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## 2021 HIGHLIGHT REEL EDITION



*Living the Coastal Life!*

VOLUME 46 • • • ISSUE 21 • • • SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



**MAY 5**



Angler Kurtis Berry from Hatfield, PA with a nice chunky late April tautog. This 22.7 pounder was his new personal best breaking the previous record of 21 lbs. He was using whole white-leggers for bait while fishing with Capt. Chase Eberle and mate Tanner Virden on the charter boat "Tide Runner".

**JULY 21**



Morgan Michael of Crownsville, MD found our first longfin tuna of the year! She boated the 52 lb. tuna after it hit on a spreader bar with a skirted ballyhoo in the Baltimore Canyon. Not to be left out, her sister Kayler caught another at 61 lbs. which is our new Heaviest! The anglers of the "Reel Fun" also landed 2 yellowfin tuna on the trip. Rounding out the crew were David Michael, Tom Keough and Andy Mayr along with Capt. Rob Skillman and mate Jamie Coates.

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**JUNE 30**



This spearfish has a quick photo shoot with the boys from the "Five Eights" last weekend before being released. Angler Jon Horner from Georgetown, DE landed this one in the Poor Man's Canyon in 500 fathoms on a blue & white Ilander. While visually similar to white marlin, the spearfish has different scale patterns, markings and anal vent position that are used to classify it versus the white. Fishing with Jon were Rodney Workman and Jamie King of Georgetown, DE with John Wakefield from Lewes, DE.



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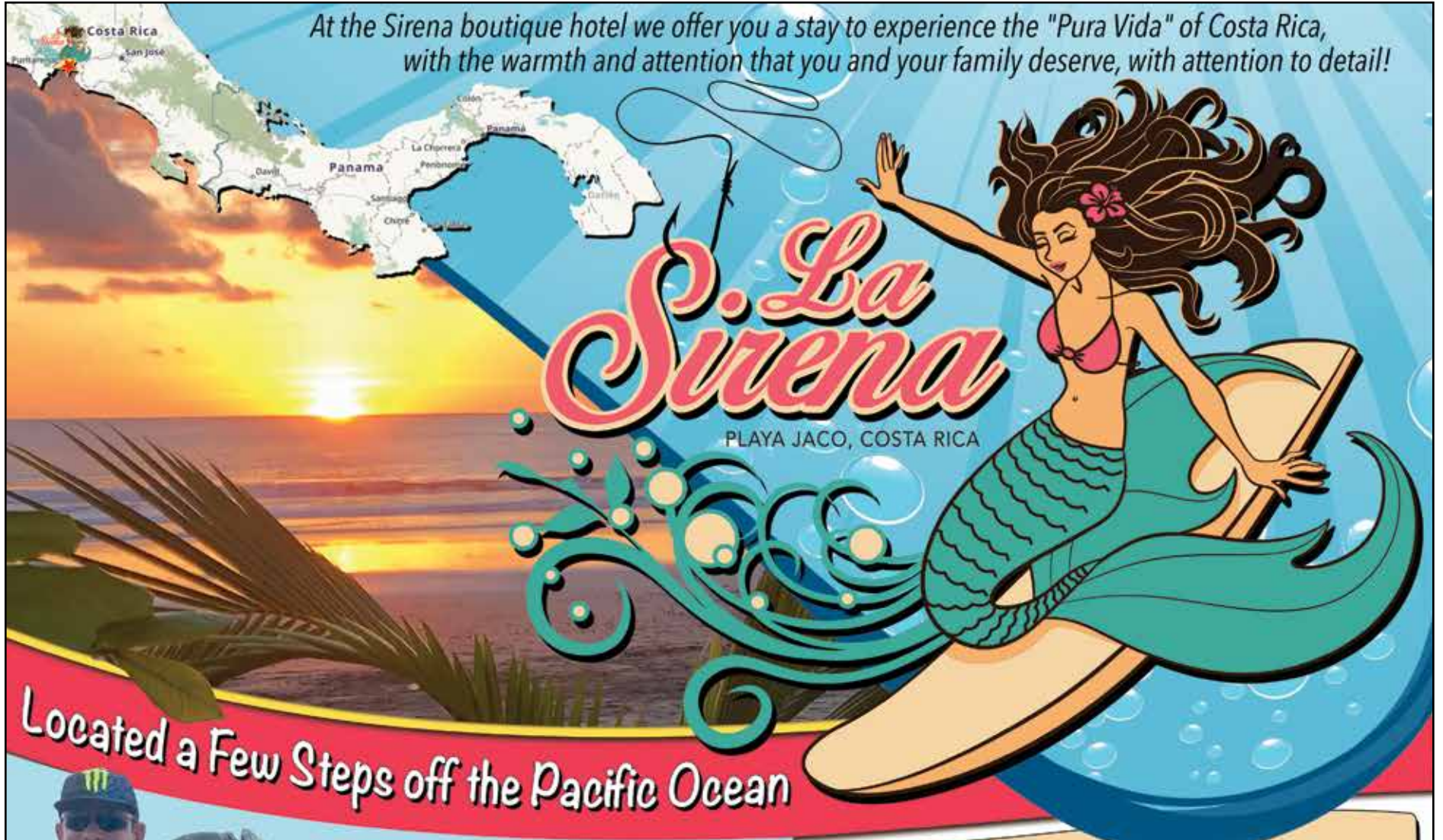
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**This Week Last Year**

- Sword fishing was in full swing with the "Sea Hag" gracing the cover with a 422½ lb. 'pumpkin' swordfish they raised in the Washington Canyon.
- Weather was an issue allowing only larger boats to venture offshore. The "Espadon" was one of them finding tuna and mahi in the Poor Man's Canyon.
- The "Primary Search" also braved tough weather bringing an 84½ lb. wahoo to the docks from the Poor Man's Canyon.
- The "Cabana" had an epic day in the Washington Canyon catching 4 swordfish up to 280 lbs. as well as a 222 lb. bigeye tuna and a mess of mahi.

It is hard to believe that this is the last issue for the 2021 season! What a year it has been with some amazing action, record breaking catches and some tough spells as well! To help us all remember the season that was, we are trying something new this year. We have used our last issue to highlight the year with pictures from prior issues focused on catches outside of the tournaments, which will get a nice review in our upcoming big Winter 2022 Edition in January. So please enjoy and let us know what you think on our Facebook and Instagram feeds.

Overall the 2021 season was a good one offshore with some of the best blue marlin fishing ever for a couple shining weeks in September. Consistent would

also be a good description as there were regular catches throughout the season, however we did not see as many days of record marlin releases, limit catches of tuna or large sized dolphin as we have in past years. I think most would welcome consistent over a few day of extraordinary, unless you were on one of those extraordinary trips!

With this being the last issue for 2021, I would like to acknowledge and thank some folks for their help and support. First would be to our advertisers who make the whole thing possible. Their support allows for us to share this coastal experience and lifestyle that so many enjoy. While the paper is 'Priceless' it is not free to produce, and our advertisers allow us to pay the bills, with many having been with the paper for many years. Please say 'thank you' to them by shopping and dining local!



Our writers and contributors are also key to the paper, and I think few understand the grind it is to meet that weekly deadline. I want to thank Steve Katz, Mark Sampson and BJ Pietryak for providing insightful and entertaining content week over week. I am sure they are ready for a break. Of course I still miss greatly the 'Fish Stories' from my friend Franky Pettolina. As we

look to next year I am interested in some guest authors for some articles over the season targeting fishing tactics or interesting stories, so reach out if you are interested to learn more.

I would also like to thank the small but powerful staff of the Coastal Fisherman. Tom Jock



who designs the artwork that brings the paper to life and runs the process behind the scenes; my bride Christine who puts up with an absentee husband all summer and curates our popular Galley section, manages the subscription process with her friends Brenda Hossick and Fran Kern and even delivers papers. Next year I'll double their salaries!

Finally a big thank you to the readers and the many fishermen and charter boat captains that share their catch info including location, bait and sometimes even tactics. That is unique to our paper as we share more than just what is being caught, but where and how. We are often told how much people enjoy reading the paper and that it is the first thing they look for when arriving in town. Those comments go a long way in recharging our energy!

Our next issue is the big Winter Edition that comes out at the first of the year and will include a recap of the 2021 tournament season as well as action from the fall in the local area as well as our boats that head to points south for the winter. Please continue to share pictures and details of your catches to CoastalFisherman@comcast.net (please send pictures 'Actual' or 'Full' size).

Until then my friends, stay salty!

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**Upcoming Tournaments**

• The Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic hosted by the Old Inlet Bait & Tackle is on the books for September 25-26. This year's event offers over \$15,000 in cash and prizes and of course the prestigious bronze statues for the winners. More at [www.oldinlet.com](http://www.oldinlet.com).

• The 2nd Annual Rena Bishop Broadbill Bash is scheduled for October 15-17th with weigh-ins at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City. This event is in memory of Rena and raises money for the John H. Burbage Cancer Center. It is also a great event to see these wonderful fish. Learn more at [www.ocbroadbillbash.com](http://www.ocbroadbillbash.com).

