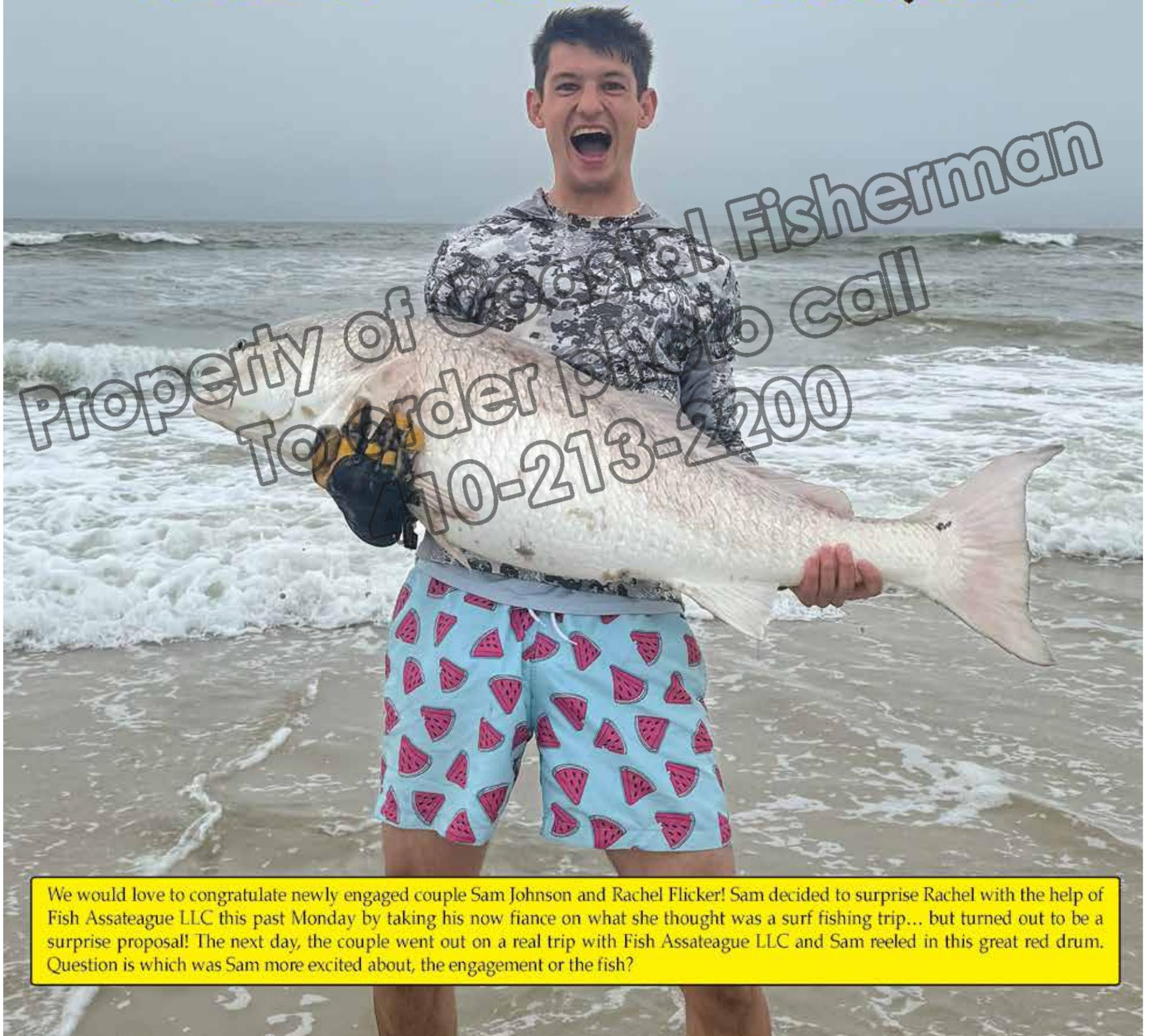


Priceless

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C COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 50 • • • ISSUE 8 • • • June 25, 2025



We would love to congratulate newly engaged couple Sam Johnson and Rachel Flicker! Sam decided to surprise Rachel with the help of Fish Assateague LLC this past Monday by taking his now fiance on what she thought was a surf fishing trip... but turned out to be a surprise proposal! The next day, the couple went out on a real trip with Fish Assateague LLC and Sam reeled in this great red drum. Question is which was Sam more excited about, the engagement or the fish?



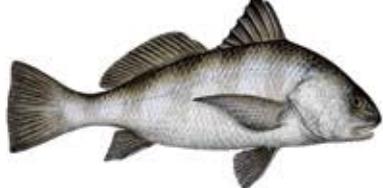
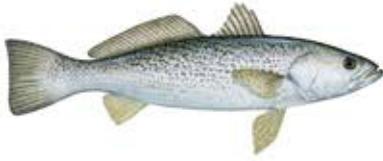
Daniel Buttion proudly holding his golden tile while aboard the "Indecision." Daniel was with Capt. Randal Buttion and Joe Cusimano. After tuna fishing in the morning the team switched to deep dropping and caught some other smaller golden tiles.



This crew landed this 171 lbs. bigeye tuna and a single yellowfin. They were fishing on the "Tips Up" and using a Sterling Tackle wide tracker.

2025 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" Minimum • 2 per person or 2 per vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • 50 per person/per day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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MESSAGE FROM THE COASTAL FISHERMAN

A Note from the Publisher - **Dave Messick**

To our loyal readers and the fishing community,

I wanted to take a moment to share some updates from Coastal Fisherman. In April of 2025, the publication came under new ownership, and on May 1st, we officially brought it into the Unscene Productions studio. Just one week later, on May 7th, we proudly dropped our first edition. It's been fast-paced, exciting and deeply rewarding.

We're thrilled to be continuing the 49-year legacy of Coastal Fisherman- a publication many of you use as a "fisherman's bible." With a new team behind the scenes, we're bringing fresh energy and ideas, all while staying rooted in the traditions and community that have made this paper so special.

I also want to take a moment to highlight a standout team from the Tuna and Tiaras event-Team Sea Hags aboard "Sea Hag" with Capt. Anthony Pino, of Hook Optics. While the photo we ran initially was full of spirit, we realized it didn't clearly show two of the anglerettes. This week, we've published a new photo where all six women are proudly visible: Amber Nielson, Taylor Lester, Madison Jones, Laura Rosenfield, Sara Ciekot, and Caitlin McGorry. Their catches were outstanding-including a stringer that weighed in at 287 lbs.-and the payout was huge. Congratulations again, ladies!

This is just the beginning for us at Coastal Fisherman. We know there's a learning curve, but we're up for the challenge and are truly thrilled about what's ahead. There's a lot in store for this summer and for the future of the paper, and we can't wait to share it with you.

Tight lines,

Dave Messick and the Coastal Fisherman team



Amber Nielson, Taylor Lester, Madison Jones, Laura Rosenfield, Sara Ciekot, and Caitlin McGorry next to their tournament winning catch of yellowfin and bigeye, the Tuna and Tiaras tournament.

Hello, welcome back to another offshore fishing report. This week has not only brought hot temperatures but also a hot tuna bite. The great tuna fishing from last week continued into this week along with mostly cooperative conditions. Things have finally shaped up since the slow start to the season and boy was it worth the wait. For almost two weeks now most boats have returned to the dock with great catches of yellowfin tuna, often in the double digits. This fishing has been almost perfect with fish being caught basically all the way up and down the line from the Wilmington canyon down to the Norfolk.

This has allowed people to spread out and work an area of fish without having to worry about being crammed around a bunch of boats with people running over your lines although it may still happen from time to time. Once again, those looking to book a charter should act now as this fishing may disappear as fast as it began, the weather forecast looks great almost all the way to fourth of July. For those looking to get in on the action aboard their own vessels, the best fishing seems to have been concentrated in water temps from 71-74 degrees which has been found from the 100 fathom line and deeper. The fish

haven't been too picky with bites being evenly spread between skirted ballyhoo and plastic squid chains and spreader bars. The fish have also varied greatly in size from BLT 30 inchers all the way to a few 70lb class of fish. Some anglers have also been lucky enough to catch some bigeyes that have also mixed in among the yellowfins with those fish ranging from small 60lbers all the way to the standard class of 150/200lb fish. Hopefully this fishing sticks around. Those in North Carolina are still having great success themselves which is hopefully a sign of plenty more fish still headed our way. All this success has the fish cleaners busy with lines of heavy fish carts and cleaning tables stacked with delicious loins. One thing I see way too often is improper care of meat as well as the meat simply being wasted. A few tips to ensure a better end product for your table include ice, ice, and more ice! As soon as you boat a fish it is critical that you get it out of the sun and onto ice to begin to cool the meat as soon as possible. The colder

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 the fish the better product the fish cleaners have to handle, so another idea is to get a bag of ice for the cart while your fish wait in line to be processed. Once you receive your bags of meat it is critical to keep them cold and dry, as fresh water especially will drastically reduce the quality of the fish. I recommend filling the bottom of the cooler with ice and placing the bags on top with the cooler drain left open if possible on the ride home. Once home you should separate however much fish you plan to eat within the next few days and then immediately vacuum seal and freeze the rest. Nothing hurts the freshness of your catch and its freezer life more than leaving it in a wet bag in the refrigerator for several days and then freezing it. Our ocean and its inhabitants are a precious and very finite resource and should be respected by not killing tunas or any fish for that matter just for them to go to waste in a freezer. There are also a few local companies that specialize in cleaning, sealing and freezing your catch, as well shipping it home if you are unable to get it home yourself. Hopefully this weather and fishing continues into the summer and I wish everyone tight lines this week.

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Phone 410-213-2200, e-mail: coastalfisherman@comcast.net. You can find current and past editions on the web at coastalfisherman.net. We welcome freelance stories and photos, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited material unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All submitted stories, photographs, and ad materials are the property of the publisher and may not be used without written permission. © 2025



Anglers Bryce Gilligan and Richard Hoenes, of Baltimore, MD, got treated to a day aboard the "Boss Hog" and certainly made the most of it! Mates John and Jack had the boys fighting fish all day while Capt. Alex located the bite. The fish were hitting meat, plugs, and plastics. The boys were able to land this nice sized yellowfin.



Angler Pam Hess, along with her friend Nicole Brady, Captain Mark Hess, and Mate Kenny Fusco, caught this 560 lbs Thresher Shark at B bout on a bunker.

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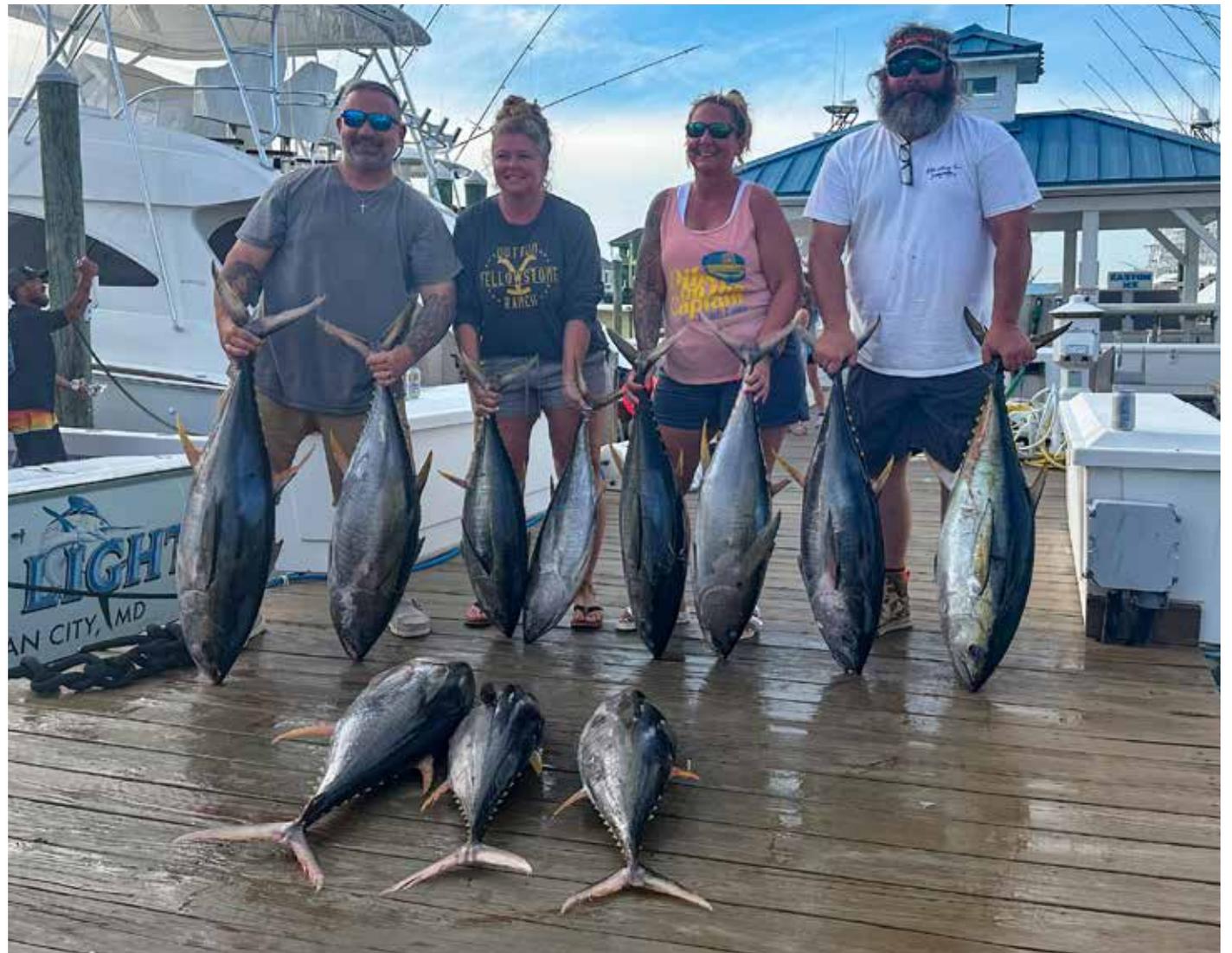
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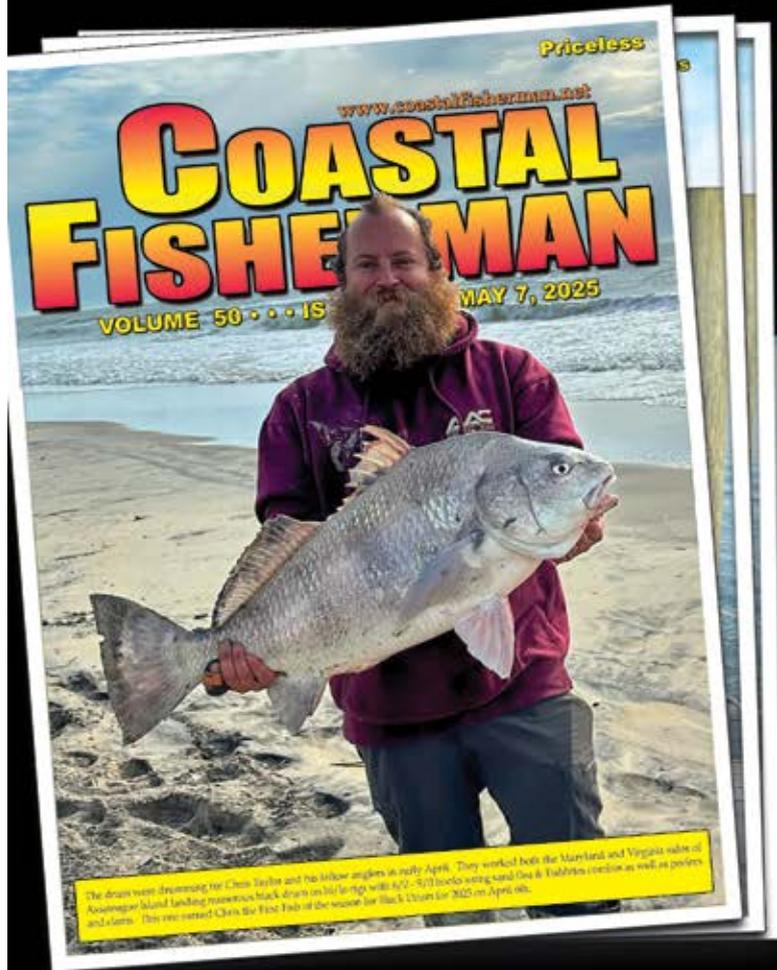
Bianca Schaeen from Dagsboro, DE caught this 18", 3 lbs Flounder in the North Indian River Inlet this past Sunday while fishing on "Miss B".



