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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The billfish have been biting, but so has the man in the brown suit! We have had numerous reports from the shallow waters just south of Ocean City, but none can match the one from the "Hot Lick". Capt. Travis D'Antoni along with Josh Ardis, Bobby Pastorius, Rod Taylor, Pam 'Tunas & Tiara's' Taylor and Bill 'Otter Tails' Pino hit is hard at the Winter Quarter Shoals. For the day they caught 53 cobia on Squidnation Otter Tail Jig Tails!

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It was a busy day for the crew of the "Boy's Toy" out of the Indian River Marina. Capt. Tommy Gessler with crew Josh Gessler, Bobby Fletcher, Well Emmert, Francesca Gessler, Mary Gessler, Brayden Gessler, Joey Gessler, Matthew Abbonizio, Kinsley Emmert, and John Horning released a staggering 18 white marlin for the day in the Wilmington Canyon.

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There are still big bluefish in the Ocean City Bay, especially by the Rt. 50 Bridge. Danielle Boyer hauled in this behemoth there. At 30" it is her biggest catch of the season.

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Brad Fry not only caught his first white marlin, he caught a fat one. He was fishing on the "Pier Pressure" between the Hot Dog and the Poor Mans Canyon with Chris Lake, Heather Myers and Capt. Eric Lilly. Once on the scales at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina the 68" white weighed an impressive 75 lbs.



Bruce Carlton and Jim Osborne had a great day at the Wall off of Lewes. Bruce caught this beautiful trigger fish and the pair also boated 2 sheepshead and a keeper tog along with small sea bass and croaker.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

While there was great action in the canyons last week, it was overshadowed as the Ocean City fishing community lost another icon. Capt. Frank Pettolina passed away last week. He was a long-time fixture in the fishing community and the owner and senior captain on the legendary "Last Call". It was also hard when we lost his son Franky in 2021, and sorrow again a year later when the boat sank in the inlet after a fire aboard. There is some solace that he and Franky are together again. Our heart and condolences go out to his wife Madelyn.

The billfish action in the canyons last week was strong and was some of the best we have seen in years. As I covered in last week's edition, Sunday the 25th saw record releases and the bite continued through the

week, but not as strong. Last Tuesday Brad Fry headed out of the Indian River Marina on the "Pier Pressure". He caught his first white marlin between the Hot Dog and the Poor Mans Canyon, nice to find this mud marlin so close! It measured 68". The "Boy's Toy", also out of the Indian River Marina, had a busy day in the Wilmington Canyon. They caught and released 19 white marlin!

It seems the white marlin like weekends lately as the bite cooled for the latter part of last week. Saturday however was a different story, with the Baltimore being the place to be. The "Sea Hag" fished there, going 10 for 13 on whites and the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" returned to Sunset Marina from there with 5 white marlin release flags flying.

The Ocean City Marlin Club held a Labor Day billfish release tournament over the weekend. It was an 'invitational', meaning that club members had to meet one of two qualifications. Those who reported catching 30 marlin in 2023 were on the list and boats with 25 marlin releases for the season to date were also extended an invitation. Ten boats entered, creating a \$50,000 purse and \$20,000 in the daily calcuttas. As a release only tournament there were no scales, but we have included the results below. Congratulations to the "Billfisher" for taking the top spot with 700 points or 7 releases and to the top Lady Angler Judith Duffie and top Jr. Angler Elizabeth Ashwell.

Tuna are still very much missing in action. Several of the captains I have talked to share that they are not even marking tuna. This is a contrast to earlier in the season when they were marking yellowfins and seeing them jumping out of the water.

However, they still didn't bite then! There is no clear consensus as to why the yellowfin have been so scarce and hard to hook this year. At least the bigeye bite was about normal for their season.

Outside of billfish, we had four fish running hot recently. The cobia bite has been improving over the past few weeks, and was red hot last week. We have the crew of the "Hot Lick" on this week's cover from their trip to the Winter Quarter Shoals. They caught a total of 53 cobia, caught mainly with Squidnation Otter Tail Jig Tails. That was convenient as Squidnation founder Bill Pino was on the boat! Ocean City anglers Jason Stokes, Christian Phillips and Michael Hauh dove on some inshore wrecks and nabbed a few keepers while spearfishing. Others were found in the shallows inshore as well as off the beach. The latter however were all undersized, but still a thrill to catch a man in the brown suit from the sand!

Wahoo have also arrived at the docks in good numbers and sizes. From our reports there was not a specific area for the bite. Early in the week the "Even Keeleigh" caught a 47 lb. speedster with a 20" girth at the Hot Dog notch. They hooked their Delaware Citation fish on a Black Bart Pelagic Breakfast plug on 20 lb. gear. That must have made for a fun fight. The crew on the "Prospector" found their wahoo further south and east in the Washington Canyon when it hit on an Ilander with a ballyhoo. The "Restless Lady II" out of the Talbot Street Pier hooked a big speedster

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Prize Money :		
1st: Billfisher	700pts	\$25,000
2nd: Reel Joy	550pts	\$15,000
3rd: Kilo Charlie	300pts	\$10,000
8/31 Daily	Reel Joy	\$10,000
9/01 Daily	Billfisher	\$10,000
Top Lady Angler:		
Judith Duffie - Billfisher		
Top Jr Angler:		
Elizabeth Ashwell - Kilo Charlie		
Time: 9:05a		

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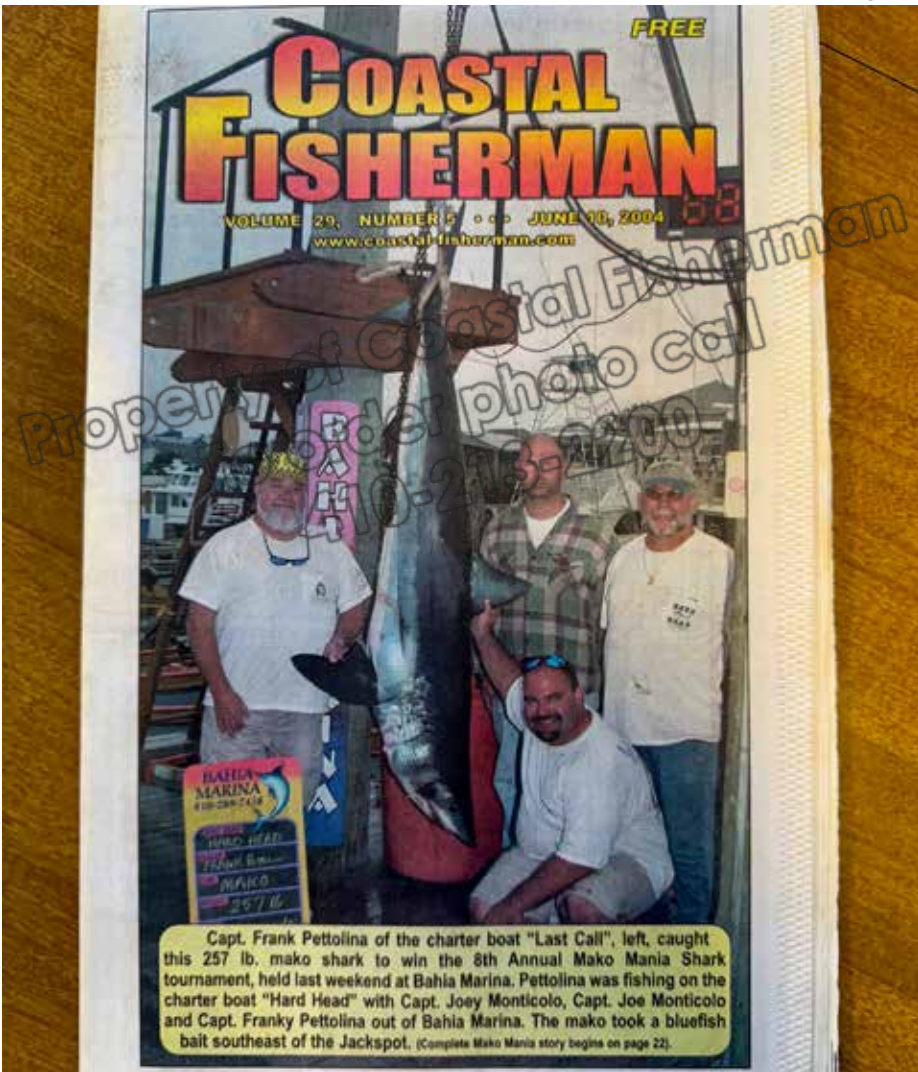
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in 40 fathoms of the Baltimore Canyon. They also reeled up a 5 man limit of tilefish.

