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Priceless

COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Here is a once in a lifetime picture! On December 19th, anglers on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" and headboat, "Angler" experienced sea bass and tautog fishing that was as good as it gets. It was so good, that in addition to limits around the rail, Justin Eddy of Ellicott City, MD captured a massive 6 lb. 13 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the "Angler" and Ken Westerfeld, the current I.G.F.A. world record holder for tautog, may have set an I.G.F.A. line class record when he caught this 17.4 pounder on a 1 1/2 oz. jig with 15 lb. test line. Justin hooked the knothead on a chunk of clam at an offshore wreck and Ken fooled the record-setting tautog with a white legger crab on structure in 100-feet of water. As always, Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts were on the "Angler" and Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley were on the "Fish Bound". Pictured at Sunset Marina.



Once again, the striper bite off the coast of Delmarva was slow to get going this fall, but back in early November they showed up at The 8's in the Delaware Bay and Carter Dirado was there to capitalize on it. Carter muscled in this 48-inch after hooking it on a trolled mojo during a trip with his dad, Pete. The big linesider tipped the scale at 42 lbs. 8 oz. at Lewes Harbour Marina.



In the second week of November, this group of anglers decided to give daytime deep dropping a try and ended up boating this 124 lb. swordfish in the Poor Man's Canyon. Fishing on the "Mrs. L" were Tom Patania, Matt Reilly, Josh Totoro and David Nardiello. Weighed at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City, MD.

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The black sea bass were really biting on this day in mid-November with limits for every angler fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. D.J. Churchill. Donald Bounds of Berlin, MD caught this beauty while soaking fresh bait on an inshore wreck.



Towards the end of October, Frank Perna (pictured), Paul Daisey, Justin Lednum and Capt. Jimmy Bunting took advantage of their only bluefin bite of the day while trolling at the 19 Fathom Lump where they captured this 62 pounder.



Warm water in the bay behind Ocean City kept the flounder snapping into the fall months and in early October this group captured 5 keepers during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente. All of the fish were hooked on white Gulp artificial baits in the East Channel, north of the Rt. 50 Bridge with the largest measuring an even 19-inches. Pictured are Richie Condon, Scott Smith, Frank Passwater, Dough Walsh, Patrick Marvil and Shawn Messick.





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2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

by Larry Jock



Following is a summary of the Fishing Reports in each weeks issue of the *Coastal Fisherman*. Issue dates are in bold.

May 2, 2018 - the early season was plagued with bad weather, delaying the start for many anglers... tautog have dominated the action so far... Ron McClelland caught a 23 lb. 9 oz. tog on the "Fish Bound" with ocean temps around 44 degrees... short tog were caught along the rocks in the West Channel... mako sharks regulations increased the minimum size from 54-inches to 83-inches... flounder fishing in the bay just started to pick-up, primarily in the Thorofare... short flounder were found in the south bay... short stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 and Rt. 90 Bridges... mostly skates in the surf in addition to small stripers and some black drum... In Delaware - inlet temps are still in

the upper-40s... short stripers were hooked in the IR Inlet only during the outgoing tide... good size black drum in the surf... a couple of flounder were caught in the Lewes Canal.

May 9, 2018 - slow trolling over the Thorofare flats produced some nice catches of flounder... anglers on "Reel Vibrations" jumped off a mako at the San Gil... good size tautog continued to be caught in 75 to 100-feet of water... a few keeper tog were caught along the rocks in the West Channel... chopper bluefish were caught around the South Jetty and off the Oceanic Pier... no stripers off the beach on Assateague... water temp in the bay at the end of the outgoing tide was up into the high 60s... flounder were also caught near the "Hole in the Wall"... In Delaware - black drum dominated action in the surf... small stripers and bluefish were caught off the jetty in the IR

Inlet... VFW Slough and Massey's Ditch produced a few keeper flounder... bluefish were caught off 3 R's Road... black drum were caught from the beach at Herring Point and Broadkill Beach in addition to Conquest and 3R's Road... Water temp in the Lewes Canal moved into the upper-50s producing some flounder bites... tautog were found at the Outer Wall.

May 16, 2018 - water temp in the bay was in the upper 60s... Thorofare flats was top spot for flounder fishing... mainly short flounder in the bay behind Assateague... improved bluefish action around the bridges... keeper tautog were caught at the South Jetty and the Rt. 50 Bridge... tautog action was good on ocean structure in 45 to 75-feet of water... small stripers were caught around the bridges and South Jetty... no stripers in the surf, only skates, bluefish and an occasional black drum... VA barrier islands produced catches of good size red drum... In Delaware - Sheila Stohler caught a 9 lb. 13 oz. flounder on DE Bay structure... the black drum bite heated up at the Coral Beds... keeper striped bass were caught at night along the rocks in the IR Inlet... a lot of shad were found in the IR Inlet mixed in with small bluefish and stripers... there was a strong tog bite on ocean structure 10 miles off coast.

May 23, 2018 - weekend was a washout... striped bass were caught in the suds off Fenwick Island... the first mako was caught and released at the Sausages... sea bass season opened on May 15th... big tog were caught at the African

Queen and on structure in 50-feet of water before the season closed... Thorofare flats continued to be the best spot for flounder fishing... slow trollers outfished drifters... bluefish were caught in the OC Inlet and during the incoming tide around the Rt. 50 Bridge... surf fishing was slow with only a few stripers, bluefish and black drum being caught.

May 30, 2018 - the "Marli" graced the cover with a 93-inch, 291 lb. mako caught in 30 fathoms, south of the Marine Electric... the first yellowfins, dolphin and bluefin tuna were caught in 1,200 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon... first thresher was caught at the Fingers... first bigeye was caught in 770 fathoms in the Poor Man's... several tuna were caught in 300 to 500 fathoms in the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... a few makos were released outside Massey's Canyon... sea bass fishing was better on structure south of the OC Inlet than for those who ventured north... disappointing surf action with some black drum, a few stripers, bluefish and sharks... dirty water hampered flounder fishing on the Thorofare flats with Gulp and minnows being the top producers... some flounder were caught in the bay near the duck blinds... In Delaware - Susan Krepshaw caught a 44 1/2-inch striper in the IR Inlet... larger striped bass showed up in the surf along with some black drum and bluefish... flounder were still being caught in the Lewes Canal but weakfish and small stripers showed up also... good black drum action at the Coral Beds but the better bite was at Brandywine Lighthouse and in the suds off Broadkill Beach... sea bass fishermen struggled... larger stripers showed up for anglers fishing off the end of the IR Inlet



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Jetty... chopper bluefish were caught at the top of the tide in the surf near the Indian River Inlet.

June 6, 2018 - Anglers on the "Fish-Full Thinking" won the Mako Mania Tournament with a 644.9 lb. thresher shark caught at the Cigar that would have been a new MD state record but it was shot... bluefish were caught at the Fingers... "under" bluefins were caught in 30 fathoms at the Hot Dog and Elephant Trunk... yellowfins were scarce, but a few came from the south end of the Poor Man's Canyon... a couple of bigeye tuna were caught in the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... sea bass fishing was good this week on both ocean wrecks and natural bottom... the better flounder bite was in the bay behind Assateague near the duck blinds... water temp hovered around 66-degrees... surf action continued to be slow with only a few stripers and bluefish being caught... In Delaware - the surf saw better striper action but was dominated by sharks, kingfish and puffers... Tony Travatello caught a 45-inch striper in the Fenwick surf... water temp in the IR Inlet was 67-degrees... the first weakfish was caught in the IR Inlet... dirty water made flounder fishing tough... The Ditch gave up small stripers... flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal improved for anglers fishing with squid, minnows and Gulp... black drum fishing was still excellent at the Coral Beds.

June 13, 2018 - yellowfin and bigeye tuna were caught in good numbers in the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons... "Boss Hogg" jumped off a blue marlin in the Wilmington Canyon... the first longfin tuna was caught in the Baltimore Canyon... sea bass fishing was decent with anglers finding flounder mixed in on ocean structure... the first sheepshead of the season was caught at the South Jetty by an angler on the charter boat, "On the Run"... flounder fishing was good if you could find clean water and was definitely better in the bay behind Assateague near the duck blinds... small bluefish, stripers and shad were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... In Delaware - the IR Inlet produced catches of shad, bluefish and stripers... some flounder were caught in the Inlet by the Coast Guard Station... headboats reported slow

flounder action on ocean structure but decent catches of sea bass and large sea robins... 23 to 26-inch stripers were caught in the Fenwick Ditch... kingfish dominated surf action... flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal turned on with bigger fish in the 22 to 23-inch range... the black drum bite at the Coral Beds slowed down.

June 20, 2018 - anglers on the "Foolish Pleasures" caught a 636 lb. mako shark while fishing at night in the Norfolk Canyon... Ron Bennett released the first white marlin of the season on June 13th... the first blue marlin of the season was caught on "The Chaser" in 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... tuna fishing was exceptional in 200 to 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... golden tilefish were caught while deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon... weakfish were caught at the South Jetty... sea bass fishing was tough with anglers having to deal with a lot of throwbacks to get their keepers... flounder fishing was much improved with the better action coming from the bay behind Assateague... a few short cobia were caught in the OC Inlet over the weekend.

June 27, 2018 - anglers on the "Double Trouble" boated a 235 lb. bigeye tuna in the Baltimore Canyon... yellowfins were snapping in the Baltimore Canyon... small dolphin were caught on the troll in the Baltimore Canyon... several white marlin and a couple of blue marlin were caught and released in the Poor Man's Canyon... the flounder bite was on the upswing, both in the bay and on ocean structure... the best flounder bite in the bay was behind the OC Airport... the first croakers of the season were caught in the Thorofare... a few weakfish were caught at the South Jetty on Gulp... anglers on the "Get Sum" caught an 8.5 lb. spadefish behind Harbor Island and a couple of short cobia in the Inlet... all the small bluefish you wanted were around the bridges... surf fishing was very slow... In Delaware - flounder fishing was good on the Old Grounds... sea robins were uncharacteristically thick on inshore structure... sea bass were hit-or-miss with the best bite coming from the Del-Jersey-

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Year in Review, cont'd.

Land reef site... flounder fishing was better in the Lewes Canal... spot showed up in the Rehoboth Bay... kingfish were snapping in the Delaware surf... short stripers were caught in The Ditch... headboats out of IR reported better flounder fishing than sea bass fishing on ocean structure.

July 4, 2018 - white marlin and blue marlin were snapping in less than 100 fathoms between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... big red drum were caught and released at the Bass Grounds... the yellowfin bite was strong, coming from the Baltimore and Poor Man's early in the week and moving south to the Washington Canyon by the weekend... bigeyes were also caught in the Washington... larger dolphin were hooked in 150 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... a 39.5 lb. dolphin was caught on the "PYY Marine"... several makos were released in all the canyons with water temps in the low 80s... water temps in the bay were as high as 83-degrees... flounder were caught in the deeper, cooler holes... bluefish were caught around the South Jetty and the bridges...

larger choppers were at the Hambone... sheepshead were found in decent numbers around the jetties... stripers were caught at night in the West Channel.

July 11, 2018 - heavy storms rolled through the area over the weekend and kept most boats at the dock... flounder fishing on ocean structure during the week was outstanding for anglers using squid and cut bait... flounder fishing in the bay was good before the storm with the best catches coming from the bay behind Assateague... on the inshore shoals, anglers found triggerfish, Spanish mackerel, snapper bluefish and flounder... white marlin were really biting in the Washington Canyon and a number of blue marlin were hooked by junior anglers... tuna fishing was disappointing with water temps at 81-degrees with no breaks... bluefins were caught in 30 fathoms outside the Hambone... sea bass fishing was not good... tilefishing was good in the Baltimore Canyon early in the week for anglers fishing with squid... In Delaware - before the weekend storms, flounder fishing in the IR Inlet and Lewes Canal improved with limits for

anglers fishing with white Gulp Swimming Mulletts... in the IR Inlet, stripers were caught at night and a couple of weakfish were hooked as well... Fenwick and Isle of Wight Shoals produced catches of king and Spanish mackerel and snapper bluefish... better flounder fishing was 8 to 12 miles off the coast... surfcasters caught kingfish, sharks, rays and bluefish... stripers were biting on eels in The Ditch... the Cape Henlopen Pier produced croakers, snapper bluefish and flounder.

July 18, 2018 - Sam Thorpe on the "Playmate" caught a 144 lb. bluefin in Massey's Canyon to win the OC Tuna Tournament... anglers on the "Marlin Gale" hooked 5 blue marlin and a white marlin in 200 fathoms between the Washington and Norfolk Canyons... the yellowfin bite centered at the Washington Canyon in 100 to 300 fathoms... most of the yellowfins were in the 35 to 55 lb. class... bailer dolphin were caught in all the canyons with larger bulls coming from the Washington... Mike Lowe released a sailfish in the Washington Canyon... cobia started to show up in larger

Winter 2019 Coastal Fisherman Page 9 numbers on inshore lumps and around the African Queen... headboats found poor sea bass fishing so they flipped to a better flounder bite... red drum were caught by surf fishermen on Assateague Island... the best bay flounder bite switched to the deeper holes in the East Channel, along the docks of Harbour Island and around the South Jetty... In Delaware - the flounder bite in the Lewes Canal was improved, but not red hot... triggerfish showed up in good numbers at various DE Bay reef sites... inshore lumps produced catches of Spanish mackerel, triggerfish, kingfish and spadefish... Site 10 was a good flounder fishing spot... bluefish turned up in the Fenwick surf... flounder were caught in the IR Inlet along the Coast Guard Wall... croakers showed up in the Inlet along with some snapper bluefish... sheepshead and triggerfish were caught at Fenwick Shoal... headboats found flounder snapping in 80-feet of water.

July 25, 2018 - big bluefin tuna were mixed in with yellowfins in Massey's Canyon

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Year in Review, cont'd.**

and around the Hambone... flounder fishing continued to be strong in the bay, especially in the East Channel and on ocean structure... most of the flatties were in the 17.5 to 19.5-inch range... anglers fishing the Bass Grounds returned with good numbers of big flounder... white Gulp Swimming Mulletts continued to be the top flounder bait... spot and croaker were found around the Rt. 90 Bridge with chartreuse Fishbite bloodworms being the best bait... cobia showed up around Little Gull and Great Gull Shoals... several wahoo were caught in the Washington Canyon.

August 1, 2018 - anglers on the "Reel Tight" won the Big Fish Classic with a 404.5 lb. blue marlin... it was a slow week for tuna fishing with windy conditions most of the week... bluefins and yellowfins were caught in Massey's Canyon and around the 12 Fathom Lump... larger yellowfins came from the Spencer and Wilmington Canyons... blue marlin were hooked in the Wilmington Canyon... anglers caught swordfish in the Baltimore and

Norfolk Canyons... a few wahoo were boated in the Wilmington, Washington and Norfolk Canyons in addition to a 71 pounder caught in Massey's Canyon... inshore wrecks produced good triggerfish bites all week... In Delaware - cobia were found off the coast of Bethany... croakers, flounder and short stripers were caught in the IR Inlet... kingfish continued to dominate the surf... king and Spanish mackerel and bluefish were all caught on trolled spoons... headboats found good triggerfish bites on ocean wrecks... the flounder bite in the Lewes Canal was steady and spot increased in size and numbers... DE Bay reef sites produced flounder, triggerfish, sea bass and weakfish... short stripers were caught in The Ditch on eels... flounder and triggerfish were snapping at Russell's Reef.

August 8, 2018 - the White Marlin Open started this week with 382 boats competing for over \$5,461,000... President Trump sent a shout out on Twitter to Ocean City for all the boats flying Trump flags... white and blue marlin were caught in the Baltimore Canyon, outside the Poor Man's Canyon and in

the Washington Canyon... bailer dolphin continued to be caught wherever boats were chasing tuna... flounder fishing improved on inshore structure with the best bites coming in 80-feet of water... a 12 lb. barracuda was caught at the Jackspot... triggerfish were still plentiful at Fenwick Shoal... flounder, small stripers and sheepshead were caught at the South Jetty... in the bay, flounder were caught in the East Channel, Thorofare and the West Channel... 160 anglers competed in the Ocean Pines Flounder Tournament with a 21 1/8-inch taking first place... stripers were caught at night in the West Channel.

