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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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JULY 31, 2024



The mighty "Ro Sham Bo" pulled up to the dock at the Talbot Street Pier with a blue marlin flag flying right-side up after their 32 hours of fishing during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic, so we knew we were going to see a big fish! Anglers Bill Zimmerman, Douglas Reynolds, Nick Shriver, Michael Wheaton, Mark Fones and Rusty Shriver had started fishing in the Washington Canyon on Saturday and found no bites, so they ran down to the Baltimore Canyon to fish on Sunday. In the early morning, they saw some action on the teaser reel and a short time later Rusty Shriver connected with the blue on the short rigger. Capt. Willie Zimmerman reported he made one big circle with the fish and after only 28 minutes it was at the boat. 1st gaff shot hit home and in the boat it came. The deckhands called out the measurements before bringing it up to the dock. 117.5 inches, well above the federal and tournament minimums. The big blue tipped the scales at 535 lbs. jumping the "Ro Sham Bo" to 1st Place fish for Big Fish where it stayed earning the crew the largest combined payout of the event of \$320,392. Pictured at the Talbot St. Pier.



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Kevin Legates, aka Capt. Rosie, was back at it finding these delicious fish in 1100 feet at the Baltimore Canyon. It has been a while for Kevin since experiencing a life changing accident offshore 3 years ago when his boat was struck, sank and took the life of his friend Capt. Chris Ragni Sr. It was good to see the "BigEye Crew" of Kevin, Robert Baxley and Lil Anthony back at it reeling up several fat rosies, blueline and golden tilefish using both hand crank and electric reels.

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Ocean City boys Ben Overholt and Jeff Michael were joined by Pat Michael of Hatfield, PA for a trip to the Washington Canyon on the "2 CAPS". They got in on the bigeye tuna action hooking this 189 lb. eyeball on a DTX Minnow.



Mary Harshman is no stranger to fishing, but she was a newbie at targeting big fish at night. Well, she can check that off her list after landing this 22" flounder off a pier in West Ocean City using bull minnows and a sinker.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

**16th ANNUAL
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Registration: August 1, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3

Weigh-Ins: August 2 & 3 from 4:30-7:30pm at TBD

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— 2024 SCHEDULE —

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**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

**66th ANNUAL
LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT ***

TBD

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

It is just so hard to believe we are at the end of July! For myself and many others I talk to this season feels like it has flown by this year. Nonetheless here we are at the top of August with a full 3 weeks of offshore tournaments ahead of us, including some of our largest, and of course the White Marlin Open which is the largest and richest marlin tournament in the world. The 11th Annual Big Fish Classic which was held last weekend set the stage for the August events with some amazing catches and a near record purse for the event of \$1,158,500.

While many would share that this has been one of the toughest seasons for yellowfin tuna they have seen in 20 years, there have been

some really notable bigeye catches both in and outside of tournaments. This was on display at the Big Fish Classic. For those unfamiliar with this tournament, it has a unique format as compared to all the other events. Anglers get to choose to fish one of two 32 hour fishing 'windows'. For this year they were either Friday from 7AM to Saturday at 3PM, or Saturday from 7AM to Sunday at 3PM. This gives crews the opportunity to hit two morning bites as well as an evening and overnight one. While they can choose to return early if they have something big they want to weigh, most stay out for the full 32 hours.

88 boats entered the field this year to compete for that large purse. Since the weather overnight last Friday to

Saturday looked questionable, only 15 boats selected to fish the first 'window', with the remaining 73 departing Saturday morning. We expected the scales to be slow on Friday and they were totally slow! While several nice fish were caught on Friday, not one of the 15 boats fishing that day decided to come to the scales, choosing instead to stay out for their full 32 hours.

We knew we would see some action on Saturday as the first set of boats finished their windows. What we were not expecting was a tournament record stringer from the first boat to the scales! The "MJ's" cruised into the dock at the Talbot Street Pier shortly after scales opened and reported 6 bigeye tuna onboard! The tournament has a stringer award for 5 of any type of legal fish and one for tuna, so things were looking good for the "MJ's". The crew selected their 5 heaviest and their combined weight was 1,077.5 lbs! On top of that, the largest was 73" and 288 lbs. with the average at 215 lbs. They fished south of the Wilmington Canyon and started out blue marlin fishing. About an hour in on the first day, they saw no marlin bites, but got hit with a bigeye. After getting that one to the boat they decided

to change tactics and fish for more bigeye for a stringer. They caught 2 more that first day and missed another 2. The last 3 fish came on Saturday morning when they hooked up a triple, getting all 3 in the box. The big one caught by JD Messley was the last one. That stringer remained unchallenged and took 1st Place in that calcutta. Their largest single fish at 288 lbs. however slipped to 2nd Place for Heaviest Tuna and also took 3rd Place for overall Big Fish.

We had heard rumors on Friday that the "Primary Search" had a large 73" bigeye on ice, so there was anticipation on the dock when they pulled up Saturday. They were fishing in 1000 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon. The big tuna hit at 8:30 PM and anglers Joe Tull and Steve Strawbridge fought the tuna for only 38 minutes. While this fish was a little shorter than the "MJ's", its girth measured 64.5"! All eyes were on the scale as they raised the fish, and when weighmaster Coconut Hedges shouted out 305 pounds the crowds erupted! Also a tournament record, it held on to take not only 1st Place in the Heaviest Tuna calcutta, but also 2nd Place in the Big Fish calcutta taking home \$151,393.

Overall 9 boats hit the scales that day filling in all of the Tuna and Heavy Divisions, but no billfish. With 73 boats still working the water, there was a high expectation for

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change on the last day of the event.

The "Under Taker" kicked off Day 3 with a strong catch. Capt. Corey Kennington had run the boat up to the Spencer Canyon and was trolling in only 500' of water along the 100 fathom line. It was sunset on Saturday when angler Michael Barry connected with a white marlin on a naked ballyhoo, taking only 10 minutes to boat the fish. That marlin was 71" long and weighed 68 lbs. As the only qualifying white weighed, it swept those calcuttas and actually took 3rd Place for Heaviest Billfish earning the second largest tournament payout of \$162,022.

As if that catch was not a great way to start the day, the next boat kept the momentum rolling and took it up a notch. The mighty "Ro Sham Bo" pulled up to the T-Pier with a blue marlin flag flying. They had started fishing in the Washington Canyon and found no love, so they tooled down to the Baltimore Canyon to fish on Sunday. In the early morning, they saw some action on the teaser reel and a short time later Rusty Shriver connected with the blue on the short rigger. Capt. Willie Zimmerman reported he made one big circle with the fish, and after only 28 minutes it was at the boat. 1st gaff shot hit home and in the boat it came. It was their only bite save for a small mako. The deckhands called out the measurements before bringing it up to the dock. 117 inches, well above the federal and tournament minimums. The big tunas were definitely in trouble in the Big Fish calcutta! The big blue tipped the scales at 535 lbs. jumping the "Ro Sham Bo" to 1st Place fish for Heaviest Fish where it

stayed, earning the crew the largest payout of the event of \$320,392.

One area where you don't see much of at the scales is the Billfish Release Division as there is nothing to weigh. This was a shame at this year's Big Fish Classic as some of the best catches of the year so far were reported! The "Kilo Charlie" took top honors with an amazing 2350 points for releasing 22 white marlin and 1 blue marlin. They spent Saturday behind the Spencer Canyon in 800 fathoms going 10 for 16 on whites and 1 for 1 on blue marlin. Sunday saw them further south in 1100 fathoms behind the Baltimore Canyon going 12 for 12 on whites. Two great single day releases!

2nd Place went to the "Billfisher" who caught 18 white marlin, releasing 17 in their 32 hour window fishing from the Carteret Canyon to the Baltimore. Their record was 4 on day 1 and 14 on day 2. Notable was that all the anglers were kids with the oldest at 17. While the tournament allows for anglers to pass the rod and help land fish, Capt. Jon Duffie does not! All these youth anglers hooked and reeled in these marlin on their own.

Rounding out the categories were "Poorman" who took 2nd Place for Heaviest Billfish with a 95.5 lb. swordfish they caught during the day in the Washington Canyon. The "Split Bill" also caught a sword in the Wilmington Canyon at 105.5 lbs. securing the Winner Take All for swords and other calcuttas. They had not entered the Heaviest Billfish Calcutta.

The Heaviest Dolphin was from "Off The Hook" with a 41" and 27.5 lb. dolphin they caught bailing in the Washington Canyon. Since no qualifying wahoo were weighed, the payout for that mahi was over \$41K!

The "Reel Moore" locked into the top of the leaderboard



We got several billfish reports recently which is hopefully a good sign for the upcoming tournaments. Morgan Howell was out with her family and some of the crew from Mickey Fins with Capt. Nick Parks and mate Phil Knapp on the "Tuna Ink" when she released this blue marlin in 200 fathoms at the Poor Mans Canyons.

and the WTA for Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna with a 118.5 lb. allison they caught in the Spencer Canyon on the shotgun with a ballyhoo. You can see our full coverage and pictures starting on page 60.

Overall, it was a pretty amazing event with 24 boats weighing some amazing fish. Hopefully the flurry of billfish activity and bigeye bite remains as we get to the big August Tournaments. This weekend sees the Ocean City Marlin Club's 'Heel's & Reel's" Ladies Tournament and the Marlins for Mason Billfish Release Tournament. Details are in our Upcoming Tournament post. Until next time share what you are catching. §




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Upcoming Tournaments

- The Ocean City Marlin Club hosts their **16th Annual OCMC Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament** on August 2nd & 3rd. You do not have to be a member of the club to participate in this popular ladies event! Weigh ins will be held at Fisherman's Marina from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM both days.
- The **2nd Annual Marlins for Mason Tournament** to raise money and awareness to benefit the Dravet Syndrome Foundation will also be held on August 2nd & 3rd. This a billfish release only tournament and catch reports may be turned in at Atlantic Tackle.




