

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 50 • • • IS

MAY 7, 2025



The drum were drumming for Chris Taylor and his fellow anglers in early April. They worked both the Maryland and Virginia sides of Assateague Island landing numerous black drum on hi/lo rigs with 6/0 - 9/0 hooks using sand flea & Fishbites combos as well as peelers and clams. This one earned Chris the First Fish of the season for Black Drum for 2025 on April 6th.



Tristan Archer and Stephanie Van Gasbeck bundled up to deal with the cold and wind of early April weather for this trip to the Virginia side of Assateague Island. They did not stay long, but Stephanie hooked this 27" black drum using sand fleas and a hi/lo fish finder rig.



I don't think you could be happier than Brandon Miller after he caught this nice tog. He shared they are pound for pound one of the hardest fighting fish. This one fell for white crab at a small wreck about 5 miles offshore.



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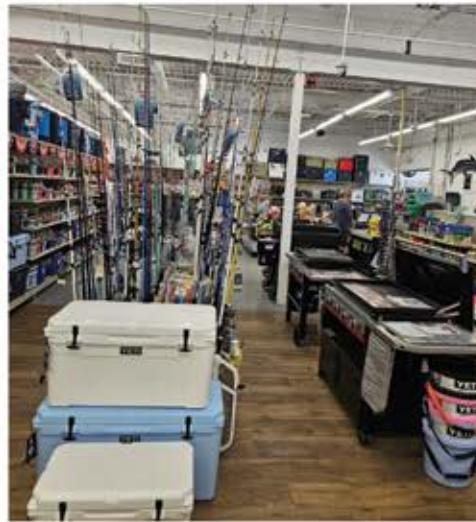
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Young Noah Altman from Huntingdon, PA experienced his own Easter miracle on the sands of Assateague Island landing his first ever rockfish.

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THE Offshore Report

by Joey Marowski

Hello everyone! It is with great excitement to bring you the first offshore fishing report of the 2025 season, even if there is not much to speak of off of Ocean City quite yet. As this is the first report of the year it is also my first time as the reporter, so I would like to introduce myself to everyone. My name is Joey Marowski

and I was blessed enough to grow up in the Ocean City fishing community, being born into a family of avid fisherman with roots in the local charter scene. I grew up with a deep passion for every type of hunting and fishing our local waters have to offer. From catching spot in the marinas as a young child, to sneaking into

golf course ponds after bass, chasing flounder and bluefish in the bays, and then finally, the seemingly inevitable offshore bug finally got to me. Working my way up from headboats and inshore charters until an opportunity finally arose to be a mate on an offshore charter, my current job is in the cockpit of the RoShamBo out of the Ocean City Fishing Center. I am fortunate enough to be on the water just about every day of the season. Although summer may seem like a far-off object, more signs of its return are frequently showing now. With longer days and rises in both air and water temps, it won't be long before local boats are headed east after the first tunas of the season. Those lucky enough to take advantage of the amazing bluefin tuna bite we saw this fall and winter all the way through the New Year, have their eyes on the ocean temps off our beaches in hopes of a spring bite as these fish return north. A few hours and couple hundred nautical miles south of us,

the fishing out of Oregon Inlet in North Carolina has been nothing short of spectacular, with catches of giant bluefins giving way to an influx of warmer water, and with it limits of yellowfins, bigeyes, blackfins and gaffer dolphins for their local charter fleets. Sliding even further south, the first blue marlins of the season were caught off of Hatteras and Moorehead City as those fish continue to move into their spring range and begin to slide up the line. What does this mean for us here in Ocean City? Well, it's hard to say just yet, but if our fishing from the winter here and the bite going on now down below us is any indication, it's time to dust off the rods and tackle, wash the leaves out of your boat and keep an eye on the eddies of warm water that are creeping into range. Or, if that all sounds like a lot of work, give one of our local marinas a call and book a charter on one of the many great boats ready to give you a memorable day! With conditions changing daily and whispers of exploratory bluefin missions in the near future, I hope to return next time with news of fresh reports as our season quickly approaches!

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Chesapeake Medical System's Mike Halsey and family spent the Easter holidays in the fabulous Florida Keys. This trip to the flats on Good Friday saw Mike's youngest son Myles (10) hook this beautiful black drum on a popping cork. They were fishing with Capt. Jeff Oughton on the "Back at Ya".

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Dan Wenzlaff of Advanced Marina in Ocean City wandered down to Quepos Marina Pez in Costa Rica last winter and got into some great sail fishing. He caught this 112" and ~120-130 lb. sail on the "Muy Caliente" using live sardines. Overall they went 6 for 8 on sails and landed a 135" and 400 lb. blue marlin and a yellowfin tuna.

2025

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY


 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day 12" minimum</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>


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It was a chilly day with north winds for Mike Powers first outing this spring. He hit the sands of Fenwick State Park and landed this bluefish using frozen bunker from last year. It was the first reported bluefish catch for 2025!

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Welcome back to another season of summer fishing in the Delmarva region! The past year ended with a bonanza of big bluefin tuna coming very close to the shoreline. Anglers fought huge 100-300 pound tuna within sight of land through in the early winter season. As we look to the spring and early summer season, many anglers are cashing in on the black drum and rockfish migrations. The trophy red drum has also started showing up to our south in Virginia, however a few have been pulled off of the Assateague beaches north of the Maryland line. Tog are on a few of the nearby wrecks, as well as along the rocks, in the inlets and back bays. The first flounder were caught, and with the size minimum at 16 inches until June 1st, now is a great time to score some delicious table fare.

Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has been on fire lately with several big stripers, as well as huge black drum being reported each day. A fish finder rig with a bigger circle hook is working the best with a high low rig a close second. Many of these fish are swimming just past the break waters, so long casts are not required and many times anglers are over throwing the fish. Set multiple rods at different distances allows the angler to hone in on the correct distance of the fish. Tristan Archer took the kids out for a day on the island and was delighted to find the black drum willing to accommodate. All the kids caught drum and had a blast reeling in the big fish. Spring fishing is really kicking in down south, so now is the time for those wanting to hook a true

monster fish in front the beach. Bri Smith from Delmar found a nice fat drum she hooked from the surf and was all smiles as she showed off her catch. Scott Wolf of Easton, MD used a high low rig to fool another drum. Fresh sand fleas and crab did the trick to lure this big ugly into biting. Connor taught his dad a thing or two about catching drum on the island, and the father and son duo had a great day with tight lines many times over. Mike Rogers has managed two drum so far this year and is off to an awesome start! Annie Lott reeled in her first ever black drum of the season using cut crab. Tyler Mathis used a beetle spin rig to catch his first fish of the year. He stated they liked the ones with the yellow stripe. Chris Taylor, Lucha Haberlen, and Skyler Snead fished Assateague Island and landed a few big drum using sand fleas on fish finder rigs. Erick Field fished a cut and was rewarded with a big black. Steve Maddox had a great couple of days fishing the beach and hooked several drum and even a few rockfish. Josh Barfield had a fun morning with friends and besides hooking a nice drum saw a seal basking on the beach. Many people who do not live here fail to realize the population of seals we have here in the winter. Mark Stull caught a 31 inch black, just north of the Maryland line. The southern areas of Maryland, near the state line have produced the best spots for drum, as well as rockfish. Tayler Pari looked positively ecstatic upon catching her first black drum off the beach. Her smile radiated as she held her prize for the world to see.