August 15, 2018 - Pascual Jimenez on the "Weldor's Ark" won the White Marlin Open with an 83 pounder worth \$2,584,260 in award money... 702 white marlin were released in the tournament versus 385 in 2017... "Auspicious" weighed an 881 lb. blue marlin caught outside the Wilmington... "Buckshot" caught a 75.5 lb. yellowfin to win over \$900,000, a tournament record for tuna... "Viking 72" won Top Release Boat with releases of 10 white marlin and a blue marlin... flounder fishing in the bay continued to be hot in the East Channel... inshore flounder fishing was better than in the bay with good catches coming from the Bass Grounds, Russell's Reef and the Old Grounds... Chris Clasing caught a cobia in the West Channel... In Delaware - John Burbage solidified his standing as the best angler in his family by setting the new Delaware state record for cobia with a 79.4 pounder caught off the coast of Bethany... cobia showed up in good numbers off the coast of Fenwick and Bethany where anglers found them under schools of bunker... most of the better catches of flounder came in from around "B" Buoy and the Old Grounds... croakers showed up at the south side of the Indian River Inlet... anglers also found short stripers mixed in with shad and bluefish in the Inlet... the striper bite in The Ditch improved with fish in the 30-inch range caught on live eels... headboats fishing inshore structure struggled with a large number of short flounder.

August 22, 2018 - lady anglers on the "Absolut Pleasure" won the Poor Girls Open with 12 white marlin

releases in 700 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... Nancy Kohl on "A Salt Weapon II" caught a 112 lb. yellowfin to win the Tuna Division... deep droppers had great results on blueline and golden tilefish in the Poor Man's Canyon... the Jackspot produced king and Spanish mackerel... the flounder bite on inshore structure remained strong... the winner of the Paradise Grill Flounder Tournament ventured all the way up to the coast of NJ to catch the 9.8 lb. flattie... a couple more cobia were caught off the coast of Delaware... sheepshead were found around the South Jetty... the East Channel and the Fish Bowl were the top spots for flounder... In Delaware - flounder fishing in the IR Inlet was spotty... cobia continued to be caught off the coast of Bethany and Fenwick on live eels or bucktails tipped with cut bait... croakers were found by headboats fishing 2 to 5 miles off the coast... action in the Lewes Canal tapered off with water temps in the low 80s... croakers were found on many DE Bay reef sites.

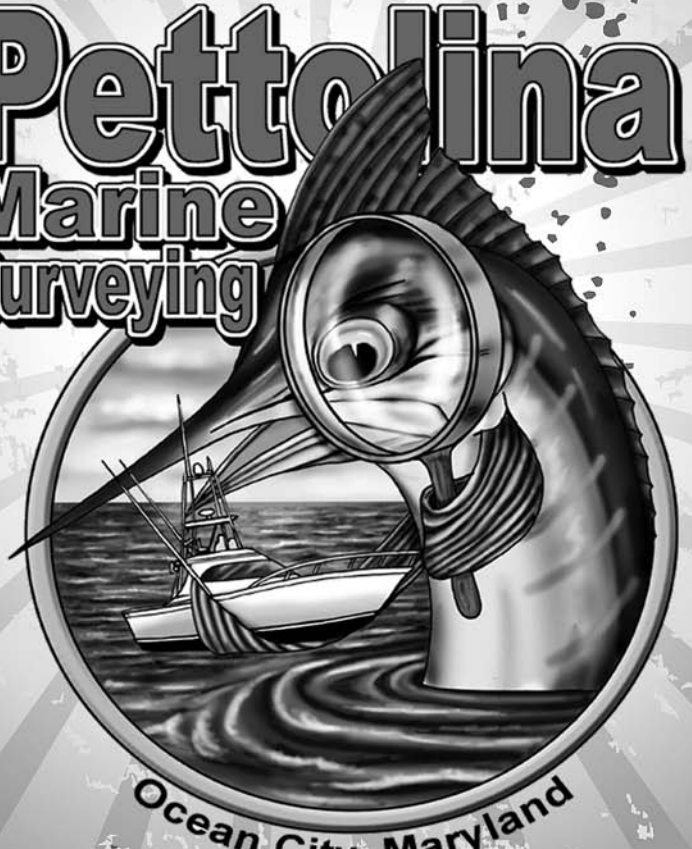
August 29, 2018 - anglers on the "D.A. Sea" went 2 for 5 on bigeyes in the Baltimore Canyon to win the Tuna Division in The MidAtlantic Tournament, winning over \$571,000... 55 blue marlin were hooked in the tournament... 1.73 billfish per boat/per day were hooked... "Billfisher" caught 6 bigeye tuna during their 3 days of fishing in 1,000 fathoms outside the Baltimore Canyon... wahoo were caught at the Jackspot including a 72 pounder... flounder were snapping at the Old Grounds, Russell's Reef and the Great Eastern Reef... the OC Reef Foundation dropped cement block #22,000 on one of their reef sites... anglers trolling at the Jackspot found, mackerel, mahi, false albacore tuna, bonitos, bluefish and even a barracuda... a 252 lb. thresher shark was caught at "A" Buoy... the throwback ratio for flounder in the bay was extremely high... sheepshead continued to be caught around the South Jetty.

September 5, 2018 - the "Buckshot" released 23 white marlin and a blue marlin during their 2 days of fishing outside the Rockpile in the Marlin Club Labor Day Tournament... boats

Continued on page 12

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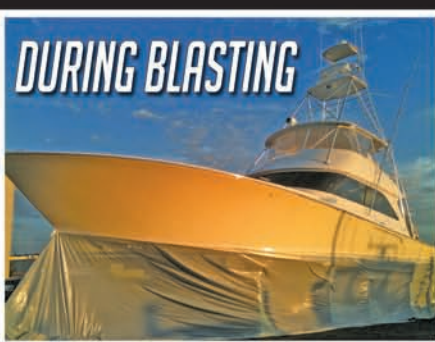


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Year in Review, cont'd.

venturing up to the Hudson Canyon experienced an incredible white marlin bite, but closer to home the best bite was outside the Poor Man's... several blue marlin were caught and released in the Poor Man's and Washington Canyons... a 150 lb. bigeye was caught in the Poor Man's... dolphin were caught in good numbers in the Washington Canyon... wahoo were captured at the Rockpile... Capt. Monty on the headboat, "Morning Star" reported the best flounder bite of the year while fishing in 80-feet of water on inshore structure... flounder fishing was good under the Rt. 50 Bridge... snapper bluefish and small stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... sheepshead continued to be caught at the South Jetty including a 15 lb. 5 oz. bruiser by Dan Kous on the charter boat, "On the Run"... In Delaware - the flounder bite was scattered in the IR Inlet... bluefish were plentiful in the Inlet... surfcasters outside Indian River caught bluefish, spinner sharks and even a pompano... bluefish were thick on Fenwick Shoal... it looked like the bigger flounder moved out of the Lewes Canal... DE Bay reef sites gave up kingfish, croaker and bluefish... a good flounder bite was found at Sites 10, 11 and at the Old Grounds but larger flounder and some sea bass were caught at the Del-Jersey-Land reef site... dolphin were snapping in the Poor Man's... surf fishing off the beach on Fenwick Island was good for kingfish, spot, bluefish and pompano... sea bass were caught at the Bass Grounds... black drum were spotted at the Haystacks.

September 12, 2018 - weekend weather was ugly... cobia finally worked their way

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south to the inshore lumps off Ocean City... prior to the bad weather, flounder fishing in the East Channel was good, but the better bite was found directly under the Rt. 50 Bridge... flounder fishing at the Old Grounds produced the best catches of the week... the white marlin bite in the Hudson Canyon was so good several Ocean City boats made the 157 mile trip... the "Makara" ended up going 50 for 78 during their 2 days of fishing... a few wahoo were caught at the Hot Dog and in the Washington Canyon... In Delaware - the IR Inlet was loaded with snapper bluefish... striped bass were caught at night from the jetty rocks... decent size spot were caught in the back bays... bluefish showed up in good numbers in the surf outside Indian River... at Fenwick Shoal, anglers found 10 to 12-inch bluefish and Spanish mackerel... headboats started to search further offshore as flounder migrated east into 100-feet of water... the Lewes Canal produced catches of croaker and flounder... one angler caught 8 pompano in a single day while fishing off The Point... most of the flounder caught on inshore spots came from around "A" and "B" Buoy where they also hooked into some mahi... triggerfish, sheepshead and small black drum were caught at The Wall.

September 19, 2018 - windy and rainy weather from the effects of Hurricane Florence put a damper on fishing this week... before the storm, boats headed to the Poor Man's Canyon where they found good dolphin and white marlin fishing... bad weather forced flounder fishermen to stay around the Rt. 50 Bridge with fresh bunker

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being the bait of choice... boats looking for ocean flounder had to travel further offshore into 100 to 120-feet of water to find good size fish.

October - December, 2108 - This fall was disappointing. It was one of the windiest, rainiest falls most can remember and it really put a hurting on fishing. Don't get me wrong, the fish were snapping. You just couldn't get out there to get them.

The fall sea bass bite has been excellent, and as you saw on the cover of this issue, the bite on December 19th was incredible. Everyone who ventured out on the headboats, "Angler" and "Morning Star" caught their limit and Justin Eddy captured the fish of a lifetime when he boated a 6 lb. 13 oz. knothead on an offshore wreck.

The tautog bite was really heating up as you can see in the pages of this issue with several big bruisers caught on ocean hot spots. On December 19th, Ken Westerfeld, who is the current all tackle I.G.F.A. record holder, set a potential line class record when he hooked a 17.4 pounder on 15 lb. test line.

We haven't seen a fall

bluefish run within 4 miles of the beach in 5 years. You used to be able to count on battling choppers at Fenwick and Isle of Wight Shoals in October and November. Not anymore.

In early November, we saw a good swordfish and bigeye bite between the Poor Man's and Baltimore Canyons. Anglers on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" went 12 for 21 on swordfish and caught a 66-inch bigeye that was estimated at 200 lbs.

As this report is being written towards the end of December, we are still patiently waiting for stripers to show up in numbers inside of 3-miles off the Delmarva coast. Warm water temperatures kept them north off of the Jersey coast for an extended period of time and schools were located cruising south, 9 to 11 miles off the Ocean City coast. Not helping matters is that local ocean temps are plummeting, down to 43-degrees at presstime.

Anglers will look back on 2018 with great memories of excellent fishing and lets all hope that 2019 will be just as good or better.

See you next year!



Liam Emmert hung in there all day with his dad, Will Emmert, Francis Walsh and Jason King as they fished on the "Lightning" at the Del-Jersey-Land reef site. Liam is thrilled with the pair of sea bass he caught while using squid and clams for bait. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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BOAT	Reel Tight
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In early November, Joe Lee headed east from Virginia to spend the day fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley (pictured) and was rewarded with this 13 lb. sheepshead. Joe hooked the fish on a green crab in 60-feet of water over a piece of natural bottom.

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The Beach boys jumped on a good early October flounder bite in the East Channel, ending their day with 4 keepers in the box. David II and David Sr. caught the flatties, measuring between 17 and 19-inches, while fishing off the 2nd Street Bulkhead. All 4 fish and 7 throwbacks were fooled with peanut bunker and finger mullet.



Many anglers venture south to Ocean City in the late fall and winter in search of big tautog living on ocean structure and on December 1st Mike Sadowski did just that, jumping on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Mike hooked this bruiser while dropping a green crab in 60-feet of water on an inshore wreck. The tog was weighed on a spring scale where it cleared the 17 lb. mark.



On November 12th, anglers on the "Jade II" ventured to the Poor Man's Canyon and caught this 93 lb. tuna on the troll. Fishing with Capt. Butch Brooks were Gary Hall, Sammy Diebold, Pete Hessen, Brandon Brooks (all pictured), Lynn Hessen and Chris Diebold.

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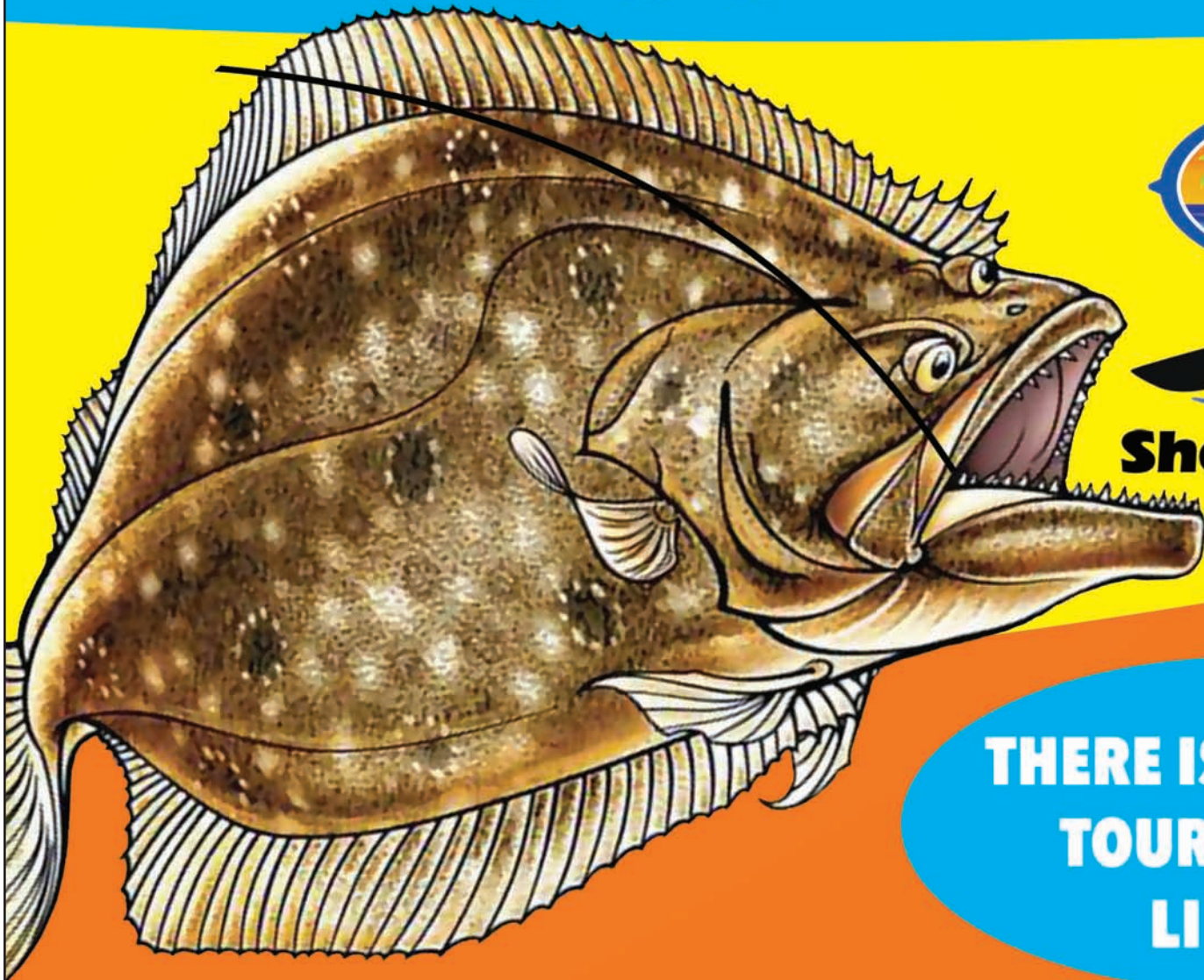
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Steve Sauble from Baltimore, MD caught this 4 lb. black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. The fish was hooked on a strip of squid on an ocean wreck.



This 26-inch, 8 lb. 8 oz. flounder made the grave mistake of going after the bucktail tipped with cut bait being fished by Tim Calimer of Shippensburg, PA during a trip aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The flattie was hanging out on an artificial reef before being muscled in by Tim.



Nick Ager was surfcasting in the suds off Assateague Island when he caught and released this 48-inch red drum after fooling it with a live spot. The fish sported a girth of 28 1/2-inches and was estimated to weigh around 45 lbs.

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In early October, Anna, Wade and Courtney Deter teamed up with Chris McDonald to catch 8 flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Marshall Freng. The fish were fooled with white Gulp Swimming Mulletts in the East Channel and the Fish Bowl. Their largest flatie measured 18-inches. Pictured back at the OC Fishing Center.



Mike "Crazy Eyes" Matha (pictured) was deep dropping with Larry Delolio in 400-feet of water in the Norfolk Canyon when they captured blue line tile fish while using bar jack fillets for bait.

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At the beginning of December, Grayson Wooldridge caught and released 5 beautiful striped bass while trolling umbrella rigs around the Rt. 90 bridge with his dad, John Wooldridge. The water was a little dirty and the water temperature was 46-degrees, but that didn't stop Grayson from putting a whooping on the linesiders.



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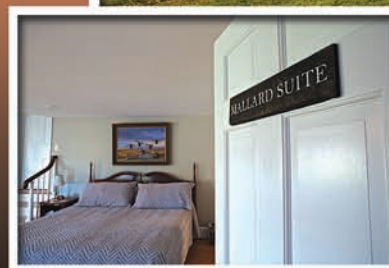
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During a 2-day trip in November, anglers on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" went 12 for 21 on swordfish in addition to capturing a 66-inch bigeye that was estimated to weigh 200 lbs. Their largest swordfish measured 82-inches and was estimated to weigh between 300 and 325 lbs. All of the fish were caught in 1,000 to 1,600 feet of water between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons. Fishing on the "Reel Chaos" were Anthony Matarese, Sr. (pictured), Bob McClanahan, John Prather, Mike Matarese, Dan Harrison, Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. (pictured) and mate Dan Petit.



