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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Boat owner Gene Arantowicz, Collin Glass, and Andy Camela had a stellar tuna trip on the "Mrs Crabs II." These veterans/active duty members were taken out on a tuna trip by the Fallen Outdoors organization. They landed seven yellowfin tuna out in the Washington Canyon.



Moriah Holliman caught her first white marlin while fishing aboard the "Talkin' Trash." Moriah was fishing with Dyllyn Aydelotte, Andre Hayes, Justin Holliman, Anthony Folk, Robert Hayes, mate Brandon, and Capt. Mark Malamphy. The crew was fishing the Poorman's Canyon and brought back three yellowfins to docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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The crew on "Talkin' Trash" with Captain Chris Little were able to reel in these five yellowfin along with one mahi to bring back to the docks of the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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These anglers had a successful day aboard "Foolish Pleasures." They landed this monster, 156 lbs., bigeye and a couple of yellowfin. They were fishing in the south Poorman's Canyon and went out of the Bahia Marina.



This crew aboard the "Hollywood" was all smiles after their trip offshore out of the Indian River Inlet. Congratulations to angler John Mancuso, who caught a white marlin! John was using Ballyhoo for bait out in the Baltimore Canyon. Also aboard the "Hollywood" was Matt Brittingham, Brock Hilligoss, John Harpe, Lee Able, and Capt. John Hazzard.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
 Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 4, 5 & 6
 Weigh-Ins: July 4, 5 & 6
 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2025 SCHEDULE —

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

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: (1of 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

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



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Hello everyone and welcome back to another weekly offshore report. While part of me cant believe July has arrived, the other part of me is relieved to have made it through the worlds longest June, between traveling with the boat for the Big Rock and the consistent fishing and weather we have had at home. Hug your local charter captain/mate as the last few weeks have been full of ups and downs in tuna fishing but an unusually long stretch of calm weather

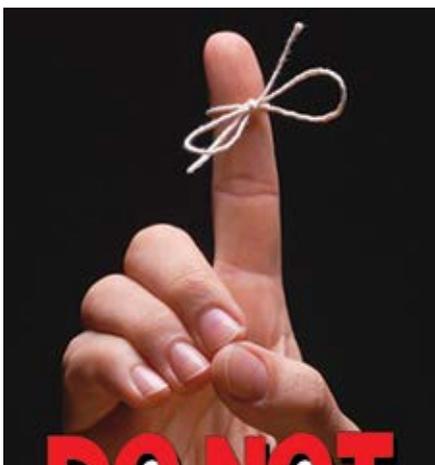
has allowed us to fish almost every day without a blowday. The last few days have produced more of the same for the local fleet, with calm seas and variable fishing, finally starting to simmer down from the consistent box-fulls seen last week. As the water continues to warm up fish have spread to essentially all areas of the ocean. Reports have come in of yellowfins and bigeyes from the Wilmington to the Norfolk , from 500 fathoms in to 50 fathoms as well as catches of

under (27-47") bluefins and yellowfins on some of the inshore lumps. The bottom line is its time to get out and fish! While the concentrated bodies of fish have either dispersed or found themselves in a fish cart, this time of year allows boats to go almost anywhere and make a day out of it returning with a handful of fish. Getting away from the crowds is always recommended for better fishing, but even more so in slick calm conditions as high traffic pushes down both bait and fish as well as making it much harder to maneuver and work an area that's producing bites. This upcoming holiday weekend will surely lead to both packed boat ramps and a crowded ocean. My advice would be to sneak away and try to find your own fish, the water is plenty warm enough for fish to be anywhere that is holding bait so anglers

www.coastalfisherman.net shouldn't feel the need to stay glued to any singular area. The fleet out of Oregon inlet has been grinding away on a long stretch of calm weather themselves and continue to impress with catches of yellowfin, blackfin, mahi, billfish and tilefish. To our north, anglers are excited to see more of the insane tuna fishing that the last few seasons have offered. Boats on overnight trips are reporting catches of multiple bigeyes, yellowfin limits, and all of the bluefins you can handle. With fish above, below, and right on top of us; we can only hope that fishing continues into the summer as we await pushes of bluer water and pointy fish. I hope everyone enjoys the holiday weekend celebrating the Independence and formation of the greatest country on Earth. Remember to take safety and patience to an extra level this week with an increased number of boats on the water and possibility of impaired drivers. Uber saves lives.

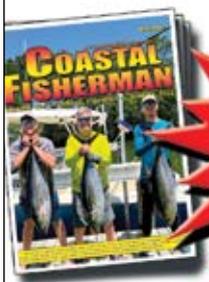


Congratulations to Anglette Mara McClanahan on landing her first tuna! She and her father, Bob McClanahan, both of Selbyville, DE, caught four tuna and one mahi during their day on the water.



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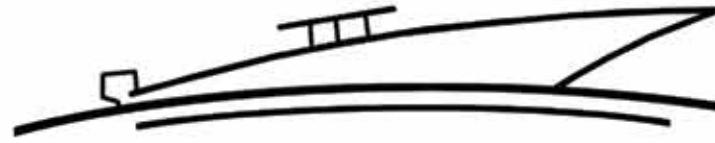
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Check out angler Cooper Lewis, who landed this 18-lbs. mahi. Cooper was fishing with his grandfather, Bill Marshal, and was trolling with ballyhoo in the Poorman’s Canyon. He is pictured at Rick’s Bait and Tackle.



Capt. Charlie Maurer, of New Tripoli, PA, and his son and mate, CJ Maurer, landed this 68”, 200 lbs. bigeye tuna aboard the “TUNA CH-ACE-R” out of Ocean City, MD, while fishing near Poorman’s Canyon. The tuna was hooked at 3:35 p.m. using a 353 Custom Tackle head with tail and was finally boated at 8:30 p.m. after a grueling five-hour battle. It marked the first-ever bigeye for the boat and crew.

 An advertisement for Suzuki's 60th anniversary. It features a photograph of a boat with three people fishing on the water at sunset. The Suzuki logo and '60 YEARS OF INNOVATION' are prominently displayed. Below the photo is a list of authorized dealerships.

SUZUKI 60 YEARS OF INNOVATION
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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, 2026. See Suzuki Limited Warranty for additional details. Suzuki, the "S" logo, and Suzuki model and product names are Suzuki Trademarks or ®. © 2025 Suzuki Marine USA, LLC. All rights reserved.



Nathan Price, of Lugoff, SC, landed this 17.74 lbs. mahi—the heaviest mahi caught in MD so far. Nathan was using a Spreader Bar in South Poorman’s Canyon. He was fishing on the “Mrs Crabs II.”

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Anglers Tony Nicholars, Joe Jenkins, and Capt. Billy Oass landed two yellowfin tuna and six mahi mahi at Poorman's Canyon. To beat the scorching heat, they cooled off with a refreshing dip in the canyon waters.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

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

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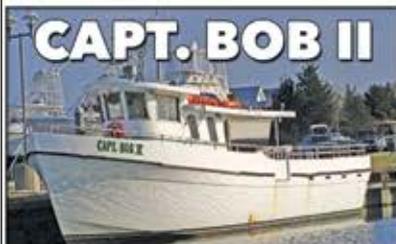
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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City brought with it hot weather and a very sharp rise in water temperatures. These changes have sparked the fish alive with renewed energy as well as abundance. Sea bass continues to slow as water temps reach 70 degrees however flounder and other summer species are returning to the area with every degree rise in the ocean. Spanish Mackerel are on the Fenwick shoals and spadefish and sheepshead are also located at their summer haunts.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

Nearshore wrecks have been greatly improving for keeper flounder. A few sea bass are still being found but most are undersized. Target deeper wrecks and cor-

al for the larger ones and use jigs instead of squid. A few cobia are being seen on the nearshore shoals just south of the inlet. The "Angler" had some good trips landing their clients coolers full of tasty sea bass and flounder to bring home. Skip Maguire took his group to the Fenwick Shoals and managed to troll up several Spanish Macs and a few bluefish. The bite on the shoals really seems to have come alive this past week with the warmer weather. Kevin McNelis had a good day out on the wrecks catching a limit of flatties including his dad's personal best, a big 6.8lb fluke. Brandon Olewiler came down from NJ to fish off our coast and reported he found a couple of gold mines catching floun-

der up to 25 inches 8 triggers and a big angel shark. They also caught several small cookie cutter fluke which they returned. Michael Kapsak fished near the Old Grounds and landed 2 keeper sea bass as well as 2 keeper flounder. Bahia Marina reports the "Miss Kathleen" had some good trips last week with anglers catching sea bass, fluke, and triggerfish. Although several fish are undersized the sheer amount of bites kept anglers busy throughout the day. "Fish Bound Charters" had some decent catches of big sea bass and fluke. The crew did not report limits as they usually do, but did manage to send anglers home with tons of fish for dinner. Peter Renzi said he could not keep the triggerfish

off his Gulp baits. Although not the targeted species it was still a welcome sight and as any good polite fisherman does, he invited them home for dinner. Davey Brickman and his son dove a few wrecks off shore and shot several sheepshead and triggerfish. Many of the sheepshead as well as triggers are coming from the nearshore wrecks near Fenwick Island. The deeper wrecks near the NJ/DE Reef are holding the best sea bass.

Back bays and Inlets

The back bays are holding a ton of small flounder right now with many of the party boats reporting catches of as many as 40 fish on one trip. The "Bay Bee" had 22 anglers on the boat and ended up with around 80 fish that trip. They reported a few made the size limit with the largest being 19". They reported sev-

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eral were just shy of the 17.5" minimum size. They also had an assortment of sea bass, kingfish, and several skates. "Back Bay Adventures" had a few good trips this past week and even landed a nice 20 inch, 5 lb sheepshead along the rocks. They further report several anglers did catch keeper flounder. "Get Sum Charters" definitely made a day of it landing several keeper fluke along with some throwbacks to delight the family he had on board. The "Miss Ocean City" also had some good trips and even brought home a few fish for dinner. Anglers were greeted with a ton of fish ready to bite the lines and put up a good fight on the light line, even if most were not keepers. They also reported tons of dolphin activity along with sightings of ponies on the island. Carl Ward had a great morning in the heat hooking and landing a huge rockfish. The way over slot fish was caught near the inlet. Craig Cropper had his high school buddy Dane Brady fishing the Rt 50 Bridge with him and landed 3 nice bluefish on his Roy Rigs.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has slowed to its summertime doldrums. Anglers are switching to pompano rigs for small spot, croaker, and kingfish as well as setting one line with either cut bait

on a fish finding rig or a whole mullet rig on a float. Alex FloPortillio did manage a nice size bluefish from the state park on the north side of the island. Kyle Kasher fished Assateague Island south and using Gulp landed a few flounder to include a nice 20.5" keeper. Be aware as we get truly into tourist season if you are not on the drive-on beach early, the odds are you are not getting on as the beach has filled by 9 am on many days last week. Gary Tarbuk caught and tried a stingray he caught off the beach this past week. He was surprised how good it tasted. Many people don't realize a lot of seafood companies will substitute stingray or shark for scallops. They are hard to filet but are very tasty.

