

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Last weekend saw the 16th rendition of the Ocean City Marlin Club's Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament. Despite some questionable weather on Day 2 and challenging fishing reports, 39 boats registered with all but 2 fishing last Friday. When the scales opened at 5:30 PM on Friday at the new weigh station at Fisherman's Marina just across the road from the club, the first boat in was the "MARLI". Anglers Kelly Bunting, Nicole Davis, Amy Sakowski, Allison Belt, Milissa Whitlock and Ellen Aldrich had spent the day in the Wilmington Canyon with Capt. Mark Hoos with mates Jake Pilkerton and Jax Moore. They only had 2 bites in the morning reeling in both yellowfin tuna. Once on the scale the pair weighed 107.5 lbs, earning the top spot in the Stringer Category as well as 2nd and 3rd Place for individual Heaviest Tuna! Their combined prize payout was \$30,240.



ladies only

Billfish Release Tournament
AUGUST 15-17, 2024

Registration: August 14 from 4-9pm

Pink Party 4-9pm • Captain's Meeting 7:30pm

FISH 1 of 3 DAYS

Fishing Hours • August 15 - 17 8am-3:30pm

Weigh-ins • August 15 - 17 4pm-9:00pm

Awards Banquet • August 18

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It was another record setting day for 11 year old Hunter Gentel. He was fishing on the "Christine Marie" with Capt. Brian Behe and fellow anglers Eddie Kehl, Bobby Caldwell and boat owner Steve Summers along with mates Tucker Marshall and Jimmy Hukill. They headed to deep water outside the Poor Man's Canyon to hunt for billfish, but they found no bite. They did however boat some meatfish including a new heaviest tuna for Hunter at 63 lbs. and he caught his first mahi.

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Capt. Charlie Horning got to spend the day on the rip with his kids last week on his legendary "Fish Whistle". They fished the first lump and Owen Horning caught this Delaware Citation worthy 51" and 37 lb. cobia using an eel. Larry and Kelly Horning were his enthusiastic helpers. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



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White Marlin Open



BEST OF LUCK TO ALL WMO ANGLERS



THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

The big week of the offshore season is finally upon us. By the time you are reading this the 51st rendition of the White Marlin Open will be well underway! This year's event faced some real challenges even before fishing started. The forecast for the start of the week was a little shaky and the path of hurricane Debbie was projected to affect our area mid week. In addition, the billfish bite has not been the best this season even though we saw a spike a week ago that seems to have moved. This lead the White Marlin Open Tournament organizers to extend the tournament to include the option to fish on Saturday, making it a fish 3 of 6 days versus 5. I think this and an improving forecast helped registration. While well below tournaments of the past, a very respectable 318 boats registered

creating a purse of 8.5 million! So you can be sure some big checks will be handed out next Sunday. As I write this on Monday, 200 of those crews chose to fish and I suspect a similar if not larger amount will head out Tuesday, so the leaderboard will be loaded!

Last week in the canyons was a little quiet as weather and tournament prep kept many boats in the marina. A few boats did get out to practice and scope out spots, and there were two tournaments over the weekend. The Ocean City Marlin Club held it's 16th Annual Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament and the 2nd Marlins for Mason Billfish Release Tournament raised money to benefit the Dravet Syndrome Foundation.

As we are in prime billfish

season, lets start there. The common theme for most catches we heard about was deep water. The number of releases were also in the low single digits, more in common with this year versus the burst of action we saw last weekend.

Last Thursday the "Reel Chaos" was fishing in the 1000 Fathom Finger behind the Washington Canyon and released a blue marlin. They saw the blue in the spread and managed to hook it on a pitch bait. That was a chugger head with a mackerel.

On Friday we heard a couple real highlights for the week. First was from the charter boat "Boss Hogg". They fished a secret spot in preparation for the Open and caught a Grand Slam, meaning they caught a white marlin, blue marlin and sailfish on a single trip! They actually caught 2 white marlin and a mess of mahi. Next was from the Sea Hag. Capt. Anthony Pino with boat owner Charlie Duerr went 7 for 11 on whites! That location however was not revealed as they too are in the WMO!

Friday was also day 1 of the Heels & Reels and the Marlins for Mason events. All but two of the 39 boats that entered the Heels & Reels fished as did 46 of the 55 in Marlins for Mason since the forecast for Saturday was poor. Many of these boats


entered both tournaments.

It was a tough day for both events, but some marlins were caught. Again, from deep water primarily outside the Baltimore and Poor Mans Canyons. The charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" with the Salty Seasters crew released a blue marlin behind the Poor Mans. The "Billfisher" went 2 for 3 on white marlin in the deep between the Washington and the Baltimore Canyons. The "Lights Out" went 2 for 2 on blue marlin offshore of the Baltimore earning 3rd Place in the Heels & Reels and Marlins for Mason for Billfish Release. The "Real One" released 2 whites the same day a little earlier and took top honors in that division for Heels & Reels and 2nd Place in the Marlins for Mason!

It was the "Reel Chaos" that captured 300 release points that took 1st Place for Marlins for Mason. While the amount raised for the Dravet Syndrome Foundation has not been released for this year. The inaugural event in 2023 raised over \$300,000 and was the single largest donation the Foundation had ever received!

Saturday saw only 2 boats try their luck with only one coming to the scales. The crew of the "Espadon" battled the waves and were able to release 2 white marlin. They got extra points for these releases as they are a non-sonar boats, and based on the release times they slid into 2nd Place for Heels & Reels!

It remains hard to find tuna. Hardly any came to the scales




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during the Heels & Reels, and most that did were singles. Outside the tournament was not much better, however, there are always the exceptions that make the rules! Let's start outside the events. Capt. Chris Huk on the charter boat "Restless Lady II" experienced one of the most intense yellowfin bites he has seen on an overnight trip last week. The crew had several full cover ups and returned to the Talbot Street Pier with 18 yellowfin tuna in the box, in bags and coolers! That is one of if not the largest single catch we have seen this year. That location too remains a guarded secret this time of the year. The private boat "Christine Marie" was also scoping for billfish last week. While they did not have luck on that trip, they did land 3 yellowfin tuna and some mahi. Their largest tuna was 63 lbs. caught by 11 year old Hunter Gentel. It was a personal best for Hunter and his first large tuna. He also caught his first mahi. Inside the Heels & Reels, 1st Place for Heaviest Tuna when to the crew of the "Fishticuffs". The ladies landed a 102.5 lb. allison tuna in the Poor Mans as well as releasing a white marlin. While I have said many times this season that the yellowfin bite is off, we have seen a surprising number of these large allisons over 100 lbs. The rules for the Ladies Tournament stated that to qualify for the Tuna Stringer Calcutta the boat would need at least 2 fish. That is exactly what the girls fishing on the charter boat "MARLI" did! They were the first boat to the scales on day 1 and put two 50 pound class yellowfins on the scale to create a 107.5 lb. stringer. As the only boat to weigh 2 tuna, they took 1st Place in the Stringer Division as well as 2nd and 3rd in the Heaviest Tuna Division, earning the tournament's top payout of \$30,240. \$15k a fish

is not bad!

Mahi is still in the mix, but most catches were not large nor the fish. Notable however was the dolphin that Jack Barker caught. He fished the canyons off Chincoteague and landed a 64.5 lb. bull. They spotted the big fish and actually pitched a ballyhoo at it and the fight was on, taking 25 minutes to land. Good job on that one!

Tilefish remain a popular option when the other bites are off. The "Hotlick" out of Sunset Marina caught a couple big 40 pound+ golden tilefish in the Poor Mans. The charter boat "Jacked Up" wanted to target swordfish. When the weather would not allow them to set for swords, they switched to deep dropping, getting their anglers onto some golden and blueline tilefish as well as some rosies.

Well, that sums up the week that was! We now have over 300 boats filled with some of the best offshore anglers in the world fishing our waters. There will be great fish brought to the scales at Harbour Island and great stories of their catches, so be sure to get to the scales or Marlin Fest if you can or watch online. You can be sure that we will give you the highlights in out next edition.

More canyon action is on the horizon with Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girls Open ladies only billfish release tournament held August 15th - 17th. This is really more of an event versus just a tournament, with vendors, raffles and entertainment at the Bahia Marina. Even if you don't fish, it is worth checking out. Details are at PoorGirlsOpen.com.

The last big tournament of our summer season is also on tap. The MidAtlantic takes over Sunset Marina from August 18th to the 23rd. While technically a private event, weigh-ins in at Ocean City are visible from Sunset Grill and stats are posted online.