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In mid-October, Tom Rolando on the "Debra Lynn" was trolling a green Clarkspoon Mackerel Duster across Fenwick Shoal when he hooked into this 21-inch Spanish mackerel.



Matt King jigged this 3 lb. 5 oz. black sea bass off ocean structure while fishing on the "Surface Tension" with Taylor Deemer, Jonah Robertson and Keith Beebe. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Danny Cox and Mike Austill caught 3 stripers, all measuring 29-inches, and an 18-inch flounder while fishing with live bunker and spot around the Rt. 50 Bridge.



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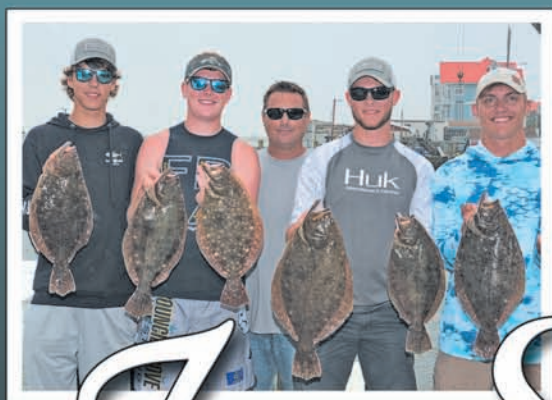
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Local author, C.L. Marshall set to release new book of hunting & fishing stories

On the heels of his successful release last year of "Hunting and Fishing the Chesapeake: Unforgettable Tales of Wing and Water", local outdoorsman and author C.L. Marshall is planning to release his fifth book, "Life by the Tide: More Tales of the Chesapeake" in June 2019. What follows is a chapter out of C.L.'s new book.



Marlin Prick

For the aspiring fisherman, the Eastern Shore of Virginia is an excellent choice for a place to live. The options seem endless and often failure occurs from one not being able to decide between the myriad of choices

at one's disposal. But for us, one weekend in late July was always marked in pen on the calendar. The Eastern Shore Marlin Club's Annual Tournament was something that we always looked forward to.

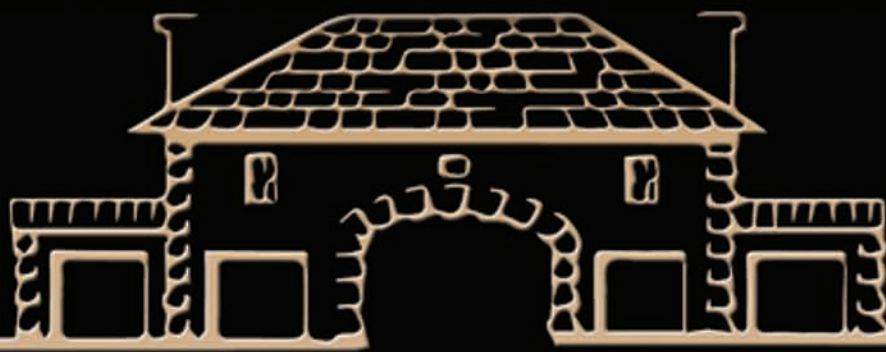
During its heyday, the ESMC tourney fielded a fleet of over 70 boats, many electing to stop and fish on their way up the coast to Ocean City for the "big money" tournaments. Some elected to fish from Virginia Beach, others from Chincoteague. Winning fish, however, must be weighed in Wachapreague. The marina during that time bustled with activity. There were no fewer than a dozen offshore charter boats, that number or more private boats and a host of inshore charter options, all busily handling customers from all across the Mid-Atlantic. Three restaurants fed

the visitors and rooms at the Wachapreague Hotel were booked long in advance of the tournament. It was an very cool place to be.

We entered every year, more for the camaraderie and the experience than anything else. It was a fairly inexpensive way to fish a three-day tournament with friends. Our usual carriage was a diminutive Mako 224 powered by a single 225 Yamaha. It wasn't big. It wasn't fancy. But in it our team of Paige Linton, myself and Rick Beardmore felt as confident as the big Oceans and Vikings that ran from other ports. But this particular year the Mako was out of service due to an issue with the big Yamaha. We elected to enter with Beardmore's boat, a re-finished 233 Formula with a new Volvo 350 that was barely broke in. The name on the boat fit him well, "Insatiable". In the

weeks and days prior to the tournament we prepped the boat, making certain that we had solutions to each possible scenario that might occur. I'd never fished on the boat, but I knew friends who ran similar hulls and they confirmed in moderate seas she'd perform well.

The fishing had been a little on the slow side and that dominated the discussion at the traditional Thursday night kickoff dinner. Now this dinner alone was worth the price of the entry fee. It was a true delight to find tables filled with steamed crabs, steamed clams, corn, oysters and fried chicken. All of the best of the Eastern Shore were lovingly prepared and served with that typical Eastern Shore of Virginia flair. Food and friends were abundant as plans were made for fishing two out of the upcoming three days. Our plan



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was to lay on Friday and fish back-to-back days on Saturday and Sunday. With that decision made we proceeded to relax and have a few extra beverages on a wonderful Wachapreague evening.

The night's activities prompted a late wake-up call on Friday morning. Sluggishly we showered and made our way across the street to the tackle shop where hot coffee got our day underway. The wind was from the southwest at 15, occasionally gusting to 20, and forecasted to drop off in the afternoon hours. Light and variable winds were called for on Saturday and Sunday. We agreed that we'd made the right decision. The day was used to get the boat in her slip, to rig baits and finish up any unfinished business that would be required over the weekend. Loran coordinates were plugged in for where we thought we'd be heading, plus others for secondary and tertiary locations. Our collective effort and our unpressured pace made the preparation enjoyable. By mid-afternoon we had the boat rigged and ready for action. We retreated to the Island House for a late lunch and cold beer as we waited for the few who went fishing today to return. Information from them would be vital in making our decisions for the coming day. Few fish were caught the first day. We hatched a plan based on the best information we could glean from a variety of sources. After a few leisurely cocktails after dinner we retired for the evening. The next two days would be long and full. Or so

we hoped.

The day dawned as we passed the "C" Buoy out of Wachapreague. The seven mile trek to the inlet had been a slow process following the larger offshore battlewagons which draw much more water than our little Formula. Once outside the inlet we set the cruise at 27 knots for a waypoint about halfway between the Washington and Poor Man's Canyons. The seas had a gentle swell from the southwest and the wind, what there was of it, provided little ripples on the surface. The weather had certainly cooperated and for once the weatherman had it right. We felt confident we'd find a yellowfin tuna or two, but our sights were set on white marlin.

The ride out was uneventful. Rick pulled the throttle back at 8:15 as the old Ray Nav 580 chirped noting our arrival at our predetermined waypoint. Per tournament regulations, fishing wasn't permitted to begin for another 15 minutes. The baits were made ready and outriggers deployed as we idled patiently looking for the perfect place to be when the call for "lines in" was broadcast by a committee boat. We could hear the normal radio chatter, and by it we could tell that most of the fleet had ventured south toward the Norfolk and just below the Washington. It appeared that aside from a few Ocean City boats we'd have the area to ourselves.

The call came and we quickly and efficiently began to get our gear out. We ran skirted ballyhoos on the long riggers,

larger skirted horse ballyhoos on the short riggers and naked small baits on the flat lines. Our center rigger, or way, way, way, back bait was positioned fifty yards behind our longest offering. The long and short rigger baits weren't rigged with traditional monofilament leaders, but rather single strand 80# coffee colored wire. These four mylar adorned Sea Witches had caught numerous whites, tunas and dolphin for us to date. This was no time to change what had been working for us thus far.

Our first bite occurred about an hour into the day. A single white appeared behind the port flat line with pectoral fins lit up in bright cobalt blue. Rising from under the bait, I watched as his dorsal broke the surface and his bill swatted at what he thought would be an easy breakfast. Popping the line free from the flatline clip the bait fell perfectly into it's open mouth. Resisting the urge to set the hook prematurely is key to getting tight on billfish. With the reel in free spool, the line left the reel at an accelerated pace. It was evident that he had the bait as I pushed the lever drag of the TLD 25 to strike. We called in the first hook-up of the tournament.

The drag did it's job and the barb buried in the fish's jaw. I passed the rod to Paige and waited for a minute or so before clearing the other lines. Seeing

Winter 2019 Coastal Fisherman Page 27

no other customers, the other six lines were quickly cleared as the battle ensued. Twenty minutes later, I secured the leader and had the fifty pound white by the bill. After a few quick pics the fish was released unharmed. A release time was duly recorded by the committee boat and on our catch report. Quickly we reset the lines with hopes at an all time high.

As the day wore on we stayed in the same general area and scratched two more whites out of four bites. Radio contact was spotty throughout the day, but on the way in it became obvious that we'd be tied with another boat going into the final day of fishing. Knowing that ties would be broken in the second day by the first fish caught and released, we discussed our plan for the second day. We felt that our piece of water held a few fish, but was moving south quickly. Our plan was to move south with it, starting just above the Washington in about 50 fathoms.

Day three dawned just like it's predecessor and we again found ourselves rigged and ready for the call for "lines in". Right along the 50 curve, in the vicinity of a line of lobster balls with "Toots" spray painted on them, was some of the prettiest water that any marlin fisherman could ask for. A dozen or so Ocean City boats had been fishing for a bit, but we had heard of none caught by



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Page 28 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2019
the time that day 3 began.

Just after nine we noticed some activity on the surface near an approaching lobster ball. Passing it on the inshore side, the source of the commotion was soon evident. The sickle like dorsal fin was unmistakable. It didn't have the gentle rounding of a white. The small blue marlin accelerated swiftly toward the green and yellow Sea Witch that ran just ahead of a swimming horse ballyhoo on the short rigger. It didn't miss it's mark as the bait was inhaled just prior to trashing across the surface of the ocean for a hundred yards or so. Rick was standing beside the rod as the whole event took place. With the rod in his hands and Paige at the helm we began to track this beast down. The fight didn't take long. Within four minutes I had secured the leader and the official release was called in. Still a little green at boatside, the fish darted under the boat and I pushed the wire leader around the transom, but couldn't get it around the outdrive quickly

enough. In the millisecond that it took to attempt to free the leader, the fish turned and accelerated again toward the port side of the boat. Emerging from under the boat I clearly saw the 125 pound marlin's eye fixed on the what appeared to be me. His anger was evident and I'm sure he had plans to do me as much harm as possible to ensure his escape. As the leader came tight the fish exited the water, coming back toward the cockpit much like a yo-yo on a tight string. This fish was inbound and I ducked in an attempt to get out of harm's way, but it was too late. Striking me solidly in the arm with it's bill, the fish and I tussled for a bit on the engine box. After what seemed like an eternity, but in reality was only about five seconds, the fish was pushed across the transom and was back in his element.

Blood was everywhere in the cockpit. Some of it belonged to the marlin and undoubtedly some of it was mine. With the adrenaline pumping I knew that I'd been hit, but wasn't exactly sure

where or how bad. The answer came instantly as I tried to get up off the engine box. My left arm had gone numb from the impact. A deep puncture wound in my shoulder oozed blood and slime. It hurt like hell.

Quickly, we went through all the gauze and isopropyl alcohol that we had on board. After ten or so minutes we had the bleeding under control and began to access just how bad this injury was. The arm wasn't broken and the shoulder, though sore, wasn't dislocated. It just hurt like no other. Rick was down below looking for additional first aid gear as Paige applied pressure and tried to clean the wound. The only additional first aid equipment that Rick could produce was an opened quart of Jim Beam. It worked wonders for the pain, and moderately well as an antiseptic.

After a few nips off the bottle I decided that the injury wouldn't get any worse over the next few hours. I'd relinquish my position in the cockpit in exchange for a seat at

www.coastalfisherman.net
the wheel and the remainder of the bottle of Beam. We fished along for the next few hours picking up a pair of gaffer dolphin and a fat yellowfin tuna. Nearing two o'clock we decided to head for the inlet. At the dock we were met by a team of paramedics that surveyed the wound and did their best to clean it. A visit to the emergency room provided the required shots and prescriptions for infection control. I'm sure that the medical staff were glad to see me leave due to my intoxicated state. I've been told it was quite comical.

That fourth fish sealed the win for the "Insatiable" team in dramatic fashion. Though many billfish had been caught before and after that small blue, it's still the one that sticks out in my mind as the nastiest. I've got the scars to prove it.

You can purchase "Life by the Tide: More Tales of the Chesapeake" and C.L.'s other books at clmarshallpublishing.com.



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This picture was taken back at the end of September, but was too cool not to print. Jim Frazetti snapped this shot while fishing on the "Talkin Trash" with Brian Skillman, Bob Gizzard, Capt. Chris Little and mate Keath Puller. The marlin was hooked on a skirted ballyhoo at the Rockpile.



The sheephead bite around the North and South Jetties was hot in October and there weren't many boats that were better than the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey at the helm. On this day, Wayne Fawley ventured down from Pennsylvania and caught 6 keepers, ranging in weight from 8 to 10 lbs. All were caught on sand fleas. Pictured back at Bahia Marina.



In early October, David Moore was soaking spot in the suds off Assateague Island when he caught and released this 54-inch red drum that sported a 33-inch girth. Just the day before, David released a 55-incher that had a 34-inch girth. Two great catches!

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In mid-December the striped bass bite was scattered up and down the Delmarva coast with most of the migrating stripers still to our north off the Jersey coast, but that didn't stop Jason Muller of Ocean City, MD from catching and releasing this fat 40-incher while fishing on the "Madonna B" with Mike Witmer. The fish was hooked on a trolled mojo off the coast of Bethany Beach, DE where Mike caught a 36-incher on the same trip.

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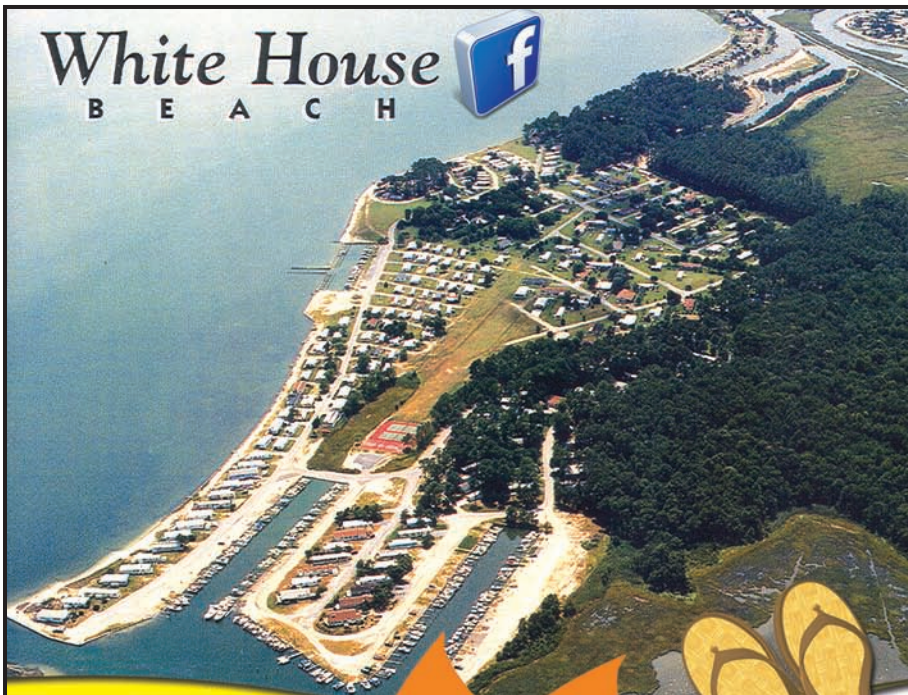
On November 18th, Justin Spies, Mike Halsey and Lawson Newcomb, all from Centreville, MD joined up with J.R. Spies from Crumpton, MD on the "milliRem" for a run to 400 fathoms near the 800/800 and ended up catching a doubleheader of bigeye tuna weighing 120 and 140 lbs. Both were caught on 50 wide reels on stand-up rods. Although yellowfins were seen airing out on bait, the anglers didn't have any luck hooking one up. Also pictured are Mason Halsey, Miller Halsey and Myles Halsey.



Dave Williams joined Chris Trovitch for some sheephead fishing at the Ocean City jetties and returned with 7 in the box, weighing up to 6 lbs. All were caught while using sand fleas for bait.



In mid-November, Chan Park from Fairfax, VA caught and released this 14 lb. tautog during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The fish ate a sand flea in 35-feet of water on an inshore wreck.