Back Bays

The backwaters of Ocean City are finally coming to life with flounder being caught more regularly, as the water warms with the heat of the days. You can find Bluefish and rockfish at the Rt. 50 bridge most days, with

good schools of rockfish being found at the Rt. 90 bridge after dark. Small swimbaits are the best lure when targeting these fish at either bridge. Flounder have been found in the deeper water of the Thorofares mostly on an incoming tide close to high tide. Gulp tipped with squid or minnows appears to be the bait of choice for these sought after flatfish. Congratulations to Rick Gorsuch for catching the first keeper flounder in OC. Rick, while fishing with Paul Musser and Paul Musser, Jr, caught an 18.25 inch keeper on a Deadly Tackle Deadly Double with pink and white Gulp in the Thorofare. He caught the first flounder last year as well, is this the start of a streak? "Lucky Break Charters" have had some good trips already this season. Capt. Jason Mumford reports they went 3 for 5 in the south bay behind Assateague Island last week. There were also a few caught in the Thorofare. He stated the fish were caught on minnow/Gulp combos. John Foreman has received numerous reports of keeper flounder in the 17-24 inch range being taken from the warmer shallow waters of the bay. White Gulp appears to be the fisherman's best friend. Chris Murdock told us that the inlet was on fire back in early April and caught so many tog he lost count. He and his crew did bring 6 keepers home for dinner after their 3 day fishing excursion. Bob Haltmeier fished the Oceanic Pier and hooked several tog including a couple of keepers.

Near Wreck Fishing & Reefs

Tog are being found on the nearshore wrecks along with some traveling bluefish. Fresh crab chunks and clam are your best bait when targeting these fish. Deeper wrecks near the Jacks Spot and great eastern reef have produced the best. "Double Trouble Charters" got out a few days on their new boat and were very pleased with the performance of both the boat and the anglers. A few nice sized tog were brought home for dinner much to the delight of the clients. Captain D.J. Churchill has a few days open in the upcoming weeks and

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www.coastalfisherman.net believes the bite should really start heating up as the water temps continue to rise. "Fish Bound Charters" reports the weeks have been pretty windy for getting to the wrecks, but despite the wind they've had a few decent days with a steady bite and a few anglers saw limits up to ten pounds. Captain Kane stated the southern swell has made some days very tough. Anglers are still managing to reel fish in the boat but really need to be diligent to catch the fish in the rough water.

Crabs & Clams

Not much word on clamming behind Assateague due to the colder water. The few reports I've gotten indicate that the areas are for the most part untouched and clams can be found in knee deep water while still being found deep at the bottom. The crabbing is much like our northern areas and has been slow so far with 3-6 keepers per pot when fresh bunker is used.

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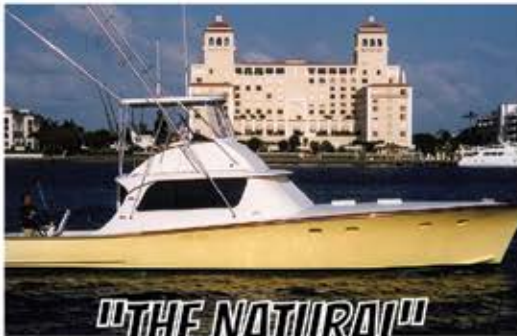


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Dick Wetzel got out and did what he does best, slaying snakeheads! We refuse to refer them by the new marketing name Chesapeake Channa! He hooked this big one in the Blackwater National Refuge. Extra points for the sweet Coastal Fisherman shirt and for dropping off some fillets!















Commercial fisherman Capt. Jimmy Hahn worked the waters in February chasing giant bluefin tuna. His daughter Allison hooked this monster on the deck reel. It was 109" and 581 lbs. dressed. Estimated at 700 lbs. whole.

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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Kevin Templin of Mohnton, PA and Lewes, DE got to spend some time in Key West, FL in February. He caught this 30" cero mackerel while fishing on the "Salty Goat" with Capt. Brittany and mate Gregory.



The black drum were running thick in April off Assateague Island. Ian Hinman found one of the few nice days to land this 33" drum with a blue crab on the falling tide.



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The end of April was hot for young Carter Frackerton. He headed out to the Indian River bay and caught this 2.6 lb. and 15½" flounder using a Rig Walker paddle tail. Pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



Berlin natives Taylor Bakke (above) and Jeff Rosenkilde have been tearing up the striped bass in the southern Ocean City bay this spring. The pair have been landing them since mid March.

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Ocean City charter boat "Spring Mix II" spent the winter in Islamorada, FL at the renovated Three Waters Resort and Marina. Capt. Chris Watkowski got anglers onto a mix of fish including bull mahi, tuna and mutton. They are docked for the summer in Ocean City at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

Spring Mix II




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It was a good charter for Brian Christophersen and his sons from Vestal, NY aboard the "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. They were fishing around the south Jetty in OC, and the south bay, boating 10 keeper flounder, 5 tog and a blue fish using a mix of minnows, Gulp and green crab.



Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On the Run" charters based at the Bahia Marina is always one of the first boats out for the season. He had several charters in mid April catching nice sized tog at the Ocean City Inlet.

