

COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Faith Engh on the docks at Sunset Marina holding her bluefin tuna, it was the first catch of the day for "Primary Search." The crew had over 80 bites in just three hours of fishing after Faith's bluefin was in the boat. Within those 80 bites there were four separate occasions where 10 rods hit simultaneously with tuna bites. The crew started using a trolling spread of ballyhoos and ultimately had to switch to worms as the tuna ate all of the ballyhoo. This action took place outside the Poor Man's Canyon in 1000 fathoms. After all of the tuna bites "Primary Search" had tired arms and decided to bottom fish and ended up with five blackbelly rosefish. The "Primary Search" was headed by Capt. Austin Ensor and mate Brian Suschke alongside Andrew Suschke, Josh and Emily Ensor, "Wild Bill" Stafford, Ryan Rojek, and Eric and Kristin Peterson.



Fisherman Luke Wrye proudly showing off his first citation bluefish. Luke's blue fish totaled 34" in length. This fish was caught north of the Route 50 Bridge after catching multiple small flounder and a "medium" sized bluefish. Luke released this fish for another lucky angler to find.



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Mark Ambush, of Ocean City, caught this 22" speckled trout. Mark's proud catch was caught using a 1 oz. paddle tail lure off his dock in the Fenwick Ditch near Papa Grande's on an outgoing tide.



Over Memorial Day weekend these six gentleman probably came back with sore arms after reeling in all of these sea bass. Fishing on the boat "Covered Up" out of the Ocean City Fshing Center the team amassed a pile of sea bass and few blueline tilefish.

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FACTS ABOUT... SEA BASS

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS LOOK LIKE?

As their name suggests, sea bass are black in color, but can also have a gray body. During spawning season, the dominant male-sea-bass develop a hump on their head and have vibrant-blue color shades. Sea bass have stout-bodies, flat-heads, pointed-snouts, and large-mouths. Juvenile sea bass are brown in color and have a horizontal-stripe running along their body.

WHERE DO BLACK SEA BASS LIVE?

Adult black sea bass can be found in the Atlantic Ocean, from the Gulf of Maine to the Florida Keys. Many sea bass swim in small schools and migrate north to spend the summer months in New England waters. Locally on Cape Cod, there are large populations at Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds, Buzzards Bay, and the Elizabeth Islands. In recent years, black sea bass have pushed north into the Gulf of Maine as the ocean temperatures have increased. Younger-sea-bass tend to live in backwaters or estuaries to feed and avoid being eaten by predators. Since sea bass occupy much of the same habitat as striped bass, they are often caught accidentally. Sea bass spend their days around wrecks, piers, jetties, shoals, reefs, and rockpiles.

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS EAT?

Even though sea bass do not have big, sharp, and pointy-teeth to crush their food like other predatory fish, they do have small and harmless teeth. Adult sea bass are aggressive bottom feeders and are not picky; their menu consists of a wide variety of crustaceans, fishes, mollusks, and worms.

HOW BIG DO BLACK SEA BASS GROW TO?

Some adult black sea bass grow up to 2-feet in length and 9-pounds in weight. However, most do not grow over 4-pounds.

WHAT DO BLACK SEA BASS TASTE LIKE?

Even though their filets are on the smaller side, many people consider sea bass to be the best eating northeast inshore fish. Their meat is tender, translucent, breaks into small flakes, and is mild in flavor. Sea bass are not an oily fish and they can be cooked in a variety of ways. However, they can be tedious to fillet because of their rib cage bones.

WHAT IS THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR BLACK SEA BASS?

The scientific name for black sea bass is *centropomus striata*. They're members of the Serranidae family, which also includes grouper, the often-solitary, structure-loving reef fishes of temperate and tropical waters.

WHY DO BLACK SEA BASS CHANGE SEXES?

All sea bass are born females, but when they become 2-to-5 years old, and 9-to-13 inches in length, some change sexes, and become males. It is unclear why the sex change occurs, but there is some scientific research suggesting the lack of males in a local spawning group may be the cause. The change happens during the fall and winter after sea bass finish spawning.

WHY DO SEA BASS MAKE A GRUNTING NOISE?

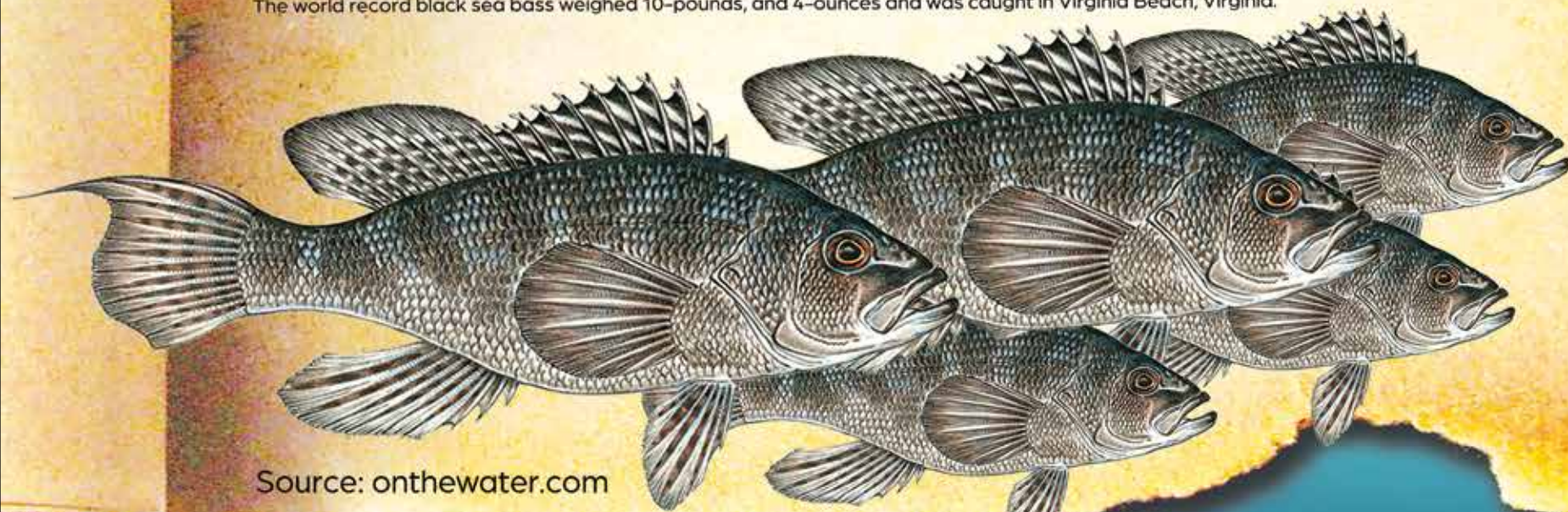
Sea bass have a large swim bladder, which can produce small thumps and grunting noises. The vibrations are produced to escape predators, but they are also associated with competitive feeding.

WHEN DO BLACK SEA BASS SPAWN?

In New England, black sea bass females produce up to 500,000 eggs during the spring spawning season. The eggs float in the water for several days before turning into larvae.

WHAT IS THE BLACK SEA BASS WORLD RECORD?

The world record black sea bass weighed 10-pounds, and 4-ounces and was caught in Virginia Beach, Virginia.