Until then, be safe. Try to stay dry and let us know what you have been catching! \$

ESTIMATED MARLIN WEIGHT CHART

White Marlin

LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS
60	24	43.20
60	26	50.70
60	28	58.80
60	28.25	59.90
61	24	43.90
61	26	51.50
61	27	55.60
61	28	59.80
61	29	64.10
61	29.25	65.20
62	24	44.60
62	26	52.40
62	27	56.50
62	28	60.80
62	29	65.20
62	30.25	70.90
63	24	45.40
63	26	53.20
63	27	57.40
63	28	61.70
63	28.75	65.10
63	30	70.90
64	24	46.10
64	26	54.10
64	27	58.30
64	28	62.70
64	28.5	65.00
64	29.75	70.80
65	24	46.80
65	26	54.90
65	27.25	60.30
65	28	63.70
65	28.37	65.40
65	29	68.30
65	29.37	70.10
66	24	47.50
66	25	51.60
66	26	55.80
66	28.25	65.80
66	29.25	70.60
66	30.25	75.50
66	31	79.30
67	24	48.20
67	24.5	50.30
67	25	52.30
67	27	61.10
67	28	65.70
67	30	75.40
67	31	80.50
68	22	41.10
68	23	45.00
68	25.5	55.30
68	26.75	60.80
68	27.75	65.50
68	28.75	70.30
68	30	76.50
68	32	87.00
69	22	41.70
69	24.25	50.70
69	25.25	55.00
69	26.5	60.60
69	27.5	65.20
69	28.5	70.10
69	29.5	75.10
69	30	77.60
69	32	88.30
70	22	42.40
70	24	50.40
70	26.25	60.30
70	27.25	65.00
70	28	68.60
70	29	73.60
70	30	78.80
70	32	89.60
70	22	43.00
71	23	46.90
71	24	51.10
71	25	55.50
71	26	60.00
71	27	64.70
71	28	69.60
71	29	74.60
71	30	79.90
71	32	90.90

Blue Marlin

LENGTH	GIRTH	POUNDS
78	36	126.40
78	38	140.80
78	40	156.00
79	36	127.98
79	38	142.60
79	40	158.00
79	42	174.00
80	38	144.40
80	40	160.00
80	42	176.40
80	44	193.60
81	40	162.00
81	41	170.20
81	42	178.61
81	43	187.21
82	40	164.00
82	42	180.81
82	44	198.44
82	46	216.89
84	40	168.00
84	48	241.90
84	50	262.50
84	60	378.00
86	40	172.00
86	46	227.47
86	48	247.68
86	50	268.75
88	48	253.44
88	50	275.00
88	52	297.44
88	54	320.76
90	48	259.20
90	54	328.10
90	60	405.00
90	66	490.10
96	48	276.50
96	54	349.90
96	60	432.00
96	66	522.70
98	48	282.24
98	50	306.25
98	52	331.24
98	54	357.21
98	58	412.09
102	48	293.80
102	54	371.80
102	60	459.00
102	66	555.40
102	70	624.75
104	48	299.52
104	54	379.08
104	60	463.00
104	66	566.28
104	70	637.00
108	50	337.50
108	54	393.70
108	60	486.00
108	66	588.10
108	70	661.50
114	50	356.30
114	54	415.50
114	60	513.00
114	66	620.70
114	70	698.30
120	50	375.00
120	54	437.40
120	60	540.00
120	66	653.40
120	70	735.00
126	50	393.80
126	54	459.30
126	60	567.00
126	66	686.10
126	70	771.80
132	60	594.00
132	65	697.13
144	60	648.00
144	65	760.50

Length: Tip of lower jaw to fork of tail
Formula: Length x Girth Squared ÷ 800





Tom Maliszewski stopped by Fenwick Bait & Tackle to show off the 25.5" and 7 lb. 2 oz. flounder he caught. He found the fattie in the West Channel and fooled it using a bucktail tipped with Gulp from the store.



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The charter boat "Restless Lady II" not only bucked the slow yellowfin bite trend on this trip, they shattered it! Capt. Chris Huk and these anglers got covered up several times on their overnight trip in what Chris described as some of the most intense bites he has ever seen. Back in the slip at the Talbot Street Pier, they unloaded a boat limit of 18 yellowfins and a few mahi.



The surf has been a fun spot to catch kingfish and spot, however, Riley Wowk from Mount Airy, MD did one better hooking this tiderunner in the suds off of the South Bethany Beach. She used a combo of blood worms and Fishbites to hook the 10" weakfish which was released.

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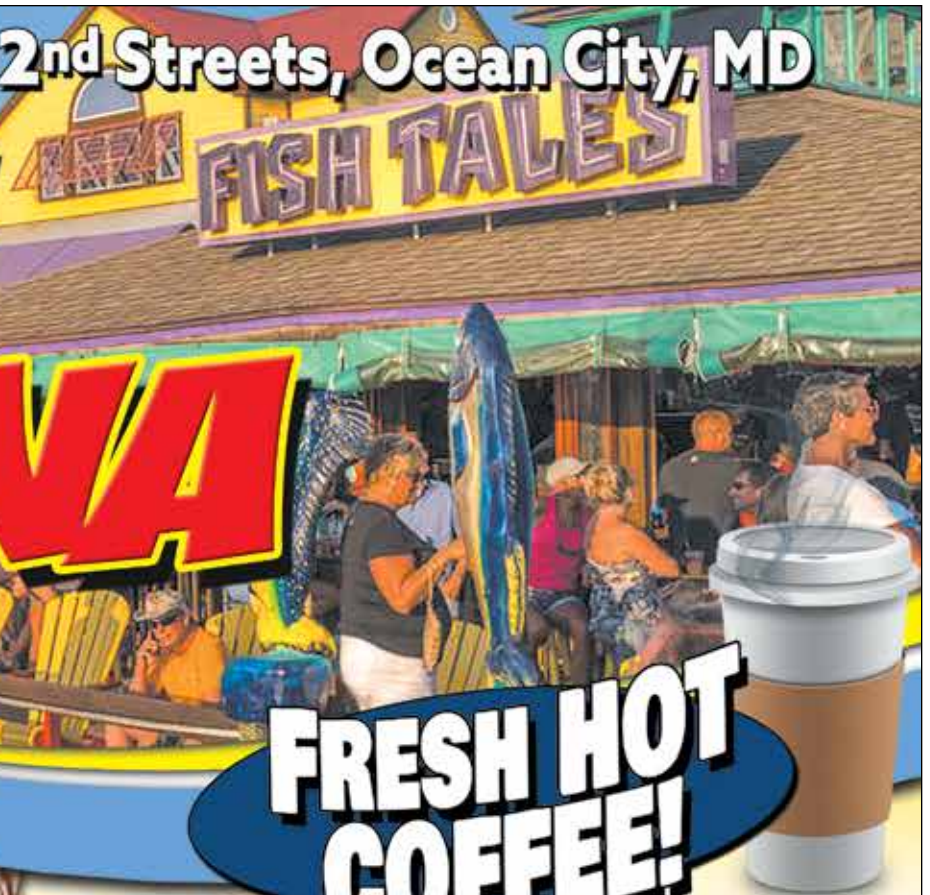
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Capt. Steve Harman's
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AUGUST 15-17**

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Ocean City was another hot and stormy one with several big storms rolling through in the afternoon and evenings.

The nearshore waters remained a bit slow, however, conditions are improving and more keeper fish are being caught.

Sea bass can still be found in deeper water while inshore waters are producing several nice size flounder in between the multiple undersized fish.

The back bays and bridges are producing rockfish and bluefish in the evenings as well as some really nice flounder in the bay areas.

Back Bays and Inlets

The 17th Annual Ocean Pines

Flounder Tournament now titled "Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament" was held on Saturday with tons of anglers showing up to test their skills against some of the best flounder fisherman and women of the eastern shore.

The back bays are alive with big fluke as well as some nice redfish and even some big stripers left over from spring.

"Get Sum Charters" had a great week catching tons of flounder for their clients. The crew also caught trout, rockfish and blues.

Mark Jameson used his new trout rod at the inlet and caught a beautiful weakfish to christen his new rod. David Lee fished out of West OC and

hooked a 22 inch flounder on a live minnow.

David Keller fished the Rt. 50 Bridge looking for a bluefish bite. Although he could not find any blues willing to eat his bait, he did get a nice red drum that thought his bait looked delicious.

Steve Killen fished the bulkhead at 2nd-4th Street using a hi-lo rig and live minnows to catch his 22 inch flounder.

"Coastal Guide Service" states that although the bite this season has been a grind, with tons of short flounder action, they have caught a few flatfish along with a few blitzes of bluefish and stripers.

Mark Logullo fished the bay last week, and although the rockfish he caught was short, he managed one flounder keeper along with a big bluefish.

Luke Wrye caught a keeper rockfish at the Rt 50 Bridge. He also caught an undersized 26.5" rock and several blues. He said that waiting on the incoming tide to clean out the water was the ticket to get the fish to start biting.

Sean Hitch said there are lots of flounder around the inlet, including several big flatties.

C.J. Fish had some good action while fishing the bulkhead catching a few keepers for dinner.

Mark Longo got in on the rockfish bite catching a 30 inch from his skiff while fishing the OC Bridge.

Mark Rarrick caught an unusual catch of a nice juvenile gag grouper from the Ocean Pines bulkhead.

The results of the Ocean Pines Flounder Tournament are as follows:

John Biesecker took 1st place with a 22 inch at 4.23 lbs., 2nd place was John Grant with a 21 5/8 inch weighing in at 2.89 lbs., and 3rd place went to Scott Lenox with a 21 inch at 3.33 lbs. The Junior Division winner was Anthony Rogerson with an 18 inch weighing in at 2.02 pounds. Congratulations to all the winners!