• The Ronald Bounds A.M.S.A. Memorial Surf Fishing Tournament will be held this year from October 22nd to the 24th at the Assateague National Seashore Park. More at [www.keepersofthebeach.com](http://www.keepersofthebeach.com).

• Lewes Harbor Marina's Annual Tautog Tournament runs for almost a month from October 23rd thru November 21st giving anglers lots of opportunity to get in on the action. Learn more by calling 302-645-6227 §



Every offshore fisherman has their bucket list and a big bull dolphin is usually among the top. Mike Hendrickson from Minnesota can check one off his list after catching this 49 lb. bull in the Poor Man's Canyon. He was fishing on the charter boat "Wrecker" with Capt. Jeremy Blunt and mate Bobby Layton when Capt. Jeremy spotted a floating 55 gallon drum. On the first pass they hooked a nice yellowfin tuna and some gaffer mahi, and after a few more runs they connected with this big boy. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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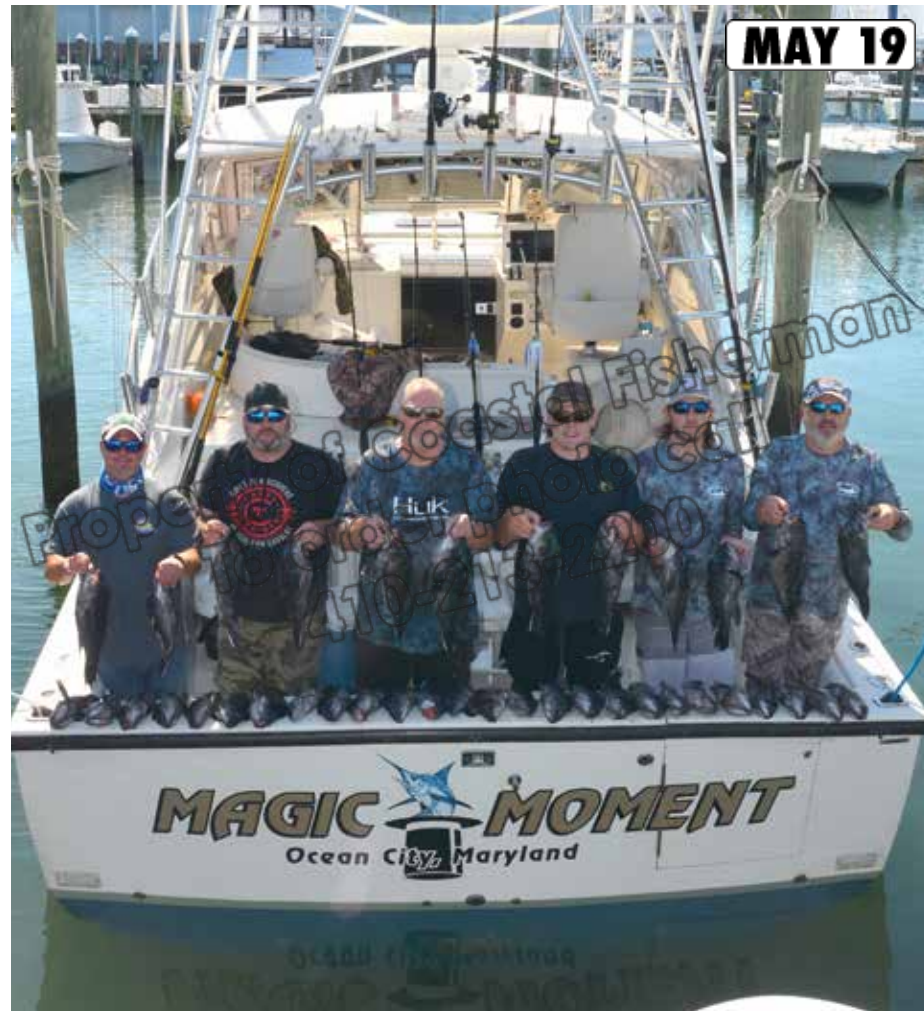
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**MAY 19**

"E Dock" at Sunset Marina represents again! Capt. Jim Bugg with mate Richard Hutchison and anglers Mark Hutchison, Garrid Hutchison, Jarin Winters from Cordova, MD and Otis Watts from Kingsville, MD headed to just outside of the Hambone on the "Magic Moment" to find some nice 59° water. Unusual for the opening day for sea bass and a Saturday, they were mostly by themselves landing these 38 sea bass with many keeper throwbacks on clams and squid in just a few hours.

It was a big day for the 'Girls Who Fish' on the charter boat "Wrecker". Capt. Jeremy Blunt with mate Bobby Layton headed out to the deep in the Poor Man's Canyon and set some tie dye teasers on the troll. They were deep dropping when angler Taylor Ditzel hooked into this chunky tilefish... Looks like they had some fun!

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Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	<b>SHARK:</b>		
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	<b>TUNA:</b>		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Speckled Trout	24"	-			
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"			

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A beaming Richard Rudell from Baldin, MD popped into our office on the 4th of July with news of a flounder he caught. It was not just any flatfish, but a real doormat measuring 28" and weighing in at 10 lbs.! He was fishing at the Old Grounds with Donna Pasqua using a home made white bucktail with a touch of orange and a strip of squid. Measured at Atlantic Tackle at the Sunset Marina.



Joe Schweiger from Berlin, MD is clearly pumped to have landed this jumbo cobia with his speargun! He was fishing with Capt. Steve Hadley on the "FishBox" at an inshore wreck off of Ocean City.

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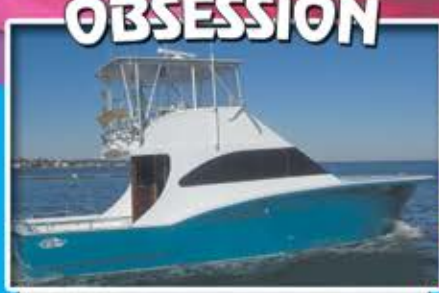
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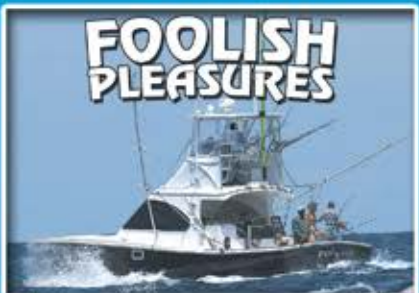
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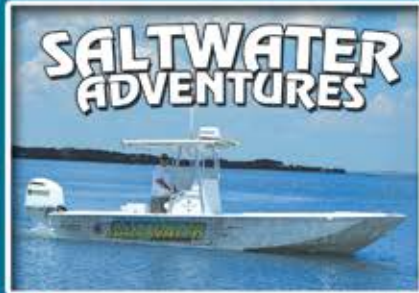
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The September full moon, known as the fall equinox, is this coming week. The summer is officially coming to a close, however someone forgot to tell Mother Nature because she is still sending 80+ degree days making this past week some of the best fishing we have seen all summer. Flounder, and I mean big flounder are everywhere. Many wrecks

nearshore are loaded with sheephead and triggerfish. Spanish mackerel are all around along with big pods of bait nearshore holding bluefish below them.

### Back Bays and Surf

The back bays of Ocean City are alive and well with tons of fish in many species to be caught. Flounder, the main staple of bay fishing, has been

some of the best fishing we have seen in years. Just about every channel and cut seem to be holding a big flounder. The Thorofare leading in from the ocean is your best chance to catch multiple species of fish in one spot. Big flatties can be found in the deeper holes on the south side of the inlet with squid and minnow combos being the best bait. While fishing here for flounder keep in mind that many other fish also use this gateway to the back bays. Nice size sea trout, redfish and sheephead can be found when tides do not produce the best situation for flounder. Keeping a paddle tail or swim bait ready on a spare rod can help to add to your fishing experience. Sheephead are usually in the deep hole just outside of the inlet, but can also be found along the rocks as well as near the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Redfish along the rock wall are starting to bite at a more regular interval. Casting along the rocks and allowing the jig to drop towards the bottom will likely cause a strike if fish are around. Too many anglers retrieve the lure too fast, not allowing it to fall near the bottom. Yes, using the deeper method will result in a lot more hang ups, however if you are not near the bottom you most likely will not get the bites. Sea trout on the other hand tend to stay higher in the water column and will attack even a top water lure properly placed. Small rockfish are also still around near the rocks, and as the water cools they should become easier to catch. A few reports of both blues and rockfish have been caught below the Rt.50 Bridge.