"White Lightning" has been on a tuna streak after getting their boat redone. Capt. Troy Salmon and mate Phil Knapp, brought Brandy and Chad Heaps and Bill and Trisha Murphy on a trip to catch their first tunas. The crew ended up bringing back 11 yellowfins back to Sunset Marina.

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Angler Greg Wilder caught this 7 lbs., 4 oz. doormat. Greg was fishing on the Old Grounds and weighed his fish in at Rick's Bait & Tackle. This fish has taken the top spot for heaviest flounder in Delaware!



Angler Norm Wallis brought in this 65 lbs. swordfish. They were fishing aboard the "Swordfish" at the Poorman's Canyon. Norm was fishing with Hunter Unruh, Chuck Ryan, Jeff Sills, Norm Wallis, and John Coleman, who also caught four yellowfin (Pictured at Hook Em & Cook Em).

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 A white box truck is shown driving on a road, moving from left to right. The truck has the text 'COASTAL FISHERMAN' in large, bold, yellow and red letters on its side, with 'Fish or Bust!' written in a smaller, black, cursive font below it. The background is a blurred green landscape, suggesting motion.



Beth Phillips, of Pittsville, MD, caught her first ever red drum, measuring 40". Beth was using peeler crab for bait and was fishing in the shallows of the Pocomoke Sound. She was fishing on a private boat with her husband and her brother.

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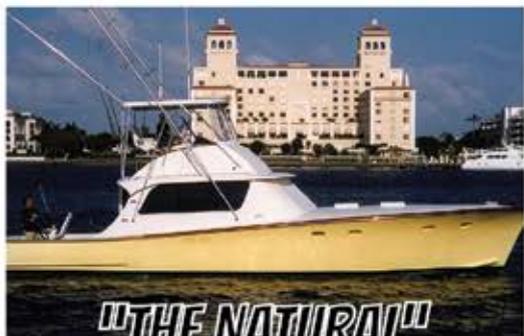


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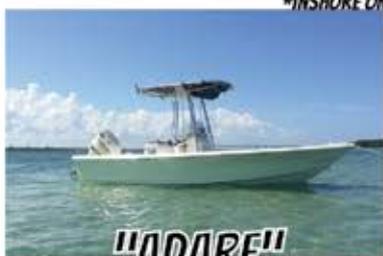


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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Very warm days and stormy evenings made last week's fishing a little rough. We had several big storms roll through with high easterly wind making the water rough. When anglers did make it out and were able to avoid the storms, they found the fish more than happy to bite their lines. The biggest problem was many of these fish were undersized. The back bays are really warming up with numerous fish being caught in the common areas of the inlet, main thoroughfare, as well as the deeper holes behind Ocean City. The RT 50 bridge is producing rockfish and blues in the night hours. The surf fishing has slowed producing only a few rockfish and blues making anglers switch to smaller lures for kingfish, flounder, and spot.

Back Bays and Inlets

The water in the back bays is approaching the summer temperatures showing a lot more life in the form of flounder and even some croaker. The inlet area is still the hotspot for last week providing anglers with numerous catches of fluke. The ratio is around 8 throwbacks to each keeper. The channel near Ocean Pines has given up several doormats along with the numerous undersized fish. Squid strips and live shiners remain the best baits for catching fish in the back bays. Peter Renzi fished hard to finally get a keeper flounder at 18 inches. He reports lots of throwbacks, 23 to be exact. Despite the throwback, the steady action provided a great day out on the water. "Miss Kathleen" out of Bahia Marina had a few good days fishing for flounder which included several nice doormats to

win the large fish pool. John Foreman and Chad stated that keepers in the bay are hard to find, but at least the fish are ready to bite. He stated 5 inch Gulp on 1 oz jigs are doing the trick for the keepers they are getting. In the Delaware report I discuss how to set up jig fishing for flounder. The "Bay Bee Fishing" boat had several good catches this past week with anglers being kept busy, sometimes catching over 50 flounder in a day. Many of these fish are undersized but provide good action, especially for young and novice anglers. "Back Bay Adventures" reported a few decent trips last week with lots of throwbacks and a few quality fish to be brought home for dinner. Rayan Pitaev performed better than most on one of the "Miss Ocean City's" slower trips when he hooked and

www.coastalfisherman.net landed a beautiful 19.5 inch flounder right as the buzzer sounded to head back to the docks. Always great to see a youngster of only 9 years old out fish the entire boat. Great job young man. Rayan used a Gulp and shiner combo to catch his big prized fish. The "Miss Ocean City" also had 11 yr old Adee Alagos from Millville, DE who caught the biggest fluke of her trip using a gulp and minnow combo. Go kid power!! Corey Wendling had some luck at the inlet while fishing at night, catching both a keeper fluke as well as a nice size sheepshead. Camaro Mitchell caught 2 keepers last week when drifting squid and minnows along the 2nd street bulkheads.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The nearshore wrecks and reefs have become infested with small black bass making it difficult for anglers to catch a keeper bass. Jig fishing is your best option if your target is sea bass. Deeper wrecks

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www.coastalfisherman.net such as at the Jack's Spot or Great eastern reef is the best location for targeting bass. On the inshore areas flounder can be found just off of most wrecks. Large Gulps tipped with minnows or squid are working best. The flounder ratios are about 7 throwbacks to every keeper. The African Queen and the Marine Electric are producing the best flounder keepers and are also giving up a few big sheepshead. "Fin Chaser Charters" had a good day out on the water looking for some tasty sea bass. They reported the throwback ratio was about 10:1. The crew did manage to bring home 30 keepers for dinner. The "Morning Star" had a few good trips last week with anglers catching sea bass and flounder on various wrecks. Capt. Monty reports he has been going a little further out to target a better quality of fish. "Bottom Bouncer Fishing" had 8 year old Eric Fieffender on board last week and landed a huge 7.5 ft shark. That is one hell of a catch for an angler so young. I don't know if it's good upbringing or a great fishing crew but either way great job Eric, that's a catch of a lifetime. The "Angler Deep Sea Fishing Boat" was out catching multiple species of fish this past week including sea bass, fluke, and blues. They also have a new video out on jigging sea bass and flounder off the coast of Ocean City which is on You Tube.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing on Assateague

Island is slow, producing mainly spot and small kingfish in the surf. A few big sharks and rays are being pulled from the waters mainly in the evening hours. "Fish Assateague LLC" reported it's that time of year again with nothing but sharks being caught on the beach. They reported they did manage one 20" keeper fluke along with a throwback. As of this year they have managed 30 flounder with only one keeper. They reported the sharks although not quite what they want to catch have provided tons of action and adventure. Meghan Wasil and company fished the island, landing a big bluefish along with a few nice sized sharks. The crew stated they had a good day and had tons of action. Mike Koch caught the only black drum I heard of last week while fishing the north side of the island using fishbites and sand fleas on an outgoing tide.

Crabs and Clams

Crabbing has greatly improved with the warmer water yielding around 8-9 keepers per pot. The pots still contain some pregnant females and tons of juvenile crabs. Bunker is the best bait with chicken being second. Clamming on the island has become a mixture of mostly larger soup clams just below the sand and smaller ones being harder to fish digging deeper into the sand or moving into deeper water.

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up



Check out Capt. Chris Ortolani, of Rehoboth Beach, DE, and Seth Ross, of Ocean City, MD, with their catches! They brought home a 30 lbs. and 33 lbs. yellowfin tuna. They were using Sterling tracker bars to make their catches out in the Washington Canyon. They were fishing on the "SirReel," of Indian River, DE. (Photo take on D-Dock at the Indian River Marina).

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It was an awesome day on the water for the maiden voyage on the "Loose Goose." 9-year-old Lady Luck had the opportunity to reel in her very first tuna, making her grandfather, the captain of the vessel, extremely proud. "From the moment I stepped on the boat, I knew it was going to be a great experience," said angler Benjamin Wheeling. Congrats on your catch, Lady Luck!

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3-200 Miles



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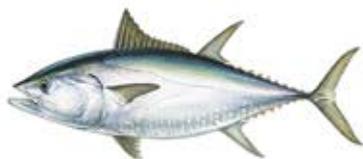
NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 54
Limit Daily 10 per angler



YELLOWFIN TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
3 per person/day



BLUEFIN TUNA
27" to <73" curved fork length
1 per vessel/day or trip
27" to <73" curved fork length
1 per Charter/day or trip
27" to <73" curved fork length
1 per Headboat/day or trip



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)
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SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES

- No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead
- 54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose
- 78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

- ### PROHIBITED SHARKS
- Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White



David Beach II reeled in this 22-inch flounder from the Bulkhead along 2nd Street. David made his catch on the outgoing tide using minnow for bait.

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Fish of the Year

2025



(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 22 Sean Hitchens Ocean City Bay 9.65 lbs.	May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	 Weakfish		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
 Black Drum		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 lbs.	
 Cobia			 Bluefin Tuna	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
 Flounder	June 4 ★ Ryan Edgell East Channel 7.3 lbs.	May 30 ★ Greg Wilder Old Grounds 7.25 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		 Yellowfin Tuna	June 13 George Hall III South of Washington Canyon 64 lbs.	
 Sheepshead ★	June 22 Charles Breon Ocean City Bay 4.09 lbs.		 Dolphin ★	June 21 Dylan Cox Undisclosed Location 10.5 lbs.	
 Striped Bass ★	June 21 Gary Ward Ocean City Bay 8.15 lbs.		 Swordfish		
 Tautog	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	 Blue Marlin		
 Wahoo			 White Marlin		

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

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Learn more at siriusxm.com/fishmapping or scan the QR code to watch how George uses the SiriusXM Fish Mapping service.



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Fish Mapping does not guarantee finding fish.

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Photo credit: George Poveromo.

FISHING CHARTERS



Tangier Sound Charters started their day off with topwater rockfish then went deep for some blues. Just as the wind started to pick up a little, they ran across some big reds. These two were able to land this red drum!



First mate Hayden Thomas netted this 6.6 lbs., 26 1/2 flounder for Tom Ostrye, of Baltimore, MD. The flounder was caught on the very first drop of the afternoon trip aboard the "Judy V" out of the Indian River Marina. Capt. Roger Meekins reported that Tom caught his pool winning fish at the Old Grounds using shiners. It was also Tom's 40th birthday!

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FISHING CHARTERS



This crew had quite the success with "Fish Bound Charters," reeling in several flounder. "Fish Bound" had to work pretty hard for the fish around the Big Moon throughout the beginning of the week. They stayed a little later each day to ensure that everyone boxed up plenty of fish. By the end of the week, they were wrapping up trips with limits of bass and some nice catches of fluke.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite poor weather conditions, this crew was able to take home some flounder for dinner. They were fishing on the "Tortuga."



This young angler and mate Jack Hannum reeled in this yellowfin. They were aboard the "Boss Hog."

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These tunas didn't stand a chance against the anglers on the "Spring Mix II." These four anglers were fishing with Captain Chris Watkowski.



This angler aboard the "Morning Star" was all smiles when he reeled in this sea bass. All anglers on the charter were using 12 oz sinkers in deeper-still water. They went out with Capt. Monty Hawkins.