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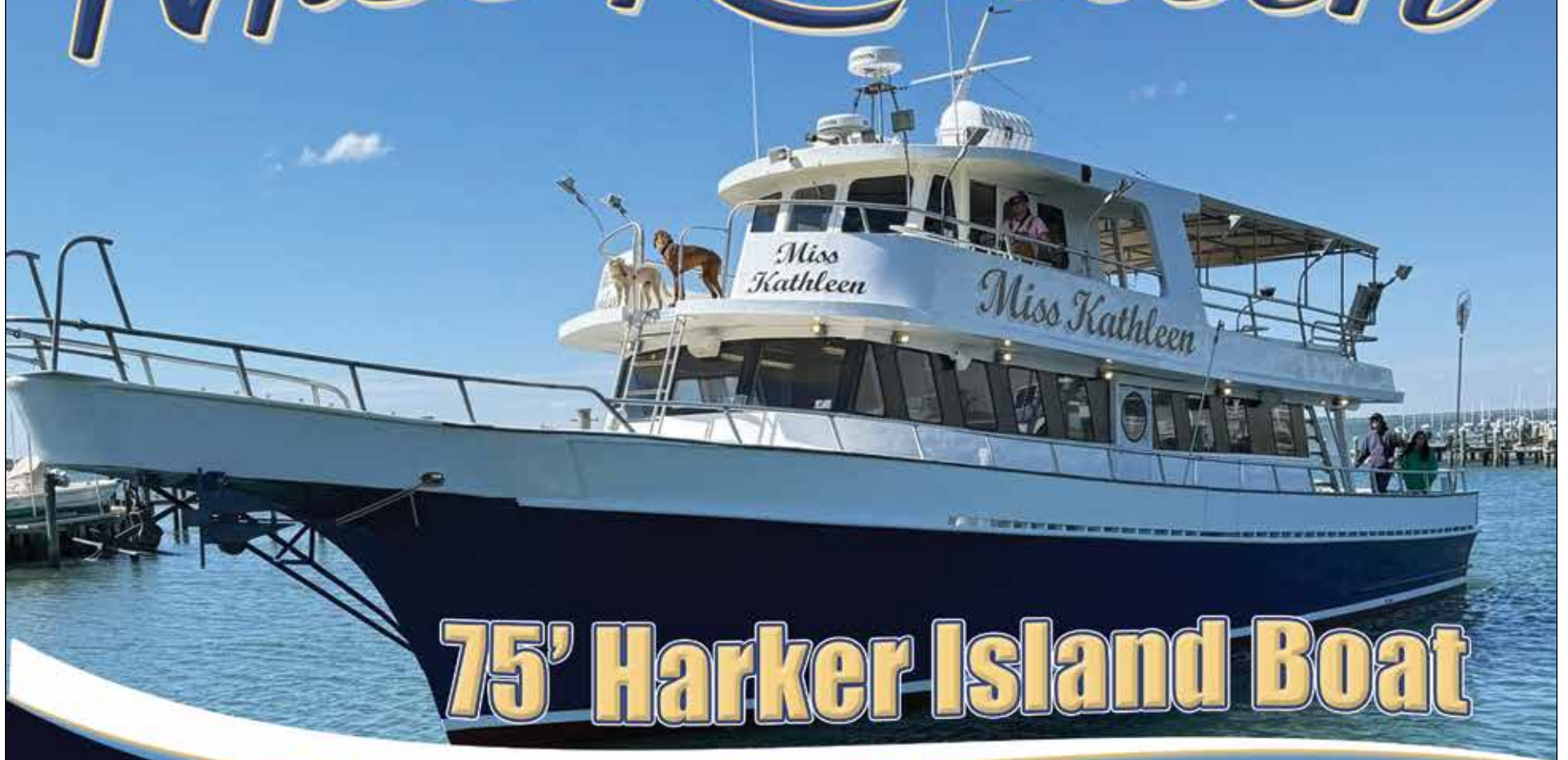
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Last year's Issue #1 cover girl Ivanna Harsman was at it again this spring. Not quite the large gator bluefish of 2024, but still a nice 19" tog caught off the 2nd street bulkhead in Ocean City on a sand flea.



Michael Ward from Westminster, MD stepped into the past when he accidentally hooked this prehistoric looking atlantic sturgeon. He was targeting drum and stripers off of the Virginia side of Assateague Island. These are federally protected fish so after a quick pic it was safely released.

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- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

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

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

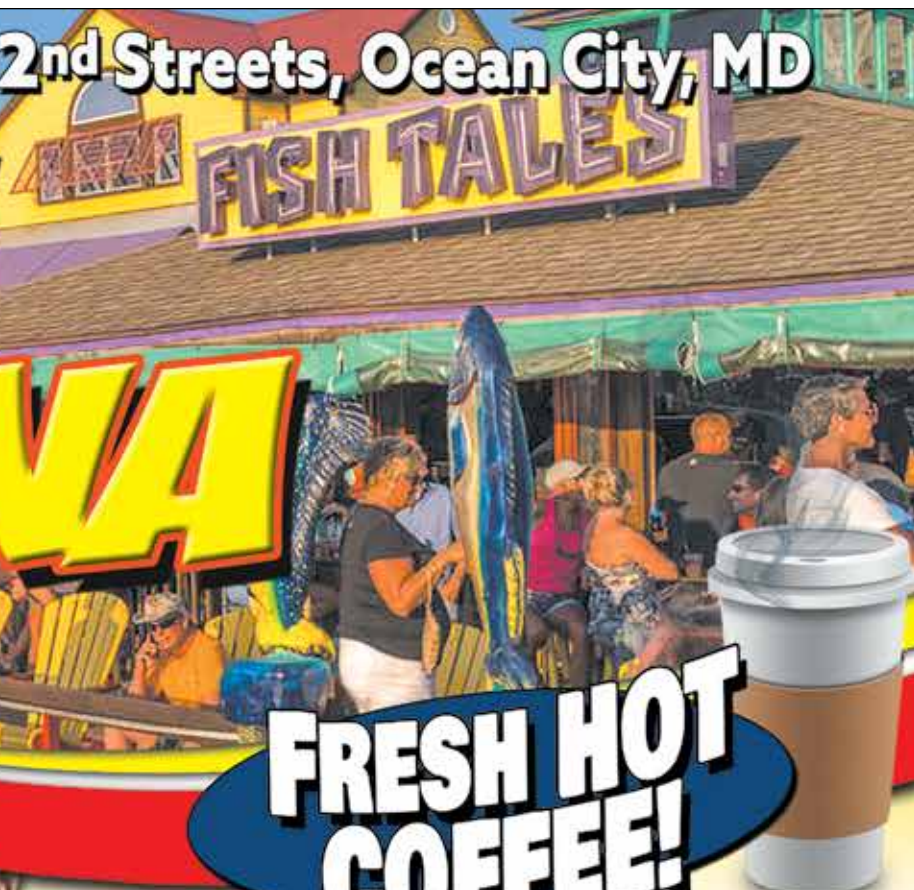
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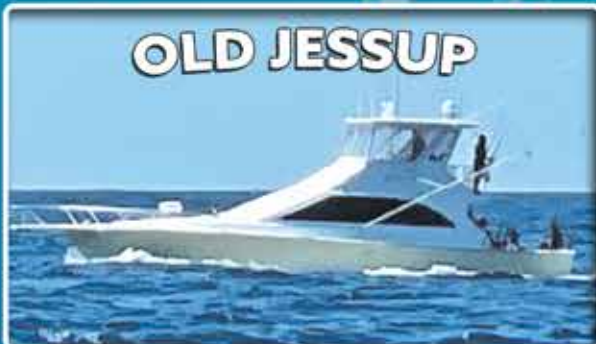
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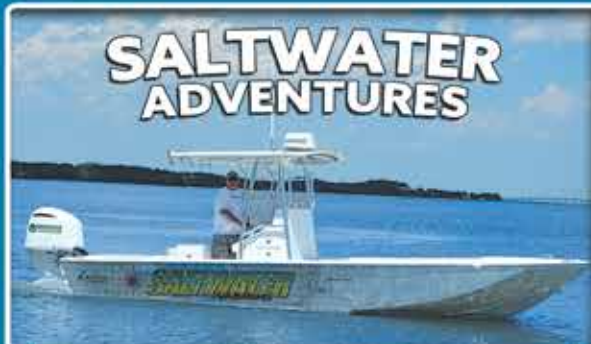
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Ole Capt. 'TomCat' Perry from Ocean City, MD couldn't wait for the weather to warm up here so he and his family headed to Aruba in early April. He landed this nice speedster wahoo on a 3 oz. Heavy Head Canyon Candy lure with a Red Head White Skirt and a ballyhoo.