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

Nearshore wrecks and reefs have been slower than normal due to our south wind and colder water.

Last week showed better fishing, with large flounder being pulled in along with numerous undersized fish.


Deeper water is still producing sea bass along with a few tog. The Jacks Spot and Great Eastern Reef is your best choice when targeting bass.

Colin Armstrong hit the Great Eastern Reef, and although he had action and caught multiple bass, he said keepers were few and far between.

David Ditch fished the Great Eastern a few days later and caught a few knothead bass along with about 25 throwbacks.

Justin Reed ran out for tuna, but after failing to find hungry fish he returned inshore to the reef and landed a nice cooler of bass, flounder, and even a few mahi.

The "Angler" headboat was out again last week, and although sea bass were a little picky, anglers managed to catch some big doormat flounder, including Dr. Keith, who took the lead in the pool with a flattie just shy of 7 pounds. The crew reported they even found a few mahi on the bass pot balls. Hopefully all these storms will change




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up and improve our water to
get the fish biting better.

The “Judith M” stated fishing remains tough as anglers would catch a few keepers and then fishing would shut down, forcing them to change spots. The crew also mentioned that those who paid attention and fished hard were rewarded with catches.

Carlos Neves was out ten miles and landed a citation flounder on ocean structure.

Surf Fishing

We are still seeing quite a few redfish caught up and down our coast. Throwing large swim baits or soaking a circle hook with a chunk of mullet is your best chance of hooking a trophy red.


Several kingfish are also being caught in the surf. Bill Boteler caught a total of 56 kingfish. All his fish were caught on squid and kingfish rigs. This has been one of the best years for catching the quality and quantity of kingfish we have seen in many years.

Kristen D’Amore Nenko was out with her husband fishing Assateague Island near the lower state line. They pulled in three big redfish with the biggest being a huge 44 incher that hit on sand fleas. The other two fish hit on a piece of cut spot on a circle hook.

Jake McAuliffe had a pleasant surprise when he hooked a nice flounder while fishing the beach for kingfish.

Russell Leaderman managed two reds at 37” and 41” along with a few rays. The southern area near the Virginia line has been best for catching the big redfish, however, they have been caught all the way north to the point at the mouth of the Delaware Bay.

Until next week...
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29 ACRES WEST OCEAN CITY

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29.47 ACRES, Prime Location for future development, many possible uses under the current A-2 Zoning, approximately 745 Feet of road footage on Route 611. Several Conceptual plans have been designed for this site. A preliminary design is available for a Campground / RV Park with a 128 Sites, comprised of 42 Pull Thru RV Sites, 54 Back-in RV Sites, and 32 Park Models, which would require approximately 44 EDUs allocation and approval from Worcester County Planning and Zoning. Currently there is one approved Perk site on the property. Other possible uses would include Boat and RV Storage buildings (no EDUs required), Contractor Shops, Wineries / Brewery, Agritainment facilities, Veterinary Clinics, Commercial Dog Kennels, Residential Subdivision, and many more possibilities, see the Survey and Zoning code in the Document Section. This Property is mostly cleared and has been farmed for the past 30 plus years, it is located a few miles south of the West Ocean City Hub of fine Restaurants and Sunset Marina. Additionally, the Ocean City Airport and Assateague Island are close by for your convenience. Property has been fully surveyed and a wetland Delineation has been completed, showing mostly uplands. All Potential uses should be verified through the Worcester County Planning and Zoning Offices. No Conservation easements exist on the property. This property is a great opportunity in highly desirable location.



2 MILES WEST OF BERLIN

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403 ft

337 ft

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The Rt. 50 Bridge continues to be a hot spot for the flounder whisperer Danny Cox of West Ocean City. He caught this 23" fish there on his latest trip using bunker.



Tim Dieter of Winchester, VA spent some time east of Ocean City, deep dropping in 800 feet of water on the "Naked Spanny Mac". He reeled up 2 golden tilefish using cut ballyhoo as bait. The largest was 42" and 43 lbs.!

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5 YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY applies to qualifying purchases of Suzuki outboard motors sold and delivered to the retail purchaser, for pleasure (non-commercial) use only, from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2025. See Suzuki Limited Warranty for additional details. Suzuki, the "S" logo, and Suzuki model and product names are Suzuki Trademarks or ®. © 2024 Suzuki Marine USA, LLC. All rights reserved.



It was one of the best fishing weekends that Michael Skowronski and Denise Kieczkajlo have had in a while. They worked the rocks at the north Ocean City Jetty using bull minnows. Michael caught a real doormat at 26" and 6 lbs. Denise tried to give him a run for his money landing a 20" flounder. While not larger, she did have bragging rights having caught a 17¾" flatfish the day before at the same spot. They both had several throwbacks as well.

2024 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA				CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES			
	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	-	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*	80"	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	47"	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"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	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"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program			
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release			
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"	*** Use curved-fork-length measurements			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"	eregulations.com			



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

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Fish of the Year

2024

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)



Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 	June 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	July 2 Capt. Rich Harpel Indian River Inlet 13 lbs.	Weakfish 	May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	June 17 Claude Davis Indian River Inlet 11 lb. 6 oz.
Black Drum 		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	July 27 Steve Strawbridge Baltimore Canyon 305 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Rusty Reel" Baltimore Canyon 212 lbs.
Cobia 	June 8 Tyler Adams OC Beach 40 lbs.		Bluefin Tuna 	July 12 Richie Martin North of the Hotdog 168 lbs.	June 12 Will Hall Poor Mans Canyon 143 lbs.
Summer Flounder 	June 19 Chris Boaston OC Inlet 7 lb. 3.5 oz.	June 16 Mike Newcomb Ocean Structure 9.6 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner Baltimore Canyon 38 lbs.
Sea Bass 	May 24 Tom Sullivan Ocean Structure 5 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	June 22 Crew "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon 161 lbs.	
Sheepshead 	June 23 Capt. Wayne Anderson Ocean Wreck 11 lbs. 10 oz.	June 19 Dan Sander Ocean Structure 10.8 lbs.	Dolphin 	June 14 Lisa Cherivtch Poor Mans Canyon 30.5 lbs.	July 2 Owen Conrad Inshore Lump 20 lbs.
Striped Bass 	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	Swordfish 	June 1 Bobby West Poor Mans Canyon 125 lbs.	
Tautog 	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	Blue Marlin 	July 28 Rusty Shriver Baltimore Canyon 535 lbs.	
Wahoo 		July 8 Kevin Alexander Poor Mans Canyon 67lbs.	White Marlin 		

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



Mike Shearer from Annapolis, MD was casting jigs at the tip of south Ocean City with Rick Hoenes. He caught and released this rockfish that was just a hair under the slot. The pair also released a few bluefish as well. All caught on artificial lures.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Rick Hoenes and Eric Siegel from Ocean City with Rob Bavar from Baltimore, MD and Russ Powell and Mike Killelea from Annapolis, MD were prospecting for good water prior to White Marlin Open and were awarded with a Grand Slam on Boss Hogg. First caught were 2 whites, then a blue estimated at 350, and finally a sailfish showed up on long rigger and ate a naked ballyhoo to make the slam complete. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Alex Beane with mates Karl Biebrich and Jack Hannum. We won't be getting catch locations until the end of the month at this point!

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The headboat "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina is running two 5 hour trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays in addition to their weekday morning 5 hour trips. An afternoon one worked well for this young angler as Capt. David Goldman reported the sea bass bite picked up nicely as compared to the morning trip.



Capt. Brin Parsons on the "Thelma Dale IV" out of Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes reported a solid start to August. She did have to run out further than usual to find the flounder, but find them she did. Some anglers caught their limits of 4, and all of them caught a lot of 16"-17" undersized fish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star" kicked off the month with an inshore trip focused on mahi. The first spot found no mahi, but some jumbo sea bass made their way over the rails. They did however find some floating debris that had some hungry fish underneath.



Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" shared that the picky sea bass bite continues with some days better than others, but not like he has seen the past few summer. There are still nice fish hitting coolers and lots of action with shorts, just not the limit catches. This trip was to an artificial reef.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Team "Salty Seasters" had a fun day on the rip during the Ocean City Marlin Club's 16th Annual Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament. Seasters Carolyn Downey, Beth Hannon, Brittany Fremen, Brooke Borelli, Lisa Stephenson and Wendy Holmes were able to catch and release a sizable blue marlin starting at ~1:30 PM. Carolyn was up first and all of her *Salty Seasters* helped get it to the boat earning 3rd Place in the Billfish Release Division. Capt. Mike Burt was at the helm with Dave Burt in the pit. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was another successful trip for anglers Jimmy Strusowski, Rob Tonge, Gunnar Kaczmarczyk, Jim Strusowski, Josh Derrick and Doug Banks on the charter boat "Reel Chaos". Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. was trolling in the 1000 fathom finger behind the Washington Canyon. They spotted a blue marlin in the spread and used a pitch bait of a chugger head with a mackerel and got hooked up. The marlin estimated at over 400 lbs. is in the shot on the right with mate Jon Henry working the line, Josh was the angler. The crew also boated 36 dolphin including a big bull. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



These next few weeks of fishing in the Mid-Atlantic area entices anglers, mates, crew, captains and owners from around the world to fish the lucrative and prestigious tournaments. The Mid-Atlantic tournaments are often known for their competitive spirit and impressive catches. Whether you are a seasoned angler or just starting out, these events offer a fantastic opportunity to test your skills, network with other fishing enthusiasts, and potentially reel in some impressive catches.