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 Several nice sized flounder are also in this location. Target the deep trough just south of the bridge during a falling tide to capitalize on the bigger fish. Further up the bay to the north flounder can be found in most channels and entrances to creeks and marinas. Squid and live minnows are the preferred bait, but I have received a lot of reports that Gulp baits are also working rather well. The 2nd Street Bulkhead area is producing some nice flounder as well as a few rockfish and bluefish. Most of the rockfish are undersized unless you're fishing with Big Bird Cropper. He truly has the rockfish and blues dialed in, and once again this week he posted several pictures of more keeper fish he caught on his Roy Rig. Near the Rt. 90 Bridge croaker are still being caught although they have not been in the numbers that they were seen in past weeks. Small Fishbites and squid strips are the best bait for this species. As the water cools these fish will head back offshore so get out and catch some before they are gone for the season. Flounder behind Assateague Island remains pretty strong with the only trouble being finding the deeper holes that hold fish. The area nearest to the airport is reported to be the best. The back areas behind the island also are holding a ton of juvenile rockfish. Although these fish are not keepers they are a ton of fun to catch on light rod and line. Use a swimbait or jig tipped with a bright color rubber worm to fool these fish. The bridge structure at the Verrazano Bridge will also hold nice redfish and sea trout.

The "Miss Ocean City" reports good catches of flounder on their trips with this week's top catch going to Joe Abbaticcio who ended up with a flounder buffet.



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The boat sails every day so be sure to book now! Norma Jean Curreri was rewarded with some nice sheepshead, triggerfish and redfish while fishing the bay this week. "Ocean City Guide Service" has also been slaying the fish in the bay with several good catches of flounder, redfish and small rockfish.

### Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore waters are also alive with fish. Flounder, sea bass triggerfish and sheepshead can be found on most wrecks and reefs. Walter Moore caught some nice sea bass and mahi on his trip this week. Walter used squid to make his catches with his only complaint being the rough ride back in. The best sea bass fishing is reported to be out at the Great Eastern Reef with many anglers coming back to the docks with nice size limits. This year has been

nothing short of fantastic when it comes to sea bass. Normally by this time of year the water is way too warm and the only sea bass you catch are way undersized. The Jack Spot is also holding some nice sea bass along with some trophy flounder. Flounder and triggerfish are on all of the wrecks with many also holding big schools of sheepshead. Squid is the go to bait this time of year, however many tackle shops have live spot which will often result in a better quality of fish. The "Morning Star", "Judith M" as well as the "Ocean Princess" are all reporting great catches of sea bass, triggerfish, sheepshead and some big flounder.

Well friends, that's a wrap for this year, so check out the winter addition coming soon and I'll see you next spring!

Until then...

*Tight lines and fins up*



The fishing really turned on last week for tuna with several nice catches. A real standout was this 205 lb. big eye tuna caught on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" with Capt. Alex Beane, & mates John Griffith and Jack Hannum. They also caught 2 the day before with the largest at 202 lbs.!

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*Hatteras* **CABO**





Fiore Celano III from Newport, DE set our new Heaviest Tuna for Delaware this week with this 171 lb. bigeye he found in the Poor Man's Canyon. He was on the "Line Out" in 200 fathoms when this 61.5" fish hit on a Green Machine. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



The crew of the private boat "Fluid Dynamics" with Capt. Nick Mislak had an unbelievable day on Saturday, August 14th. The crew landed twin jumbo bigeye tunas both weighing in at exactly 211 lbs each! The two were actually part of a triple hook. One snapped off early with the crew able to land these two within minutes of each other after a 2.5 hour fight in the western Baltimore Canyon. The team from Baltimore, MD included Capt. Nick Mislak, Kristin Mislak, Kristen Leigh, Christin Shrodes, Chip Raynor, and Chuck Falter.

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# HEAVIEST FISH of the YEAR

# 2021 COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 <b>Bluefish</b>	June 9 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs. 3 oz.	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	 <b>Mako Shark</b>	July 1 Vince Cusimano Poor Man's 250 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Black Drum</b>	April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	May 7 Adam Clarke Slaughter Beach 77.5 lbs.	 <b>Thresher Shark</b>	June 7 Roman Brady Fingers 542 lbs.	June 17 Rory Badger Old grounds 458 lbs.
 <b>Cobia</b>	June 17 Shannon Pickens S. of OC Inlet 36 lbs.	No Weights Reported	 <b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	July 28 John Edward Washington Canyon 257 lbs.	July 11 Fiore Celano Poor Man's 171 lbs.
 <b>Flounder</b>	July 4 Richard Rudell Old Grounds 10 lbs.	July 20 Mark Bonk Site 10 8.8 lbs.	 <b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Sea Bass</b>	May 27 Michael DePalma Jack Spot 4.05 lbs.	May 28 Denise Eddinger Del Jersey Reef 4.1 lbs.	 <b>Longfin Tuna</b>	July 17 Kayler Michael Baltimore Canyon 61 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Sheepshead</b>	July 14 James Williams OC Inlet 13 lbs.	August 16 Tom Smith Outer Wall 13.6 lbs.	 <b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> <span style="color:red">★</span>	September 4 Alex Buckler 461 Lump 137.5 lbs.	June 26 Julia Dadisman Poor Man's 118 lbs.
 <b>Striped Bass</b>	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	<span style="color:red">★</span> September 16 John Longenecker Massey's Landing 13 lb. 8 oz.	 <b>Dolphin</b> <span style="color:red">★</span>	September 4 Brad Brin Poor Man's 58 lbs.	July 15 Bill Dickinson Poor Man's 26.6 lbs.
 <b>Tautog</b>	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	 <b>Wahoo</b>	September 4 Hudson Wise Rockpile 101 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Weakfish</b>	June 23 Doug Stewart OC Inlet 3.9 lbs.	May 27 Cole Singer Indian River Bay 8 lbs.	 <b>White Marlin</b>	August 6 Butch Wright Norfolk Canyon 85.5 lbs.	No Weights Reported

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





I hope someone yelled 'wa hoo' when Brian Jacobs from Poolesville, MD and Joshua Carr of Dickerson, MD caught this 90 lb. wahoo! He was fishing on a custom built Parker 24' pilot house, the "Makowish", with Capt. Robert Jacobs in 30 fathoms outside of the Hot Dog when this beast hit a ballyhoo.



Brian Snyder from Cocoa Beach, FL got offshore with his brother Blair on the "Partnership" with Capt. Mark Cropper, young first mate Chase Groff and second mate Matt Groff. They fished the Baltimore Canyon where Brian caught his first two tunas with the crew getting 3 yellowfins overall.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



**JUNE 30**

Jennifer Cadden is one happy angler showing us this 2 lb. she caught with squid on the headboat "Angler". Capt. Chris Mizurak with mates Rich and Steve got her and the other anglers on the bite at an artificial reef.



**SEPT 1**

A trip to remember and perhaps the trip of a lifetime for these anglers on the charter boat "Reel Chaos" releasing 4 blue marlin on a single trip! Capt. Anthony Matarese with mate Jake Graves were trolling in the Baltimore Canyon in warm water where they not only found the blues, they also boated 2 nice sized yellowfin tuna as well as over a dozen mahi.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The gang from the South Bethany Yacht Club headed off shore last week with Capt. Mike Burt on the "Pumpin' Hard" to try their luck for tuna. Starting off on the north side of the Washington Canyon and ending up at the south end of the Poor Man's Canyon, anglers Darrell Reinke, Darrell Long, Steve Pelham, Steve Wann and Jeff Marshall started picking away at the yellowfins ending the day with 6 in the box.



Jackie Sarbu of West OC has every right to be excited! She and James David with Bluewater Advisor's Mark Debinski of Sykesville, MD headed out with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" to fish the Thorofare on the incoming tide. Using green and white Otter Tails and minnows the landed these three flounders measuring up to 20 3/4 inches.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Young Wesley Clark from Deale, MD holds a sea bass almost as big as him! He found this one and others while fishing on a ¾ day trip with Capt. Eric Shoaff on the headboat “Judith M” out of Bahia Marina. Squid and clams were the weapons of choice for this trip.



Angler Simone Johnston from Hamilton, VA took a trip to the Baltimore Canyon last Friday that they will not soon forget! Fishing on the charter boat “Boss Hogg” with Capt. Brian Porter, they caught and released this sailfish that hit on a blue & white skirted ballyhoo.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Alan Geiger, Tony Geiger, John and Caleb Pletcher, Paul Mashack and Donald Bounds found the tuna while fishing on the "C-Boys"! Capt. Luke Blume with mates Nate Lang and Josh Blume took them to the Washington Canyon where they caught 20 yellowfins on spreader bars and ballyhoo keeping these 16. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Capt. Willie Zimmerman on the "Ro Sham Bo" didn't want to wait for the warm water to get here, so he went there. Taking a 36 hour trip to the south edge of the Norfolk Canyon and beyond, anglers Bryce Nicola, Garry Mullins, Justin Sherrill, Shawn Kidwell, Ben Bauer and Conner Bauer with mates Daniel Ames & Evan Evans released 2 white marlin and boated a 72" male mako plus 61 sea bass and 32 tilefish. This does not include connecting with 2 blue marlin and a 3rd white that got off the hook. A trip of a lifetime!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Apparently the Jack Spot was the spot to be last Friday! This crew from West Virginia headed there with Capt. Mark Malamphy and mate Brandon Malamphy and put a total of 42 mahi in the box plus 2 false albacore.