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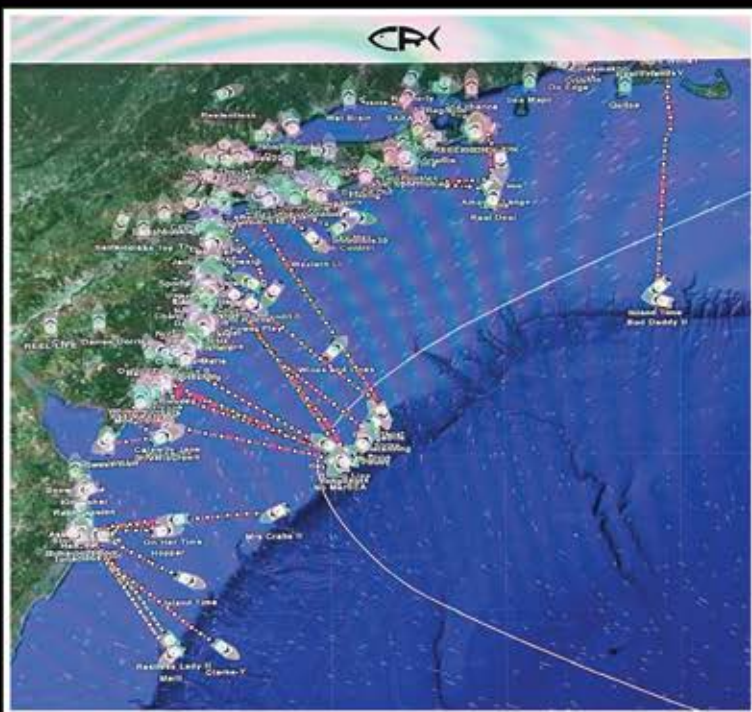
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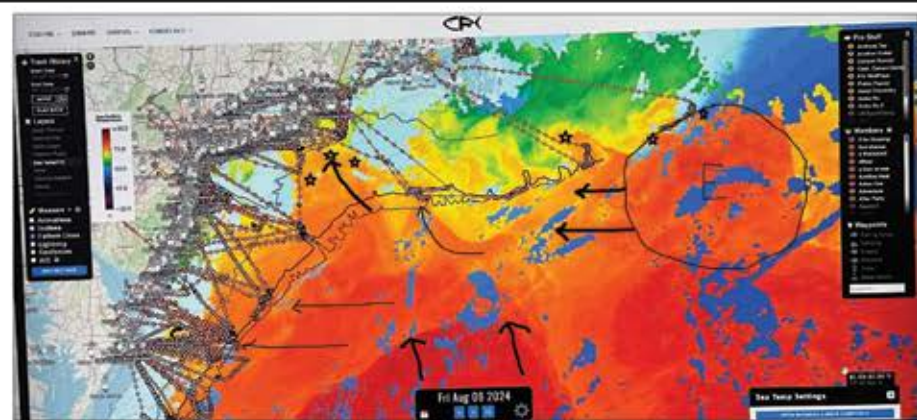
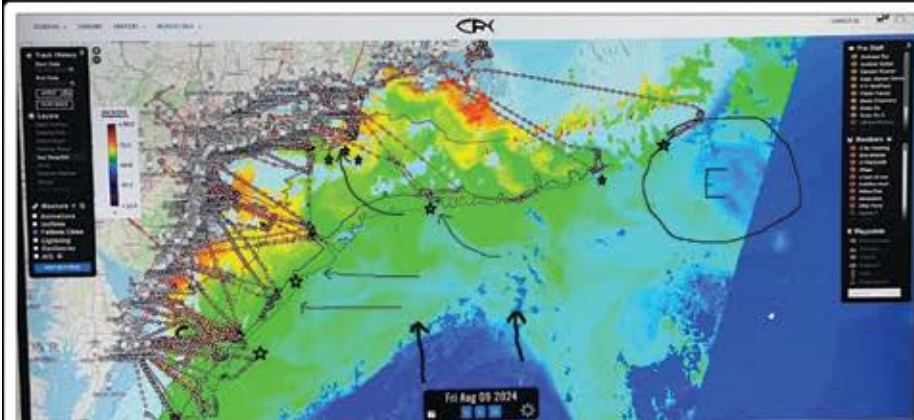
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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Spring has sprung and many anglers look to the new season with anticipation after a cold long winter. Black drum are beginning to show up on our beaches along with rockfish and blues. The back bays have granted anglers the first keeper flounder of the year. The rocks at Indian River as well as the outer wall of the Delaware Bay are producing some big tog. Surf fishing has been the main focus of many early anglers with the beaches showing signs of life as the big stripers and drum make their journey north for the beginning of the year. The back bays have begun to warm and are producing a few flounder, however water remains colder than normal making both flounder, crabs, and clams hard to find.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has really started to come alive with rockfish and drum being pulled out of the surf on a daily basis. An evening high tide appears to be the best time when targeting these fish. Charlie Gardner hooked a nice 47 inch black drum from the beach early in the morning. Alex Ramos landed a 49 inch monster drum

while fishing Cape Point. Chase Haugh took the day off work and hit the beach pulling in a few nice size drum to take home for dinner. David Humphries had a good evening on the beach reeling in a nice size black drum. Rand Singer was on the Fenwick beach using sand fleas and was rewarded with a big black drum. Cesar Perez pulled a 21" flounder off the beach back on 21 April. Mark Morton found the bluefish ready to strike while fishing the beach with mullet. Glen stopped in at Henlopen Bait and Tackle to show off his two drum he pulled out of the surf. Justin Brady also got in on the surf bite at 3R's catching his first black drum of the season. Bob Golley used his new ballistic rod to pull in 2 nice blacks. Bryan Lilly had a good start to his surf fishing trip pulling in a healthy drum from the beach using sand fleas. Michael Spencer was at broadkill fishing with his daughter when she landed her personal best rockfish. Elena Spencer is 6 yrs old and her father, Michael states she loves fishing the surf with him. It's great to see such an accomplished young fisherman! Great job to both dad and young

angler. The Old Inlet Spring Surf Fishing Tournament was held on Saturday with the following results:

Open Division: first place was Karen Alexander with 56 points, 2nd place was Dan Termini with 42 points, 3rd was Darren Hooks with 33 points, and 4th was Jeff Zukowski with 21 points. In the Kids Division Owen Alexander captured first place with 20 points and Everett Hal came in second with 12 points. Dan Termini had the largest fish which was a 41 inch striped bass and Jeff Zukowski had the biggest bluefish at 20 inches. These are your winners out of a field of 209 participants. Congrats to all!