One newly developed crew member on a tournament sportfish is the Sonar Ping Jockey. Long days at the helm or in the cockpit and a lot of open ocean can easily create a monotonous scenario for even the best captain and crew. The captain has a tedious job at the helm: monitor the other boats in the area, navigate safely, monitor the engines, pumps, and other critical systems, communicate on the radio, text, phone etc., monitor the fishing spread, operate the

teaser reels, scan the water for signs of fish and of course watch the marine electronics—chartplotter depth sounder, weather, water temperature and scanning sonar.

While most skilled tournament captains honed these skills into a second nature, the recent addition of the live Omni style Sonar has overloaded captains' helm tasks. Watching a live sonar screen (like the popular Furuno and Simrad omni sonars) demands attentiveness, just like a NASCAR race, look away for a minute and you might miss the fish swimming through the sonar beam. A traditional sounder pings the water directly under the boat and records that image on a historical graph on the screen. A modern omni sonar has no history, the picture you see is a live view of what is around the water beneath your boat. A fast-swimming fish can swim into and out of the sonar beam quickly, where only an attentive sonar operator would notice and act. Even the direction of the

swimming fish can change the screen image, a fish swimming perpendicular to the boat's travel will show a much larger "ping" on the sonar than a fish swimming parallel to the boat. Tournament sportfish's crew will monitor and track most any "pings" on the sonar to investigate if they are the targeted species and then give chase if needed.

So how can a competent captain add to their repertoire the monitoring of a live sonar system while at the same

time performing all the other duties? Bring on a Ping Jockey as a new crew position. The best help is to have a designated person operate and monitor the sonar through the fishing day. This allows the captain to maintain his existing duties while working with the sonar operator to hunt the targeted fish.

Interesting enough, this crew position was designated an occupational rating by our US Navy years ago, the Sonar technician (or ST). In the Navy, the Sonar technicians' job is to "use the most advanced sonar equipment to quietly track contacts that may be lying beneath the waves. Deploy sonar sounds from surface



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ships and submarines and gather intel from the depths. Sea surveillance is essential to navigation—you will be able to track everything from enemy ships to marine life, while directing your ship accordingly". While the Navy's version doesn't include targeting and catching tournament winning fish, the job duties of a sportfish sonar technician are certainly similar. In many of the armed forces, nicknames evolved for many duties, and the sonar technician is often referred to by fellow Navy sailors as a "Ping Jockey" and now that term is popping up in the sportfish.



Today's Sportfish Ping Jockeys are an integral part of the regular crew or may join the crew during tournaments and special events. What makes a good Ping Jockey? First, a thorough understanding of the equipment, learning all the features, functions, controls, and adjustments – often this is on-the-job training, but manuals, videos and manufacturer training can complement the on-the-job learning. Once the equipment is mastered, even more skill is required to determine what the screen image represents: is it a whale? bait ball? ray? Thermocline? boat wake? or

tournament winning pelagic? Once this skill is learned, by experience and hours behind the screen, the next skill is communication. A Ping Jockey must be able to communicate to the captain where the targeted fish is in relation to the boat: range, heading, and depth are all valuable information that need to be immediately conveyed to the captain to maintain sonar contact with the fish. The most important skill a sportfish Ping Jockey must have is stamina! Long hours at the helm, staring at the screen throughout the fishing day – a Ping Jockey cannot get

seasick, take naps, spend the afternoon in the galley or head; they need to watch the screen with the utmost attentiveness throughout the day.

Who makes a good Ping Jockey?

It could be a non-angler who is good with electronics, a person who is skilled in omni sonar, an experienced angler who has a technical inkling or even a youthful "gamer" on-board for the win. One tournament fishing boat has a young person who is a skilled gamer and loves fishing - has taken to the Ping

Jockey crew position with as much enthusiasm as with the video games – remarkably similar skills though with real world outcomes of success – tournament wins. Whether hunting enemy submarines or big blue marlin, the job of a Ping Jockey is important on any boat.

May the waves be gentle, the catches be plentiful, and the experience be memorable. If you are involved in any of the upcoming tournaments or just supporting from afar, I hope it's a fantastic and successful tournament season. §

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While the big flounder did not show up for Big Bird Cropper during the Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament, he and Shaun Flaherty recovered nicely, catching 3 bluefish, a keeper flounder and striped Roy Rigging at the Rt. 50 Bridge.



Rich 'Delicious' Daiker headed to the Rt. 50 Bridge for a short fishing trip with Will Schindler. The pair boated 3 keeper flounder with the largest at 21" and a bonus bluefish. All caught on bunker.

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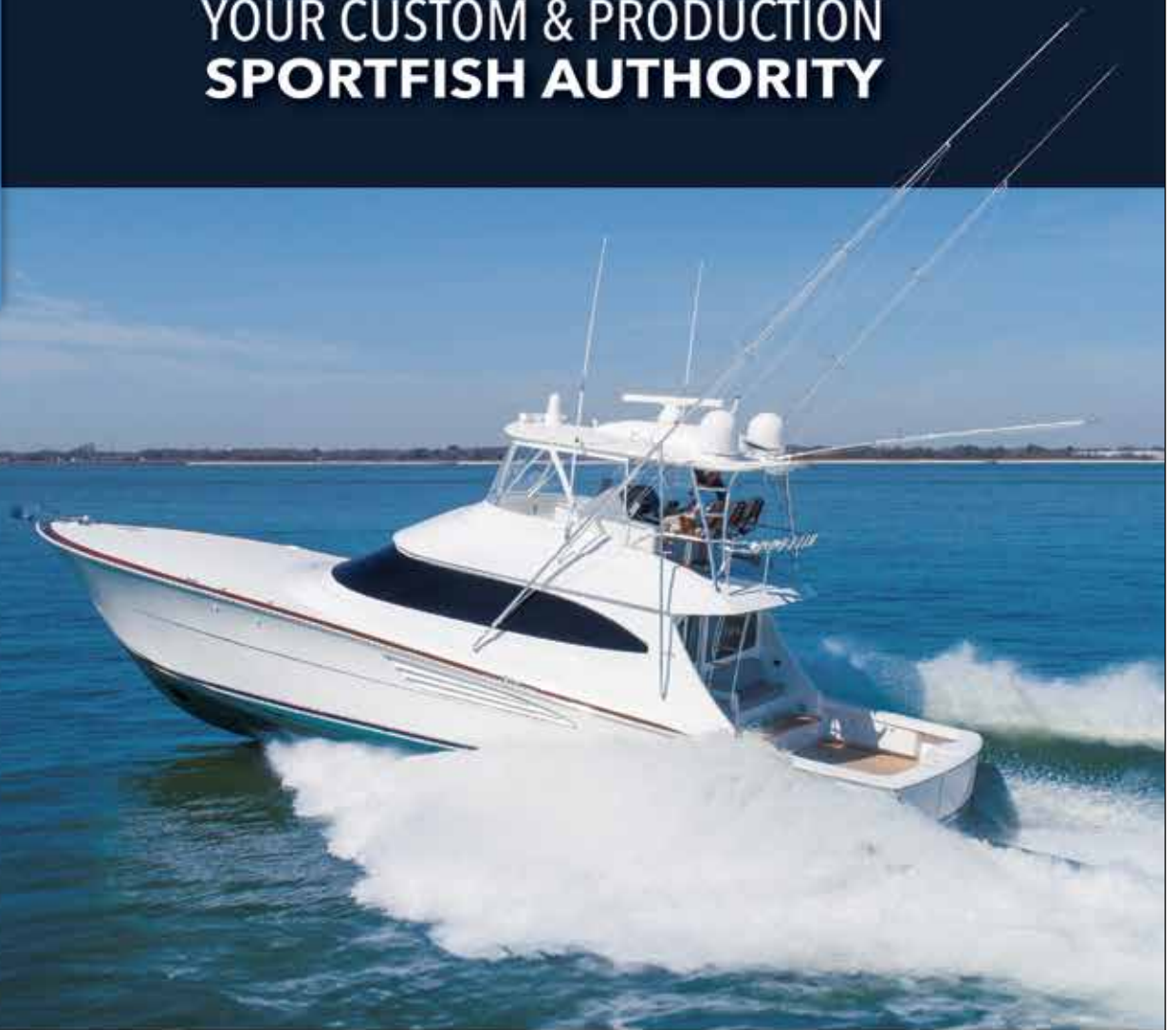
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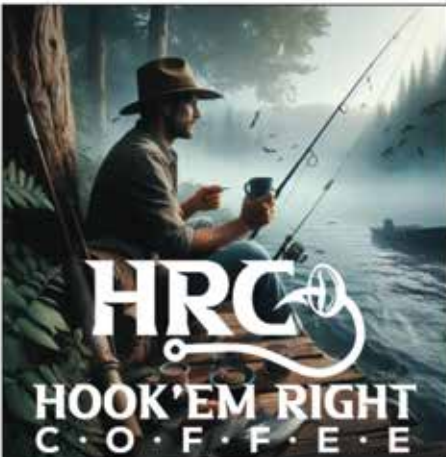




Jack, Joe and Lilly Eberhard had an extraordinary night on the sands of Assateague Island. Jack (pictured) landed 4 red drum, Joe caught 3 and Lilly got 2 including her first red drum. All fish were Citation sizes with the largest at 49" and the smallest 43".