Speaking of tilefish, we saw a number of goldens caught last week and several limit catches of bluelines like the "Restless Lady II". The charter boat "Michael D" out of the Indian River Marina had a frenzy of action on one trip last week. They caught several large golden tilefish as well as blueline tilefish, over 50 in a little over an hour. That is a lot of work, given they were probably reeling in from depths of 600 - 800 feet, even with electric reels. John Coffey and crew on the "Sea N Double" found blueline and some sizable blackbelly rosefish in the Poor Mans Canyon. Kevin Legates headed to the Baltimore Canyon for some deep drops. He and his crew had limit catches of both golden and bluelines as well as some rosies. They even snagged an angry mako shark as they were reeling in one of their deep drop rigs.

Mahi were a common catch as captains targeted the tasty fish.

Most were small peanut dolphin found under and around the sea bass and lobster trap buoys inshore and off. Limit catches of 10 per angler or boat limits of 54 were not uncommon. Others found more interesting catch locations. The charter boat "Boss Hogg" caught a mess of mahi after they saw an old traffic cone floating in the Poor Mans! The charter boat "Wrecker" was in the Baltimore Canyon marlin fishing and ended up with over 30 dolphin in addition to their 2 white marlin releases. The good news is that they are out there, from the inshore lumps to the canyons, so if you like this fish, now is a good time to head out, charter a boat or jump on one of the mahi trips offered by headboats!

As I write this Labor Day Monday most boats are tucked into their slips due to a strong north wind, however after that it looks like a nice string of weather and warmer water. So keep sharing what your catching by email or text to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net. \$



It was with a heavy heart that we learned of the passing of Capt. Frank Pettolina last week. He was the owner and long time captain of the "Last Call" and a beloved member of the Ocean City Fishing Community. He is pictured here with his son Franky from 2004 with the winning shark he caught during the Mako Mania Tournament at Bahia Marina.

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Jeremy Michalski reported terrible fishing during his trip to the African Queen last week. He did however have an interesting visitor, a 25 foot basking shark that stayed by the boat for a good 15 minutes..















Alex Valliant and Gavin Love of Frankford, DE took advantage of a pretty calm day on the ocean to take their maiden voyage on a new Carolina skiff. They headed out about 30 miles to the sea bass pots and caught this nice bull mahi that ate a whole squid on a 4/0 circle hook with a 20 pound fluorocarbon leader.

2024

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 <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>
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A white Hurricane pontoon boat with a black canopy is shown from an aerial perspective, moving across the water and leaving a white wake. Five people are on board: a man at the helm, a woman in a blue life vest, a woman in a green tank top, a man in a white shirt, and a woman in a red shirt. The boat has 'Hurricane' written on its side.

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A Godfrey pontoon boat with a grey and black color scheme is shown from an aerial perspective, moving across the water. Several people are on board, including a man at the helm and children. The boat has 'GODFREY' written on its side.

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City brought us warmer temps again along with strong storms at the end of the week.

The nearshore wrecks and reefs are still producing good numbers of keeper flounder as well as some sea bass despite the large numbers of undersized fish.

Cobia have been showing up on the wrecks and humps inshore but are hard to figure out. One day these fish will take anything thrown at them and the next will attack nothing.

Mahi are on the bass pots throughout the areas with the biggest numbers being found around 30 miles out.

Walter Moore and Jabbar Harmon were out with Tianna Marie looking for a few sea bass to bring home for dinner on the nearby reefs and managed to catch 17 fish up to 20 inches. They stated the bite was strange as they would catch one or two keepers and then the bite would shut down, forcing them to move to another spot. Still not a bad haul of sea bass for the last week of August and

90 degree temperatures.

The sea bass pots have been really producing some big mahi. Tossing chunks of meat or squid at the pot balls is the main way anglers target these pelagic fish inshore, however, many anglers that were trolling small plugs or spoons seem to take the advantage over those sitting still at the pot balls. Several larger bulls could be found just off the pots and would only respond to small trolling baits pulled near them.

Brandon Hudson had a blast targeting the mahi on the pots Tuesday, bringing home several fish in the ten pound range.

Nick Sampson was offshore, and when returning stopped by the pots around 30 miles out. He and his charter cleaned up on mahi and bonito. Although several of these fish were peanut size dolphin, there were also several bigger bull ones thrown in to help fill the coolers.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore reefs are alive

with life. Many anglers are finding the bite to be very steady however, the main catch is undersized sea bass and flounder. Finding deeper wrecks are producing a better chance at keeper fish.

The Jacks Spot and Great Eastern Reef are producing the best catches of fish to bring home for dinner.

On the nearshore humps, small bluefish and spanish mackerel are on many of the humps and will take a small trolled spoon with a wire leader.

For flounder, fresh squid strips and minnow combinations are working well along with live spot on a circle hook. Gulp baits are working, but the fish seem to prefer a live bait option.

Sergio Carbone was out at the Jacks Spot and caught several fish but he said the wrecks were loaded with sea robins that would not leave their baits alone.

"Jacked Up Sportfishing" stayed close to shore enjoying the airshow and was rewarded

with sharks, rays and trout while watching the sky show.

The "Ocean Princess" had some pretty good half days of fishing with lots of action and a few big sea bass.

The "Angler" stated they had a few tough days as well as a few stellar days of fishing this last week with anglers pulling in some doormat flounder along with a pretty good sea bass bite. Strong winds late in the week kept them at the dock for a few days but when they got out even with a picky bite they managed to bring home fish. The boat will be going to their 8 and 10 hour trips after the holiday.

"Bad Wind Charters" had Steve and Scott on board and found the mahi ready and willing to cooperate. The duo landed several nice size schoolies along with a few gaffer fish.

Juan Carabalio had the unique catch of the week catching a juvenile baby grouper off an inshore wreck. Each year we seem to see more and more grouper coming off our wrecks.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlet areas of Ocean City have really begun to hit their stride, producing keeper flounder, blues and sea

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trout each day.

