

This crew had a great day of fishing aboard the "Prime Hook." They landed this bluefin tuna while trolling with ballyhoo, at the Baltimore Canyon. They had seven bites at once and held four for over an hour. They finally boated one after four hours. This bluefin measured 71 inches and weighed in at 206 lbs. The team also caught a small yellowfin. Capt. Hank Draper and mate Wayne Smith helped put this crew on the tuna. (Pictured at Hook'Em & Cook'Em Bait & Tackle).

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Faith, a dockhand at Sunset Marina, had the opportunity to go offshore on the "Primary Search" and ended up reeling in a 148 lbs. bigeye. The crew also brought back one yellowfin tuna to the docks.



Mary and her dad, Rick Harshman, caught three keeper flounder while fishing on a pier in West Ocean City. Their flounder measured out to be 19½", 19", and 17½". They were using an ¼ ounce jig and white gulp. Mary said, "I had to play net girl all day," because her father was constantly hooked up.



Angler Isaac Garges landed a 45 lbs. wahoo! He was fishing in the Poorman's and used Ballyhoo as his bait. Isaac was fishing with Capt. Nick Merrill and mates Joey Collins and Derrick Donohue on the "Hopper." Also aboard the boat were anglers Derek Wilson, Justin Martin, and Jordan Phoedes, who menaged to also a make and a pice head of tune.

dan Rhoades, who managed to slay a mahi and a nice haul of tuna.

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TLANT

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"Bad Habit" brought in the first wahoo of the season – weighing in at 38 lbs.! Aboard the boat was Capt. Jeff Rosenkilde, mate Alex Clark, and angler Nick Klederdine, all of Ocean City, MD. Their wahoo was caught in 50 fathoms just inshore of the Washington Canyon.





Anglers Ehrich Getz, Jim Frazetti, Scott Luedtke, Mickey Bell, Mike Hepburn Jr., and Mike Herpburn Sr. had a great day offshore on "Covered Up" with Capt. Keath Puller and mate Tommy Biddison. They landed 13 yellowfin and one 70 lbs. bigeye tuna. The crew was fishing outside of the Rock Pile. The fish were caught on wide trackers and skirted Ballyhoo.

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This crew aboard the "Loose Knot" nailed this 180 lbs. Bigeye, along with three yellowfin tuna and two mahi.



Angler Tom Zatalava snagged this 150 lbs. bigeye on "Reel Blessed" with Capt. Phil Lyons Jr. "Reel Blessed" also went 2/4 on yellowfin tuna that day.



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Welcome back to another offshore report. I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather this holiday weekend. Lots of boats took advantage of the calm conditions, and most were rewarded with decent catches of yellowfin tuna, bigeyes, a few bluefins, mahis, as well as increasing numbers of marlin encounters. While doing some pre-tuna scouting, tournament we hooked a pair of large

were bigeyes, and were and above down to the very surprised when a Norfolk, with pockets 71" bluefin popped up of fish being discovered at the end of the leader. in some inshore areas As a charter boat, we as well. As the summer were able to keep our one "over" fish (47-73"), releasing the other. ramping up, The latest modifications to the ever-changing bluefin are now two fish for charter boats, with only one being 47-73", and billfish division with one fish for recreational boats. Fishing has remained widespread, with reports coming in fish that we assumed from the Wilmington



winds on, tournament quickly season is starting with the 43rd Marlin Club Canyon Kickoff. regulations Congratulations to the boys on the "Shotski "for winning the a great early summer marlin trip, catching a pair of whites and a blue. Bringing home the meatfish division was the crew on the "Tighten Up." Coming up this weekend is the 38th Ocean City Tuna Tournament. A fishable forecast, as well as consistent fishing ,should put this year's event close to 100 boats and is something you won't want to miss. All the action from the scales can be found at the Ocean City Fishing

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Center. At the close of the tuna tournament, the inshore reports will increase, as I am sure the spoons will be dusted off as butterfish will begin to be flung around many of the inshore lumps. Zooming out on the map, anglers to our north are once again experiencing amazing tuna fishing with limits yellowfins and of bigeyes being caught off of New York and above. Below us, North Carolina is continuing to produce bountiful catches of yellowfin, blackfin, and bigeye tunas, as well as boxes dolphins bailer of and plentiful billfish releases. Hopefully, this summer will continue to bless us all with consistent fishing and favorable weather. I encourage everyone to try to leave the ocean better than you found it, whether that means picking up trash at the ramp or while offshore, as well as only keeping as many fish as you can responsibly process.



is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12507 Sunset Ave Unit 32, Ocean City, MD 21842

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11-year-old Leland Rice, of Timonium, MD, scored with this yellowfin tunahis first tuna ever! Leland was fishing on the "Kerry On" with his dad and Capt., Randolph Rice, and brother, Rex Rice. They were fishing the North Poor Man's Canyon. Leland made his catch using blue skirted Ballyhoo.



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Rick Hoenes fished with Randolph Rice and "got covered up [with] mahi and tuna." Rick and Randolph's fish were caught outside the Rock Pile in 74° water.



Angler Lou Domenico, from PA, landed his first keeper flounder. His catch measured $19 \frac{1}{2}$ ". Lou was fishing the West Channel using minnows for bait.



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This crew had a successful day aboard the "Boys Toy," going 2 for 4 on white marlin while fishing in the Baltimore Canyon. Angler Lucas Gessler landed one of the marlin, marking the first white marlin of the season caught by a junior angler in the Ocean City Marlin Club. The crew also brought in a 136-lbs. bigeye and three yellowfin.



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This past week Maryland, we saw large storms on many evenings and received some wellneeded rain in our areas. These storms did cause flooding and have really muddied up the water. Nearshore wrecks are producing small black sea bass and croaker. Flounder are still just off the wrecks and are striking baits more readily. A few sharks and cobia are being found on the nearshore shoals as well as near the wrecks.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore wrecks and reefs are full of small sea bass, croakers, and flounder. Sea bass on the inshore wrecks are found with a ratio of 13 throwbacks to every keeper. The deeper wrecks and coral over 100 feet are holding better

in ratios of keepers, nearly eight throwbacks to every keeper. Flounder fishing has been producing tons of fish, but keepers are scattered. The downcurrent side of wrecks is producing more keepers than the coral, flatter ground, and large Gulp baits, as well as squid shiner combos, are the preferred baits. Cobia have been seen near the inlet and around A buoy but are reluctant to strike baits. Live eels may be the trick to targeting these fish near the shoals just south of Ocean City Inlet. "Bad Wind Charters" had Billy and his crew on board for a foggy start to their trip. Despite the slow ride out, the group landed limits of flounder using the Bad Wind's clacker rigs. "Fish Bound Charters" saw group limits on almost all of their trips last week,