It has been good drum fishing lately. Anglers Andrew & Elizabeth Wegner with David Long went fishing in the Delaware Bay with Capt. Aaron Hurd and mate Logan on "Gale Force Charters". Andrew found this 40 lb. fish in the first 20 minutes!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



**AUG 4**

Angler Bill Mason and his crew had a great trip with Capt. Josh Wentling and mate Kyle Sharp on the charter boat "Instigator" out of the OC Fishing Center. On this trip they landed a 46 lb. golden tilefish, a 51 lb. longfin tuna, a yellowfin and a smaller golden tile.



**JULY 21**

Capt. Dave Caffrey took his charter boat "On the Run" out to an Ocean City Reef Foundation site early last week and put angler Jessica Frank from upstate New York onto this 40" red drum. This one fell for a Clark Spoon on the troll and was released after a quick picture!

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The last few columns discussed much about safety on the water, this week we will get back to the some of the important technology we use throughout the season:

**Sonar Sommer**

There wasn't one tournament this summer where the use of Sonar wasn't discussed, while some owners and crew indicated that you need sonar to be competitive, there were a few tournament winners that fished without the use of sonar. Some without sonar suggested there should be a separate category for sonar vs non-sonar boats. These discussions are fuel-to-the-fire for the Sonar manufacturers, they would love to see one on every boat! Kongsberg/Simrad out of Norway introduced a new Omni sonar this summer, the SY50, four years of research and development went into this system which is similar in size and competitive with the Furuno Omni sonar. The Canadian company, MAQ Sonar, who developed the first commercial fishing Omni sonar in 1978 has a recent install on a Viking of its MAQ Sonar 60 KHz unit with positive results. Many boaters who don't have the space or budget for the larger Omni sonars have chosen the less expensive Koden KDS-6000BB, the world first Broadband searchlight sonar with positive results and

tournament wins. The Furuno Omni continues to dominate the sportfish marketplace, the constant backorders demonstrate the popularity of these units.

**Satellite Communications**

In the future, Starlink, Project Kuiper, UK's OneWeb and other new satellite internet providers may offer the ability to communicate with terminals on-board pleasure boats at down to earth prices, until then, conventional satellite communications will remain the primary source for voice and data when offshore. This spring, Globalstar suddenly discontinued its Globalstar Sat-Fi2, a popular affordable voice and internet solution for boaters, leaving some to upgrade to bigger and faster satellite systems or downgrade to simpler text only systems such as the Garmin InReach, which was and is still in short supply. Additionally, KVH announced the termination of its service for its oldest satellite hardware at the end of 2021, though offering customers a discount of approximately 50% for the purchase of a modern faster replacement system, with less expensive rate plans and the introduction of a new system (V30), with compact hardware powered by 12v/24V- perfect for large center console boats.

**Shortages**

Supply chain shortages and shipping delays were felt in the marine marketplace, whether for boats, hardware, engines, generators, electronics or even labor - this was a summer of delays, and the industry is still not sure when we will catch up. In August, Garmin notified its dealers to plan for an 18-week lead time for the popular GPS chartplotters. Other brands and equipment will be in short supply this fall based on manufacturer's predictions. If you have a fall or winter project, it would be a good idea to start ordering the hardware today, in the hopes you have everything when needed.

**Safety at Sea (and the dock too)**

Boating accidents and maritime medical emergencies are bound to happen in the Ocean City area, we become the 2nd largest city in the state of Maryland during the summer months, combined with easy boating access to the back bays and Atlantic Ocean - it's no surprise accidents happen in our waterways.

This summer was unusual, with a tragic deadly accident offshore, charter boat fire/sinking in the inlet, sinking offshore and an early morning cardiac arrest at the dock just to name a few. Many of us travel and fish the same waterways and put ourselves in the same situations regularly without much thought to our safety or the probability of an incident occurring. This year's events can be a teachable moment that can remind us to prepare in

advance for emergency's while on the water. Captain John McDevitt, a Mid-Atlantic marine accident investigator, who heads the National Fire Protection Association's watercraft standards and former assistant fire chief says regarding boat fires these factors all need to be covered: Prevention, Detection Egress and Suppression. These key points can also be applied to most health and safety situations on the water. Take the time in the off-season to review Prevention, Detection Egress and Suppression on your boat.

As the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA), I along with all members of the NMEA are looking forward to our annual conference and expo this year after the postponements of last year's event. This event is the highlight of the marine electronics industry, with a trade show, training, educational seminars, new product introductions and the ever-popular product awards packed into a short week. Stay tuned to learn what products win awards this year. On the heels of the NMEA event, another trade only event, the International Boatbuilders' Exhibition & Conference (IBEX) is returning after last year's cancelation and is assured to make up for lost time. This fall and winter public boat shows seem to be on schedule as we begin to return the new normal. Have a great off-season and thank you for reading the Coastal Fisherman.

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We have a new 'Heaviest' in the yellowfin tuna category with this monster 137.5 lb. allison yellowfin tuna! Angler Alex Buckler caught this one on September 4th, 15 miles east of the Washington Canyon by the 461 Lump in 750 fathoms. The tuna hit their wide tracker as did a large white marlin and a small blue marlin. Great day on the "Blue Label" with fellow anglers Nolan Doetzer and Jaime Hess.



Capt. John Czerwinski and mate Imants Stiebris had a nice surprise while fishing on the "Credence" at the Del Jersey reef site! They were jigging for sea bass when John thought he got snagged, that was until the "snag" started shaking his head! After a nice fight he boated this cod as well as a dozen nice sea bass and releasing another 2 dozen.

# Sizzling Hot Deals From Suzuki's Summer **SPLASH** Sales Event

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\*REPOWER FINANCE is available through Synchrony Retail Finance, as low as 5.99% APR financing for 60 months on new, unregistered Suzuki outboard motors, subject to credit approval. Not all buyers will qualify. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on creditworthiness. \$19.99/month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months is based on 5.99% APR Hypothetical figures used in calculation; your actual monthly payment may differ based on financing terms; credit tier qualification, accessories, or other factors such as down payment and fees. Offer effective on new, unregistered Suzuki outboard motors purchased from a participating authorized Suzuki dealer between from July 1, 2021 through September 1, 2021. 5 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY applies to qualifying purchases of Suzuki outboard motors sold and delivered to the retail purchaser, for pleasure (non-commercial) use only, from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. See Suzuki Limited Warranty for additional details. The Suzuki "S" and model names are Suzuki trademarks or ®. Don't drink and drive. Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and read your owner's manual. © 2021 Suzuki Marine, USA, LLC.





Wow! This group from Pennsylvania found the right spot last Saturday while fishing on the Charter boat "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Willie Poole. Charter regulars Randy Garner, Kevin Hess, Rick Hess and Jeff Garner were 1 short of their flounder limit with these 19 keepers! All were caught in the Ocean City bay on White Gulp Swimming Mulletts. Pictured at Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Three generations of 'Hugh Croppers' landed this enormous golden tilefish last week while in between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons. Hugh Cropper III, Hugh Cropper IV and Hugh Thomas Cropper were fishing on the "Myra HT" out of West Ocean City when this 45" monster hit the line on squid. He was estimated to be over 44 lbs. by the formula, maybe more given the size of his head! They also landed their limit of sea bass and blueline tilefish.



Billy Talbot and Ricy Yakimowicz did a little bay fishing last week and caught a little bit of everything!. They got this spade fish, an undersized cobia, weakfish and a gray triggerfish!

# MARYLAND REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day  
5/15 - 12/31



**BLUEFISH**  
8" minimum  
3 per person/day or  
5 per person/day Charter



**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day



**COBIA**  
40" minimum  
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15  
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



**CROAKER**  
9" minimum  
25 per person/day



**RED DRUM**  
18-27" minimum  
1 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
4 per person/day



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
14" minimum  
4 per person/day



**STRIPED BASS**  
28-35"  
Less than 3 miles from shore  
1 per person/day



**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
16" minimum  
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15  
2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31  
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



**WEAKFISH**  
13" minimum  
1 per person/day





Serenity Boats from Hanover, PA is all smiles with this 16.5" flounder she caught in mid April on a Squidnation Otter Tail/shiner combo! She was fishing in the Thorofare on the incoming tide with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break".