It was a double catch of longfin tuna on the "Double Shot". Anglers Ted McElhinny of Easton, MD and Bill Hammond from Ocean City reeled in these 60 pound class fish while trolling in 100 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Mans Canyons. One hit on a spreader bar and the other on a ballyhoo. Rounding out the crew were Berlin based Jim Daniel & Tim Sexton with Scott Mayer of Chambersburg, PA and Joe Ungvarsky of Pasadena, MD.





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Robin Goodwin from Lancaster, PA was back at it again in the Rehoboth Bay on her pontoon. This time she fooled a 18.25" flounder using a minnow on a white bucktail at the end of an incoming tide.



It was all smiles for young Mark Federowicz of Garnet Valley, PA. He was fishing with his dad on the "Lite Work" by the south Ocean City Jetty where he caught 2 bluefish including his first. They were jigging with Glow-Shrimp Spec Rigs at the end of an incoming tide.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Maryland waters saw large storms on many evenings and received some well needed rain in our areas. The nearshore wrecks are still producing a few big sea bass due to colder bottom temps than usual. Flounder fishing is improving but is still very hit or miss depending on the water temps around the wreck you are fishing. The back bays have tons of small fluke, sea bass and croaker around to delight novice anglers. The Rt. 50 Bridge is still producing big rockfish as well as blues.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore wrecks are giving up some nice sea bass despite the late season, mostly due to the colder water stuck in our area. Last week produced a couple big cobia as well as some large flatfish from reefs and structure.

Capt. Victor Bunting reported that sea bass were a bit slow for their anglers with lots of undersized fish caught. The crew reports they had a few flounder as well as a unique catch of a big cobia. The large 30 pound fish was caught by Alexandria Platt from Houston, TX. The "Angler" had several

good trips and put their clients on some quality flounder. The anglers also found sea bass and other species willing to take a hook. The "Judith M" caught a couple quality sea bass along with a few other species. They said they still have room for additional anglers in the later parts of the week. Lucas Siple took his first trip of the season and landed 5 keeper flounder along with a few sea bass. The group fished the African Queen site and reported that until the tide changed they had constant action, with fish up to 22 inches. Kevin McNelis got another citation fluke. The fish weighed 5.02 pounds.

"Just a Toy Sportfishing" had a great charter catching 10 bluefish as well as a 30 inch slot striper. "Double Trouble Charters" stated, despite the unfavorable weather conditions the group, with MVP Ken Spicer, managed to put a beat down on several quality fish during their outing. The crew put respectable catches of sea bass and flounder in the box. Captain Churchill reports the key is getting a crew that are willing to work hard and pay attention to strikes on the rods.

Back Bay & Inlet

The Rt. 50 Bridge area is still hot for blues and rockfish, and the area directly above and below is the hot spot for flounder. The back bays of Assateague Island are loaded with small croaker and blues. Michael Defrancesco was out with his little girl and managed a couple flounder and a 27 inch rockfish while fishing next to the bridge.

The "Miss Ocean City" stated the water was quite clear despite the storms, and many anglers got lucky enough to bring home dinner. The boat is fishing 3 hour trips on the water for under \$40. The "Bay Bee" also reports several good trips last week with anglers catching a variety of fish, including a few big flatfish which were invited home for dinner. The "Happy Hooker" had their annual Jimmy's Kitchen trip and all aboard had a great time and tons of fun. "Freedom Baits" reports the weather has been up and down lately however, anglers still managed to find quality fish in the bay. John Abbott and Caleb Abbott were throwing the 8" Bare Knuckle Shad landing some world class redfish. Nature Boy also fished

www.coastalfisherman.net and hooked a rockfish up to 35" as well as a few stout weakfish.

Kane Bounds had a slow start to their 8 hour charters, but as the wind settled down the fishing bounced back. Although we are not seeing the big landings from the "Fish Bound Charters" the crew remains vigilant despite the colder water and is managing to catch several big fish. The crew showed off some knothead sea bass as well as several doormat fluke.

Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has been producing quality redfish along with big rays and sharks. The main catch remains kingfish which are showing up in large numbers.

Many anglers are reporting growing tired of baiting every few minutes as these fish won't stop biting the lines.

Adam Karl had a fun day on the island with his family catching both spot and kingfish. Seth Seger and group caught kingfish from the beach on Monday afternoon while enjoying a relaxing day on the beach. Brian Reynolds ran out Thursday evening and fished a super low tide off Assateague. He stated he didn't set the world on fire, but did manage some spot and a dozen kingfish up to 13 inches. He also caught one overslot redfish. Maybe it's just me but sounds like he was

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setting the world on fire with all those fish caught, including a big red.

Many anglers missed the early run of big redfish in April and May, however this year they are hanging around for the summer, so now is the time to hit the beach and toss out some cut bait on big vehicle hooks and maybe land that fish of a lifetime.

Jarod Tedesco was not to be outdone and caught his first over slot red fish of the year. He was all smiles showing off his big catch before safely releasing the brute to be caught another day. Jarod caught and released 4 reds on Thursday evening. David Moore stated there were all the spot fish you wanted in the surf Thursday evening. He reported using several of them to catch 7 big reds between 37 and 45 inches.

Until next week...

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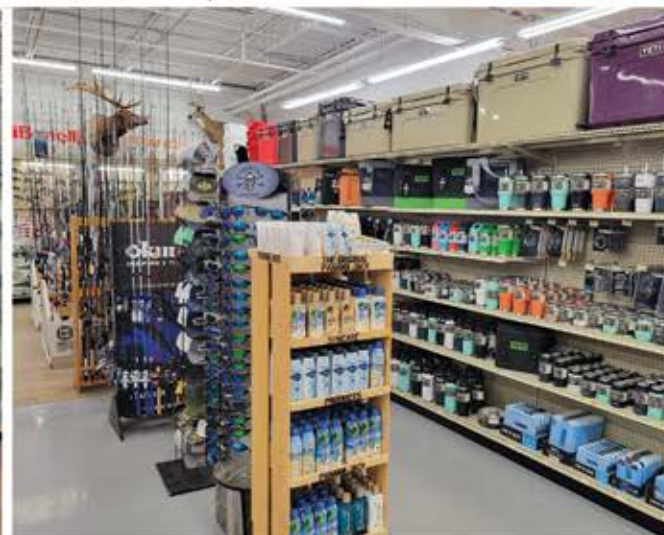


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Mason Purdy of Townsend, DE caught his first yellowfin tuna on the "Shortfin" with Capt. John Ostrowski and family. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



Our Canadian friend Gerard Chaveca shared that he has not been able to catch anything bigger than 8" since he arrived for the season in Ocean City. He did however share his minnows with Jenna Vanburen from Spring Grove, PA and she bested his record catching a 21" flounder, her first ever. She was fishing on the "Tailgunner" with Capt. Caleb Dinges.

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Kingfish are in the surf! Angler William Dyke from Parkton, MD caught this 12" king in the suds at 131 St. in Ocean City using a hi/low rig with bloodworm Fishbites.



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" had planned a mahi trip but apparently the dolphin did not get the message! The sea bass however "wanted to chew the bottom of the boat off". Four anglers caught their limit of 15 each and ahad some good sized fish like the one above. Capt. Monty shared it was the best day of bass fishing he has had all year.

2024

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>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</p>	 <p>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</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

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

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Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



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Ryan Kaler boated a beautiful mahi in the Washington Canyon. It was one of 29 caught by Ryan and Vince Bonn, Mary Quinsler, Andrew Hoak and Ally Little using squid and bluefish. They were aboard the “Reel Chaos” out of Pasadena, Md with Capt. Keith Kaler.