Back Bays & Inlets

The back bays and inlets are beginning to show life with rockfish and blues arriving at the inlet along with tog on the rocks and wall and a few flounder near the inlet in deeper water. Jim Osborne of the Lewes Tog Club Had a good day on the river back on March 30th catching 8 stripers and 16 catfish in 3 hours. He caught two big rock out of the 8. Bruce Carlton also of Lewes

Tog Club fished IR Inlet and ended his day with 33 tog and 5 keepers. Steve Stafford stated things are beginning to turn on at the inlet as he showed off his 2 keeper tog while using shrimp. The fish were brought into Hook'Em and Cook'Em Tackle. Drew Holladay landed the first flounder for Delaware catching a nice 17 inch flatfish at IR Inlet. Dylan Dylan used live eels at the inlet to fool a keeper rockfish. Tony Walls caught two tog off the rockson April 10th measuring 134 and 15". Although the fish were not keepers he was glad to see the fish showing up. He further stated all the fish appeared to be pregnant females. Nick Hopkins reports the tog were biting at the inlet and managed to catch 2 just over 16". Mick Owens fished the outer wall keeping one and releasing one tog. Monica and Travis Rust fished the Lewes Canal and Monica caught their first keeper flounder of the year. Great job Monica! Matthew Soden had a nice afternoon on the Lewes Canal and put two keepers in the ice box along with a few throwbacks. Wiker Restoration stated keepers are finally showing up at the inlet. The big 19" fish came on high tide using minnows and Gulp. Terry Baldwin of Wiker Restoration also stated big bluefish are being caught in the river along with tons of small rockfish. Thomas cline got his first fluke keeper on

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April 22nd. Larry Eastman had his first keeper fluke of the year at 17.5" fishing the mid bay of Indian River. Greg Allen fished the southside of the inlet and using shrimp and a No2 hook caught a nice 16.5 inch keeper tog. Delaware DNREC reports some large stripers have been caught both from the beach as well as the inlets. Bluefish and rock are being caught mostly in the evening and at night from the inlet. Tog have been caught at the inlets on sand fleas.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

It is still a little too cold for nearshore fishing with water in the low 50s however a few tog are being caught off the wrecks along with some bluefish close to shore. Chris Simpson had a good day tautoging on the wrecks managing to put 4 in the box with over 20 released. Great job Chris! Dennis Fleetwood caught over 100 fish on his day out at the wrecks. His crew brought home 7 keeper togs, two of which had tags. Marie Rickenbacker had an amazing day on the water catching eight beauties to bring home for dinner. Nothing beats the taste of fresh fish after a long cold winter.

Clams & Crabs

Clamming has been very slow due to the 50 degree water temps. Many anglers are not yet willing to wade out in the cold water to rake for the clams. For those willing to don waders and brave the cold, clams can be found deep in the sand and large numbers can be caught. Crabs have been up and down so far this year. Samantha and I found on a pot pull in mid April we were averaging 4-6 keepers per pot. Then as the cold front returned the following week we got 4 crabs total from 4 pots. The past weeks have produced a total haul of between 15-35 keepers per our 4 pots. on a side note, Old Inlet Tackle has some big fresh and frozen bunker looking very fresh and clean.

Until next week...

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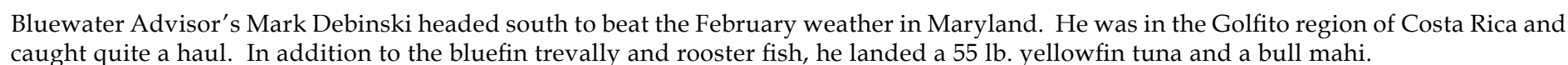
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Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.
Kingfish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

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **	<u>VA</u>
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
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Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
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Apparently this 16 1/2" flounder did not see 6 year old Pete Shustrick of Hollsopple, PA coming despite all of his day glow orange! He caught this keeper off of Assateague Island using bunker while fishing with his dad Zack, mom Jenny and his two brothers Wes and Bo.



It was a nice surprise to receive this photo from Micheal Milanese in mid April. Given the cool temperatures we would not have expected decent crabbing. Allie and Maddie Milanese from Lutherville, MD proved us wrong pulling up 15 keepers from Whites Creek in Delaware on their boat the "Reel Salty" ranging from 5 to 6.5".

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



Justin Field took advantage of one of the nicer days in early April to land this right sized black drum off of Assateague Island.



The Indian River Inlet started to light up in early April. Angler Steve Stafford caught these two keeper tog there on the 4th using shrimp. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Always On Watch: Remote Boat Monitoring Comes of Age

Welcome back Coastal Fisherman readers! As we set our sights on a promising 2025 season—filled with tight lines and calm seas—we begin not with celebration, but with a cautionary tale. Just weeks ago, a boat quietly slipped beneath the waterline while docked in its slip. The full story remains a mystery to us, but it serves as a stark reminder: disasters can strike when no one is watching. In this issue, we'll explore the onboard systems that can serve as your eyes and ears—alerting captains and owners to danger before it's too late.

As the conclusion of the off-season in the mid-Atlantic region approaches and preparations for relaunching vessels are underway, it is an opportune moment to consider potential vulnerabilities. A recent unfortunate incident involving the sinking of a sportfishing boat shortly after its return to its seasonal berth serves as a poignant reminder of these risks. While the precise cause remains under investigation, initial indications suggest an unforeseen ingress of seawater or dock water overnight, exceeding the operational capacity of the installed bilge pumps.

In a recent personal experience in Florida, a comparable situation arose while I was engaged in work on a vessel that had been serviced on land during the week and returned to the water on a Friday afternoon. Following the departure of the regular crew members for the weekend, I happened to observe a significant and constant accumulation of water in the bilge.



Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the clamps on the 2" air conditioning seawater pump discharge hose had been inadvertently omitted, resulting in a continuous leak. This oversight could have easily led to the complete detachment of the hose from the pump. Given that this

occurred on a Friday evening preceding a weekend, the leak might have gone undetected, and even if the bilge alarm were functional, it might not have been noticed until a hazardous volume of water had accumulated.

NOTE: Test your boats' high-water alarm. All boats with an enclosed accommodation compartment shall have an audible alarm to indicate bilge water is approaching the maximum bilge water level. (ABYC standard ABYC H-22.7.3)

Both of the aforementioned incidents could have been promptly communicated to the owner, captain and crew through the implementation of a remote monitoring system. Such a system need not involve excessive expenditure or undue complexity. I would suggest a standalone system that is straightforward to operate and evaluate, providing dependable and accurate reports.

In a related context, it is important to understand that conventional bilge pump systems are designed to evacuate limited quantities of water resulting from minor issues such as shaft seal leaks, plumbing inconsistencies, or rainwater accumulation. The advertised capacities of these bilge pumps is often extremely overrated compared to the real world scenarios. These standard bilge

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pump systems are not engineered to maintain a vessel's buoyancy in the event of a substantial breach. In contrast, emergency "crash pumps," which are exceptionally high-volume pumping systems, are specifically intended to assist in preserving a boat's flotation during critical situations. These systems often utilize an engine raw water pump or another high-capacity system to rapidly discharge considerable amounts of water, ideally keeping pace with the ingress until a temporary or permanent repair can be effected. To illustrate this capability, a single Caterpillar C32B engine, for example, possesses the capacity to pump in excess of 8,000 gallons of seawater per hour. By creating a plumbing system that can optionally allow the engine to draw water from within the boats bilge, the engine can greatly help remove water in the event of a catastrophic problem

The majority of contemporary boat monitoring systems comprise a central processing unit and an array of sensors strategically positioned throughout the vessel. The most fundamental yet highly effective systems incorporate high-water alarms and shore power monitoring capabilities. Certain systems can also monitor the operational status of existing bilge pumps by tracking their activation frequency. Furthermore, some advanced systems offer the ability to monitor environmental temperatures and battery voltage levels.