Clams and Crabs

Crabbing has been producing around 6-7 keepers per pot with most of the crabs dirty and full of meat. Carl Littleton reports a haul of 48 crabs for a 6 pot string with most being close to over 6 inches. Clamming has also gotten very good with clams being close to the sandy surface and anglers being able to land their 100 clam quota within one hour. Until next week

Tight Lines and Fins Up



Check out Bob Weaver, of Joppa, MD, with these two nice flounder that measured 18" and 20" Bob was fishing the East Channel on the "Rodfather." His bait of choice was baby spot.



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Jamie Gill, Jon Wells, Anthony Kuzawinski, Lenon Peake and Bill Peake (not pictured) started their day off right catching a white marlin at 8 a.m. The crew fished on the "Pumpin' Hard" with Capt. Dave Burt and had 12 tuna bites but only brought one back to Sunset Marina.

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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

The Ocean City Fishing Center presents
THE 38TH ANNUAL
OCEAN CITY
Tuna Tournament

REGISTRATION JULY 10TH
FISH DAYS JULY 11TH-13TH

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HEAVIEST 2025

Fish of the Year



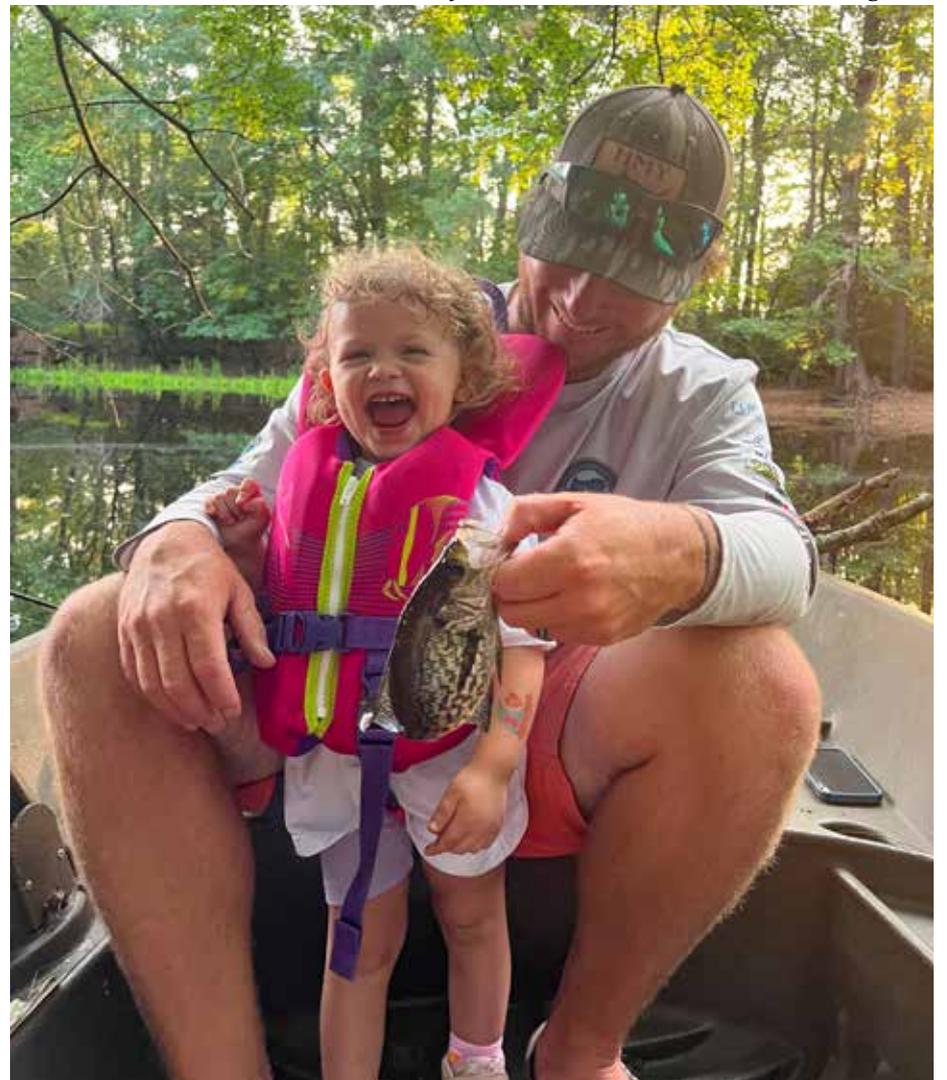
(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 22 Sean Hitchens Ocean City Bay 9.65 lbs.	May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	 Weakfish		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
 Black Drum		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	June 8 Adam Messer & Robert Smack Poor Man's Canyon 214 lbs.	
 Cobia		★ <small>New</small> June 24 Michael McGoey Indian River Inlet 37.9 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
 Flounder	June 4 Ryan Edgell East Channel 7.3 lbs.	★ <small>New</small> June 25 Jeff Moraco Ocean Structure 8.2 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		
 Sea Bass	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		 Yellowfin Tuna	★ <small>New</small> June 26 Spring Mix II Crew Inshore (20 fathoms) 97.5 lbs.	
 Sheepshead	June 22 Charles Breon Ocean City Bay 4.09 lbs.		 Dolphin	★ <small>New</small> June 26 Cooper Lewis Poor Man's Canyon 18 lbs.	
 Striped Bass	June 21 Gary Ward Ocean City Bay 8.15 lbs.		 Swordfish		
 Tautog	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	 Blue Marlin		
 Wahoo			 White Marlin		

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



Angler Jeff Monaco landed this 8.2 lbs., 27½" fattie while fishing an ocean structure. Jeff Monaco has made his way onto the heaviest fish of the year leaderboard taking the lead by a whole 1.2 lbs. He is pictured at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



Congratulations to this little angler, Charli Emche, who scored her first fish at age two! Charli went out with her dad, Jake Emche, and landed this crappie.

The poster features a map of the Chesapeake Bay area with various canyons labeled: OCEAN CITY, MASSEYS CANYON, SPENCER'S CANYON, BALTIMORE CANYON, WASHINGTON CANYON, and POORMAN'S CANYON. A compass rose is also present. In the foreground, a large blue marlin is shown with its mouth open, eating a smaller fish. The text "52nd Annual WHITE MARLIN OPEN" is prominently displayed at the top. Below the map, it says "August 4th-8th, 2025 Ocean City, MD" and "WORLD'S LARGEST AND RICHEST BILLFISH TOURNAMENT". On the right side, there are three blue boxes with white 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.

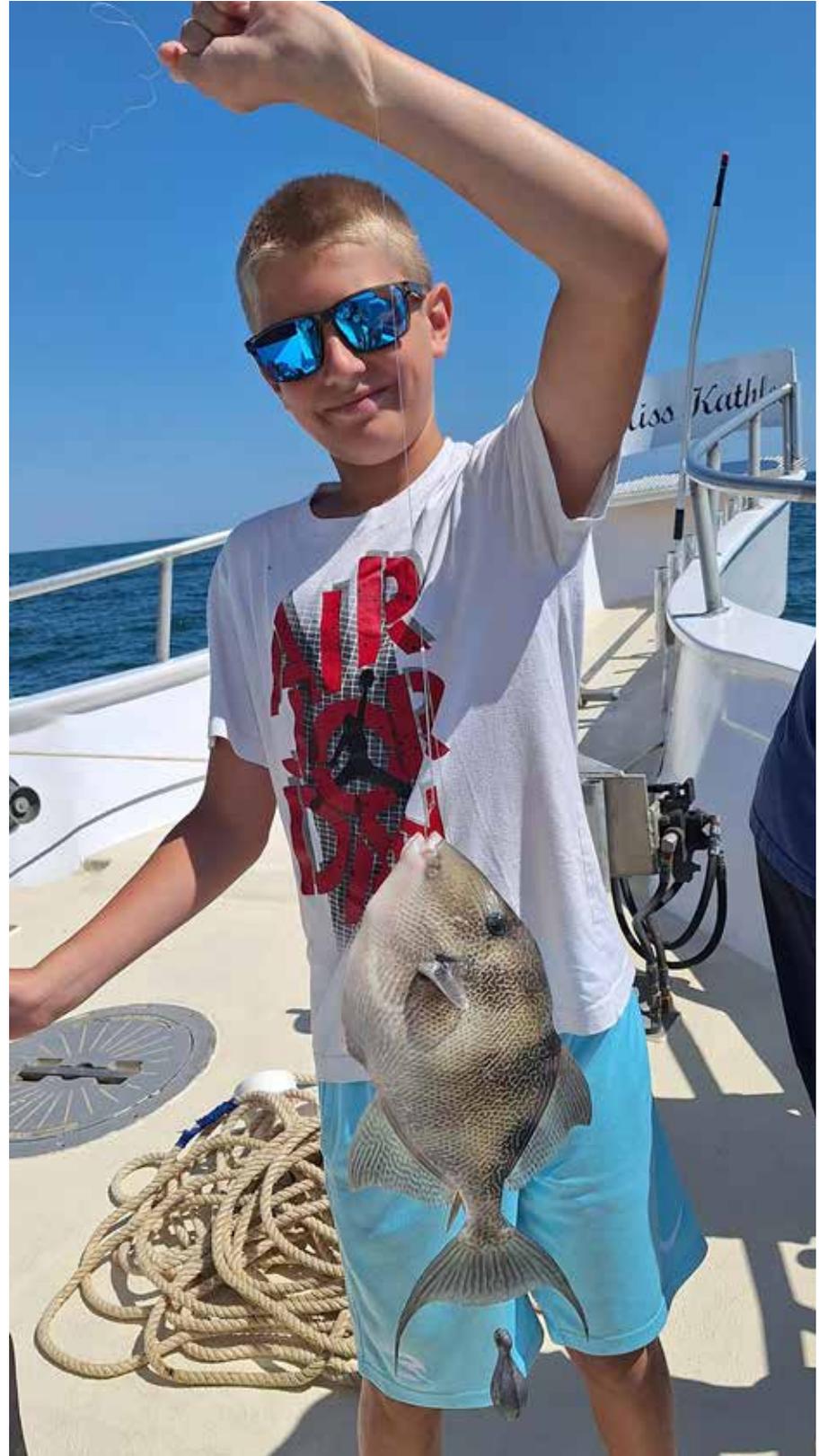
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WHITE MARLIN OPEN • PO BOX 737 OCEAN CITY, MD 21843-0737
410-289-9229 Fax 410-289-4490

FISHING CHARTERS



These anglers landed 16 yellowfin! They were aboard the "Boss Hog," out of Sunset Marina.