in targeting flounder deeper areas to the north. They also landed some nice catches of sea bass and triggerfish. "Just a Toy Sportfishing" had a great afternoon trip, bringing home seven keepers after sorting through a ton of short fish. The "Angler" had several good trips bringing home coolers of keepers for their clients. The African Queen as well as the Bass Grounds have been producing tons of action for anglers and even providing fish for dinner for the more fortunate anglers. The "Ocean Princess" has been doing both fishing trips for bass as well as evening wine cruises to the delight of their customers. "Surface Tension Sportfishing" had a window between storms and managed to hook their group up with some quality flatfish off www.coastalfisherman.net the nearshore wrecks.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets are around 75 degrees and full of small bass and flounder. Keeper flounder are being found, in the deeper channels as well as the inlet areas. Squidshiner combos are your best tactic for targeting flounder in the bays. The area behind Assateague Island is this week's hotspot, with the area near the airport being the best. The main thoroughfare just north of the bridge has also been a very productive spot, with anglers finding the incoming tides best for targeting the keeper flounder. The "Miss Ocean City" had several fun groups of kids on board this past week. They stated that on most trips, the kids outfished the adults almost 2 to 1. Many young anglers landed keeper fish for their families to have made by local restaurants for dinner. "Fish OC" found a few days when the back bays were not totally loaded with boats



and managed a few good trips to bring home fish for Lake Crisco. The "Bay Bee" was back on the water after some preventative maintenance, and is ready to start catching fish for their clients. Shawn Varner had a good day fishing the RT 50 Bridge and landed two nice fluke. James Tetrault also landed a nice fish near the bridge measuring 21 inches. Chris Jenkins got a nice keeper Friday from the bridge. It seems like that was the hotspot of last week, with many anglers staying close to the bridge and landing dinner.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing on Assateague Island has been slow, with mostly sharks and rays being taken from the beach. A few small blues and kingfish are also in the mix, being taken on pompano rigs and sand fleas. A few rockfish and reds are still around, but many have already made their migratory run north for the summer. Targeting fish in the late evening and through the night appears to be the most productive, and the period just before and after high tide has also been best. Mango on the Island found that there is more to life than sharks and rays, landing a nice slammer bluefish on a finger mullet while fishing Assateague Island South. Skyler Snead of "Fish Assateague LLC" had a few fun days catching their clients several nice sharks, including a big sand tiger. They report the bite is still going strong, so get out now while these

big sharks are still near the shoreline.

How To

This week, we discuss how to catch blue claw crabs. Crabs can be caught in many ways, with the simplest being using a string and a chunk of chicken tied to a dock--slowly pulling the string to the surface and netting the clinging crab. Most crab hunters use crab pots, which can be purchased from any tackle shop for around \$75. These pots are baited with either chicken or bunker fish and left to soak for up to three days. The pot is then pulled and the crabs are sorted. Crabs must be 5 inches to be legal. Two pots per recreational angler are permitted in both Maryland and Delaware. The other method is using a trotline. This method uses a line that is most commonly sold in 600-foot lengths. Every 6 ft, the line has bait ropes called snods. These snods are baited with chicken necks, eels, razor clams, or fish pieces. A side pole allows the line to run up alongside the boat, and as the bait comes to the surface, clinging crabs can be netted. For a very informative video, check out the FISH IN OC YouTube video with Kohr Crabbing Supply. Mention the video or this article to get a discount on fully rigged 600-foot trotlines from the shop in Millville, Delaware.

Until next week, Tight Lines and Fins Up.



Ryker Evans had his first saltwater fishing experience while fishing with his dad, Joe. The father-son duo was on the "Reel Salty" with Captain Michael Milanese and Nino Milanese. Ryker released five of the 11 flounders that the group caught.



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While others came up empty, young angler Hazel reeled in two bluefish just before storms rolled in at Fenwick State Park, about two hours after high tide. She landed both using Fishbites.



Congratulations to Kyle Ostrowski from West Virginia, who landed his first keeper ever! He caught this 22" flounder all by himself. Kyle was fishing on the East Channel on a pontoon.

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Moriah Holliman caught her first white marlin while fishing aboard the "Finatic." Moriah was fishing with Dylyn Aydelotte, Andre Hayes, Justin Holliman, Anthony Folk, Robert Hayes, mate Brandon, and Capt. Mark Malamphy. The crew was fishing the Poorman's Canyon and brought back three yellowfins to docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Angler Mark Gross, of Dagsboro, DE, reeled in this 35 lbs. yellowfin. Mark was fishing at the Washington Canyon, using a Green Machine lure. He also saw five pilot whales and several sharks offshore that day. They also had two white marlins go through the wash. Mark was on the charter boat, "Faze Four" with Capt. Mike Berkheimer and Capt. Nate Berkheimer.



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CASTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY								
Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE			
Bluefish	June 22 Sean Hitchens Ocean City Bay 9.65 lbs.	May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	Weakfish		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.			
Black Drum		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 Ibs.				
Cobia		June 24 Michael McGoey Indian River Inlet 37.9 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	"Y July 3 "Prime Hook" Crew Baltimore Canyon 206 lbs.			
Flounder	June 4 Ryan Edgell East Channel 7.3 lbs.	June 25 Jeff Moraco Ocean Structure 8.2 lbs.	Longfin Tuna					
Sea Bass	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna	June 26 Spring Mix II Crew Inshore (20 fathoms) 97.5 lbs.				
Sheepshead	June 22 Charles Breon Ocean City Bay 4.09 lbs.		Dolphin	William Thompson 20 mi. Offshore from OC 20 lbs.				
Striped Bass	June 21 Gary Ward Ocean City Bay 8.15 lbs.		Swordfish					
Tautog	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	Blue Marlin					
Wahoo			White Marlin	to coastalfisherman				

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Anglers William Thompson, Rick Saxon, and Jim Scheivert fished with Captain Bill Scheivert on the "Reel Rhythm." William and Rick each caught a mahi that weighed 20 lbs. and 8 lbs., respectively, making William's mahi the heaviest of the season so far. These fish were caught using ballyhoo 23 miles from the coast of Ocean City.



Tyler Fogle and Landon Clark, of York, PA, along with a few other anglers, landed ten yellowfin total! The largest yellowfin weighed 75 lbs. They were trolling in the Poorman's Canyon using Ballyhoo. They were fishing aboard "All In."



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These five anglers brought home their haul of flounder while fishing on the Tortuga out of Bahia Marina.





This angler reeled in several sea bass! He was fishing on the "Ocean Princess."



This young angler was proud to show off his flounder catch at fishing camp! He was taken out by the Ocean City Recreation & Parks on the "Happy Hooker."

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It was a flounder-filled day for this crew who brought in a some solid catches aboard the Fish Bound.







This angler was all smiles when he landed this seabass. He was fishing aboard the "Morning Star" with Captain Monty Hawkins.

5



The "Pumpin Hard" had a great trip finding yellowfin, mahi, and even the boat's first blue marlin of the season.





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

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- · Shoot vertical photos & always Smile!





Anglers Kyla Huntemann, Brian Moyer, Yanni Oliphant, and Dave Oliphant brought home a great haul of tuna! They were fishing on the "Spring Mix II" with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mates Ben Harding and Kolton Sheeler. They were fishing in the Washington Canyon.





This crew aboard the "Boss Hogg" brought home a nice haul of fish for dinner. They landed two mahi and two yellowfin tuna.





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This crew aboard the "Miss Kathleen" had good day of wreck fishing with Captain Eric. These happy anglers caught a load of triggerfish and a few seabass.