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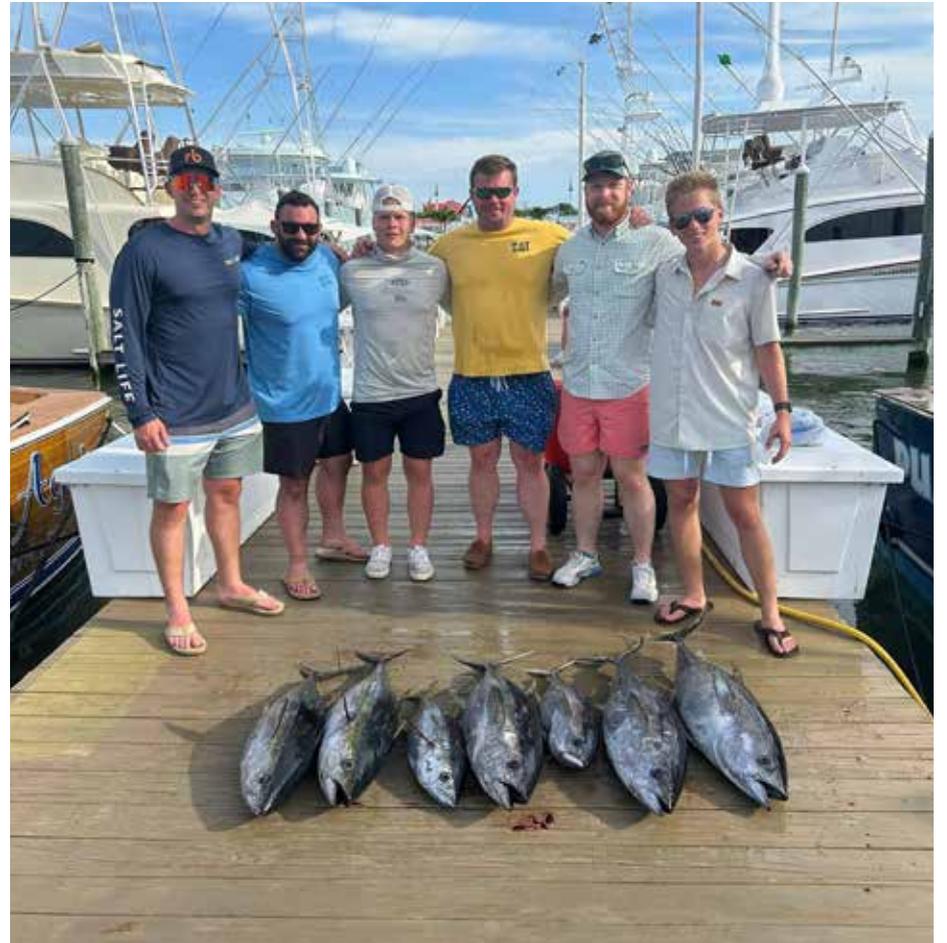
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FISHING CHARTERS



“Talkin Trash” has been on the tuna! This crew brought home a load of yellowfin.



This crew fished aboard the “Pumpin’ Hard” and brought back a spread of yellowfin back to the docks at Sunset Marina.

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11-year-olds Decker Worm, Reid Lasako, Jaxsen Todd and Wyatt Kraus landed this 44" red drum at the edge of dark off the southern tip of Hollands Island. Everyone on board got a chance to crank on this monster –talk about teamwork! The boys were on the "Reelax II" with Capt. Todd Hudson. They were using peelers and soft crabs for bait. The crew also caught a couple of dozen skate, and Jaxsen even caught his first rockfish of the season while patiently waiting for Mr. Red to show up!

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Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



The beach is a beautiful place, and most people come out to get away from other people. So while you're out here, please remember other people are out here for the same reasons you are—to escape home life, escape work, and even escape from reality, because the island can be something some people only dream of experiencing. So please remember to treat it as such, and remember there are rules in place to keep it pristine, beautiful, and safe.

As you enter the island, you're normally met by ponies on both sides of the road at times. If you want to take a picture, there are areas you can pull over to the side of the road and take pictures. Park there and walk no closer than 40' from the horses if you'd like pictures. Please don't run out in the road from those parking areas—cross with safety. Stopping

in the middle of the road and creating a 20-car backup is also not the way to get your pictures. Some people don't have all day to spend sitting in that type of traffic, so stopping in the middle of the road and creating traffic jams could be taking time away from somebody's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the ocean. A lot of times, stopping at a group of ponies causes them to come up to you or your vehicle, which creates a dangerous situation for you, your vehicle, and most importantly, the horses.

Make sure, no matter which beach you're on, to keep your food secured in a cooler or something that the ponies cannot access. They will come up and go through your stuff if you have food out at campgrounds or the state and federal walk-over beaches. Even if they do this, stay

a safe distance away, and if need be, call the ranger station—they have pony patrols that can come try to help the situation or at least keep people a safe distance away.

As you enter the OSV (Over-Sand Vehicle) zone on the federal side of Assateague Island, you'll be met with multiple signs stating you need an OSV pass to enter. If you do not have a pass, don't enter. It helps keep traffic down around the air pumps and around the line to enter the beach if there is a line that day. Make sure, if you are entering the OSV and do have a pass, to have all the proper equipment: shovel, 12"x12" board, jack, air gauge. The Park Service has a list of all necessary equipment needed to enter the OSV. Most importantly, let air out—down to at least 20 psi, and even less (15-18 psi) on some vehicles. This will help give the tire some belly and help prevent you from getting stuck. We see countless cars that don't have a pass, aren't 4WD, and don't have any of the equipment buried 10' from the OSV entrance. Most people we know won't stop to help somebody without a pass, and a tow bill to get off the beach can be very expensive—not to mention the ticket the park rangers could give you for not having a pass or the proper equipment. It could become an expensive day for driving where you shouldn't.

Once you enter the OSV, you have the right of way. Drivers with the ocean on their left side have the right of way while driving on the beach at Assateague Island. So if you are leaving the beach, you must move out of the set of ruts you're driving in for the vehicle coming towards you. There will be white markers on your right side while driving in. Do not drive or park up past them.

Please, please, please—and I cannot express this enough—DO NOT drive between somebody fishing and their fishing rods. Actually, don't drive between another truck and the ocean,

www.coastalfisherman.net period. You don't know if they have kids running around or not. That is one of the main things we hate—somebody who drives between our vehicles and the ocean. I don't believe it's breaking any rules for the island itself, but it's not safe, and it's not smart. Especially at night!

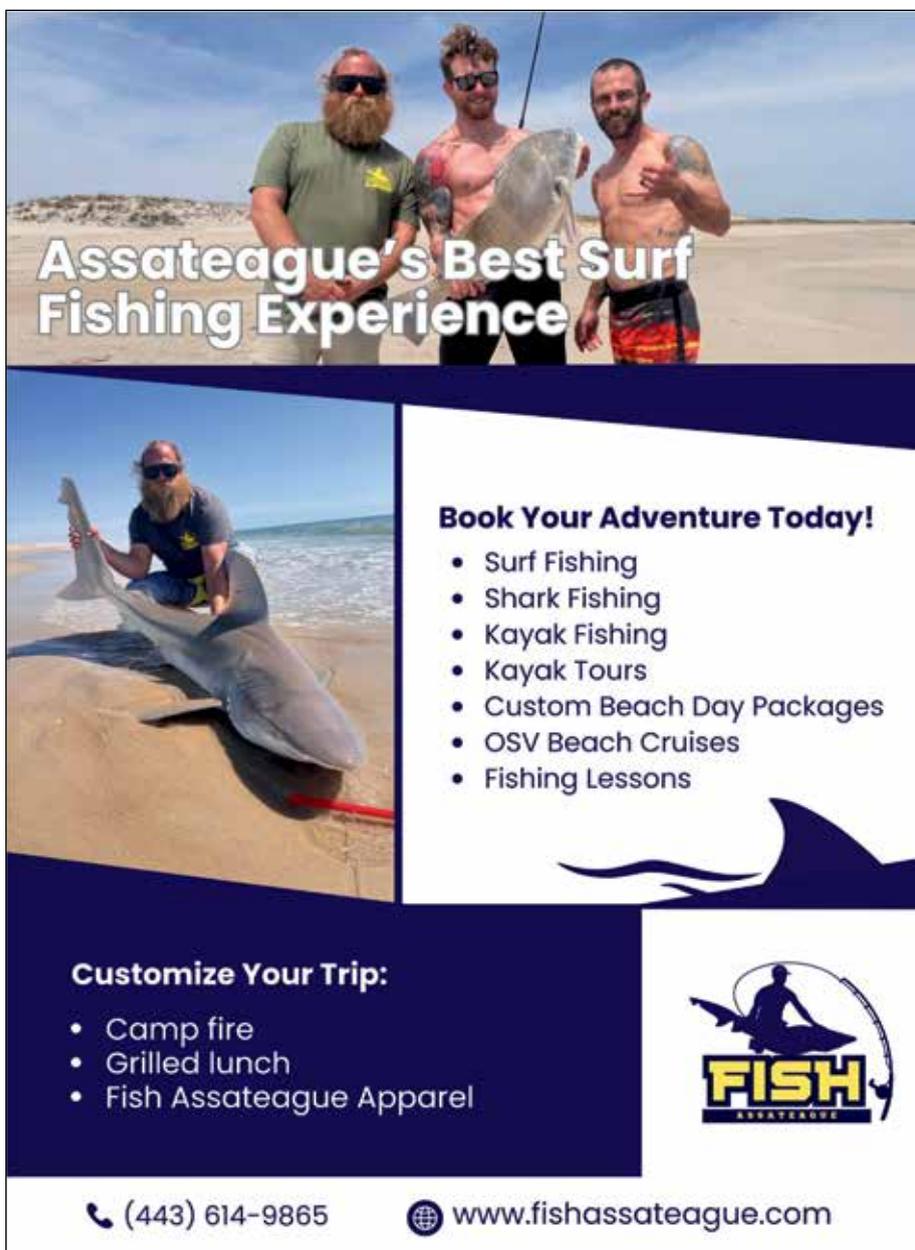
Stay a proper distance from other fishermen. I know it may be tempting to park right next to somebody who you know has been catching fish—especially if we're 5 miles down the beach without anybody in sight—then somebody pulls up and parks close enough to get tangled with our lines. Most of us surf fishermen want the peace and love being alone. Also, please don't park exactly where you saw somebody catch a fish the day before. This year we had people parking in a spot multiple days in a row because they saw us catch one fish one day before that. So we moved to another spot and still found the fish. They're not at one location—they're all over the beach. You just have to find them. And stealing somebody's spot they've been fishing in isn't going to guarantee you a fish if you don't know what else to do.

Once you're parked on the beach, there isn't much etiquette to abide by. Don't go into the dunes if it's marked off for bird nesting. Stay 40' from the horses. Don't litter. If you do have a bonfire, take the extra pieces of wood with you, including half-burnt pieces. Snuff out the embers with water and bury the rest of the coals and ash. Any big holes you dig, please fill them in. It can damage trucks or even get somebody stuck, which could result in the tide coming up and damaging the truck further.

While it may seem like a lot, all of this can help you enjoy your day, let others enjoy theirs, and help you avoid costly tickets or fines for doing something you shouldn't—even if you just didn't know the proper rules to begin with. Ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law.

So please—read the rules, bring the proper equipment, and most importantly, respect other people and respect the island along with any animals that call this island home.

See you on the sand!



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Check out this 48" Red Drum caught by Nick Hudson of Parsonsburg, MD. Nick was fishing in the surf of Assateague Island on the morning of June 21st.



Mango on the Island of Frankford, DE landed this monster stingray solo. Mango had to drive two miles down Assateague Island to find some help from Tim Webb, his sons Jared and Jaden, and several other friends. They helped him safely release the ray. They estimated that the ray weighed 300-350 lbs.

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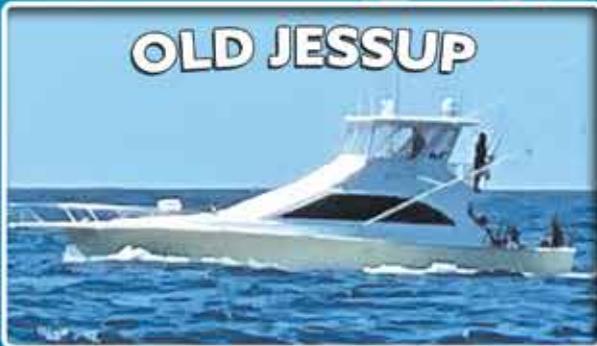
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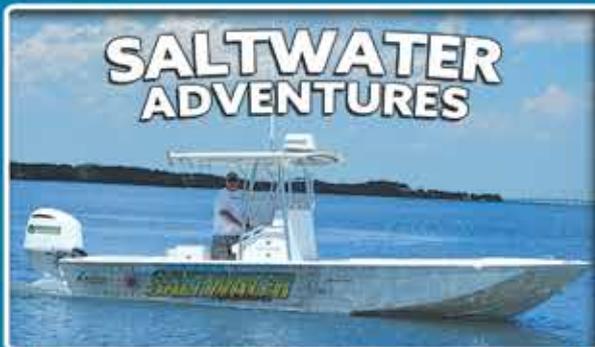
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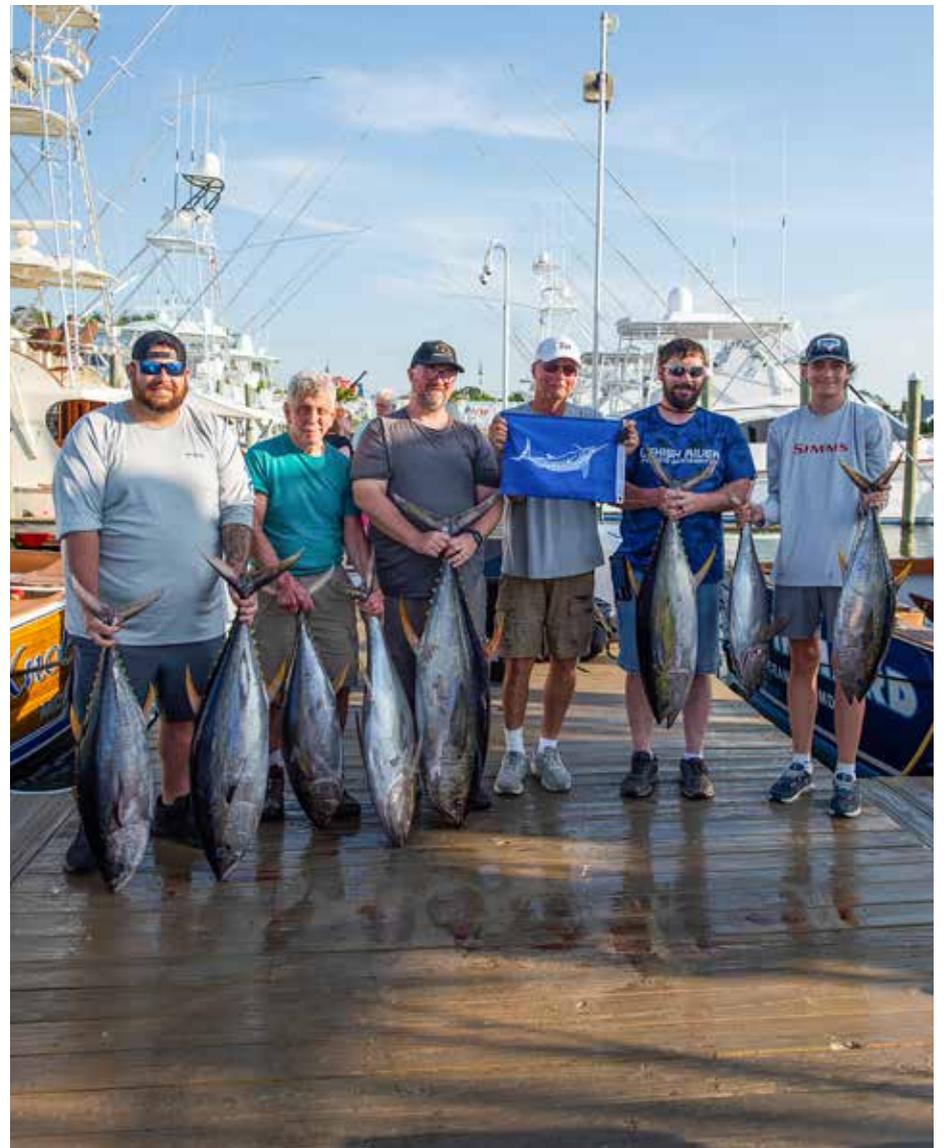


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Out of Berlin, MD, world-class six-year-old angler Linde Bakke ventured out in the South Bays behind Assateague and caught this 17½" flattie using gulp on a buck tail.