ESTIMATED MARLIN WEIGHT CHART								
White Marlin						Blue Marlin		
LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS	LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS	LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS
60	24	43.20	78	36	126.40	78	38	140.80
60	26	50.70	78	40	156.00	79	36	127.98
60	28	58.80	79	38	142.60	79	40	158.00
60	28.25	59.90	79	42	174.00	80	38	144.40
61	24	43.90	80	40	160.00	80	42	176.40
61	26	51.50	80	44	193.60	81	40	162.00
61	27	55.60	81	41	170.20	81	42	178.61
61	28	59.80	81	43	187.21	82	40	164.00
61	29	64.10	82	42	180.81	82	42	180.81
61	29.25	65.20	82	44	198.44	82	44	198.44
62	24	44.60	82	46	216.89	84	40	168.00
62	26	52.40	84	48	241.90	84	48	241.90
62	27	56.50	84	50	262.50	84	50	262.50
62	28	60.80	86	40	172.00	86	40	172.00
62	29	65.20	86	46	227.47	86	46	227.47
62	30.25	70.90	86	48	247.68	86	48	247.68
63	24	45.40	86	50	268.75	88	48	253.44
63	26	53.20	88	50	275.00	88	50	275.00
63	27	57.40	88	52	297.44	88	52	297.44
63	28	61.70	88	54	320.76	88	54	320.76
63	28.75	65.10	90	48	259.20	90	48	259.20
63	30	70.90	90	54	328.10	90	54	328.10
64	24	46.10	90	60	405.00	90	60	405.00
64	26	54.10	90	66	490.10	96	48	276.50
64	27	58.30	96	48	276.50	96	48	276.50
64	28	62.70	96	54	349.90	96	54	349.90
64	28.5	65.00	96	60	432.00	96	60	432.00
64	29.75	70.80	96	66	522.70	96	66	522.70
65	24	46.80	98	48	282.24	98	48	282.24
65	26	54.90	98	50	306.25	98	50	306.25
65	27.25	60.30	98	52	331.24	98	52	331.24
65	28	63.70	98	54	357.21	98	54	357.21
65	28.37	65.40	98	58	412.09	98	58	412.09
65	29	68.30	102	48	293.80	102	48	293.80
65	29.37	70.10	102	54	371.80	102	54	371.80
66	24	47.50	102	60	459.00	102	60	459.00
66	25	51.60	102	66	555.40	102	66	555.40
66	26	55.80	102	70	624.75	102	70	624.75
66	28.25	65.80	104	48	299.52	104	48	299.52
66	29.25	70.60	104	54	379.08	104	54	379.08
66	30.25	75.50	104	60	463.00	104	60	463.00
66	31	79.30	104	66	566.28	104	66	566.28
67	24	48.20	104	70	637.00	104	70	637.00
67	24.5	50.30	108	50	337.50	108	50	337.50
67	25	52.30	108	54	393.70	108	54	393.70
67	27	61.10	108	60	486.00	108	60	486.00
67	28	65.70	108	66	588.10	108	66	588.10
67	30	75.40	108	70	661.50	108	70	661.50
67	31	80.50	114	50	356.30	114	50	356.30
68	22	41.10	114	54	415.50	114	54	415.50
68	23	45.00	114	60	513.00	114	60	513.00
68	25.5	55.30	114	66	620.70	114	66	620.70
68	26.75	60.80	114	70	698.30	114	70	698.30
68	27.75	65.50	120	50	375.00	120	50	375.00
68	28.75	70.30	120	54	437.40	120	54	437.40
68	30	76.50	120	60	540.00	120	60	540.00
68	32	87.00	120	66	653.40	120	66	653.40
69	22	41.70	120	70	735.00	120	70	735.00
69	24.25	50.70	126	50	393.80	126	50	393.80
69	25.25	55.00	126	54	459.30	126	54	459.30
69	26.5	60.60	126	60	567.00	126	60	567.00
69	27.5	65.20	126	66	686.10	126	66	686.10
69	28.5	70.10	126	70	771.80	126	70	771.80
69	29.5	75.10	132	60	594.00	132	60	594.00
69	30	77.60	132	65	697.13	132	65	697.13
69	32	88.30	144	60	648.00	144	60	648.00
70	22	42.40	144	65	760.50	144	65	760.50
70	24	50.40						
70	26.25	60.30						
70	27.25	65.00						
70	28	68.60						
70	29	73.60						
70	30	78.80						
70	32	89.60						
70	22	43.00						
71	23	46.90						
71	24	51.10						
71	25	55.50						
71	26	60.00						
71	27	64.70						
71	28	69.60						
71	29	74.60						
71	30	79.90						
71	32	90.90						

Length: Tip of lower jaw to fork of tail
Formula: Length x Girth Squared ÷ 800

LIFT

FISHING CHARTERS



Lisa Dudley reported a fun day fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On The Run". She along with Robin Dressler, Chuck Dressler, Tania Johnson and Bill Johnson worked the south Jetty at the Ocean City Inlet and caught 3 keeper flounder. Lisa caught the largest at 22¾" and 4 lbs! Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" reported that fishing was a little picky this last week with mostly black sea bass coming over the rails. He was able to get a camera down on one trip to see a flurry of knoheads, they just were not biting. Some flounder were found as well with one winning a flounder pool at just under 7 lbs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Alec Toloczko, Alex Kahn and Warren Kahn had fun fishing the Ocean City Bay and Inlet on the charter boat "Just A Toy" with Capt. Wayne Anderson and mate Chris McConnell. They caught 10 bluefish and a 30" keeper rockfish! Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



The headboats "Capt. Bob II" and the "Judy V" have seen unseasonably cold temps in the deep recently, sometimes as low as 46°. This means more work for anglers and crew as the fish are sluggish. One upside is that some lingcod have hit coolers as these fish prefer the colder temps.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The charter boat "SHOREBILLY" had one of the largest tuna catches we have seen all season. Anglers Adam Knawby, Michael Knawby, Doug Knawby, Scott Merritts, and Marc Sickmeier got their 5 man limit of 15 yellowfin tuna trolling just above the Poor Mans Canyon. Capt. Doug Bramble was at the helm and mate Zak Bramble ran the lines.



Capt. Chris Watkowski and mate Chase Porter on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" kept anglers Doug Mazzullo, Bekki Mazzullo, Doug Howell, Will Lazration, Paul Brown and Dan Hurley busy catching this boat limit of 54 mahi under a floating pallet they found in the Poor Mans Canyon. So many dolphin we could not fit them all! Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The charter boat "Reel Chaos" kicked off last week with a *big* bang, or really a *bigeye* bang! Capt. Anthony Matarese Sr. with mates Jon Henry and Josh Blume had anglers Jim Strusowski, Mike Long, Doug Banks, Scott Trice and Chris Bannister trolling in the Wilmington Canyon. The crew landed 6 bigeyes averaging 140 lbs. each on artificial lures and ballyhoo as well as boating 5 mahi and 16 golden tilefish! Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Alec Gebhart had a big day on the charter boat "Wrecker". He caught this swordfish in 200 fathoms of the Baltimore Canyon along with 10 mahi caught by the rest of the anglers. Capt. Bobby Layton was at the wheel with mates Cody Smith and Josh in the pit.



Capt. Brin Parsons on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" based at Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes reported finding warmer waters which definitely upped the flounder bite. The recent increase in the keeper limit to 17.5" however meant a lot of throwbacks. Still, several anglers did get to their limit of 4 each with others putting sizable ones in their coolers.

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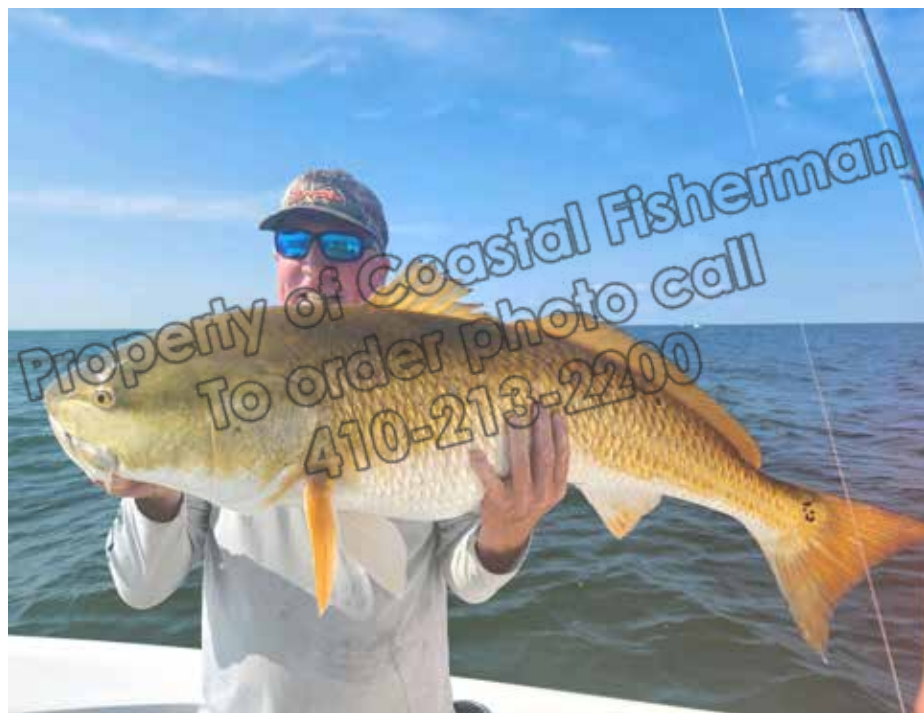
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PFD, Crocs, mirrored shade, keeper flounder - check, check, check and CHECK! Mikey Orchulli had it going on when he caught this keeper along with a bunch of shorts in the East Channel on an outgoing tide. He was fishing on the "Reel Addiction" with his grandparents Mike and Margaret Orchulli, his dad Mike, brother Chase and uncle Kyle.



Brice Hickman pounded on red drum on this trip with Capt. Jamie Clough of "Eastern Shore Light Tackle Charters" out of Hooper's Island, MD. For the trip, the crew went 7 for 7 on the big reds.



Ladies only

Billfish Release Tournament

AUGUST 15-17, 2024

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Pink Party 4-9pm • Captain's Meeting 7:30pm

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Micheal and Mathew Alcorn from Kensington, MD had a surprise catch on this trip. They were only 200 yards from the beach, just north of the Ocean City Inlet when they caught cutlass fish on their Roy Rigs. While it was a first for them, ribbon fish can be found from nearshore waters to 300 feet deep.

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Steve Kreft, Aaron Repshar, Mark Smith, Capt. Pete Kelly and Noah Richard took an overnight trip to the Washington Canyon on the private boat "Times Like These". It took all of them to reel in this 201 lb. bigeye that hit on an Ilander Lure with a ballyhoo. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



One Stupid Sharker

Among all the political nonsense going on these days is the fact that no matter what the office, or who it is that's running for it, a candidate is sure to dig back to the ice age if necessary to find any kind of dirt they might be able to use to discredit their opponent in the minds of anyone who might be inclined to cast a legitimate or even illegitimate votes their way. But the political wolves are shrewd and have good noses, if there's dirt out there they'll find it.

I know this might come as a shock to some of you but I'm not going to run for president this year. There's a guy running for the job that proved a few years back that

he can do an excellent job of it so I've decided to throw my full support his way and that's that. But in preparation of a potential run in future years I'm thinking I should take a preemptive approach and expose for myself a big skeleton that still lurks in my closet before someone else does it and ruins my chances of winning an election. So I'm going to air out my dirty laundry now and let the chips (and future votes) fall where they may.

To really know the gravity of my dark past you have to understand that I've spent most of my life making a living by taking people out on the ocean to fish for sharks with a strong emphasis on conservation, education, and

research. In my own defense, let me also point out that it wasn't until the early 90's that there were any shark regulations at all, and the following story is from a time that predates that, so while a lot of what we did was stupid, at the time it was at least "legal".