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A Way of Life

with our own thoughts. the room, I understand.

their own breed. From trucks rigged for fishing on the beach to the hours of time spent just staring at water, reading every ripple-we are dedicated fishermen who truly hone built onto the truck to our craft to stay consistent year after year. But a lot of guys I've Whether it's springtime learned from will go black drum, sharks and even further – building flounder in the sum- racks, shelves, and all mer, reds in the fall, or everything in be- tions in the back of the We've tween, you can find us truck to aid with always out there with families, having everything you friends, and even alone need. If you don't have

Beach fishermen are A lot of beach guys are have to pack every sinvery innovative. To be successful at surf fishing and to get the most So my personal truck out of your time on the is usually loaded and sand, you always need ready for surf fishing. to be ready. Most guys we know have racks hold coolers or rods. sorts of other contrap-



But for me, the less I gle trip, the less I can forget on those trips. Sand spikes, tackle box, bump board, boxes to hold various weights, and even a grill are normal things I keep in the back of my truck from spring to the middle of October.

simplified rig-making and the materials needed for anything from black drum to kingfish to the big reds. Everything we need to tie a rig or snell a hook is inside a small plastic ammo can that you can purchase at Harbor Freight. Not having a whole tackle box to go through with 100 different rigs makes things easier. Knowing what works helps, but in reality, simple is usually good.

everybody Not can make their own sinkers and stuff like that, but knowing how to at least tie your own rig can save you a ton of time and money. We truly innovate. So being able to tie a rig on the fly to adjust to a situation can greatly help you – or just to try different things. May-

be you want your rig to be longer to get the bait further from your weight. Maybe vou want to get more casting distance, so you shorten your leader and make everything closer together for less wind resistance. We try new things. Most importantly, we all have tried new things and found something that works well for us. We try new things that don't work at all, but we can at least say we tried.

What works best for me may not be what works best for you. Everybody has their own style and preferences. You have to go out and try new things to find out what works. But I can promise you, most hardcore guys are trying their own rigs, saving money by doing so, and also innovating and trving new things while they're trying those rigs. We sit at home and tie rigs for hours at a time to prepare for the season – study what's worked in the past and study what other people are using and doing.

We also do lots of maintenance. Beach fishing is salty and sandy. Both of those things are not good for fishing equipment. So usually every winter or early spring, it's time to bust out the fishing gear and clean it up. Check your guides for any chips or cracks in the ceram-

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and give everything a of a couple of weeks to good cleaning. Sticky catch one huge fish and drags are one of the spend one minute with main reasons for lost it on the beach, just to fish, and cheaper reels let it go and do it all that have been exposed over again. I wouldn't to saltwater and sand change it for the world. are notorious for hav- That one minute can ing a sticky drag. We make a memory that normally learn how to lasts a lifetime with a do basic maintenance – like cleaning out and adding grease, taking Sometimes the line roller apart to peace is what surf fishclean it, and taking all ermen crave. I don't the drag washers out to know how many times clean them. It's some- I've left the beach after thing I do multiple not catching a fish or times a year, especially even getting a hit and on certain reels I know still felt accomplished. can be more of a problem if not maintained more often than others.

Beach fishing is our sand! lives. We're out there for multiple trips, adding up to 40-50 hours getting skunked of sometimes before we ever land a fish. To us, it's always worth it because those 40-50 hours weren't just wasted sitting around – we were learning, innovating, and thinking of how we can improve ourselves, along with simplifying our fishing trips.

A lot of us love the peace that comes with surf fishing. Sitting miles away from anybody in silence for hours until one of the rods bends over so hard and so fast you think it's going to break-and you have to sprint to it. That's what we live for. It sounds crazy to say you had 50+ hours of

ic. Take your reel apart fishing over the course fish I could never beat.

> just the

Surf fishing isn't just a way to fish. It's a way of life. See you on the



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BELAWARE STATE

	(AS REPORTED TO	THE COASTAL FISHER	AN - MUST BE OF LEGA	L LIMIT AND REPORTED	WITH PHOTO)
Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
Black Drum	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna	June 5 Jack Disney Restless Lady II Baltimore Canyon	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
Cobia	June 24 Michael McGoey Indian River Inlet	June1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	Bluefin Tuna	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass	May 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish	June 19 Norm Wallis "On The Hunt" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin	July 1 Crew "Reel Current" Undisclosed Location	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo	"June 26 Nick Klederdine "Bad Habit" Washington Canyon	June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin	June 14 Hannah Melvin "Wrecker" Washington Canyon	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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Bodhi Kenny, from Pottstown, PA, had a memorable first offshore trip catching a mahi with his dad Peter. Bodhi caught his mahi on the "Miss Darlene".

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The Ocean Pines Anglers Club recently hosted their annual Summer Flounder Tournament with close to 40 anglers participating. Pictured are the 1st through 3rd place winners from the tournament–1st place winner, Josh Fallon with a 20 ½-inch flounder, 2nd place winner, Budd Heim with a 20 □-inch flounder, and third place winners, Ron Kuhar and John Rokowski with their 18 ¾-inch flounder!



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Anglers Kevin Mcnelis Jr., Kevin Mcnelis Sr., and Ashton Fisher hit the limit of flounder, measuring 19 to 24-inches, along with two triggerfish. They were fishing at a wreck using white Gulp and Freedom bait jigs.



Anglers Yanni Harris, Dianna Harris, Phil Lyons Jr., Xander Bauguess, and Parker Long landed a 203-pound bigeye tuna aboard the "Powerlines." They also brought home two yellowfin, a bluefin, and released a large white marlin.

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	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24″	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34″	12 lbs. or 29″	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44″	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18″	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45″	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35″	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	2 Horanon	ruly elle	, ,	0.7-0.07023
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14″	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"				
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	TUNA:			
Red Drum*	36″	45″	46"	Longfin Albacore	e 36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	i i	Any Size	False Albacore	24″	12 lbs. or 26"	32″
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22″	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Speckled Trout	24″		5 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Striped Bass	40″	44"	44"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program			
Tautog	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23″	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release *** Use curved-fork-length measurements eregulations.com			

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This crew had a successful day aboard the "Boys Toy," going two for four on white marlin while fishing in the Baltimore Canyon. Angler Lucas Gessler landed one of the marlin, marking the first white marlin of the season caught by a junior angler in the Ocean City Marlin Club. The crew also brought in a 136-lbs. bigeye and three yellowfin.



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our area last week, causing big downpours and flooding throughout. Nearshore wrecks are full of undersized bass as well as several smaller croakers. Flounder fishing on both the wrecks and coral grounds is improving, with more keeper fish being found and willing to take anglers' offerings. The Shoals near the beach are seeing more activity from Spanish mackerels, sheepshead, cobia, and triggerfish. The back bays and inlets have also heated up considerably, bringing more fish into the bays. The deeper areas of the inlets are producing the best chances for keeper fish.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore wrecks and coral grounds are holding a ton of fish; however, the main catch is both undersized sea bass and flounder. The number of

Heavy storms pummeled keeper fluke has gotten even topped the 7 lb mark. better than in previous weeks, but there is still around 10 throwbacks to every keeper, with most fish being between 16 and 17 inches. The Fenwick Shoals have been producing Spanish mackerel and bluefish on the troll with small spoons from sunup until around 9 a.m. A few spadefish have also shown up on the shoals. Use a small #1 red hook about 15 ft down from a float tipped with a chunk of fresh clam to entice these fish to bite. Cobia have been spotted near the Old Grounds and on the shoals just south of the inlet. I have not heard of many fish being hooked up as of yet by anglers using bucktails. Anyone targeting these fish might try using live eels for better results. Boujee Bait CO. has had several customers who have returned with big doormat flounders this past week. A few fish day of vacation.