Jeff Beard and Jimmy Wagner worked the back bays of Ocean City with some success. 15 flatfish for the day with these 4 keepers all measuring between 18" and 18 1/4". They were using minnows and Deadly Double Tackle.



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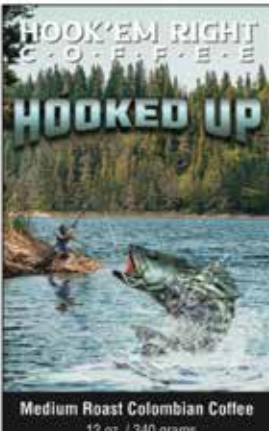
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12 oz. / 340 grams



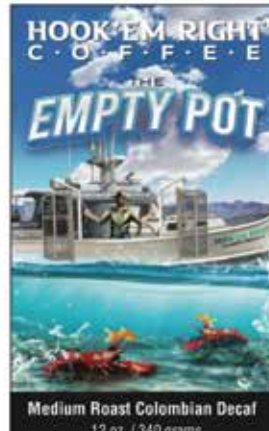
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Caroline Doll hooked into a big bluefish at the Indian River Inlet. She was fishing with Capt. Bob Etzweiler and mate Michael Kapsak on the "York Fire". The 26" and 5 lb. blue hit on live spot.



Bishopville, MD resident Tracy Keithley's arms must be tired. Not only from holding out this 19" flounder, but also from reeling in the more than a dozen undersized fish it took to get it! She was fishing on the "J Marie" in the Thorofare using squid strips.



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— 2024 SCHEDULE —



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Registration: Sept. 11, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 12, 13 & 14

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Catch reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club office nightly
Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

66th ANNUAL
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**WHITE MARLIN
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Chesapeake Medical's Mike Halsey took a guys trip to Pulaski, NY recently. He and Ryan Rhodes of Chestertown, MD, Jason Councell from Cordova, MD and Jason Rhodes of Queenstown, MD fished on the "Strike Zone" on Lake Ontario and caught king salmon, brown trout and steelhead while trolling in 150' of water.



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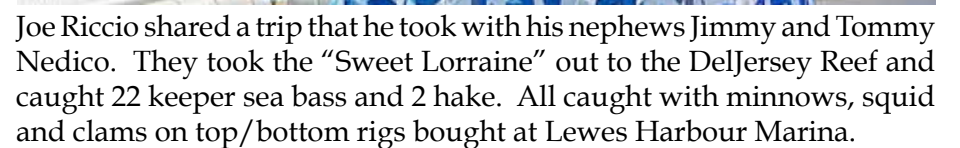
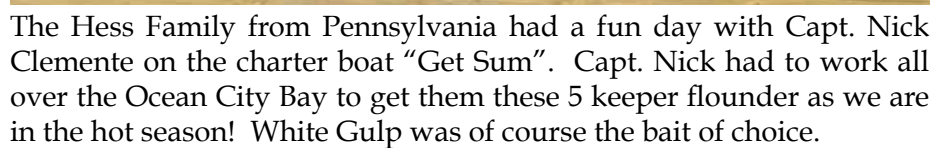
2024

Fish of the Year

(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

Species	2024	2023	Species	2024	2023
Bluefish 	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague	Weakfish 	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay	
Black Drum 	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	Bigeye Tuna 	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
Cobia 	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	Bluefin Tuna 	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon
Summer Flounder 	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 	June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon	
Sea Bass 	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poor Mans Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	Dolphin 	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poor Mans Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	Swordfish 	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemlein Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo 	June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	June 9 Josh Short Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin 	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon

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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Grilled Wahoo & Stuffed Portobello

Ingredients:

Filling:

- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 2 whole large portobello mushroom caps
- 1 Tb. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tsp. fresh red chili pepper, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tb. fresh ginger, grated
- 2 Tb. water chestnuts, chopped
- 1 Tb. low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tb. sweet chili sauce
- 1 Tb. rice vinegar
- 1 tsp. sesame oil



Dash kosher salt

Dash freshly ground black pepper

Juice of ½ fresh lime

Topping (optional):

- 1/8-1/4 cup plain bread crumbs
- 1-2 Tb. olive oil (just enough to allow the bread crumbs to stick together but still be crumbly)

Basil-Lemon Compound Butter:

- 2 Tb. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 Tb. fresh basil, torn into small pieces
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- Dash kosher salt
- Dash freshly ground black pepper

Fish:

- 2 large wahoo fillets
- 1 Tb. olive oil

Dash kosher salt

Dash freshly ground black pepper

Directions:

Cook brown rice according to package directions. When cooked, set aside.

Lightly brush/clean mushrooms and remove and chop stems; set aside.

In a medium skillet, add oil, chopped mushroom stems, onion and red chili over medium heat. Once they start to sweat, add garlic, ginger and water chestnuts and cook another minute or so to combine flavors.

Add soy, chili sauce, rice vinegar and cook about 1 minute.

Remove from heat then add rice, sesame oil, lime juice, salt & pepper; stir to combine.

Heat oven to 375°F.

Brush mushroom caps with a little olive oil and place on a baking sheet (gill side up). Place in oven for about 8-10 minutes. Remove and allow to cool for a few minutes. Dab off excess water then top each mushroom cap with a large handful of the rice mixture.

In a small bowl, combine bread crumbs & olive oil. Sprinkle over tops of each rice mound.

In another bowl, make the compound butter by simply combining all ingredients and mixing together. Set aside until ready to use.

Heat a grill to high then sprinkle fish on both sides with olive oil, salt and pepper.

Place fish on grill and allow the first side to sear/cook about 3-4 minutes on each side (depending on how thick the fillets are); remove and allow fish to rest on a cutting board or dish. Top each fillet with some compound butter so it melts in nicely.

While the fish rests, pop the mushroom caps in the 375 degree oven for a few minutes until the bread crumbs brown/crisp (you could also broil them for a couple of minutes for faster results). Remove from oven, top with the fish and serve with some lime wedges.

Hawaiian Style Marlin with Poke Sauce

Ingredients:

Fish:

- 16 oz fresh marlin, cut into 4 portions 1 inch thick
 - 2 teaspoons fresh ginger, minced
 - 1.5 cups soy sauce
 - 1 tablespoon brown sugar
 - 1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
 - 2 tablespoons chili oil
 - Shredded cabbage (garnish)
 - Cooked white rice
- Poke Sauce:
- 1/4 cup fresh ginger, minced

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1/2 cup cilantro

1/4 cup scallions, minced

3 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 cup peanut oil

1/2 teaspoon Tabasco sauce

Directions:

Combine ginger, soy sauce, brown sugar, sesame oil and chili oil in a small bowl. Place the fish in a resealable plastic bag; pour in the marinade; seal bag and let rest in fridge for up to an hour.

Mix poke sauce ingredients in a blender or by hand until emulsified. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Preheat grill to high. Remove fish from bag, and discard the marinade. Place fish on the grill and sear one side for about 2-3 minutes. Use a lightly oiled spatula to turn and sear the other side for another 2-3 minutes. Remove and plate.



The marlin will be seared on the outside and very rare in the middle. Serve garnished with Napa cabbage, white rice and poke sauce.

Cajun Blackened Redfish

Ingredients:

1/4 cup butter, melted and cooled

1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

1 teaspoon lemon-pepper seasoning

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon salt

4 (4 ounce) fillets red drum

1 1/4 cups Italian-style salad



dressing

Directions:

Gather all ingredients and preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Place melted butter in a shallow bowl. Mix cayenne pepper, black pepper, lemon-pepper seasoning, garlic powder, and salt together in a small bowl. Dip fillets into butter, then sprinkle with seasoning mixture on both sides.

Heat a large skillet over high heat. Add fish and sear until slightly charred, about 2 minutes per side.

Transfer fillets to an 11x7-inch baking dish and pour Italian dressing over top.

Cover and bake in the preheated oven until fish flakes easily with a fork, about 30 minutes.

Grilled Clams with Garlic Parmesan Basil Butter

Ingredients:

5 pounds littleneck clams

8 tbsp salted butter, room temperature

1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

3 tbsp basil, chopped

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 tbsp lemon zest

8 lemon wedges

Equipment:

1 grill

1 foil

Directions:

Place the clams in a bowl with cold water and allow to soak for 20-30 minutes. Drain and

rinse the remaining sand from the shells.

Shape four large pieces of heavy duty foil into a bowl and divide the shells evenly among the four foil bowls. Set aside.

In a small bowl, stir together the butter, cheese, basil, garlic and lemon zest until thoroughly combined.