This young angler landed this sizable trigger fish. He was fishing aboard the "Miss Kathleen."

BOSS HOGG



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FISHING CHARTERS



Patrick Adams Jr. and Sr. with Kelsey Adams, from Frederick, MD, brought back a nice 97 1/2 lbs. yellowfin tuna, to the docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center. The three were fishing aboard the "Spring Mix II" with Capt. Chris Watkowski while on a half day inshore trip. In total the crew caught 14 bluefins and brought two back with one other yellowfin. They were using plastics and were fishing 120' of water at 80°.

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FISHING CHARTERS



This crew certainly got lucky on their charter aboard the "Lucky Break." They brought home five bluefish for dinner.



Kim Mourlas, of Ocean City, MD, with Captain C.L. Marshall holding a 21" rockfish. Kim caught her rockfish in the Pocomoke sound using peelers.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was an awesome trip with some great trigger action aboard the "Miss Kathleen." On a half day trip, this family landed a seabass and several trigger fish.



Check out this angler who scored this nice-sized golden tile! He was fishing aboard the "Ocean Princess."

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While fishing on the "Ro Sham Bo," Steve Davis, Steve Stone, Steve Stone Jr, Greg Krauss and Todd Sevik were able to reel in seven yellowfin while fishing in the Baltimore, including five keepers.

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 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">\$99,000</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SEA FOX 231 BAY FOX</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: 1.2em;">\$105,500</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SCOUT 215 XSF</p>

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Angler Antonio, of Silver Spring, MD, reeled in this 17" sea bass. Antonio caught it on a clam at the Marine Electric. Antonio was on the "Last One Too," of Bishopville, MD.



It was a stellar day on the water with three generations of the Kendall's! West Ocean City locals, Ross Kendall, his son Lee Kendall, and grandson Landon Kendall went out in the sheet glass conditions one morning with the plans of possibly diving and spearfishing. Instead, they ended up catching some cobia! They were able to trick two of them into eating. Unfortunately, the cobia were not big enough to kill or take home to eat, but it was one of the first cobia caught locally.



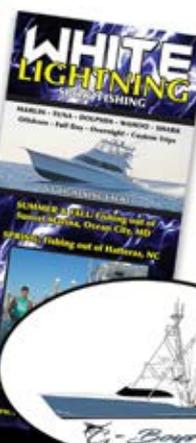
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Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



A Different Taste of Assateague

Assateague Island might be known best for its wild ponies and windswept beaches, but for those of us who fish its waters and walk its flats, it's also a place full of good eating—if you know what you're looking for. The surf and bays around Maryland's National Seashore offer up more than just the popular catches. There's seafood here that many folks overlook, and with a little know-how, you can turn some of these lesser-known species into a fine meal.

Knobbed whelks wash up in the shallows and sometimes turn up in crab pots. Most beachgoers think they're just big shells, but inside is firm, sweet meat that's well worth the effort. You'll want to boil them for a few minutes until the meat pulls free, then slice it thin and cook it low and slow—sautéed with butter, garlic and maybe a little white wine. Some folks tenderize it first and use it in chowder or fritters, similar to conch. It's a traditional food along the coast, even if people don't talk about it much anymore.

Also called Northern puffers, blowtoads are small, round fish that puff up when you catch them. They're harmless and surprisingly good eating. Local fishermen have known this for years—clean them right, take off the skin, and you're left with a little tail of meat that fries up beautifully. Lightly breaded and pan-fried, it's tender, white, and mild—almost like scallops. It's a favorite for kids and old-timers alike, and one of the better-kept secrets of the surf.

Too many folks catch stingrays or skates and toss them back, thinking they're not worth the trouble. Truth is, the wings of both species are excellent if you clean them right. The meat is mild and firm, and you can cook it like any white fish. Skate wing, especially, is a staple in French kitchens, often pan-fried with butter and lemon. Those of you who know the local "Mango" and have been lucky enough to sample his smoked stingray can contest to just how good this meat really is!

You don't need a boat to catch a good mess of kingfish—just a rod, some bloodworms or squid, and a rising tide. These silvery little fish show up in summer and early fall, and they're one of the best-eating fish in our waters. Fillet them or cook them whole, seasoned and grilled or pan-fried. They've got clean, flaky

white meat and no strong flavor, which makes them great for tacos or a simple fish dinner with a little lemon and butter.

When someone lands a big black drum, they're usually after the fillets. But the real treasure might just be the ribs—thick, meaty cuts near the front of the fish. A lot of folks throw this part away without knowing it can be marinated and grilled just like pork ribs. It takes a little time—a good marinade with something acidic helps—but once they're cooked slow over coals, the flavor is rich and satisfying. Drum ribs are a good example of using the whole fish, something old-school watermen have always done.

Part of fishing and foraging on the Shore is knowing how to make the most of what you catch. Heads and bones can be turned into stock for chowders or stews. Whelk and crab shells can be composted or used in the garden. Even stingray cartilage can add body to homemade broth. Nothing needs to go to waste. It's not just about respect for the animal—it's about tradition, resourcefulness, and living close to the land and sea.

Assateague isn't just a place to visit—it's a place that can feed you. From knobbed whelks in the shallows to blowtoads in the surf, from kingfish on the line to drum ribs on the grill, the waters here are full of good food. It takes some local knowledge and a bit of effort, but that's part of the reward.

See you on the sand!



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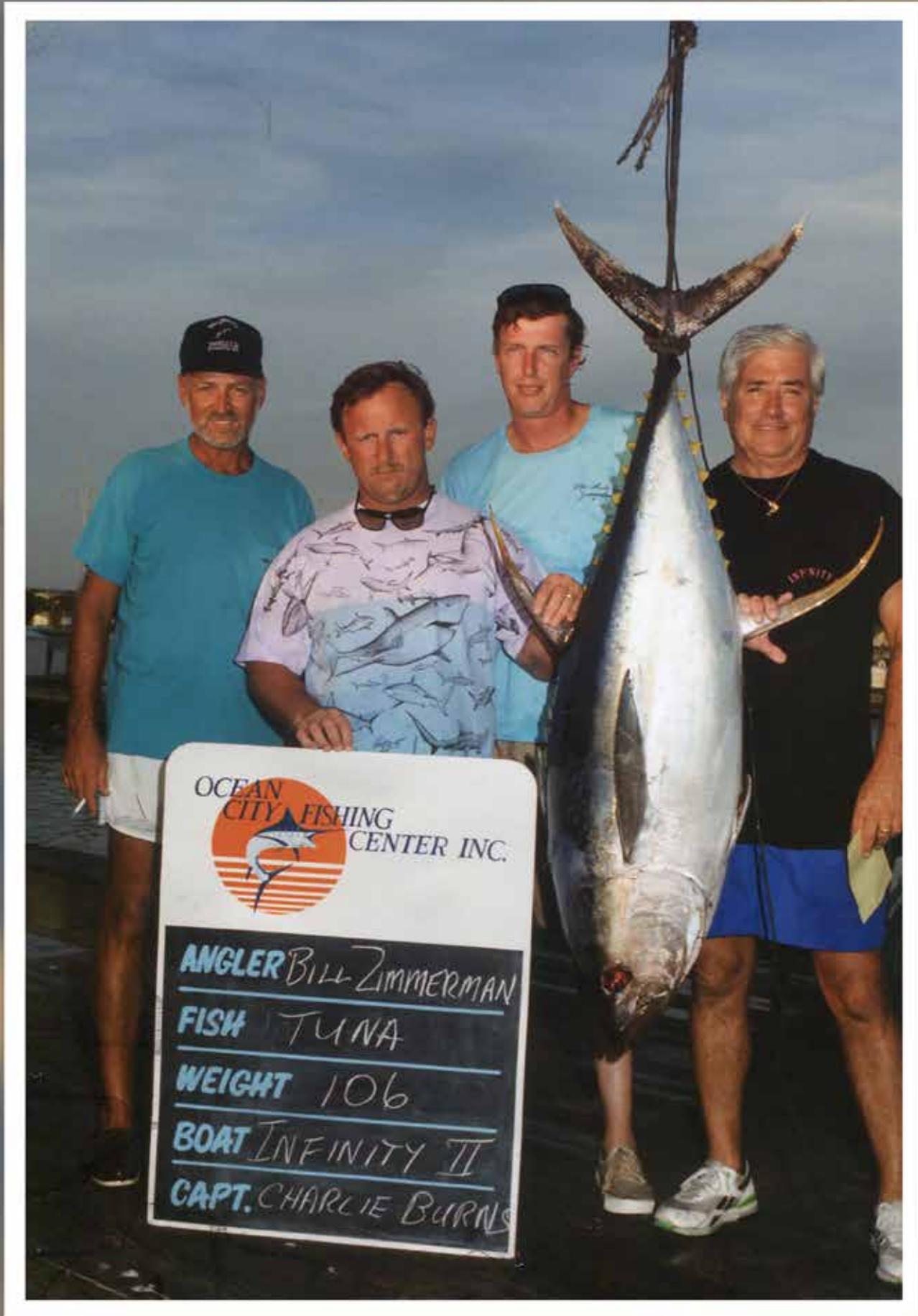
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Coastal Fisherman

PHOTO FLASHBACK



As the 38th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament approaches, the docks of the Ocean City Fishing Center start to light up for the world's largest tuna tournament. We look back to the early 90's at Shanty Town Village and the original fishing center where Bill Zimmerman brought back this 106 lbs. yellowfin. Bill was fishing aboard the "Infinity II" with Captain Charlie Burns and crew. These days you will find Bill fishing with his son Captain Willie Zimmerman on the "RoShamBo." Picture courtesy of the Ocean City Marlin Club.



Angler Michael McGoey, of NY, scored the first cobia of the season for Maryland and Delaware! Michael's catch came in at 48" and 37.9lbs. Michael was taken on the "Pelagic Magic" by the fishing team, "Good Company." He used old school rubber eel and made his catch about one mile off the beach out of the Indian River Inlet.