"Wreck Dawg Fishing" also had a few good trips last week, bringing home limits of flounder (24 pieces) and a handful of pesky sea bass. Nick Nickels found out that Site 11 is still holding a few keeper sea bass when he fished and landed too many shorts to count. He did manage to bring home over ten keepers. Great job Jim! Captain Brin from Fishermans Wharf reports that they caught a lot of better-quality fish this past week, and it looks like the flounder are starting to turn on for the summer season. The "Captain Bob" and "Judy V" were out at the Old Grounds and, despite a few close storms, had some good trips, delighting anglers with catches of sea bass and flounder. These headboats are а great way to experience fishing offshore without breaking the bank or losing a whole The 4-

www.coastalfisherman.net and 5-hour trips that are offered by local head boats are perfect for tourists and locals alike.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets have a ton of small fish in them and are a great place to introduce a child or novice fisherman to the sport. Small hooks and squid will catch the most fish, and although most will not be keeper-size, they will keep even bored kids entertained. The inlet area is producing some nice flounder during the day, along with a few rockfish and blues at night. The Delaware Bay appears to be loaded with small croaker as well as some nice doormat fluke on the shoals. The Roosevelt Inlet has also been producing nice keeper fluke along with some sheepshead near the Ice Breakers. Nick Garcia and Pops hit the Rehoboth Bay and caught over 25 flounder with only a few keepers. The water temp in the bay is around 75 degrees and is supplying plenty of action. Hector Cerdan was in the DE Bay and found 3 keepers



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on the shoals willing to bite his offering. Charles Dougherty was at Site 4 and had croakers ready to strike by the truckload. Henry Busby along with Larry Lee fished the bay and were able to land a few nice fish to invite home for dinner. Fishing was good enough that they even posted a video on YouTube. The 609 Fishing Group had a few good days last week landing sheepshead off the wall and ice breakers using frozen bait. Fishing was good enough that they even posted a video of their trip on YouTube. Greg Allen fished the inlet all week landing several small stripers up to 26 inches while drifting sand fleas. He was upset not to be able to locate any sheepshead on his trips. Nick Miller had a good day fishing the inlet wall and landed a nice slammer bluefish on cut Jacob White fished bait. the inlet and was rewarded with a nice limit of flounder up to 25 inches. Slack Tide Kayak Fishing found its first sheepshead while at IR Inlet, landing a nice 17.5inch fish drifting sand fleas. Adrian Dandridge caught a ton of short fluke along with a nice 20-inch keeper drifting near the inlet. Gulp baits were his chosen bait.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is slow, with small blues being taken on mullet rigs and croakers, spot, and kingfish being caught using pompano rigs and squid pieces. Hector Certan was out at the point on Thursday and caught a limit of flounder on squid strips and minnows. Eric Sutton fished Bethany Beach in the morning until the tourist showed up and landed several decent-sized

croakers using sand fleas and a pompano rig. Eric reports the fish were landed two at a time for most of the morning. Jeff Pitts also got in on the strong croaker bite up at Bowers Beach landing some nice fish to bring home for the fryer. Michael Bator also loaded up on the croaker and had plenty of taco meat for his 4th of July family cookout. Old Inlet has plenty of surf fishing supplies for anglers looking to cash in on the croaker runs going on right now, and can give great advice on how to set up and score on these tasty fish. Check knowledgeable out the crew at the shop and check out their assortment of rods, lures, and rigs for all kinds of fishing.

Crabs and Clams

Crabbing has hit its stride, with crab pots being loaded with crabs. Most pots contain at least 10 keepers per pot. Deeper water in the 6-10 ft range is producing best, and bunker is still the preferred bait over chicken. Trotlining is very reliable with anglers using a 600 ft trotline to gather a bushel of crabs in about 3 hours. For a very insightful video on trotlining check out Fish IN OC's new YouTube If you mention video. the video or this article you will get a discount on trotlines purchased from Kohr Crabbing Supply in Millville DE.

Clamming is also very productive, with clams being easily raked up and limits can be had in less than one hour. The limit on clams is 100 for residents and 50 for out-of-state anglers.

Until Next Week, Tight Lines and Fins Up

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Angler Reid Padfield, of Mechanicsburg, PA, caught this 34" striped bass on the Fourth of July. He was fishing at the Indian River Inlet, using sand fleas. Reid was shore fishing on the South side of the inlet. The striped bass was over slot and safely released. Reid also caught a 32-inch striper earlier that evening, which was also released. Nice catch Reid!







Angler Richard Daiker enjoyed a successful evening on the water, catching a limit of flounder—all measuring over 20 inches. His two largest fish came in at 27" and 28½", with the biggest tipping the scales at 8 lbs. 2 oz. Richard landed the impressive haul using live bunker near the Route 50 Bridge aboard his new 25-foot Pathfinder.



They're the lifeline of the business!
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Ryder and Harrison Kincaid, from Sparrows Point, MD, fished with their grandfather, Preston Walls, from Ridgely, MD, on the "One More Drift". In total, they caught five keeper flounder in the East Channel while using sport as bait. The largest of their flounder was 21".



The "White Lightning" loaded up the docks with mackerel. Young anglers Carsen Cordovilla, Ella, Ruby, and Lola Hewett fished with Captain Troy Salmon and mate Phillip Knapp at Winter Quarter Shoal.



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For Making The Most of That Bigeye in Your Cooler:

<u>Seared Bigeye Tuna and</u> Noodle Stir Fry Bowls

Bold flavors, fresh tuna, no leftovers.

Ingredients:

For the noodle stir fry:

9.5 oz soba noodles package or whole wheat spaghetti

1 tbsp avocado oil

1/2 tsp sesame oil

1 fresno chili, thinly sliced (or a small amount of jalapeno)

2 cloves garlic, minced 8 oz snow peas ¹/₂ cup matchstick carrots ¹/₂ tsp ginger powder 3 tbsp coconut aminos 2 tbsp fresh lime juice For the seared tuna: 4-4 oz fresh bigeye filets 4 tsp everything but the bagel seasoning 2 tbsp avocado oil For serving: 1 avocado, sliced watermelon 1/2 radish, sliced thin

1 lime, sliced into wedges



www.coastalfisherman.net 4 minutes.

4. Remove the stir fry from the heat but cover to keep warm while you prepare the tuna steaks.



Directions:

For the noodle stir fry:

1. Bring a pot of water to a boil. Once boiling add the noodles and cook according to the package instructions. Drain, rinse well and set aside.

2. Heat a wok or large skillet medium-high heat with avocado oil and sesame oil. Add the Fresno chilis, garlic, snow peas, carrots and ginger powder. Sautee, stirring, until snow peas are slightly charred and tender, about 3-4 minutes.

3. Add the noodles, coconut aminos, and fresh lime juice. Continue cooking, stirring, until all flavors are combined, 3 to For the seared tuna:

1. Place the everything but the bagel seasoning on a plate and coat both large sides of the tuna filets so that it is completely and evenly coated.

