT)



The crew of the "Trigger Happy" were excited to get to the scales during the 45th Annual Small Boat Tournament hosted by the Ocean City Marlin Club. They were first to the dock on Day 1 and put 2 flounder on the deck. Kevin McNelis Jr. caught a personal best 24" and 5.5 lb. flatfish in his first cast at an ocean wreck using a Freedom 8 jig with a 5" plastic grub. Dad Kevin McNelis Sr. followed suit and snagged a 2.5 lb. flounder. As the first fish of the event, they slotted into 1st and 2nd Place where they held off all challengers to finish the tournament!



In a clear case of saving the best for last, Capt. Brent Decker Jr. with Josh Gruber and Brent Decker Sr. slid into the scales as the last boat at the 45th Annual Small Boat Tournament hosted by the Ocean City Marlin Club. They battled the weather to run to the Washington Canyon, and while they only got 2 bites, they counted. Their yellowfins at 36 lbs. and 32.5 lbs. took both 1st and 3rd Place for Heaviest Tuna.

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It was a trifecta for the crew of the "Natural Bright" during the 45th Annual Small Boat Tournament hosted by the Ocean City Marlin Club. Capt. Jeremy Hudson with Capt. Eric Ellis, Billy Holloway and Robbie Gsbind worked the wrecks at the Marine Electric, bring their 3 heaviest sea bass back to the scales. At 4.0, 2.0 and 1.5 pounds the three knotheads won 1st Place, 3rd Place and tied for 2nd Place for Heaviest Sea Bass!



After a booming spring bite for bluefish, they were few and far between during the 45th Annual Small Boat Tournament hosted by the Ocean City Marlin Club. The crew of Capt. Matt Groff, Chase Groff and Jack Groff reported they had to work through a lot of short stripers at the Rt. 50 Bridge to land this keeper bluefish. At 4.0 lbs. it slid to the top of the leaderboard for bluefish where it finished the event.



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Capt. Wayne Anderson of "Just A Toy" charters based at Bahia Marina took the day off for a little fun fishing. He cruised down to the Ocean City Inlet jetty's where he fooled this 11 lb. 10 oz. convict using sand fleas. It also set a new bar for Heaviest Sheepshead of the year!



Dave Borell of PA got busy on his pontoon again! He cruised down to the bay behind Assateague Island and returned with a triple of keeper flounder all in the 19" range using Gulp.

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A tuna tournament is a good way to spend Father's Day and that is exactly what anglers Steve Mazzella and Wray Bassett did. They were fishing in the Washington Canyon on the "She Worthy 2.0" with Capts. Brian Wetcher and Terry Bowling where this yellowfin hit on a green Sterling Tackle Widetracker in 73° water. At 34 lbs. it was big enough to take 3rd Place!



It was a first for angler Chris Taylor when he reeled in this triggerfish from the sands of the OSV at Assateague Island! The little treat hit on a kingfish rig with Bloodworm Fish Bites.

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well, if you couldn't figure it out, summer is here. The water temps are rising faster than a tide during a stiff nor-east blow. So hurry and get out there before the summer duldrums chase away fin and fun!

The biggest change (other than the weather) is the arrival of a few tuna on the local docks. Yellowfin and bigeye have made an appearance on the rod and the dinner plate. The action is still deep with the canyons but is a welcome change to the bottom fishing that was carrying the load for deep sea, satisfying smiles.

The inshore reefs and wrecks are starting to produce more flounder activity, as anglers jig up some tasty fillets. The quantities of eager flat fish has been less than expected, however, the quality is pretty

good. The best reports have come from a bucktail, such as a spro, tipped with a curly tail gulp. Hopefully in the next week bites will become more frequent and coolers a little heavier.

The inshore wrecks have also had a few spades and triggers swarming about. A piece of clam on a small hook with fluorocarbon leader is all that is necessary to engage in a battle with these tropical tussler's.

The seaside has also offered some action inside the inlets. Flounder have actively taken Sea Hawk flounder rigs during the last of the flood and first hour or so of the ebb. The new size limit of 17.5 inch have definitely reduced the number of fish invited to dinner, however, there is still a good chance at a family flounder

feast.

If flounder isn't your fancy and you desire fast fighting foes. The inshore seaside shark fishery is in full swing. If you would like to take a kid and make a memorable experience that points them in the direction of a fishing future... then this is for you. Large sharks are making their way inshore and this is the time of year to enjoy a catch and release fishery that is second to none. All you need is a bucket of chum and some cut bait and you shall find yourself in a battle with a toothed trophy that will make permanent bite mark in the memory of a young fisherman.

The Chesapeake is still producing specs and reds in shallow water. Anglers offer chunks of crab to entice puppies as well as mature bulls into






the net. There has still been a structure oriented bluefish bite that has yielded some awesome sport that is super on the smoker. The structure from the CBBT to the targets and rock piles of the Tangier have also relinquished a few quality sheepshead. These striped subjects have succumb to bottom sweeper jigs tipped with peeler crabs.

The cobia have been fairly consistent. The middle bay south to the CBBT have seen a good number of brown suits. A fishfinder rig tipped with bunker in about 15-25 feet of water along the natural sloughs as-well as man made structures have produced rod bending brawls. Site fishing has also produced good results as anglers offer everything from live eel to brightly colored cobia jigs to entice an arial battle that brings a smile to every angler with a bend in their rod.

While the temperature is high and the weather is muggy don't forget it's pretty cool to be able to enjoy this wonderful place we call home! §

2024 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 6 August 9 - 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 40" minimum / Only 1 > 50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</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>

eregulations.com



If you are looking to catch a red drum, the Eastern Shore of Virginia is the place to be. Lee & Gary Savage of Berlin, MD scooted down south to get some red action and caught and released several fishing off a barrier island using peeler crab. One of Lee's is pictured above.

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**DONA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks
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**EL BENDIDO - 2004 61' Blackwell
Call Jimmy Fields**



**GAL-O-MINE - 1988 46' Hudson
Call Jeff James**



**THE 3 G's 2021 38' Fountain
Call Adam Peeples**



**2022 42' Freeman
Call Ronnie Fields**



**2023 41 SeaHunter
Call Colton Cunningham**



**2006 40' Topaz Express
Call Terry Layton**



**2019 35' Boston Whaler
Call Chris Workmon**



**FULL CIRCLE - 1984 50' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**



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



**DAY BY DAY - 2003 62' Ocean Yacht
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**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



**2006 36 Grady White
Call Chris Workmon**



**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



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