The area behind Assateague Island has been the best for trout, blues, and rockfish. Use small bucktails or swimbaits to target these fish. Casting along the rock edges or at docks appears to be the best method right now. The backside of the island is also producing some big fluke. A minnow and squid combination has produced the best results with Gulp baits as a close second.

At the Rt. 50 Bridge, the rockfish and bluefish bite has slowed a little but a few big fish are still being caught but boat as well as fishing off the bridge.

Brian Reynolds hit the areas behind Assateague Island to avoid the crowds and hooked into several nice speckled trout, a few short flounder and schoolie rockfish and even a few sharks.

The "Miss Ocean City" had Amy Uphold and her daughter on board. The duo caught several fish, including keepers for dinner.

The "Bay Bee" said "why order flounder when you can catch your own!" The boat has had several keepers over the last few trips with fishing being the best we have seen all year in the bay.

The "Ocean City Guide Service" was on the cobia again catching some stud fish for their clients.

Skip Courtney and Peter Renzi were out both in Maryland as well as in Cape Charles, VA and had epic days catching monster cobia. The biggest one they caught last week was 55 inches but reported seeing a fish over 70 inches.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing last week was somewhat slower than in past weeks with big rays being the primary catch.

Kingfish are still around although not in the numbers we have seen in past weeks.

Natalie Terreri was out on the beach at 48th Street at night and landed a few big rays on mullet rigs and cut bait.

As an end note please be advised that MD has added a vacant new category in the Atlantic division for pollock, with a 20 lb. minimum.

Check https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/state_records/sr_main.aspx for further info on submitting a fish for record status.

Until next week...

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The Hook Optics family of Bob, Niki and Chris Pino with Rachel Wisniewski had another unforgettable offshore trip on the "Sea Hag" with Capt. Anthony Pino, boat owner Charlie Duerr and mates Junior Bass & Drake Cropper. They had an impressive day trolling near the Baltimore Canyon going 10 for 13 releases on white marlins and also had a close encounter with a big blue marlin.

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Josh Mercer with his neighbors Dave Vetter and John Stanch caught their limit of cobia while sight casting bunker schools in the shallows off of Ocean City. The two keeper cobia measured 42" and 43". The group also released several other cobia which were all caught on jigs and live eels. This was "Neighbor Dave's" first ever cobia.

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FACTS ABOUT... THE MAN IN THE BROWN SUIT



Description

The body is elongate and torpedo-shaped with a long, depressed head. The eyes are small and the snout is broad. The lower jaw projects past the upper jaw. The skin looks smooth with very small embedded scales. Easily distinguished by the first dorsal fin which is composed of 7-9 short, strong isolated spines, not connected by a membrane. Second dorsal fin is long with the anterior portion elevated. The caudal fin is round to truncated in young fishes, and lunate in adults with the upper lobe extending past the lower. The origin of the anal fin is beneath the second dorsal apex and the pectoral fin is pointed. Cobia lack an air bladder. The body is dark brown to silver, paler on the sides and grayish white to silvery below, with two narrow dark bands extending from the snout to base of caudal fin. These dark bands are bordered above and below by paler bands. Young cobia have pronounced dark lateral bands, which tend to become obscured in the adult fish. Most fins are deep brown, with gray markings on the anal and pelvic fins.

Habitat

As a pelagic fish, cobia are found over the continental shelf as well as around offshore reefs. It prefers to reside near any structure that interrupts the open water such as pilings, buoys, platforms, anchored boats, and flotsam. The cobia is also found inshore inhabiting bays, inlets, and mangroves. Remoras are often seen swimming with cobia.

Diet

As voracious eaters, cobia often engulf their prey whole. They are carnivores, feeding on crustaceans, cephalopods, and small fishes such as mullet, eels, jacks, snappers, pinfish, croakers, grunts, and herring. A favorite food is crabs, hence the common name of "crabeater". Cobia often cruise in packs of 3-100 fish, hunting for food during migrations in shallow water along the shoreline. They are also known to feed in a manner similar to remoras. Cobia will follow rays, turtles, and sharks, sneaking in to scavenge whatever is left behind. Little is known about the feeding habits of larvae and juvenile cobia.

Fishery

Cobia is considered an excellent game fish and are highly prized by recreational fishers. It is a powerful fish and exciting to catch on hook and line. In the US, cobia are caught commercially in pound nets, gill nets, and seines. They are also taken incidentally by shrimp trawlers and longliners in the Gulf of Mexico. Cobia are usually caught in small quantities due to their solitary existence. It is a good food fish for human consumption and is typically marketed fresh, frozen, or smoked.

Size

Weighing up to a record 135 pounds, cobia are more common at weights of up to 50 pounds. They reach lengths of 20-47 inches, with a maximum of 79 inches.

Range

The cobia is distributed worldwide in tropical, subtropical and warm-temperate waters. In the western Atlantic Ocean this pelagic fish occurs from Nova Scotia (Canada), south to Argentina, including the Caribbean Sea. It is abundant in warm waters off the coast of the US from the Chesapeake Bay south and through out the Gulf of Mexico. During autumn and winter months, cobia migrate south and offshore to warmer waters. Cobia prefer water temperatures between 68°-86°F. Seeking shelter in harbors and around wrecks and reefs, the cobia is often found off south Florida and the Florida Keys. In early spring, migration occurs northward along the Atlantic coast. In the eastern Atlantic Ocean, cobia range from Morocco to South Africa and in the Indo-West Pacific from East Africa and Japan to Australia. Cobia do not occur in the eastern Pacific Ocean.



















HEAVIEST

Fish of the Year

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 	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 	August 7 Mason Wilkinson Hotdog 169 lbs.	June 12 Will Hall Poor Mans Canyon 143 lbs.
Summer Flounder 	June 19 Chris Boaston OC Inlet 7 lb. 3.5 oz.	August 8 Michael Harden Indian River Inlet 13.2 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner Baltimore Canyon 38 lbs.
Sea Bass 	August 5 Monty Neel African Queen 5.24 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	August 8 Austin Craig Washington Canyon 185.5 lbs.	July 19 Wayne Whitney Hotdog 100.7 lbs.
Sheepshead 	June 23 Capt. Wayne Anderson Ocean Wreck 11 lbs. 10 oz.	June 19 Dan Sander Ocean Structure 10.8 lbs.	Dolphin 	August 15 Sherri Saunders Poor Mans Canyon 53.3 lbs.	August 15 Tara Katz Baltimore Canyon 30.3 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 	August 7 Lance Blakemore Poor Mans Canyon 897.5 lbs.	
Wahoo 	August 8 Ian Horowitz Poor Mans Canyon 70 lbs.	July 8 Kevin Alexander Poor Mans Canyon 67lbs.	White Marlin 	August 6 Ven Poole Poor Mans Canyon 77.5 lbs.	

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



Jake Stuckey and Abigail Meyer of Baltimore worked hard for these 4 keeper flounder. They fished at an ocean structure and caught 79 flounder keeping 7 with the largest at 21". They also hooked 82 sea bass with 5 over 16" and to top it off 2 fish got sharked 20' from the boat!