"White Lightning" had a huge day out of Sunset Marina, catching these eight tuna and even having a White Marlin release!

	2025 MARYLAND · DELAWARE · VIRGINIA			CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES			
	MD	DE **	VA	MD	DE **	VA	
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

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The Lawrences went out for a family trip this past Friday and had a great day! Dave Lawrence (Frederick MD) took out his 22' center console along with his nephew Dylan Lawrence and brothers Greg and Mike Lawrence (all from Hanover PA). The group ended up bringing in a dozen keeper Flounder along with a dozen throwbacks and a couple of seabass, all using a gulp/live minnow combo.

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A good-looking 161 lbs big eye from an overnighter, caught by "East Bound" out of Sunset Marina. Alongside the bigeye the crew also brought back three yellowfin and a mahi.



Angler Steve Kramarck from Newark, DE caught this Yellowfin Tuna in 700' water with a purple Joe shute and purple Ron-Z tail. Steve was also with his friends Chris Arrivello from Delco, PA and Jeff Starner from York, PA.

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Black Drum 	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna 	June 5 Jack Disney Restless Lady II Baltimore Canyon	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
Cobia 		June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Mari" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder 	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish ★ 	June 19 Norm Wallis "On The Hunt" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo 		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin ★ 	June 14 Hannah Melvin "Wrecker" Washington Canyon	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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



Jaron Picking, of York, PA, and his father, Troy Picking, caught four keeper flounder and dozens of throw backs in just a few hours. They were fishing in the Thorofare and were using minnows as bait. The flounder ranged from 20" down to 17 3/4".

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JULY

- 42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off**
July 4-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown**
July 9-12 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 38th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament**
July 11-13 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- Jimmy Johnson's Atlantic City "Quest for the Ring"**
July 13-19 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com
- 21st Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic**
July 19-20 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 11th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic**
July 25-27 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325
- Cape May Marlin Tournament**
July 24-27 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

AUGUST

- Marlins for Mason**
August 1-2 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- 17th Annual OCMC Franky Pettolina "Heels & Reels" Tournament**
August 1-2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 18th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament**
August 2 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306
- 52nd Annual White Marlin Open**
August 4-8 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229
- Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder**
August 13-17 • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com
- 32nd Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open**
August 14-16 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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- Weight and/or length of fish
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- Name of boat, if any

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware found rough seas in the beginning of the week keeping many anglers at the docks. As the week progressed and seas calmed the fishing appeared to get better than it has been for many weeks. Sea bass are really slowing down as the water warms with the hotter temps we saw last week. Some limits can still be found, however many anglers are switching to jig fishing for bass to avoid the numerous undersize fish which will attack bait with a vengeance. The inshore coral ground is producing some nice flounder, however you still need to sort through the many fish not measuring up to the 17.5 inch minimum. The back bays are warm and flounder are being found near the bridge as well as the deeper hole throughout the bay. Massy Ditch has also been producing well for fluke and spot.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays of Indian River have warmed up considerably with this past week's 90 degree temperatures. Flounder and croakers are being found throughout the bay with many fish small in size. Several doormats have been found in the deeper areas of the bay causing anglers to switch to a jigging style of fishing to target these fish in the deeper holes. This weeks "How To" describes this type of fishing for fluke as opposed to the normal drift fishing along channels. Carlos Ramirez and his son fished the inlets south side landing a 22 inch bluefish for his son's first catch. Wayne Hopkins fished the mid DE Bays reefs and reported non stop 6-10 inch croaker action. Huge schools of baits and tons of dolphin activity. Although not the biggest croakers, the heavy action

and marine life made the trip very enjoyable for all. He did state the west wind days produced green flies which tormented anglers all day. Bob Trento had a few good days out last week catching keepers up to 20 inches. 12 yr old Noah Henise was with his mom, fishing the IR bridge from shore when he hooked and landed a big gator bluefish. Knowing the way blues fight I'm sure this big 24" fish gave Noah a hell of a fight. Great job Noah in staying with the fight and not giving up.

Nearshore Coral and Wrecks

The sea bass population has begun its trek to deeper, cooler water with mainly juvenile fish on the closer wrecks and coral grounds. Using small jigs and light rods will help anglers reach the bottom without being attacked by very small fish looking

for a meal of squid or clam. The down current sides of the wrecks as well as the drop offs of the shipping channel's coral are producing some very healthy flounder. Big Gulp baits tipped with squid are the best method as of late with live spot (if you can find them) being a better option. Late evening and early morning will be the time with the least pressure and more receptive fish. The "Captain Bob" and "Judy V" out of Hook'Em and Cook'Em Tackle had several good trips catching their anglers a variety of sea bass and flounder. Captain Brin of Fisherman's Wharf stated his week was good on the Atlantic despite a few technical difficulties. Fog and no drift one day and then a super fast drift with an east wind the next. Capt. Brin reports despite these conditions they did manage to catch keeper sea bass and flounder including a ridiculous amount of throwback flatties just missing the keeper mark. The "Michael D" out of Indian River fished the Fenwick shoals again last week with

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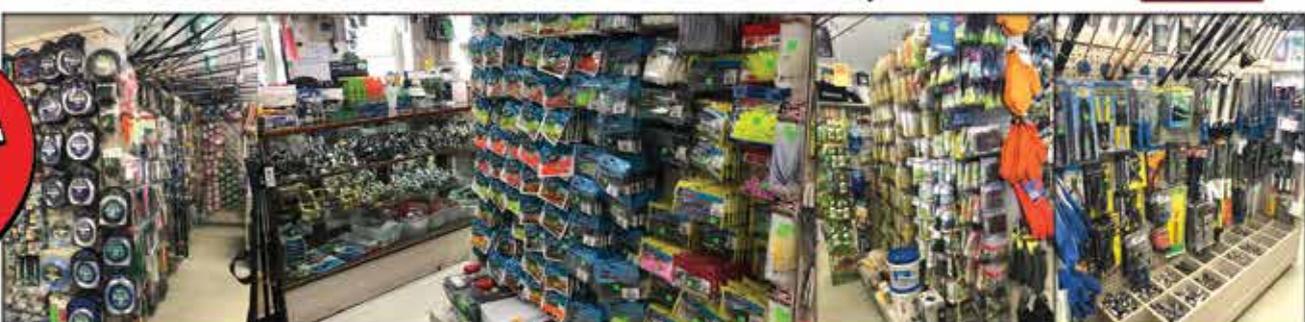
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Troy Smeltzer and Ben Johnson catching blues, sheephead, and flounder. Daryl Mergenthaler had a good day out on the Old Ground catching several flounder, including a big doormat that he introduced to his cooler and later the dinner table. Steve Kuhlman fished near A buoy and worked his way back to IRI landing 37 sea bass with one keeper and a flounder just over the 17.5 minimum. He reported that it's still better than working.

Surf Fishing

Our beaches are producing tons of small kingfish as well as sharks and rays as we enter our summer water temperatures. A few rockfish and blues can still be found however many of these fish have left for their migration north to cooler waters. Anglers should begin the change from larger fish finding rigs to smaller pompano rigs or to smaller whole mullet rig for summer fishing. Spot have shown up in the surf and are being caught using small pieces of blood worm or squid. George Frigm fished the Fenwick beach for the past few days saying the action was slow with the higher NE winds. He did manage a 2.5 lb bluefish about 30 minutes past low tide while fishing a whole spot. He also hooked and lost a very big ray which peeled off 50 yards of line several times before breaking off. Mark Webb hit 3Rs at 6am and caught spot, kingfish, and 3 skates. He also stated after 10 am the biting flies became an issue. William Collins fished Fenwick beach and landed keeper fluke measuring 18.5 inches using a spot fish

head.

Crabs and Clams

Clamming is getting tougher for locating smaller ones with big soup clams dominating the area. Holts landing remains the hotspot of this past week with anglers averaging 50-100 clams in a little over an hour. Crabbing is still yielding about 5-7 keepers per pot with many keepers being of the larger size. A few females are still being found but most have spawned out for now.

How To:

This week we talk about jigging for flounder instead of drifting. Using a bucktail rig on approximately 10-20 lb mono tie a bucktail to the end of the line. A second hook on a dropper loop can be tied a few feet above the bucktail but is not necessary. The weight of the bucktail will be determined by where you are fishing, the amount of current, and the depth of the water. Use the lightest one you can reach bottom with. A 3-5 oz bucktail is a good place to start in most areas. The bucktail should be tipped with a long piece of squid or Gulp bait, however the best bait for jigging will be a live spot hooked behind the dorsal fin. After finding a deep hole, use the motor to hold you over the area for as long as you can manage while jigging the bait off the bottom a few inches to a max of one foot. You will not get as many bites using this method but the bite will more than likely be a better quality fish.

Until next week,
Tight lines and fins up



7-year-old Veronica Cilento, of Camp Hill, PA caught this Junior Class Citation flounder that weighed in at 5.9 lbs and measured 24 1/4 inches in length. The fat fish was caught on the "Gale Force" with Capt. Aaron Hurd I while fishing in the Indian River Bay. Veronica was using minnows to make her catch. Nice catch, Veronica!




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For Stormy Weather Supper

Real Maryland Crab Soup:

A cozy, veggie-packed tomato soup brimming with sweet blue crab—perfect for stormy nights.

w

- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ cup diced yellow onion
- 1 cup sliced or diced carrots
- ½ cup sliced or diced celery
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 ½ tbsp Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tsp ground mustard
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 (28-oz) can crushed

- tomatoes
- 4 cups low-sodium beef broth
- 2 ½ cups water
- 2 cups peeled and chopped potato (Russet or Yukon Gold)
- 1 cup shredded or chopped cabbage
- 1 cup chopped green beans (frozen, canned/drained, or fresh)
- ½ cup lima beans (frozen, canned/drained, or fresh)
- ½ cup sweet corn (frozen, canned/drained, or freshly cooked)
- 2 bay leaves

- 1 lb. crab meat
- Optional for garnish: lemon pepper seasoning & fresh parsley

Directions:

1. Heat the olive oil over medium heat in a large stockpot or dutch oven. Add the onion, carrots, and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 6-7 minutes, as the vegetables soften up and let out some juices. Add the garlic, Old Bay seasoning, and ground mustard. Stir to combine and cook for 1 minute.
2. Add all of the remaining ingredients, except for the crab and optional garnishes. Bring to a boil. Add the crab. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Remove bay leaves.
3. Serve soup warm with a garnish of lemon pepper seasoning and fresh parsley, if desired.

4. Keep leftovers in a large covered container in the

www.coastalfisherman.net refrigerator for up to a week. To reheat, simply pour into a pot over medium heat and cook until warm. Feel free to add more broth to the leftovers as it cooks if it is too thick. Soup will thicken in the refrigerator as the veggies and crab soak up the liquid.

For the Fresh Catch Fanatic

Citrus Grilled Tuna Steaks

Zesty, herb-marinated tuna steaks grilled to perfection for a fresh, bold bite.

Ingredients:

- 4 (4 oz.) tuna steaks
- ¼ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ½ tsp fresh chopped oregano
- ½ tsp ground black pepper

Directions:

1. In a large stainless steel dish, mix together orange juice, soy sauce, olive oil, lemon juice, parsley, garlic, oregano, and pepper.
2. Place tuna steaks in a marinade and turn to coat.
3. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
4. Preheat grill to high.
5. Lightly oil grill grate and cook tuna steaks for 5 to 6 minutes.
6. Turn to baste with the marinade.
7. Cook for an additional 5 minutes, or until desired doneness.
8. Discard remaining



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marinade.

For the Bait & Brunch Crowd

Crab Dip Croissants:

Flaky croissants stuffed with creamy, cheesy crab dip and brushed with garlic butter.

Ingredients:

6-8 croissants

Crab Dip Filling:

16 oz cream cheese, softened

8 oz lump crab meat

4 oz claw crab meat

½ cup mozzarella, shredded

½ cup sharp white cheddar, shredded

¼ cup mayo

¼ cup shallot, minced

1 tbsp parsley, freshly chopped

1 tbsp chives, minced

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp garlic, paste or minced

1 tsp old bay seasoning

1 tsp pepper

Garlic Butter:

5 tbsp unsalted butter, melted

1 tsp garlic, minced

¼ tsp salt

Garnish:

Chives, minced

Directions:

Garlic Butter:

1. Mix together the ingredients listed under "Garlic Butter" and set aside.

Crab Dip Filling:

1. In a bowl add all the ingredients listed under "Crab Dip Filling" EXCEPT for the jumbo lump crab meat and mix thoroughly. Once combined, fold in the jumbo lump crab meat.

2. Once thoroughly mixed, transfer to a piping bag and set aside.

Assemble:

1. Preheat oven to 350F.

2. Make 4-5 shallow cuts through each croissant making sure not to cut all the way through.

3. Fill the openings in the croissants with the crab dip filling.

4. Brush on the garlic butter and transfer the stuffed croissants to a parchment lined baking sheet. Place on the middle rack of oven.

5. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until the tops are golden brown and the filling is warmed through.

6. Once baked, top with remaining garlic butter and chives.

7. Serve while warm and enjoy!



For Lazy Sundays Afloat

Boat Dip:

A cool, creamy dip made for sharing on easygoing days by the water.

Ingredients:

1 (16-oz.) container sour cream (about 2 cups)

1 (10-oz.) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes and green chiles (Such as Rotel), drained

1 (1-oz.) envelope ranch

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dressing mix

1 (1-oz.) envelope 25%-less-sodium taco seasoning mix (such as Old El Paso)

1 (8-oz.) package shredded cheddar-jack or mild cheddar cheese (about 2 cups)

¼ cup thinly sliced scallions (about 2 medium) (Optional)

Tortilla chips or potato chips, for serving

Directions:

1. Stir together sour cream, diced tomatoes, ranch mix, taco seasoning, and cheese in a

medium bowl. Garnish with scallions, if desired.