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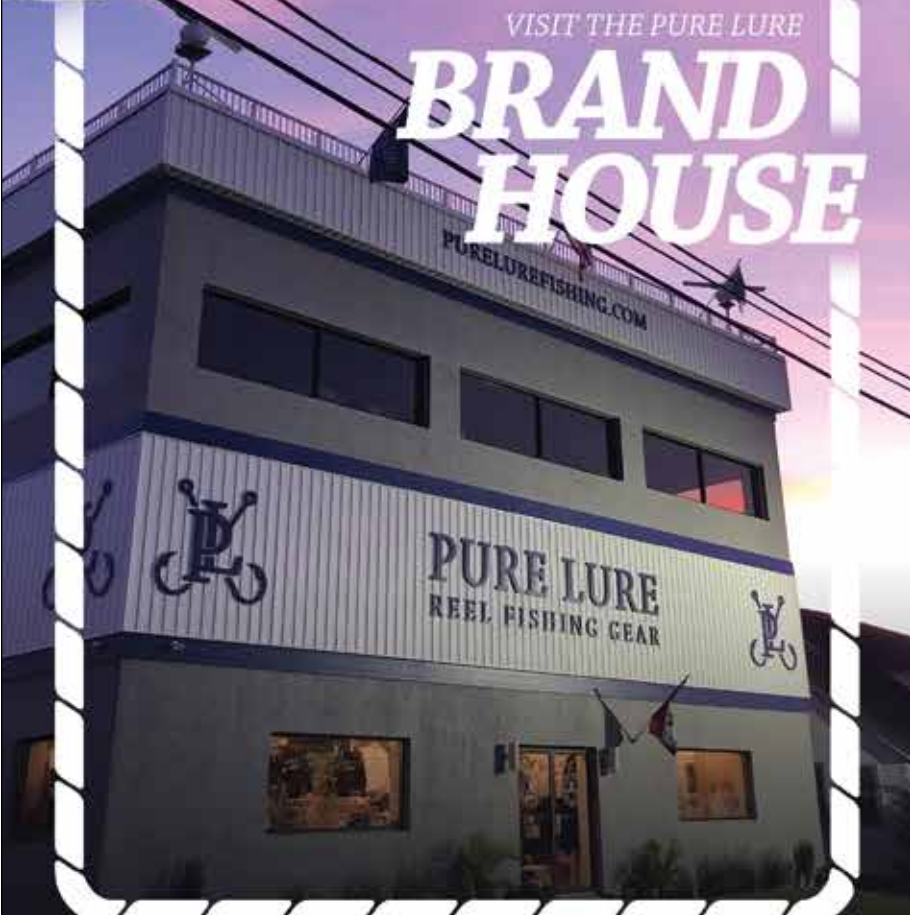
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The wahoo are on the run with many pretty speedsters showing up at the docks and tournament scales. Anglers Derek Tranter, Chris Haley, Jeff Jaras with Capt. John Sipple and mate Mike Williams were fast trolling for wahoo in the Washington Canyon on the "Wire Nut" when this approximately 70 lb. wahoo hit their black & purple Black Bart lure.

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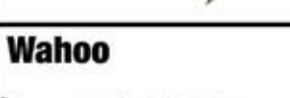


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# 2021 FIRST FISH OF THE YEAR COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2021	2020	Species	2021	2020
 <b>Bluefish</b>	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	May 29, 2020 Kathy Grab Fenwick Island State Park	 <b>Mako Shark</b>	May 28 Michael Eid "Hot Line" Fingers	April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon
 <b>Black Drum</b>	March 31 Allen Skylar Assateague Island	April 19, 2020 Bill Grubb Fenwick Island State Park	 <b>Thresher Shark</b>	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks	June 13, 2020 Charlie Boyles "Hook It Up" Old Grounds
 <b>Cobia</b>	June 17 Shannon Pickens South OC Inlet	June 21, 2020 Aaron Reeves "On the Run" South Jetty	 <b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	May 28 Pete Gudiatis "Blood Money" Poor Man's	May 27, 2020 Ryan Turner "Full Service" Norfolk Canyon
 <b>Flounder</b>	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	May 5, 2020 Mackenzie Cathell Thorofare	 <b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk	June 9, 2020 Shannon Gore Baltimore Canyon
 <b>Sea Bass</b>	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	May 15, 2020 Brent Bortner "Green Machine" Offshore Wreck	 <b>Longfin Tuna</b>	July 17 Morgan Michael "Reel Fun" Baltimore Canyon	June 9, 2020 Evan Winterbottom "PYY Fishing" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Sheepshead</b>	June 17 Veronica Cannuli Outside OC Inlet	June 12, 2020 Keith Smith "On the Run" South Jetty	 <b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's	April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon
 <b>Striped Bass</b>	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	May 7, 2020 Patricia Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	 <b>Dolphin</b>	June 10 Michael Seicke "Second Chance" S. Poor Man's	May 23, 2020 Jeremy Phares "Reel Fin Addiction" Norfolk Canyon
 <b>Tautog</b>	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	January 2, 2020 Patrick Enoch "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	 <b>Wahoo</b>	June 17 Gary Welch Washington Canyon	June 18, 2020 Jack Hannum "Blood Money" Poor Man's Canyon
 <b>Weakfish</b>	May 6 Rich Harpel North Jetty Indian River Inlet	June 17, 2020 Muhamad Arshad Oceanic Fishing Pier	 <b>White Marlin</b>	June 13 Brad Young "TUNAFOWL" Washington Canyon	May 23, 2020 Carl Sauer "Reel Escape" Washington Canyon

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Mid April was the time for black drum off of Assateague Island beaches! Shown here on April 11th are Emily Blume with a 48 lb. beast and Alyssa Simpson with a 29 pounder. They were fishing with Derrick and Shannon Simpson when these monsters fell for their sand fleas! Too bad Capt. Luke Blume was busy working on the "C-Boys"!



Joey Kazmierski has a big smile showing off 1 of the 3 dolphinfish he caught with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve on the headboat "Angler"! They were fishing at the Old Grounds using squid for bait.

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### Bacon Wrapped Cobia Fillets with Rosemary Caramelized Onions & Arugula

#### Ingredients:

##### Rosemary Caramelized Onions:

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 6 medium onions, sliced
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary, finely minced
- 2 Tbsp. organic chicken broth
- Pinch of sea salt

##### Bacon Wrapped Cobia:

- 4- 4oz cobia fillets (approx. 1/2 inch thickness)
- 8 slices thick-cut bacon
- 1/2 tsp. avocado oil
- 4 cups fresh baby arugula
- 1 lemon

#### Directions:

##### Rosemary Caramelized Onions:

Melt butter in skillet over medium-low heat.



Add onions to skillet and cook for 30 minutes, stirring every 5-10 minutes and scraping the fond from the bottom of the pan.

Add in the rosemary, stir, and let it cook for another 15-20 minutes.

After the onions are brown and caramelized, add chicken broth and a pinch of salt to deglaze the pan. Scrape the bottom and gently mix.

Set aside the onions in a bowl.

#### Bacon Wrapped Cobia:

Rinse and dry the cobia fillets.

Lay out bacon strips in pairs with one slightly overlapping the other.

Place each fillet at the end of each pair of bacon strips and tightly wrap the bacon around the fillets. Tightly enough for the bacon to stay put while cooking but not so tight that you begin to actually stretch the bacon.

Lightly coat a large skillet or sauté pan with avocado oil (I actually use a spray bottle kind) and heat over medium heat.

Once the pan is hot, place the fillets seam side down in the pan and cook for 7 minutes.

Flip the fillets to the other side using a spatula and cook for another 7 minutes.

Now take a couple minutes and carefully brown the other sides of the fillet to get the rest of the bacon crispy before serving.

The total cooking time will be approx. 16-17 minutes for 1/2-inch thick fillets.

Arrange arugula on plates, divide the caramelized onions over the arugula, then place one fillet on top of each.

Squeeze a little lemon juice over the arugula and serve immediately.

### Maryland Crab Soup

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (28-ounce) can chopped tomatoes
- 3 cups water
- 2 cups beef stock
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables (lima beans, carrots, peas)
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 tablespoon Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pound crab meat
- Salt and pepper
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Directions:

Combine tomatoes, water, beef stock, vegetables and corn, and Worcestershire sauce in soup pot.

Add Old Bay seasoning, bring to boil, decrease heat and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add crab meat. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer 5 minutes.

Ladle into bowls and top with croutons.

### Seared Swordfish with a Lemon and Wine Rosemary Sauce

Ingredients:

1.5 lb swordfish steak, rinsed and patted dry

1 tbsp fresh rosemary, finely chopped

1 tsp fresh thyme, chopped

1/2 lemon, juiced

1 tbsp olive oil

1/4 cup of white wine, such as Pinot Grigio

1 tbsp unsalted butter

1 clove of garlic, minced

pinch of salt

pinch of cracked black pepper



Directions:

Start by seasoning your swordfish with salt, pepper, rosemary and thyme. Push it gently into the fish.

Heat your large skillet on medium to high heat. Add in the oil and get it nice and hot, until it shimmers.

Carefully add in the swordfish and sear for about 7 minutes, or so, on each side. Your internal temperature of the thickest part of the fish should be around 135-140 degrees.

Right before you pull the fish, add the butter to the skillet. It will immediately begin to sizzle, so add in the white wine as well.

Then add the lemon juice, and garlic. Let the sauce reduce with the fish for a few minutes,

Plate the fish, then pour the sauce around the perimeter of

the fish. Garnish with a lemon, and sprinkle a bit more of fresh rosemary, thyme, or cut up chives.

### Oyster Stew

Ingredients:

1 pint fresh oysters packed in their juice

3 tablespoons butter

1 large yellow onion chopped

3 cups whole milk

1 cup half-and-half

Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Drain juice from oysters into small bowl. Set aside.