Source: onthewater.com



Hello everyone and welcome back to another offshore fishing report, this time we finally have some fish to talk about! The majority of the week came with clouds, rain and wind both on land and off the beach but the weekend brought some nicer conditions and some decent fishing as well. We ran our first charter of the OC season on Friday, targeting seabass and tilefish. In the morning we found decent conditions but a very slow pick of fishing, only boxing a few blue lines. We decided to make the run inshore a little ways to a wreck to

target seabass and were greeted with amazing marks of bait and fish but still a slower bite. The fish we did catch came up absolutely full of small sand eels, the base of the midshore food pyramid. I decided to try my luck with a jig, well about 50 ft. down I got absolutely crushed, and did my best to hang on as I watched my spool shrink by the second. A few moments later the fish pulled off and I retrieved a jig with a straightened out hook, I looked at the bottom machine on the TV to see half a dozen large "boomarang" on the screen, right around

50 ft. down. To me, it was quite certain that there were a pack of bluefins swimming around feeding on the same sand eels as the sea bass. As the afternoon progressed, the bite improved ending with a little over 50 keepers in seabass, as well as having 2 thresher sharks eat our fish on the way up. This weekend several boats had good seabass/tilefish trips including the Wrecker and Restless Lady II throwing good catches onto the dock. But the big news that everyones been waiting for has finally arrived, sort of. A few boats ventured out past 1000 fathoms to a piece of warmer water and found quite literally, unlimited tunas waiting for them. I have heard of a handful of yellowfins possibly being in the mix, but the main catch were all bluefins ranging anywhere from 20 lb. BLT size fish all the way up to the larger 150 lb. class fish. Austin and crew onboard Primary Search had quite a memorable Memorial Day, reporting over 60 tuna

www.coastalfisherman.net bites! Granted the current regulations only allow for 1 fish between 27"-72" to be kept, nonstop action is always a good thing and I haven't seen too many people frowning while cranking on a tuna fish. Hopefully this fishing keeps up and the water pushes west and inside of reasonable range for charter fishing as well as the upcoming Battle for the Buckle Tournament May 29-31. An offshore run of bluefins is quite typical of what proceeds our first push of warm water that hold the crowd favorite yellowfins, so hopefully some of these eddies that do exist about 150/200 miles out form in a way that push them into 100 fathoms. Some traditional tackle for these early tunas is a plastic heavy spread, consisting of spreaders bars and chains on the flats, short riggers and shotgun, with sea witches/Joe Shutes in front of ballyhoos on the long riggers way, way back. The wind looks to puff up in the middle of the week out of the east, so hopefully that also helps push that water a little closer to the beach.

Good luck to those making it out this week, tight lines.

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The Ocean City Fishing Center has had a stellar start to the season so far. The “Hopper” had some major success, hitting by our count, 26 blue line tilefish and five golden tiles.

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Here’s ten-year-old Korey Knieriem Jr. with his first flounder. He caught this memorable fish while trolling the Thorofare in shallow water. The Knieriem family has been on a hot streak recently as Korey’s brother Kody caught his first flounder a few days prior.















On their first drive on beach day of the year, George Cole, George Cole III, and Ely Quattlebaum found some fishing luck. George caught this 30” black drum at Assateague using sand fleas for bait.

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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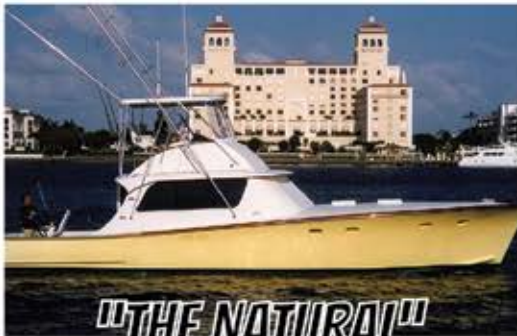


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bass became more consistent. Some limits are being found and better quality fish appear to be arriving. "Fish Bound Charters" hasn't seen any fluke yet this year but has been keeping customers occupied with a bounty of sea bass. Captain Kane and crew are usually one of the first groups to really locate the fluke. Hopefully that will be within the next few weeks.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has slowed but is still fairly consistent for black drum. The beach has had a big uptick of sharks and rays in the surf as the summer and warmer weather approach. Early morning and late afternoon trips will provide the best opportunities for success. Thomas Woods stated that the offshore nor'easter made surf fishing on Assateague Island tough when even 10 oz. weights had trouble holding bottom. He did manage a nice keeper flounder but nothing else. Alex Artese and Dante Williams had a good morning

finding several blues for the smoker using mullet rigs. Stefanie Gasbeck had a great day fishing the island and landed several fish including a few large size sharks. All the fish were safely released and she stated the fights were some of the best she has had in years.

Clams and Crabs

Clams at the back side of the island are very close to the sandy surface with minimal raking needed. As the holiday weekend is upon us many tourist anglers will begin searching for these tasty little ones and force anglers to search out less picked over spots. Crabbing remains slow with 3-5 keepers per pot. Like our northern state most pots are full of crabs but many are either pregnant females or undersized. Small traps have actually been producing better than traditional commercial pots. Fresh razor clams or bunker are your best baits.

Until next week

Tight Lines and Fins Up!



Corey Everhart and Mark Jameson kneeling on the Rt. 50 Bridge after catching the second sheephead we have seen this year. Their catch came in at 23" and was caught using a 5" swim bait. It might not be advised to fish where the fence is broken but if that is where the sheephead are there's not much you can do.



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

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43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm
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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

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It has been quite a trip in Costa Rica for Matt Moran. After receiving the picture of the pending world record machacca, Matt sent in another fish he will be submitting as a possible world record. This machacca weighs in at 3lbs. 7 oz. and differs from his previous catch by being caught on 2 lbs. line instead of 4 lbs. line. He is about to return to the U.S. and officially submit these catches. Great job on the two catches and now that Matt will be back in the US, the large machaccas in Costa Rica can rest assured knowing that Matt is gone.

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Beach Talk

by Skylar Sneed and Chris Taylor



Over the years, I've had a lot of folks tell me they have never caught anything in the surf. My first question is always "How often do you go? And when? Because both of these things are more important than most people realize.

Our buddy Georgie is the perfect example. This spring, he broke his personal best black drum record, crushed his striped bass record three or four times, and even landed his first red drum - all from the surf. This was his first year giving it a solid go. What made the difference? Time and effort. He put in

whole days and nights on the sand, fishing full tide cycles, moving around, trying new spots, and staying patient. He didn't find the fish right away, but he stuck with it - and it paid off!

Sometimes the water is tough to read. Wind, high tides, or even dead calm days can hide the structure. But if you know your beach and have spent time scouting, you'll have an edge. We often take our trucks out at low tide just to look for cuts in the sand bar, deep holes, and points, knowing that the next day, during high tide, those same structures

will be hidden. That local knowledge is gold.

Some of the best surf fishermen we know only surf fish. They have beach rigs just for it, there are times they spend days and nights without a bite. When they finally land a fish, it's not luck- it's earned! They didn't show up on a random day and hit the jackpot. They put in more hours not catching fish than most people spend on the beach the whole year.

Even top-tier anglers hit dry spells. We have friends who will fish 7-9 hours a day for 5-6 days in a row with no fish, while others pull up and land multiple in 15 minutes. That's how it goes. Sometimes the bite only lasted 20 minutes, and if you're not fishing in that window, you missed out completely. You can't catch 'em from the couch - a phrase we hear every season and one that rings true every time.

Timing matters too. Knowing the right winds and tides makes a huge difference. West winds usually aren't great for Assateague. They blow in the flies and create a cold-water upwelling that pushes the fish out. After a few days of heavy west wind, fishing tends to slow down. We aren't saying it's impossible to catch, but the odds get a lot tougher. South, Southeast, and East winds usually help the bite, at least in our experience.

www.coastalfisherman.net
Understanding when certain species show up helps, too. Black drum start showing up around mid-March through May. Stripers show up in April into May, and big red drum usually arrive in May and stick around into July. Summer brings kingfish, flounder, stingrays, bluefish, and the toothy critters - usually staying through September, with sharks hanging around into November. Come fall, the big reds return around late September into October. Even November and December have produced puppy red drum in the surf.

Of course, the weather can throw off all that. Storms and high tides can shut the bite down completely. A couple years ago, our fall red drum run was practically a bust because of back-to-back storms. Once the beach reopened, only a handful of fish were caught.

Baits and rigs are a whole different topic, and we'll get into that another time. But for now, the bottom line is simple: put in the time, don't be afraid to ask questions, and pay attention to what's worked in the past. Plenty of surf fishermen are happy to share info, as long as you're not asking for GPS coordinates. We always ask what bait and tide guys are fishing, and we don't mind sharing the same. Even learning what didn't work helps to narrow things down.