Divide the butter into four equal pieces. Place one piece of butter into each of the four packets and then fold the edges of the foil together to seal.

Place the foil packets on the



grill over high heat and cook for 5-7 minutes or until the clams have opened. (You can check by peeking inside the foil packet but be careful because the steam is VERY HOT.)

Once the clams are cooked, remove the foil packets from the grill and serve with lemon wedges and grilled bread, if desired.

Blue Marlin in Lemon Butter Sauce

Ingredients:

Blue Marlin Steaks:

2 lbs. blue marlin steaks

Salt and pepper to taste

Cooking Oil

Lemon Garlic Butter Sauce:

1.75 oz. butter

4 - 5 garlic cloves

Salt & pepper to taste

2 - 3 tbsp. chopped parsley

3 - 5 tbsp. lemon juice

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Mango Avocado Salad:

- 1 large mango
- 1 large avocado
- 100g cherry tomatoes
- 1 medium red onion
- 3 - 5 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 - 2 tbsp. chopped cilantro
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 - 3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Directions:

Add salt and pepper to both

sides of the fish slices before cooking. Set aside for at least 15 minutes.

Heat oil in a pan or grill.

When the grill is hot enough, add the fish slices.

Flip the fish slices to cook evenly.

Garlic Lemon Butter Sauce:

Melt butter in a pan

Add and saute garlic for a few minutes

Add lemon juice and mix

Add salt and pepper and parsley

Mango Avocado Salad:

Slice tomatoes and onions

Slice and dice a mango and avocado

Chop cilantro leaves

Add all the fruits and vegetables in a bowl and pour the lemon juice and add salt and pepper to taste

Add olive oil and mix

Grilled Kingfish with Charred Tomato Salsa

Ingredients:

- 4 kingfish fillets (5 oz. each)
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 tomatoes
- 1 onion
- 1 bell pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 limes, juiced

www.coastalfisherman.net
Additional herbs for garnish

Directions:

Season kingfish fillets with salt, pepper, and a drizzle of olive oil.

Cook the fillets on a hot



barbecue or grill pan until golden and flaky.

Char tomatoes, onions, and bell pepper on the grill; then chop and mix with cilantro, lime juice, and seasoning.

Place the grilled kingfish on plates, top with the charred tomato salsa, and garnish with extra herbs. §

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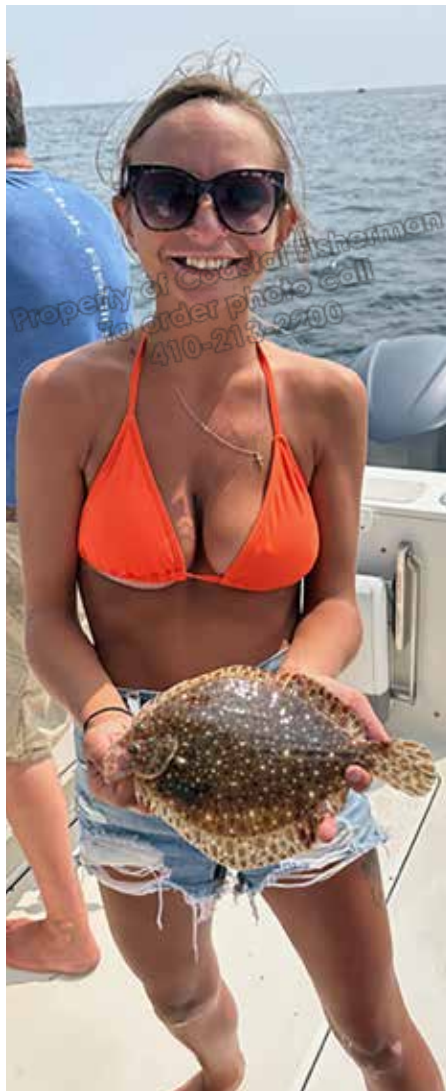
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Britany Lee was looking for sea bass, but this little flounder could not resist her sea bass jig. She was fishing at the DelJersey Reef.

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- Bait/lure used
- 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
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7 year old Luke Zeccola of Fenwick Island, DE had a big day fishing by the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel. Overall he hooked 12 cobia by himself with the largest at 46"! He was on the "Rock Bottom" with Bill Petka, Will, Petka and Mike Zeccola.

2024

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

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, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, **Shortfin Mako**, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



You have to give Shaun Flahery his due, the man fishes all the time! Not only does he catch a lot of fish, he has reeled in many stripers this year that fit into the tight 3" keeper slot of 28-31". This 30 incher hit on a 5" Freedom Bait at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

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Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



How To Cheat in a Tournament

Anyone can win a tournament by pure luck, but those who find themselves in the winner circle more than just once or twice in a lifetime have put their time in and probably made a huge financial investment. So how can an average guy who's not particularly lucky and doesn't have the time or money to get properly prepared for a tournament supposed to have a shot at winning? One word - "CHEAT".

Yeah I know, cheating isn't cool and it's something our parents taught us not to do, but what the heck, when a few million bucks is riding on a single fish I think they kind of expect some of us to cheat. In fact "maybe" some tournament organizers even want you to cheat. After all, a dose of controversy can drum up a lot of free publicity for an event and it certainly gives tournament officials something to do besides weigh fish and sell t-shirts!

OK, so now that I've convinced you to cheat in a tournament you're probably wondering just how to do it, and while I'm going to give you some suggestions, just remember that even though

you heard it from me, if anyone asks - you didn't hear it from me - especially if you get caught. Got it? Good! So here we go...

First get a copy of Cheating to Win is Always OK written by Ima Sissy Liberali. In the book you'll find that Ima has a lot of information on how to win at everything from elections to sporting events, but you know me, I try to keep politics out of this column so I suggest you just skip past the chapters on harvesting votes, tampering with voting machines, stuffing ballot boxes, the ten best places to hide paper ballots, and just jump right to stuff that could actually help you win a fishing tournament such as:

Chapter 4: "Manipulating Social Media Like a Suckaburger"

From this chapter anglers can learn how to keep their competitors in the dark by having them banned from various social media platforms they might use to network with tournament officials, other fishermen and anyone else that might guide them along a winning path. The end of the chapter reveals how (if you have enough money) you can pay off a huge entourage of workers to canvas a city

and coerce lots of people to do whatever you want them to do. That knowledge could be helpful to someone who wants to make sure they have a big crowd of fans cheering them on as they return through the inlet or pull up to the tournament weigh-ins.

Chapter 5: "Let The Men Win For You"

So I'm not sure if the author Ima is a man or a woman but after reading chapter-five I'm thinking that he/she/whatever is in a fog somewhere in between the two as "that person" is quite adamant about how any of what I call the "alphabet people" should be able to compete in any men's or women's sporting event they wish. Apparently it doesn't matter to Ima what you're born with (or without), it's all about what you "feel like" that day. Imagine if other animals did the same, "I know I was born a rabbit, but I feel like a turtle today, so I'm going to enter the turtle race!"

Anyway, since Ima says it's okay, I'm thinking that with the recent popularity of ladies fishing tournaments, there's no reason why a bunch of dudes couldn't throw a keg of Bud Light on their boat and tap into their feminine side long enough to catch a few

fish and beat the heck out of all the (real) women who think they're privileged just because they were born that way. And while we're on the subject, how about all those women's world records? The International Game Fish Association recognizes records for both men AND women. Guys - wouldn't you be proud to have hanging on your office wall an IGFA certificate saying that the heaviest bluegill ever landed on 6-pound test by a woman was caught by you?

Chapter 6: "Play That Race Card!"

In this chapter Ima Liberali goes to great lengths to explain how effective it can be to discredit someone by calling them a racist. Ima states, "It doesn't matter who or what color they are, how honest or upright they are, you don't even need proof of any racist remarks or actions, just publicly call them a racist and see how quickly someone's good reputation can be muddled in controversy".

So if you're fishing a tournament and someone is weighing a fish bigger than yours, as soon as the weight is displayed shout "RACIST RACIST" then shut-up and cautiously slither to the back of the crowd. Once you've planted the seed take note how the crowd starts to distance itself from the angler who caught the fish and how the tournament officials suddenly seem a little nervous. It won't be long before someone in the crowd calls out, "You can't

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qualify that fish, that guy's a racist!" Then other competitors will likely start chanting RACIST, RACIST, DISQUALIFY HIM, DISQUALIFY HIM!!" Prompting the weighmaster to speak privately with the angler to hear his side of the story, but then, while washing the fish slime off his hands he'll speak to the crowd saying, "I find no basis to disqualify this angler, but to shut all of you up I will disqualify him from the competition and have him carry his fish off the dock."

Yeah, playing the race card race card can have miraculous results of biblical proportions particularly if the fish involved has a name that can be considered controversial like white marlin, black marlin, redfish, black sea bass, yellowfin tuna, white perch. You get the idea...

Chapter 7: "Prosecute Your Opponent"

This chapter is pretty simple and easy to adapt to a tournament cheating strategy. Before or even during a tournament you simply accuse your opponent of some unlawful or unethical act and sick the legal system on them. As we learned in Chapter 8, there doesn't have to be any truth or proof to the charges, in fact, what your opponent is being charged with doesn't even have to be a crime. It's all so simple, just accuse them of something that will tie them up in court during the tournament days, you fish, they don't, you win!