Add butter to large saucepan. Heat on medium-low heat until

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melted.

Add chopped onions and cook until translucent and tender, about 8 to 10 minutes.

Add oyster liquor and cook until mostly reduced, about 10 minutes.

Stir in milk and half-and-half and heat to simmer. Do not allow to boil as it will cause your milk to curdle.

Add oysters and continue on simmer until outer edges of oysters curl, about 8 minutes.

### Weeknight Spaghetti with Clams

Ingredients:

- 1 pound spaghetti
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 large cloves garlic, finely

- chopped
- Four 6.5 ounce cans chopped clams in clam juice
- ¼ cup finely chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Zest of 1/2 lemon plus 2 teaspoons juice

Pinch red pepper flakes

Directions:

Get a big pot of generously salted water going on the stove to cook your pasta. When the water boils, cook the spaghetti until al dente.

While the pasta is cooking, heat the olive oil and butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Once the butter melts, drop the heat to medium-low and add the garlic.



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Saute the garlic until it softens and releases its aroma, about 2 minutes. Do your best to avoid browning the garlic, since that will make it bitter.

While your garlic is cooking, open the cans of clams and drain off all but 1/2 cup of the clam juice. Set aside. Once the garlic is tender and aromatic, add the clams to the pan and sauté until they soak up the flavors, about 2 minutes.

When the pasta is cooked and drained, add it to the skillet along with the 1/2 cup clam juice, parsley, lemon zest, lemon, salt, a light shower of black pepper, and red pepper flakes. Cook it for a final 2 minutes or so, coating the pasta with the sauce (I like to use tongs to turn the pasta in the pan).

Serve immediately.

### Tuscan-Style Grilled Tuna Steaks

#### Ingredients:

- 4 fresh tuna steaks, 8 ounces each, 1-inch thick
- 1 lemon, zested
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary, about 2 tablespoons leaves stripped from

- stem
  - Handful flat leaf parsley
  - 3 cloves garlic, crushed
  - Coarse salt and black pepper or grill seasoning
  - Extra-virgin olive oil, for cooking
  - Grilled Stuffed Portobellos:
  - 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
  - 1 large lemon, juiced
  - 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
  - 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more, for drizzling
  - 4 medium to large portobello mushroom caps
  - Coarse salt and black pepper, or grill seasoning spice blend
  - 3 large, firm plum tomatoes, seeded and diced
  - 2 sprigs fresh rosemary, leaves finely chopped to about 2 tablespoons
  - 1/2 pound fresh smoked mozzarella, thinly sliced
- Serving suggestions: Garlic toasts or grilled crusty bread
- Directions:
- Rinse and pat tuna steaks dry. Place zest on top of cutting board. Pile rosemary and parsley leaves



on top of zest. Pile garlic and some coarse salt and black pepper or grill seasoning on top of herbs. Finely chop the garlic, herbs, and spices. Drizzle the olive oil over the tuna steaks just enough to coat each side. Rub herb and garlic mixture into fish, coating pieces evenly on each side. Let stand 10 minutes.

Grill tuna steaks 6 minutes on each side or 4 minutes on each side, if you prefer pink tuna at the center. Cook steaks over: high setting on indoor electric grill, medium high heat on outdoor gas grill or, 6 inches from hot, prepared charcoal.

Grilled Stuffed Portobellos:

Yield: 4 servings

Combine first 4 ingredients in a bowl or large food storage plastic bag. Coat mushroom caps evenly in marinade.

Place mushroom caps on the grill cap-side-up and season with grill seasoning or salt and pepper. If you are using an indoor tabletop electric grill, preheat to 400 degrees F or "high" setting. If you are using an outdoor gas grill, preheat to medium high; for a charcoal grill, prepare coals and cook mushrooms 6 inches from hot coals. Mushrooms will cook 4 to 6 minutes on each side. Cook mushrooms covered or under tin foil tent and turn occasionally.

Combine tomatoes, rosemary, and smoked mozzarella. Drizzle with oil and toss.

Fill mushroom caps with tomato mixture and top with sliced mozzarella. The mushrooms will look like small pizzas. Place caps in oven at 425 degrees F until cheese melts or you can close grill lid or replace tin foil tent over mushroom caps to melt cheese, it will take 1 to 3 minutes. Serve as-is or, place stuffed caps on garlic toast or sliced crusty bread to catch the juices.§

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  - Location of catch
  - Name of boat, if any
- Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.*

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

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There was quite a commotion at the OC Fishing Center on June 7th with 2 large thresher sharks hitting the scale within minutes of each other! Connor Williamson from Ashburn, VA connected with this 405 lb. shark 2 miles north of the Great Eastern Reef in 92 ft. of water using a whole mackerel.



It was a long boat ride for the crew of the "Cast'n & Blast'n", but the Washington Canyon was the place to be that day! Bill Winkler of Dagsboro, DE and John Spezile of Ocean View, DE got in on the bigeye bite this week landing this 171 pounder along with three yellowfins with the heaviest at 55 lbs. All the tuna hit their pink and green side trackers.

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Angler Mackenzie Heckman from Pennsylvania has a big smile while sharing the king mackerel she reeled in last Thursday. She was trolling spoons at the Great Gull Reef with Capt. Adam Wilson and mate Jake Vermillion on "Chasin Tides" Charters.

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The heaviest flounder to date in Delaware was caught by Mark Bonk of Lewes. Mark caught his 8.8 lb. and 28 1/4" inch doormat while out at Site 10, jigging with Gulp bait. Pictured and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina. Beautiful spot pattern too.



Now we are talking! Bill Dickerson from Frankford, DE caught this 26.6 lb. bull dolphin in the Poor Man's Canyon while trolling ballyhoo with Capt. Rodney Meyers on the "Last \$"

# DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day  
5/15 - 12/31



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size  
3 per day / 5 per day Charter



**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
3 per person/day



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**RED DRUM**  
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5 per person/day



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28-35" except 20-25" only from  
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**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
16" minimum  
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15  
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



**WEAKFISH**  
13" minimum  
1 per person/day





Capt. Anthony Matarese reported that he is having the best blue marlin fishing he has ever seen in Ocean City. Over the three days ending last Friday, he saw 10 and released 7 blues including the one jumping above! Friday's trip was to the Poor Man's Canyon with work friends Shane Burdette, Tom Martin, Joel Windsor and Justin Swafford who caught a big yellowfin tuna and Bill Dennis and Chris Hoerl who both released a blue marlin. They were trolling in 500 fathoms with naked ballyhoo and mullet dredges for the blues and moved into 200 fathoms for the tuna.



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# DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Well we arrive at the final paper of the 2021 season. It was a great year inshore with many anglers coming in with some impressive catches. As we look at this last week we see it was truly a great one. Flounder fishing both in the bay as well as the ocean has been spectacular. Many anglers returned to the docks with limits as well with many fish over 5 lbs. Sea bass remains strong with the deeper water producing limits even at this late time in our summer season.

### Back Bays & Surf

The back bays are alive with plenty of fish this week. Flounder remains the most constant catch. Due to dredging near the inlet the main thoroughfare has been slow this week. The channel in front of the VFW remains the hot spot this week with several fish over 5 lbs. coming in. Drifting this area one hour before until one hour after the high tide appears to be the best time. Most anglers are using a squid and minnow

combo with the bigger fish coming off of this rig. Live spot has also accounted for a few trophy fish. Gulp baits which have been excellent in the ocean have not been producing as well as in past weeks. Massey's Ditch has also been a hot bed this week. Drifting in front of the state ramp is a good location to start. This area has also been producing some big sea trout. James Roe caught a beauty on Monday while casting swim jigs.

The Rehoboth Bay has been fairly decent but not as consistent as in past weeks. This area has had some good catches of croaker which made up for the lack of flounder. The deeper channel in front of Paradise Grill has been pretty good this week but you will have to find the deeper holes that run along the channel. Look for the holes right at the edge of the channel because this is where the flounder will wait to ambush bait that is drifting by in the current.

Looking further towards the

back bays, the Indian River power plant has seen some nice sea trout as well as some good sized puppy drum (redfish). The small channel behind the plant is the best place to cast these fine tasting fish. A small 3-5" swim bait with a chartreuse tipped tail has been the most consistent bait. The area is also holding a few sea trout as well as a few reports of tarpon. Anglers reported seeing tarpon but could not get any to bite. I would suggest if you are going to target them try using a live spot on a jig head or weighted circle hook. The bigger tarpon are that size because many of them are very old and have seen every type of bait thrown to them. Live bait will far out fish plastics.

For sea trout use small swim jigs and paddle tail baits. Hit the main inlet area as it's shown great results. Matt Brough caught some really nice sea trout along with sheepshead while fishing for tog along the rocks. These fish should remain here

for the next few weeks as long as the water remains warm. Croaker are still all around with small pieces of bloodworm or squid being the best baits.

### Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Looking at the near shore areas flounder is still the mainstay, however there are tons of other fish to target. Tim Tribbits took his son Tyler out for his birthday and returned with a 5 man limit of sheepshead. They each kept 3 throwing many keepers back. Tim's group used small pieces of clam on a #6 circle hook. He stated that he used 20 lb. mono and as light of a weight as he could to get the bait to the wreck.

The Old Grounds are always a heavily targeted spot and this week rewarded anglers with tons of nice fish. Joe Paulson fished there and came away with a nice limit, the biggest being 21". Mallari Contracting Company fished up a 5 man limit with the largest fish being 6 lb., 5.7 and 5 lbs. Catching one of these would be a trophy but to catch 3 over 5 lbs. is truly a once in a lifetime catch. Great job guys!



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Brian Hayden was out at A Buoy and caught a beautiful 29" flounder at 8.5 lbs. Tom Seagreve also fished with him, ending up with his biggest fish being 24.5" at 6.5 lbs. and another one 23.5" at 6 lbs. Not only did they catch a limit but also had 3 fish over 6 lbs. John and Rachel Engler also caught a limit in this area. There was a huge number of trophy flounder this year and if you have never caught one over 5 lbs. now is the time to hit the water. The "Judy V" out of Indian River has trips running every day and is a great way to get to the fish if you don't own a boat. The captain knows these waters very well and often returns to the dock with some real quality fish. Looking further offshore the NJ/DE Reef is still producing limits of sea bass in this late season. Fresh clams are the best bait. Be advised you will have to sort

through a lot of throwbacks to get your limit. Bluefish are starting to show up in this area due to all the bait fish in the area. A few mahi are still being caught both at the NJ/DE Site as well as near A Buoy but the numbers have really dropped off this week. Triggerfish are on most wrecks with sand fleas and squid being your best baits.

So that will be a wrap for this 2021 season fish reports. Thank you to all that have told me how they love reading my articles. It is much appreciated.

Be sure to look for the big Winter Issue on January 1! For those of you who haven't seen this issue it's a great recap of how the fishing season went all summer, what worked and where. So be sure to check it out.

Until next year...

*Tight lines and fins up*



There was a lot of buzz around the Indian River Marina last Saturday with rumors of a big blue marlin coming to the scales. Anglers Glenn Schatzel, Scott Boyle, Miah Boyle, Eric Singley, Andrew Greene and "Tuna Crush" owner Chris Gastwirth took a while to get there, but they did have a nice 444.6 lb. blue they caught in the Poor Man's Canyon on Sterling Tackle Wide Trackers after a 3.5 hour fight.



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This 458 lb. mako shark caught by angler Rory Badger of Seaford, DE sets a new 'Heaviest' for the season. Rory was on the "Sea Hawk" fishing out at the Old Grounds using mackerel for bait. Sharing this adventure with Rory were Jamie Joachimowski of Georgetown, DE and Paul Zarebicki of Harbeson, DE.

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**AUG 4**



These anglers had a nice catch from the surf landing this 44" and 44 lb. cobia off of the Fenwick Island State Park beach. Anglers Chris, Lake and Ethan from Ellicott City, MD fished flat calm waters on the 23rd under a full moon to trick this 'man in the brown suit' with bunker.

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Alex Artese had a good day of kayak fishing the last weekend of March. He caught crappie up to 1 lb. and some nice yellow perch. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Last Thursday saw some nice fishing and the charter boat "Savannah Lynn" out of Lewes, DE got in on the action at the Bass Grounds. Capt. Mark put anglers Angelina Capozzi and her dad Joe on some nice flounder holes, boating 5, and then catching this mahi on the troll. They also hooked 11 sea bass making for a great day of fishing.



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"I'd rather be lucky than good" is a phrase hunters and anglers often pitch to describe an outing that unexpectedly comes to a successful conclusion. And although you certainly don't have to be a sportsman to appreciate when Lady Luck steps into your life, those of us who habitually find ourselves in pursuit of fish or game are quick to welcome every little bit of it that comes our way.

Of course there's two kinds of luck so anyone who prays for it had better be clear on exactly the brand they're hoping for or they could end up regretting their request. Remember, bad luck ain't so good, while good luck ain't so bad! Gotta keep that kind of thing in perspective when you're messing around with

luck!  
It can be argued that a higher level of satisfaction is the reward to those who have the ability to bring home the bacon without relying on luck to do it. But there are too many variables involved in any outdoor pursuit to say that luck plays absolutely no part in any favorable outcome. Though some sportsmen might not like to admit it, luck plays a huge factor in any successes that come our way. Yea, we can methodically research and plan-out our trips taking into account phases of the moon, the tides, winds and migrations, we can spend days or even weeks scouting out areas, setting up stands, rigging our boats and tackle, shooting our bows, sighting-in our guns, sharpening hooks,

painting decoys, reviewing trail-cam photos, tying flies, rigging baits or any of a million other things we might think of to swing the odds for success in our favor, but there is always the chance that the fish won't swim up the channel or the deer won't walk down the trail at the precise time they need to so that we can get the shot or set the hook on our quarry. That's where luck always (and I do mean "always") plays a part.

Luck is the variable that prevents any sportsman from being able to honestly forecast that the outcome of any trip is "guaranteed." And while many of us would probably love to know that anytime they put to sea or head off into the woods that they will be successful in acquiring what they're after, it's that measure of uncertainty that's assured to keep each trip unique and never boring. And though we all carry some sort of luck with us at all times, there's really

not much need pull it out of our pockets and try to super-analyze luck, it's one of those things that's better off just taken at face value because it just gets more confusing the more you contemplate it. If bad-luck is just an absence of good-luck then that would mean that there is no such thing as bad-luck. Or the flip-side would be that there's no such thing as good-luck - just a deficiency of bad luck. Personally I don't like the thought of it either way, and I'm sorry for even bringing it up.

One good thing about bad-luck (if there is such a thing) is that sportsmen have it to use as a scapegoat when things don't go well for us. "Hey we were in the right place, at the right tide, doing the right thing, we should have caught fish, I guess we just got hit-up with a dose of bad-luck today!" Luck can also flip-flop in a heartbeat and turn our smiles upside down and back

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 again before we know it. Once, while running home from a long fishless day on the ocean I was elated to stumble upon a big school of very hungry fish feeding on the surface. I stopped the boat and in short order we were into some of the best tuna action I'd ever encountered and a good reason to get home a couple hours late. When we got back underway we thought we were the luckiest fishermen in the world until we were hit by one of the worst storms I've ever experienced just a half-hour from the inlet. I surly would have rather experienced that blow from the safety of the marina but our "good-luck" of running into that school of fish gave us the "bad-luck" of still being on ocean when the storm hit. Then again, we had the good-luck of surviving to tell the story. So go figure!

While there's a lot of uncertainty about luck, one thing is for sure - it is not contagious! You can be fishing shoulder to shoulder with the luckiest angler in the world and watch them pull in fish after fish and still end up with nothing but a skunk in your own cooler. And if you really think about it, anytime sportsmen are enjoying "good-luck," our quarry is certainly not going to agree that there's any kind of "aura" of favorable luck in the air. But like I said, maybe luck is just one of those things that we don't need to think too hard about!

With this being the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for 2021, I'd like to wish everyone good "luck" with the remainder of their fishing year and the hunting seasons many of us will enjoy between now and about the end of January. After that I'll be heading down to the Florida Keys for March and April to shove my skiff around the backcountry flats in quest of tarpon, bonefish, sharks, cuda and other fishy critters - with any "luck" we'll find some hungry ones!§



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THUR. SEPT 23	High 10:10 am High 10:24 pm	Low 03:47 am Low 04:19 pm
FRI. SEPT 24	High 10:48 am High 11:00 pm	Low 04:20 am Low 05:05 pm
SAT. SEPT 25	High 11:26 am High 11:39 pm	Low 04:55 am Low 05:53 pm
SUN. SEPT 26	High ----- High 12:09 pm	Low 05:32 am Low 06:45 pm
MON. SEPT 27	High 12:22 am High 12:57 pm	Low 06:14 am Low 07:40 pm
TUE. SEPT 28 <i>3rd Qtr. Moon</i>	High 01:11 am High 01:55 pm	Low 07:01 am Low 08:36 pm
WED. SEPT 29	High 02:07 am High 03:00 pm	Low 07:53 am Low 09:32 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.*



Jackie Sarbu got her hands on a very large cutlass fish this week. She caught this large approximately 42" bait stealer while fishing on the headboat Angler.