Get out there. Try something new. Stay patient, stay humble, and stay hungry.

See you on the sand.



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George Frigm assisted by experienced angler Leo, caught this sandy blue-fish, in Fenwick State Park. Their big catch weighed in at 3 lbs. 10 oz. at 24” This blue fish was caught on an incoming tide using whole mullet.



Brian Brannan of Valley View Farms was stoked to announce that his flounder drought was over. For the first time in a while, Brian finally caught some keeper flounders, one at 19” and the other at 22”, on an orange Deadly Double fishing rig with a white Gulp bait. Brian was fishing on the boat, “Livewire,” through the Thorofare.

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2025



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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
Bluefish 		May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	Weakfish 		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
Flounder 		May 17 Isaac Mitchell Lewes and RB Canal 4.34 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	New May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	New May 25 Matthew Abbonizio Poor Man's Canyon 58 lbs.	
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 	New May 25 Francesca Gessler Poor Man's Canyon 8 lbs.	
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



While visiting for a wedding in town, Bob White landed this blue on a top and bottom rig for his first fish of the season. Bob's catch was made near the Ocean City Inlet using cut spot as bait.






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FISHING CHARTERS



“Lucky Break” charters headed by Capt. Jason Mumford had a good Memorial Day weekend bringing in lots of flounder. These excited anglers on the docks at Frontier Town would certainly agree that the bay fishing has been good.



This happy angler aboard the headboat the “Angler,” headed by Capt. Chris Mizurak, holding three sea bass. It seems the ominous skies didn’t stop this trip from getting offshore and catching some fish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Matt and Melinda Anderson, from Kentucky, were fishing on the "Ivy Sea" of the Get Sum charter fleet. Headed by Capt. Nick, the boat caught their limit of flounder found in the bay and the Ocean City Inlet. The two were using Gulp 4" pearl white swimming mullet and minnows to attract these flat fish.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This family had a great day aboard the headboat the "Tortuga" out of Bahia Marina. With the help of the main captain, Capt. R. and first mate, Serge, this family left the water with food for dinner.

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Capt. Monty Hawkins of the headboat, "Morning Star" persisted through rough winds and had a successful charter. Using eels as bait and bare hooks, the seabass practically came running- one angler hit their limit, while everyone else was in double digits.

WATCH

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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite the bumpy ride out, a group fishing with C.L. Marshall, of Tangier Sound Charters, were rewarded with a sizable rock fish and a brace of speckled trout. Angler Dale Withers, pictured above, had the largest catch of the day with this 26 inch speckled trout.



Anglers Emily, Brian, Kevin and Richard, from Pennsylvania, aboard the "Get Sum" charter boat holding their share of flounder caught over Memorial Day weekend. The four caught these flounder using swimming white mullet Gulp.

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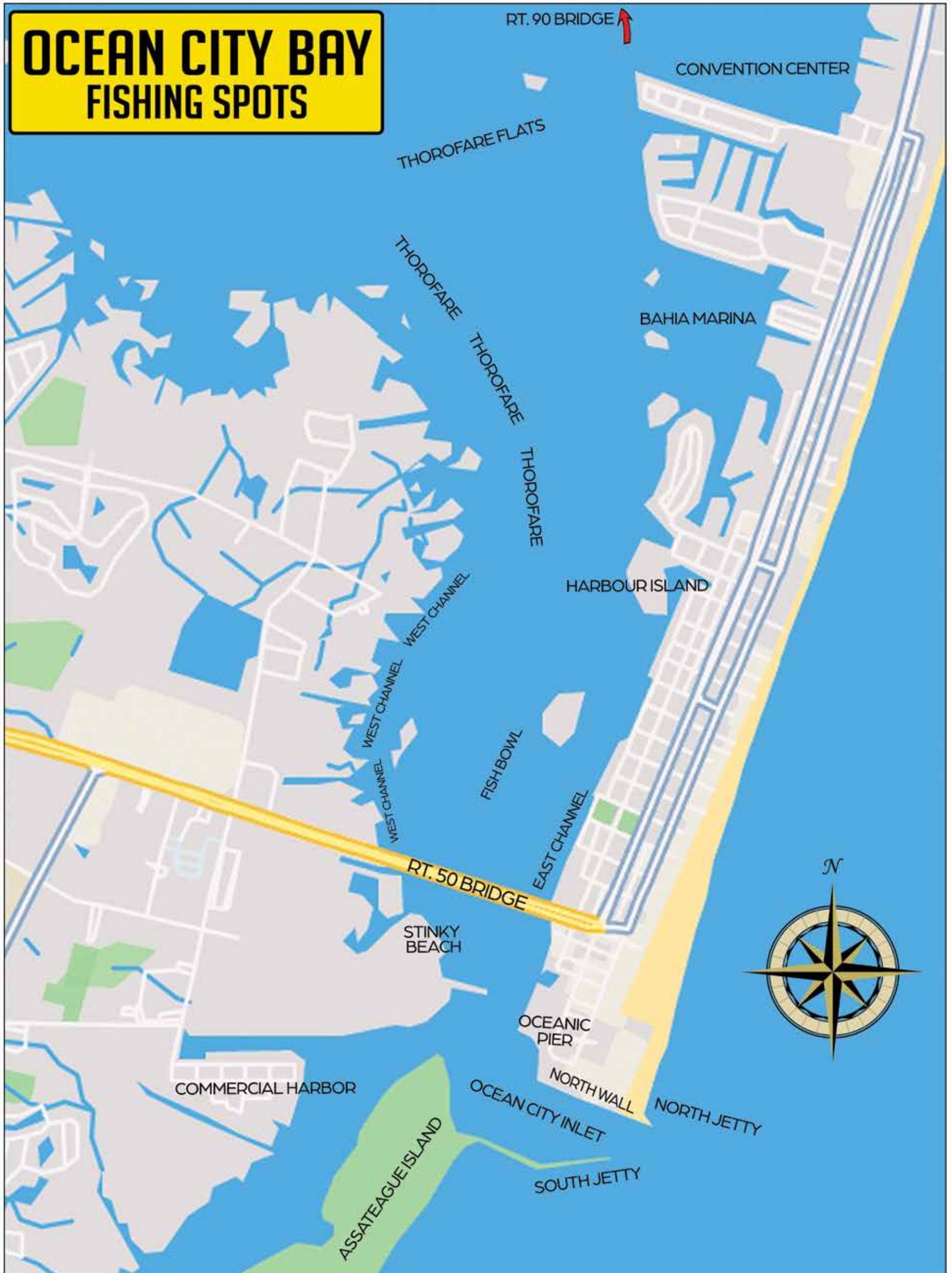
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Angler Greg Allen is bundled up holding his 22" striped bass that he caught at the Indian River Inlet. Greg hooked this fish using a 5" hook with a 2 oz. sinker with sand fleas during an outgoing tide.



Angler Brian Reynolds caught a slot striper coming in at 31", in the Ocean City Inlet. Brian caught his keeper on a 4" swim bait with an ultralight rod.

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Despite rain, wind and currents that called for 12 oz sinkers, angler Russell Lederman, Assateague Island frequenter, landed a nice black drum and a striper on the Assateague shore. Lederman lost a big fish, that he assumed was likely a striper, that took him 100 yds down the beach southward, leaving him to go into the cold water to maneuver past his line.