When I was a kid, sand tigers were very abundant but not very well understood sharks that were a common catch over most of the nearshore wrecks and shoals for anglers who wanted to tangle with them. But since most anglers didn't want to tangle with them, it wasn't too often they'd be seen back at the dock. My first introduction to sand tigers is when myself and a couple friends ran up to Fenwick Shoal one morning and caught six of the 7-8 foot critters. It was the late 70's and with everyone still whacked out over the movie JAWS there wasn't a lot of catch-and-release going on with sharks so we caught six and we brought home six.

Back then I was fishing out of a 19-foot center console which wasn't too accommodating for three anglers and six sharks. While fishing we'd catch one, get a rope around its tail and tie it to the side of the boat like a big boat bumper. As the shark tally began to rise we realized that we couldn't tie them too close together because they were all still alive and when they touched they'd start thrashing around and biting each other, so we had to space them out around the boat three to a side. When it was time to run back we transferred them all to the back of the boat and started towing but they created so much drag that when we realized that the

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12-mile ride was going to take us hours we elected to bring the sharks aboard.

So we precariously loaded six (yeah six!) 6-8 foot (still alive) sand tigers in my 19-foot boat and somehow managed to get back without mishap. At the time we thought the "oohs and ahhs" we heard back at the dock came from a crowd gathered to see the mighty fishermen and the savage beasts they slayed. Thinking back about that now I'm guessing the crowd was more in awe of the fact that three stupid kids would be stupid enough to go out in a boat and actually bring back six big sharks in a single trip.

Despite being an idiot back then I did at least hold firmly to my father's "you kill it - you eat it" conviction so six sand tigers were cleaned and became a pile of meat on the docks of Bahia Marina the likes of which have never been seen before or probably ever will be again. I'm guessing that if I were to dig deep enough into my freezer I could still come up with a few packs of 1970-something sand tiger steaks.

Of course the meat wasn't all we harvested from our slaughter that day as each unfortunate victim had a set of dentures we wanted to hang on our apartment walls. Since I had yet to learn the proper method for cleaning and preserving shark jaws, I took the advice of the first fool willing to talk to me and boiled the jaws in a big pot of Drano drain cleaner!

Now I don't know exactly what chemical concoction goes into the making of Drano or what kind of toxic gasses it gives out when it's heated to its boiling point, but I'm pretty certain the greenish steam rising from the pot is not something you want to get a whiff of, and the only reason I'm alive to tell this story is because I at least



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 had the smarts to boil the jaw on a grill out on the beach and not in the kitchen where I'm certain the fumes would have pitted all the metal appliances and melted the paint from the walls.

When the charcoal finally went out and the cauldron cooled to where we could get close enough to knock it off the grill and onto the sand with a long stick, we saw that the Drano had indeed dissolved away all the meat and other glop from the jaws. Unfortunately it also totally dissolved the jaws as well leaving nothing but a large pile of teeth in the sand.

As it was by then about three in the morning we decided to come back in the daylight to collect the teeth, giving the sand time to cool and the green steam to dissipate. Unfortunately by the time we returned it was well into a busy summer morning on the beach and there were people everywhere. Everywhere that is except one big patch of green smelly sand that for some reason no beach-goers wanted to go near or even be down wind of. As the tide had already moved enough sand around that the teeth were covered up anyway, we figured that rather than running the risk of getting in some kind of trouble with the EPA, DNR, or SPCA, our best bet was just to slip on out of there and be content with a handful of teeth and a few hundred pounds of not so delicious sand tiger meat in our freezers.

To this day, every time I hear that someone found a shark's tooth on the beach I can't help but wonder if it wasn't one of ours. So now that I've come clean about my past I'm ready to start my campaign for the 2028 election. I'll probably kick it off with a big fish fry party - I've got some shark steaks in the freezer I need to get rid of... §








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Brian Reynolds picked up this nice red drum while surf fishing on Assateague Island. The 36.5" fish ate a kingfish head on a fish finder rig.



Morgan Barone from King of Prussia, PA had a beautiful day fishing on the "Empty Pockets". She did not come home empty though, she caught his 20 lb. bluegill while deep dropping in the Washington Canyon.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 31	High 05:03 am High 06:18 pm	Low 10:53 am Low -----
THUR. AUGUST 1	High 06:00 am High 07:13 pm	Low 12:15 am Low 11:52 am
FRI. AUGUST 2	High 06:53 am High 08:02 pm	Low 01:09 am Low 12:46 pm
SAT. AUGUST 3	High 07:43 am High 08:44 pm	Low 01:56 am Low 01:35 pm
SUN. AUGUST 4 New Moon	High 08:29 am High 09:19 pm	Low 02:39 am Low 02:20 pm
MON. AUGUST 5	High 09:12 am High 09:50 pm	Low 03:18 am Low 03:02 pm
TUE. AUGUST 6	High 09:53 am High 10:20 pm	Low 03:55 am Low 03:43 pm
WED. AUGUST 7	High 10:32 am High 10:52 pm	Low 04:30 am Low 04:25 pm

source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
- subtract 45 minutes to low tide
Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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

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These Long Neck, DE residents of White House Beach made a trip of a lifetime to Seward, Alaska. Anglers Chris Arriviello, Eric Williams, Ray Rotay, Bryce Starner, Jeff Starner and Bill Gibbons fished with “Crackerjack Charters” and finished their trip with 651 lbs. of filleted fish. Over their several day adventure they caught limits of halibut, salmon, lingcod, rockfish and yellow eye.

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>

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248 Commander

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2024

Fish of the Year

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Species	2024	2023	Species	2024	2023
Bluefish 	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague	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 Poor Mans Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	Bluefin Tuna 	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans 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" Poor Mans 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" Poor Mans Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemlein Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo 	June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	June 9 Josh Short Poor Mans 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



Milford, DE anglers Bobby Karcher, Wayne Whitney, Dylan Housman, Tyler Housman and Jim Housman had a solid day fishing with Capt. Hank Draper and mate Dylan Baker on the charter boat "Prime Hook". They were trolling in the Baltimore Canyon where they hooked these 2 yellowfin tuna on spreader bars. Wayne caught the larger of the 2, an allison tuna at 100.7 lbs. and Dylan Houseman's tuna was 38 lbs. Weighed and pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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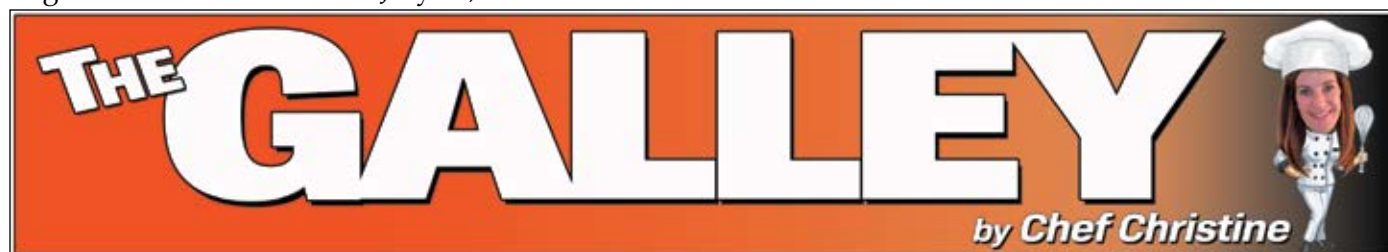
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Grilled Sheephead

Equipment:

Cast Iron Skillet

Ingredients:

2 sheephead fillets

2 tbsp Olive Oil

Salt and Pepper to taste

Garlic Butter:

3 tbsp Butter

2 tsp Dried Parsley

2 cloves Garlic minced

Lemon cut into wedges

Directions:

Heat up the grill to 500°F and place the cast iron skillet in the grill to heat up.

While the grill is heating up,



fillet the fish, if needed. Pat dry and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Once the grill is up to 500°F and the cast iron is hot, reduce the temperature of the grill to 425°F and pour in the olive oil and place the fish in the skillet. **You may have to wait

a couple minutes for the skillet temperature to come down.**

Close the grill and allow to cook 2-3 minutes each side. You will see the sides of the fish start to turn white and pull away from the cast iron. That is how you know when to flip it. Don't flip too early.

Flip the fish once and then continue to cook 1-3 more minutes, or until the fish has pulled up and white and flaky. The fish should be golden brown on both sides with a delicious crispy exterior created by the hot cast iron.

In a microwave safe container, melt the butter and add in the minced garlic and dried parsley. Stir and pour over the crispy fish, remove from skillet and serve.

Notes:

Stove top version: Using a similar method, heat up the cast iron in the oven at 500 degrees. Once it is brought up to temperature, remove it, place on burner. Heat the stove to medium high heat and pour the olive oil in the cast iron. Place the fish in the hot cast iron and cook for 2-3 minutes using the same method as grilling. Flip and then finish cooking for 1-3 minutes. Top with the garlic butter.

Storage: If you have leftovers, keep them in an airtight container in the refrigerator for one or two days. Move the cooked fillets to the freezer if you have too much and use it within one or two months.

Clean, fillet and freeze extra fish if you've caught too much for one meal. Make sure to use airtight containers or vacuum-sealed packaging.

Fish Tostadas Baja Style

Ingredients:

1 pound mahi

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon chili powder

1/4 teaspoon ground sumac (can substitute lemon zest, lemon juice or vinegar)

1 tablespoon flour (use white rice flour for gluten free)

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

5 corn or flour tortillas

High heat oil like canola or avocado

Toppings:

1 large mango, diced

1/3 cup radish, diced

1/4 cup cilantro, chopped

Finely shredded cabbage or coleslaw mix

Spicy Mayo:

2-3 tbsp mayonnaise

2 teaspoons sriracha or hot sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450 °F. Spread the tortillas on a large baking sheet and brush or spray them with olive oil on both sides. Bake for 4-5 minutes and flip them, then baking another 4-5 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool - they should crisp up more as they cool.

Cut fish across the fillet, about



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½ inch thick. In a small bowl, add spices with flour and toss fish strips to coat. Prepare a large plate with paper towels to drain your fish.