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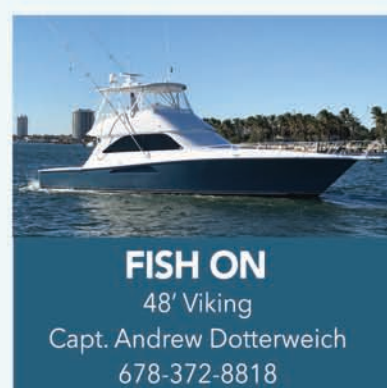
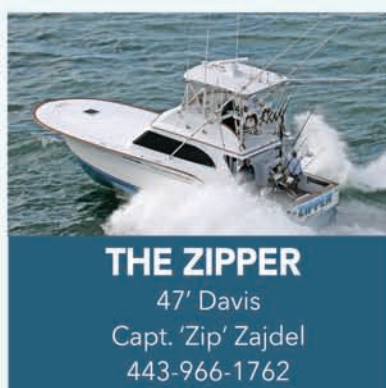
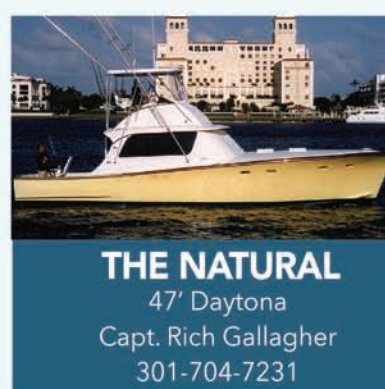
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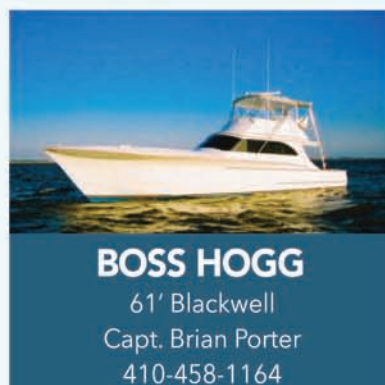
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On November 12th, Mary Leibby took the trek out to the Del-Jersey-Land reef site and caught a pair of good size flounder weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. and 8 lbs. 10 oz. Both were caught on jigs and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



For the fourth year in a row, the striped bite off the Delmarva coast is off to a very slow start and most of the minimal action we have seen has been scattered off the coast of Delaware. But in the early part of December, Kevin Weber on the "Patty Wagon" caught this 45 1/2-inch, 39 lb. striped bass while trolling mojos at Little Gull Shoal. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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This monster sheepshead was fooled with a green crab being soaked at The Haystacks in the Delaware Bay by angler Jay Lightner of Dillsburg, PA. The fish weighed 13 lbs. 10 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



On October 22nd, Charlie Kricher took the trip down from the City of Brotherly Love to spend the day fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts on the headboat, "Angler". Charlie caught this doubleheader of black sea bass while dropping strips of squid on an offshore wreck. The larger of the two knotheads tipped the scale at 4 lbs. 8 oz.

"Kashmir"

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Top Junior Angler

Nick Keller - 39 releases
Conner Jezierski - 20 releases
Luke Duffie - 8 releases

Top Lady Angler

Judy Duffie - 23 releases
Kelly Weber - 6 releases
Robin Ritter - 6 releases

Top Gentleman Angler

Ed Dunn - 60 releases
Darren Helwig - 33 releases
Jonathan Duffie - 28 releases

**Charles Kratz Award for
1st White Marlin Caught by a
Junior Angler on Member Boat**

Thomas Michael Gallagher
"Gret's Three J's"
June 24, 2018 @ 7:45 AM

Edna Hodgens Award

Joshua & Emily Blume

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award
for Top Mate on a Charter Boat**

Andres Mayorca & Steve Eakle
"Buckshot"

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award
for Top Mate on a Private Boat**

Shay Danzig & Rusty Reddish
"Bar South"

Recreational Angler Award

Bill Miller - 43 releases
"Buckshot"

Heaviest Tuna

"Double Trouble"
235 lbs.

Heaviest Dolphin

"Primary Search"
50 lbs.

Heaviest Wahoo

"Barbara Rose"
94 lbs.

Heaviest Striped Bass

"Bubblehead"
19.2 lbs.

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by Any Boat**

"Last Call" - 8

First White Marlin of the Season

Ron Bennett - "Stalker"
June 13, 2018 @ 8:47 AM

Last Billfish of the Season

Tom Arnot - "Fishbone"
October 7, 2018 @ 5:05 PM

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a
Charter Boat**

"No Quarter" - 98

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a
Private Boat**

"Haulin n Ballin" - 24

Most Blue Marlin

Caught by a Private Boat
"Bar South" - 9

Most Blue Marlin

Caught by a Charter Boat
"No Quarter" - 8

First Blue Marlin of the Season

Todd Burbage - "The Chaser"
June 17, 2018 @ 11:57 AM

Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat

"Marli" - 306
"Boss Hogg" - 252
"Moore Bills" - 182

Most Tuna Caught by a Private Boat

"Reel Tight" - 86 (7/29/18)
"Killin Time" - 86 (9/21/18)
"Primary Search" - 42

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 39' to 48'**

"Bill\$ 4 Bills" - 78

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 29' to 38'**

"Game Changer" - 49

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 28' and Under**

"Primary Search" - 42

Most Billfish Caught

Private Boat - 28' and Under
"Hollywood" - 26

Most Billfish Caught

Private Boat - 29' to 38'
"Fish Whistle" - 42
"Prime Hook" - 35
"Lucky Duck II" - 27

Most Billfish Caught

Private Boat - 39' to 48'
"Fish On" - 78
"Gret's Three J's" - 69
"Poore Sport" - 60

**Most Billfish Caught by a
Private Boat**

"Bar South" - 117
"Haulin n Ballin" - 102
"D.A. Sea" - 93

**Most Billfish Caught by a
Charter Boat**

"Buckshot" - 152
"No Quarter" - 149
"Billfisher" - 114

**Most Billfish Caught
by Any Boat**

"Buckshot" - 152

**Most Billfish Caught
in 1 Day by a Private Boat**

"Bar South" - 20

**Most Billfish Caught
in 1 Day by a Charter Boat**

"Buckshot" - 15

Billfish Release Clubs

100 Club

"Haulin n Ballin" - 102
"Tighten Up" - 107

"Billfisher" - 114
"Bar South" - 117

"No Quarter" - 149
"Buckshot" - 152

50 Club

"Blood Money" - 50
"Grande Pez" - 52
"First Light" - 57
"The Chaser" - 57

"C-Boys" - 58
"Absolut Pleasure" - 59
"Moore Bills" - 59
"Poore Sport" - 60

"Pumpin Hard" - 66
"Gret's Three J's" - 69
"Reel Chaos" - 69
"Marli" - 72

"Fish On" - 78
"Reel Joy" - 80
"D.A. Sea" - 93

25 Club

"Killin Time" - 25
"Reel Toy" - 26
"My Girl" - 26
"Hollywood" - 26
"Max Bet" - 26

"Lucky Duck II" - 27
"Top Dog" - 28
"Last Call" - 29
"Marlin Gale" - 30

"Legasea" - 32
"Brenda Lou" - 34
"Spring Mix II" - 34
"Prime Hook" - 35

"Fishbone" - 37
"Boss Hogg" - 41
"Fish Whistle" - 42
"Wrecker" - 46

~~ TOTAL FISH RELEASED ~~

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
White Marlin	1,675	794	2,838	1,918	1,009
Blue Marlin	178	83	138	156	69
Sailfish	9	3	26	15	6
Spearfish	14	3	14	40	7
Swordfish	3	1	4	3	4





At the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet, several boats were inducted into the "100 Club" for recording between 100 and 199 billfish releases during the season. Inductees were "Haulin n Ballin" (102), "Tighten Up" (107), "Billfisher" (114), "Bar South" (117), "No Quarter" (149) and the "Buckshot" (152).



The Ocean City Marlin Club Top Junior Angler award for the 2018 season was won by Nick Keller on the "Tighten Up" with an incredible 39 billfish releases during the season. Nick is pictured at the annual Awards Banquet with his dad, Phillip Keller, his uncle Jay Keller, Maisie Genthner, Capt. Jason Genthner and mate Charles Porter.



Always in the running for Ocean City Marlin Club's Top Lady Angler award, Judy Duffie won the honor for the 2018 season with 23 billfish releases in only 18 days of fishing. Judy recorded the releases while fishing on the "Billfisher" with Capt. Jon Duffie at the helm. Pictured with Ocean City Marlin Club President, Franky Pettolina.



At the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet, fifteen boats were inducted into the "50 Club" for releasing between 50 and 99 billfish during the season. Inductees were "Blood Money" (50), "Grande Pez" (52), "First Light" (57), "The Chaser" (57), "C-Boys" (58), "Absolut Pleasure" (59), "Moore Bills" (59), "Poore Sport" (60), "Pumpin Hard" (66), "Gret's Three J's" (69), "Reel Chaos" (69), "Marli" (72), "Fish On" (78), "Reel Joy" (80) and "D.A. Sea" (93).

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With the "Buckshot" taking top honors for their 152 billfish releases in 2018, it was fitting for the mates to receive the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mates on a Charter Boat. Pictured with their award is Andres Perez Mayorca and Steve Eakle.

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OCMC 2018 Canyon Kickoff Winner



During the 36th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Canyon Kick Off held last weekend, the crew on the charter boat, "Fish On" took top honors in the Billfish Release. 6 white marlin releases and a blue marlin release during their 2 days of fishing, earning them 750 points to edge out the team on the "Nontypical" with 700 points. 18 2 white marlin on Friday and followed that up with 4 white marlin releases and the blue marlin release on Saturday, all around the \$20,000 and further south Washington and Norfolk Canyons. Fishing with Capt. Andrew Dotterweich and mates Raul Gonzalez and Shay Danzig were Todd Willard, Andy Strine, Mike Bree and John Stachowski, who recorded the blue marlin release. For their 1st place finish, the "Fish On" team won \$35,550 in award money. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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At the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet, the following boats were inducted into the "25 Club" for recording between 25 and 49 billfish releases during the season: "Killin Time" (25), "Reel Toy" (26), "My Girl" (26), "Hollywood" (26), "Max Bet" (26), "Lucky Duck II" (27), "Top Dog" (28), "Last Call" (29), "Marlin Gale" (30), "Legasea" (32), "Brenda Lou" (34), "Spring Mix II" (34), "Prime Hook" (35), "Fishbone" (37), "Boss Hogg" (41), "Fish Whistle" (42) and "Wrecker" (46).



The charter boat, "Last Call" was recognized at the 2018 Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet for Most Sharks Released by any Boat with 8 releases during the season. Pictured are Capt. Franky Pettolina and Jen Pettolina.



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With only 1 day remaining in the 2018 season, anglers on the “Buckshot” and the “No Quarter” were neck-and-neck for recording the Most Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat. Going into the final day, the “Buckshot” was leading by only 2 releases and pulled ahead with one more release than the “No Quarter” to win the season-long competition 152 to 149. In addition, the “Buckshot” team won top honors for Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat 1 Day (15) and Most Billfish Caught by any Boat (152). In addition, Billy Miller won the Recreational Angler Award (43 releases) and mates Andres Perez Mayorca and Steve Eakle won the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mates on a Charter Boat. Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet are Billy Miller, Capt. Gary Stamm, C.J. Miller, Steve Eakle, Dion Stanton and Andres Perez Mayorca.



Top honors for Heaviest Rockfish caught by an Ocean City Marlin Club member went to angler Chris Butler for muscling in a 19.2 lb. linesider while fishing on member boat, "Bubblehead". Chris is pictured with Capt. Buddy Whetzel.



For the 15th straight year, the "Marli" won the top prize for Most Tuna Caught - Charter Boat during the 2018 season with a whopping 306 ending up in the box. Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet are Capt. Mark Hoos, Mike Bostic and mates Chase Neiderer and Dakota Bittner.



Conner Jezierski on the "Haulin n Ballin" fished hard during the 2018 season, recording 20 billfish releases to win 2nd place honors for Top Junior Angler at the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet in October. Conner is the son of Kristin and Aaron Jezierski. Pictured with Marlin Club President, Franky Pettolina.



For their initiative called "Blume's Balloon Round-Up", Joshua and Emily Blume were recognized by the Ocean City Marlin Club with the Edna Hodgen's Award for Outstanding Service in 2018. Recognizing that balloons floating in the ocean are an environmental problem and unsafe to all species of fish, the brother and sister team began the competition to see which boat could collect the most balloons throughout the summer. They ended up with 1,392 balloons collected from June 29th through September 30th and are up to 1,460 as of December 13th. Balloons were retrieved from New York to the Bahamas and Gulf of Mexico. Joshua and Emily are the children of Cathy Blume and Capt. Luke Blume. Pictured with Marlin Club President, Franky Pettolina.



The team on the charter boat, "No Quarter" had a memorable 2018 season and were recognized at the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet for Most Blue Marlin Caught by a Charter Boat (8), Most First Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat (98) and 2nd place for Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat (149). They battled the crew on the "Buckshot" right up until the final day of the season for the coveted Most Billfish Caught award but came up short, 152 versus 149. Pictured are Capt. Kyle Peet and mates Connor Campbell and Jake Emche.



Striped Bass over Tomato Scampi

submitted by Ed Moro

2 TBSP olive oil
4 striped bass fillets
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
1/2 bunch thyme sprigs
3 TBSP Roasted Garlic Oil
6 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 shallots, finely diced
1 TBSP fennel seeds, toasted in a dry skillet
4 celery ribs, sliced 1/4-inch thick
1 TBSP chopped capers, drained
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 TBSP red wine vinegar
Grated zest and juice of 1 lemon
3 lbs. mixed heirloom tomatoes, cut in wedges
1 cup tightly packed hand-torn fresh basil leaves

Prepare roasted garlic oil by preheating oven to 300-degrees.

Put the garlic heads cut side down in a small casserole or ovenproof pot and pour the olive oil over them.

Remove garlic from the oil and set aside.

Strain the oil into a bowl and let cool, then pour into an airtight container.

Increase oven temperature to 350-degrees

In a large ovenproof nonstick skillet, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat.

Season the fish liberally with salt and pepper and sprinkle with the lemon zest and juice.

Once the oil begins to shimmer, place the fillets skin-side-down in the pan and let them cook, without moving them, until the skin is crisp and golden brown, about 45 seconds to 1 minute.

Give a light push to the fillets to loosen the skin from the pan.

Add the thyme sprigs to the pan.

Transfer the pan to the oven and bake until the fish flakes easily with a fork, 6 to 8 minutes.

Remove fish from the oven and transfer to paper towels.

To prepare the scampi, in a large skillet, heat the garlic oil over medium-high heat.

Add the garlic, shallots and fennel seeds and cook, stirring frequently, until the shallots are translucent, about 2 minutes.

Add the celery and capers and cook until the celery has softened, about 2 minutes.

Add the wine to the pan and cook until it is reduced by half, about 1 minute.

Add the vinegar, lemon zest and juice, tomatoes, and basil and cook for 1 to 2 minutes to incorporate the flavors and heat the tomatoes through.

Serve the bass fillets topped with the tomato scampi.

Serves 4.

Tautog with Tomatoes, Basil and Littleneck Clams

submitted by Ed Henley

4 tautog fillets
Salt and pepper
2 TBSP olive oil
1 TBSP butter
3 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
1/2 lb. ripe plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped, 1 1/2 cups
15 to 20 basil leaves, washed and julienned
1 cup white wine
24 littleneck clams, live, unopened shells, well washed

Season the tautog fillets with salt and pepper.

In a large skillet, with a lid, over medium heat, heat the olive oil and butter.

Add the fish and saute on each side for 3 minutes.

Remove the fish and keep warm.

To the pan, add the garlic and cook 1 minute.

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Add the tomatoes and cook 2 minutes.

Add the basil and wine and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat and simmer.

Place the fish back in the pan over the tomatoes.

Place clams around sides of saute pan.

Return to simmer and cover with the lid.

Cook until clams open, about 3 minutes.

Serves 4.

Mary Ann's Incredible Striped Bass

submitted by Mary Ann Bradley

2 shallots, minced
1 red bell pepper, diced small
12 oz. mixed cherry tomatoes, halved
4 garlic cloves, minced
1/4 cup capers
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup low-sodium vegetable, chicken or fish stock
A few thyme sprigs
1 tsp. fine sea salt, divided
4 striped bass fillets
2 TBSP butter, diced
1/4 cup basil leaves, julienned
Freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 400-degrees with a rack in the center.

Into a large, heavy pan with a lid place the shallots, bell pepper, tomatoes, garlic,

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capers, wine, stock, thyme and 1/2 tsp. of salt.

Bake, covered, for 20 minutes.

Pat striped bass fillets dry with paper towels.

Carefully remove pan from oven and arrange filets in pan on top of sauce.

Sprinkle fish with remaining 1/2 tsp. salt and dot with butter.

Return pan to oven, uncovered.

Bake until fish is just cooked through, about 15 to 20 minutes depending on thickness.

To serve, place a cup of orzo into 4 shallow bowls and top each with a piece of fish.