We have not seen many sheepshead so far this season so it was good to see Brandon Fenstermaker report this 5 pounder. It was his first convict catch that he hooked on a sabiki rig at Masseys Ditch.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The marlin bite has been strong to amazing over the past week. Even the charter boats known for catching tuna like the "MARLI" got in on the action. OC angler Dean Miller with the Phoenixville, PA crew of Carl Laporte, Bill Laporte and Chuck Doer joined Capt. Mark Hoos for a day in the Baltimore Canyon where they went 5 for 7 on white marlin. Naked ballyhoo seemed to be the bait of choice that day. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers Jamie Falcon, Jack Falcon and Dave Rossiter got a workout on their trip to the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Bruce Coffey on the charter boat "Michael D" out of the Indian River Marina. They went deep dropping and caught over fifty golden and blue line tile fish in just over an hour.



Logan Briggs from New York found a fat flounder at the Rt. 50 Bridge using Gulp for bait. He caught the 5¾ lb. flatfish with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On The Run" out of the Bahia Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers have been finding nice hauls of mahi under and around lobster and sea bass pot buoys, but this crew on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" had a different experience. Capt. Alex Beane saw an old traffic cone floating in the Poor Mans Canyon with this mess of dolphin underneath!



Sunset Marina's media and marketing manager Sydney Messick caught her first white marlin and 2 more while fishing on the charter boat "Primary Search"! She and fellow anglers Joe Tull, Kevin Grimm, Dave Allen, Jared Huyett, Joey Hurley, and Darren Helwig with Capt. Austin Ensor and mates Wyatt Melocik & Dave Allen trolled the Poor Mans Canyon releasing a total of 14 white marlin and a blue!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Sunday's 8 hour trip on the headboat "Judith M" was not normal by any means. They started out catching and releasing lots of sea bass. Then trolled out to deeper waters and picked up some bonita, pretty exciting for a head boat! Then over to the bass pots and found a few mahi!



'Seabass Bob' Houser Jr. of Carlisle, PA branched out on this trip with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" out of the Talbot Street Pier. Despite a slow pick, he caught his signature keeper sea bass and a peanut mahi.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Most of August was spent tournament fishing for Capt. Mike Burt and mate Dave Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard". They finally got back to charter fishing and hooked up this crew with 5 white marlin.



Andy Fesler from York County, PA had a fun day with his sister Abe and mom Holly on the headboat "Judy V". He caught this 19.5" keeper flounder and Abe got a keeper sea bass. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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Dave Weller of Ocean City, MD caught a beautiful sheepshead off of the South Ocean City Jetty using sand fleas for bait. He was with fellow OC resident Jeff Weeks.

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It was a good day offshore for this crew with Capt. Bobby Layton on the charter boat “Wrecker”. He had them in the Baltimore Canyon where they released 2 white marlin and bailed a bunch of mahi. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Joe Rankin from Abingdon, MD did well after loading up with gear from All Tackle in West Ocean City. He fished the bulkhead between 2nd and 3rd Street and caught 2 keeper flounder using minnows. The biggest was 21”.

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>
<p>SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES</p> <p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>		<p>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.</p> <p>PROHIBITED SHARKS Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White</p> <p>Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov</p>	

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Brian Harnos and his son Hunter from Ocean City, MD headed out of the Indian River Inlet with Mike Babcock on the "Even Keelieigh". They did a fast troll near the Hot Dog notch when this speedster hit on a Black Bart Pelagic Breakfast Plug on a flat line. It was 20 pound gear so they had a fight to land this 50" and 47 lb. wahoo earning a Delaware Citation.

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A photograph of two men on a boat, smiling and holding a large bluefish. The man on the left is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, khaki shorts, a blue baseball cap, and sunglasses. The man on the right is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, blue shorts, a blue baseball cap, and sunglasses. They are both wearing gloves. The fish is long and silver with a blue stripe along its side. The background is the blue ocean and a clear sky. A large, semi-transparent watermark is overlaid on the image, reading: "Property of Coastal Fisherman To order photo call 410-213-2200".



OCEAN CITY INLET

TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT 4	High 09:24 am High 09:43 pm	Low 03:16 am Low 03:22 pm
THUR. SEPT 5	High 10:01 am High 10:16 pm	Low 03:45 am Low 04:40 pm
FRI. SEPT 6	High 10:38 am High 10:50 pm	Low 04:14 am Low 04:40 pm
SAT. SEPT 7	High 11:16 am High 11:26 pm	Low 04:44 am Low 05:23 pm
SUN. SEPT 8	High 11:55 am High -----	Low 05:18 am Low 06:10 pm
MON. SEPT 9	High 12:04 am High 12:39 pm	Low 05:57 am Low 07:02 pm
TUE. SEPT 10	High 12:46 am High 01:32 pm	Low 06:43 am Low 07:58 pm
WED. SEPT 11 1st Qtr. Moon	High 01:37 am High 02:39 pm	Low 07:35 am Low 08:58 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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
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It was a family trip for Ally Lukiewski, Jordan Lukiewski, Jackie Ruditys and Jason Ruditys. They fished inshore over a natural bottom and caught a good sized mahi, a 22" flounder, some sea bass and all the bonito you wanted. Pictured at their house in North Ocean City.



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Young Andrew Coates is already a veteran deep water fisherman. He and Jerry Petrucci, Justin Murphy, Andrew Ogden, Vito Difrancesco, Tony Cirillo with Andrew, Jimmy and Johnny Coffiey as well as Capt. Luke Horney were deep dropping in the Poor Mans Canyon on the "Sea N Double" catching some impressive blackbelly rosefish and blueline tilefish.



Bill Krug checked in with the crew at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE with his limit catch of flounder. He had been fishing at the Old Grounds using Gulp Saltwater 6" Grubs catching 4 keepers up to 23".

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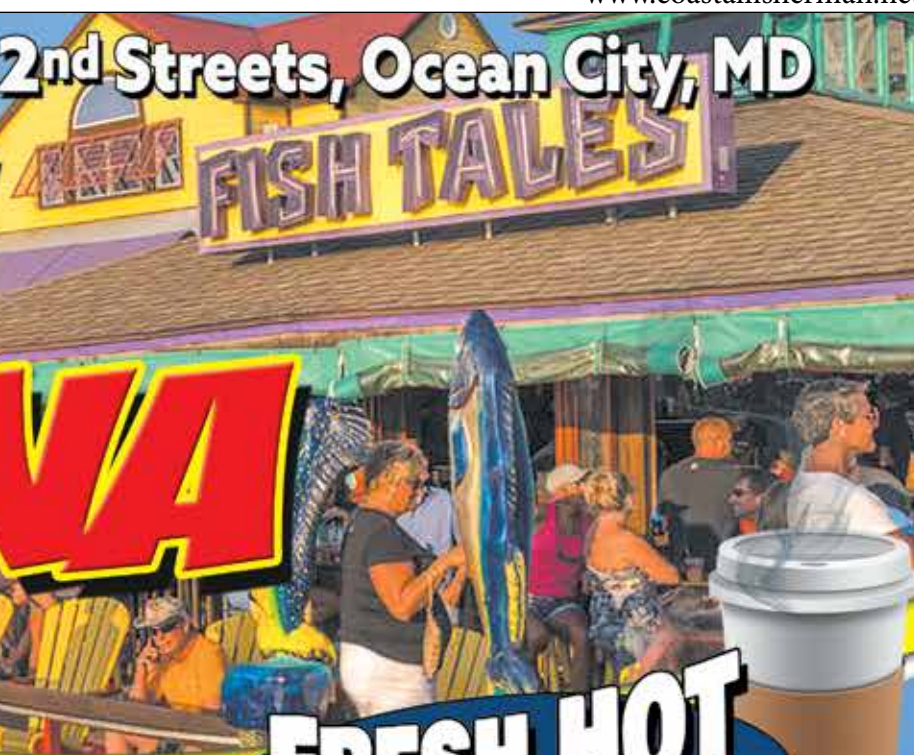
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It is a good thing Capt. Anthony Matarese, Sr had a lot of white marlin flags. He along with Marlins For Mason Tournament founder Amanda Prather with Sarah Evans, Kourtney Duffie, Jessica Giardina, Chrissy Starcher, Erin Brashear, Betsy Hornung and mates Jon Henry and Steven Stallings had an epic day in the canyons catching and releasing 11 white marlin. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