2. Heat a skillet over high heat with 2 tablespoons of avocado oil. Swirl the pan so the oil evenly coats the pan. The skillet should be very hot. Sear tuna steaks, about 30 seconds per side for rare and 90 seconds per side for medium rare and warm in the center. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest for a minute. Using a very sharp, good knife, carefully slice the tuna steaks.

3. Serve the tuna steaks with the noodle stir fry

www.coastalfisherman.net along with sliced avocado, watermelon radishes, and a wedge of lime. Enjoy!



Because That Fresh Catch Deserves More Than Just a Filet:

Mahi Mahi Fish Taco Bowls

Bold baja flavors for your next taco night

Ingredients:

Mahi mahi:

1 lb. mahi mahi (cut into 4 filets)

- ¹/₂ tsp salt
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp chili powder
- ³/₄ tsp paprika
- ¹/₂ tsp cumin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp onion powder

¹/₂ tsp garlic powder

2 tbsp olive oil or melted butter

Cabbage slaw:

2 cups shredded purple Ingredients: cabbage

2 tbsp lime juice

 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt

1/2 cup fresh cilantro

2 tbsp greek yogurt

Pineapple salsa:

 $1 \frac{1}{2}$ cups finely diced pineapple (or mango)

medium $1/_{2}$ avocado (cubed)

¹/₂ cup chopped cilantro

1 tbsp lime juice

Taco bowls:

2 cups cooked rice

Squeeze fresh lime (optional)

1 cup cooked black beans

¹/₂ cup chopped cilantro

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400F.

2. Add the ingredients for the cabbage slaw to a bowl and set aside to marinate.

3. Whisk together all spices for the fish.

4. Drizzle the mahi mahi with olive oil, then pat the spices on top.

5. Bake for 8-9 minutes, then broil to crisp the top for 1-2 minutes.

6.Whileitisbaking,combine all of the ingredients for the pineapple salsa.

7. Serve the mahi mahi with cooked rice, cabbage pineapple salsa, slaw, cooked black beans, fresh cilantro and lime.

From Fresh Catch To **Skewered Perfection:**

Teriyaki Tuna Kabobs

Feeding the whole boat crew, one skewer at a time.

1-1/2 lbs. tuna steaks, cut into 1-¹/₂-inch chunks

2 medium sweet red peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces

1 large sweet onion, cut

- ¹/₄ cup sesame oil
- 3 tbsp lime juice
- 2 tbsp soy sauce

Marinade/dressing:

into 1-inch pieces

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

¹/₄ cup minced fresh cilantro



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1 tbsp minced fresh ginger root

2 garlic cloves, minced

Salad:

1 package (5 oz) fresh baby spinach

1 medium sweet yellow pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces

8 cherry tomatoes, halved

Directions:

1. Thread tuna chunks onto 4 metal or soaked wooden skewers. Thread pepper and onion pieces onto 4 more skewers. Place skewers in a 13x9-inch baking dish.

2. Whisk together marinade ingredients. Reserve half of mixture for salad dressing. Pour remaining marinade over skewers; refrigerate, covered, 30 minutes. 3. Grill kabobs, covered, on a greased grill rack over medium heat, turning occasionally, until tuna is slightly pink in center for medium-rare (2-3 minutes per side) and vegetables are crisp-tender (10-12 minutes). Remove tuna kabobs from direct heat and keep warm while vegetables finish grilling.

4. For salad, toss spinach, yellow pepper, and cherry tomatoes with reserved dressing. For each portion, serve a tuna kabob and vegetable kabob over salad.

For That Leftover Crab Meat That You Couldn't Let Go to Waste:

<u>Maryland Crab Salad</u> <u>Sandwiches</u>

Because extra crab should never go to waste.



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Ingredients:

4 lengt	croissants, hwise	sliced		
1 lb c	rab meat			
½ cup celery, diced				
Salt and pepper, to taste				
1/3 cup mayonnaise				
1 tsp lemon juice, to taste				
2 tsp	dill			

¹/₂ tsp Old Bay

Directions:

1. Coarsely chop or break apart the crab into small pieces, if not already picked.

2. Finely chop the celery.

3. Toss the crab, celery, salt and pepper in a mediumsized bowl.

4. Stir the mayonnaise, lemon juice, old bay seasoning and dill together in a bowl or cup.

5. Pour the mayonnaise mix over the crab and toss gently to coat.

6. Fill your croissant with the mixed crab meat and garnish with green onion on top if desired.

Straight Off the Charter, Straight Onto Your Plate:

<u>12 Minute Sticky Asian</u> <u>Sea Bass:</u>

For all the sea bass that families are bringing home from charters, here's a quick and easy winner.

Ingredients:

2 tbsp sesame oil

1 red chili finely chopped

4 tbsp honey

2 tbsp dark soy sauce

¹/₂ tsp ground ginger

2 cloves of garlic, peeled and minced

1 tbsp fresh lime juice

4 sea bass fillets, skin on

¹/₂ tsp cornflour/cornstarch

2 tbsp light brown sugar

To serve:

1 handful of fresh coriander (cilantro), torn

1 bunch of spring onions (scallions), sliced into thin strips

1 red chili, sliced thinly

Slices of lime

Directions:

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1. Preheat the oven to 400F. Liqu

2. Mix the oil, chili, honey, soy sauce, ginger, garlic and lime in a small bowl.

3. Place the sea bass fillets, skin-side down, on a baking tray. Sprinkle on the cornflour and rub it into the fish gently.

4. Spoon on the honeysoy sauce mix (it will pour off a little, but that's fine). Sprinkle on the sugar and place in the oven to cook for 8 minutes. Halfway through cooking, open the oven and baste the fish with the sauce in the tray.

5. Once the fish is cooked, take it out of the oven and baste again with sauce, then sprinkle the top with coriander (cilantro), spring onion (scallion) strips, and slices of chili.

6. Serve with lime slices and some boiled rice or salad.

A Delicious Toast to Your Trophy Catch:

Salted Frozen Mudslide

A frozen boozy dessert, perfect after a long day in the sun.

Ingredients:

Ice cubes

1 oz Kahlúa Salted Caramel

Liqueur

1 oz Absolut Vodka

1 oz Irish Cream Liqueur

3 scoops vanilla ice cream

1 spiral chocolate sauce

1 pinch chocolate shavings

Directions:

1. Using the chocolate syrup, make a swirl inside your glass.

2. Add all the ingredients into a mixer with ice, and blend until smooth.

3. Quickly pour the milkshake into the glass from the mixer.

4. Top with chocolate shavings.







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Presley Steadman landed her first yellowfin tuna aboard the "Wrecker" with Capt. Bobby Layton, Jeremy Blunt, and mates Cody Smith and Piper Blunt. Also pictured are Dan Steadman, Jimmy Harkness, Rich Olson, Steve Pedone, and Nathaniel Satterfield. The crew caught a total of seven yellowfin while fishing the Offshore Canyons.



Angler Leland Rice, from Timonium, MD, caught this nice-sized rockfish in the Indian River Bay using cut fish. Leland released his catch.