Spoon some veggies and plenty of sauce overtop, and sprinkle with basil and freshly ground black pepper.

Serves 4.

Ginger and Garlic Roasted Swordfish

submitted by Donna West

2 TBSP butter, softened at

room temperature

2 tsp. chopped fresh parsley

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 tsp. ginger, grated

1/8 tsp. crushed red pepper

1/2 tsp. lemon peel, grated

1 TBSP olive oil

2 swordfish fillets

Preheat oven to 400-degrees.

In a small bowl blend together the butter, parsley, garlic, ginger, red pepper and lemon peel.

Season the swordfish to taste with salt.

In an ovenproof skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat.

Place the swordfish in the skillet and cook until browned, 2- 3 minutes.

Turn the swordfish over and transfer the pan to the oven. Roast until just cooked through, about 8-10 minutes or until desired doneness.

Add seasoned butter



On October 19th, A.J. Kolb caught this good size dolphin while soaking chunks of mackerel on the "Outlaw X" in the Baltimore Canyon with his dad, Tony Kolb and Capt. Mike Hutchins.

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Bean Keagle caught and released her very first white marlin while fishing on the "Bubblehead" with Chris Butler, Susan Braniecki, Sophie Keen, Cori Butler, Darlene Botts, Capt. Buddy Whetzel and mate James Doerzbach. Bean hooked the white marlin on a trolled ballyhoo outside the Poor Man's Canyon.

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mixture to the same skillet. Allow it to cook slightly over medium-high heat until melted and bubbling.

Transfer swordfish to a serving dish

Pour butter sauce over swordfish fillets and serve with your favorite side dishes

Serves 2.

Baked Flounder au Gratin

4 flounder fillets
1/4 cup melted butter
1 cup Panko bread crumbs
2/3 cups freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano cheese
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
Black pepper, to taste
1 tsp. dried thyme
Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Preheat the oven to 400-degrees.

Place the flounder fillets on a lightly oiled baking dish.

Brush the tops with 1 TBSP

of melted butter.

In a small bowl, combine the Panko bread crumbs, grated cheese, kosher salt, ground black pepper and thyme.

Add the rest of the melted butter to the crumb mixture and mix it until the crumb mixture becomes buttery, crumbly and golden in color.

Sprinkle the crumb mixture over the fillets and lightly press down into the fillets.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, or until the fish is opaque, flakes easily with a fork and reaches an internal temperature of 145° F.

Serves 4.

Sauteed Black Sea Bass With Sweet Red Pepper

4 sea bass fillets, skin left on
Salt
Ground pepper
3 TBSP milk

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- 2 TBSP flour
- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 2 sweet red bell peppers, cored, seeded and cut into 1 1/4-inch cubes
- 2 TBSP finely chopped shallots
- 2 TBSP butter
- 2 TBSP lemon juice
- 4 TBSP basil, coarsely chopped

Sprinkle fillets with salt and pepper.

Pour milk into a shallow bowl.

Place flour in a flat dish.

Dip each fillet in milk and then dredge well in the flour.

Heat oil in a nonstick skillet large enough to hold fillets in one layer.

Add fillets skin-side down over medium-to-high heat and cook about 3 minutes or until golden brown on one side. It is very important to cook the fillets fast.

Turn fish and cook until golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes.

Transfer fish to a warm

serving dish.

Add red pepper to skillet and salt and pepper to taste.

Cook and stir over medium heat for about 1 minute.

Add shallots and cook briefly, but do not brown.

Add butter and cook, stirring.

Add lemon juice and stir.

Pour mixture over fish.

Sprinkle with basil and serve immediately.

Serves 4.

You Won't Believe It's Bluefish

submitted by Alan Miller

2 snapper bluefish fillets, with skin left on

1 1/2 lbs. potatoes

2/3 cup olive oil

2 TBSP garlic, chopped

1/4 cup parsley, chopped

Salt

Pepper

Preheat oven to 450-degrees.

Peel and slice the potatoes

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thinly (about 1/8-inch thick).

In a 10x16 casserole dish (preferably enameled cast iron), mix the potatoes with 1/2 the garlic, 1/2 the parsley, 1/2 the olive oil and a liberal amount of salt and pepper.

Arrange the potatoes evenly over the bottom and sides of the dish.

Place the dish in the upper third of the preheated oven, and bake for 15 minutes.

Remove and place the fillets, skin side down, on the potatoes.

Mix the remaining olive oil, garlic and parsley and pour over the fillets.

Salt and pepper liberally and return the casserole to the oven for 10 minutes.

Remove the dish from the oven, and using a spoon, baste the fish and exposed potatoes with some of the oil in dish.

Loosen the browned potatoes from the sides of the dish and replace with unbrowned potatoes from the dish bottom.

Bake 5 minutes longer and serve piping hot.

Serves 2-3.

Garlic Butter Shrimp

submitted by Julie Regine

1 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined

6 TBSP butter, divided

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1/2 tsp. black pepper

6 garlic cloves, minced

1/2 cup chicken stock

1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes

2 TBSP lemon juice

2 TBSP parsley, minced

Heat 2 TBSP of butter in a large, heavy-bottomed skillet over medium heat.

Add shrimp to the skillet and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes or until shrimp is cooked through.

Remove shrimp to a plate and set aside.

Add garlic to the skillet and cook, stirring constantly, for 30 seconds.



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In mid-October, Dave Beach, II is all smiles after fooling a pair of flounder with live bunker while fishing off the 2nd Street Bulkhead in Ocean City. A storm had passed through the previous day, so the water was murky and the wind was against the tide, but Dave was still able to hook the 19 and 21 1/2-inch flatties.

Add chicken stock and whisk to combine.

Simmer until stock has reduced by half, about 5 to 10 minutes.

Add the remaining 4 TBSP butter, lemon juice and red pepper to the sauce.

Stir to melt the butter and cook for 2 more minutes.

Remove from the heat and return the shrimp to the sauce.

Sprinkle the parsley over the top and stir to combine.

Serve immediately.

Sticky Honey Garlic Butter Shrimp

submitted by Bill Regine

1/2 cup honey

1/4 cup soy sauce

4 cloves garlic, minced

Juice of one small lemon

1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined

2 TBSP butter

Green onions, for garnish

In a small bowl, whisk honey, soy sauce, garlic and lemon.

Add half of the sauce to the shrimp and let marinate for 30 minutes.

In a medium sized skillet add the butter.

Add the shrimp and discard marinade.

Season with salt and pepper.

Increase heat to medium high.

Cook until the shrimp turns pink, about 2 minutes each side.

Add the reserved marinade and pour over shrimp.

Cook until the sauce starts to thicken and coats the shrimp.

Garnish with green onions.

The Fish Bowl

1/2 cup Nerds Candy

1/2 gallon Goldfish bowl

5 oz. Tito's vodka

5 oz. Malibu rum

3 oz. Blue Curacao

6 oz. Sweet & Sour Mix

16 oz. Pineapple Juice

16 oz. Sprite

3 slices each of lemon, lime and orange

4 Swedish Fish candies

Sprinkle nerds on bottom of goldfish bowl to look like gravel.

Fill bowl with ice.


Add remaining ingredients.



Serve with 18-inch party straws.

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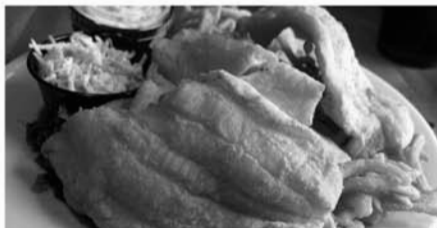



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Flounder slayer and one of the nicest human beings on the planet, Birt Webley was at it again, this time catching a 20-incher while fishing on the headboat, "Bay Bee" with his son, Bryce and Capt. Cale Layton.



Robert Remo, John West and Mark Robbins ventured out to the Baltimore Canyon on the "Black Magic" and returned with 5 wreckfish, weighing between 25 and 40 lbs., 2 barrellfish and 12 blackbelly rosefish. All of the fish were caught on cut bait. Pictured back at the dock at Sunset Marina.



Paul Trovitch was fishing with his son, Chris Trovitch at the South Jetty when he hooked into this 8 lb. sheepshead while using crabs for bait. The duo released 6 other fish during their trip.

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On November 13th, anglers on the "Boys Toy" jumped on a hot swordfish bite in the Poor Man's Canyon and ended up catching 4, weighing up to 90 lbs. in addition to a pair of bigeye tuna that weighed up to 65 lbs. Fishing on the "Boys Toy" were Dan Pettit and Mike Fitzpatrick of Cape May, NJ, Josh Gessler of Rehoboth Beach, DE, Paul Daisey of Millville, DE and Eric Piatelli of Dan Veers, MA. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



In early October, the Webb family from Mechanicsburg, PA had a great day flounder fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente, returning to the Ocean City Fishing Center with 6 in the box. All of the fish were caught on white Gulp Swimming Mulletts in the East Channel and the Fish Bowl. Their largest flattie measured 20-inches. Pictured are Jason, Jackie, Carter and Grady Webb.

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It was "mahi fingers for everyone" after the charter boat, "Restless Lady" arrived back at the Talbot Street Pier. Wendy Holmes, Director of Search & Rescue for NOAA jumped on an open boat trip and the anglers loaded up on mahi while fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon. In addition to the dolphin, the anglers also released a sunfish during their trip.

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Being Prepared

We dropped anchor and stepped off the skiff and onto 50-acres of beautiful white sandbar or "flat" as they're known down in the Florida Keys. Hoping to tangle with some of the local barracuda, my friend Rob and I each pulled a rod from the boat then waded off in separate directions.

I had only gone 50-yards through the knee-deep water when I noticed a "cuda" holding motionlessly in the slight current. An easy cast put my lure in front of and 20-yards beyond the fish. I zipped the noisy artificial 10-foot past its nose and in the blink of an eye the 3-foot long predator went from 0-60 and caught its prey. Ten minutes later, I pulled a pair of pliers out of my pocket, carefully navigated the hook out of the barracuda's toothy smile, released it, and started looking for another.

That's when I noticed that Rob, who was about 100-yards on the other side of the boat, was hooked up to a nice fish of his own. Watching as he fought the big cuda I was confused as to why, when he got it in close, he immediately started wading back to the boat with his catch

in tow. I then realized that the only reason he would do such a thing was if he didn't have his pliers with him. If you value your fingers you don't unhook a barracuda without pliers!

Rob doubled back to the boat, de-hooked his cuda and headed back out. A while later I could see Rob, now about 200-yards from the boat, was into another fish. A few minutes later he was "again" making the long wade back to the boat, but this time there was no fish in tow. I wondered what didn't he have this time? After spending just a moment at the boat, Rob was trudging away again in quest of another fish. By then I had caught four!

Eventually the tide was such that we had to get out of there, but not before Rob had made a third back and forth trip. When we met back at the boat I asked him what the heck just happened. He informed me that "yes" the first trip was to get his pliers, but the second was to take the cell phone out of his pocket so if he stumbled it wouldn't take a bath with him, and the third trip was necessary because after catching his second fish his lure was so messed up that it had to be replaced.

In the time we were on the flat I caught eight barracuda to his two, not because I was any luckier or more skilled, but simply because I left the boat prepared to catch fish. It only took a second to get my phone and wallet out of my pockets and replace them with pliers, a rag, a few extra lures, a little leader material, a bottle of water and a clean dry cloth to dry my sunglasses with. I knew I'd never be more than a couple hundred yards from the boat, but I didn't want to have to return to it until I was good and ready. In this case my little bit of preparation paid off in fish, while Rob's lack there of...well, I guess you see my point.

Prepare for surprises

Fishing is always full of surprises and no one can predict exactly what's going to happen during the course of a day. That's the way it's supposed to be - it's what keeps our time on the water always interesting and always fun. But proper preparation is the foundation and absolutely the most crucial component in any successful fishing trip. So, although anglers can't plan for everything, they can, and certainly should, plan their trips out as best as possible. And when I say "plan" I mean "plan for success" so that from start to finish anglers will be where they need to be when they need to be there, with good bait and tackle to catch the fish, the needed gaffs or nets to land the fish and the necessary coolers with ice to bring the fish home in. A to Z - all bases covered - start to finish.

While a lot of readers might be inclined to respond to such a suggestion with a resolute "NO Kidding" after decades of fishing alongside many thousands of anglers of all ages and skill levels, I'm no longer surprised to encounter fishermen who blow excellent opportunities to catch fish simply because they were not prepared for what might happen in the course of their day. If you want verification, just walk across the Rt. 50

Bridge when it's loaded with anglers and take note of how many are prepared with a bridge net in case they actually catch something big. It won't be many!

So much more is required to properly execute a successful fishing trip than simply making sure there is enough gas in the boat or ice in the cooler. Every trip should start with a "goal" that can be very precise or quite broad. Maybe you want to catch some flounder, a tuna, a 10 lb. rockfish, win a tournament or just go out and have fun fishing for whatever will bite. Clearly recognizing the "goal of the day" is the first step in accomplishing it.

With a goal in mind, it's easier to determine how to prepare to make it happen. You might want to catch a red drum, but if you know nothing about catching them the first step is going to be to learn as much as you can about how it's done - seasons, locations, baits, tackle and regulations. Suddenly you're back in school and it's time to do your homework! But in this case "cheating" is OK, as there's nothing wrong with hooking up with experienced friends or professional guides who are willing to help you out. But be careful if the internet is your only resource because Facebook and other online sites are chock full of information posted by folks who think they know what they're talking about but actually don't. Bad and misleading information is rampant online and can easily send novice anglers off in the wrong direction.

Schedule the plan

With a goal in mind, anglers then need to prepare a schedule to accomplish it. Basic goals like "getting the kids out fishing for a couple hours" might be as simple as deciding to go the first Saturday it's not raining, with a departure time as soon as the little ones finish watching "Paw Patrol" or "Peppa Pig" and returning in time for their afternoon nap. On the other hand, a successful overnight tuna and

Continued on page 62

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Joe McNeal of Upper Darby, PA caught 2 of the largest tautog he has ever caught while fishing on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest. Joe hooked the blackfish on white legger crabs while dropping on ocean structure. The fish weighed 10 lbs. 15 oz. and 15 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Chum Lines, cont'd.

swordfishing trip might need to be scheduled around such variables as moon phases, water temperatures, time in-between tournaments, work schedules, bridge openings and when the fish cleaners will be available.

With goals and a schedule set, the next step is planning to have the right (and enough) bait, tackle and equipment on hand to get the job done. Does bait need to be purchased, caught or thawed the day before, or the morning of the trip? Are rigs or artificial lures ready to go? How about ice? This part of the planning process not only requires one to consider how much tackle, bait and ice will be used on a normal trip, but also how much extra might be needed if some of it is used up more quickly than anticipated. The goal should be to take what is needed with a little extra - just in case, but not so much that money is wasted on bait or tackle that will never be used.

www.coastalfisherman.net Tackle and Equipment

When it comes to tackle and equipment, being prepared doesn't necessarily mean "more" stuff, it means having an adequate supply of the "right" stuff. Hooks, weights, leader, lures, gaffs, nets, gloves and so much more is needed to do what we do in the pursuit of fish. And these things need to be ready to go at a moment's notice because when a big fish is at hand your net is no good to you if it's tangled up with a bunch of fishing rods under a pile of life jackets! Flying-gaffs, de-hookers, tail-ropes and other specialized equipment that don't get frequent use should be periodically checked for readiness and to keep anglers familiar with where they're at and how to use them. The first time you swing a flying gaff shouldn't be when there's a million dollar tournament winning fish in front of you!

The flip side of loading up on a lot of tackle and equipment is that if your boat

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starts to resemble a floating tackle shop it's probably time to clean house and figure out what is actually being used and what's just taking up space. Too much unnecessary gear can also be counter-productive to a smooth fishing operation!

Choose your fishing partners wisely

Just as important as anything else, when planning-out a fishing trip it's crucial to choose fishing partners who will not be a liability to the goals of the outing. I've had many trips with repeat clients who were ardent anglers and accustomed to spending their fishing day in a certain way. Then, one day they make the mistake of inviting along a friend or family member who is not quite on the same "wavelength" as they are and things don't go so well! Such problems usually revolve around the new person getting seasick, and if that person happens to be their child or "significant other" they're usually (wisely) inclined to put their own desire to fish on hold while they coddle to the needs of their stricken loved one, sometimes to the point of heading in early. So much for that fishing trip!

Other times conflicts arise when the invited guest's attitude toward fishing is vastly different from that of the person who invited them. They might be too intense to allow everyone else to enjoy a relaxing day on the water or they might be more interested in drinking and fooling around than actually fishing. More than once I've had repeat clients apologize to me at the end of the trip for the actions of one of their guests and swear that they will never invite them again.