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**JUNE 23**



The gang from the South Bethany Yacht Club headed off shore last week with Capt. Mike Burt on the "Pumpin' Hard" to try their luck for tuna. Starting off on the north side of the Washington Canyon and ending up at the south end of the Poor Man's Canyon, anglers Darrell Reinke, Darrell Long, Steve Pelham, Steve Wann and Jeff Marshall started picking away at the yellowfins ending the day with 6 in the box. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Capt. Rodney Meyers  
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### RAGE

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Capt. Lloyd Behney  
302-841-2020



### RUSTY REEL

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Capt. Steve McGeehan  
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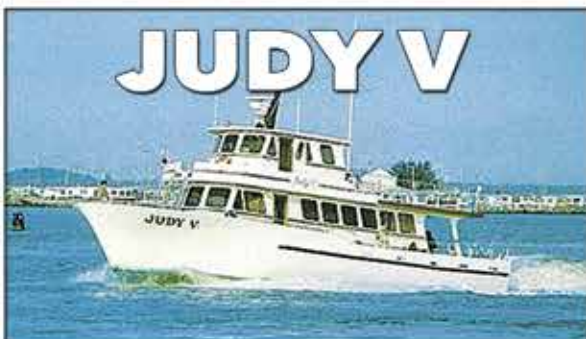
## MAKAI

28' Carolina Classic Express  
Capt. Larry Coyle  
302-463-3778



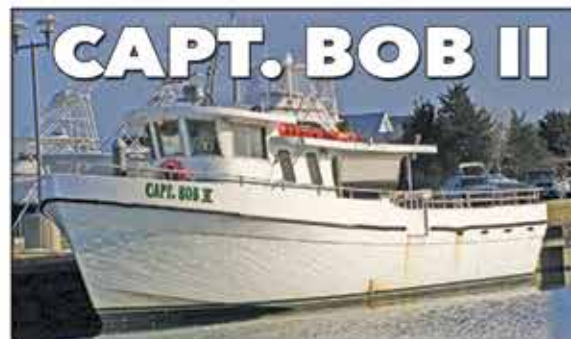
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Anglers Michael DePalma and Michael DePalma Jr. slammed the sea bass last week! They headed out with Capt. Eric Mihali and mate Dave Nornes on the "Bet-Sea" to the Jack Spot and were using clams and squid for these knotheads, the largest at 4.05 lbs! Pictured and measured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Jennifer and Reese Burnett from Pittsburgh, PA cannot contain their excitement after a trip with Capt. Nick Clemente on the "Get Sum"! They hooked these 2 keeper flounder on 4" white Gulp in the bay behind Assateague Island. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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**JULY 14**



The crew of the charter boat "Bill Slayer" did just that last week. Capt. Chris Ragni with mates Connor Campbell and Reese Yost (pictured) took Justin Meace and friends out to the Baltimore Canyon where they caught and released this sailfish and a white marlin! They also boated 2 yellowfin tunas and a skipjack making this trip one for the history books.

## Pick Up your Coastal Fisherman at these Locations

### OCEAN CITY

- Talbot Street Pier
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- Reel Inn - 17th St.
- Bahia Marina - 22nd St.
- Minit Market - 31st St.
- Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.
- Dough Roller - 41st St.
- 64th Street Market - 64th St.
- Advanced Marina - 66th St.
- Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St.
- Dough Roller - 69th St.
- Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.
- Acme - 92nd St.
- Liquid Assets - 94th St.
- 7-11 - 119th St.
- Wawa - 120th St.
- Montego Bay Market - 130th St.
- Primos Hoagies - 134 St.
- 7-Eleven - 139th St.

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- Wawa - Rt. 50
- Mione's Pizza - Outlets

### WEST OCEAN CITY

- Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets
- Bank of Ocean City
- West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50
- All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50
- Bluewater Yacht Sales
- Ocean City Fishing Center
- Ocean City Marlin Club
- Atlantic Tackle
- Sunset Grille
- Sunset Marina
- Sunset Provisions
- Pure Lure Fishing Gear
- Harbor Marine
- Food Lion - Rt. 611
- Optical Galleria - Rt. 611
- Southside Deli - Rt. 611

### BERLIN

- Frontier Town - Country Store Rt. 611
- Cheers - Berlin
- Food Lion - Berlin
- Crabs To Go - Rt. 50
- Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)
- Food Lion - Ocean Pines

### FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

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- Food Lion Rt.54
- North Bay Marina
- Royal Farms Rt. 54
- Harris Teeter
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### INDIAN RIVER

- Indian River Marina
- Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop
- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle

### DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

- Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes
- Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rehoboth
- ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
- Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes
- Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market)
- Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

### BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

- Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1
- G&E Supermarket
- G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.
- Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26
- Gull's Way Campground
- Tuckahoe Campground
- Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
- Wawa - Rt. 26
- Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
- Downtown Bethany by Bandstand
- Bob's Marine

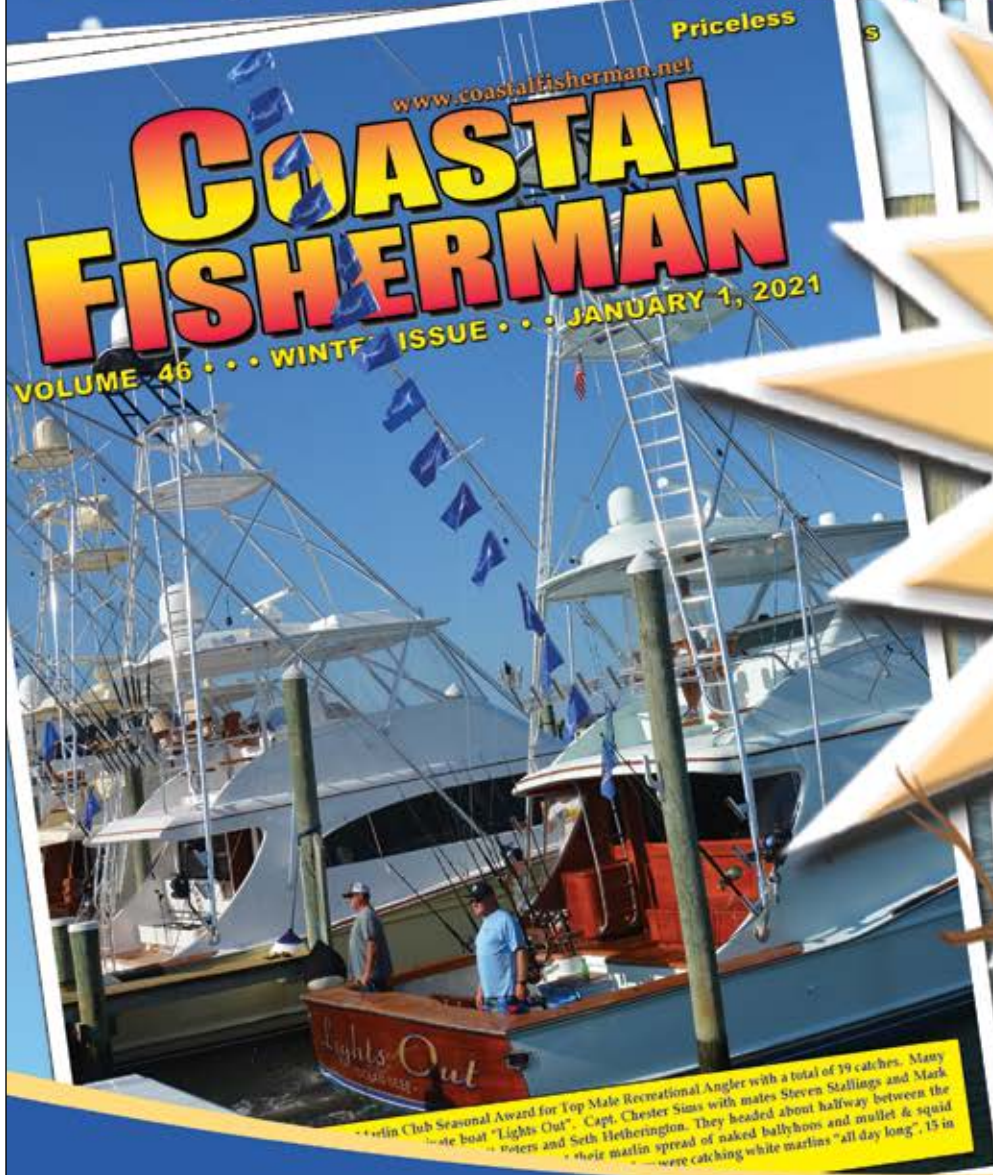
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**SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman 50'  
Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James**



**HEBE - 1988 43' G&S Sportfish  
Call Ronnie Fields**



**TOBASCO - 1979 48' Whitaric  
Call Jimmy Fields**



**MISS ANNIE - 2005 52" Viking  
Call Jimmy Fields**



**PRODUCER TOO - 2008 41' Bahama  
Call Colton Cunningham**



**CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty  
Call Jeff James**



**WORK LESS PAY MORE - 2019 32'  
Century - Call Dave Shockley**



**DOUBLE NICKEL - 1997 42' Buddy  
Harris - Call Ronnie Fields**



**2007 39' Gillikin Custom Express  
Call Ronnie Fields**



**2021 24' St. James Custom Boatworks  
Call Jimmy Fields**



**2019 24' St. James Boatworks  
Call Jimmy Fields**



**BILLIN TIME - 2005 32' Albemarle Express  
Call Jeff James**



**2007 33' Buddy Cannady  
Call Ronnie Fields**



**2018 25' Custom Blackfin  
Call Jimmy Fields**



**2018 27' Baja Outlaw  
Call Chris Workmon**



**1982 34' Crusader  
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