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Angler Ryan Schlesner from Denton, MD along with his father Tim and cousin/mate Will fished the east wall of the Baltimore Canyon with Capt. Rudi Schlesner on the “Kelly Jean”. Ryan caught this Delaware Citation sized 16 lb. and 32” blue line tile fish while deep dropping using squid.



Harry Mollenkopf from Millerton, PA fished from the rocks of the Ocean City Inlet South Jetty and hooked this 23” flounder using 4” Gulp Swimming Mulletts.



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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware we saw warm weather with heavy storms on Thursday evening into Friday. Strong storm surge caused closing of the drive on beaches and tons of beach erosion. Prior to the storms the fishing was very good, with mahi pot hopping being some of the best we have seen all summer. Big bull dolphins are on many of the pots in the 30 mile range from Indian River Inlet. Tossing squid chunks at the pot has worked well for targeting these fish however trolling is producing a better quality of fish.

Sea bass is still slow with a few keepers amongst the many short fish.

Flounder has really picked up with a lot more keepers being found on the coral grounds.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The Coral Grounds are teeming with life and producing better quantities of keeper flounder and sea bass than in previous weeks. There are still a lot of undersized fish around so be prepared to weed through a ton of throwbacks to find the ones you can invite home for dinner.

The DE/NJ Reef is the hotspot of the week. This area has been producing some big flounder along with nice catches of sea bass. Several cobia have been seen in the area as well but many of these fish are still very reluctant to strike at any offering that anglers make at them. Live eels would be your best bet if targeting cobia.

The Fenwick Shoals and other inshore humps have small bluefish and spanish mackerel on them which can be trolled up using bucktails and small trolled Clark spoons. These spoon rigs are also very productive at catching mahi off the pots.

Capt. John Whitman of "Patent Pending Charters" out of Deal, MD has produced a Spoonbrella rig which is an umbrella rig with teaser spoons and then a bucktail or larger Clark spoon trailer. I had a chance to accompany John on a charter last week and was shocked to see how these lures outfished every boat around us catching a limit of spanish and blues in less than 2 hours. Many times our hook-ups consisted of 2 fish at a time. You can find them at patentpendingcharters.com

as well as at the boat shows in Ocean City and the Millville Fire Department this coming winter.

Dan Iacangelo stated there were a ton of boats out last weekend doing the pot hopping for mahi. He told us that the trolling method helped him to catch a cooler of these delicious pelagic fish along with several very big bonito tuna. The best way to catch these fish is to arrive at the pot balls at first light. As the morning rolls on, too many boats begin to charge up to the balls, sending the fish down deep due to all the activity near the surface. Trolling will help you catch the fish seeking a less targeted ball or area to find food.

Brad Soka got his first mahi of the year targeting the pots near NJ/DE Reef. Brad even managed a nice one just over ten pounds. "Bottom Line Sportfishing" has been hitting the pots with a ton of success. The captain stated we are finally seeing a nice class of bigger fish rather than the schoolies we saw the past few weeks. Closer inshore, Steve Dey was at site 11 and landed 2 nice triggerfish and 4 croaker. He

stated he also caught around 50 sea bass with the biggest one being a tiny 11 inches. Bill Krug checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with his limit of fluke that he caught at the old grounds using 6" Gulp. "Wreck Dog Sportfishing" checked into Fisherman's Wharf with a mixed bag of mahi, 4 flounder, triggerfish and a handful of sea bass. Nothing better than good fishing with good people. Linda Orr checked into Hook'Em and Cook'Em Tackle with her first ever mahi. Great job Linda!

Back Bays & Inlets

The inlet area as well as the back bays of Indian River have been steadily producing some big flounder along with small rockfish and trout. Kirk Kness finally caught a keeper fluke when he was out. He stated he has not had any trouble catching fish just finding keepers. While fishing the inlet rocks Kelly West managed to catch a big triggerfish which she promptly invited home for dinner. Michael Schmidt caught a few flounder while fishing the rocks of the inlet. Brandon Fenstermaker was able to pick up a nice 5 pound sheepshead at the ditch and then headed off to the Fenwick Shoals where he caught 12 flounder. Only one flounder made the limit to keep. He also caught around 30 short sea bass. Brandon used clams, minnows and mackerel on jigs

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to catch his fish. Tony Walls caught a nice 21 inch trout on the northside jetty wall using a swimbait. Tony also caught several bluefish off the rocks.

On the Delaware Bay, sheepshead are being caught off the ice breakers as well as a few flounder and croaker being caught off the reefs and Coral Grounds.

Bob Kennedy had a great time on the bay with tons of kingfish being chased by blues. Bob said add to that a flat calm day and you couldn't ask for a better time. Billy Humpleby hooked into a nice size dusky shark while chunking in the bay. Bruce Carlton got a triggerfish as well as a few small tog off the icebreakers. He also managed a big sheepshead. Rich McBride and his son caught a big sheepshead off the southside inlet on sand fleas. Vic Gross also landed a nice sheepshead while fishing sand fleas at Indian River Inlet. The fish weighed 8.8 pounds.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing was a bit slow this past week with lots of small sharks and rays being caught. Gary Tanner had lots of action at 3 Rs drive on beach catching rays and undersized flounder providing him with a great day on the beach despite no keepers. This past week did produce a few ribbon fish blitzes on the beaches including one for Jeff Yohn who caught several this past Sunday. Michael A Spencer finally got a keeper trout off the beach last week. Seatrout and weakfish have been caught mainly in the back bays but this year several have been pulled out of the surf by beach fisherman. Andrew Anderson was fishing from shore at Bowers Beach and landed a nice 20 inch flounder. Ken Hayes was at 3 Rs and landed a few skates and 2 undersized flounder off the beach using cut bait.

Until next week...

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Coconut-Crusted Flounder over Pineapple Fried Rice

Ingredients:

6-8 flounder fillets, around 4 oz each

1 egg

2 tablespoon lime juice

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1 tablespoon honey

1 cup shredded unsweetened coconut

1 tablespoon coconut oil

1 medium sweet onion, chopped

1 red bell pepper, diced

1 cup pineapple chunks

1 cup baby spinach, hopped

2 cups instant basmati rice



1 tablespoon soy sauce

Directions:

Make a breading station by whisking the egg, lime juice, salt and honey in a shallow bowl. Place the coconut on a plate. Line and spray a cookie sheet with non-stick cooking

spray.