Anglers Legend Price, Tom Zatalava, Shawn Lambert, Phil Lyons Sr, Mason Fritzges, and Colt Price went out on "Reel Blessed" with Capt. Phil Lyons Jr and managed to catch five tuna, despite having to fight through severe boat traffic and scratch out seven bites. All bites were on Ballyhoo and the crew was fishing the Washington Canyon.

2025 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles



BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit



WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit

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



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



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



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



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



SWORDFISH
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)
1 per person / 15 per Headboat



SAILFISH
Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/15 - 11/14
3 per person (Recreational)
5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



WAHOO
No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

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

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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	June 5 Jack Disney Restless Lady II Baltimore Canyon	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
 Cobia	 June 24 Michael McGoey Indian River Inlet	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	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
 Sheepshead	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	 Dolphin	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
 Striped Bass	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	 Swordfish	June 19 Norm Wallis "On The Hunt" Poor Man's Canyon	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
 Tautog	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
 Wahoo		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	 White Marlin	June 14 Hannah Melvin "Wrecker" Washington Canyon	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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



Jeff Klick, of Reading, PA., reeled in this 16 1/2" sheepshead while jetty fishing at the Indian River Inlet. He was using sand fleas as bait when the fish struck.



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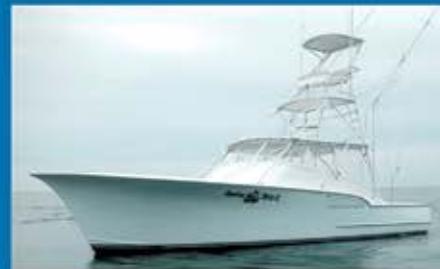
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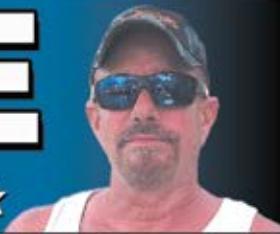
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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware brought very warm days, consistently well into the 90s. This warmed both the bay and ocean temperatures substantially. Bay temps are now in the mid-70s, and ocean temps are around 70 degrees. Larger flounder have moved into the area and are being caught regularly on both squid and Gulp baits. Surf fishing has slowed considerably, with spot and small kingfish making up most of the catches. Spanish mackerel have shown up on the nearby shoals, as well as cobia near the inlet mouth.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral

The nearshore coral grounds and wrecks are on fire right now, with several flounder being caught from both. The larger flounder are being found on the down-current side of the larger wrecks, as well as in the deeper coral over 100 feet. The Fenwick Shoals are producing small bluefish and Spanish mackerel in the morning. The Delaware Bays are full of small croaker, along with some decent flounder on the shallower shoals. "Bottom Bouncer Fishing" had several good trips last week, delight-

ing anglers with solid catches of flounder, a few sea bass, and a couple of large sharks. "Bad Wind Charters" landed a few nice boat limits of fluke with their clients using their orange clacker rigs to help anglers score fish. The "Restless Lady" had the Bunting crew on board last week, and the action did not disappoint. Several Spanish mackerel were trolled up early at the Fenwick Shoals, and the crew even managed a big sand tiger shark. After the morning session, the group hit the wrecks and landed a cooler full of black bass, along with several nice doormat flounder. "Surface Tension Sportfishing" made a couple of inshore trips, putting together a nice catch of sea bass and flounder. The boat was even rewarded with a cobia just off the inlet buoy, which they were able to hook and land. Jeff Monaco checked into Rick's Bait and Tackle with a monster doormat weighing 8.2 lbs and measuring 27.5". The fish was caught on an ocean structure using a pink Gulp. "Wreck Dawg Sportfishing" had non-stop action on the jigs, catching their clients a 24-fish limit of fluke. "Good Company Charters"

caught one of the first cobia in Delaware, just south of the inlet. The big fish fell to a live eel tossed in front of the surfacing fish. It measured 48 inches and weighed 38 pounds. "MandaLu Sportfishing" had a great inshore trip with members of a Bible study group, boxing up piles of bluefish along with some keeper sea bass. Frank Cini fished the Old Grounds and did well, returning to the docks with a cooler full of sea bass and flounder.

Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets have really come alive with fish due to the recent hot weather. Tons of flounder are being found in the inlet areas and Delaware Bay. Gulp is the main bait being used, but with the arrival of spot, many anglers are switching to live spot on a 6/0 circle hook. David Rogerson reports the Kids Catch All Tournament, held at Indian River Inlet by Hook'Em and Cook'Em Tackle, was a huge success, raising over \$18,000 for Lyme Disease. This is always a great time for the kids and supports a great cause. Good job to all the volunteers and participants. Old Inlet Tackle had several cli-

ents come in to show off their catches, including Eryk, who caught several throwbacks and a few keepers up to 20 inches. Anthony Capuano fished the north side of the inlet and landed a big 24.5-inch bluefish using a bucktail tipped with Gulp. Nellie Knott had a blast on her first fishing trip in the back bays, landing several undersized fluke and a couple of keepers. Wiker Restoration limited out in three hours on an incoming tide in the Lewes Canal, with fish up to 23". Greg Allen was back at the inlet last week, landing a nice 20" striper using sand fleas and three split shots. Drifting sand fleas along the rocks is a great way to catch both sheepshead and rockfish. Nick, David, and Cynthia Battle fished the inlet and reeled in a nice rockfish. Michael Spencer reported that young Elena got her first fluke while jigging a charreuse Gulp at the inlet. Mike Smith went 2-for-6 on fluke in Rehoboth Bay.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing mainly consists of small kingfish and spot. A few sharks and rays can be found when soaking chunks of mullet on a large circle hook using a fish-finder rig. Many of the spot and kingfish are not far out, and a super-long cast will often put your bait outside the strike zone. Try setting your lines at different

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intervals to locate the depth of the fish, which are usually in the breakers close to shore. Terry Paxton fished Herring Point using a mullet rig and landed a nice bluefish for his effort. Robin from New Castle fished the jetty off Bowers Beach and landed a nice 20" flounder. Nick Crater ended up with a big mess of lines after a large skate hit his rig and took off down the beach. The fish was finally landed, the lines untangled, and the fish safely released.

Clams and Crabs

Clamming is very productive. This past week, I clammed near the inlet and was rewarded with 78 clams in 40 minutes. Many were large, but I did manage several smaller ones suitable for clams casino. The crab count has been around 35 for a four-pot string, with many in the large to jumbo size. The crabs must be nearing a shed, as they are all very fat and heavy, showing a dirty bottom.

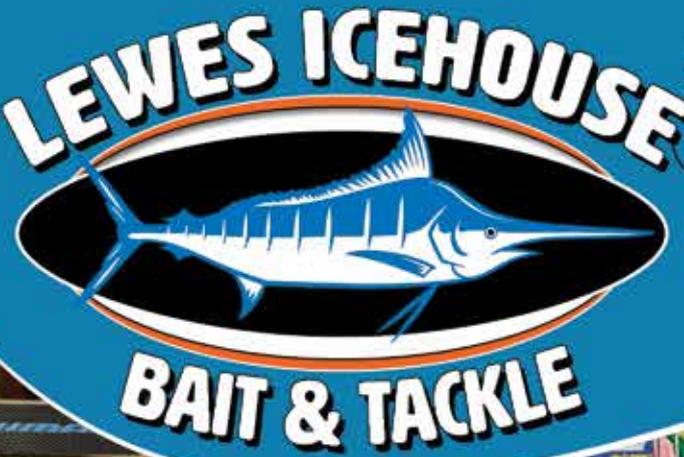
How-To

This week's how-to comes from Captain Rich of "Flip N Fins" and covers spadefishing at the Fenwick Shoals. Anglers should use a rod with 12 lb braid and a top shot of 15 ft of 12 lb fluorocarbon leader. Attach a #1 Gamakatsu red hook at the end, with a few split shots 3-4 ft above the hook. A small strip of clam is used as bait. At the top of the fluoro line, attach a small float to keep the bait suspended 15 feet down. If you are catching sea bass, you're too deep. Using a chum block is a good way to further entice these wary fish up from the depths. The 30-foot wreck at the shoals is a great location to try this method. Rich from Flippin Fins has videos of this technique on his YouTube page, listed as "Delaware's Very First Spadefish Show." Check it out for more insights and demonstrations on this often-overlooked fishery.

Till Next Week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up!



Anthony Capuano scored this bluefish at the Indian River Inlet. It measured about 24 1/2". Anthony made his catch using a bucktail with Gulp. "It was a nice and fun fight!" Anthony said.



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At-Home Thrasher's French Fries

Salt, malt vinegar, and the taste of summer in every bite.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons salt
- 4 cups warm water
- 4 large russet potatoes
- Peanut Oil for frying

For serving:

- Apple cider vinegar
- Salt
- Old Bay seasoning

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, mix the salt into the warm water until dissolved.
2. Cut the potatoes lengthwise

into ¼ inch thick strips. Cut each slice into ¼ inch thick fries.

3. Place the potato strips in the salted water. If not completely covered, add a little more water. Allow to soak for 30 minutes to 1 hour at room temperature.

4. Line a large baking sheet with paper towels and set aside.

5. Fill a deep pot with about 3 inches of peanut oil. Heat the oil to 325F.

6. Drain the potato strips and thoroughly pat dry. Add the fries to the heated oil in batches, being careful not to overcrowd.

7. Cook just until starting to brown, about 3-5 minutes.

8. Transfer the fries using a slotted spoon or tongs to the towel-lined baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fries.



9. Once all the fries have been cooked, bring the oil up to 375F.

10. Add the first set of cooked fries and dry until golden and crisp, 1-2 minutes. Remove to the towel-lined baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining fries.

11. Toss the twice-fried fries as desired with salt, vinegar, and Old Bay. Serve immediately.

For the Island-Inspired Gourmet

Coconut Crusted Mahi Mahi with Pineapple Dijon Butter Sauce

Mahi goes golden with a drizzle of tropic heat and sweet.

Ingredients:

Pineapple Dijon Butter Sauce:

- ½ cup pineapple juice
- ½ cup beer, corona
- 2 tbsp dijon mustard
- 3 tbsp honey
- 6 tbsp butter
- ½ juice of a fresh squeezed lime
- Mahi mahi:
- 3-4 mahi mahi filets
- 1 tsp ground coriander, divided
- 1 tsp paprika, divided

1 tsp sea salt, divided

½ tsp ground black pepper, divided

1 cup flour

2 eggs

2 tbsp cold water

¾ cup shredded, toasted coconut flakes, unsweetened

1 cup Panko breadcrumbs

2 tbsp butter

Directions:

Pineapple Dijon Butter Sauce:

1. In a small sauce pan on the stove, add the pineapple juice and beer. Allow it to reduce to medium heat until there is about ⅓ of liquid left. About 5 minutes.