Preparing for a charter

A huge advantage to chartering a boat or a guide rather than trying to do it all yourself is that most, if not all, of the preparation work will be done for you, at least as far as the fishing end of it goes. However, anglers will still have

some "getting ready" work to do on their own which, depending upon the boat and the nature of the trip, might be as simple as showing up on time or as involved as bringing your own bait and tackle and having the skills to use it.

Good communications with whoever it is they'll be fishing with prior to the trip can be critical to ensuring that the day goes off as planned. I once had a fellow who chartered my boat for a day of fishing off Ocean City, but a half hour before our departure he called to tell me that he couldn't find the marina. When I asked where he was and he gave me a street name I'd never heard of I suddenly realized that, unfortunately for both of us, he was calling from Ocean City, New Jersey! To that point we had only conversed via email, but when he booked the trip I sent him all the necessary details he needed to know about the trip including "where we were." But by his own admittance, he didn't read any of it!

While that was a pretty extreme case, it certainly wasn't the first time I've had clients book trips with us who end up not having a clue what they're getting into. I've had folks show up in shorts, t-shirt and flip-flops when it's 55-degrees out on the ocean, come out on sweltering hot days without a drop of drinking water and some have even stepped aboard with absolutely no idea what we were going to be fishing for!

Having adequate bait

On my way to the boat last summer I made a pit stop in one of our local tackle shops to get some live eels to use on our charter that day. I was in the same shop the night before and didn't get them then because I saw they had plenty and figured it would be easier in the morning and I wouldn't have to worry about keeping them alive overnight. So with just minutes to spare before I was scheduled to leave the dock with a group of paying customers, I hustled into the tackle shop with my eel bucket

only to learn that a few hours prior the eels did what eels do best, they escaped! Apparently, early in the morning they made their prison break by knocking the screen off the drain tube and escaping down the pipe. It just goes to show how smart a bunch of eels can be compared to a charter captain who was too dumb to get good bait when he had the chance! That morning, live eels were not on the menu for the fish under my boat.

Regardless of the type of fishing that's going to be done, I don't have to remind anyone about the importance of having good bait. Whether fresh or frozen, live or dead, top quality bait will always out-fish the alternative. But acquiring quality bait is not always as easy as slipping into your favorite tackle shop and picking it up. No matter if you're after frozen, fresh or live bait, the quality and quantity of bait that a shop has on hand at any given time can vary wildly from day to day and sometimes hour to hour. The last thing an

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angler who is ready to depart on a trip should do is put 100% faith in the notion that they can walk into a shop and get exactly the bait in the quality and quantity they need. Bait inventories in even the best of tackle shops will vary wildly throughout the season because the supply of bait coming to them is not always as consistent as they would like. You can bet that on Friday evenings and the days just prior to a major tournament, bait inventories in tackle shops will dwindle and what's left to choose from will have been picked through and refused by a lot of other fishermen. Anglers who catch their own bait also learn that if they wait until the day they actually need to use the bait to pull their traps or throw their nets they might find themselves SOL. There are no guarantees in fishing, even for catching bait!

The best way to stay on top of the need for good bait is to be in a position to acquire the bait when it becomes available, which in turn requires one to have the necessary storage

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facilities for that bait, whether that means buying a big freezer, building or buying a good setup for keeping live bait healthy at the dock for extended periods or just having a really good cooler and ice for short term holding.

It can also be helpful to know when your favorite tackle shop gets their supplies of bait. If you learn that sand fleas are always delivered on Tuesday morning, you'll probably not want to try to buy your bait on Sunday or Monday. Likewise with frozen bait, if a shop gets all it's ballyhoo in one spring shipment, then the best selection will be in the early season and it might be wise to stock your freezer early because after that it will be pot-luck on what you get.

Still, you can do everything right to ensure you head out on the water with the best bait in the world, but if you don't also have a plan to keep it fresh and lively until it's hanging on a hook then all your efforts will have been in vain. Bait should be kept with the same care one would keep fish fillets they

would eat themselves. Fresh-cut and whole bait can typically be kept in good shape for at least a couple days when properly stored on top of or surrounded by lots of ice - not soaking in slushy ice water in the bottom of the cooler.

Obviously, using live bait requires the likes of an on-board livewell or, at the very least, a decent bait bucket that will contain the bait and allow for good water circulation and exchange. You also need a plan to keep monitoring the condition of the bait to make sure there are no mass-casualties during the course of the day. Late one summer when the dolphin around the pot-markers had become very finicky towards cut bait I came up with a plan to take some minnows along as live bait figuring they might be just the ticket to sway the fish into biting. So one morning I threw a couple pints of minnows in our livewell and off we went. Unfortunately, no sooner had we shut down to start fishing that my mate came in the cabin to inform me that all the

minnows were dead! I was astonished - minnows can usually survive in anything. I couldn't understand how it could be until I asked my mate if he cleaned the bait-well last night with bleach and if he rinsed it out in the morning before putting in the bait. He answered, "Yes" and "Apparently no." Try as you might, I guess you can't plan for everything.

Planning done - fishing begun!

With the advance planning behind and the trip underway, it might seem that once the fishing begins anglers should finally have a chance to kick back and "fish" without worrying about what comes next. Not so! Anglers should constantly be thinking and planning one, two and three steps ahead as they take into consideration how well the fish are biting, changes in the tides, the weather, the time of day, reports from other fishermen and anything else that could affect how on-track they are at

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achieving their goal for the day.

Even in this age where money will get you all kinds of high-tech gadgets and electronics, thank God "fishing" is still "fishing" with no shortcuts available online or off a shelf that will guarantee success. No one can "buy" a fish onto their hook. We all get lucky once in a while, but consistent success comes to those who take the time and make the extra effort to "be" and to "stay" prepared for their time on the water. "Proper Planning and Preparation Prevents Piss Poor Performance" is the military's 7-P's adage. But I'm thinking that it's a good fit for fishermen as well, because whether you're trying to win a war or trying to catch a fish - planning is planning. And planning IS IMPORTANT!

Capt. Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center. During the winter months, Capt. Mark runs charters in the Lower Keys.



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There were a lot of sea bass limits around the rail of the headboat, "Morning Star" during this trip in late November. Mike Marcus took top fish honors with a 19 1/2-incher. Also pictured are Brian, Caleb, Gideon and Earl Sheats, Sophia, Roxanna and Dave Rohe, Dawn Tipsword and Tim Odell. All of the fish were caught with clams and squid on ocean structure. Capt. Monty Hawkins was at the wheel and Doug Stancombe and Daniel Altfather worked the deck. The highlight of the trip was 9-year-old, Sophia Rohe hooking and landing a doubleheader of sea bass all by herself!

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Brett Selby of Keedysville, MD took Top Fish honors during this trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins with an 18 1/2-inch black sea bass. Brett hooked the fish in rough conditions while dropping squid and clams on ocean structure. The "Morning Star" is docked at the OC Fishing Center.



On November 12th, Brian Frey and Brandon Ksiazek from Middletown, DE, Shane Martin from Townsend, DE, Steve Redden from Georgetown, DE and Cory Gambacorta from Millsboro, DE were fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon and captured 7 yellowfin tuna on the troll. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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WEIGHT: 276.5
ANGLER: Adam Glushakow
BOAT: Pumpin' Hard
DATE: 7/24/15 HUK

It was another exciting Huk Big Fish Classic at the Talbot Street Pier last weekend, and even though only 15 boats of the 46 entered fished on the final day, the action at the scales on Sunday was very exciting. One of the last boats to arrive at the tournament scale was the "Pumpin' Hard" with a 276.5 lb. bigeye tuna caught by Adam Glushakow of Salisbury, MD that took 1st place in the Heaviest Yellowfin Division. Their 2-fish stringer of 383 lbs. also gave them 1st place in the Heaviest Stringer Division. Both fish were caught in the Norfolk Canyon with the yellowfin hooked on a dink bait fished from their long rigger in 50 fathoms. They then moved into 200 fathoms where the bigeye attacked a rubber ballyhoo with an flander at 8:30 PM Saturday night, and took 90 minutes to get to the boat. Fishing with Adam was Dan Burt, Roy Bens, Capt. Butch Davis and mates Mike Burt and Dan Burt. For their 1st place finishes, the "Pumpin' Hard" team took home \$95,850 in award money.



Maryland State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Atlantic Cod	24 lbs.	Fred Brungart	05/31/13	38 miles S.E. of OC Inlet
Bluefish	23 lbs. 8 oz.	Lillian Morris	1974	Assateague Island
	23 lbs. 8 oz.	Kevin Weber	10/07/13	Rt. 50 Bridge
Cobia	94.6 lbs.	Emma Zajdel	06/30/16	Little Gull Shoal
Dolphin	67 lbs. 8 oz.	Kim Lawson	1985	53 miles off Ocean City
Drum, Black	79 lbs.	Stanley Ilyes	1985	Bass Grounds
Drum, Red	70 lbs.	Robert Light	1977	Assateague Island
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs.	Anthony Vacari	1974	Assateague Island
Flounder, Winter	5 lbs. 2 oz.	Kevin Twilley	06/23/15	26 miles off Ocean City
Kingfish, Roundhead	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Grace Walker	1975	Assateague Island
Mackerel, King	47 lbs.	Gerald Kauffman	1985	Great Gull Shoal
Marlin, Blue	1,062 lbs.	Robert Farris	08/05/09	Baltimore Canyon
Marlin, White	135 lbs.	George Pierson	1980	Poor Man's Canyon
Porgy	6 lbs. 3 oz.	Pearl Hoppie	1966	Fenwick Shoal
Sea Bass	8 lbs.	Hayward Madison	1978	Jackspot
Sheepshead	18 lbs.	Robert Martin	09/22/17	South Jetty
Snowy Grouper	66 lbs.	Gregory Benn	07/30/12	Norfolk Canyon
Spadefish	11 lbs. 6.5 oz.	Noel Lohr	2004	Triple Wrecks
Striped Bass	57.2 lbs.	Gary Smith	2006	Assateague Island
Tautog	28.8 lbs.	Kenneth Westerfeld	01/02/15	Wreck off Ocean City
Tilefish, Blueline	20 lbs.	Bob Purcell	09/12/12	Norfolk Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	62 lbs.	Steve Doctor	2009	Baltimore Canyon
Triggerfish, Gray	5 lbs. 2 oz.	Wayne Gower	10/31/14	Great Eastern Reef
Trout, Grey (Weakfish)	16 lbs.	Donald Cannon	1976	Ocean City Inlet
Trout, Speckled	13 lbs.	Jack Miller	1973	Sinepuxent Bay
Tuna, Bigeye	375 lbs. 8 oz.	Cecil Browne	1977	Ocean City
Tuna, Blackfin	32 lbs.	Bob Zang	1998	30 fathom line
Tuna, Bluefin	625 lbs.	James Daniels, IV	1975	45 miles off Ocean City
Tuna, False Albacore	22 lbs. 8 oz.	Kevin Sheckells	1995	Third Lump
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	74 lbs.	Victor Gardner II	2005	Baltimore Canyon
Tuna, Yellowfin	236 lbs. 8 oz.	Mark Bennett	2002	Washington Canyon
Wahoo	131 lbs.	John Schaar	07/01/14	Rockpile
White Perch	1.65 lbs.	Ryan Timmons	07/30/16	Ayres Creek
Sharks				
Black Tip	193 lbs.	Brian Zysk	1991	Ocean City
Blue	280 lbs.	Martin Waltman	1997	Ocean City
Hammerhead, Scalloped	266 lbs. 8 oz.	Scott Cusick	08/08/12	Washington Canyon
Hammerhead, Smooth	375 lbs.	George Ford V	2004	Parking Lot
Mako	876 lbs.	Jim Hughes	2009	Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher	642 lbs.	Brent Applegit	2009	Fingers
Tiger	1,210 lbs.	Grace Czerniak	1983	Ocean City

Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 11, 2018



In early December, Deb Grierson of Lewes, DE was fishing on the point off Cape Henlopen when she hooked this 32 1/2-inch striped bass with a chunk of mullet. The fish weighed 11 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Josh Morgan of Germantown, MD took advantage of his very first saltwater fishing trip, catching this 17 3/4-inch flounder while drifting next to the Rt. 50 Bridge on the charter boat, "Helbent" with Capt. Jeff Grimes. The flattie ate a live minnow at the beginning of the outgoing tide. Josh and his buddies released 16 flounder and 6 black sea bass during their trip.

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Rob Carincross from East Peoria, IL is one happy angler after boating this 11 lb. sheepshead during a trip on the charter boat, "Grizzly" with his sister, his brother-in-law and Capt. Carey Evans. The fish was one of 4 caught this day at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay. All of the action came on sand fleas, including Laura Pitts' 10.25 pounder.

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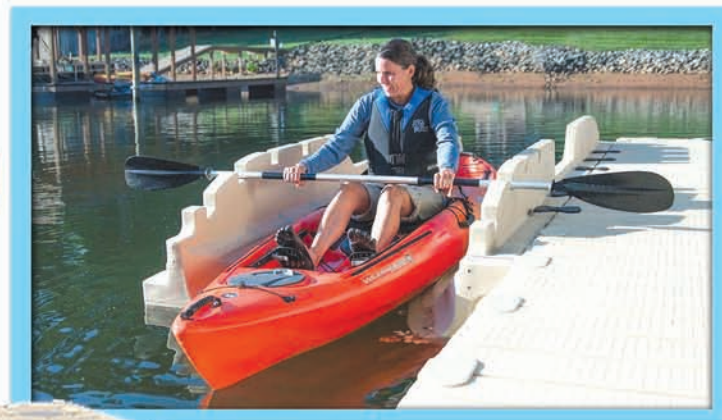
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Daiker & Schoen sweep inaugural CBSFA Flounder Tournament



The team of Rich Daiker of Reisterstown, MD and Kenny Schoen of Frankford, DE took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the inaugural Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder Tournament. Rich caught the top three fish measuring 23 1/2, 22 5/8 and 21 1/2-inches. The duo, fishing on the new "Delicious", ended up with 7 keeper flounder during their 2 days of fishing with all of the flatties caught on live bunker very close to the Rt. 50 Bridge. For their sweep of the tournament, the anglers took home a check for \$1,243. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.



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Sam Fuerst caught and released this big tautog, estimated at over 13 lbs., while fishing with a 1 oz. jig tipped with a green crab, all on 15 lb. test line. The blackfish was hooked in 40-feet of water on an inshore wreck during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



Donny Holdren, Alison Cacchio and John Cacchio jumped on an excellent October flounder bite, ending their day with 6 keepers in the box after drifting white Gulp artificial baits in the East Channel. The fish ranged in length from 16 1/2 to 19-inches.



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Kaleigh Jezierski and Cassidy Hammock each caught their very first mahi while fishing on the "Haulin n Ballin" with Conner, Aaron and Kristin Jezierski, Capt. Howard Lynch and mate Burro Gonzalez. The mahi were hooked on the troll south of the Washington Canyon.

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Aly Matha of Greenbackville, VA was fishing on the "South Bound" with her dad, Mike Matha when she hooked this female dolphin in the Washington Canyon.



In mid-December, Mike Witmer caught this 36-inch striped bass while trolling mojos off the Bethany, DE coast. Mike was fishing with Jason Muller of Ocean City, MD who caught and released a 40-incher during the trip (see page 32).

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It was a great day for catching sheephead for anglers fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat, "On the Run" in early October. David King, Sr., Daniel King, David King, Jr., Tyler King and Paul Gibbs teamed up to hook 9 keepers in addition to releasing several smaller fish, several tautog and a striped bass. The largest sheephead was caught by Junior and weighed 12 lbs. on the scale at Bahia Marina.



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During the Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder Tournament, Big Bird Cropper of Powellville, MD muscled in a 19 5/8-inch flounder while drifting a red Gulp artificial bait in the West Channel with "Neighbor Dave" Leizear, also from Powellville, MD. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City, MD.



While tog fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, you can imagine what Garrett Weir from New York, NY thought when this 59 lb. black drum grabbed the green crab he was soaking on an inshore wreck. New state record... television interviews... name in lights, etc!



David Cinnelli from Mount Laurel, NJ and Mark Bitzel from Catonsville, MD caught a pair of cobia while fishing with Chris Trovitch at Little Gull Shoal. The fish were "firsts" for both anglers and were hooked on live bunker. The anglers also released 2 other cobia during their trip.. The duo was joined by cobia fanatic, Chris Trovitch.