Dip each fillet into the egg mixture and "bread" with the coconut. Since the fillets are so thin we are going to broil them so there no need to coat both sides of the fish with the coconut. Just coat one side and lay on the baking sheet.

Place the fillets under the broiler for 8-10 minutes until the coconut crisps up and browns.

While the fish is cooking, heat the coconut oil in a non-stick skillet and sauté the onion and pepper.

Chop the pineapple (or leave whole -- I thought chopping it would convince the kids; it didn't) and add it to the onion and peppers.

Mix in the chopped spinach.

Once the spinach wilts, add the bag of instant rice.

Mix everything in well allowing the flavors to blend. Add the soy sauce and remove from heat. Place fillets over bed of rice. Enjoy!

Sautéed Black Sea Bass with Capers and Herb-Butter Sauce

Ingredients:

4 skin-on black sea bass fillets (about 1 1/4 pounds total)

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Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

Instant flour, such as Wondra, for sprinkling

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1/3 cup dry vermouth

1 tablespoon capers, drained and rinsed

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

1/4 cup lightly packed chopped fresh tender herbs, such as parsley, dill, tarragon, and chives

Directions:

Pat fillets dry; slash skin side of each crosswise in 2-inch intervals. Season generously with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with flour to evenly coat, shaking off excess.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high. When oil shimmers and wisps of smoke rise from skillet, add fish in a single layer, skin-sides down. Reduce heat to medium; cook, undisturbed, until skin is crisp and flesh is opaque halfway up sides and almost cooked through, 5 to 7 minutes, depending on thickness.

Flip and continue cooking until



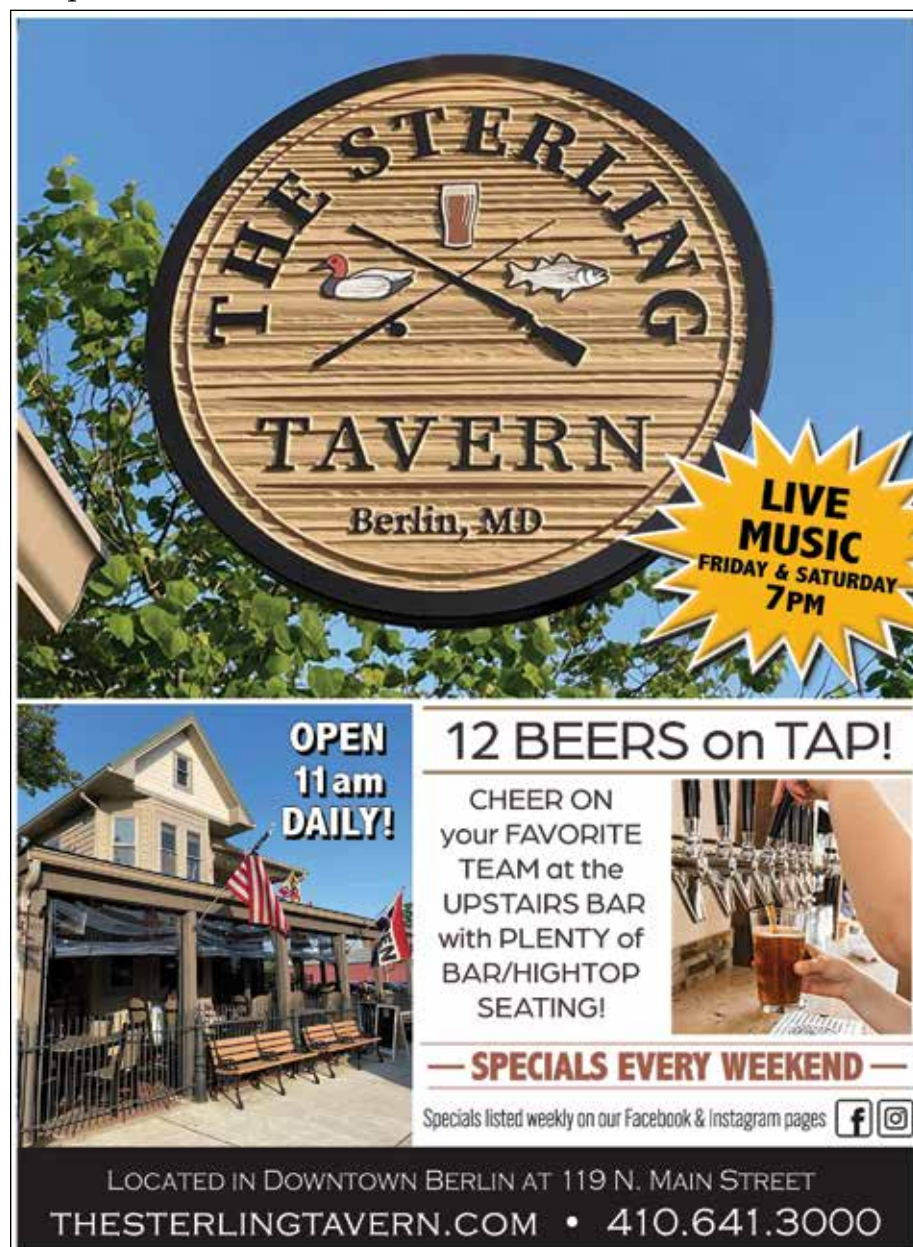
just cooked through, 1 to 2 minutes more.

Transfer to plates, skin-sides up.

Deglaze pan. Add vermouth to skillet; boil until mostly evaporated, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add capers and butter; cook until butter simmers and sauce thickens slightly, about 2 minutes.

Remove from heat; stir in herbs.



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Return fish to pan and spoon sauce over:

Return fish to skillet, skin-side up; spoon butter sauce over top. Serve immediately.

Oven Roasted Golden Tile Fish

Ingredients:

4 golden tile fish fillets
2 tablespoon olive oil
2 tablespoon lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F

In a bowl, combine olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, thyme, salt, and pepper.

Place the fish fillets in a baking dish and pour the marinade over them. Let them marinate for 15 minutes.

Bake the fish in the preheated



oven for 15-20 minutes, or until it is cooked through and flakes easily with a fork.

Serve the fish with your choice of side dish.

Seafood Chowder

Ingredients:

4 slices thick cut bacon diced into small pieces
1 small onion diced
3 celery stalks diced
2 cloves garlic minced
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
4 cups seafood stock
1 1/2 pounds red potatoes, about five medium, diced into 1/2 inch pieces

1/4 teaspoon dried thyme

2 bay leaves

8 ounces mahi cut into bite sized pieces

8 ounces shrimp raw, deveined and tails removed

10 ounces whole baby clams (drained)

8 ounces heavy cream

2 tablespoons well minced parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large stock pot, cook the bacon over medium heat until crispy, stirring often.

Add the celery and onions, cooking until they are translucent and very soft, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Add the minced garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds, being careful that the garlic doesn't burn.

Stir in the flour, coating all of the veggies and the bacon.

Continue cooking for about a minute, just until the flour begins to brown.