2. Remove from the heat and add in the Dijon mustard and honey. Whisk vigorously to combine.

3. Whisk in 1 tbsp of butter at a time. Whisk vigorously until it dissolves and then add another.

4. Set aside until the fish is done to let it thicken.

Coconut Crusted Mahi Mahi:

1. Preheat the oven to 350F and then toast the coconut flakes for 5-10 minutes or until they're started browning. Let cool and combine with the Panko breadcrumbs.

2. Preheat the oven to 425F.

3. Whisk the water and eggs together and then set up the breading station. Use one bowl for the flour, one bowl for the egg mix and one for the coconut flakes mix.

4. Pat each filet dry and sprinkle half the spices over each side of the fish.

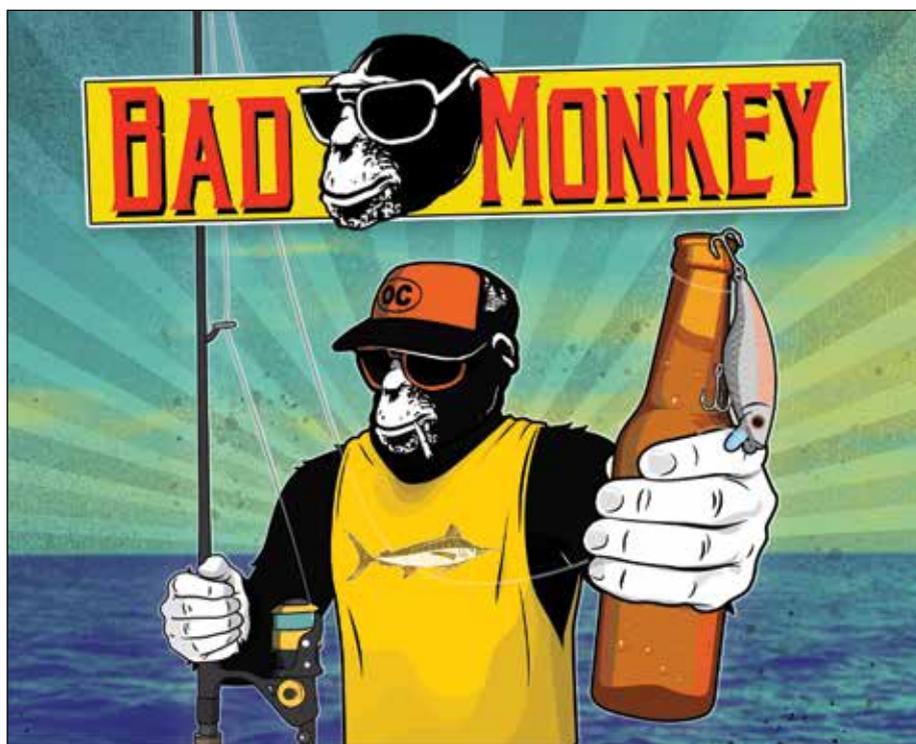
5. Dunk each piece of fish in the flour mix, then the egg wash and finally the coconut breadcrumb mix.

6. In a large, oven safe, non-stick pan, melt butter over medium heat and then add the

mahi filets. Sauté 1-2 minutes per side depending on thickness.

7. Place the whole pan in the oven and bake for 10-15 minutes.

8. Remove and serve with the sweet pineapple dijon sauce and enjoy!



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Grilled Jerk Swordfish with Watermelon Salad

Bold spice on the grill, with mellow sweetness on the side.

Ingredients:

Watermelon Salad:

- 1 small watermelon (8 watermelon cubes/salad)
- 4 handfuls of mixed greens
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- Juice from 1 lime
- Sea salt and pepper (to taste)

Swordfish:

- 2 swordfish fillets (6 oz each)

- 2 tsp Caribbean Jerk seasoning (1 tsp/fillet)

- 1 tbsp olive oil

Sea salt

Strawberry Salsa:

- ½ cup small diced strawberries
- 1 tsp finely minced red onion
- 3-4 leaves finely chopped mint

- Juice of 1 lime

Directions:

Strawberry Salsa:

1. Dice strawberries into small pieces and place into a small bowl.
2. Finely mince red onion and finely chop mint. Add both to the small bowl.

3. Juice 1 lime into a bowl and gently mix until well coated. Reserve until needed.

Watermelon Salad:

1. Cube watermelon and set aside 8 pieces per salad.
2. Place greens into a large bowl.
3. Add olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and pepper to the bowl and gently mix with hands until well incorporated. Reserve until needed.

Swordfish:

1. Lightly coat each fillet with olive oil. Lightly dust each fillet with jerk seasoning and sea salt.
2. Heat grill to medium high heat.
3. Place fish on the grill and cook one side for 5-6 minutes. Flip and cook the second side for another 5-6 minutes. Remove from heat and begin plating.

To plate the meal: Place greens in the center of each plate. Arrange watermelon cubes around mixed greens. Place swordfish on a bed of mixed greens and

spoon strawberry salsa on top of swordfish.

For All That Yellowfin Hitting the Docks

Seared Yellowfin Tuna Tacos with Pineapple and Chili Sauce

This season's yellowfin is here-seared spicy, served sweet.

Ingredients:

- 2 yellowfin tuna steaks
- Sea salt or kosher salt
- Olive oil
- 6 corn tortillas
- ½ cup of chopped fresh pineapple
- ¼ cup of chopped red onion
- ¼ cup of Thai sweet chili sauce

Directions:

1. Pat tuna dry with a paper towel to remove excess moisture, then season them generously with salt on all sides.
2. Heat a splash of olive oil in a pan on medium-high heat for about 2 minutes. Then, add the tuna steaks; for medium-rare,



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until you have about 3-4 slices per taco.

3. In the same pan, add a little more olive oil, then toast the tortillas on high heat for 30-60 seconds per side.

4. To prepare the tacos, top the tortillas with a drizzle of chili sauce, sliced tuna, pineapple, red onion, and a little more chili sauce. Enjoy!

For A Southern-Inspired Island Catch

Grilled Tilefish and Texas-Inspired Chow Chow

Bright fish on the flame, with Southern tang to cool it down.

Ingredients:

Olive oil, for brushing and greasing grill

6 (6-oz) tilefish fillets, skin-on and scales removed

Kosher salt, to taste

Ground black pepper, to taste

3 cups Three Sisters Chow Chow (recipe follows)

Garnish: fresh basil

sear them 3 minutes on one side and 2 minutes on the other (keep in mind that some stovetops heat differently, so aim for an internal temperature of about 125 F-or higher, if desired). Then remove the tuna steaks from the pan, and let them rest for 5 minutes. Thinly slice both steaks



Three Sisters Chow Chow:

1 1/3 cups fresh corn kernels (about 1/2 lb)

3/4 cup to 1 cup zucchini, medium diced (about 1/2 lb)

1/2 cup medium diced yellow onion

1/2 cup cooked climbing beans (such as purple hull peas or black-eyed peas)

1 cup water

1 cup apple cider vinegar

2 cloves garlic, smashed

1 1/2 tsp dill seeds

Directions:

Three Sisters Chow Chow:

1. In a large heatproof, combine corn, zucchini, onion, and beans. 2. In a medium saucepan, combine 1 cup water, vinegar, sugar, garlic, bay leaf, jalapeño, salt, coriander seeds, and dill seeds. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat; reduce to medium-low and simmer for 5 minutes. 3. Remove from heat; pour water mixture over corn mixture. Place a piece of plastic wrap on the surface of pickling liquid to keep vegetables submerged. Let cool at room temperature for 30 minutes. Refrigerate for 3 days before using.

Tilefish:

1. Preheat the grill to medium-high heat (350F-400F). (Make sure you are working on clean grill grates. If not, your fish will stick and tear apart when you

try to turn it.) Using a wadded clean rag held with long tongs, carefully rub oil over hot grates of grill about 1 minute before fish go on.

2. Brush fish with oil, and season with salt and pepper. Place fish diagonally across the grill, skin side down; cook for about 3 minutes. Using a pair of tongs, gently grab one corner of the fish, and begin to pull up. If it looks like skin is sticking, lay fish back down, and cook until fish easily releases from the grill without sticking, about 1 minute more.

3. Turn fish over to the flesh side, and cook 3 minutes more. Insert a metal skewer lengthwise through the fish to make sure it is completely cooked. If you find a bit of resistance toward the middle, let the fish cook longer. If the fish is getting a bit too much color, move to a cooler part of the grill to finish.

4. Remove the fish from the grill. Serve topped with Three Sisters Chow Chow, and garnish with basil, if desired.

Stars, Stripes, and Sweetness

Fourth of July Cheesecakes Pops (No-Bake)

Best served chilled - and best enjoyed under the fireworks.

Ingredients:

For the cheesecake filling:

16 oz. cream cheese, softened

1/2 cup powdered sugar

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- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- ½ cup heavy cream, cold

- Blue candy melts
- Patriotic sprinkles
- Wooden popsicle sticks

For the chocolate coating:

- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 tbsp coconut oil or vegetable shortening

For decorating:

- Red candy melts
- White candy melts

Directions:

1. Make the cheesecake filling: In a large bowl, beat the softened cream cheese until smooth and fluffy using a hand mixer or stand mixer.
2. Combine ingredients: add powdered sugar, vanilla extract, and lemon juice to the cream

cheese and beat again until fully smooth and creamy.

3. Whip the cream: In a separate bowl, whip the cold heavy cream until soft peaks form using a hand mixer on medium speed.

4. Fold in the whipped cream: Gently fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture using a spatula until the mixture is smooth and fully combined.

5. Freeze the mixture: Line an 8x8 inch square pan with parchment paper, leaving an overhang on the sides. Spread the cheesecake mixture into an even 1-inch thick layer and freeze for 4 to 5 hours, or until completely firm.

6. Cut out the stars: Remove the frozen cheesecake slab from the pan using the parchment handles. Use a star-shaped cookie cutter to punch out stars, dipping the cutter into warm water between cuts for clean edges.

7. Insert the sticks: Gently insert a wooden popsicle stick into the bottom of each star and place them back in the freezer for

another 30 to 60 minutes to firm up again.