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"Local fishing legend," Big Bird Cropper and 'Hooked on OC' host, Scott Lenox, filmed a new episode where they caught a grey trout, rockfish, and a limit of bluefish. They used an umbrella casting Roy Rigs and Thing a Ma Jigs. This legendary fishing duo was fishing at the Route 50 Bridge.



Khayte Balanga de Leon is all smiles after she caught her first flounder on her first fishing trip ever. Khayte caught this 20" flounder while fishing on the "Crown Jules" with Captain Billy Mister and Cole Mister.

Share Your Catch with USI

The 2025 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.



<u>ILAITON</u> by Bill Pino

Magdelena Bay, Mexico

Standing patiently on the right flat, a mind can wonder. Seems like the thoughts come in waves. I wonder if she's behind the dredge or gonna come up on the short. Why is that porpoise doing flips? We almost hit that turtle. Was that a shadow? It can be hours of just random thoughts.

The captain turned. Why did he turn? Lunch-what time is lunch? Just give me a shot! Is the captain going somewhere, or does he think we can see the spread better with the DAMN SUN IN OUR EYES? We keep waiting and pondering, and our eyes play tricks on us. Waves start to look like dorsal fins. That frigate is doing circles. Any minute now.

track: I don't care what it is. I'm gonna eat it. It's that split second when our thoughts and her reaction collide that keeps me coming back. Her colors turn cobalt as our eyes grow into saucers. Her mouth opens-but we're the ones yelling. In one swat of the bill, six hearts skip a beat.

It's game time for us, lunchtime for her. She got me this time, but I'll get her next time.

Now... What was I thinking about?

Magdalena Bay, Mexico, is a saline estuary that is situated about 200 miles north of Cabo San Lucas. Sardines move into the estuary to breed. The dinner bell rings when the sardines begin to migrate out



Meanwhile, 50 feet back and 20 of the bay. Those of us that live feet down, her reaction is one- to target marlin consider Mag

www.coastalfisherman.net during the months of June through September.

Like any Mag Bay enthusiast, my heart is starting to race, and I want to spill out all my experiences right now! I need



Bay the holy grail of numbers fishing.

The truth is, Mag Bay has long been known as a location to catch a variety of species in abundance. The marlin migration tends to begin in late August and can last until February. Giant yellowfin tuna also find Mag Bay to be a great dinner spot and are present in large numbers from August to September. Roosterfish migrations have been described as "biblical"

to take a deep breath and talk about logistics first.

The phone rang on a busy day at Squidnation headquarters. When I picked it up, my friend Toby LaRocque was on the line.

He said, "The marlin are biting, get on a plane!"

So, the next day, I'm at the airport heading to Los Angeles out of BWI on American Airlines. I met Toby at the Alaska Airline gate a few hours later, and we headed off to Loreto, Mexico. From there we met our driver and headed west across the Baja Peninsula to the small port town of San Carlos.

This wasn't my first trip to Mag Bay, but it would be my first to Toby's lodge-and the first time not arriving by boat. Marlin enthusiasts typically board a private vessel or large local charter boat and chug all night from Cabo San Lucas. Anglers live on board, stay for a few days, then head back to Cabo. The adventure is amazing, and I've experienced days of releasing over one hundred





striped marlin. But the idea of flying and driving directly to San Carlos seemed far more relaxing.

The next morning, Toby and I set out on his 30ft Hydrosport. A few miles outside the inlet, we found birds diving on bait balls of sardines. We set out two Squidnation teasers, one Squidnation dredge on a Ledge Logic Boom, and had two pitch baits with sardines at the ready.

The next four hours produced magnificent marlin encounters. Doubles and triple raises were the norm. The striped marlin would peel off the bait balls, light up cobalt blue, and attack our teasers on every pass.

Raising and feeding striped marlin on a small boat truly is an exciting encounter. Small boats get us closer to the waterline, and the smaller outboards allow for clearer wake, letting



our teasers run closer to the rocketing manta rays. We boat. We had a front-row seat for every encounter. Our tally for day one was twenty-one striped marlin and a couple of dorado.

By day three, Toby asked if I was ready to go look for some wahoo.

I asked, "Why?"

He said, "How many marlin do you want to catch?"

At this point my face turned stone serious and I said, "All of them!"

And back to the bait balls we went.

Magdalena Bay is truly a special destination. Every adventure there has provided a unique experience. I have been a part of a crew that had 102 striped marlin releases in a single day on the 57' Spencer boat, the "Tranquilo." We've seen orcas attacking sea lions while striped marlin torpedoed through bait balls under the shadows of sky-

July 9, 2025 Coastal Fisherman Page 49 survived a biblical invasion of tens of thousands of mahi, so ferocious we couldn't even feed the marlin that were on our teasers.

> Something special will always happen at Magdalena Bay, Mexico.

There are numerous large-boat operations that sail from Cabo San Lucas for a minimum of three days. Those trips typically run between \$7,000 and \$11,000 per night. Mag Bay Lodge offers a unique, exciting experience at a fraction of that cost. The boats are smaller and far less luxurious, but I promise you, the marlin will be plentiful. It will be a hands-on experience, and memories to last a lifetime.

To book a trip to Mag Bay Lodge, check out:

magbaylodge.com

Email: info@magbaylodge. com

Phone: +1-805-757-4999



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introducing The Perfect Boat House

There's nothing in Ocean City designed like these new Boat Houses located steps away from Sunset Marina. PERFECT for traveling sportfishing teams or young families that need private rooms. Crew accommodations over the two-car garage make these the ultimate Boat Houses for your time at Sunset Marina and the world class fishing in Ocean City.





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Anglers Mike Shaulis and his son, Big John, both of Ocean City, MD, landed quite the haul of fish. John caught a 17 ¹/₂-inch triggerfish, along with a few seabass. Mike caught two sizable flounder. They were wreck fishing at the African Queen with Capt. Rich on the "Bullminnow."



Madison Depaola, Emma Depaola and Ella Espey are showing off three of the ten yellowfin they caught while fishing on the "Power Factor". These fish were caught in the Washington Canyon with Capt. Gary Stamm and mate Kyle Pelino.





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Brayden Warfield, of White Hall, MD, caught this 26-inch, 6 lbs. Northern snakehead. Brayden was fishing at the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River. He was doing his part "cleaning up the Maryland waters."

EURI VAD CREDO			
TIDES &	MOON F	PHASES	
WED. JULY 9	High 07:18 am High 08:12 pm	Low 01:49 am Low 01:09 pm	
THUR. JULY 10 Full Moon	High 08:06 am High 08:55 pm	Low 02:27 am Low 01:52 pm	
FRI. JULY 11	High 08:53 am High 09:36 pm	Low 03:03 am Low 02:35 pm	
SAT. JULY 12	High 09:40 am High 10:16 pm	Low 03:39 am Low 03:19 pm	
SUN. JULY 13	High 10:25 am High 10:55 pm	Low 04:18 am Low 04:07 pm	
MON. JULY 14	High 11:11 am High 11:35 pm	Low 04:58 am Low 04:58 pm	
TUE. JULY 15	High 11:58 am High	Low 05:41 am Low 05:54 pm	
WED. JULY 16	High 12:17 am High 12:50 pm	Low 06:27 am Low 06:54 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.