2. Serve dip cold or at room temperature with tortilla or potato chips.

For When Chopsticks Meet East Coast Cookin'

Summer Roll Bowls

A refreshing, no-roll twist on Vietnamese summer rolls packed with shrimp, herbs, and noodles.

Ingredients:

Nuoc Cham (Vietnamese dipping sauce):

3 tbsp granulated sugar

½ bird's eye chile, thinly sliced

¼ cup fresh lime juice

2 tbsp fish sauce

Vietnamese Peanut Sauce:

6 tbsp hoisin sauce

3 tbsp creamy peanut butter

2 tbsp unseasoned rice vinegar

2 tsp chili garlic paste

Bowls:

1 tbsp granulated sugar

1 tbsp unseasoned rice vinegar

1 tbsp plus ½ tsp kosher salt, divided

8 oz. medium shrimp, peeled, deveined

8 oz. straight-cut rice noodles

2 cups thinly sliced romaine lettuce

1 large carrot, thinly sliced into long batons

1 Persian cucumber, thinly sliced into long batons

½ avocado, thinly sliced

½ cup packed mixed fresh mint, cilantro, and Thai basil leaves

¼ cup unsalted roasted peanuts

Directions:

Dipping Sauce:

1. In a medium bowl, whisk sugar and ½ cup hot water until sugar is dissolved. Whisk in chile, lime juice and fish sauce.

Vietnamese Peanut Sauce:

1. In another medium bowl, whisk hoisin sauce, peanut butter, vinegar, and chili garlic paste until combined.

Bowls:

1. In a medium pot over medium heat, cook sugar, vinegar, ½ tsp salt and 2 tbsp water, whisking frequently, until sugar is dissolved, about 2 minutes.

2. Add shrimp and bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring constantly, until shrimp turns pink and curls up, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer shrimp mixture to a small bowl.

3. Wipe out the pot and fill halfway with water; season with remaining 1



tbsp salt. Bring to a boil and cook noodles, stirring occasionally, until tender, checking 2 minutes earlier than package directions. Drain, then rinse noodles under cold water.

4. Transfer noodles to a medium bowl. Add 6 tablespoons nuoc cham dipping sauce and toss to combine.

5. In a large bowl, toss lettuce, carrot, and cucumber with ½ cup nuoc cham.

6. Divide noodles among bowls. Nestle salad mixture alongside. Top with shrimp, avocado, herbs and peanuts. Serve with peanut sauce alongside.

*Chef's Note: The sauces can be made up to 3 days ahead, while the shrimp and noodles can be cooked

2 days ahead. Store bowls separately in airtight containers and refrigerate.

For the Final Cast

Atlantic Beach Pie

A bright and creamy lemon-lime pie with a salty-sweet cracker crust and whipped topping.

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups finely crushed saltine cracker (from 1 sleeve, about 37 crackers)

6 tbsp unsalted butter, melted

3 tbsp granulated sugar

1 large egg white, lightly beaten

1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk

4 large egg yolks

¼ cup fresh lime juice (from 2 large limes)



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1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
(from 2 lemons)

1 1/2 cups heavy whipping
cream

1/4 cup powdered sugar

Lemon and lime zests, for
garnish

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Stir
together crushed crackers,
melted butter, sugar, and
egg white in a medium
bowl until combined.

2. Transfer mixture to a
9-inch glass pie plate;
firmly press on bottom and
sides. Freeze 10 minutes.

3. Bake in preheated
oven until crust is lightly
browned, about 20
minutes. Transfer to a wire
rack; cool slightly, about 10
minutes.

4. Meanwhile, whisk
together condensed
milk and egg yolks until
smooth. Whisk in lime
juice and lemon juice
until combined. Pour lime
mixture into warm crust.

5. Bake at 350F until center
is just set, about 15 minutes.
Transfer to a wire rack; cool
1 hour. Refrigerate until
chilled, about 2 hours.

6. Beat cream and powdered
sugar in a large bowl with
an electric mixer on high
speed until stiff peaks
form, about 2 minutes.

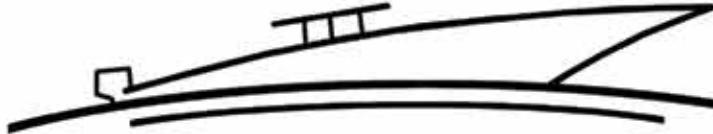
7. Spread whipped cream
topping over chilled pie,
leaving about a 1/2-inch
border of custard showing
around crust. Garnish with
lemon and lime zests, if
desired. Pie can be stored,
covered without whipped
cream topping, in the
refrigerator up to 4 days.
Spread with topping just
before serving.



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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



I'm guessing that most folks will agree that the virtue of "patience" is a necessary tool for long term success by both fishermen and hunters. After all, no matter how good we are, we can only do so much. Even when we set ourselves up in the right place with all the best equipment we still can't rush a fish into biting our hook or game to walk through our sights. We do everything we can, and then we wait and wait for Mother Nature to (hopefully) make things happen in our favor.

Having patience will indeed "help" procure the outcome of putting fish in the cooler or game in the bag, but for many sportsmen those outcomes by themselves are not the determining factor of what they consider to be a fun and successful trip - they want so much more than that. After all, on most outdoor adventures the actual time involved in the taking of game or battling of fish is minuscule compared to the rest of the outing.

It's the total experience, from start to finish, that keeps us all coming back for more. Why else would we hunt or fish day after

day without catching or shooting a darn thing and still keep coming back with the same "opening day" kind of enthusiasm. Just because fish are caught or game is taken does not always mean it's been a good outing

Most hunters know that the number of days they will spend in a deer stand will far exceed the number of deer they will take during even the best of years. Yet with great enthusiasm they continue to rise at ridiculous hours of the morning and hike off into the cold dark woods every chance they get, even with the knowledge that they may not even see a deer, let alone shoot one.

Fishermen too will often know full well that on a given trip the odds are stacked against them catching anything decent or maybe anything at all, and yet they go out and fish like there's no tomorrow, catch nothing, and still return home with a smile on their face.

Perhaps the best thing a sportsman can do to help ensure they have a great day outdoors is to focus on the guaranteed "happenings" of the day and assume ahead of time

that nothing will be shot or caught. Expectations should be set no higher than enjoying the time spent going through the motions of hiking through the woods, boating around the bay, sharing a duck blind with friends, watching the sunrise on the beach, or spending the day on a sportfisherman many miles from land. Then, if the daily events unfold that allow game to be taken or fish caught, the windfall can be accepted as "the icing on the cake" or the perfect ending to an already perfect day.

One must stay aware of the fact that the goal of the outing is to have "fun." If fish or game is taken in the process then Bravo! But above all else the day is to be an enjoyable and happy affair. If all someone is looking to do is "get meat" then they'd be far better off making a trip to the grocery store. This would certainly be a lot more time and cost efficient, and there would be almost no chance of getting seasick, cold feet, eaten-up by insects, or lost in the woods.

I once overheard an interesting conversation on my boat this summer. One of my charter clients

www.coastalfisherman.net was telling my first mate about some fishing he does in the winter where they troll heavy, weighted, wire-line tackle to catch 18-20 inch fish. He described the fishing as "no fun at all" because the weather was almost always miserable and the tackle was much too heavy for the fish. "But," as he put it, "even though it's no fun, we do it, because that's the only way to get the fish."

At that, I couldn't help but join in on the conversation and ask the fellow if I was hearing him right.

"You said that it's no fun at all - right?"

"Right".

"But you fish that way because it's the only way you can catch that type of fish, that time of year".

"Correct".

Mystified by his answers I couldn't help but throw in my own opinion by saying "why don't you save yourself the aggravation and just buy a couple fish?"

I think the poor fellow saw where I was leading and changed the subject, so I never got an answer to my last question.

I don't know why, but as I get older I find myself trying to figure out more

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and more why we sportsmen so often do the things we do. I'm curious to know what leads us to be hunters and fishermen in the first place and then what motivates us once we've assumed those roles. The only conclusions my pea-brain has been able to come up with is that it's all a jumbled up mixture of human desires and needs for recreation, sport, competition, relaxation, excitement, solitude, and exercise. Add to the batch a smattering of moral and ethical concerns, a spoon-full of ego, and maybe a little of that primal hunter/gatherer urge and you end up with a modern sportsman.

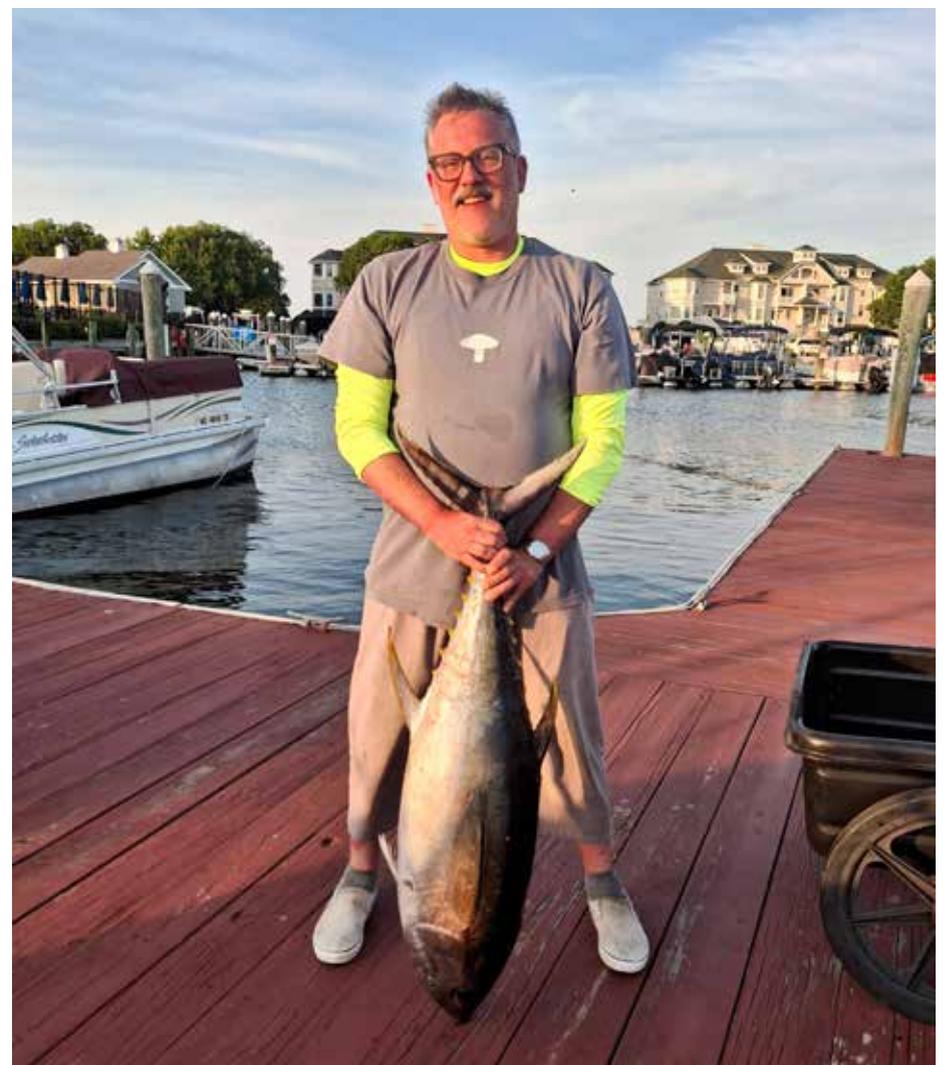
Some say that much of the desire to hunt and fish is a result of something in our genes dating back to the days when man had more hair than brains and used to whoop-up on woolly mammoths with stone tipped spears.

Most certainly, early hunters and anglers assumed their roles almost exclusively for the very necessary outcome of food. Back then the mark of a good day may have been when no one in the party got eaten or squashed in the process of bringing home the bacon! The pursuit of "fun" was something early man wasn't likely too concerned with, and any extra excitement was

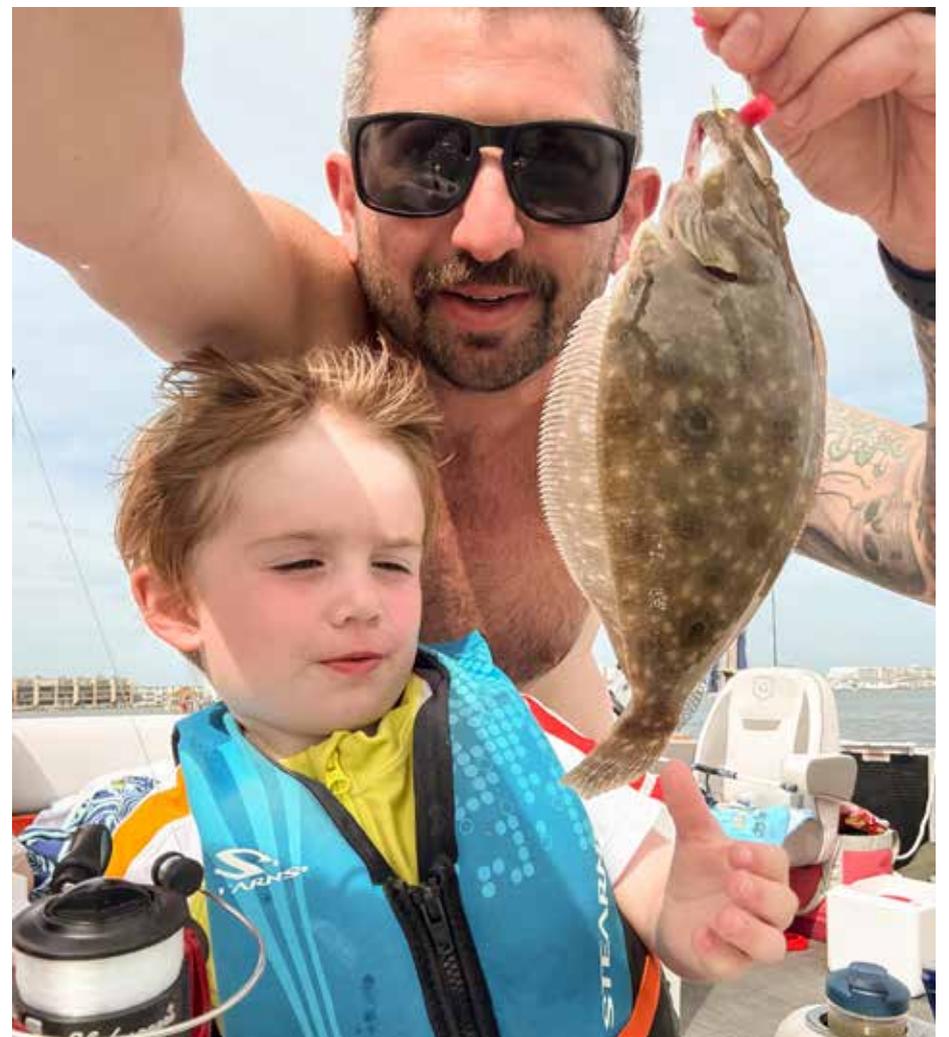
something they would probably just as well have done without.