Chop mango, cilantro and radish for toppings. Stir together mayo and sriracha in another small bowl. Mix the spicy mayo into the coleslaw mix or keep them separate and just drizzle on top of the tostada.

In a large frying pan, add enough high heat oil to just cover the bottom of your pan. Heat oil over medium high until shimmering. A flick of water that sizzles can tell you if it's ready. Add fish strips and fry for 2-3 minutes until golden brown. Flip and cook another 2-3 minutes. Drain on paper towels.

Top crispy tostadas with a little bit of slaw or cabbage, fish, toppings, and then drizzle with spicy mayo.

Notes:

If grilling, omit the white rice flour and sprinkle seasoning mixture directly on the fish fillet. Preheat grill to 425-450 degrees and cook approximately 8 minutes for a 1 pound fish fillet.

Bigeye Tuna Stir-Fry with Sweet & Sour Sauce

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp honey
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice
- 2 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp chile garlic sauce
- 2 tsp light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp vegetable broth (or water)
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp peanut oil
- 2 Thai chiles, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 3/4-inch piece of ginger,



peeled and finely chopped

4 shishito peppers, stemmed and thinly sliced

2 stalks baby bok choy, chopped (including leaves)

2 scallions, thinly sliced, (white and dark green parts separated)

3 oz shiitake mushrooms, thinly sliced

2 cups baby spinach (or coarsely chopped regular spinach)

1 cup shaved, peeled carrot

4 oz buckwheat noodles, cooked according to package directions

1 12-oz bigeye tuna steak, cut into very thin strips

Directions:

Whisk the honey, soy sauce, lime juice, vinegar, chile garlic sauce, and brown sugar in a medium bowl, stirring well to dissolve the sugar and honey. Set aside.

Whisk the vegetable broth and cornstarch in a separate bowl. Set aside and whisk again just before using.

Heat a wok (or deep skillet) over medium-high heat and add the peanut oil. Add the chiles, garlic, and ginger and stir-fry 1 minute.

Add the peppers and bok choy and stir fry 3 minutes. Add the white parts of the

scallions and the mushrooms and stir-fry 2 minutes. Add the spinach and carrot and stir fry 1 minute.

Re-whisk the broth-cornstarch slurry and stir into the reserved sauce. Add the cooked noodles and tuna, tossing gently to combine until the sauce is slightly thickened and the tuna is medium-rare, 1-2 minutes.

Divide the wok mixture among 4 shallow bowls and garnish with the dark green parts of the scallions. Serve right away.

Taco Shrimp Lettuce Boats

Ingredients:

Shrimp:

- 16 oz shrimp (fresh or frozen)
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice of 1 lime (about 2 tablespoons)

Boats:

- 8-9 lettuce leaves
- 7 oz cherry tomatoes
- 1/2 small onion, finely chopped
- Yellow bell peppers, chopped
- Cilantro
- Lime Crema:
 - 1 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt

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Zest and juice of 1/2 lime

Directions:

Prepare the Shrimp:

In a bowl, combine the shrimp, olive oil, taco seasoning, and lime juice. Let marinate for 30 minutes.

In a large skillet over medium heat, sauté the shrimp for a few minutes on each side until cooked through.

Add the remaining marinade from the bowl to the skillet and stir until the shrimp are coated in the sauce.

In a bowl, combine the cherry tomatoes, onions, yellow pepper. Mix well. Season to preference.

Assemble:

Wash and pat dry the lettuce leaves.

Top with the cherry tomato salad, shrimp, and crema.

Garnish with lemon zest, ground pepper, and cilantro or parsley.

Additions: grilled corn, thin radish, smashed avocado, pico de gallo, shredded cabbage

Pan-Roasted Tilefish with Prosciutto, Lemon, White Wine and Capers

Ingredients:

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Two 6-ounce tilefish fillets

3 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons extra-virgin

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Spread the flour on a deep plate or in a shallow bowl and season generously with salt and pepper. Dredge the fillets in the flour.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 tablespoon each of the butter and olive oil. Add the fillets and sear until browned on one side, 2 to 3 minutes. At the same time, add the prosciutto and cook, stirring, until browned. Flip the fillets and place the skillet in the oven. Roast until the fish is just cooked through, about 10 minutes. Set the fillets on serving plates and drain the prosciutto on a paper towel-lined plate.

Return the skillet to the stove top and heat the remaining 2 tablespoons butter and 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium heat. Add the white wine, parsley, capers and

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olive oil

2 slices prosciutto, cut into strips

1/2 cup white wine

2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, plus whole sprigs for garnish

2 teaspoons capers

Juice of 1/2 lemon

lemon juice. Bring to a boil and cook until reduced and thickened. Season with salt and pepper.

Pour the sauce over the fish, top with the prosciutto, and garnish with parsley sprigs. Serve immediately. §

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2024

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



Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	June 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	July 2 Capt. Rich Harpel Indian River Inlet 13 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 	NEW July 27 Steve Strawbridge Baltimore Canyon 305 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Rusty Reel" Baltimore Canyon 212 lbs.
Cobia 	June 8 Tyler Adams OC Beach 40 lbs.		Bluefin Tuna 	July 12 Richie Martin North of the Hotdog 168 lbs.	June 12 Will Hall Poor Mans 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 		June 18 Mark Steiner Baltimore Canyon 38 lbs.
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 Poor Mans Canyon 30.5 lbs.	July 2 Owen Conrad Inshore Lump 20 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 Poor Mans Canyon 125 lbs.	
Tautog 	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	Blue Marlin 	NEW July 28 Rusty Shriver Baltimore Canyon 535 lbs.	
Wahoo 		July 8 Kevin Alexander Poor Mans Canyon 67lbs.	White Marlin 		

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



The Flounder Whisperer, aka Danny Cox of West Ocean City, took Mike Austill out on the Ocean City Bay to hook some fatties. Mike did just that catching 4 keeper flounder up to 24.75" at the Rt. 50 Bridge using bunker.

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Beyond the Cockpit - Tournament Preparation

Tournament season is in full swing here on the Mid-Atlantic coast. Some of the best boats and teams have converged in our area to compete for millions in prize money – from New Jersey to South Carolina there is a tournament for every angler in every size boat.

Working on sportfishing boats year-round, I see my fair share of service and repairs to these vessels. Though it seems that just before or during a big tournament, boat service issues arise that have not been a problem all year!

While it is uncommon to perform an emergency “overnight” project, it is best to plan out a project in advance,

with detailed coordination of the marina, parts, and skilled service providers. When it comes to tournament repairs and service, a successful repair can only happen with the dedication of service providers whom you have an established relationship with. Give the service providers as much advance notice as possible of a potential problem.

The summer tournaments here in Ocean City draw many manufacturers of marine products to the area during the next few weeks. These representatives are here to support their current and potential customers. Take advantage of their presence and meet with them and make a connection that can help you and your boat now

or in the future.

Preparing for the Tournament

The fishing part of the boat is usually well stocked with mates, bait, tackle, and a lot of backup supplies, but that is not always the case with the mechanical/electrical/electronic part of the boat. It is difficult to have a spare or backup of everything on your boat, though there are a few items that prove to be critical and seem to stop working during a tournament.


One popular item that seems to go out at the worst time is the Garmin SiriusXM weather antenna power supply, 010-12527-00. This is a small \$99 module that supplies power to the Garmin SiriusXM antenna which is necessary to receive marine weather data, such as sea surface temperature and offshore weather. There is a

www.coastalfisherman.net

SiriusXM, DirectTV and other subscription-based services. While most boaters have these services on an automatic renewal, a subscription issue seems to only happen during the tournament. Nowadays, with Starlink and satellite phones, the captain or crew could easily call the service provider to update the subscription if needed while offshore. Though you often need account numbers and serial numbers and an unnecessary lengthy conversation to get your service re-activated, all while tournament fishing, not the best time but it can certainly get you going again. SiriusXM phone support is open Monday-Friday, 8 am-8 pm ET, 1-855-796-9847.

Keeping Cool

If your boat has air conditioning, refrigeration and or ice makers, these systems really get a workout during tournament season. For instance, some larger boats have numerous air conditioning systems that are not often needed at the dock



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small led light on the power supply, red is bad, green is good. Carrying a spare power supply is a good idea, it is not too expensive, not too difficult to install and seems to go bad when you need it the most.

On that topic, it is a good idea to check Starlink,

with just a few crew members onboard. Come tournament week, a boatload of crew, friends, and family pack the boat full of people, creating an extra warm environment for the air conditioner to cool. These systems need to be in tip-top operation condition to keep everyone cool. An air conditioner that has a dirty



air filter, low seawater flow or low on refrigerant might be ok when the boat is empty but when you have a full house, it cannot keep up with the cooling requirements. It is best to go through these systems in advance of tournaments to assure they are operating 100% before the team arrives.

Batteries

Batteries can degrade under the summer heat combined with warm engine room

temperatures. Most batteries have a sticker or punch out decal that indicates the date of manufacture or installation. AGM or traditional flooded batteries seem to last 3-5 years. If in doubt, a battery test should be performed using a conductance tester, such as one of the popular Midtronics testers. This test gives you a measurement of capacity, in cranking amps to help determine the health of the battery. Alternators and battery chargers can also

be a cause of an electrical problem. A fully charged battery should read 12.6V or 25.2V at rest, not connected to the boat. A good battery on a charger should indicate approximately 13.25 or 26.5 volt during the charger's float phase. A higher voltage for a prolonged period of time can overcharge the batteries. A engine alternator should output about 13.7 or 27.4 volts and an varied amperage dependent on electrical load. If you have a dead battery, it

could charge as high as 14.25 volt for a 12-volt battery and 28.5 volt for a 24-volt system. Once the battery is 100 % full, this voltage should be automatically reduced to prevent the batteries from becoming overcharged.

Helm Electronics

Most chart plotters manufacturers offer regular software updates to enhance their products. Unfortunately, the combination of hardware age and brands on any given boat may not play well with the latest version of software or some old feature is removed to make room for a new feature.