Most of these monitoring systems are designed to communicate via

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cellular networks. Consequently, provided that cellular data service is accessible at the vessel's location, the system can effectively monitor the boat and transmit alerts in the event of any anomalous conditions.

While internet-connected vessels undoubtedly permit a wide range of remote monitoring possibilities, it appears that the most practical and user-friendly solutions are often the simpler systems specifically engineered for marine applications.

Popular monitoring systems are available from well-known companies such as:

GOST

Garmin OnDeck

Yamaha Siren and several smaller specialized firms including:

BoatCommand

LOC Marine

Barnacle

Sensar

Zigboat

Most of these systems are

available for hardware costs under \$1000 and often involve a monthly monitoring subscription fee starting at around \$20. The installation of these systems typically requires labor and materials for routing the necessary wiring to the sensors; however, once the installation is complete, the systems are generally reliable, with the exception of periodic battery replacements if wireless sensors are used.

The reassurance that these systems can provide to the captain and crew is considerable. I recall working with a captain who made it a routine practice to visit the marina and check on the vessel each evening before retiring for the night. Even after the installation of a monitoring system, it took a year for him to develop complete confidence in its accuracy in assuring the proper functioning of the boat's critical systems. The system featured an online dashboard that allowed him to view the status of critical systems, temperature readings, confirmation of shore power connection, bilge pump cycling activity, and, crucially, high water alerts.



These systems are certainly not intended as a replacement for regular engine room and hull inspections; rather, they serve as a valuable supplement to visual checks, particularly when it is not feasible to be physically present on the boat, such as overnight or during periods away from the vessel.

As is widely known, many sportfishing boats are berthed in remote locations, and crew members may not always be

readily available due to the seasonal nature of fishing activities. Instead of solely relying on dock staff and entry-level crew to monitor the vessel, a remote system can promptly alert the captain to any irregularity, enabling them to direct or address the issue as it arises.

Once captains and crew get past the initial learning curve, the value and usefulness of these remote monitoring tools make them a welcome upgrade for nearly any boat.



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Easy Garlic Parmesan Baked Flounder

Ingredients:

1 1/4 pound flounder fillet, sole fillet will also work

2 medium zucchini, halved and cut into 1/2-inch slices (half moons)

1 small red onion, halved and cut into 1/2-inch slices (half moons)

Kosher salt and black pepper

3 garlic cloves, minced

2 teaspoons dried oregano

1/2 teaspoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon cumin

Juice of 2 lemons, plus more lemon wedges for serving

1/4 cup to 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

Heat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Pat the fish dry and season it well with kosher salt and black pepper on both sides. Arrange the fish in a large pan and add the zucchini and onions next to it and season them with salt and pepper.

In a small mixing bowl, add the garlic, spices, lemon juice, and olive oil. Whisk to combine.

Pour the sauce all over the fish and vegetables.

Bake in the heated oven for 7 to 10 minutes, then carefully remove the pan and sprinkle the grated parmesan all over the fish and vegetables. Return the pan to the oven and bake for another 3 to 5 minutes or so until the fish is flaky and the cheese has melted some. (Flounder fillets are thin and should not take too long to cook. Be careful not to overcook them).

Baked Drum with Lemon & Garlic

Ingredients:

1 lemon

4 (5 oz) black drum fillets

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

2 cloves garlic, grated

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil



1 tablespoon freshly chopped parsley

Directions:

Heat the oven to 400°F.

Slice the lemon into 8-10 thin rounds.

Rinse and pat fillets down with paper towels. Season each fillet with salt, pepper, and garlic powder.

Place fish in a baking dish then sprinkle with fresh garlic.

Drizzle extra virgin olive oil over the fish, then place 2 lemon slices over the top of each fillet.

Bake until the fish is cooked



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through and flaky, around 20-25 minutes.

Top each piece with fresh parsley and serve immediately.

Sautéed Wild Striped Bass

Ingredients:

For the Roasted Fennel:

2 bulbs fennel trimmed

4 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil

Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste



For the Sautéed Corn and Tomato Salad:

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
3 ears corn shucked and kernels cut off the cob

1 pint cherry or grape tomatoes halved

Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

For the Striped Bass:

4 (8 oz) skin-on wild striped bass fillets cut about 1-inch thick

½ cup all-purpose flour

Sea salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

2 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

Directions:

Prepare the Roasted Fennel:

Preheat oven to 375° F.

Slice the fennel bulbs lengthwise into ½-inch-thick slices. Brush the

slices lightly on both sides with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Arrange them in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet. Roast the fennel for 30 minutes, or until it is fork tender.

When the fennel is finished cooking, heat a large saute pan on the stove top over medium-high heat. When the pan is hot (you can test it with a drop of water; if it sizzles it's ready), sear the fennel for 2 minutes per side, or until the slices turn golden brown. They are good hot, or at room temperature.

Prepare the Sautéed Corn and Tomato Salad:

Heat the olive oil in a medium saute pan over low heat. Add the corn and sauté for 3 minutes, or until slightly softened. Transfer the corn to a bowl and allow it to cool for a few minutes. Stir in the tomatoes and sprinkle with a few pinches of salt and pepper to taste. Toss to combine.

Prepare the Striped Bass Fillets:

Meanwhile, rinse the fillets and pat them dry with paper towels. Dust the fish on both sides with flour to coat. Shake off any excess, then season with salt and pepper.

Pour the oil into a large, heavy sauté pan, adding more if needed to coat the bottom of the pan. Heat over medium heat and, when the oil starts to shimmer, put the fillets flesh-side down in the pan and cook for about 3 to 4 minutes per side for a 1-inch-thick fillet (a 2-inch-thick fillet will

need 5 to 6 minutes per side). Be patient and resist the temptation to flip sooner, and only flip once. Serve immediately with Corn and Tomato Salad and Roasted Fennel!

Parmesan Crusted Tautog with Herb-Lemon Sauce

Ingredients:

For the fish:

1lb tautog fillets

Smoked paprika

Salt and pepper

Shredded parmesan cheese

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425 and line a baking sheet with tin foil or parchment paper.

Arrange fillets on the baking sheet and sprinkle each fillet on both sides evenly with smoked paprika, salt, pepper and shredded parmesan cheese. Bake for 7-10 minutes, or until cooked through.

For the Sauce:

Ingredients:

1 T unsalted butter



2 T extra virgin olive oil

4 cloves garlic, minced

Juice and zest of 1 large lemon

Salt and pepper

1 T minced basil, chives, flat leaf parsley, rosemary and mint

Directions:

In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat then add in olive oil and garlic. Bring to a low sizzle for 2 minutes, then turn the heat off and stir in lemon juice and zest, salt and pepper to taste and herbs.

Let the herbs marinate in the sauce for at least 10 minutes, and then strain the herbs out (optional) before drizzling over the fish. You

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can use this sauce to drizzle over the rice too!