But for today's sportsmen the goals and rewards are reversed. Fun and excitement have become prime reasons to get out of bed at 4 a.m. and the occasional meals that sometimes come of it all are just the icing on the cake. Rifles and compound bows may have replaced the spear and club, just as spinning reels and fluorocarbon leader has taken the place of leather line and bone hooks. Technologically we've come a long way. But when I hear folks talking more about getting meat for the freezer than having fun doing it I can't help but wonder how many Neanderthal genes we still have wriggling through our bodies.

Most of us probably spend far too little time outside hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, or however we choose to simply enjoy nature's splendor. If we get so hung-up on making the kill or bringing home a limit of fish that along the way we don't notice the multi-colored beauty of fall foliage or miss the glory of a magnificent sunrise we'll be disappointed more times than not. The secret to always being successful in outdoor pursuits is to forget about goals and just enjoy the time afield or on the water.



Angler Doug Koschalk from Baltimore, MD was able to reel in his first tuna, coming in at 44", while fishing on the "Five-O." Doug was with Captain Rob Overfield, Mate Allen 'Web' Webster, and friends Kevin Grapes and Minh Dang.



First fish alert! 3 ½ year old Jack Dowell who was able to reel in his first fish this past Sunday with this flounder. Jack used his mini Shakespeare Ugly Stick rod with cut frozen shrimp and fish bites in the east channel. Jack's dad, Erik Dowell, said that he is "extremely proud."



Angler Joe Raymond, from Salisbury, MD, caught this 23" flounder using minnow and squid, while on the "Reel Salty." Joe was with friends Michael Milanse, of Luthersville, MD, and Nino Milande, from Hydes, MD.



This crew had a stellar day aboard the "Grande Pez." Capt. Ryan J. Freese put them on the tuna, as they filled the cooler with 11 yellowfin for dinner.

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A few hundred yards to the north, Capt. Manuel Viana was battling a sea monster. He had already caught one he estimated at 500 lbs., but this one was much bigger. I sat on the gunnel of La Onda Mila, wondering when it would be our turn. The sea can play tricks on our eyes, but I swear the largest blue marlin I had ever seen just freight-trained across our spread from left to right—never stopping for a look.

Capt. Marty Bates yelled, “Did anybody see that?” Before another word was uttered, I witnessed three smaller male blue marlin in hot pursuit of Big Mama. Two of the three seemed more interested in food than in chasing her, and they smashed into our spread. One stayed stuck on the left long rigger, and we managed a nice release. As we set the spread back out, I heard Manuel over the radio: “Marty, she’s in the boat. I think she’s a grander.”

That’s a fish of a lifetime on any day—but today was July 4th, and we were all fishing the single-day Blue Marlin World Cup.

Cape Verde is home to some of the most consistent large blue marlin fishing on the planet. Just hearing the name conjures an image of a giant dorsal fin slicing through my imaginary spread. Sam Peters, owner of Release Marine, called me and said, “Hey Billy, why don’t you come down to Cape Verde and fish the World Cup Blue Marlin Tournament with Drew McDowell and me on July 4th?” Well, if I want to see everything, I’ve got to go everywhere.

The more I learned about the trip, the more I began to wonder: to what do I owe this honor? We would be fishing for seven days on La Onda Mila with the famed “bad boy” of blue marlin, Captain Marty Bates, and mates Chase Travers and Elton Lopes Forte.

Getting to Cape Verde is easy—but a bit lengthy. The TAP Air route took me on an overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal, then a connecting flight to São Vicente, Cape Verde. The Cape Verde Islands lie about 560 miles off the coast of Senegal and hold a healthy population of blue marlin. Depending on where they’re biting, you may visit several of the islands during your stay. Island-hopping for blue marlin truly romanticizes the adventure.

Our base hotel would be the Blue Marlin Hotel in the town of Mindelo.



This modern European-style hotel was definitely a cut above what I expected in such a remote location. My spacious, ultra-modern room had a balcony overlooking the marina and was just an eight-minute walk to the boat.

Our goal was to scout out the best location to fish the Blue Marlin World Cup. On Day 1, Palm Beach Towers owner Drew McDowell and I fished off of San Pedro in an area near the São Vicente airport. After a few hours of trolling a spread of custom Hawaiian and Andy Moyes lures, we had a healthy 500-lb blue eat our left long rigger. Marty handled the 44-foot Henriques spectacularly, chasing down the acrobatic blue, and after a 15-minute battle, mate Chase Travers leadered the fish for a perfect, healthy release.

Sam met us at the marina restaurant when we returned. We sat with many of the legendary Cape Verde captains I had been reading about for the last decade. One thing that was immediately obvious was that the fun banter and good times among crews are universal across the world’s fleets. Meeting and listening to legends like Zak Conde, Olaf Grimkowski, Marty Bates, and Portuguese captain, Manuel Viana, was a highlight of the trip.

Later that evening, we met for a lobster dinner to discuss the plan for the next few days of fishing. We decided to head to the island of São Nicolau. The bite had been good there, and we’d be staying at



Marty’s home—which also happens to be a beautiful boutique hotel. We would be his first guests. Casa Bates—or “The Bates Motel,” as we dubbed it—would soon become my favorite place to rest, share stories, and enjoy fabulous cuisine prepared by Marty’s girlfriend, Ambra Goggi.

We trolled the rough crossing from Mindelo without a bite, though Marty assured me blues were often encountered en route. For the next two days, we fished the leeward



side of the island in beautiful, calm waters—never losing sight of Marty’s house. We managed eight

www.coastalfisherman.net raises and four releases of blue marlin between 300 and 400 lbs.

As much as I didn’t want to leave this amazing lodge, delicious food, spectacular views, and glassy seas, we were on a mission to find the right spot for the Blue Marlin World Cup on July 4th. Marty decided we’d move to the island of Santo Antão and fish the famous—and sometimes treacherous—Northwest Bank. We fished our way there, releasing one blue marlin, and moored just off the village of Tarrafal de Monte Trigo.

Well, I finally found the lodging I had expected in this little village. After being rowed to shore in a panga, we were taken to our hotel in the back of a pickup truck taxi and shown to our simple, yet comfortable, rooms. Rustic, quaint, and authentic come to mind. The back wall of my room was literally the mountainside rock. Our dinner menu consisted of whatever they had in the fridge. The experience, food, and sleep were all wonderful.

The next morning, we would fish the Blue Marlin World Cup in one of the best marlin spots in the world.

Marty had picked the right spot to fish this one-day, worldwide blue marlin event—but the winning fish bit a few hundred yards to our north, behind the boat Blue Hunter with Capt. Manuel Viana. His 1,046.1-lb monster took top honors. We managed two smaller releases that day.

If a shot at a giant blue marlin is on your bucket list, I highly recommend Cape Verde and Capt. Marty Bates. He is now running the Release Man, a completely refurbished and repowered 48’ G&S with Omni sonar. Marty taught me about pitching to blue marlin and lure presentation in both rough and calm conditions. It was truly one of the most educational trips I’ve ever taken.

If you’re lucky, the bite will be hot off São Nicolau and you’ll get to experience Ambra’s fabulous cooking and hospitality. Marty books far in advance, but I would also highly recommend many of the other crews on the island. I’ve listed a few below.

Fishing in Cape Verde usually starts around mid to late March and runs through July. The fish are there year-round, so if you’re considering a different month, contact Marty for his professional opinion.

Contact Info:
Release Man – Contact Sam Peters at Speters@releasemarine.com, +1-912-507-8898, or Marty Bates on WhatsApp at +238 986 68 55
La Onda Cape Verde – fishing-capeverde.com





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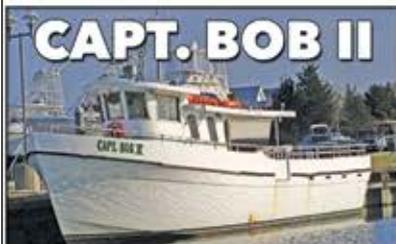
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Angler Mike Koch caught this red drum on the outgoing tide off the Assateague Surf.



Corey Wendling landed nine flounder in four hours! Unfortunately, the biggest was a quarter of an inch too small to keep. Corey was fishing off the Assateague Surf.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 25 New Moon	High 08:12 am High 09:09 pm	Low 02:23 am Low 02:03 pm
THUR. JUNE 26	High 09:09 am High 10:02 pm	Low 03:15 am Low 02:55 pm
FRI. JUNE 27	High 10:04 am High 10:50 pm	Low 04:06 am Low 03:47 pm
SAT. JUNE 28	High 10:56 am High 11:35 pm	Low 04:57 am Low 04:41 pm
SUN. JUNE 29	High 11:46 am High -----	Low 05:47 am Low 05:37 pm
MON. JUNE 30	High 12:17 am High 12:37 pm	Low 06:36 am Low 06:35 pm
TUE. JULY 1	High 12:59 am High 01:30 pm	Low 07:23 am Low 07:34 pm
WED. JULY 2 New Moon	High 01:42 am High 02:26 pm	Low 08:06 am Low 08:33 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.

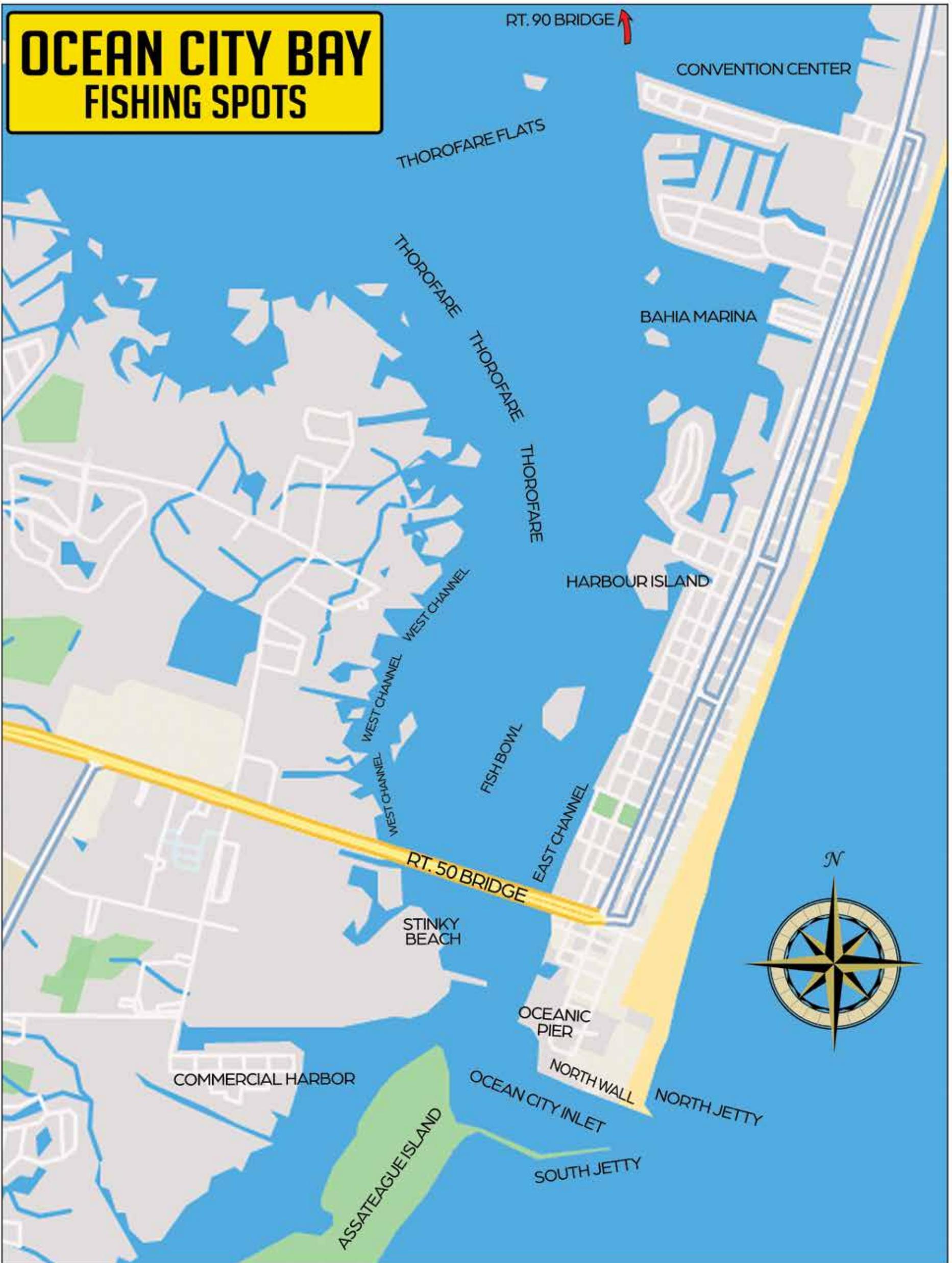
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Why Your Marine MMSI Number Matters – And Why It Needs to Be Programmed into Your VHF and AIS

In the world of marine safety and communication, few tools are as critical—and as often overlooked—as the Maritime Mobile Service Identity (MMSI) number. This unique 9-digit code, assigned to your vessel, functions much like a phone number for your boat’s digital communication systems. Whether you are a recreational boater, commercial captain, or offshore angler, understanding and properly programming your MMSI number into your VHF and AIS systems is a simple step that could one day save lives.

What Is an MMSI Number?

An MMSI number is a globally recognized digital identifier used with Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and Automatic Identification Systems (AIS). It allows vessels, coast stations, and rescue services to contact each other digitally, share location data, and transmit emergency signals quickly and accurately.