Very gradually, pour in the seafood stock. Pour about 2 tablespoons at a time (no need to measure, this is just an estimate), whisking it into the flour and veggie mixture. There should be no visible liquid between each pour, as it gets absorbed by the roux. It will look very gummy to begin with. Continue this way until you use all the liquid, pouring more quickly at the end.

Add the potatoes, thyme, and bay leaves and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer (the lowest you can go heat-wise and still see bubbles) and continue cooking for 15 minutes.

Add in the fish and cook for 5 minutes. Then add in the shrimp and cook for 3 minutes.

Stir in the cream and clams and let heat through for a minute. Remove from the heat and stir in the fresh parsley. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

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Killer Sheepshead Tacos

Ingredients:

- 2 medium tomatoes, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 small red onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ½ cup roughly chopped cilantro
- 1 jalapeño, halved lengthwise,

- seeded and cut crosswise into half moons (optional)
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 limes, 1 halved and 1 cut into wedges
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotle peppers, finely chopped (optional)
- 2 pounds of sheepshead fillets
- 12 6-inch fresh corn tortillas
- 2 cups shredded green cabbage
- Saucy hot sauce like Tapatio or Frank's

Directions:

Mix onions, garlic, cilantro, jalapeno and tomatoes in a bowl making a perfect combination for the sheepshead tacos.

Combine the sour cream and mayonnaise until it is fully mixed. Add lime juice, chipotle seasoning, salt, and pepper. The more chipotle you add the



spicier it will be.

Heat the oven burner to a medium temperature. Spray your pan with olive oil to ensure the sheepshead will not stick. Coat both sides with old bay seasoning and cook for 6-8 minutes.

Once the fish is cooked to a white flaky texture, remove it and cut into strips for the tacos.

Place tortilla on a plate. Cover the tortilla with your chipotle mayo mixture that you made. Add the sheepshead on the bottom. After adding your fish add your salsa mix of onions, garlic, cilantro, jalapeno and tomatoes to it. Add some shredded cabbage to it.

Serve with a lime wedge and side of hot sauce to add more kick to it.

Marinated Wahoo on the Griddle

Ingredients:

- 4 wahoo steaks
- 1/2 cup olive oil

- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, spice
- 1 pinch of crushed chili pepper flakes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic

Directions:

Make your marinade. Mix olive



oil, lemon juice, lime juice, cayenne pepper and chili flakes in a bowl.

Rinse and pat dry wahoo and place in the marinade.

Cover fish and put in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Heat griddle pan - you don't really need oil because you can use the oil from the marinade while cooking.

Place the fish in the pan, add salt and pepper to taste.

Flip fish several times for even cooking and add garlic about halfway through the cook time. They take about 15- 20 minutes in total. §

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Bruce Johnson had to work through a lot of small flounder before hooking this 22" keeper in the East Channel on a squid and shiner combo.



It was a smooth day at the Old Grounds for Charlie Donohue and PJ Clauser. They were fishing on Charlie's "Lucky 1" and PJ caught this 23" flounder, his personal best. It hit on a whole squid.

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The Bigeye Crew targeting something else last week, deep water fish. Kevin LeGates with Robbie and Anthony deep dropped in the Baltimore Canyon catching their limit of both golden & blueline tilefish as well as 17 blackbelly rosefish. They also bailed some mahi and Kevin even hooked a mako shark while reeling up his rig.

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



It was a citation for angler Vic Gross, the good kind! He brought this sheepshead to Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE that he caught using sand fleas in the Indian River Inlet. At 8.8 lbs., he will be getting a Delaware Citation from their Sportfishing Tournament Program.

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Brian Reynolds found some decent speckled trout action in the bay behind Assateague Island. He caught this one and others using a Boujee Spinner from Freedom Baits.



It was two days of solid fishing for Tire Hill, PA's Mario Marisa in the East Channel. He used spot for bait and put 5 keepers in the cooler over the 2 days with 3 at 21".

2024

MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA

CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

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

	MD	DE **	VA
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
SHARK:			
Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Thresher*	80"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
TUNA:			
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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by Steve Katz



Waves of Disruption: Navigating the Interference

On a boat, Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) is typically the presence of unwanted signals or electrical energy that detrimentally impacts a radio communication system. Interference can also impact non-voice communication systems such as fish finders, radars, Satellite TV etc.

The most recognized interference is often in an audio system on a boat, such as stereo or marine VHF communication radio. Interference in the stereo is the most common and annoying. Sometime the interference noise is only present when the engine is operating, or other times it appears only when certain lights are turned on.

How exactly is this interference getting into our equipment?

Conductive Coupling

Conductive coupling happens when two wires

touch or are linked by a direct connection. This can lead to unwanted electrical signals traveling along the wires, to the effected device, causing interference. One example is the marine engine alternator – it is connected to the battery system, which is connected to most electronic devices, like stereos, VHF radios and fishfinder. A faulty alternator creates RFI/EMI that originates at the alternator and travels along wires to any connected device.

Capacitive Coupling

Capacitive coupling occurs when an electrical field or RFI/EMI moves along two adjacent conductors, typically close in wavelength. It is typical to find two electrical wires separated by something that does not conduct electricity, like the air or plastic on a boat, such as a VHF antenna wire or depth transducer wire bundled with lots of other wires, running to the helm or electrical panel. When one of the wires carries electrical power or radio signal, it

creates an invisible electric force field that can reach the other wire through the non-conductive stuff. This causes the second wire to carry EMI to a undesired location or device.

Radiated Coupling

Radiated Coupling occurs when the source of the RFI/EMI and unintended target are separated physically from each other, the EMI travels via air or vacuum to reach the target. The electromagnetic interference is radiated in this type of EMI coupling. Radiated EMI mostly comprises higher-frequency signals in the microwave frequency range. Radiated EMI can also be referred to as radio frequency interference (RFI). Looking at the topside or hardtop of any mid-size or larger sportfishing boat, with its variety of antennas near each other, it is not surprising that EMI can easily travel to another antenna.

Why is the method of coupling important? It helps us mitigate or reduce the RFI/EMI at the affected device.

For instance, if your marine stereo has a high-pitched wine noise through the speaker that varies in pitch with the engine RPM, it could be an issue with the engine's alternator. Knowing that the engine alternator is connected to the battery and then in some fashion connected to the stereo, it is a good bet that the RFI is traveling directly along the wires from the alternator into the boat's systems, a typical example of

Conductive Coupling

Another example, If your fish finder display has unusual line or streaks across the screen at somewhat regular intervals and only occurs when the marine air conditioning is operating and the transducer wire is tightly wrapped in a bundle from the engine room that includes the air conditioning wiring – it is a good bet that radiated coupling is occurring withing the wire bundle.

Finally, If you have recently installed a Starlink satellite internet antenna on your boat and it is mounted near the satellite TV antenna and you notice a fading or non-existent satellite TV picture only when the Starlink internet system is in use, it would be good

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Marine Frequency Spectrum



bet that radiated coupling is occurring between that antenna systems.

Once you troubleshoot the issue and have determined the coupling method for the interference, then you can proceed to mitigate the interference.

To reduce or eliminate conductive coupling, typically generic noise filter

can be installed directly into the wiring of the device producing the interference or if not possible, the filter can be installed at the device effected. On some marine electronics you may notice ferrite beads on the cables, they are a passive electronic component that can suppress high frequency signals on a power supply line. They are normally placed around a

power/ground line pair that is incoming to a particular device, such as the power cord for your chartplotter. These beads work according to Faraday's Law: the magnetic core around a conductor induces a back EMF in the presence of a high frequency signal, essentially attenuating the ferrite frequency response.