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Maryland Crab Feast

Ingredients:

1 or 2 (12-ounce) cans beer, such as a light American lager

Distilled white or cider vinegar as needed, plus more for serving

Live Maryland blue crabs, as many as you want

Directions:

Add enough beer to the largest pot you own to reach a depth of roughly 1 inch. Pour in a generous splash of vinegar. The exact quantity isn't important; just give it a good little glug. (Note: You can also just use water to steam the crabs, if you want. The flavor difference will be subtle.)

Add a steaming rack tall enough

one, try wadding aluminum foil into ropes to make a makeshift rack that will hold the crabs aloft.

Add the crabs, a few at a time, generously sprinkling Old Bay all over them as you go. Add Old Bay to taste (the more you use, the spicier the crabs will be). If you can't fit all your crabs in the pot and/or can't fit a cover on the pot, you will have to steam them in batches.

Set over high heat and bring to a boil. Cover pot and cook for 15 minutes. Check the crabs: They should be bright red and piping-hot when done. If they're not, cook for an additional 5 to 15 minutes, until crabs are bright red and no traces of blue remain.

Remove crabs and repeat with any remaining crabs. Serve with distilled vinegar and drawn butter on newspaper-covered tables. Sides like corn on the cob, cornbread, and coleslaw are commonly served alongside.

Black Drum with Creole Mustard Sauce

Ingredients:

(2) 6 oz portions black drum

Creole Mustard Sauce:

1/2 cup Greek yogurt at room temperature

2 tbsp creole mustard

1.5 tsp cumin

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp sea salt

1/2 tsp chili powder

1/2 tsp black pepper

Additions:

6-8 tbsp of salted butter

1 1/2 c mushrooms sliced thinly

1/2 c chopped tomatoes, cherry or roma

Large handful of fresh spinach

Directions:

Prep creole mustard sauce by combining all ingredients. Set aside.

Season fish with blackening seasoning.

Bring a heavy bottomed pot to medium high heat and add the fish. Sear for 4 minutes, flip and continue searing on the other side.

Add in 6 tbsp of butter around the fillets. Tilting the pan so that the butter encircles all sides of the fillet.

Add in mushrooms, tomatoes and spinach and continue cooking until the fish is cooked through. About 4 min, then remove fish from the pan and set aside.



Old Bay or other similar seasoning mixture as needed

to stand higher than the liquid level in the pot. If you don't have

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1 tbsp lemon juice

1 tsp cayenne pepper

1 tsp white pepper

1/4 tsp fine sea salt

Mix and set aside

Blackening seasoning:

2 tsp smoked paprika

2 tsp brown sugar

Stir in the Creole Mustard Sauce and continue to stir vegetables until spinach is wilted and vegetables are cooked through. About 2-3 more minutes. Taste the sauce and adjust seasoning as needed. To dial down the mustard you can add 1-2 more tablespoons of butter.

Plate fish over brown rice and top with creole mustard sauce.

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Dave Moore earned the First Fish of the season title for tog with this 16" keeper he pulled from the Ocean City inlet on March 14th.



The competition to catch the first summer flounder of 2025 was fierce this year. Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" just missed capturing the title by an hour on this April 4th trip with Brook Bowen, Pete Ennis and Liz Wool from Snow Hill, MD. They did manage 3 keepers from the south Ocean City bay using minnows and Gulp. The largest was 21".

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You can't say that Mike Powers did not put in the work to land this 29.5" black drum off the sands at the Fenwick Island State Park. He fished for 5 days before this one took his bait of spot that he had frozen from last year versus the sand fleas on his other rod.



Angler Alexi Hionis hooked a nice rockfish off the sand of Bowers Beach on the Delaware Bay. This one fell for a bloodworm & mud minnow combo on a 1/0 circle hook. It was just short of the slot at 26½" so back in the drink it went.



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Fish of the Year

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Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish 	 April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish 		May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
Black Drum 	 April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna 		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 "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder 	 April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 		May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna 		May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 		May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin 		May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	 January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	 March 14 Dave Moore OC Inlet	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 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



Big smiles from Mia and Landyn Archer after their early April trip to Assateague Island. They caught these two black drum and others while fishing the suds in Chincoteague, VA. Thanks to Fenwick Tackle for the pictures.



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

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2025 SCHEDULE —

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

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

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

 **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

2ND ANNUAL LABOR DAY INVITATIONAL
 Registration: August 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 3) August 29, 30 & 31
NO WEIGH-INS:
 This is strictly a release tournament.
 Release reports **MUST** be turned in to OCMC Clubhouse on your fishing day BY 8:00PM

Check for Updates on our WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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First Fish for 2025 for bluefin tuna was set early this year. Capt. Chase Eberle of the charter boat "Chasin Tides" headed out in early January once the season opened up to chase giants after the great fall bluefin run. It didn't take long as he and mate Malakhi Lucas with anglers Ashton Schoen and Kenny Schoen hooked this 97" and 442 lb. bluefin on January 3rd at the Hambone. Pictured at Talbot Street Pier.



Avid surf fisherman David Moore spent much of April on the beaches of Assateague Island in good weather and bad! This trip early in the month saw several black drum including this 28" one. Other trips saw catches up to 28" for him and his crew. Mostly on sand fleas.

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The local Atlantic Coast Sport Fishing Association (ACSA) selected their 2024 Angler of the year in January. Brian Reynolds was awarded both the Ocean and Bay awards in recognition for catching the biggest fish of most local species. Brian is an avid angler fishing from boat, kayak and shorelines. He is pictured with ACSA Secretary John McFalls.

2025

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

<p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	<p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	<p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	<p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
<p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	<p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	<p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	<p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
<p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		<p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	<p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

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



PROHIBITED SHARKS

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov







Matt Shoup from Fenwick Bait & Tackle shared this catch by Stephen Ewing. He ran his boat out to the Stink Beach ares in the Ocean City bay on Easter Day and boated this 20" keeper flounder using Gulp.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

MAY

Lewes Harbour Marina Canal Flounder Tournament

May 16 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament

May 17 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Battle for the Buckle

May 29-31 • www.pbroceancity.com

JUNE

3rd Annual Blues for D.U.

June 6-7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

OC Smackdown Tuna Tournament

TBD • Atlantic Tackle • 410-289-7438

5th Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament

June 13-14 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 18 - 22 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

10th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 20-22 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

46th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament

June 21-22 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam

Kayak Fishing Tournament

June 21-22 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

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

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at

www.coastalfisherman.net



The Old Inlet Bait & Tackle Spring Surf Fishing Tournament is a right of passage for many and is one of the first events of the season. This year’s event saw a great turn out of 209 participants. While the anglers were willing, the fish were not as engaged! When it was all said and done, Karen Alexander of Pequea, PA came out on top of the leaderboard landing 3 bluefish for the day up to 18” earning \$750. All were caught on Conquest Beach near the Indian River Life-Saving Museum using a mullet rig. She had entered the tourney so that her grandson Owen could participate. He took top honors in the Youth Division.



Darren Hooks of Laurel, DE rolled into the parking lot of Old Inlet Bait & Tackle mid afternoon during the Spring Surf Fishing Tournament. He had brought a nice 20 lb. and 33” black drum he caught off of Conquest Beach using sand fleas. That secured him 3rd Place in the Open Division and a prize of \$250.