The Life-Saving Role of MMSI

Modern VHF marine radios



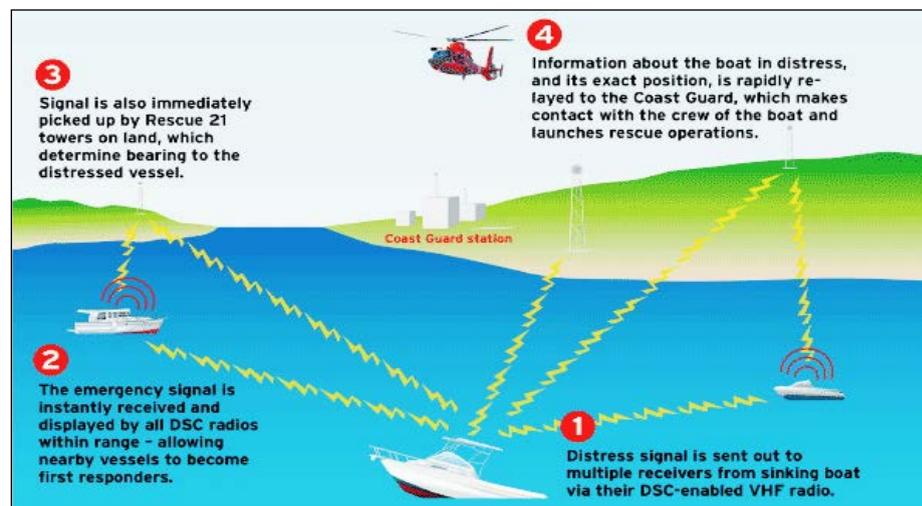
received by nearby vessels and the U.S. Coast Guard, initiating immediate and coordinated rescue efforts—even when voice communication isn’t possible.

If the MMSI number is not programmed into the radio, the distress call is incomplete and may be delayed or ignored entirely.

AIS and MMSI: Collision Avoidance and Vessel Identification

AIS (Automatic Identification System) is another vital safety tool that relies on an MMSI number. Your AIS transceiver continuously broadcasts your vessel’s identity, speed, heading, and position—

transmit identification data—only receive it—removing a key benefit of real-time ship-to-ship recognition. This reduces situational awareness and can lead to confusion or even accidents.



MMSI Prompts on New Radios

Most new DSC radios will display a persistent warning message when powered on, alerting the user that an MMSI must be entered to enable full DSC functionality. Although the radio can still transmit and receive voice calls, this message will reappear every time the unit is turned on—an annoying reminder to complete the setup properly.

Programming Your MMSI: One Chance to Get It Right

VHF radios and AIS systems typically allow the MMSI number to be programmed

once (or a limited number of times) before the unit must be returned to the manufacturer or dealer for reprogramming. This limitation is a security feature to protect the integrity of the distress calling system.

Tip: Always confirm your MMSI number before entering it—double-check to avoid costly reprogramming.

Where to Get an MMSI Number

• For recreational vessels in U.S. waters:

Free MMSI numbers are available from BoatUS or the U.S. Power Squadrons.

• For vessels traveling internationally or licensed by the FCC:

Apply through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) using Form 605.

Use only one MMSI number across all onboard devices—

your VHF, AIS, and DSC-enabled equipment must match.

MMSI and DSC Are Useful Beyond Distress Calls

Once your MMSI is programmed, DSC functionality opens up powerful communication features:

Routine DSC Calls: Boat-to-Boat Contact

DSC allows you to “direct dial” another vessel’s MMSI and alert their radio, much like a phone call. The call is made on Channel 70, the dedicated DSC channel, and both radios automatically switch to a



equipped with DSC include a red “Distress” button. When pressed, it sends an automatic distress call that includes your MMSI number and GPS position (if connected). This signal can be

allowing nearby vessels and monitoring stations to “see” you in real time.

If your MMSI is not programmed into the AIS, your vessel will not

www.coastalfisherman.net
working channel for voice communication.

Even though the initial DSC call is private, the voice communication that follows can be heard by any VHF radio in range.

DSC Group Calling

Perfect for fishing clubs or fleets, group calling lets you hail multiple vessels at once. A shared **group MMSI number**—which starts with a “0” followed by eight digits (e.g., 012345678)—is created by the group and programmed into each member’s radio.

Once set, select “**Group Call**” from your DSC menu, choose the group name, and transmit. Everyone in the group will be prompted to switch to a preselected working channel—enabling instant group communication.

**DSC Position Report:
Share Locations Privately**

Want to let a buddy know

where the fish are biting without broadcasting it to the whole fleet? Use the **Position Report** feature.

Just select “**Position Report**” from your DSC menu, choose the recipient from your MMSI directory, and send. If their radio is integrated with a GPS plotter, your position will appear as a waypoint on their chart—allowing them to navigate directly to your location with a simple tap.

Final Thoughts: A Small Number That Makes a Big Difference

Your MMSI number is more than just a technical registration—it’s a digital lifeline. It allows your vessel to be seen, contacted, and rescued when it matters most. With modern electronics, programming your MMSI is a one-time task that unlocks a world of safety and convenience.

Don’t leave the dock without it.



Linda Bochenek of Dundalk, MD, was able to reel in her first flounder 17 3/4” while fishing with her family near Mallard Island using a live minnow and white gulp combination. Congrats Linda!

WHY YOUR MARINE MMSI NUMBER MATTERS

MMSI2456

Programmed into your VHF and AIS

AIS

EMERGENCY DISTRESS CALLING (DSC)

Sends your MMSI position automatically

IDENTIFICATION

Identifies your vessel in AIS transmissions

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While fishing on the "Summer Fling" with Captain Andrew Lerinson, angler Chloe Wilson was able to reel in this 30 lbs. 1 oz. cownose ray. What a cool catch!



Heaviest bluefish was won by angler Matthew Regener with this 6 lbs. 8 oz. beauty. Matthew caught this fish with Captain Aaron Hurd on the "Gale Force."

10TH ANNUAL KIDS CATCH-ALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS JUNE 22-23, 2025

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BLUEFISH	Matthew Regener	6.8 lbs.
CROAKER	Reid Padfield	.375 lbs.
FLOUNDER	Gavin Conaway	5.25 lbs.
MAHI	Brayden Gessler	9.2 lbs.
ROCKFISH	Liam Rupp	3.25 lbs.
SEA BASS	Nicky Niebauer	2.5 lbs.
SHARK	Aiden Kopp	8.125 lbs.
SHARK RELEASE	Carson Bixler	1 Releases
SPOT	Justin Hasselberger	.25 lbs.
TRIGGERFISH	Luke Coco	2.2 lbs.
TROUT	Jamey Bailey	.375 lbs.
TUNA	Joey/Angela Gessler	79 lbs.
UNUSUAL CATCH	Oliver Temple	Pompano (1 lb.)



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While fishing on the "Rooster", angler Aiden Kopp brought in this 8 lbs. 2 oz. Atlantic Sharknose, winning him the prize for the heaviest shark.



Anglers Brayden, Joey, and Angela Gessler were able to bring in seven yellowfin tuna and two mahi while fishing on “Boys Toys” with captain Tom Gessler. These fish included the heaviest tuna and heaviest mahi of the tournament, which weighed in at 79 lbs and 9lbs 2oz respectively. Well done Gesslers!



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Anglers Tony Gay, Jamie Persels, both from Grasonville, MD, Ed Fleming, of Parsonsburg, MD, and Captain Greg White, from Westminster, MD, had a great day fishing just north of the Washington Canyon while on "Rush Job" out of Sunset Marina, finishing with these 5 Yellowfins.

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Angler Josh Tavenner, from Sinking Spring, PA, brought in this 25" flounder on a bucktail tipped with gulp at the Old Grounds while on his boat "One More Minute." Nice Catch Josh!

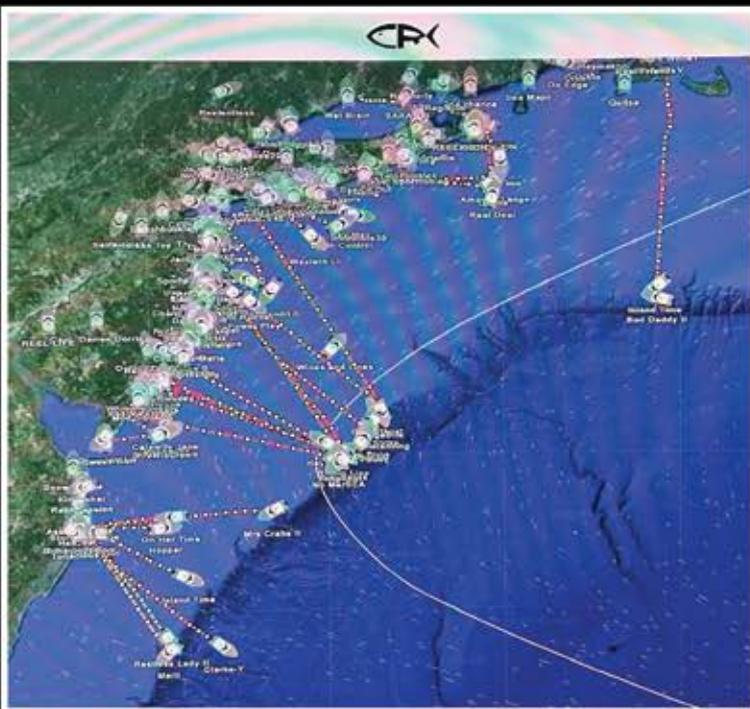
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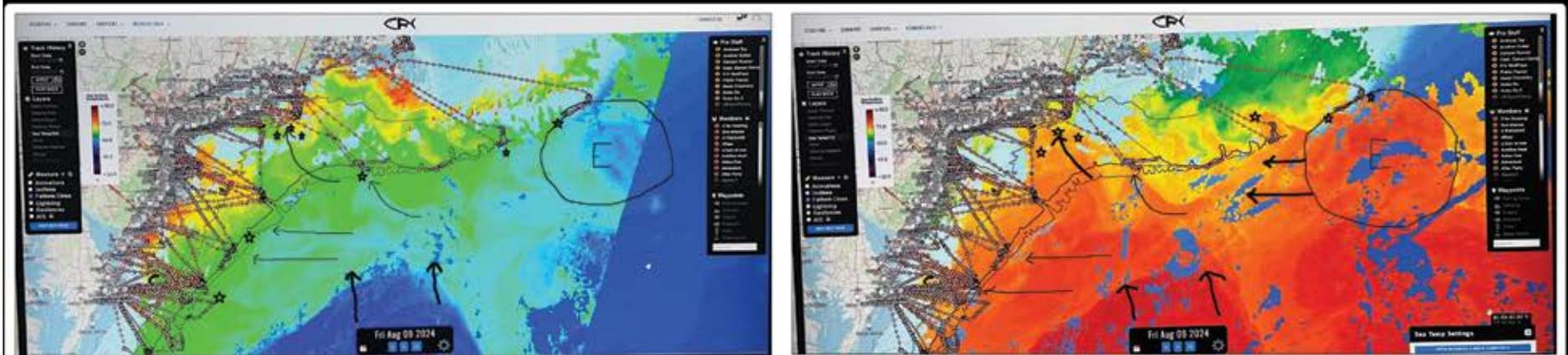
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Reel Women

by Loren Manzione



With temperatures soaring and summer in full swing, it's essential to prioritize your well-being while enjoying offshore, bay, or bridge fishing. Having spent many hours on offshore trips, I truly appreciate the dedication of the mates who ensure everyone on board has what they need. A fishing day can be long and exhausting, starting around 3:30 AM and ending late in the afternoon, especially in scorching weather. While I'm not your mother, I strongly encourage you to be mindful of your body's tolerance to the elements. If it's raining, remember to pack extra dry clothes and waterproof gear like a rain jacket or bibs. For sun exposure, always use strong SPF sunblock, especially since the water intensifies the sun's reflection, and sun poisoning is

no joke.

Many people proactively hydrate before physical activity, and one local woman has created a business to help with this. Melissa Emmerich, MSN, RN, and Owner of SeaRenity IV Hydration and Shoreline Wellness and Primary Care, focuses on health and wellness. As she states, "SeaRenity provides comprehensive IV treatments designed to rejuvenate, energize, and enhance overall well-being. To best serve our community, we offer two convenient brick-and-mortar locations as well as mobile appointments." Imagine throwing an I.V. party with friends, whether it's before a night out, for hangover relief the day after, or simply for a self-care day! Her local

team serves the greater Ocean City, Maryland area and is available for last-minute house calls. Personally, I've received several I.V.s after long nights out or exhausting fishing trips, and they truly brought me back to life.

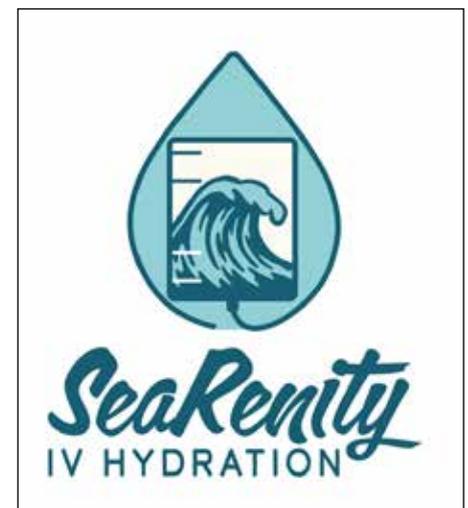
Her other venture, Shoreline Wellness and Primary Care, offers a wide range of specialized services, including Captains and DOT physicals, medical aesthetics, weight management and support, and bioidentical hormone therapy. "We take pride in being the area's most comprehensive 'one-stop' medical practice, which offers convenience, continuity, and compassionate care under one roof. Our mission is to empower patients with the care, support, and

www.coastalfisherman.net resources they need to achieve optimal health and overall well-being."

You can often find Melissa or her team at most fishing tournaments or functions—just look for their logo! Feel free to ask about the services that interest you. Their many care options could be life-changing, helping you recuperate faster and get back to enjoying more activities here at the beach.

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Shoreline Wellness and Primary Care



2025 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

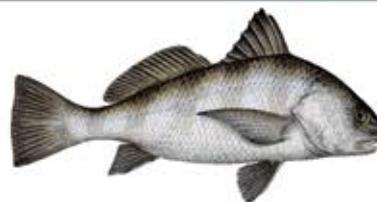
STATE WATERS ONLY



BLACK SEA BASS
13" minimum / 15 per person/day
May 15 - September 30
October 10 - December 31



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



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day



COBIA
43" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20
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
12" minimum



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



STRIPED BASS
28-31"
Less than 3 miles from shore
1 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
4 per person/day
1/1 - 5/31 - 16"
6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"



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



Angler Stephanie Williams landed this 22" flounder on a minnow. She was fishing on the outgoing tide on the Bulkhead along 2nd Street.



Six-year-old Jane Quader was one of the first to load up on spot fish this year, while visiting her grandparents in Ocean Pines, MD! Jane caught them in the Western Thorofare using Fishbite on early Deadly Tackles Hi/Low spot rigs. She was fishing with Capt. Tommy O on his Boston Whaler 210 Montauk. Congratulations on your fish, Jane!