Eight year old Enzo Hultberg, of Wilmington, DE, holding his 2.7 lbs. seabass. Enzo was fishing using clam as bait and was pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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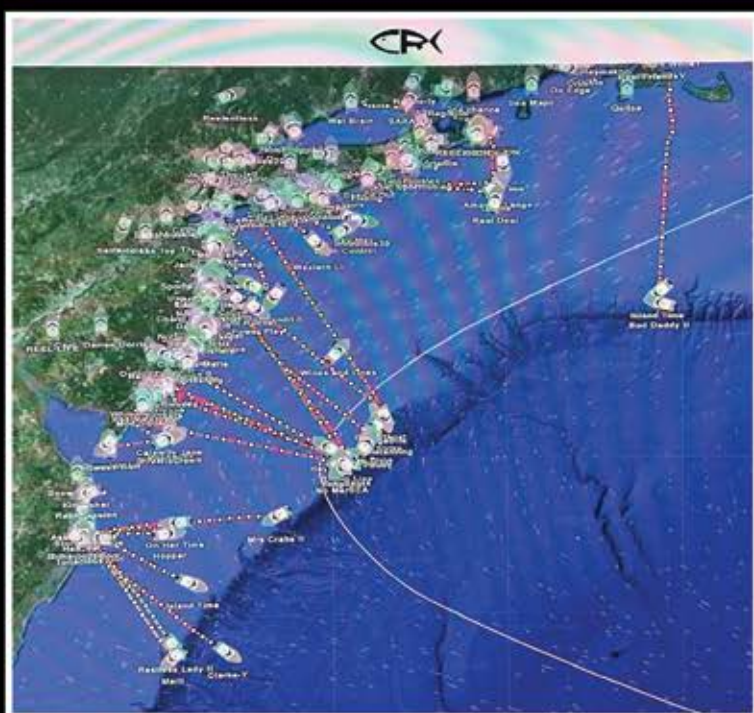
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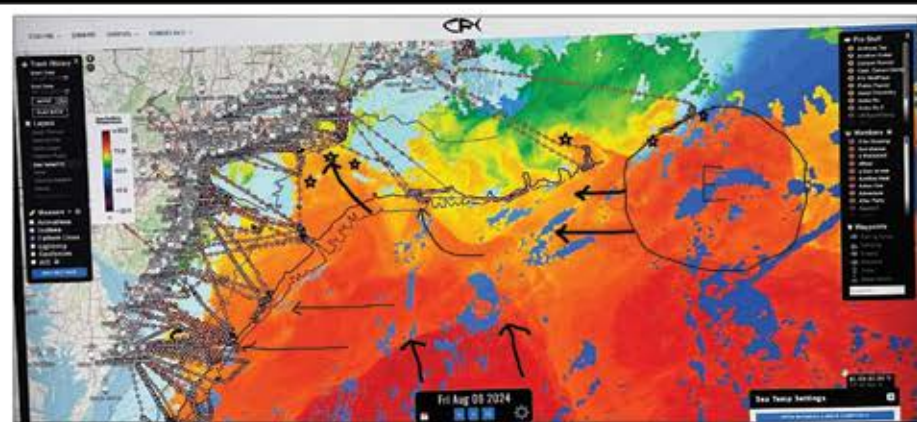
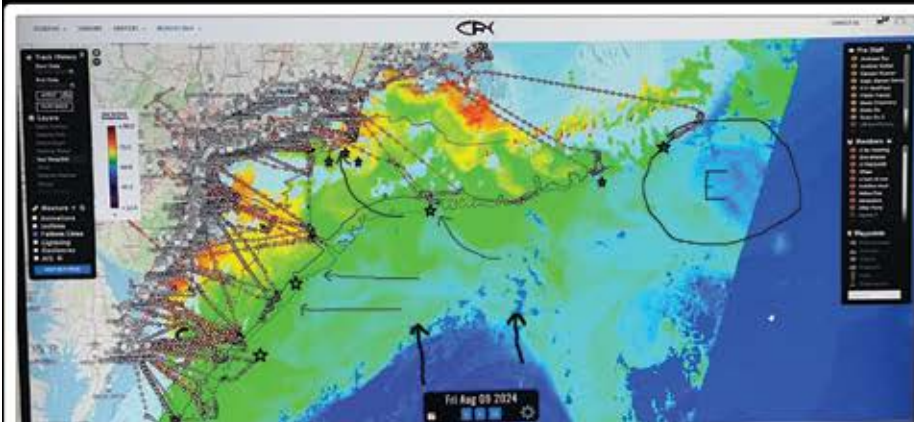
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10th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
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July 12-13 • ParadiseGrillDE.com • 410-213-1613

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or go to our website at
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Finn Ratcliff caught this bass' eye with his fluorescent shorts. Finn was fishing with his uncle, Tommy Hinkle, at a local pond. Earlier in the day the two also caught two flounder in the South Jetty.

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Peyton Zimmerman, from Lititz, PA, and Shane Ross, from Berlin, MD, both caught their limit of sea bass this Memorial Day weekend. In total the two man team reported catching over 300 in six hours of fishing. The two were fishing aboard the vessel "The Hammer" in the old grounds due east of Indian River. Peyton and Shane were using 120 gram and 80 gram slow pitch jigs on this exciting day of fishing.

A promotional graphic for the 52nd Annual White Marlin Open. The background is a blue grid pattern. On the left, there is a map of Maryland with various locations marked, including Ocean City, Baltimore, and Washington. A large illustration of a white marlin is in the center. Text on the left includes "52nd Annual WHITE MARLIN OPEN", "August 4th-8th, 2025", "Ocean City, MD", and "WORLD'S LARGEST AND RICHEST BILFISH TOURNAMENT". On the right, there are three stacked boxes with text: "Purse in 2024 OVER \$8.6 MILLION", "OVER \$230,000 AWARDED IN SMALL BOAT LEVELS LAST YEAR!", and "New For 2025! Outboard Division Expanded Small Boat Division". At the bottom, the website "whitemarlinopen.com" is listed on the left, and contact information "WHITE MARLIN OPEN • PO BOX 737 OCEAN CITY, MD 21843-0737 410-289-9229 Fax 410-289-4490" is on the right.



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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware we had fairly good sea bass fishing on the near shore wrecks along with good inlet fishing for flounder and rockfish. The rest of the bays and inlets are improving as the water warms up with the arriving summer heat. Flounder have become more frequent in this past week, although not to the level that Ocean City has once produced. Large storms ravaged our area during the week, churning up the water and causing it to become very muddy. The rains also caused our temps to dip into the low 60s at night, cooling off the water. With warmer weather on the way next week and less storms predicted, hopefully the water will again stabilize

and flounder fishing will improve. The Delaware Bay is still producing big black drum. Many of these fish are loaded with eggs and should be returned to help keep the fishery consistent with new life. Surf fishing is slowing with tons of horseshoe crabs dominating the region. A few rockfish and drum are still being caught however most drum have made their way to the DE Bay to spawn.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets had a slow down last week due to the storms and cooler air temps in the area. Flounder are still being caught at the inlet and main channels along with Massey's Ditch. Fishing

in deeper water between 6-10 feet is the most consistent depth to find fish. Squid and minnow combinations have been successful, but some are now being caught on Gulp baits. On evening tides, rockfish can be found along the rocks with smaller bluefish thrown in. Swimbaits and jigs are working best when thrown near the rocks after dark. Mellissa and Olivia Brozefsky spent the day fishing the DE Bay and landed a beautiful black weighing 47 lbs. Joe Norvell caught a 44", 49 lbs. black, while fishing the bay using fresh surf clams. The fish was weighed in at Rick's Bait and Tackle. Dean Correll also checked in at Ricks and showed off his 29" black drum. "Never Satisfied Charters" had a great evening on the bay going two for five on Black drum. Josh and Tiffany fished on the "Crab Burner" with Captain Newsham and landed five nice drum on their charter.

Riley Jones had a good day at IR Inlet landing three big togs using sand fleas. Lane Goode fished the pier and landed a nice 22" fluke.