Chapter 8: "Lying Techniques That Work"

Because big money tournaments often require that winning participants allow themselves to be polygraph tested prior to being awarded any large sums of prize money, this final chapter of Ima Sissy Liberali's book is absolutely the most crucial part of the entire book. You can cheat all you want but if you can't pass the lie detector test - it's all for naught. I know the lying is in most fishermen's DNA and some of us think we're pretty good at it, but in chapter 8 Ima proves to be an expert on the subject and when you're done reading it you'll surely agree on the obvious that "NOBODY lies (and cheats) like a Liberali!" §





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Dominick Davis of Long Neck, DE found a beautiful and calm day to fish a wreck east of B Buoy. He was fishing on the “DirtyRottenOar” using peanut bunker and managed 2 keeper flounder with the largest at 22” and 4.6 lbs.

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A kayak allowed Ryan Painter of Mocksville, NC to get close into the grassy edges behind the Ocean City Airport. He caught this ~12" speckled trout, his first, using a white Gulp Swimming Mullet on an outgoing tide. He also threw back a flounder and a croaker on the trip.



Kyle Neibich is in the doormat club after landing this 28½" and 9.6 lb. flounder! The fat fish had a girth of 22". He fooled the fattie in the Indian River Inlet using minnows. It ties for Heaviest Flounder of the season.

OCEAN CITY INLET

TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUGUST 7	High 10:32 am High 10:52 pm	Low 04:30 am Low 04:25 pm
THUR. AUGUST 8	High 11:12 am High 11:26 pm	Low 05:04 am Low 05:09 pm
FRI. AUGUST 9	High 11:52 am High -----	Low 05:36 am Low 05:55 pm
SAT. AUGUST 10	High 12:02 am High 12:35 pm	Low 06:10 am Low 06:45 pm
SUN. AUGUST 11	High 12:42 am High 01:21 pm	Low 06:46 am Low 07:37 pm
MON. AUGUST 12 1st Qtr. Moon	High 01:26 am High 02:15 pm	Low 07:27 am Low 08:33 pm
TUE. AUGUST 13	High 02:16 am High 03:16 pm	Low 08:13 am Low 09:32 pm
WED. AUGUST 14	High 03:13 am High 04:18 pm	Low 09:04 am Low 10:34 pm

source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.

Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide

Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
- subtract 45 minutes to low tide

Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide

Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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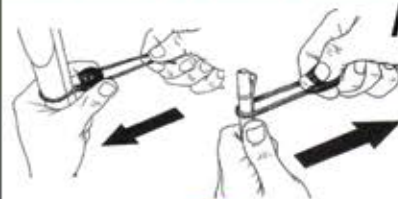
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89½ year old "Ohio Joe" Gezymalla caught these two nice keeper flounder while drifting the East Channel on live bunker. The largest of these beauties was 22 inches.








Josh Ardis, with Rod and Brett Taylor fished on the "Hotlick" out of Sunset Marina in the Poor Mans Canyon. They were deep dropping for golden tilefish. Josh caught one that weighed 47 lbs. and Brett's above was 42 lbs.



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Korey Knieriem and crew wanted to catch some swordfish, but the weather would just not allow the setup. Capt. Nick Skidmore on the charter boat "Jacked Up" quickly changed tactics and switched to deep dropping for tilefish. There were in deep water outside of the Poor Mans Canyon and raised a golden tilefish, several bluelines and 10 delicious rosies. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Capt. Charley Pereira took some day trips late last week in preparation for the White Marlin Open. Charley is no stranger to the event having won it in 2021 with an 85½ lb. white marlin he caught on the last day! This trip however yielded a couple yellowfins, blueline tilefish and some rosies.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware, the weather was hot, with several storms popping up in the area. The nearshore waters have warmed a little bit making the fishing a little better than past weeks.

The flounder fishing is better, however, there are still a lot of undersized fish that have to be weeded through to find a keeper.

Sea bass are around with most keepers coming from deeper water in the 100-120 foot range.

The back bays are alive with tons of croaker, sheepshead, trout, stripers and blues.

Back Bays and Inlets

Tom Passwaters was on

them at the Lewes Canal and landed a nice limit of flounder as well as a good striper.

Paul Garner was out near the wall and caught a nice black drum along with a few tog and triggerfish.

Victor checked into Bowers Beach Bait and Tackle with a weakfish for dinner. The smile on his face as he posed for the picture showed his excitement.

Nick Garcia was back on the bay this past week and scored a couple nice fluke up to 20 inches. He caught two keepers on the incoming tide along with two on the outgoing tide. 15-25 ft. coral and reef structure was the

key to finding hungry fish.

The Delaware Bay has been pretty consistent this year for flounder as well as trout and croaker. Capt. Gary from Pickering Beach stopped into Bowers Bait and Tackle and returned with a trophy 50 inch cobia.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral

The nearshore wrecks and reefs have gotten more consistent last week with warmer waters. A few mahi are now coming off the pots. The flounder fishing is getting much more consistent despite the multiple undersized fish you have to work through. Fishing north in the Old

Grounds and near B buoy, I managed a nice limit, with 2 fish at 19 inches, one at 18.5", and my biggest at 22.5".

Capt. Roberto was on the flounder and even scored a few peanut mahi off the pots while fishing ocean structure out east of Indian River.













Steve Kuhlman was out at the Old Grounds and caught 16 sea bass including 4 keepers along with 4 flounder and even 2 red hake. Steve also caught his first sea robin this season.

Horace Hockenstien was out at Site 11 and reported that the sea bass and flounder were on fire the day he went out. He said it's a great day when you get tired of reeling in fish after fish. The "Bad Wind Charters" were on the water again catching flounder on

2024

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 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <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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DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



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



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



BLACK DRUM
16" minimum
3 per person/day



COBIA
37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel



CROAKER
8" Minimum • No Limit



RED DRUM
20-27" minimum
5 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
No limit



SPECKLED TROUT
12" minimum
No creel limit



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



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
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day

their clacker rigs. When the fluke did not cooperate they hit the pots for mahi. Many of the fish were smaller peanut size fish, however, one of their clients hooked and landed a full size bull dolphin.

Britany Lee was out with dad and landed a unique catch of a nice sized windowpane flounder on a sea bass rig. They reported at first thinking it was a winder flounder, but upon closer inspection realized it was a window pane. Pane flounder are rare off our waters but do get caught occasionally. These fish are considered to be trophies no matter the size due to their difficulty to hook as well as the limited number in our waters. Great catch Britany! Marley Clendaniel along with Tommy and Clara checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with some doormat

flounder on Monday. The trio were happy to display their catches to the anglers and tourists at the docks. "Action Jackson Sportfishing" stated south winds early in the week made fishing a struggle, but their clients fished hard and put a few nice fish in the boat. Phoenix Lake had a good day out on the water, returning to the dock with a cooler full of bass and a red hake. Fisherman's Wharf reports many anglers returned with limits while others complained of catching tons of 16-17" fish but no keepers.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing on the DE coast is still producing some big redfish along with the usual suspects of kingfish and blues. Ribbonfish are also being caught in the surf. Alonso Lopez was

at 3Rs Beach and landed a few ribbonfish. These fish are actually very good for dinner.

Mason Crouthamel was out on the beach and landed a flounder by pulling a strip of squid along the bottom. I have heard of a lot more fluke being caught off the beach this year than in past years. Bucktails with squid strips appear to be the best method for targeting these flatfish. George Frigm had a pretty good day at Fenwick Park catching 15 kingfish, a keeper weakfish and several skates. George caught all his fish using cut mullet on a #6 circle hook, one hour before high tide. Fran Hernandez was at 3Rs and landed a nice size Atlantic angel shark using cut bait. The fish was safely released. Angel shark is another unique fish we don't often see being caught

in our waters.

Crabs and Clams

Crabbing has become pretty consistent with an average yield of 8-10 keepers per pot when using bunker as the bait. Chicken next are producing slightly lower numbers. The more salinity (closer to the ocean) you get, the more female crabs you will encounter. The average size crabs we are seeing in our pots are fairly large, with most over 6 inches. Crabs have been dirty and full of meat.

Clamming is steady with tons of large chowder clams being found just below the sands surface. Finding untouched areas is the key to the smaller steamer style clams.

Until next week...

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Angler John Biesecker shared that he found his winning flounder in the morning during the 17th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. He was fishing in the East Channel using a bucktail with Gulp when he hooked up around 9:30 AM. He did not hit the scales at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club until later in the day, however, the flatfish measured 22" and weighed 4.23 lbs. securing 1st Place for John and the crew of the "Line Dancer".



Apparently the East Channel was the place to be during the 17th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. All three top spots were filled with fish from there including this 21 5/8 inch flatfish caught by John Grant on the "Dreibruder". He was using live spot to fool the 2.89 lb. flounder that landed him in 2nd Place overall at the tourney.