If it has been a while since you updated your chartplotter or peripheral software, it is a good idea to review the notes on the latest version and see if it fixes or contains the enhancements you desire. If so, update the software at least a few weeks before the tournament so you can adjust to the changes and be sure it is functioning properly. The possibility of a botched software update the night before fishing outweighs the updated features.

When it comes to Tournament fishing preparation - do not forget about the boat's systems while preparing the fishing gear and tackle. §

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It was a good day for angler Gary Howard on the charter boat "The Zipper" out of Sunset Marina catching his first white marlin. He was trolling in 80 fathoms of the Poor Mans Canyon with fellow anglers David Howard Jr., David Howard Sr., William Howard, Jordan and Noah with Capt. Zip Zajdel and mate Ben Barwick.

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Lincoln Dockery was visiting his uncle Kevin Parker in Ocean City for the first time in 30 years since enlisting in the military. His service included time in Afghanistan and his current post in Germany. He caught this 22.5" flounder at the Old Grounds while fishing on the "Henry James" out of Sunset Marina.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The storms coming up from the south have given us some much needed rain for our plants while helping to drop some of the humidity.

The nearshore water is still very cool for this time of year due to the south wind, but fishing is continuing to get better.

Flounder fishing has been producing better quality fish despite the lack of numbers.

Sea bass are still being caught off the deeper wrecks with tons of throwbacks in between some big keepers.

The back bays are alive with flounder while the inlet is still producing good catches of big bluefish and rockfish in the evening hours.

Back Bay & Inlet Areas

The back bay areas of Indian River have been producing a few big flounder along with a ton of throwbacks. The channel along the south marina area is the hot spot of the week with Massey's Ditch a close second. The main inlet area is also showing signs of life with big blues coming off the rocks on both the south side as well as north side rock jetties. John Porter got a keeper slot striper while fishing the inlet along with a few big spot fish. David Law, Garrett Ernst and Sam Stonesifer fished the south jetty of the inlet and caught a 25.5 inch, 7.2 lb. rock. The crew was using white bucktails with white Gulp baits as trailers. Rich Morgan told me the inlet was on fire

the day he went. Rich caught 5 short tog as well as a 16 inch flounder in the short time he was there. Juan Hocker was fishing the Indian River Bay and caught a quality keeper fluke using squid.

Nick Garcia was up in the Delaware Bay again last week and scored a nice 23.5 inch flattie. He and his partner also scored a few smaller keepers as well as some throwbacks.

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

Although fishing is still sporadic with the colder bottom temperatures, anglers are finding the flounder much more willing to bite the hook than in past weeks. Many anglers are having trouble putting together boat limits of fish but are at least catching

a few to bring home for dinner. Sea bass have made a surprise surge with the colder inshore water. David Quigley managed to bring home 16 sea bass for his crew while fishing the Old Grounds. He said they also pulled in a decent size cod fish.

The "Captain Bob" had several good trips, landing some big flounder for their clients. The "Judy V" also reports good catches of both bass and fluke on their half day trips. Drew Eckman fished Site 11 and landed 8 big keeper sea bass along with several short fish. Ocean Arsenal reports they have been putting a hurting on the bass population using their orange crush rigs with no bait. They are using a light rod with 10-15 lb. braid to get the light lures down to the bottom. "Bad Wind Charters" was out on the coral adding to their already impressive season of flounder and bass. The group headed out originally



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www.coastalfisherman.net for pot hopping but found the water too cold for the mahi, so switched to bottom fishing. While bottom fishing, a big cobia swam near the boat, and using their bad wind jig they managed to hook and land the monster cobia making everyone's day.

Cobia are being spotted more regularly in the nearshore areas and anglers should have a bucktail or pitch bait ready to throw when one of these fish swims by. Cobia tend to cruise through and leave quickly, so anglers not prepared won't have time to set a rod up and target these fish. Be Ready! "Mob Squad Fishing" stated they have been doing pretty good, fishing the pots nearshore. They stated the fish are a little further out than usual but can be found in warmer water on many of the pots. Tossing cut bait and squid on a circle hook has been the best method for targeting these pelagic fish however, trolling small plugs and lures past the pots will also work. The crew reports that they also had more sea bass than they could count, with many smaller fish hanging around the structure.

The Delaware Bay has been loaded with croaker as well as lots of weakfish. Broadkill Beach is the hot spot for the bay. Cape Henlopen Pier produced spot and croaker along with a nice 27 inch weakfish taken off the end piling. The inlet has rockfish as well as bluefish being taken off the rocks in the evening hours. The fish are striking bucktails as well as cut bait chunks on a circle hook. Spec rigs are also catching a good number of these fish.

Barry Oxenrider states he has been catching lots of flounder but can't seem to get past the small ones. My advice to anglers struggling with smaller fish is to try areas that are less frequented by numerous boats along with deeper channels, like those

near the Coast Guard Station or those further up the bay. Jules and Bill Mister fished bay structure and landed several flatties, including a massive 26.5", 6.04 pounder. Great job!

Darren Sargo went fishing with Capt. Jack Stewart and landed a 4.06 lb fluke.

Surf Fishing

Many anglers are reporting this has been the best year for kingfish over the past several years.

Jacob Glotzbach was out all week fishing the surf and ended up with 152 fish. Out of these fish only 55 were spot bait fish and the rest were kingfish, along with a few rays. He said they ate a lot of fish balls and cakes making the most of the fresh fish.

Kevin Mason fished near Bowers Beach and landed a couple of weakfish and spot the biggest fish was 2.38 lbs and 18 inches.

Phoenix Lake was fishing the beach and landed one of the smallest redfish he has ever seen. The fish was around 7 inches and took a small piece of bait intended for kingfish. This year has produced more redfish than have been seen off our beaches in quite some time. Many larger over slot fish are still being caught off the beach despite the warmer water along the coast.

Kim Carpenter released a big ray while fishing Broadkill Beach. The fish was returned to the water unharmed after a great fight.

Ending on a sad note, the passing of Captain Dale Parsons of Fisherman's Wharf was relayed to me this past week. If you knew Dale you knew you had met a true captain of the sea. He will be missed by many. Fair winds and following seas skipper

Until next week...

Tight Lines and Fins Up \$



Capt. Ryan Williams with anglers Brad Schappell, PJ Wakefield, Trevor Madigan and Nicholas Spyridakos were targeting tuna in the Poor Mans Canyon on their trip aboard the "Seek and Destroy". While they found no tuna, there were smiles across the board when Nicholas caught and released this blue marlin, his first!

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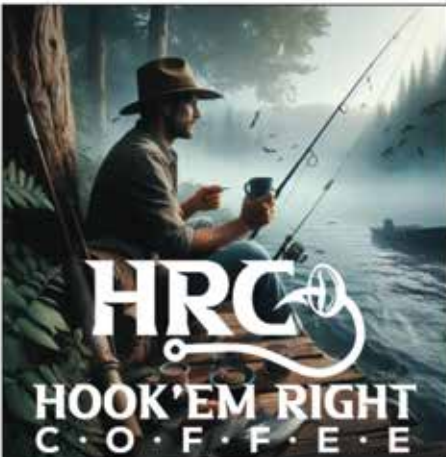
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Phoenix Lake and Terry Abreu made an evening run to the Indian River Inlet to catch the end of an outgoing tide. They were able to get these 2 flounder with the largest at 20.5" using 1/2 oz. swimbaits as well as a 22" weakfish! Pictured at the Indian River Marina.




Reading, PA anglers Cortney Klick and Brandon Frymoyer had some fun fishing off the southern side of the Indian River Inlet. They both caught some big cutlass fish using jigheads with swim baits and bucktails. Brandon's was 38" and Cortney's 42".



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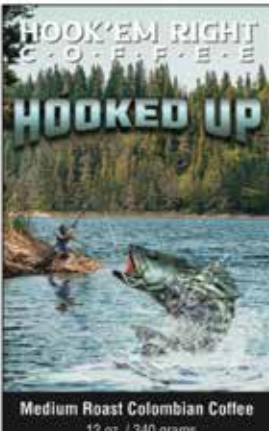

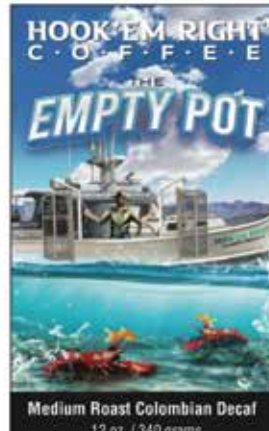
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Tommy and Marie Perry hit the sandbar by Hooper’s Crab House in Ocean City again for some summer fun. This time Marie was tossing her hi/low rig with Gulp from the sand toward Sneaky Pete’s and hooked a 19½” flatfish!















Rustyn Miller from Pasadena, MD marvels at the jumbo 16.5” black sea bass he reeled in last week! He caught the big knothead using tuna bloodline at a wreck outside of the Isle of Wight while fishing on the “FiveFins” with Raylan Miller, Lucas Martin and Logan Martin.

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>

eregulations.com



Stinky Beach on the south western side of the Rt. 50 Bridge has been a hot spot this summer for a number of keeper bluefish and flounder. David Whitman was there last week and caught this 21" flounder from the beach using a minnow.



The private boat "Reel Toy" with Capt. Chad Meeks and mate Chris Evans slammed some bigeye tuna on the docks at the Sunset Marina last Friday. The crew was trolling in the Wilmington Canyon catching these 3 eyeballs with the heaviest at 185 lbs. as well as releasing a white marlin.