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Delaware State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bluefish	24.8 lbs.	Luis Mispireta	11/16/15	Del-Jersey-Land Reef
Cobia 	79.4 lbs.	John Burbage	08/10/18	Bethany Coast
Croaker	5 lbs. 3.5 oz.	Catherine Simpson	1980	Indian River
Dolphin	56 lbs. 9 oz.	Butch Emmert	07/06/14	Baltimore Canyon
Drum, Black	115 lbs.	Kenneth Smith	1978	Delaware Bay
Drum, Red	75 lbs.	James Vandetti	06/15/76	Unknown
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs. 15 oz.	William Kendall	1974	Indian River Inlet
Flounder, Winter	No classification			
Kingfish, Roundhead	4 lbs.	Billy Hastings	1973	Bethany Beach
Mackerel, King	48 lbs. 9 oz.	Gordon Harris	1992	"B" Buoy
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs. 4 oz.	Eric Ludwig	2000	Light Ship
Marlin, Blue	820 lbs.	Bruce King	1986	Poor Man's Canyon
Marlin, White	120 lbs.	William Garner, Jr.	1972	Baltimore Canyon
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz.	Herman Schmidt	1979	Not recorded
Sea Bass	7 lbs. 6 oz.	Steve Samluk	1988	Fenwick Shoal
Sheepshead	17.1 lbs.	Dave Walker	09/30/14	Delaware Bay reefsite
Spadefish	No classification			
Striped Bass	52 lbs.	Ben Smith	12/08/12	Surf @ 3R's Road
Swordfish	358 lbs.	Kurt Lorenz	1978	Poor Man's Canyon
Tarpon	No classification			
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 oz.	Glen Cave	2005	Delaware Bay
Tilefish, Blueline	22.2 lbs.	Andy Orr	08/19/15	Baltimore Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	46 lbs. 8 oz.	Tom Schanno	08/25/17	Baltimore Canyon
Triggerfish, Grey	6.34 lbs.	Buddy Masten	09/30/12	Ice Breakers
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	19 lbs. 2 oz.	William Thomas	1989	Delaware Bay
Trout, Speckled	No classification			
Tuna, Bigeye	No classification			
Tuna, Blackfin	No classification			
Tuna, Bluefin	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	2005	Atlantic Ocean
Tuna, False Albacore	17 lbs. 9 oz.	Scott Werner	1980	30 Fathom Line
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	1987	Atlantic Ocean
Tuna, Yellowfin	No classification			
Wahoo	106 lbs.	Will Stahlgren	2007	Atlantic Ocean
Sharks				
Black Tip	No classification			
Blue	No classification			
Hammerhead, Scalloped	No classification			
Hammerhead, Smooth	No classification			
Mako	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	2000	Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher	No classification			
Tiger	No classification			

Note: all Atlantic Coast records recognized as of December 11, 2018



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FISH STORIES

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



This past October I was sitting in my truck when my cell phone rang. It was my friend Capt. Ron Gladkowski of the "Reel Instigator". We talked for a few minutes just to catch up. He asked how my Mom and Dad were doing. He and Dad would always give each other a hard time about their similar Philadelphia backgrounds. After our small talk was done Ron told me that he needed to schedule an insurance renewal survey on his boat. The "Reel Instigator" was due to be hauled for the season sometime later in the month. I told him I would get it on my list, but that I was heading to Australia at the beginning of November and it might not be until after I got back. He told me that would work fine and wished me luck on my trip.

Little did I know that would be the last time I would speak to him. Two days later I saw a Facebook post from one of his family members saying that he had passed away. The pictures accompanying the post showed some of the things Ron was passionate about. A Philadelphia Eagles helmet, a Michelob Ultra, an Ocean City Marlin Club sticker and Ron holding a fish. There is no doubt that those were a few of Ron's favorite things.

The thing that I will always remember about Ron is how he was always surrounded by his friends and family. They were truly his whole world. The fishing, football and other accompaniments just happened to fit in nicely. I would like to dedicate this article to my friend Ron.

About three hours into the flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane I realized that the 787 Dreamliner was incredibly misnamed.

A more appropriate name would be something like the 787 Sardine Can or the 787 People Crammed Into a 650 Person PlaneLiner! But I was on my way to Australia to chase black marlin so the lack of comfort was well worth it. For those of you that do not know the geography let me bring you up to speed on what it takes to get to the Land Down Under.

My trip began with my airport transportation picking me up in West Ocean City at 5:30 AM East Coast time on Wednesday morning. From BWI my first flight was to Charlotte, NC. I was traveling with my good friend and long time charter client Brooke. In Charlotte we met up with his grandson Andrew who would be joining us on our

adventure. The flight from BWI to Charlotte was not bad. About an hour and a half. We had a couple hour layover in Charlotte before heading to Los Angeles. We arrived at LAX after a five and a half hour flight. It was around 6:00 PM West Coast time. Our flight to Brisbane did not board until 11:30 PM. Thankfully, Brooke convinced the nice lady at the Qantas Airline business lounge to let us all in under his Premiere membership. The layover passed in relative comfort with plenty of snacks and drinks. Then it was on to Hell Flight. Flying time from LAX to Brisbane is right about 15 hours. Yes, 15! I shared my 900 minutes, give or take, of discomfort with a couple of newlyweds from New York City. Thankfully the young bride was in honeymoon mode and snuggled closely to her hubby for most of the trip. I was fortunate not to be seated next to a big smelly oaf like myself! You may be

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asking what someone does to pass the time on such a lengthy flight. I don't sleep well on planes so I took advantage of the Qantas inflight entertainment library built into the seat back in front of me. Right in front of me. Like eight inches away from my face in front of me once the passenger in front of me reclined the seat. Which they did about five minutes into the trip. I watched Jaws, Caddyshack, I Feel Pretty, Tag, Ant Man and the Wasp and The Spy Who Dumped Me. Following that cinematic marathon the plane landed in Brisbane around 7:00 AM Friday morning Australia time. Australia time is fifteen hours ahead of East Coast time. We cleared into the country and had another two hour layover before our flight to Cairns. Our final flight from Brisbane to Cairns was about 3 hours. Our driver greeted us as we walked out of the airport and had us to the Pullman Reef Hotel and Casino about fifteen minutes later. All said and done, I was checked into my room almost exactly 41 hours after I had walked out of my front door.

Brooke, Andrew and I got ourselves cleaned up and decided to take a walk down the waterfront in Cairns to scare up some food. We settled on an outdoor café that had mud crab and lobsters in tanks on display and a menu with plenty of options. A mud crab is like our Maryland blue crab, but about quadruple the size. Knowing that they don't serve them with Old Bay and Natural Lights I opted not to have the mud crab. Instead I had a combination platter of kangaroo and crocodile steaks. Andrew also has a sense of adventure when it comes to trying new food and he had the same platter plus broiled barramundi (Asian sea bass). Brooke, on the other hand, played it safe and had some pasta with jumbo shrimp. On the walk back to the hotel we made big plans to hit the casino after we took a late

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afternoon nap. Even with the power of youth on his side, Andrew didn't follow through on this plan. I woke briefly around midnight and the next thing I knew it was 6:30 Saturday morning! Brooke also slept straight through from the afternoon. Jet lag beat out the casino!

Our plans for Saturday involved meeting with our driver from the day before to take us up to Cooktown to meet our boat and crew. Cooktown is about a 40 minute flight or a four hour drive. We were told that the drive is quite scenic and we took that option, thankfully. Good and bad luck evened out in the end, so they say, and we definitely hit a couple pieces of good luck. I wasn't going to activate Australia as part of my cell phone plan because I thought it would be nice to be off of the grid for a few weeks. Practicality, however, made me realize that I couldn't go incommunicado for that long and at the last minute I turned

on the Australian package. Had we chosen to fly to Cooktown instead of drive, or if I had not turned on my phone, I would not have gotten the Facebook message from our Captain's wife telling me that the boat was no longer in Cooktown. It was right there in Cairns! She had been emailing and calling Brooke for two days, but he is truly incommunicado. He got rid of his flip phone a few years ago because he didn't like it. That's right, no cell phone period (there are times that I am jealous of that, but this was not one of them!) So an hour and a half into our ride to Cooktown we had to about face and head back to Cairns.

Our luck held out and we were able to book two rooms at the same hotel for the night. That gave us all day Saturday to kill in Cairns. We went to the famous Cock and Bull, home of the Cairns Big Game Fishing Club, for lunch. It is one of the coolest places I have ever been. All sorts of fishing

and hunting memorabilia cover the walls. Mounts of grander black marlin, tiger and great white shark jaws, lions, assorted antlered creatures, old tackle, old photos, you name it. I could have spent many more hours there and not seen everything. The beer was plenty cold too!

Once we finished up lunch we went down to the Esplanade in Cairns and spent the afternoon checking out the shops, street vendors, scenery at the local public pool (which is huge and quite "well populated" on the weekends) and finally the statue commemorating the first grander black marlin ever caught in Cairns. It was an unexpected day of sight seeing and it also served to alleviate any remains of jet lag from the day before. We had a nice dinner at the hotel and turned in early so we would be well rested when we got on the boat the next morning.

There are a couple of options when it comes to fishing for black marlin on the Great Barrier Reef. A single day trip is one, but not a good one. The fish are not very active in the morning and the best spots are at least an hour from the marina, more likely several hours, and you would miss out on the best bite while returning to the marina. Few serious anglers choose this option. The other two options are a Mothership and Game Boat or a live-aboard Game Boat. We chose the latter. This was an extremely pricey trip to begin with and the Mothership option would have tripled the fishing cost at the very least!

At 9:00 AM on Sunday morning we climbed aboard the "Bounty Hunter", a 43-foot O'Brien built in Australia. That would be the last time we touched terra firma for a week. Our crew consisted of Capt. Ross Finalyson and deckhands Kyle Vannatta and Dave-O Borges. Ross is an Aussie and Kyle and Dave-O are both from Kona, Hawaii. Brooke and I had fished with

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Ross in 2007. Brooke also had been with him a time prior to that in 2005. This was Dave-O's second season with Ross, and Kyle's first. I have always felt that there is a fraternity among men of the sea and I quickly felt a kinship with our crew. Ross and I have kept in touch via social media since my first trip to The Reef. Kyle and Dave-O are a couple of decades younger than me, but we had several mutual friends in Kona. Between our love of fishing and common buddies we hit it off well from the beginning.

The 2018 heavy tackle season in Australia will go down in history as one of the best big fish seasons in history. There were several fish over 1,100 pounds weighed, including an 1,140 that Ross and the boys caught a couple weeks before our arrival. "Granders" are a magical thing in the marlin fishing community and there is a saying among the crews over there in Australia. "If you didn't weigh it, don't say it. Anybody can touch a leader." This basically means that you don't take credit for releasing a Grander. You call it a "950 plusser". Now this is not always strictly adhered to, but the crews that have weighed several monsters will tell you that there are many 850 pounders that get called a Grander to let braggarts puff up their chest and to make an inexperienced crew look more experienced. Especially on social media. My goal for the week was to join the Grander Club.

A writing class I took one time started with the instructor saying that Alice fell down the rabbit hole very early in the story "Alice In Wonderland." The point is to get on with it right away. Let the reader know where the story is going. Unless you are writing a suspense thriller. This article isn't a suspense thriller, so I will tell you right now that I didn't get to join that club. The closest we came to a Grander was on our first

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day and I was not in the chair.

On day one we were fishing on the Linden Banks area off of the Great Barrier Reef. Our first two bites were smallish by Reef standards. 200 or so pound fish. Neither one came tight. Andrew was first up as angler since he had never caught a black marlin before. So when we finally came tight at 5:15 that afternoon Andrew was harnessed to the 130 pound class rod on our first fish of the trip. A few minutes into the battle I saw a hole open up in the water and a fish of dinosaur proportions erupt out of it. My first words were "She's a good one!" Andrew did an admirable job for his first time heavy tackle fishing. He is a naturally gifted angler and it really showed on this fish. We got the leader for the first time around twenty minutes into the fight. The crew wanted to get a better look at the fish and we all wanted better pictures and video, so Kyle dumped the leader when the fish surged away from us. Another half hour or so brought the fish close again and Ross made the call to cut the leader this time as we didn't want to tire the fish any further and attract the local shark population looking for an easy meal. The mission was accomplished though as we got some great video and a few really awesome photos of the fish. When the spray



settled and victory beers were cracked open, Ross called the fish a very honest 900. He said it was close to the magical mark of four digits but not quite there. Still one heckuva fish for Andrew's first black marlin.

Over the next six days we raised eight more black marlin and released four of them, giving us a total of five out of

eleven bites for the week. All of the fish after that first one were in the 200 pound range. Not what I was hoping for, but still a really good week of big fish fishing. We also caught several wahoos, a mahi, a yellowfin and countless baitfish consisting of rainbow runners, scaly mackerel, scad and bonito. Actually, the yellowfin was bait too. The fish was probably 25 pounds or so just to give you an idea of the size of the baits we were using!



Capt. Ross and his crew are extremely talented and their composure while taking on these big fish was something to behold. Ross posts a fair amount of photos on Instagram and his website is australiangamefishing.com. Like I said earlier, this is an expensive trip and the travel is not for the faint hearted (the trip home was a little shorter-only 36 hours door to door), but I could not think of any place more qualified to be at the top of an angler's wish list. I have started saving now with the plan of taking my wife to celebrate her retirement. Thankfully I have a few years to save up (like 12 of them to be exact).

I hope everyone has a great winter and finds some warm places to fish. I will be heading to Islamorada over the holidays so hopefully my first "Fish Story" in the spring has some fun Florida Keys adventures in it. I want to wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2019! See ya in the spring!

Capt Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call", owner of Pettolina Marine Surveying, Inc. and multi-term President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.

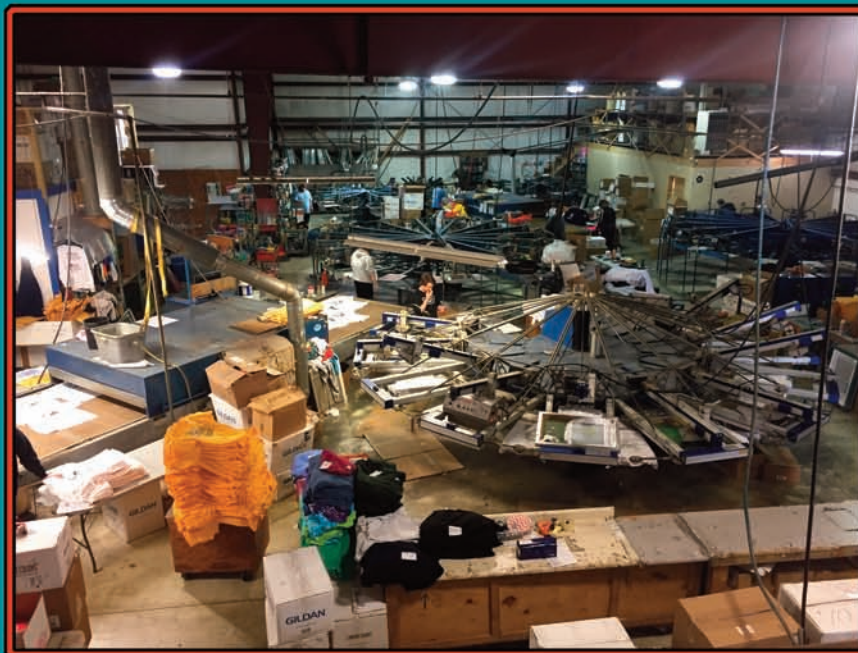


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- New Jersey Saltwater Fishing Expo
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On November 18th, Mark and Richard Hutchinson joined Capt. Jim Bugg (all pictured), Tim Talbot and Brendon Barbey for a trip on the "Magic Moment" to the 800/800 where they caught 3 yellowfin tuna, a 103 lb. bigeye tuna and released a small swordfish. The yellowfins were caught on the troll and the bigeye and swordfish were each hooked while deep dropping in 1,500 feet of water. Capt. Jim reported water temperatures hovering around 64-degrees. Pictured at Sunset Marina.


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It was a gorgeous day offshore on October 7th for anglers fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" and the sea bass hit hard early in the morning, giving a few anglers enough time to catch their limit of knotheads and Tim Calimer to muscle in a 26-inch flounder (see page 17). Tom Hoy ended up catching a 19-inch sea bass, the largest of the day. Also pictured are John Altfather, Chuck Burnham, Brent Sanders, Pat Zurgable, Bill Rano, Brian Haneschlager, Randy Haneschlager, Sherry Goldberg, Jeff Bauer and Jacob Bauer. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City, MD.

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It's always a good day when you catch so many fish that you run out of bait and that is what happened in early November when Chris Clasing was fishing with his dad, Scott in the Fenwick Ditch. They released 41-strippers, measuring between 22 and 26-inches, in addition to hooking this 28 1/4-inch keeper. All were fooled with live spot during the outgoing tide. Chris reported that most of the fish were spitting up small crabs after being caught.

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OCR F UPDATE

by Monty Hawkins



The Ocean City Reef Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, was founded in 1997 just after the state of Maryland dropped its artificial reef program from the budget. Because fishers and divers alike were seeing great success on state-built reefs such as the Blenny, Penrod, & Martin at the African Queen Reef plus incredible success at the Great Eastern Reef and from among several ex-Coast Guard boats at the Bass Grounds, marina owners, the Nichols family, funded and Capt. Greg Hall of Tow Boat US joined in to found the Ocean City Reef Foundation in order to keep Maryland's Atlantic reef building going.