Near Shore Wrecks and Reefs

Sea bass is the main focus now on our nearshore coral grounds and wrecks. Anglers are having to work hard and pick through smaller undersized fish to fill a cooler. The NJ/DE Reef is, as usual, the best location for targeting these fish but has already become very crowded with boats and anglers. Finding smaller wrecks and drop offs will soon become necessary as anglers continue to plunder the more well known wrecks. Fresh clam as well as small

vertical jigs are your best bet when targeting these bass. As the water warms in the upcoming weeks we should begin to see both bluefish as well as spanish mackerel on the Fenwick shoals along with the triggerfish. For both blues and macks trolling small spoons behind the boat at around 4-5 mph in the early morning hour will produce the best strikes. The "Angler" headboat stated that despite the slower bite they did manage to catch some really nice sea bass on their past trips delighting anglers with a plethora of fish to invite home for dinner. "Wreck Dog Fishing" checked into Fisherman's Wharf By 10 am with a quick caught grocery list of 90 fish. Many fish were near the 5 lbs. mark. It's a pleasure when you get on a group of fish that don't even have to be measured. Great job guys! The boats at Hook'em and Cook'Em Tackle reported that although a slower bite than usual, the anglers are still finding plenty of fish to fill their coolers. "Skipjack Sportfishing" also returned to the dock with coolers full of tasty sea bass with several double headers being reported.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has slowed with only a few anglers catching the big black drum we had seen in previous weeks. Fresh surf clams and fish bites are still working best and an early morning bite appears to be the best time. As a reminder, this past holiday weekend began the start of a reservation being needed to surf fish on the weekends and holidays. My understanding from the state officials was that the permits were sold out for the weekend within one hour. For those of you planning on surf fishing on a weekend, you should be ready to snag your permits online very soon after they go on sale or you will be

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left wanting. Jim Thompson caught and released a big 44" rockfish while fishing the Fenwick drive on using sand fleas tipped with fishbite. Officer Majewski also fished Fenwick and landed a nice 34" rock using sand fleas and fishbites. 9 yr old Ronin Jehl from Willmington caught a nice 10 lbs. bluefish off the beach at Fenwick while fishing a bucktail lure in the surf. Chase Haugh had barely gotten his second rod set up when he hooked, landed, and released the biggest drum he had ever caught off the beach. Early morning definitely appears to be the best time of the day for drum fishing. Mark Lucas had another good day on the beach landing an over slot rockfish that put up one hell of a fight. Frank Sima, Jr got in on the beach bite, landing a slammer bluefish on a mullet rig. Suzanne Martin dropped a gator blue using a mullet rig

at Cape Henlopen.

Clams and Crabs

Clamming continues to improve with Holts Landing and the VFW being the targeted spots this week. Many spots are still untouched due the colder than normal water and are producing good quantities of steamer clams along with the bigger chowder clams. Crabbing remains about the same with very large crabs or undersized ones in the pots. 4-6 keepers per pot has been average. One or two more sheds should put us in the thick of the bounty. Fresh or frozen bunker perform better than chicken. Finding the snails appears to be the key to finding the best keepers. If you find snails in your pots then you are targeting the right place.

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up!



Despite a chilly NE breeze, Mike Powers caught this bluefish on Fenwick Island. Fishing an incoming tide, Mike said there were "multiple choppers" landed, hitting bunker and mullet on bluefish rigs. Mike credits his catch to the team at Fenwick Tackle for convincing him to buy a pack of mullet before rolling out.

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Jacob Ziegler and Frank Biesecker holding their rockfish and flounder after a day of fishing at the South Jetty. Jacob caught this 28½" striped bass using a Roy Rig. The two were on the boat "Line Dancer" when they caught their keepers.



Richard 'Delicious' Daiker with Will Schindler standing on his boat named "Delicious," showing off their limit of blues. The largest of these fish measured up to be 34" and were all caught on the South Jetty.

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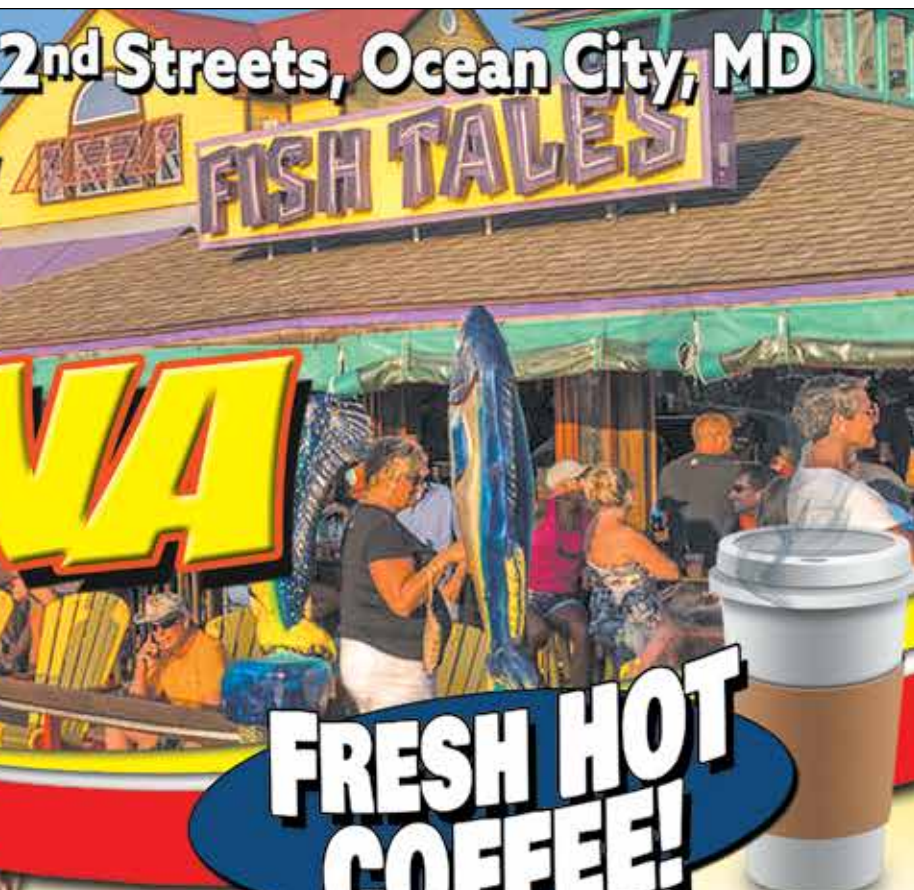
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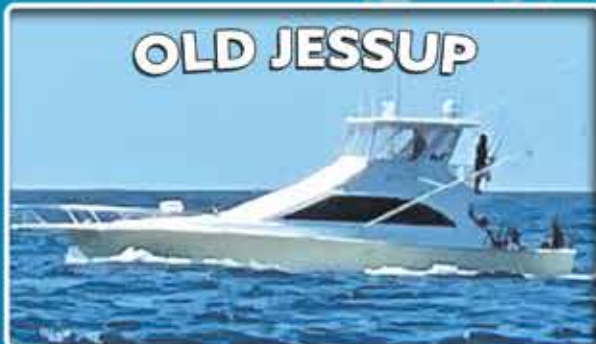
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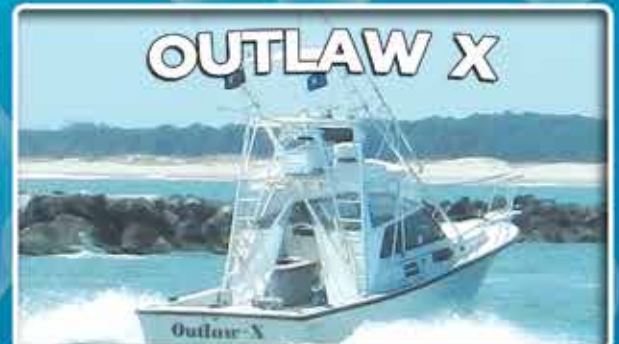
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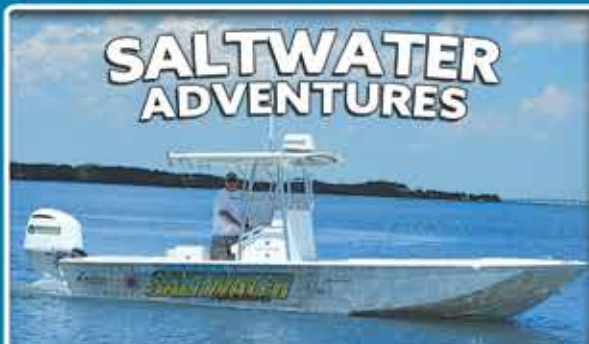
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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Power at Sea: A Guide to Marine Batteries

As Memorial Day week arrives, marking the unofficial start of summer here in Ocean City, Maryland, we at Ship To Shore want to take a moment to acknowledge the significance of this day. It's a time to pause and honor the courageous men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Their bravery and dedication are the foundation of the freedoms we cherish, and we believe it's important to reflect on their invaluable contributions.