8-year-old Cash Knowlton, of Warmister, PA, landed this 11-inch bass! Cash was fishing the West Ocean City pond and he was using a worm as his bait.

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Check out anglette Stephanie Scales, who reeled in this 119 lbs. yellowfin tuna. Stephanie was fishing on the "Black Magic" with Robert Remo in the Poorman's Canyon. The yellowfin ate a cotton candy bar made by 353 Custom Tackle.



Michael Skowronki of Dupont, PA, caught this 17-inch sheepshead on live sand fleas. He was fishing off the Ocean City Inlet North Jetty. He fished for an hour and also managed to land a throwback flounder, tog, and two short stripers.



• 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 or scimitars. The pectoral fins are also longer than the related bluefin tuna, but not as long as those of the 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. 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 tagged in the Indian Ocean with an archival tag spent 85% of its time in depths shallower than 246 ft, but was recorded as having made 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 small yellowfin, and skipjack tuna, in particular, are commonplace. 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. Hawaiian yellowfins associate with anchored fish aggregation devices and with certain sections of the 50 fathom curve.

Source: Wikipedia.com

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From Blurry to Bounty: Fishfinder Settings That Make the Difference

Often called a depth finder, fish finder, or sounder, these machines perform similar functions, showing us what is beneath the surface.

There's a lot of history in the terminology we use to measure water depth. The term "sounder" is derived from the Old English word "sund," meaning swimming, water, and sea. The depth measurement of a fathom is derived from the Old English word "faethm," meaning outstretched arms. The original sounder used a "sounding line," a pre-marked length of weighted rope lowered into the water to determine depth.



Our modern sounders utilize extensive electronics, including

various frequencies and digital signal processing, to provide an accurate representation of the underwater world below the boat. Understanding how the system works and how to tune it by adjusting the display that not all fish finders, sonar, or sounders will have all the adjustments listed below.

Frequency: Most traditional fish finders (sonar) are dual frequency, operating at 200 kHz for shallow water, 50 kHz for deeper water, or both simultaneously. If you have a CHIRP system, (CHIRP is an acronym for Compressed High-Intensity Radiated Pulse) it operates within a wide kHz range, and often one transducer can cover two broad kHz ranges. When operating a fish finder, you will need to select a frequency or frequency range for the display to use. Often, using two frequencies simultaneously provides the best view of the water and fish below your boat. If one frequency provides better results, you can switch to that single frequency or CHIRP range.

Gain: This function is the primary adjustment for transducer sensitivity. For example, in 15 feet of water, the device might lose the sonar display and depth if too strong a signal is being received due to the shallow depth, preventing it from reading the returning



Traditional Sonar

CHIRP Sonar

Image: Chirp Sonar

</tr

controls will lead to better readings and, hopefully, help you find and catch more fish.

Let's review some basic adjustments that can be made at the display. Please note

signal. In this case, the "Gain" would need to be reduced. The opposite is true in deeper water; if your sonar display is not picking up everything you think it should, such as the bottom or deep fish, the "Gain"

Range: This function controls the depth range displayed on the screen. If "Range" is set to "auto," the depths on the right side of the display will automatically track the bottom, assuming other settings are correct. The "Range" can also be manually set to a specific depth. For instance, if you are searching for structure or fish no deeper than 20 feet, the "Range" could be set to 20 feet. The fish finder will then only show returns between zero and 20 feet. When adjusting manually, you should set the maximum range so that the actual depth or bottom structure is near the bottom of the display screen to provide the best image of the water column. If canyon fishing, you might only want to view the top 200 feet, so you would adjust the range as needed for your fishing type, not necessarily tracking the bottom. For the auto range setting to work properly, the gain, along with all other settings, needs to be adjusted correctly.

TVG (Time Variable Gain): This feature adjusts the appearance of returns to compensate for weakened sonar signals in deeper water and reduces the appearance of noise near the surface. When this setting is increased, the echo returns or colors associated with low-level noise and fish targets appear more consistent through various water depths. This setting also reduces noise near the water's surface. A properly adjusted TVG results in targets of the same size producing echoes on the display of the same size, regardless of their depth below the surface.

Interference: This adjusts sensitivity to reduce the effects

of interference from nearby noise sources.

Bottom Lock: The bottom lock is a feature that zooms into the bottom of the sonar image. Depth numbers reverse when the bottom lock function is enabled. The depth range will start at 0 feet at the bottom of the screen and increase going up the side of the screen. To read depths from top to bottom, disable the bottom lock.

Surface Noise: This hides surface noise to help reduce clutter. Wider transducer beam widths, usually on lower frequencies, can show more targets but may generate more surface noise.

Clutter: The clutter adjustment optimizes gain settings by eliminating screen interference caused by dense salty or turbid waters. It allows the sounder to increase gain while maintaining a clean, crisp screen with optimal fish detection. A higher number indicates a higher degree of suppression.

Color Gain: This adjusts the intensity of colors and highlights areas of interest on the sonar screen. This works best after you have adjusted the level of detail shown on the screen using the gain or brightness settings. If you want to highlight smaller fish targets or create a higher intensity display of a target, you can increase the color gain. This will cause a loss in the differentiation of high intensity returns at the bottom. If you want to reduce the intensity of the return, reduce the gain.

Reading the manufacturer's instructions, talking to fellow anglers and checking and adjusting these controls on your fish finder will help you get the most out of your device and your fishing trip.



Tristan and Abbey Artz, of Boonsboro, MD, celebrated the Fourth of July on the water and managed to land some flounder! Their catches measured 18 inches, $18 \frac{1}{4}$, and 19. They were fishing on the 3rd Street fishing pier in front of Crab Cove, using minnow for bait.



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Angler Gage Horney, of Chester, MD, landed this 12 ¹/₂" kingfish. He was fishing the Fenwick Island surf, using Fishbite bloodworm and squid.





Capt. Paul Menzi, Winner of the 2024 White Marlin Open Tournament



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Photo credit: Paul Menzi.



Lee Kendall and his son, Landon, both of West Ocean City had a great day of fishing! The two reeled in some mackerel "not far off the beach."





Anglers Ally, Jordan, and Jeremy Lukiewski, all from Ellicott City, MD, reeled in some flounder and a triggerfish. They were fishing on "AN-GER MANAGEMENT" at the Africa Queen using Gulp. Congratulations to 3-year-old Jeremy for landing his first flounder and triggerfish!

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Anglers Garret, Payton and Bob Elder, of Timonium, MD, brought in a great haul of yellowfin tuna, caught on spreader bars and ballyhoo. They were fishing on the "Canyon Hunter."



Preston Walls, of Ridgely, MD, went out for some morning fishing and caught the limit of flounder. The largest flounder measured 19 inches. Preston was fishing at the South Jetty using bunker.



Peyton Elder, of Jacksonville, reeled in a nice-sized yellowfin tuna, while his dad landed the "perfect" gaff shot. Peyton was fishing in the Poormans, using a silver diving plug to catch his tuna. The Elders were fishing with "Little Dickey" from Harbour Island.



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D. M. T. A

MD-SUMMER ONE WEEKEND. FOUR PREMIER DEALERS. ENDLESS DEALS.