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11th Annual BIG FISH Classic

TOURNAMENT RESULTS JULY 26-28, 2024

BASIC ENTRY - DIVISION A

HEAVIEST FISH - BASIC ENTRY - PURSE 20,000

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$15,000
2	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$3,500
3	MJ'S	BIG EYE	288 LBS	\$1,500

BIG FISH CLASSIC - DIVISION B

HEAVIEST FISH - B1 - PURSE \$26,100

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$16,965
2	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$6,525
3	MJ'S	BIG EYE	288 LBS	\$2,610

HEAVIEST FISH - B2 - PURSE \$45,000

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$29,250
2	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$11,250
3	MJ'S	BIG EYE	288 LBS	\$4,500

HEAVIEST FISH - B3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$56,700

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$56,700
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HEAVIEST FISH - B4 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$139,500

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$139,500
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TALBOT STREET STRINGER - DIVISION C

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C1 - PURSE \$25,650

1	MJ'S	BIG EYE	1077.5 LBS	\$16,673
2	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$6,412
3	JACKED UP	TUNA	458.5 LBS	\$2,565

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C2 - PURSE \$45,000

1	MJ'S	BIG EYE	1077.5 LBS	\$29,250
2	FISHIN FEVER	TUNA	536.5 LBS	\$11,250
3	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$4,500

HEAVIEST FISH STRINGER - C3 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$36,000

1	MJ'S	BIG EYE	1077.5 LBS	\$36,000
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BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D1 - PURSE \$23,400

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$15,210
2	POORMAN	SWORDFISH	95.5 LBS	\$5,850
3	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$2,340

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - D2 - PURSE \$38,700

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$25,155
2	POORMAN	SWORDFISH	95.5 LBS	\$9,675
3	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$3,870

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D3 - PURSE \$35,100

1	SPLIT BILL	SWORDFISH	105.5 LBS	\$22,815
2	POOR MAN	SWORDFISH	95.5 LBS	\$8,775
3	SPLIT BILL/POORMAN	SPLIT		\$3,510

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D4 - PURSE \$39,600

1	POORMAN	SWORDFISH	95.5 LBS	\$25,740
2	POORMAN	ROLLS UP		\$9,900
3	POORMAN	ROLLS UP		\$3,960

HEAVIEST SWORDFISH - D5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$24,300

1	SPLIT BILL	SWORDFISH	105.5 LBS	\$24,300
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BILLFISH DIVISION - DIVISION D

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D6 - PURSE \$18,450

1	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$11,993
2	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$4,612
3	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$1,845

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D7 - PURSE \$31,500

1	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$20,475
2	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$7,875
3	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$3,150

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D8 - PURSE \$34,200

1	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$22,230
2	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$8,550
3	UNDER TAKER	ROLLS UP		\$3,420

HEAVIEST WHITE MARLIN - D9 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$63,000

1	UNDER TAKER	WHITE MARLIN	68 LBS	\$63,000
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RELEASE DIVISION - DIVISION E

MARLIN RELEASE - E1 - PURSE \$12,600

1	KILO CHARLIE	MARLIN	2350 PTS	\$8,190
2	BILLFISHER	MARLIN	1700 PTS	\$3,150
3	SEA FLAME	MARLIN	400 PTS	\$1,260

SWORDFISH RELEASE - E2 - PURSE \$5,400

1	POORMAN	SWORDFISH	1000 PTS	\$3,510
2	POOR MAN	ROLLS UP		\$1,350
3	POOR MAN	ROLLS UP		\$540

TUNA DIVISION - DIVISION F

YELLOWFIN TUNA - F1 - PURSE \$48,600

1	REEL MOORE	YELLOWFIN	118.5 LBS	\$31,590
2	EUPHORIA	YELLOWFIN	110 LBS	\$12,150
3	BILLFISHER	YELLOWFIN	74.5 LBS	\$4,860

YELLOWFIN TUNA - F2 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$29,700

1	REEL MOORE	YELLOWFIN	118.5 LBS	\$29,700
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HEAVIEST TUNA - F3 - PURSE \$25,650

1	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$16,673
2	MJ'S	BIG EYE	288 LBS	\$6,412
3	FULL SERVICE	BIG EYE	224.5 LBS	\$2,565

HEAVIEST TUNA - F4 - PURSE \$42,300

1	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$27,495
2	MJ'S	BIG EYE	288 LBS	\$10,575
3	FULL SERVICE	BIG EYE	224.5 LBS	\$4,230

HEAVIEST TUNA - F5 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$74,250

1	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$74,250
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HEAVIEST TUNA STRINGER - F6 - PURSE \$47,700

1	FISHIN FEVER	TUNA	536.5 LBS	\$31,005
2	TALKIN TRASH	TUNA	442 LBS	\$11,925
3	REEL MOORE	TUNA	344.5 LBS	\$4,770

MEATFISH DIVISION - DIVISION G

HEAVIEST DOLPHIN - G1 - PURSE \$34,650

1	OFF THE HOOK	DOLPHIN	27.5 LBS	\$22,523
2	UNDER TAKER	DOLPHIN	26.5 LBS	\$8,662
3	REEL ESTATE	DOLPHIN	23 LBS	\$3,465

HEAVIEST WAHOO - G2 - PURSE \$24,750

1	OFF THE HOOK	DOLPHIN ROLL UP		\$16,088
2	OFF THE HOOK	DOLPHIN ROLL UP		\$6,187
3	OFF THE HOOK	DOLPHIN ROLL UP		\$2,475

BIG FISH DAILY - DIVISION H

HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 1 - WINNER EACH DAY \$7,800

1	PRIMARY SEARCH/RO SHAM BO	SPLIT		\$7,800
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HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 2 - WINNER EACH DAY \$7,800

1	PRIMARY SEARCH	BIG EYE	305 LBS	\$7,800
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HEAVIEST FISH - H1 - DAY 3 - WINNER EACH DAY \$7,800

1	RO SHAM BO	BLUE MARLIN	535 LBS	\$7,800
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SMALL BOAT DIVISION - DIVISION I

HEAVIEST FISH - I1 - PURSE \$18,000

1	EAST BOUND	BIG EYE	206.5 LBS	\$11,700
2	FISHIN FEVER	BIG EYE	187 LBS	\$4,500
3	BLACK MAGIC	BIG EYE	184 LBS	\$1,800

HEAVIEST FISH - I2 - WINNER TAKE ALL \$14,400

1	EAST BOUND	BIG EYE	206.5 LBS	\$14,400
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HEAVIEST STRINGER - I3 - PURSE \$20,700

1	FISHIN FEVER	TUNA	536.5 LBS	\$13,455
2	SPLIT BILL	FISH	447.5 LBS	\$5,175
3	PRIME HOOK	TUNA	212 LBS	\$2,070

HEAVIEST BILLFISH - I4 - PURSE \$15,300

1	SPLIT BILL	SWORDFISH	105.5 LBS	\$9,945
2	SPLIT BILL	ROLLS UP		\$3,825
3	SPLIT BILL	ROLLS UP		\$1,530

HEAVIEST TUNA - I5 - PURSE \$18,900

1	EAST BOUND	BIG EYE	206.5 LBS	\$12,285
2	FISHIN FEVER	BIG EYE	187 LBS	\$4,725
3	BLACK MAGIC	BIG EYE	184 LBS	\$1,890

Boats Entered - 88 • Total Purse - \$1,158,500 ••• bigfishclassic.com



The “Under Taker” rocked the scales on the final day of the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic. They were the first boat to the dock bringing in a white marlin, 3 yellowfin tuna and a mahi. Capt. Corey Kennington had run the boat up to the Spencer Canyon and was trolling in only 500’ of water along the 100 fathom line. It was sunset on Saturday when angler Michael Barry connected with a white marlin on a naked ballyhoo, taking only 10 minutes to boat the fish. That marlin was 71” long and weighed 68 lbs. As the only qualifying white weighed, it swept those calcuttas and took 3rd Place for Heaviest Billfish earning the second largest combined tournament payout of \$162,022. Rounding out the crew were boat owner Bill Doherty, Kevin Donalds, Sean McDevitt, Chris Whitfield, Nes Dickerson and CJ Walus with mate Wil Kennington. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.



To say it was a big day for the crew of the “Primary Search” during their time in the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic would be an understatement. Capt. Austin Ensor with mates Wyatt Melocik & Brian Suschke and anglers Joe Tull, Steve Strawbridge, Patrick Bossen, Josh Ensor and Brian Acquavella chose to fish the first 32 hour window from Friday to Saturday. They were fishing east of the Baltimore in 1000 fathoms when they caught a bigeye tuna around 8:30 PM. Steve and Joe worked the rod getting the eyeball to the boat in only 38 minutes. Once on the scales the big tuna weighed 305 lbs., setting a tournament record for single tuna and winning the award for Heaviest Tuna as well as taking 2nd Place for Big Fish. Their combined payout was 151,393 in prize monies. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

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

The MidAtlantic

August 19-23 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

SEPTEMBER

66th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament

TBD • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

23rd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 14 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

19th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder

September 8 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic

September 28-29 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

OCTOBER

41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament

Oct 5-7 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

8th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic

Oct 5-6 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

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



The "Off The Hook" topped the leaderboard for Heaviest Mahi with this 27.5 lb. dolphin that Jason Willis caught in the Washington Canyon during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic. He and fellow anglers Ken, Robert Thayer and Jason Willis with Capt. Robert Bowie and mate Mike Santmyer were fishing for tuna and marlin, but made a stop to do some bailing for mahi. The strategy worked as Jason caught a 41" and 27.5 lb. dolphin. Since no qualifying wahoo were caught they earned that purse as well as the top mahi for a combined payout of \$42,273!