This week, alongside our remembrance, we also want to emphasize the importance of proper care and maintenance for your marine batteries. Ensuring their health is key to a trouble-free and enjoyable boating season. As the lifeline of your vessel's electrical system, their condition directly impacts your safety and convenience on the water.

As you likely know, a fully charged 12-volt standard lead-acid marine battery

(whether traditional flooded, sealed, or AGM) should read around 12.6 volts when not under load. For a 24-volt system, this reading should be approximately 25.2 volts. It's worth noting that a 12-volt battery measuring just 12.0 volts at rest is already at a 50% state of discharge. Allowing a battery to remain in a discharged state for an extended period can lead to sulfation, a major cause of premature battery failure.

Sulfation is the buildup of lead sulfate crystals on the battery plates, occurring when a battery doesn't receive a complete recharge. This buildup hinders the battery's ability to convert chemical energy into electrical power. Fortunately, sulfation is largely preventable by consistently and correctly charging your batteries after each use.

Staying alert for potential battery problems is also crucial. One sign to watch for is a rotten egg smell emanating from the battery compartment, especially when the engine or a battery

charger is operating. During these times, the battery voltage should typically be between 13.7 and 14.7 volts. This odor indicates the presence of hydrogen sulfide gas, produced when the battery's sulfuric acid electrolyte overheats or the battery is overcharged. This gas is colorless, poisonous, and flammable. If you detect this smell, immediately stop charging, ensure the area is well-ventilated, and keep a safe distance until the odor dissipates completely.

While most marine batteries typically last three to five years, depending on usage and maintenance, AGM (Absorbent Glass Mat) batteries are known for their superior resistance to charging and discharging cycles, making them a high-performance option, though they generally have a higher initial cost.

Regarding recharging, if your boat's engine alternator is your primary charging source, ensure it's functioning correctly. Most alternators produce around

14 volts of DC power, with varying amperage output. While voltage is easily monitored with your boat's gauges, measuring amperage is more complex. However, a consistent and stable voltage reading, generally about 2 volts higher than your system's rating, often indicates the correct amperage output. If you notice a voltage drop during a trip, it's wise to investigate the cause, as modern marine engines rely on a stable electrical supply.

If your boat has an onboard battery charger, it's an excellent way to maintain fully charged batteries when the engine isn't running. Many modern chargers include a float charge feature, automatically reducing the charging rate as batteries reach full charge, preventing overcharging and potential damage. Be aware that older chargers without this feature may pose an overcharging risk.

Regularly checking your batteries' condition and ensuring proper maintenance throughout the boating season is key to a reliable power source for all your onboard systems.

We hope these tips help you keep your marine batteries in top condition.

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Here’s Tyler Clazey with his big migratory striper caught on a Fish Everything glide bait. Tyler caught this monster down in Cape Charles, VA. It definitely was not an easy task to get this heavy fish into Tyler’s kayak.



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THE GALLEY

Eastern Shore Drunken Shrimp



Ingredients:

2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp OLD BAY® VODKA
2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails-on

OLD BAY® Seasoning
*Makes 4 servings
Directions: Whisk the lemon juice, OLD BAY® VODKA, garlic, and salt and pepper to taste, in a small bowl. Pour into a large resealable plastic bag. Add shrimp and turn to coat evenly. Refrigerate 15 minutes. Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Thread shrimp

onto skewers. Grill 5 to 7 minutes, just until shrimp turn pink, turning once. Sprinkle with OLD BAY® Seasoning before serving.

Crab Imperial Stuffed Flounder

Ingredients:

6 flounder fillets, approximately 6 oz. each
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
2 lemons, sliced
2 Tbsp. butter, melted (optional)
1 tsp. paprika (optional)

Crab Imperial Stuffing:

1 lb. Phillips Lump Crab Meat
1 egg
1 Tbsp. Hellmann's mayonnaise
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. ground mustard
1 tsp. Phillips Seafood Seasoning
1 Tbsp. fresh parsley, minced
2 slices bread - ground into bread crumbs

*Makes 6 servings
Directions: Preheat oven to 375°F. Mix all Crab Imperial Stuffing ingredients except bread crumbs and crab meat. Sprinkle bread crumbs over crab meat. Add egg mixture next to crab meat, tossing gently until well blended. Lightly salt and pepper the fillets and place on greased baking sheet. Top each fillet with the crab meat mixture, wrapping the fish fillets

www.coastalfisherman.net partially around the stuffing. Bake at 375°F for 20-25 minutes. In the last few minutes of cooking, brush fish with melted butter, if desired. Lightly sprinkle with paprika and serve with lemon slices.

Herbed Sea Bass and Potatoes in Broth



Ingredients:

3 sprigs fresh rosemary, chopped
1 small bunch fresh thyme (½ ounce) chopped
2 (3-inch) strips fresh lemon zest (removed with a vegetable peeler) thinly sliced
1 tbsp finely chopped peeled fresh ginger
Kosher salt
2 large Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into ½-inch chunks
1 small serrano chile
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh mint leaves
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh basil leaves
2 tbsp finely chopped fresh dill
1 tbsp finely chopped fresh marjoram leaves
4 (6- to 8- ounce) black sea bass fillets, skin on

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3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

6 ounces baby spinach
Lemon wedges, for serving *Makes 4 servings

Directions: Blend the rosemary, thyme and 4 ½ cups water in a blender until the herbs are finely ground. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve into a large saucepan, pressing on the herbs to extract as much liquid as possible; discard the solids. Add the zest, ginger, 1 tbsp salt and the potatoes to the pan. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to maintain a steady simmer. Cook until a knife easily pierces a potato, about 20 minutes.

Thinly slice a quarter of the chile and set aside. Remove the stem and seeds from the remaining chile and chop finely. Combine the chopped chile with the mint, basil, dill and marjoram in a small bowl. Cut three ½-inch-deep slits crosswise in each filet. Stuff ½ tsp of the herb mixture in each slit, being careful to not get it on the skin. Season the fish with salt. Heat half of the oil in a large skillet at medium-high heat until almost smoking. Add 2 fillets, skin side down, and cook until golden brown and crisp, about 3 minutes. Carefully flip and cook until the fish is just cooked through, about 6 minutes longer. Transfer to a warm plate. Repeat with the remaining oil and fillets. Add the spinach and sliced chile to the potatoes and broth. Cook, stirring, until the spinach just wilts. Divide the potato mixture and broth among shallow bowls. Top with the fish

and season with a little salt. Serve with lemon.

Sea Bass Kabobs

Ingredients:

1 ½ sea bass filets, cut into 2-inch pieces

3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided

2 cloves garlic, chopped ½ cup dry white wine ½ cup chopped summer herbs (such as basil, chives, tarragon and parsley)

¾ tsp ground black pepper, divided

1 cup cherry tomatoes

1 small red bell pepper, cut into 2-inch pieces 1 large red onion, cut into 2-inch squares

1 medium zucchini, sliced into 1/2-inch thick rounds pieces

2 lemons, halved 1 tsp kosher salt, divided 1 small orange bell pepper, cut into 2-inch pieces

1 small yellow bell pepper, cut into 2-inch pieces

1 small green bell pepper, cut into 2-inch pieces

1 medium summer squash, sliced into 1/2-inch thick rounds pieces

1/2 tsp flaky sea salt (like Maldon)

*Makes 6-8 servings

Directions: In a large bowl, combine herbs, garlic and 1/2 tsp black pepper. Transfer half to a small bowl. Place sea bass in the large bowl with the herbs and add wine, 1 tbsp oil and 1/2 tsp kosher salt. Gently toss to combine. Cover and refrigerate for 30-45 minutes. If using wooden skewers, soak in water at this time (for at least 30 minutes). Prepare a grill for medium-heat cooking.