17th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce
FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT
RESULTS

1st PLACE
JOHN BIESECKER
22" · 4.23 lbs. · \$3,940

2nd PLACE
JOHN GRANT
21⁵/₈" · 2.89 lbs. · \$1,240

3rd PLACE
SCOTT LENOX
21" · 3.33 lbs. · \$1,132

JUNIOR ANGLER - REESE ROGERSON · \$100

235 ANGLERS PARTICIPATED



Scott Lenox of 'Fish In OC' kicked off the action during the 17th Annual Worcester County Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. He was fishing in the East Channel with his wife Kristen and brought 4 nice fish to the scales at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club that he caught using spot. His longest was 21" and 3.33 lbs. and topped the leaderboard for a while before settling in at 3rd Place overall.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

AUGUST

51st Annual White Marlin Open

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Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder

TBD • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

31st Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open

August 15-17 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

The MidAtlantic

August 19-23 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

SEPTEMBER

66th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament

TBD • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

23rd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament

September 14 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

19th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder

September 8 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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8th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic

Oct 5-6 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament

Oct 11-13 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament

Late October - Late November • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

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



Daulton O'Donnell, age 15 from Atglen PA, caught this 6 lb. bluefish at the Ocean City Inlet. He was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" and he also caught 4 undersized rockfish.

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Capt. Anthony Pino, aboard the "Sea Hag" owned by Charlie Duerr, led the crew to an unforgettable adventure. Anglers Junior Baas, Mario Castañeda and Ayrton (Cruoton) Pryor went 7 for 11 on white marlin and reeling in some impressive tuna and mahi. Sporting their Hook Optics sunglasses, this crew proves that with the right gear and the right team, every fishing trip can be legendary!



Anglers Ken & Michelle Kosko, Joe Hermansdorfer and Terri Baker were certainly busy on this trip with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On The Run". They with the crew caught a 6 man limit of blues and a fat 22" flounder at the Bass Grounds. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



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The “Fishticuffs” brought a lot of excitement and a lot of tuna to the scales during the 16th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club’s Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament. Ashley Leichling, Sarah Atkinson, Tiffany Lane, Lauren Frank, Christa Swanke and Lisa Vallandingham spent Day 1 of the event on the “Fishticuffs” trolling in the Poor Mans Canyon. They went 1 for 2 on white marlin with Sarah releasing the white, but it was the tuna that Ashley caught that made the day. At 102.5 lbs. the allison yellowfin tuna jumped to the top of the leaderboard for Heaviest Tuna where it remained unchallenged earning the anglers and crew of Capt. Wade Lober with boat owner Andy Baxter and mate JJ Thompson \$7,650 in prize monies.



16TH ANNUAL OCMC FRANKY PETTOLINA

LADIES'

TOURNAMENT

"Heels & Reels"

BILLFISH RELEASE

1ST PLACE • "REAL ONE"300 Pts. • \$17,640

2ND PLACE • "ESPADON"300 Pts. • \$3,564

3RD PLACE • "LIGHTS OUT"300 Pts. • \$2,376

TUNA

1ST PLACE • "FISHTICUFFS"102.5 lbs. • \$7,650

2ND PLACE • "MARLI"58.5 lbs. • \$7,560

3RD PLACE • "MARLI"49 lbs. •

TUNA STRINGER

1ST PLACE • "MARLI"107.5 lbs. • \$22,680

DOLPHIN

1ST PLACE • "MAX BET"27 lbs. • \$15,210

Total Purse - \$76,680

39 Boats Entered • Boats Fished Day 1 (37) / Day 2 (2)

ocmarlinclub.com

Two women are standing on a wooden dock next to a large mahi-mahi. They are holding a pink and white flag. A large black sign with orange and white text is in the foreground. The sign has a circular logo for the Ocean City MD. Marlin Club on the left. The text on the sign reads: "16th Annual Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels", "Species Mahi", "Weight 27.0", "Angler CREW", "Boat Max Bet", and "Date Friday 8/02/2024". A large, semi-transparent watermark "Photo © Coastal Fisherman 410-220-9200" is overlaid diagonally across the image.

The first fish to be weighed at the 16th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club’s Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament came from the crew of the “Max Bet”. Kelly Weber caught this mahi while trolling in the Washington Canyon and the 27 lb. dolphin would prove to be the only qualifying mahi, earning \$15,210 in prize money The crew also released 2 white marlin, including Dulce Aguero’s first. Fishing with the ladies were Capt. Anthony Robins with Anthony and Matthew Weber.



Only 2 of the 39 boats registered braved the weather last Saturday during the 16th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club's Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament, and only one of those made it to the scales. Lady anglers Dana Liedholm, Dana Dempsey, Renee Remo, Kim McGuigan, Tina Boykin and Stephanie Scales arrived at the docks with only moments to spare on the last day of the event. They had caught and released 2 white marlin while fishing on the "Espadon" with Capt. Sylvain Coté which was enough to slide them into 2nd Place in the Release Division and \$3,564 in prize money. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.

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Rounding out the top 3 for Billfish Released during the 16th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club’s Franky Pettolina Heels & Reels Ladies Tournament was the “Lights Out” with lady anglers Rachel Wisniewski, Jessica Matarese, Jennifer Hetherington, Kelly Stephens and Farron Sims. They were fishing with Capt. Chester Sims, mates Steven Stallings & Carson Rogers along with Tommy Holder and Jeffrey Liederman in deep water outside the Baltimore Canyon. The ladies managed to hook and release 2 blue marlin that put them in 2nd Place for releases for most of the tournament, however they slipped to 3rd Place overall at the very last minute taking home \$2, 376.

2024

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



If only the fishing was as hot as the weather , and the wind as slack as the tide at dead high water We'd have it made. However the sun is hot and the breeze is stiff, but there is still some fins and fun to be found on our little peninsula of paradise.

The bayside has been the mainstay of excellent Eastern Shore action. The heavy hitters this week have been Spanish and Spottails. Slot reds have been prevalent in the shallows of the southern and central Chesapeake. Popping cork's with jigheads and paddletails seems to ring the dinner bell for these bronze brawlers. As much as I hate to admit it , Gulp paddleshads and swimming mullets "Drew" these fish to the dinner table. Crazy Larry and myself boated a gluttonous ration of reds with our best action coming on the strength of the flood and the setting of the sun. If you desire a bigger

pull, shoals of breaking mature drum have been spotted in the bay proper. Anglers who have been fortunate enough to stumble on these feeding frenzies have casted large swim-baits and even topwater lures to experience one of the most awesome spectacles to be seen on the Chesapeake. Along with the red bite , specs and the now legal (in Maryland) rock have still provided bent rods and big smiles.

Spanish have given toothy tussles on the troll as anglers present Clarkspoons behind #1 and #2 planners. The best colors have been silver, gold , pink, and chartreuse. These speedy spotted sportfish have devoured spoons trolled at a brisk pace of 4-6 knots near the channel edges and around bait balls. The mackerel bite is not only contained to the warm waters of our cherished Chesapeake, but also has been enjoyed in the nearshore waters of

the Atlantic. Fish have been found near the mouths of the ESVA barrier island inlets to the shoals just off the beach.

The seaside has provided some fairly decent midsummer floundering. The bite has definitely been the most consistent around the time of high tide when the water is the cleanest and coolest. Flounder top and bottom rigs baited with gulp shrimp or swimming mullets and tipped with big minnows or silversides drifted along channel edges near the inlets have been the recipe for a tasty flounder sandwich . The near shore structure has also provided some flounder activity around areas like the blackfish bank reef site. The action has been a bit lack luster, however there have still been a few good days mixed in. 2oz bucktails tipped with 5-6 inch gulp and jigged along the structure has been the best way to bring a flatfish fillet













Deeper off shore, the mahi have picked up around bass pots and other floating flotsam. Most anglers are trolling to achieve success while some have been chunking baits in hopes to lure these alluring acrobats out of the shadows. Tilefish have been the main course in our deep water seafood supper. Anglers drop cut baits and squid on multiple hook rigs for a bountiful battle that supplements what may have been a less filling venture. The White Marlin Open is quickly approaching. Hopefully, the fishing and forecast improves, but it looks a little rough in regards to both aspects.

As I stand on the bow casting for what I hope to be another "spotty" fishing experience, I realize we are pretty lucky folks. I don't know if it's the fellowship of a good friend, the hum of the Minn Kota keeping us in the zone, or the sound of a popping cork chugging with the anticipation of a bronze bullet to burn drag... all I know is that this is a God given chance to be happy. So get out there, grab some hydration and enjoy this wonderful place we call home! §

2024

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 6 August 9 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 40" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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Capt. Mark Quinn with David Quinn and Jack Barker ventured out of Chincoteague, VA into some very rough water for a day of fishing on the "Blue Fin". They managed to spot this big bull mahi from the tower and once closer they threw a ballyhoo at him and the fight was on. It took Jack about 25 minutes to get the 64½" dolphin to the boat. Definitely the catch of a lifetime.



It was a meat fish day for Eric Nystrom, Richard Nystrom, Mindy Tallo, Jake Nystrom and Austin Nystrom on the "Game On" with Capt. Scott Stapleford. They returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 19 mahi and 4 triggerfish. They also reported losing a yellowfin.

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