8. Prepare the chocolate coating: Melt the semi-sweet chocolate chips with the coconut oil in a microwave-safe bowl, stirring every 20 to 30 seconds until smooth. Let the chocolate cool slightly so it is warm but not hot.

9. Coat the stars: Dip each frozen cheesecake star into the melted chocolate, turning to coat completely. Set coated pops onto a parchment-lined tray. The chocolate will harden quickly due to the cold filling.

10. Decorate the pops: Melt the red, white, and blue candy melts separately according to package directions. Drizzle the melted candy melts over the chocolate-coated stars in crisscrossing patterns. Add patriotic sprinkles while the drizzle is still wet, if desired.

11. Chill and serve: Chill the finished cheesecake pops in the refrigerator until ready to serve.



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Angler William Hausmann, of the "Always Bent fishing crew" caught and healthily released this 37 1/2" striper. Williams was fishing on the Rt. 50 Bridge on a late outgoing tide.



Fisherman Michael Klinedinst, of Center Valley, PA, was on the "6 Pack" when he caught these two flounder. They weighed in at 16 1/2 and 17 1/2 lbs. Micheal was fishing at the Thorofare and was using minnows

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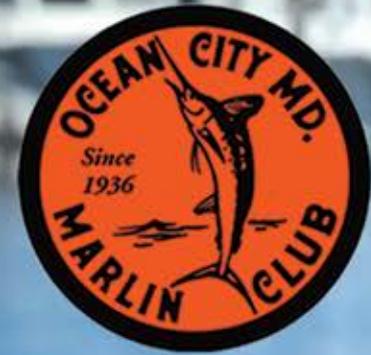
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Capt. Adam and mate Angelo Lamartina didn't miss an OPPOR-TU-NA-TY to put the Colby family on the yellowfin. The "Reel OP-POR-TUNA-TY" spent the day working this crew just north of the Washington Canyon. They took out Trevor Colby, of Taneytown, Md., John Colby, of Belair, MD., Greg and Mike Colby, of Plainfield, IL., and Tod and Eddy from Belair, MD.



Donald Lorden, of Essex, MD., landed this 18 1/2" flounder. Donald was fishing on the "Wizzy" with a Gulp/minnow combination.

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Green Turtle Cay

Over the last three weeks, I've covered the Galapagos, Cape Verde, and Morocco—three of the most exotic destinations in sport fishing. These spots are true bucket-list locations for many anglers. But what about the family destination, the weekend getaway, the girls' trip, or a couples' retreat where the fishing is still great—but you don't need to take two weeks off?

I traveled to Green Turtle Cay via American Airlines, flying from Salisbury to Charlotte with a connection on to Marsh Harbour in the Abacos, Bahamas. The two short flights had me landing in Marsh by noon. After a 30-minute cab ride, I arrived at the ferry dock for the 15-minute ride across the Sea of Abaco. Green Turtle Club owner Adam Showell had invited me for a couple of relaxing days of bottom fishing and island hopping. I truly had no idea what a treat I was in for.

After checking into my charming waterfront cabin, we set off in golf carts to explore this quaint, low-key, and gorgeous island. Adam showed me the tiny village of New Plymouth and the various bays and beaches scattered across the island. It seemed like every turn revealed a new cove or beach, showcasing that unique color of water I can only describe as "Bahamian bliss." That clear, turquoise water teeming with tropical fish—the kind I used to admire in aquariums—was now lapping at my feet. The island breeze was refreshing as we waded through crystal-clear shallows.

We meandered through quiet streets, stopping at seaside bars and local restaurants where the chatter of expats and the sound of island music mingled with ocean waves and rustling palms. Dinner that evening was at the Green Turtle Club's restaurant, where we enjoyed fresh conch salad, lobster bisque,

and blackened grouper. Afterward, I couldn't resist a visit to the club's legendary Dollar Bar. Surrounded by a wallpaper of dollar bills signed by past guests and filled with island decor, we sipped a nightcap before calling it a day. I'm not much of a bar enthusiast these

www.coastalfisherman.net discuss the day's fishing plans. The winds were light, so we decided to head to the reef. Adam and our guide Marcus planned for us to start with some mutton snapper on a productive patch, then move to deeper water for more variety. The day was a non-stop flurry of bent rods and tasty surprises. The hilarious banter between Marcus and Wesley, the Marina Dockmaster who joined us, added another layer of fun to the adventure.



days, but I could definitely appreciate the laid-back charm of this cool little piece of Green Turtle history.

The next morning, we met for breakfast at the club to

I lost track of all the species we caught—strawberry grouper, yellowtail snapper, the magnificent queen triggerfish—all met with shouts of excitement as they came over the gunnels.





After a great day of fishing, Adam gave me a tour of neighboring Spanish Cay and a few other islands along the way back to Green Turtle. Marcus couldn't stop bragging to Wesley about the large grouper he caught and how the kitchen would prepare it as coconut-crusting strawberry grouper. I knew we were in for another delicious dinner.

Back at the club, Marcus and Wesley hauled the fish off to the cleaning tables while I headed to my cottage for a quick rest before the evening meal. The Coral Sand Cottage was just a four-minute golf cart ride from the marina, perched on a point between a picturesque cove and the marina channel. This two-bedroom cottage featured a full kitchen and living area, hot water, satellite TV, Wi-Fi, A/C, and even a private dock perfect for sunbathing, swimming, or tying up your boat. Many guests

bring their boats over from Florida, and Green Turtle Club accommodates them with both a marina and waterfront cottages with private docks.

The following morning, we set out on a beautiful cruise to Elbow Cay, where we visited the iconic Abaco Inn for lunch. Located on the northern tip of the island, the Inn offers stunning views, top-notch food, and that unmistakable Bahamian vibe.

Green Turtle Club felt exactly how I always imagined the Bahamas would feel—charming, relaxed, and full of island character, yet with all the amenities a boater, fisherman, or explorer could need. The club also offers charter services for guests who want to fish or island-hop without their own boat. Many patrons arrive on their own vessels to tour the Abacos at their own pace.



I found myself wishing I had planned a longer visit.

Adam told me about the beachside fish barbecues the club hosts for guests and shared stories of excursions to nearby cays, each with its own charm—including one island where resident pigs enjoy a swim in the sea. I'll definitely be booking a longer stay next time to savor more of this island

paradise that's so close to home.

For availability, reservations, and guest services, please contact:

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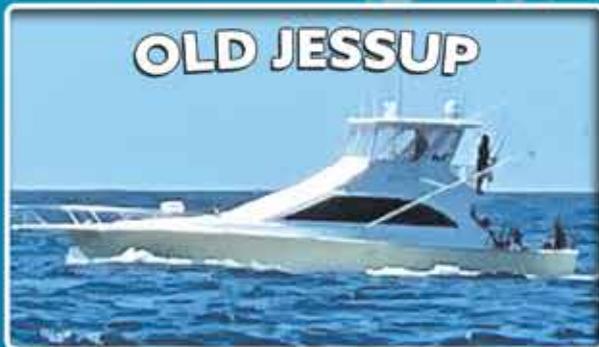
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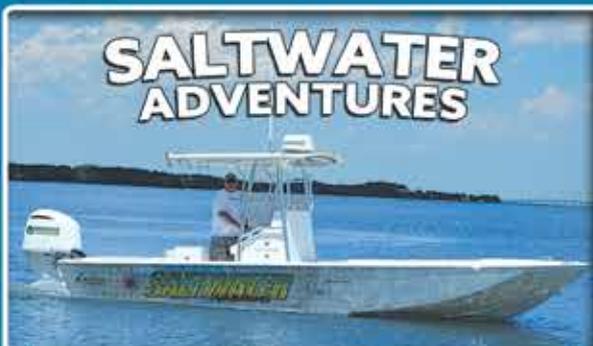
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Anglers Louis and Dean White holding their mahi caught in the Baltimore Canyon on the "Reel Nauti". Their mahis measured up to be 28 and 32" and were caught using a cedar plug lure.



Assateague frequenter 'Mango On The Island,' from Frankford, DE, happily holding his bluefish. 'Mango' was using fresh spot on a hi-lo rig.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JULY 2 First Quarter	High 01:42 am High 02:26 pm	Low 08:06 am Low 08:33 pm
THUR. JULY 3	High 02:27 am High 03:23 pm	Low 08:47 am Low 09:32 pm
FRI. JULY 4	High 03:16 am High 04:18 pm	Low 09:28 am Low 10:31 pm
SAT. JULY 5	High 04:05 am High 05:08 pm	Low 10:10 am Low 11:28 pm
SUN. JULY 6	High 04:54 am High 05:56 pm	Low 10:55 am Low _____
MON. JULY 7	High 05:43 am High 06:42 pm	Low 12:21 am Low 11:41 am
TUE. JULY 8	High 06:30 am High 07:28 pm	Low 01:07 am Low 12:26 pm
WED. JULY 9	High 07:18 am High 08:12 pm	Low 01:49 am Low 01:09 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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Craig "Big Bird" Cropper and Dane Brady holding their haul of blues. The duo were fishing at the Rt. 50 Bridge using Roy Rigs when they caught these fish.



Jimmy Mourlas, of Ocean City, MD, was all smiles when he landed this red drum! His catch was approximately 3 1/2 feet and 40 lbs. Jimmy was fishing with Capt. C.L. Marshall, of Tangier Sound Charters, in the Tangier Sound. Jimmy made his catch using peelers.

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Check out this crew that went out on the "Marli." Fishing with Captain Mark Hoos the crew brought back 17 yellowfin to the docks at Sunset Marina.

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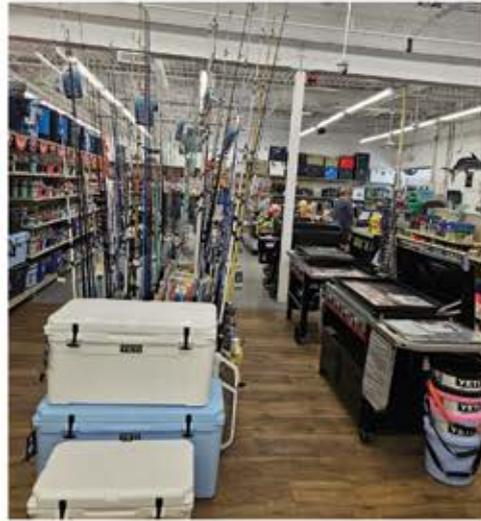
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This week, we are following up on our previous column about the marine MMSI number to dive deeper into the Automatic Identification System (AIS). While we briefly touched upon AIS before, we will now provide a detailed review of its technical aspects and functionality.