Thread sea bass onto skewers, then thread veggies onto skewers in



this order: cherry tomato, red bell pepper, orange bell pepper, yellow squash, yellow bell pepper, green bell pepper, zucchini, red onions, cherry tomato. Brush veggie skewers with remaining 1 tbsp oil and season with remaining 1/2 tsp kosher salt and 1/4 tsp black pepper. Place the prepared skewers and

lemon halves on the grill and cook about 4 minutes. Gently turn and cook until the fish is cooked through and the vegetables are tender and charred in spots, 3 to 6 minutes. Lemons can be removed once browned. Transfer skewers to a platter and squeeze the lemon juice over the kabobs. Top with remaining herb mixture and flaky sea salt.

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Blackened Flounder Tacos with Jalapeño Avocado Crema

Ingredients:

Jalapeño avocado crema: 1 medium to large avocado, ripe

½ cup greek yogurt, plain

1 jalapeño, quartered, seed removed for less spice

½ tsp kosher salt

¼ tsp fresh blacked pepper

2 tbsp lime juice, fresh

1 lime ¼ cup cilantro, fresh

Blackened flounder: 4 large flounder filets about 10-12 oz fresh flounder

¾ tsp garlic powder

¾ tsp kosher salt

¾ tsp paprika

½ tsp cumin

½ tsp chili powder

½ tsp onion powder

¼ tsp fresh black pepper

¼-½ tsp cayenne depending on spice level
Olive oil

Flounder tacos: Blackened flounder, see above Jalapeño avocado crema see above 6-8 corn tortillas I love white corn! Lime slices Red cabbage, shredded Extra toppings: jalapenos, cilantro, hot sauce *Makes 6 tacos

Directions: Prepare the avocado crema:

Using a food processor or blender, add in all the ingredients listed for the jalapeno avocado crema. Blend together until smooth and creamy. Pour into a small bowl for serving and cover with plastic wrap. Set in fridge until ready to serve. Make

the blackened flounder: Heat a cast iron or large skillet over high heat. Meanwhile, rinse your flounder and pat it dry with paper towels. Mix all the seasonings in a small bowl. Sprinkle the seasonings heavily over all the flounder. Flip the fish over and repeat on the other side, ensuring all fish is covered with the seasoning. Add olive oil to the hot pan. Add the flounder and cook until crispy and blackened on the first side, about 2-3 minutes. Flip over and repeat for another 2-3 minutes. Remove the flounder from the pan and place on a plate. Allow to sit for 5-10 minutes to rest. Serve your tacos: When ready to serve, heat your tortillas and place flounder in the tortillas to make tacos. The flounder should flake apart easily, making it easy to place appropriate ratios in each tortilla. Add the avocado crema and desired toppings.

Blackened Flounder Tacos with Jalapeño Avocado Crema

Ingredients:

Jalapeño avocado crema: 1 medium to large avocado, ripe

½ cup greek yogurt, plain
1 jalapeño, quartered, seed removed for less spice

½ tsp kosher salt

¼ tsp fresh blacked pepper

2 tbsp lime juice, fresh

1 lime

¼ cup cilantro, fresh

Blackened flounder: 4 large flounder filets about 10-12 oz fresh flounder



¾ tsp garlic powder

¾ tsp kosher salt

¾ tsp paprika

½ tsp cumin

½ tsp chili powder

½ tsp onion powder

¼ tsp fresh black pepper

¼-½ tsp cayenne depending on spice level

Olive oil

Flounder tacos: Blackened flounder, see above Jalapeño avocado crema see above 6-8 corn tortillas

Lime slices

Red cabbage, shredded

Extra toppings: jalapenos, cilantro, hot sauce

*Makes 6 tacos

Directions: Prepare the avocado crema:

Using a food processor or blender, add in all the ingredients listed for the jalapeno avocado crema. Blend together until smooth and creamy. Pour into a small bowl for serving and cover with plastic wrap. Set in fridge until ready to serve. Make the blackened flounder:

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The Best Michelada Recipe:

Ingredients: Tomato juice (or Clamato juice)

Worcestershire sauce Soy sauce

Hot sauce (like Tabasco, Tapatio, or Cholula)

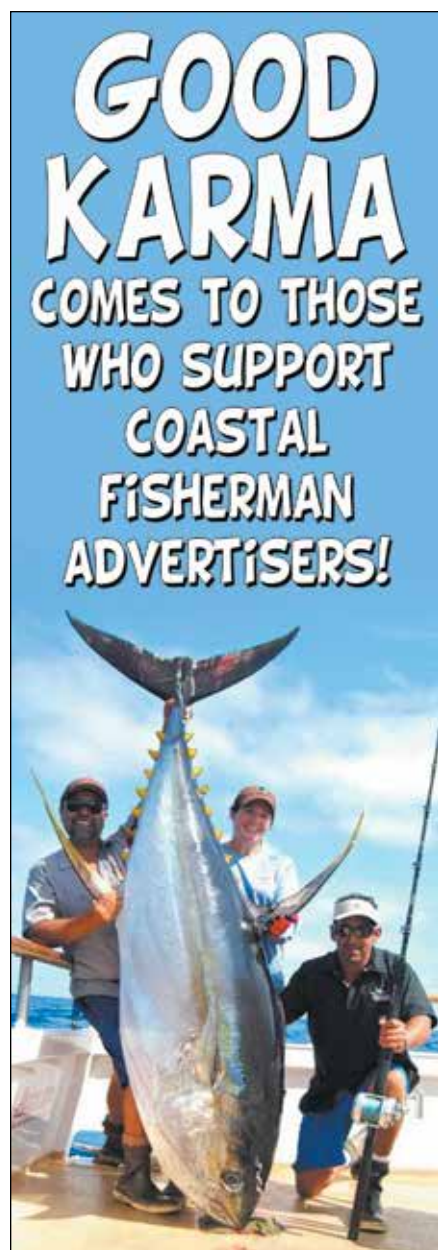
Mexican lager beer

Tajin seasoning (or chili powder if you don't have any)

Salt

Directions: Salt the rim: Run a lime wedge around the rim of a beer glass and dip it in salt and Tajin. Fill the glass halfway with ice cubes. Add seasonings: Add tomato or Clamato juice, lime juice, Worcestershire sauce, soy sauce, and hot sauce.

Add beer: Top with your favorite Mexican beer. Stir, taste, and adjust seasonings if needed.





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Rt. 90 Bridge

Rt. 50 Bridge



Experienced angler, Lamont Hilbert, caught this flounder on the "Sea Bum." His proud catch was made south of the Ocean City inlet.



Baron Daiker spent Memorial Day weekend fishing with his dad, Richard 'Delicious' Daiker. Baron and his dad caught lots of stripers that were above and below the slot with the largest being 38". The father son duo were fishing around the bay and caught their biggest at the South Jetty.

Dock *and* Dine

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MARYLAND STATE LINE

Park Your Boat and Grab a Bite to Eat!

Reel Women

by Loren Manzione



Well I guess the cats out of the bag if you are reading this. Some of you may know me and some may not. So here goes nothing. My name is Loren and you can normally find me at Sunset Grille working, however, I do spend my free time (when I get it) offshore fishing.

Around 10 years ago I took a friend up on their offer, and my girlfriends and I found ourselves at Harbour Island looking for a specific boat with the name of "Maverick" on the back of it. We never

thought our world would change when that alarm went off for us to head to the boat around 3:30am.