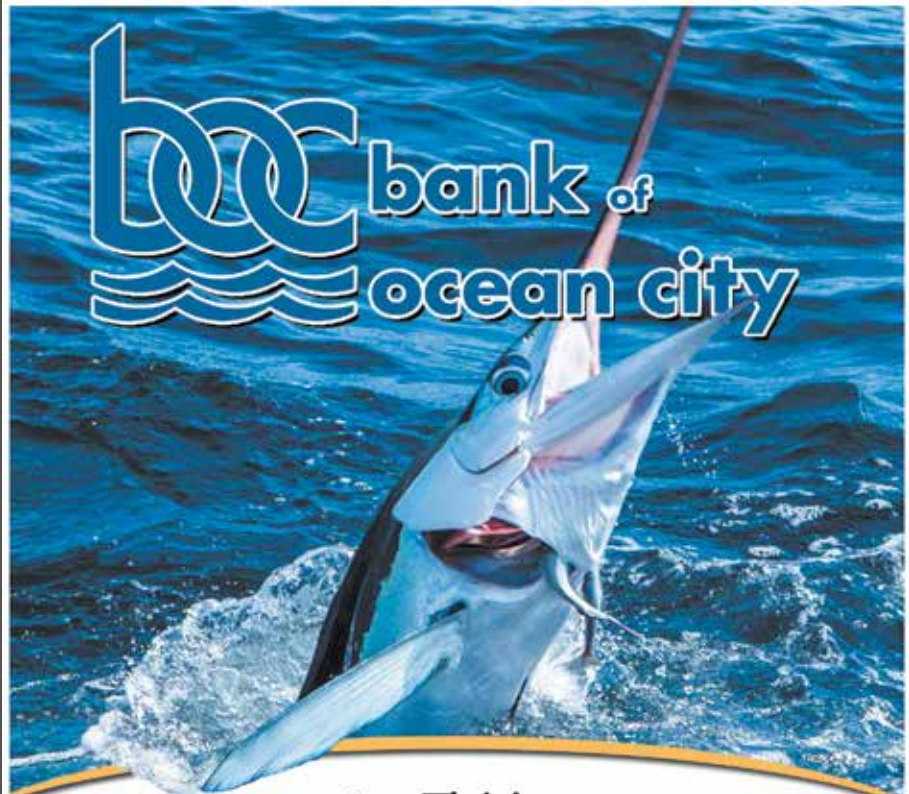
One of the last boats to weigh fish during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic was the "Split Bill". Anglers Brian Jones, Tyler Harrison, Chris Conway, Mike Herbert, Jeff Murdolph and Joey Lordich had returned from the Wilmington Canyon with a 'split' catch. They had 2 bigeye tuna weighing 177.5 lbs. and 164.5 lbs. as well as a swordfish caught by Joey. At 105.5 lbs. that sword took 1st Place for Heaviest Swordfish and Swordfish WTA for a combined payout of \$48,860. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.



The crew of the “MJ’s” knows how to start off a tournament! They were the first boat to the scales at the Talbot Street Pier during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic bringing 6 bigeye tunas to be weighed. Capt. Mike Yocco with mate Kyle Shipp and anglers Danny Skrcat, Dante Soriente, Will Kayhard and JD Messler fished the first 32 hour window from Friday to Saturday. They started by fishing for blue marlin south of the Wilmington Canyon. About an hour in on the first day they saw no marlin bites, but got hit with a bigeye. After getting that one to the boat, the decided to change tactics and fish for more bigeye for a stringer. They caught 2 more that first day and missed another 2. The last 3 fish came on Saturday morning when they hooked up a triple, getting all 3 in the box. The big one caught by JD Messler was the last one. Their top 5 eyeballs set a tournament record for a Stringer at 1077.5 lbs. and the largest one was 73” and 288 lbs. The stringer topped the leaderboard in that calcutta and the 288 lb. tuna held onto 3rd Place for Big Fish earning a combined payout of \$107,520 in prize money.



Capt. Kevin Moore with anglers Joe Caggiano, Melissa Moore, Zack McGinty and Troy Cook with mates Mike Dempsey & David Bauers ran up to the Spencer Canyon on the “Reel Moore” during the 11th Annual Big Fish Classic. They managed to boat 5 yellowfin tuna, including a big one! The smaller ones averaged in the mid 50 pound range, however it was the big one at 118.5 lbs. that put them on the leaderboard. They were 1st for Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna as well as the WTA and other calcuttas for a prize payout of \$66,066. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.



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The dock crews are often the unsung heroes of many fishing tournaments, and this is especially true during the Big Fish Classic. The configuration of the Talbot Street Pier puts the tournament boats at the end of the dock and the scales as the base! So not only do they need to get the tournament boats tied up safely and measure the fish, they also need to get the fish on the dock and then run them down a crowded pier to the scales and back. We were able to get a picture of Pat Huhn, Ethan Eibl, John Lewis, Randy Swain, Hunter Phillips, Sam Coates, AJ Robertazzi and Conner Elliott while they were still relatively clean at the start of Day 2 of the event!

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The private boat “Tuna Ink” had a successful overnight trip to the Washington Canyon last week. Capt. Nick Park with mate Phil Knapp set their lines in 150 fathoms and anglers 14 year old Marli Knapp & 8 year old Phillip Lewis each boated a yellowfin tuna. 8 year old Dillon Tubbs also released this white marlin.

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



It's hard to believe that just a few weeks ago the skies were clear, the ground was as dry as Sahara dust and we were praying for a breeze to help dissipate the perspiration from our brow. Now, we count ourselves lucky if we get a window to fish without a driving rain or much less a full blown squall. However, suns set, tides turn and opportunities for Eastern Shore fantastic fun never cease.

The southern Chesapeake has stolen the spotlight in an otherwise cloudy stretch of time.

Spanish mackerel have leapt into anglers sights

as these toothy trophies use their speed and scrappy sport to scream some drags and stretch some line. Trolled Clarke spoons behind number 1 and 2 planers have done the trick on silver, gold, pink and chartreuse spoons trolled at 4-6 knots near channel edges in 25-45 feet of water from Pungoteague creek down to the CBBT.

The cobia bite has been fair. Bait fishermen have boated brown suits with bunkers and bent rods. While the action has been sporadic, a 8/0 circle and a fish finder rig still have brought trophies to the net and invited a few to

dinner. The folks sight fishing have had their work cut out for them, as cloudy conditions have concealed cobia from an onslaught of casted concoctions from live eels to brightly colored jigs.

The shallows of the Chesapeake have been a little cooler and more importantly productive as precipitation has plummeted water temperatures from metaphorically boiling to just plain ol' hot.

Slot reds and a few specs have given us hope in the heat. Popping corks with paddle tails or chunks of crab seem to be the best













way to spot a spot-tail at the end of your line.

The seaside has provided some flounder action that hasn't been flat at all. The weather has kept most folks inside the inlets of the Va Barrier Islands. Keepers have been hard to come by, but shorts keep you cranking for most of the time around high water. While you are searching for scarce scrumptious fillets, some small hooks and an assortment of baits like squid, bloodworm, fish bites, and shrimp are all that is needed to fill your plate with tasty fillets of kingfish and hardheads. These same baits and tactics have also lured pan sized prizes from the suds of the beaches of Assateague. While you enjoy the sand between your toes, remember that

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

a few reds have still been lurking in the surf to offer a summertime surprise.

The lower eastern shore has had a rough week but there is always something to enjoy. This past week we had the opportunity to enjoy the 99th Chincoteague pony swim. While it's not a the pursuit of a prize fish, it is one of the many things that make the eastern shore so special. So even when the conditions contribute to a fish-less frying pan get the family out and enjoy this wonderful place we call home! \$

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Coastal
Fisherman
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8847 STEPHEN DECATUR HWY • OCEAN CITY, MD

29.47 ACRES, Prime Location for future development, many possible uses under the current A-2 Zoning, approximately 745 Feet of road footage on Route 611. Several Conceptual plans have been designed for this site. A preliminary design is available for a Campground / RV Park with a 128 Sites, comprised of 42 Pull Thru RV Sites, 54 Back-in RV Sites, and 32 Park Models, which would require approximately 44 EDUs allocation and approval from Worcester County Planning and Zoning. Currently there is one approved Perk site on the property. Other possible uses would include Boat and RV Storage buildings (no EDUs required), Contractor Shops, Wineries / Brewery, Agritainment facilities, Veterinary Clinics, Commercial Dog Kennels, Residential Subdivision, and many more possibilities, see the Survey and Zoning code in the Document Section. This Property is mostly cleared and has been farmed for the past 30 plus years, it is located a few miles south of the West Ocean City Hub of fine Restaurants and Sunset Marina. Additionally, the Ocean City Airport and Assateague Island are close by for your convenience. Property has been fully surveyed and a wetland Delineation has been completed, showing mostly uplands. All Potential uses should be verified through the Worcester County Planning and Zoning Offices. No Conservation easements exist on the property. This property is a great opportunity in highly desirable location.



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FEATURED BOAT


\$1,649,500
TROUBLEMAKER - 2003 57' DEAN JOHNSON - CALL KAYVAN BAHRAMI 410.310.6961

\$4,200,000
**DONA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields**

\$1,475,000
**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**

\$570,000
**DAY BY DAY - 2003 62' Ocean Yacht
Call Jimmy Fields**

\$1,750,000
**EL BENDIDO - 2004 61' Blackwell
Call Jimmy Fields**

\$775,000
**FULL CIRCLE - 1984 50' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**

\$2,950,000
**PREDATOR - 2014 66' Viking
Call Joe Crawford**

\$239,000
**MAMA LOVE - 1999 56' Ocean Yachts
Call Jeff James**

\$895,000
**2023 41 SeaHunter
Call Colton Cunningham**

\$1,200,000
**2022 42' Freeman
Call Ronnie Fields**

\$389,000
**GAL-O-MINE - 1988 46' Hudson
Call Jeff James**

\$425,000
**1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields**

\$339,900
**2006 40' Topaz Express
Call Terry Layton**

\$350,000
**THE 3 G's 2021 38' Fountain
Call Adam Peeples**

\$129,900
**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**

\$249,000
**2017 28' Harrison Boat Works
Call Jeff James**

\$250,000
**2006 Grady-White 360 Express
Call Chris Workmon**

\$525,000
**2023 35 Insetta
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\$125,900
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