Interestingly, AIS has been a prominent topic in marine news recently due to a new law in the Bahamas. This law, set to become effective this week, will require AIS on all visiting vessels over 50 feet operating in Bahamian waters, among other new regulations for foreign vessels. While there has been considerable discussion surrounding the Bahamian AIS requirements, it is worth noting that the USA also mandates AIS on many vessels, though

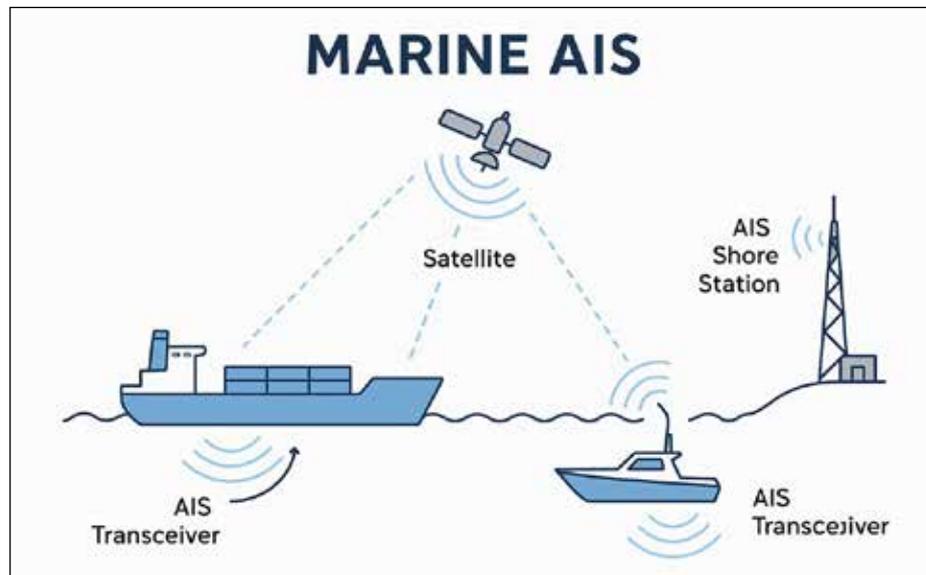
generally not for traditional pleasure boats.

What is Marine AIS and How Does It Work?

AIS stands for Automatic Identification System, and it is an essential tool for modern marine navigation and safety. Utilized by commercial vessels, many recreational boats, and shore-based stations, AIS significantly improves situational awareness and helps prevent collisions at sea.

AIS is an automatic tracking system that employs transceivers on ships and is also monitored by vessel traffic services (VTS). The system continuously transmits and receives vessel information over dedicated VHF radio frequencies. For recreational boaters, installing

to receive an AIS transmission and display the received vessel information on the VHF screen, as well as on a connected chartplotter or similar device. Due to the complexity of FCC



AIS is a voluntary option that offers enhanced safety.

AIS operates using marine VHF radio channels, specifically 161.975 MHz and 162.025 MHz, to digitally broadcast and receive information between ships and shore stations. There can be some confusion regarding AIS due to the types or classes available:

Class A: This class is required on large commercial ships. It broadcasts at a high power of 12.5 watts, updates every 2-10 seconds, and operates with a higher transmission priority in congested waters. The hardware for Class A is typically the most expensive.

Class B+: Often referred to as "Class B SOTDMA" or "Class B 5W," this class bridges the gap between Class A and Class B. It operates at a medium power of 5 watts and has a higher transmission priority than standard Class B. The hardware costs are in the medium range.

Class B: Designed for recreational and smaller vessels, Class B operates at a lower power of 2 watts, updates every 30 seconds, and has a lower priority in congested waters. This class offers the lowest cost hardware.

Additionally, many marine VHF radios offer a "Receive only" AIS capability. This allows them

and international standards, an AIS transmitter is not currently offered as an internal capability of a VHF radio; a separate AIS transmitter is required.

AIS Transmits the Following Crucial Data:

Dynamic Data (automatically updated):

- GPS position (latitude & longitude)
- Speed overground (SOG)
- Course overground (COG)
- Heading
- Rate of turn
- Navigational status (e.g., underway, at anchor)

Static & Voyage Data (entered manually in Class A):

- MMSI number (Marine ID)
- Vessel name and call sign
- Type of ship and cargo
- Length and beam
- Destination
- Estimated time of arrival (ETA)

Where Does AIS Data End Up?

The information transmitted by a ship's AIS is utilized in several ways:

- Nearby vessels: To monitor traffic and help avoid collisions.
- Coast stations and VTS: To

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manage harbor or waterway traffic efficiently.

Satellites: For tracking vessels beyond the horizon or offshore.

AIS data is typically displayed on chartplotters, radar overlays, ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems), and various marine navigation applications.

Internet AIS

Many websites and apps, such as Marine Traffic or AIS Live, now display ship AIS data on computers or smartphones. This can be an enjoyable way to monitor ship traffic around the world or to track family members on a voyage. These systems often rely on land-based volunteers who share their local AIS transmissions with these websites. This is accomplished using an AIS base station, which typically consists of an outdoor AIS antenna and an indoor receiver connected to the internet.

There is often confusion when

someone's boat (or a friend's boat) does not appear on an AIS website. This is frequently due to the absence of a local base station to receive their signal and send it to the internet, rather than a problem with the vessel's AIS unit itself.

Why AIS Matters

Collision avoidance:

AIS provides crucial information, allowing mariners to know who is around them and where they are going, significantly reducing the risk of collisions.

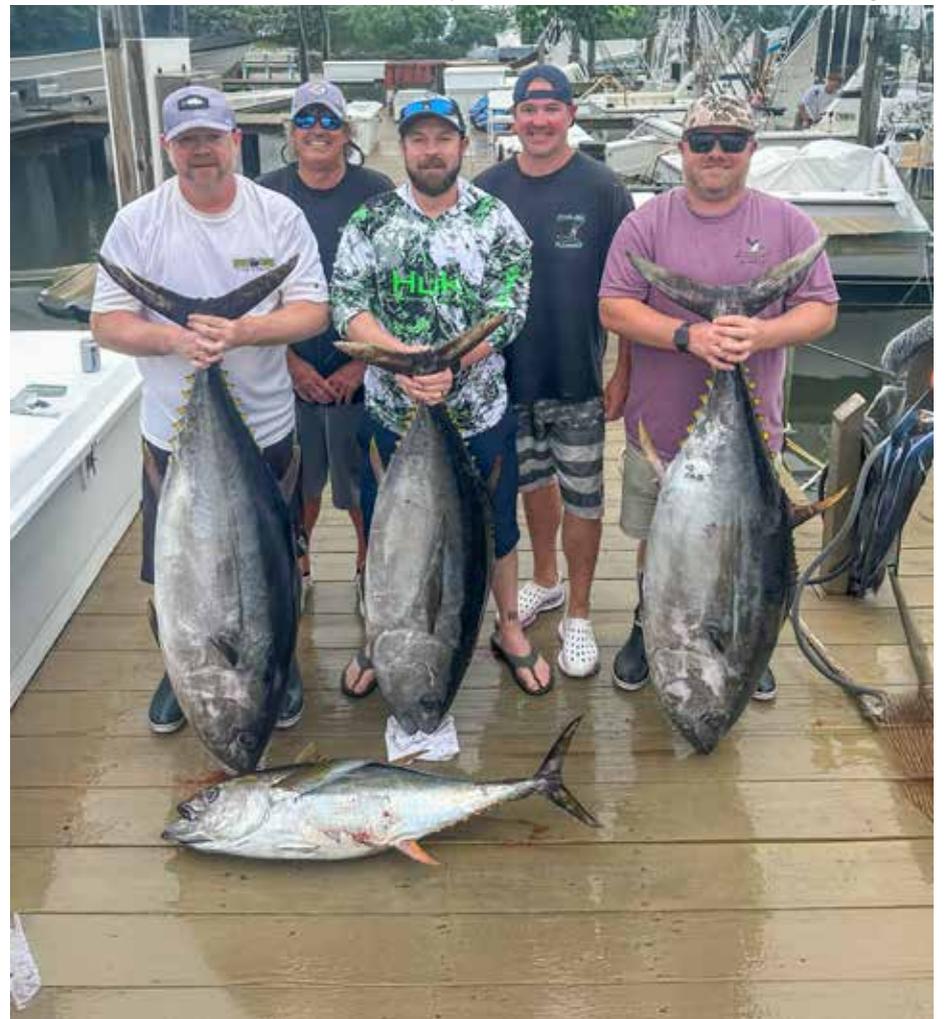
Situational awareness: It enables mariners to "see" beyond their radar range or through fog and other obscured conditions, enhancing overall awareness.

Search and Rescue (SAR):

AIS greatly assists in locating vessels in distress, making search and rescue operations more efficient.

Regulatory compliance:

Commercial vessels are required to carry AIS under IMO and U.S. Coast Guard regulations.



Al Hunter, Steve Hunter, Jim Frazetti, Charlie Carney, and Dave Phillips holding their three bigeye tuna after fishing on the "Old Hatt." The crew fished the Poorman's using both natural and artificial bait. Alongside their bigeye the also reeled in one yellowfin.

MARINE AIS VS. MARINE RADAR	
MARINE AIS	MARINE RADAR
Transmitted via satellites and shore stations	Bounces radio waves off objects
Identifies ships equipped with AIS	Identifies ships in range of radar
Depends on operation of AIS	Does not depend on responder

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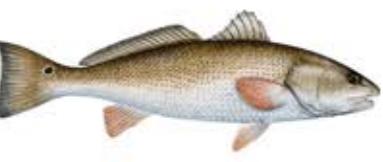
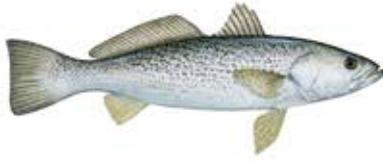
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Tom, Steve and Tommy McDonald were fishing with Grayson Wilson when they caught these two yellowfin and mahi. The crew aboard the "McFish" were trolling Widetrackers and ballyhoo while headed toward the Poorman's Canyon.

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 <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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This crew came back to the Sunset Marina with all smiles when they landed this serious bigeye. They were fishing aboard the "Reel Toy."



Gabe Fisher, from PA, was able to reel in this 49" bull drum using frozen spot head on a fish finder rig at Assateague. Gabe said he's been coming to Assateague to fish for 6 years and that he's never been more excited to catch a fish!