Some may say we were wild and crazy, but for me the experience was exhilarating and peaceful all in one. Something about being on the water with friends and no cell service made the day that much better! Who could want more? All of us girls had no idea what we were about to get ourselves into, but, I'll never forget that September day.

We went 11-13 on white marlin, one spearfish, and caught a couple of mahi. Most of us caught our first white marlin, which ended with us jumping off the dock to keep the tradition going. However, the rush of adrenaline hooking up to two white marling simultaneously with one of my best friends (who is no longer with us) is just something you have to experience yourself. It sparked a desire in me that would take me places I never thought I'd be, and meet people that

are in the sport fishing community today.

Unfortunately I have lost a lot of mentors along the way, but it's their legacies that keep their spirit alive. So who knows maybe you'll get to tell me your story about fishing because you never know who is reading. Women are competing in a male dominated sport and we are crushing it! So I'd like to get more of a female perspective about what fishing means to them and their experiences. A story is always someone's personal memory that they get to share, and I must say that any day on the water is a great day.

2025 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY



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



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



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



COBIA
43" minimum
1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20
Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



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



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day
12" minimum



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



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



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



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



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Kristen D'Amore Benko standing on the sands of Assateague holding her striped bass catch. Kristen was using a spot rig on her bait rod to catch this fish. Kristen was fishing with her husband who also caught a strip-er using a swim bait. Both fish were released and estimated to be 33-35".



Haley and Samantha Whitehead are all smiles with their two flounders. The sister duo fished in the airport drift for their catches.

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FIRST

2025

Fish of the Year

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

Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish 	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish 	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	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 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna <small>New</small> 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin <small>New</small> 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo 		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin 		June 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




The “Boy’s Toy” had a great day on the water this past weekend. The boat landed both the first mahi and yellowfin of the year. The 58 lbs. yellowfin was caught by angler Matthew Abbonizio. The mahi came in at 8 lbs. and was caught by Francesca Gessler. The team were fishing in the Poor Man’s Canyon at 1200 fathoms when they caught these fish. Alongside these two early fish the crew also caught a few small bluefin tunas.


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Ron Gibson caught his first black drum. Ron pulled this 28" drum onto the beach of Assateague and was caught using a slider rig with a sand flea. Ron said he documented it and returned it to the surf. Hopefully he at least brushed some of the sand off it first. Great first catch.

A little further south Matt Pascual caught this nice 46" red drum in the waters of Chincoteague. Without receiving any information of what Matt caught this fish with, we can only assume that he caught it using the shovel in the background of the photo.

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>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Headboat/day or trip</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



Happy anglers Erik Feinhauer, Tristan Ament and Anthony Hojnicky holding up their haul of seven black drum. The three were fishing with Capt. Christopher Keller on the "Action Jackson" out of Indian River, Delaware. The largest of the drum weighed 30 lbs. and were caught in the Delaware Bay.

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Gregory Williams clutching his rockfish that he caught on Assateague Island. We’re unsure of the length of Gregory’s catch but from the way he is holding the fish it seems he wants to take it home regardless of size.



Anglers Nick Ramage, from Sparrows Point, MD, and Hannah Brown, from Aldie, VA, holding their two black drum that they took home. The two drum weighed in at 40 lbs. and 42 lbs. both measuring out to be 43”. The pair used clams as bait and were fishing aboard the “Turn Me Loose” near Slaughter Beach.



OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. MAY 28	High 09:24 am High 10:11 pm	Low 03:28 am Low 03:10 pm
THUR. MAY 29	High 10:19 am High 11:05 pm	Low 04:22 am Low 04:02 pm
FRI. MAY 30	High 11:13 am High 11:59 pm	Low 05:18 am Low 04:58 pm
SAT. MAY 31	High ----- High 12:09pm	Low 06:16 am Low 05:58 pm
SUN. JUNE 1	High 12:53 am High 01:08 pm	Low 07:12 am Low 07:02 pm
MON. JUNE 2 First Quarter	High 01:49 am High 02:12 pm	Low 08:05 am Low 08:05 pm
TUE. JUNE 3	High 02:44 am High 03:18 pm	Low 08:55 am Low 09:08 pm
WED. JUNE 4	High 03:36 am High 04:16 pm	Low 09:41 am Low 10:09 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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The first place winning team of Old Inlet Bait and Tackle's Cast For a Cure tournament. Team "Ramrod" brought home the gold catching a 44" strip-
er caught on the beaches of Fenwick Island. Congrats to the winning anglers for this great tournament supporting cancer research and raising over \$10,000.

CAST FOR A CURE RESULTS

MAY 17TH, 2025

1ST PLACE TEAM RAMROD	45 Pts.
2ND PLACE TEAM DMS 2	19 Pts.
3RD PLACE TEAM RACIN REELS	14 Pts.

Total Amount Raised
\$10,000

Proceeds Donated to The Beebe Medical Foundation

Want to see more or get involved?
Check out all the highlights,
upcoming events, and ways to
support the cause at odinlet.com!



Angler Matt Mills who caught the winning striped bass for team "Ramrod." Matt's striper measured up to be 44" in total. Matt caught his prize winning fish in Fenwick.



Team “DMS 2” holding their second place trophies. “DMS 2” ended up with 19 points in total.



“Racin Reels” found themselves in third place. These four anglers totaled 14 points. Great work to all the teams who participated in Cast for a Cure this year.

VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



It has been a bit challenging this week to bend a rod, but those that persisted were those that persevered. From seaside to the Chesapeake anglers endured sea, spray, and swell in pursuit of their passion. As the weekend draws near, our hopes of a screaming drag rises like an incoming tide during a northeast wind. (And we should know after the last couple of days of high water, we could have started fishing in the parking lot at the boat ramp.)

The Chesapeake has offered up some dynamite but diverse opportunities. Bluefish have taken up residence around some of the structure in and around the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds. Casting surface walking plugs like

the Rapala Skitterwalk or subsurface suspending baits like the Rap-10 is all that is required to send these toothy turbocharged trophies into an aerial assault that will bend your rod into a frown and your mouth into a smile. The skinny water scene had been anything but scarce as anglers target stripes, specs, and spots with chunks of crab soaked on the edge of grass flats. As the water warms and the tides turn-lures like mirrolures, paddletails, surface plugs and popping corks are starting to get some love. Specs and rock have been the most eager takers in regard to the artificial offerings. Hopefully, some pup sized reds will make an appearance to steal the "spot" light!

The Atlantic has been fairly

angry with a northeast wind fanning the flames that result in high tides and tall seas. The Assateague surf has provided pullage from reds, rock and a few remaining black drum. Modified fishfinder rigs with peeler crab anchored with heavy surf style or Sputnik sinkers have brought these brawlers to the beach.

The water, although high the last few days, has been fairly clear leading to some unexpected floundering on the seaside. With the winds and the rain from this past week we would of bet on a slow bite in muddy water. However, to our surprise the water was clear and the wind manageable enough to put some dinner on the table. Lately pink teasers tipped with gulp swimming

www.coastalfisherman.net

mullets and silversides have been the first choice for floundering fishermen.













While most are in search of flatfish fillets, others are starting to look for a striped opponent with a sheepish grin (with some wild looking teeth). Sheepshead have started to make their presence known inside the inlets and just offshore of the VA Barrier Islands. These bullish battlers can be targeted around structures like wrecks and pilings with sweeper style jigs and a chunk of crab or sand flea.

As the weekend draws near and we fret about wind, weather, and what kind of fishing we want to do, we do need to remember the ones who gave their lives making this the greatest country in the world. So grab the kids, family, and friends and make this a memorable Memorial Day doing what we love in this wonderful 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



Michael and Amanda had a great day out on the water with a perfect eater black drum and released 47” and 40” beasts. The duo were with C.L. Marshall of Tangier Sound Charters. The pair also caught a kingfish before putting a smackdown on topwater blues.



Young angler Nick, from Washington DC, caught his first black drum last weekend. Nick found his fish in the waters of Chincoteague, VA. Hopefully there are many more black drum catches in Nick’s future.




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