OLD INLET SPRING SURF
FISHING TOURNAMENT
RESULTS

OPEN DIVISION

1ST PLACE • KAREN ALEXANDER56 Pts. • \$750

2ND PLACE • DAN TERMINI42 Pts. • \$500

3RD PLACE • DARREN HOOKS33 Pts. • \$250

4RD PLACE • JEFF ZUKOWSKI21 Pts. • \$150

KIDS DIVISION

1ST PLACE • OWEN ALEXANDER20 Pts. • SURF ROD & REEL

2ND PLACE • EVERET HALL12 Pts. • SPINNING ROD & REEL

LARGEST FISH

DAN TERMINI • 41” STRIPED BASS\$1,000

BLUEFISH CALCUTTA

JEFF ZUKOWSKI • 20” BLUEFISH\$1,800

Total Purse - \$4,450

209 Anglers Participated



Our photographers were lucky enough to be on the beach when Jeff Zukowski of Lewes, DE landed this 4th Place winning 20” bluefish using mullet. He was at Savage Ditch near the South Faithful Steward crossing and earned a combined total of \$1,950 in prize monies. This one was released to swim another day.



Ocean City's Sunset Grill owner Buddy Trala sought warmer weather and better fishing in February, so he and his family headed south to Costa Rica. On this trip aboard the "Kelly Dawn" he and daughter Geo caught and released 10 pacific sailfish in a single day.



Monica and Travis Rust kicked off the 2025 flounder season in the Lewes Canal catching this flatfish there in mid April, the first of the year. Pictured at Lewes Harbor Marina.

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Well the days are longer, the grass is greener, the water is warmer, and the Eastern Shore fishing opportunities are growing by the tide. It doesn't matter if you want your toes in the sand while your bait is in the break, or you are enjoying a beautiful sunset over the tranquil Tangier in hopes of a golden spot-tail that's only rivaled by the serene solar skedaddle happening right before your eyes...the Eastern Shore can fill your plate!

The seaside flounder fishing has been anything but "Flat" with anglers enjoying some of the best fishing we've seen in years. The ebb tide is providing good action as

fish aggressively engage Sea Hawk flounder rigs tipped with gulp swimming mullets and sweetened with a big bull minnow and / or silverside. The fish have been found around clear water in depths of 2 to 15 feet. We have had good reports from Chincoteague down to Quimby as anglers fill their limits (or at least their dinner plates) with flavorful fillets with a consistency that proves that this fishery is no FLUKE!

Elsewhere on the shores of the Atlantic, surf fishermen fight the trophies of spring though the suds and sand. A chunk of peeler crab or sand fleas on a modified fishfinder , or hi-low rig

adorned with stout circles are all that is required to apply for some salty, and more so, sandy satisfaction. Rock and black drum have dominated the dunes with some fish tightening lines and creating memories as only tenacious trophies can.

The Chesapeake is about to explode with excellent experiences for Eastern Shore enthusiasts. The start of the crab shed signifies the start to a shallow water spectacular of the sounds. Black drum have been fairly prevalent on hard oyster rocks while reds and rock have been spotted searching for softcrabs in the grassy shallows. A chunk of softcrab or peeler

have coerced these brutes to the boat. Just remember that rock season doesn't start till the middle of may. So if you happen to encounter these super charged striped spawners, release them gently so they may stretch a line another day!













The lower Eastern Shore has also had so great black drum fishing. Anglers on both seaside and bayside soak clams on fishfinder rigs in hopes of battling a bellowing bruiser. If you want a little more sport, than the shallows, surf and shoals of the southern Barrier Islands have provided some red action that is second to none!

So don't worry about the yard or cutting the grass. Grab your family, fishing buddy, the dog, or even the wife if need be and get out there and enjoy this wonderful place 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>

eregulations.com



The Eastern Shore of Virginia is always a hot spot for summer flounder and the action there starts weeks before Delmarva. Brian, JD and John Behe headed down in the middle of April and crushed the flounder bite out of Wachapreague. They hooked these 10 keeper flounder using Gulp and minnows.



Cole and Jack Altemose from Pennsylvania were “Sea Hawk Sports Center Jr Prostuffers” on their trip with Capt. Matt Abell, landing a couple of nice Chincoteague flounder

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FEATURED BRANDS





Another First Fish was caught unseasonably early this year. Angler Richard Harpel found a warm day in late January to get out on the Indian River Bay. He caught this 30" in the slot striper as well as another using a 4" white strike king paddle bait on a 1/4 oz. jig head.



The first summer flounder of the year is always highly anticipated. This year's angler was Rick Gorsuch. He caught this 18½" keeper on April 4th in the Thorofare using white Gulp on a Deadly Double pink top & bottom rig. He was in good company that day with Paul Musser Jr. who caught the first flounder of 2024 and Paul Musser. Congrats to Rick!

OCEAN CITY INLET

TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 7	High 05:27 am High 05:46 pm	Low 11:16 am Low 11:39 pm
THUR. MAY 8	High 06:04 am High 06:27 pm	Low 11:58 am Low -----
FRI. MAY 9	High 06:36 am High 07:05 pm	Low 12:30 am Low 12:35 pm
SAT. MAY 10	High 07:08 am High 07:41 pm	Low 01:16 am Low 01:09 pm
SUN. MAY 11	High 07:43 am High 08:17 pm	Low 01:57 am Low 01:40 pm
MON. MAY 12 Full Moon	High 08:21 am High 08:54 pm	Low 02:35 am Low 02:11 pm
TUE. MAY 13	High 09:00 am High 09:33 pm	Low 03:12 am Low 02:43 pm
WED. MAY 14	High 09:40 am High 10:12 pm	Low 03:49 am Low 03:17 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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OC MARLIN CLUB VS. OC LIGHT TACKLE CLUB SHOOTOUT



Despite having members that belong to both clubs, there has always been a friendly rivalry between the Ocean City Marlin Club (OCMC) and the Ocean City Light Tackle Club (OCLTC). So much so that they have a Shoot Out every year to see who comes out on top. After a few years in the Ocean City area with several weather cancellations and other challenges, they jointly decided to move the event to Buena Vista Sportfish Lodge in Iztapa, Guatemala 3 years ago. This year's event saw 16 angler participate and for the first time in the event's history, the OCMC won. So they are 1 for 6 compared to the OCLTC! This year's top angler was OCMC's President Ryan Freese with 1500 points (top left with Pat Svehla). The 2nd Place winner was OCLTC's Jay Depotter with 1200 points (also pictured with Pat). Filling out the leaderboard in 3rd Place was OCLTC's John Carbone with 1100 points. The picture above is the full group - OCMC members Pat Svehla, Bobby Wimbrow, Andy Baxter/Ashley Teilborg, Randy Bode, Grady Hearn, Ken Thompson, Mike Tenudo, and President Ryan Freese; OCLTC members Jay Depotter, John Carbone, Brian Light, Wahne Six, Randy Deleon, Mike Sparco, Jim Giles and Susy.



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2008 32' Grady White
Call Jimmy Fields

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