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Mike Crue aboard the "Ocean Princess" with a spread of golden and blueline tile. Mike Crue hit his limit while on the headboat out of the Talbot St. Pier.

2025 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

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Capt. Paul Menzi
Ocean City, MD



“It was a tough tournament weatherwise. We used both current and wave direction and recommended fishing areas to determine where we'd fish all three days of the tournament. On the second day, we hooked this winner around noon. Thanks again to SiriusXM Marine and Fish Mapping.”

Capt. Paul Menzi, Winner of the 2024 White Marlin Open Tournament



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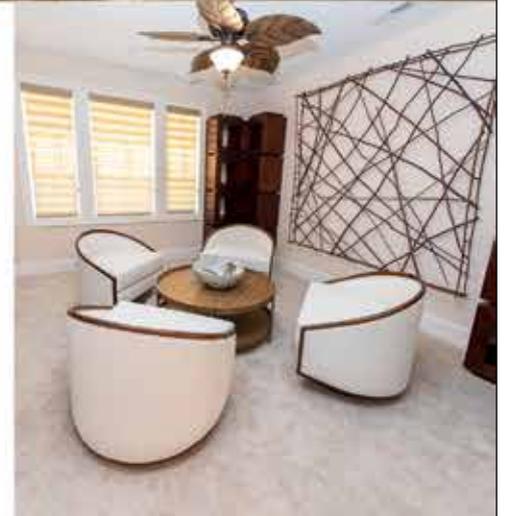
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Angler James Khor from Frankford, DE caught his first fish of the Chesapeake Bay while on the "Black Duck" with this Cobia off Kiptopeke, VA with the help of Stephen Blatzheim, James Taylor (both from Frankford, DE) and Captain Doug Davidson.



Capt. Jason Ruditys and Jackie Ruditys, of Essington, PA, along with Chris and Kelli Miller, of Bechtelsville, enjoyed the maiden voyage aboard the "Typical Philly." The anglers ventured out to the African Queen, where they had a great day of seabass fishing.



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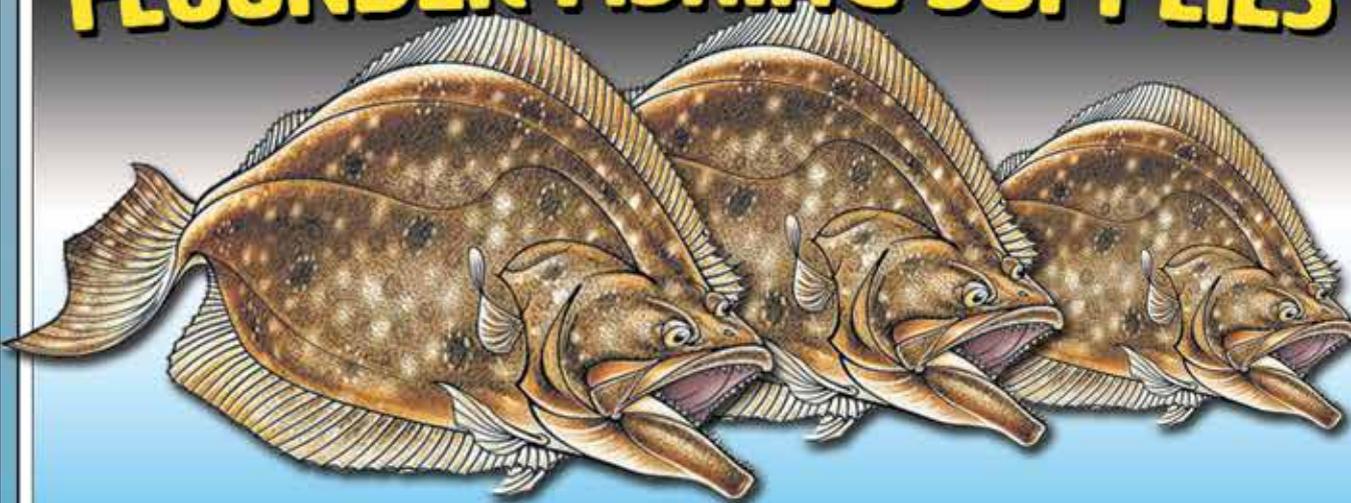
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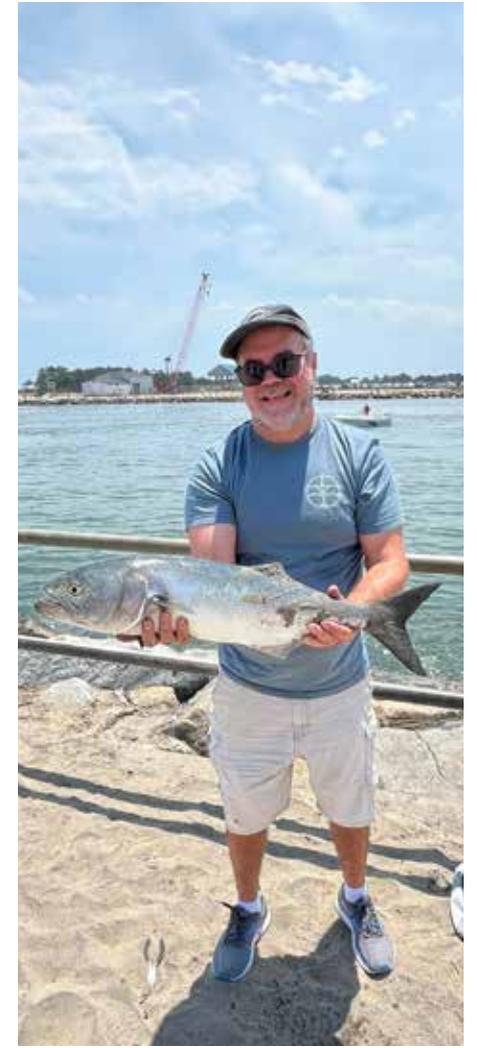


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Nick Miller holding a good sized bluefish at his fishing spot for the day, the Indian River Inlet.



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When fishing on the "Spring Mix II", Blake Tribett, Dennis Tribett, Dennis Tribett Jr, Cole Tribett and Savanna Breden had a nice day on the water with these three yellowfin and one white marlin release. Well done guys!



Staying out late paid off for Andy Dripps, from Harbour Island. He took a break from the golf course to cast around piers just after sunset and was rewarded with this keeper rockfish.

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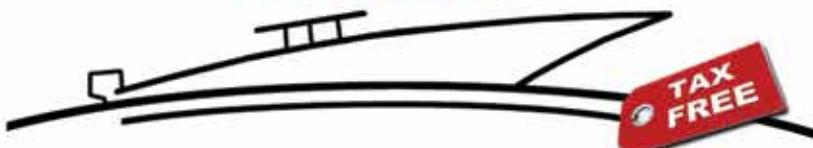
Anglers Rick Brown and Chuck Davis, of Ocean View, DE, took a midweek trip to the Poorman's. On their trip they caught three yellowfins and four golden tile while on the "Miss Darlene."



The crew of "Reel Tight" with young angler Gunar Pilipauskis at the docks at Sunset Marina. The crew brought back seven yellowfin and one mahi after a good day of fishing.



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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The heat has been very hard to beat as the temperature ascends to nearly unbearable marks. The water temperature has also been rising faster than a flood tide on a full moon. However, there are rewards for those who push on and pursue the summertime sportsfishing experiences that are offered by the greatest place in the world!

The "hottest" news has come from the cool blue waters of the Atlantic. The tuna bite continues to sizzle with drags screaming from the Poorman's to the Norfolk. Yellowfin have eagerly taken sidewinders, as well as skirted ballyhoo and daisy chain style rigs. Tantalizing colors included purple/black and pink/white combinations. A few marlin and mahi are also showing up, adding to the paligic dinner plate.

Farther inshore, flounder have taken up residence at their summer

haunts around structure like the rail cars, wrecks, and reefs. Most of the productive habitat has been in 100' or less. With this week's lighter winds, most flounder were coerced across the gunwale by jigging 2-4 ounce bucktail type jigs tipped with a 5-6 inch gulp mullet or grub bait. Pink shine, orange variants like orange belly shrimp or fire tiger, and good ol' white have rung the dinner bell for the fish that offers a fin-nominal fillet. While you are just floundering around in the nearshore waters, try drifting a small chunk of clam on a small short shank hook, suspended over some of the shallower structure for some spade and trigger action that will always add a tasty tussle to any salty excursion. Don't forget to have a jig or a live eel ready to deploy... the man in the brown suit has been spotted off the Va Barrier Islands and typically hangs around some

of the same reef oasis' that attracts flounder and other fish. Definitely a brown bonus to put the icing on the cake...and as hot as it is we need anything with the word ice in it!

The inshore report has been a little less exciting. There are still good numbers of flounder in and around the inlets of the ESVA. However, the keeper to throwback ratio has not promoted a big family fish fry at the end of the trip. Still, there are some nice fish, amongst the shorts and smiles amongst the beads of sweat. The best time has been around high water (last of the flood and first of the ebb) when the water is little cooler and cleaner. Also, grab the kid's, some cut bait and chum. A mouth full of toothy fun is only a fishfinder rig away. While not all regard sharks as a prestigious gamefish, they are a ton of sport and will make the hottest day pass

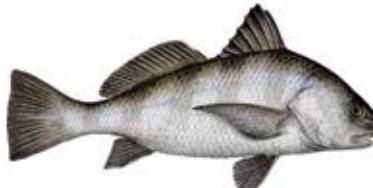
www.coastalfisherman.net with a breeze and memories last longer than a hot summer night!

The Chesapeake action has mainly centered around Cobia from the Maryland line down to the CBBT. While sight fishing with eels and jigs has been good, most fish have accepted a bunker chunk as an invitation to stay for dinner. Most of the action has been in water depths of 15-25 feet near a fairly steep edge or slough. We did best on a running ebb tide first thing in the morning, before the sun got high. The high temperatures have slowed shallow water angling a bit with the exception of some early morning top water activity that included some stripes and speckles.

This week has been challenging for the ESangler. The heat and humidity make it seem like our passion just isn't worth it...However, the best way to beat the heat is a little salt spray on your face and a seabreeze in your hair (I know not my hair) . So get off the couch and get some Eastern Shore hydration that will remind you of how lucky we are to live this wonderful place we call home!

2025 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

eregulations.com



Owen and Morgan Coulson, from Carlisle, PA, holding thier flattie catches in Virginia. The two flounder measured out to be 20 and 21" and the two caught a totla of 18 flounder on while on their trip. This was also Morgan's first keeper flounder!

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