JULY 18-20 HUDSON FIELDS (MILTON, DE)

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Anglers Travis and Caleb Wharton of Bruceton, WV, landed this monster 74-inch bull shark. They were fishing off the Assateague Island Surf and using cut bait.





Evren Bilal of Media, PA, caught this monster Southern stingray! The ray was estimated to weigh about 100 lbs. Evren caught the ray on a whole live fresh spot that he caught five minutes prior. He was fishing off Fenwick Island, DE.

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Captain Jason Ruditys, Essington, PA, took a few of his friends for a quick inshore trip over the 4th of July weekend. Chris and Carl Miller, of Bechtelsville, PA, caught 15 triggerfish and a keeper seabass on the "Typical Philly" at Russel's Reef.



Beth Schaen, of Middletown, DE, is excited about her 2 lbs. flounder caught in the Indian River Bay. Beth used green Gulp, while on the "Miss B", to bring in her catch.



Denise Kieczkajlo of Kingston, PA, caught two keeper flounder. They measured 18 and 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Denise was using live minnows as bait. She was fishing off the Ocean City Inlet North Jetty. She also caught over a dozen throwbacks that same day.

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Alexis Heistand is enjoying her summer break from teaching second grade by getting out on the water this summer. Alexis caught twin 18" flounder while fishing the thorofare. She caught these fluke using a white Gulp and shiner combo.



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"Tighten Up" earned the top prize in the Single Heaviest Tuna division with a 50½ lbs. yellowfin tuna. Led by Captain Jason Genther, anglers Ted D. Anna, Jay and Phillip Keller caught two other yellowfin coming in at 35 and 41 lbs. in the Washington Canyon. Congratulations to the team for taking first place and earning \$8,122.50!



CANYON KICKOT Species TUNA-YELOWIAN Weight TSO-TGO-7860 Angler MASAN SKCHOLSON Date JUNA, 2025

Congratulations to "Paydirt," who took 2nd place in the meatfish division with stringer WTA in the OCMC Canyon Kickoff Tournament! Anglers Madison Gartside and Mason Nicholson landed yellowfin tuna that weighed 38 lbs, 43 lbs, 46 lbs. They went out with Capt. Jason Gartside with mate Mitch Bode. Ray King, Chad Ridenour, and Rob Livermore were also on board. They were fishing out in the Poorman's Canyon.



The "Shotski" lead the Billfish Release category with two white marlin and one blue marlin release. The "Shotski" is run by Captain Josh Rose and mates Austin Bowden and Spencer Gibbons with anglers Preston Schell, JD Miller, Jay Huss, Ryan Short, and Casey Zolper. The crew caught the marlin outside the Poorman's Canyon. As the summer tournament season is about to begin hopefully the "Shotski's" success is an indicator for the fishing to come this season.

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Congratulations to the "Cara Marie" for winning 1st place in the dolphin category of the OCMC Canyon Kickoff Tournament! Angler and Capt. Robert Warren landed a 19.2 lbs dolphin and a 36 lbs yellowfin tuna. Mate Spencer Warren, Phil Michael and David Dodd were also on board.



The "Christine Marie" came in second place for the mahi division but took home the money with their 14.2 lbs. mahi earning them a whopping \$9,468. The "Christine Marie" is run by Captain Brian Behe and mate Parker Marshall. Angler Steve Summers caught this top earning fish with Christie Summers in the Poorman's Canyon.

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The crew of the "Longshot" with their winning tuna for the Small Boat Meatfish division. Captain Dave Reier brought back a 60 lbs. yellowfin tuna along with a 35 and 34 lbs. yellowfin in OCMC Canyon Kickoff Tournament. Their 60 lbs. yellowfin earned them a total of \$1,755. These fish were caught by Hannah Brown, Ryan Kaler with the help of mate Andrew Reier. These money earning fish were caught in the Baltimore Canyon.



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Check out this young angler who landed this nice-sized flounder! He went out with "Bottom Line Sportfishing."



Angler Luke Zeccola, from Fenwick, DE, had a great day of cobia fishing in Virginia. Luke was with Bill and Will Petka on the "Rock Bottom".



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Anglers Holten Bowlsbey, of Landenberg, PA, Ryan Comer, of Salisbury, MD, and Randy Lewis, of Huntingtown, MD, each landed yellowfin. They were fishing aboard the "Mrs Crabs II," owned by Gene Arantowicz, with mate Andy Camela, of Crofton, MD. They were fishing the Baltimore Canyon using spreader bars and Ballyhoo. "Mrs Crabs II" is a private boat that took several veterans out fishing as a part of Gene's non-profit, the "Military Ministry of SMLC Birdsboro" in conjunction with The Fallen Outdoors.



July is upon us, and we all want to see fireworks in the night sky as well as at the end of our line. So wrestle a RED, jig up a flaty with some WHITE gulp , and bend a rod on a scrappy BLUE. Just make sure you take time to participate in the sport that we enjoy so much in the country we love even more!

The BLUE of the Atlantic has stolen the spotlight as an offshore extravaganza offers great opportunity to tangle with a tuna as well as pursue other pelagics like mahi and deep-water tiles. The Washington to the Norfolk canyons have been the most productive region as anglers troll sidewinders and daisy chains along with skirted ballyhoo to tempt tasty tuna to the gunwale. Blue/ white, pink/white, and purple/ black have been among the most tantalizing treats to lure fish to

the cooler. Hopefully the tuna tive. Kingfish also have made action holds and the mahi action magnifies as the summer the inlets and in the surf. A surges on.

The waters closer to shore are offering some fine floundering with a side of superb seabassing. The flounder have taken up residence at wrecks and reefs in the 50-100 depth range and are targeting 2-4 oz jigs tipped with Gulp curtail selections such as the swimming mullet and grub-style baits. Spades and triggers are also abundant and will take suspended small chunks of clam when in the feeding mood.

Inside and around the inlets of the VA barrier islands, floundering is still flourishing. However, keepers continue to be hard to find. The period of time encompassing high water seems to be the most productive. Kingfish also have made their presence known around the inlets and in the surf. A small piece of bloodworm, crab , shrimp, or even Fishbites is all that is needed to get these tasty panfish into the frying pan. Inshore sharks continue to bend rods and provide sport. While most are species that need to be released, the action is second to none as anglers tempt these toothy predators with cut bait sweetened with a little chum.

While fishing has slowed a bit, the Chesapeake continues to offer some cobia encounters as folks set out to tangle with the man in the brown suit from the Maryland line south. The CBBT has had the most action with good numbers coming from the bridge itself, as well as from shoals and reefs like the Cabbage Patch. Who knows, you may even be blessed enough to partake in a surprise that will make memories for life. This past week I had two reports of large tarpon taking cut cobia baits. One report ended in an unintentional release and the other with a boatside memory that will be talked about for years to come.

The shallows of the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds are heating up.... in temperature, that is. The fishing, on the other hand, seems to have cooled down, with the exception of the early morning hours providing a speck of hope. Rock and speckled trout are still lurking around the grass flats of the sounds. Surface plugs like "The Lonely Angler" have produced aggressive surface explosions that rival any Fourth of July fireworks.

As I sit here watching the fireball in the sky disappear, and hopefully turn into fireworks on my line, it's very clear that we are so fortunate to live in this wonderful place that we call home!



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