When it comes to Capacitive coupling, sometimes, something as simple unbundling the wires and separating the wire runs fixes the problem. Other times a physical issue such as wire damage or even the wrong type of wire used for a given applicator can cause problems and a replacement wire is needed. This is where specialty shielded cabling is often used and could include twisted pair wiring.

Radiated coupling is harder to address on a boat, since we are limited by distance. Though

September 4, 2024 Coastal Fisherman Page 49 if the radar transmission is causing the EMI, often a radar transmission "blanking" zone can be created withing the 360-degree revolution, telling the radar not to transmit in a given direction, such as towards the satellite TV antenna. Other ways to mitigate radiated coupling are to mount the devices on distinct horizontal levels of the boat or even a raised mounting platform or RF shielding where practical.

Electromagnetic interference is invisible to the naked eye, often inconsistent and produces varying symptoms, often making its discovery, troubleshooting and mitigation a lengthy process. Learning about your boats systems and understanding the potential interference paths can help with finding a solution instead of living with annoying interference. §

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Christina Puglisi has every reason to smile! She had caught a yellowfin tuna which has been a rarity this season. Actually she and Laura Foerster got 2 tuna and a limit of both tilefish and mahi on their trip aboard the charter boat "Capt. Ike II" out of the Indian River Marina.



Young Bennett Erbe from Dagsboro, DE with Josh Erbe caught their limit of 20 peanut mahi on the "Rusty Hooker" using butterfish around some Lobster Pots.

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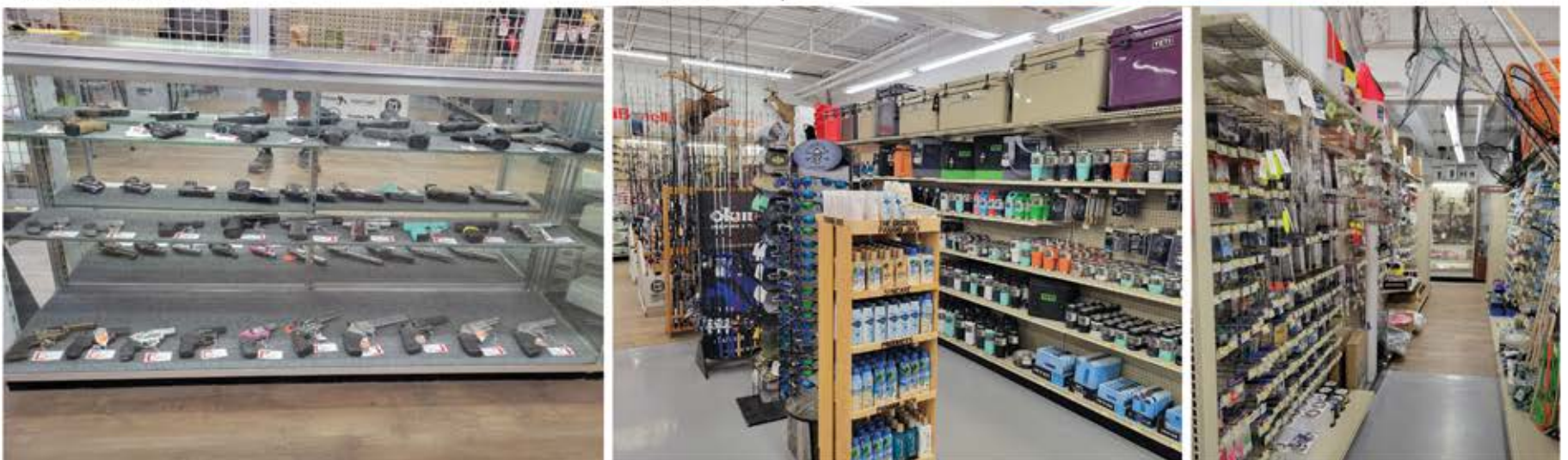


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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



We definitely have been reminded that we still are in a summertime weather pattern, but all and all August has been pretty pleasant. While the thermometer reminds us that fall fishing is not in casting distance yet, there is plenty to reel in on the beautiful southern Eastern Shore.

The best news from this past week has been courtesy of the 3 A's. Awesome August Atlantic fishing.

White marlin have made a great showing in the deep to our north, while mahi have bent rods off Chincoteague and Wachapreague. Most fish have been on the smaller side but a lot of fun on light tackle. On Sunday morning, we hopped aboard the 10-4 Joker

with Crazy Larry and boated a bunch of mouthwatering mahi in short order. It was an unforgettable experience as I got to witness Belle, Michelle and even my second daughter Reagan (one of Belle's best friends) smile , laugh and battle a bunch of crazy , colorful fish amongst the chaos of the mahi mayhem. We caught good numbers of fish on both chunk baits as well as by casting X-Raps around floating structures like pot floats and other debris found floating on the surface of the salty sea. The tuna bite continues to under perform, but tile fish save the day by providing a dinner from the deep.

The inshore Atlantic continues to provide Spanish

and blues on the troll and also some late summer brown suits . Early this week there was considerable cobia carnage on some of the shoals between Chincoteague and Ocean City. Sight fishing has definitely been the most productive technique to lure these tussling trophies over the gunwale. A few flounder keep ambitious anglers pacified as they are reluctantly pulled from the structures of the inshore reefs.

The Chesapeake's waters may not possess the deep shades of blue and beautiful crystal clear waters of the canyons, but it does have a tint of red as it has granted world class red fishing that shouldn't ever be taken for granted.

Both mature and puppy drum has straightened lines and created happy memories for anglers of the ESVA. The bull red bite has been hot from Watts Island south along the sloughs and hills of the Eastern Shore bay side. Cut spot on 8/0 circles with a fish-finder rig, have been the recipe for the channel bass challenge. We have been boating 5-7 reds a night with several breaking the 46" Va release citation mark.












The puppies have provided pullage in the shallows of the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds. Popping corks continue to produce predatory responses from passing pups that inhale jig heads tipped with paddle or curly tails as well as chunks of peeler crab. While targeting small spot tails, you may encounter a nice spec among the smaller trout that terrorize baits with much larger ambitions.

On some of the man made

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>

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Chesapeake reefs and structures, sheepshead have finally made a striped toothy appearance. Chunks of peeler on sweeper jigs have convinced these timid biter's to step up to the plate.. or maybe on the plate if everything goes as planned!

This week I have had the opportunity to see the sun rise up out of the Atlantic like a mahi trying to dislodge an anglers hook. I have also witnessed the sun sink beneath the western horizon like a drum pulling your rod tip down to the water. I saw my daughter in awe at the aerial acrobatics of a multi colored mahi and I saw a 7 year old boy boat his first bronzebrawlingred as he took a step in the right of passage to be a man. To witness and partake in all these things proved that we are so blessed to be the folks that get to live in this wonderful place we call home! §



Wesley Gray headed down to the lower Chesapeake Bay from Frankford, DE to target some red drum. He caught this 51" red while fishing on the "Gray Boys" using live kingfish.



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