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The "Vitamin Sea 2.0" earned the top prize for the mahi category, earning \$8,235, during the 46th Annual Small Boat Tournament. Angler Dylan Cox reeled in the 10½ lbs. mahi. Along with this mahi the boat brought back two yellowfin weighing 30 and 30½ lbs.



The crew of "PYY Fishing" brought back two yellowfin at 75 lbs. and 80½ lbs. These fish earned them the first and second place in the tuna division and \$7,344 overall. The crew of "PYY Fishing" were fishing the Norfolk Canyon using ballyhoo and artificial bait. The crew of "PYY Fishing" is Capt. Steve Wagner, mate Evan Winterbottom Bianca Cassady, Mick Young, Allen Stanton, and Will Kamm.

46th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club

SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT RESULTS

JUNE 21 - 22, 2025 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY \$20,800

OFFSHORE DIVISION		
TUNA		
1ST "PYY FISHING"		80.5 LBS.
2ND "PYY FISHING"		75 LBS.
3RD "DAN PLAN"		72 LBS.
DOLPHIN		
1ST "VITAMIN SEA 2.0"		10.5 LBS.
INSHORE DIVISION		
BLUEFISH		
1ST "CRAB BOAT"		4.92 LBS.
2ND "LIL READY"		4.48 LBS.
3RD "KELCEY GRACE"		3.88 LBS.
FLOUNDER		
1ST "LIL READY"		3.12 LBS.
2ND "GROUNDHOG"		2.54 LBS.
3RD "SPINDRIFT"		2.02 LBS.
SEA BASS		
1ST "SPINDRIFT"		1.18 LBS.
2ND "SPINDRIFT"		1.14 LBS.
3RD "SPINDRIFT"		1.12 LBS.

TOTAL EARNING (PER BOATS): CRAB BOAT (\$861), DAN PLAN (\$594), GROUNDHOG (\$63), KELSEY GRACE (\$42), LIL READY (\$1212), PYY FISHING (\$7,344), SPINDRIFT (\$252), VITAMIN SEA 2.0 (\$8,235)



The crew of the "Lil Ready" holding their 4.48 lbs. bluefish and 3.12 lbs. flounder. Their flounder earned them first place in the flounder division and the bluefish landed them in second place awarded them \$1,212 combined. The crew of "Lil Ready" is Matt Groff and his sons Chase and Jack.



“Spindrifft” holding their catches of sea bass and a flounder. Ed Kessler swept the sea bass division claiming first, second, and third place. The 2.02 lbs. flounder, caught by Capt. Tommy Ottenwaelder, landed the boat in third place, in the flounder division. Ed and Tom were also with mate Dave Quader, and Rick Steele.

Boz Jefferson brought back a 4.92 lbs. bluefish to the docks at Fisherman’s Marina. This bluefish earned the “Crab Boat” \$861. Boz was fishing with Capt. Bill Regan, mate Brad Regan, 2nd mate Will Regan, and Steve Gilfert. The “Crab Boat” was fishing the Jetty using live spot.



TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2025 SCHEDULE —



* You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

46th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Registration: June 20, 6:30-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 21 & 22

Weigh-Ins: June 21 & 22, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *

Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 4, 5 & 6

Weigh-Ins: July 4, 5 & 6
5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

17th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT *

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Registration: July 31, 6:00-8:00pm

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

Weigh-Ins: August 1 & 2
5:30-7:30pm at Fisherman’s Marina

21st ANNUAL KID’S CLASSIC *

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Registration: July 18, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 19 & 20

Weigh-Ins: July 19, 3:00-6:30pm and July 20, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: Sept. 10, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 11, 12 & 13

NO WEIGH-INS

Release reports turned in nightly to OCMC Clubhouse 6:00PM - 8:00PM

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While fishing on boat "Knot Crazy", John and Michelle Schaitman, Chrissy Huntley, and Captain Bob Bryant from Long Neck, Delaware caught these 16 flounder while jigging on an ocean structure.

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Looks like "RoShamBo" had a great day while bringing in these 16 yellowfin tuna, totaling in at 419 lbs. Anglers Ryan Thoman, Tom and Noah Robinson, Michael and Wade Kapsak (all from York, PA), and Scott Nogler, of Mifflinburg, PA were all as happy as can be after having a day like this!



While fishing on the "Stalker", anglers Brent Olewiler and Captain 'B' caught a great mixed bag of black drum, triggers and flounder up to 24", along with an angel shark.



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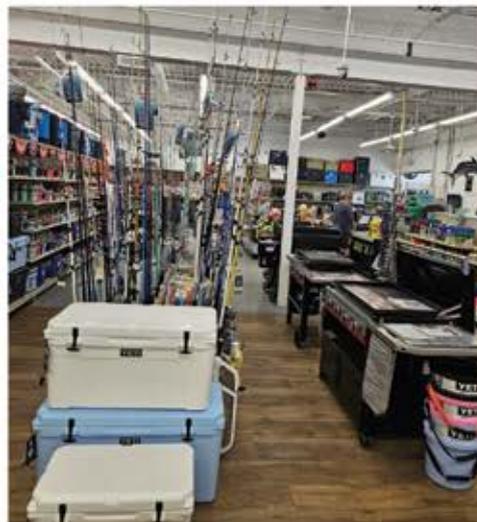


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Angler Denis Hall, with the help of Dennis Jones and team "Hell on Reelz," caught a 7 1/2' bull shark. Denis was fishing on a beach of the Delaware National Seashore.

 A promotional graphic for the 52nd Annual White Marlin Open. The background is a blue grid pattern. On the left, there is a map of the Chesapeake Bay area with various canyons labeled: Massey's Canyon, Spencer's Canyon, Baltimore Canyon, Potomac Canyon, and Washington Canyon. A compass rose is also visible on the map. In the foreground, there are illustrations of a large blue marlin and a smaller yellow marlin. Text on the graphic includes:

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- August 4th-8th, 2025 Ocean City, MD
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The top anglers of the Fish N Paddle kayak fishing tournament holding their checks. Angler Charles Breon was awarded \$4,000 for his 24½ lbs. stringer weight that landed him in first place. Brian Reynolds earned \$2,000 for his 23¾ lbs. stringer weight and Mike Rosa finished with a stringer weight of 18.4 lbs. earning him \$1,000. Angler John Stackhouse took home the money for the C1 division for the heaviest fish. John’s 11.6 lbs black drum earned him \$1,1025.

7TH ANNUAL
FISH N PADDLE
 SALTWATER SLAM

RESULTS

1ST PLACE
CHARLES BREON STRINGER WEIGHT 24.5 LBS. \$4,000
2ND PLACE
BRIAN REYNOLDS STRINGER WEIGHT 23.75 LBS. \$2,000
3RD PLACE
SEAN HITCHENS STRINGER WEIGHT 25.5 LBS. \$1,000
DIVISION C1
JOHN STACKHOUSE STRINGER WEIGHT 11.6 LBS. \$1,105

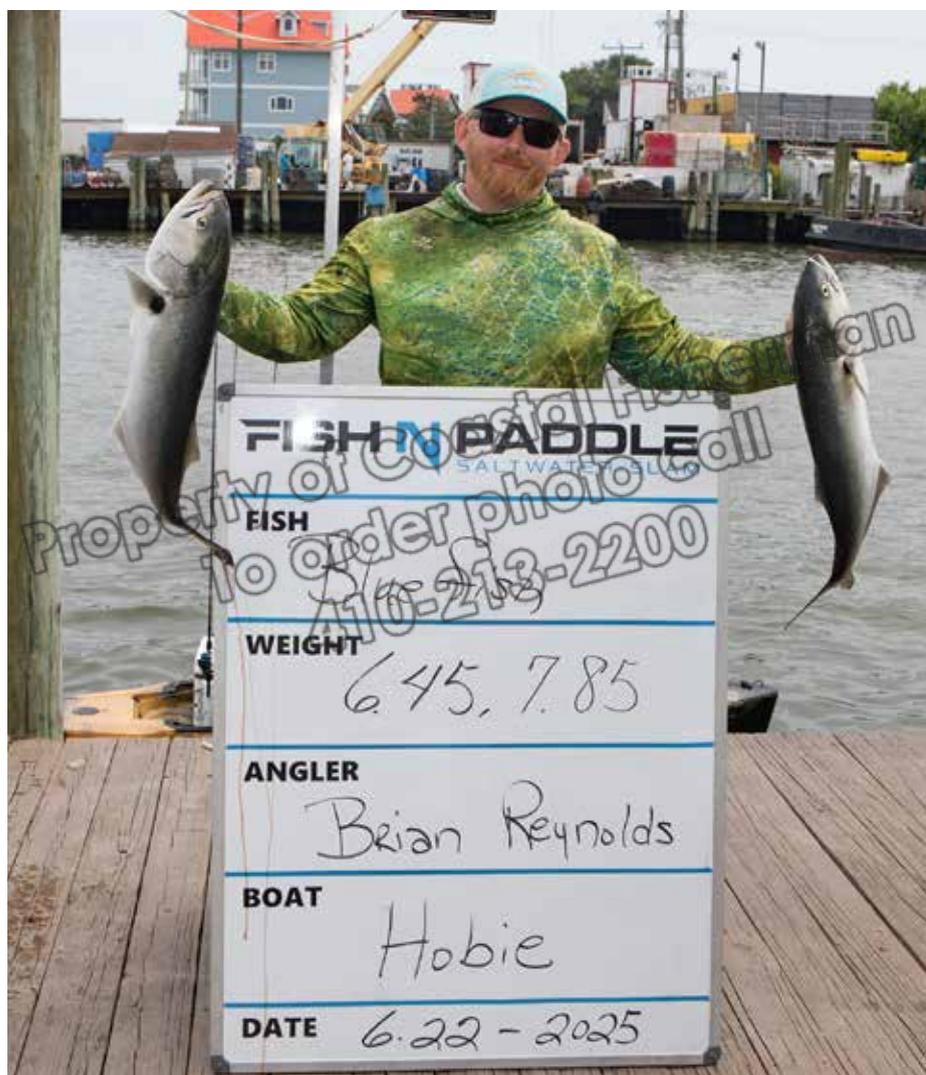
FISHNPADDLE.COM



Angler Charles Breon holding a sheephead and black drum with one sheepshead not pictured hanging on the scale, on the second day of the tournament. Charles’ sheepshead came in at 3.8 and 4.9 lbs. with the black drum being 11.3 lbs. Charles earned first place overall and was using bottom sweeper jigs to catch these fish.



Russ Merritt, Charles Breon and Gary Ward holding their regional qualifier certificates for the USA fishing team. The top 10 anglers in this tournament qualified to fish in a regional kayak fishing tournament to then potentially compete on the global level, representing the United States.



Brian Reynolds on the second day of fishing holding two bluefish that came in at 6.45 lbs. and 7.85 lbs. Brian was fishing the Rt. 50 Bridge using spot. Brian landed in 2nd place overall.



Angler Mike Rosa with a 7.6 lbs. rockfish and 3.15 lbs. sheepshead. Mike caught these fish on the first day of fishing and ended up in 3rd place overall.

VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well I sure wish that we could say the fishing was as hot as the weather this week. While the temperature has skyrocketed, the Eastern Shore angling scene has been a bit lack luster. However, there are always a few smoldering coals in the fire to light up some Eastern Shore excitement!

The biggest buzz of the week was some palegic pullage from the Washington Canyon. Anglers tangled with Yellowfin tuna that were trolled up on skirted ballyhoo rigs and sidewinder trolling bars. Several boats landed double digit numbers of fish which is a welcome change from the slow start we have experienced thus far. While enjoying the deep blue waters of the Atlantic, drop down for a deep opportunity on some tasty

tile and seabass. On your way back in, leave some time to stop on some of the inshore structure and jig up a flounder or two with 5 to 6 inch gulp grubs, or find your fillets with more typical baits like minnows, long strips of squid or cut fish, and smelt or silversides. Either way there have been some fine tasting flatfish for the taking. On some of the same inshore structure, spades and triggers have been targeted by drifting back small pieces of clam suspended under a float. A short length of fluorocarbon leader and a octopus or octopus circle are the weapons of choice when attempting to tempt these tasty tropical looking trophies.

Inside and around the inlets, floundering is still holding strong. However, the increased size has curtailed some of the

deliciousness at the dinner table. However, the pursuit of the seaside prey is still a lot of fun with good numbers of nice fish landed. A day full of fish hitting the deck is still better than a day full of "stuff" hitting the fan at work, even if you have to throw some back! Some summertime kingfish have started to show up in the inlets as well as some inshore sharks. All you need to make memories for a young boy or girl is some cut bait, a little chum and some fishfinder circle hook rigs. This time of year some big sharks can create even bigger smiles and memories. (some keep growing the more their talked about!)

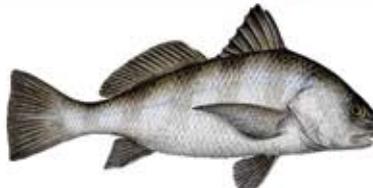
The news in the Chesapeake has centered around the onset of Cobia season. While fresh bunker has been hard to come by, these

www.coastalfisherman.net stinky, slimy, but apparently succulent (to a big Cobia) have been the bait of choice for anglers from the CBBT to Watts Island. At times chunks of bait fished around chum on a fishfinder rig has assisted in putting an aerial acrobat on a rod and hopefully in the cooler. On days where the sun wasn't shy anglers went on the hunt, looking for unsuspecting cobes to sight cast with live eels, or brightly colored jig too. The shallows of the sounds have slowed a bit as the water temperature has surged. A mix of reds, specs, and rock are still present, however, are outnumbered by multitudes of rays looking for a quick crabby dinner.

So despite the hot weather, get outside and hydrate with some Eastern Shore Sport that will certainly cool you off. After all, what better than a cool boat ride, a little salty spray, and a lot of fishing fun, to remind us of how lucky we are to live in this wonderful place that we call home!

2025 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - 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 43" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</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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It was a day of big tuna for anglers Rick Stryjewski, Zach Stryjewski, Josh Stryjewski and Chase Stryjewski from Baltimore, MD. They were fishing with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and mate Joey Marowski on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" east of the Baltimore Canyon. They were trolling in 1000 fathoms where they caught 2 yellowfins with the largest at 150 lbs! They also caught 2 bluefin tuna, releasing one. The one in the box weighed in at 141.7 lbs. at the Ocean City Fishing Center Tournament Scale.



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Call Colton Cunningham



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