I sadly report here that OCRF co-founder, Capt. Greg Hall, passed away in late October. The Foundation continues to receive donations in Capt Greg's honor and will begin building a reef in the southeast corner of Russell's Reef, five nautical miles from the Ocean City Inlet. We plan to have three 60-foot long barges adjacent to each other in waters shallow enough for even novice scuba enthusiasts. Fishers too will purposefully target "Capt. Greg Hall's Reef" next summer. Biological success is assured, owing several popular reefs similarly located atop Great Gull Shoal. Nearby are Doug Ake's Reef, Popp Barge, Big Joe Hall & Apple's Pyramid Barge. All have supported successful angling effort; some for decades.

Given a short shot of decent weather, Capt. Greg's Reef should be well begun by the time this article goes to print.

We also lost local fishing legend Capt. Jack Kaeufer this past year. Though a charter skipper in the late 1950s & 60s, Jack's "Foot Management" business flourished & allowed him the pleasure of taking many folks fishing. Not just skilled friends. Jack introduced many anglers to the pastime he so enjoyed.

On July 28, 2018 the OCRF



sank a 65-foot barge near the Al Giles Memorial Reef, establishing the Jack Kaeufer Reef at the Bass Grounds site. Since then, as we repeatedly passed over the barge to get an accurate set of coordinates for sponsors who desire reef charts, I swore I saw fish. And just like that we caught triggerfish the evening Jack's Reef was sunk. It's easy to envision several generations of anglers enjoying this new reef.

Jack's Reef is also one of a dozen or so locations currently being targeted for Reef Blocks. They are such a simple thing. The Nature Conservancy donated two pallets of "Oyster Castles" more than 10-years ago. These interlocking 16-inch square blocks have had incredible success in oyster restoration projects in Virginia's lower back bays - a phenomenal success.

From those two pallets that were carried offshore a couple dozen at a time aboard the "Morning Star" for coral substrate (not oysters), 10,000 oyster castles were deployed on OCRF reef sites. When the price of castle blocks shot to the moon as BP oil spill monies became available in the Gulf around four years ago, we started using any sort of concrete block. We received mostly overstock or unwanted block that was free

for the trucking.

It turns out fish can't tell the difference between purpose built reef block and from among a myriad of shapes from the block industry.

Now nearing 24,000 blocks, the success of this tiny aspect of our reef building has been undeniable. One type of site chosen for targeting with thousands of blocks is where a reef has scoured in - been lost to sand. A lost reef covered with a thin veneer of sand makes a perfect foundation for a block unit reef and it has.

Another type of site where we've had luck with blocks is on barge decks. Smooth steel offers little in the way of complexity for growth to adhere. It'll come in time, but they don't offer the surface roughness that we've found best for reef success. Simply dropping a couple hundred blocks on a bare steel deck makes the reef explode with life. A couple thousand makes it even better.

There are also a few spots, such as Jimmy Jackson's Reef at the Bass Grounds or Wolf & Daughters Reef at Kelly's Reef where we've targeted over 300 blocks on a single trip. Deployed precisely from a double anchor spread into a single pile on the bottom, blocks become a stand-alone reef building material.

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Patrick Miller's Eagle Scout project from 2014 was the first of this kind and recently Chris Robinson selected reef building as his Eagle Scout project. He funded block and organized a platoon of volunteers that made a "Morning Star" deployment of about 7 tons at Wolf & Daughters Reef this past fall.

It all adds up. Reef building has undoubtedly changed fishing for the better off Maryland's coast.

Now to make it better still here's what we have in store.

Coming shortly, we have our sites on a 110-foot barge located in the Chesapeake Bay. This barge has been ready for months. Patience. It is rare for someone to donate especially seaworthy craft for reef building. Pretty weather is a must for safety. That barge will be sunk at the Jackspot and will be eligible for a "name a reef" contribution.

We also have the aforementioned 3 smaller barges in line for Capt. Greg Hall's Reef.

Additionally, we have funding in place for a boulder reef at the Bass Grounds. The Nature Conservancy is on board for \$50,000. The OCRF could perhaps double that. So far, no contractor has been able and willing, but we'll find one!

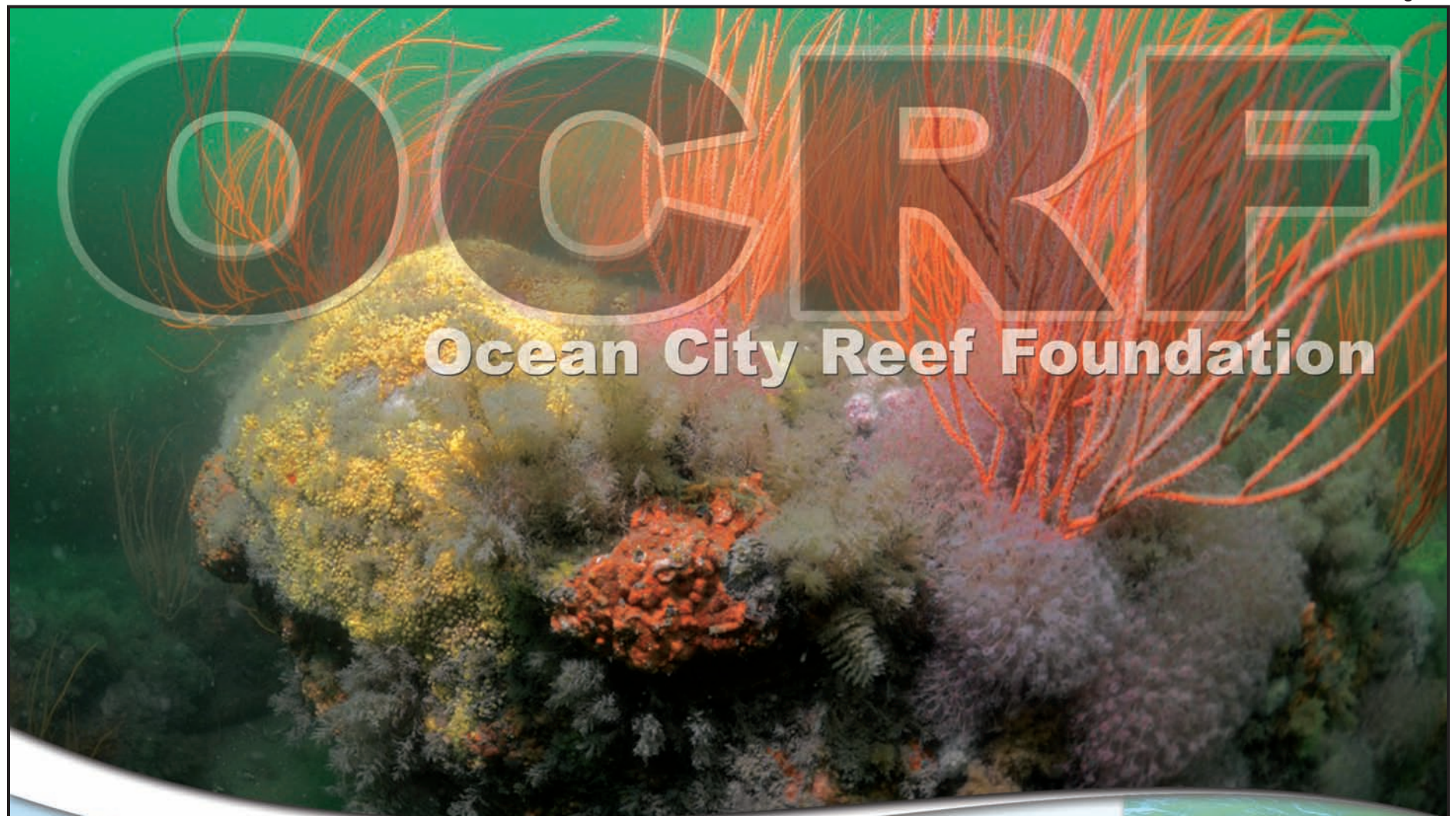
There's also a newly found steel tug that can be stripped for reef building. What I wouldn't give to have Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force discover the joy of live fire target practice with their targets becoming reefs.

Between the Navy and Army Corps of Engineers there's a huge mothballed fleet of old and idled boats and ships costing them money to sit dockside. Cleaning and sinking are expensive procedures, but if perfection in gunnery exercises also created extraordinary coral and fish habitat, perhaps the expense is justified.

Piece by piece - large and small - all our efforts contribute to marine habitat where corals, fish and lobster might flourish.

It's a project worth doing.

Capt. Monty Hawkins is Captain of the headboat, "Morning Star" and President of the Ocean City Reef Foundation.



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DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation to host public meeting on proposed changes in surf fishing program

DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation will discuss proposed changes to the surf fishing program at its upcoming, regularly-scheduled Parks and Recreation Council meeting. The meeting, open to the public, is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17th, at the Dover Public Library, 35 East Loockerman Street, Dover 19901.

Parks & Recreation staff will offer a presentation on proposed surf fishing permit fee increases, and the public will be given the opportunity to comment. The proposed fee increase, if approved at the thcouncil's Jan. 17th meeting, would go into effect on Feb. 1st.

DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation is proposing raising the surf fishing permit fees to \$90 for Delaware residents, an increase of \$10. Out-of-state residents would pay \$180 for the annual surf fishing permit, an increase of \$20. Surf-fishing permit holders would continue to receive the additional benefit of their permit serving as an annual pass, providing free access to all 17 of Delaware's state parks.

The Division of Parks & Recreation is also proposing limiting the number of surf fishing permits issued to 17,000 annually. In 2017, the state issued 17,104 permits.

Enhanced Effort to Curb Illegal Fishing and Hunting

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources Police is cracking down on the illegal killing of fish and wildlife through a partnership with Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers. This newly established nonprofit organization serves as the state affiliate of International Wildlife Crimestoppers, a group dedicated to stopping illegal hunting and fishing

across the globe.

Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers was established to increase public awareness of the impact of potential poaching on fish and wildlife populations, and encourage anyone with knowledge of these activities to connect with Maryland Natural Resources Police. Neighboring states Delaware and Pennsylvania host similar partnerships with International Wildlife Crimestoppers.

Information can be relayed anonymously by email, phone or text to dispatchers, who will alert the nearest patrol officer. If the tip leads to the arrest and conviction of a suspected poacher, the Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers board of directors may even issue a reward.

Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers does not receive any federal or state funding and depends solely on financial support from corporate, individual or public donations or gifts.

Founded in 1997, International Wildlife Crimestoppers supports wildlife law enforcement officers in 40 U.S. states and five Canadian. To contact Maryland Wildlife Crimestoppers, citizens can call or text 443-433-4112, email mwc.dnr@maryland.gov, or report violations using the department's free mobile app.

Maryland Sets 2019 Tautog Regulations

The secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced changes to the recreational and commercial tautog season and catch limits from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2019. This action is consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog.

Effective 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1, 2019, the season and catch limits are:

- Jan. 1 to May 15: 4 per person, per day
- May 16 to June 30: Closed



Before Hurricane Florence rolled through Florida, Laura Pitts from Panama City, FL ventured north to fish with Carey Evans on the "Grizzly" and ended up catchin this 10 1/4 lb. sheepshead while fishing with sand fleas at the Outer Wall.

- July 1 to Oct. 31: 2 fish per person, per day
- Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 4 fish per person, per day

Assateague Island National Seashore to Offer Free Admission on Five Days in 2019

The National Park Service announced that the public will be invited to experience all national parks, including Assateague Island National Seashore, without entrance fees, on five days in 2019.

The 2019 entrance fee free days are:

- January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- April 20: Start of National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day
- August 25: National Park Service Anniversary
- September 28: National Public Lands Day
- November 11: Veterans Day

Assateague Island National Seashore usually has an entrance fee of \$20.00 per car. These entrance fee free days do not waive camping or Over Sand Vehicle permit fees. Nationwide, 115 of the 418 national parks charge an entrance fee. The other 303 national park units do not have entrance fees. Last year, Assateague Island National Seashore had more than 2.3 million visitors. Those visitors spent \$99.8 million in local communities which helped to support 1,300 jobs.

The annual \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks that charge an entrance fee. There are also free or discounted passes available for senior citizens, current members of the military, families of fourth grade students, and disabled citizens.



The black sea bass were snapping on this day for those fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Rich Fouts. Every angler captured their limit of knotheads in addition to a few flounder, triggerfish and bluefish. Ken Yuen caught a 4 lb. flounder and Tom Jones matched it with a 4 lb. sea bass to take top fish honors. Also pictured are Eileen and Ed Dudley, Bruce Pham and Rich Hellwege. All of the fish were caught with squid and clams on an ocean wreck.

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Thunnus CI4

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Chris Clasing and Richard Crosariol fished the outgoing tide in the West Channel and ended up with 4 keeper flounder in the box. The flatties, measuring between 17 and 19 3/4-inches, were all caught on live peanut bunker in murky water where they had to contend with snapper bluefish tearing up their baits. They also released 12 short flounder during their trip.



On November 17th, quite a few boats headed to the Poor Man's Canyon to jump on a good swordfish and bigeye bite and anglers on the "Sea Tiger" were right there with them. They ended up with a pair of swordfish, weighing up to 167 lbs. and a 124 lb. bigeye tuna. All three were caught while deep dropping squid in 1,400 feet of water. Pictured are Chip Graves, Kyle Falgowski, Bill Lowe, Jim Bunting and Matt Baker. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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In the Chesapeake Bay Sport Fishing Association Flounder Tournament, Brad McCabe, Finn McCabe and Greg Donahue were fishing on the "Bay Time" when they caught 3 flounder while drifting bunker and mullet in the Middle Channel. Their 2 largest fish measured 17 1/2 and 20 3/8-inches. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.



Sophia Rohe of Wayne, PA is proud as can be after catching a doubleheader of black sea bass that she hooked and landed all by herself. All of the action took place on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins at the helm.

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Flounder were really snapping at the beginning of October and this group of anglers took advantage of it, ending their trip with 6 keepers in the box after spending the morning fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente. All of the flatties were caught on white Gulp Swimming Mullet in the East Channel with the largest fish measuring 19-inches. Pictured are John and Andy Lenig, both from Thompsonstown, PA, Joe Holley from Mifflintown, PA and Jeff Catalini from Ocean City, MD.



Zev Sibony fired up the engines on his new Everglades 335CC, "Reel Tapped" and headed to the Washington Canyon with Tommy Kennedy and Kevin Logue. The anglers ended up catching 20 mahi while trolling skirted and naked ballyhoo.



Corey Brown jumped on a good sheepshead bite in the Ocean City Inlet and captured this 22-incher on a green crab while fishing on the "Tenacious Tea" with Tanner Jennings.



OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB

2019 TOURNAMENT SERIES

10th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT*

To benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Chris Evans, & Terry Layton

Registration: May 24, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 25 & 26

Weigh-Ins: May 25 & 26, 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

Awards Banquet: May 26, 6:30-9:00pm

40th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT*

Chairmen: Colin Campbell, Boz Jefferson, & Bill Regan

Registration: June 14, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 15 & 16

Weigh-Ins: June 15 & 16, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

Eastern Shore Style Crab Feast:
June 16, 6:30 - 9:00pm

37th ANNUAL CANYON KICKOFF*

(DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Chairmen: Al Rittmeyer & Bob Althausen

Registration: July 3, 6:30pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 4) July 4-7

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

Awards Banquet: July 7, 6:30 - 9:00pm

15th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC*

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott

Registration: July 19, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 20 & 21

Weigh-Ins: July 20, 3:00-6:30pm, July 21, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 21, 5:00-8:00pm

11th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT* "HEELS & REELS"

Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Ryan Freese & Amanda Shick

Registration: August 1, 6:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3

Weigh-Ins: August 2 & 3, 5:30-7:30pm, at Atlantic Tackle

Awards Banquet: August 3, 6:30-9:00pm

61st ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT*

Chairmen: Jim Giles, Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick

Registration: August 29, 6:30pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 30 & 31, September 1 with overnight option Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday

Weigh-Ins: August 30 & 31, September 1, 5:30 - 7:30pm at Sunset Marina

Awards Banquet: September 1, 6:30-9:00pm

4th ANNUAL OCMC VS OCLTC SHOOTOUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III
Angler Meeting: September 5, 7:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 6, 7 & 8

No Weigh-Ins

Awards Banquet: September 8, 6:30-9:00pm

41st ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Jon C. Duffie & Andy Helms

Registration: September 11, 7:00pm

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

No Weigh-Ins

Italian Night: September 13, 6:30-9:00pm

Awards Banquet: September 14, 6:30-9:00pm

7th ANNUAL OCMC ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT*

To benefit the Jimmy Fund

Chairmen: Colin Campbell & Jeremy Blunt

Registration: December 6, 6:00pm

Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 7 - 15

Weigh-Ins: December 7 - 15, 3:00-5:00pm at Atlantic Tackle

Awards Banquet: December 15, 5:00-7:30pm

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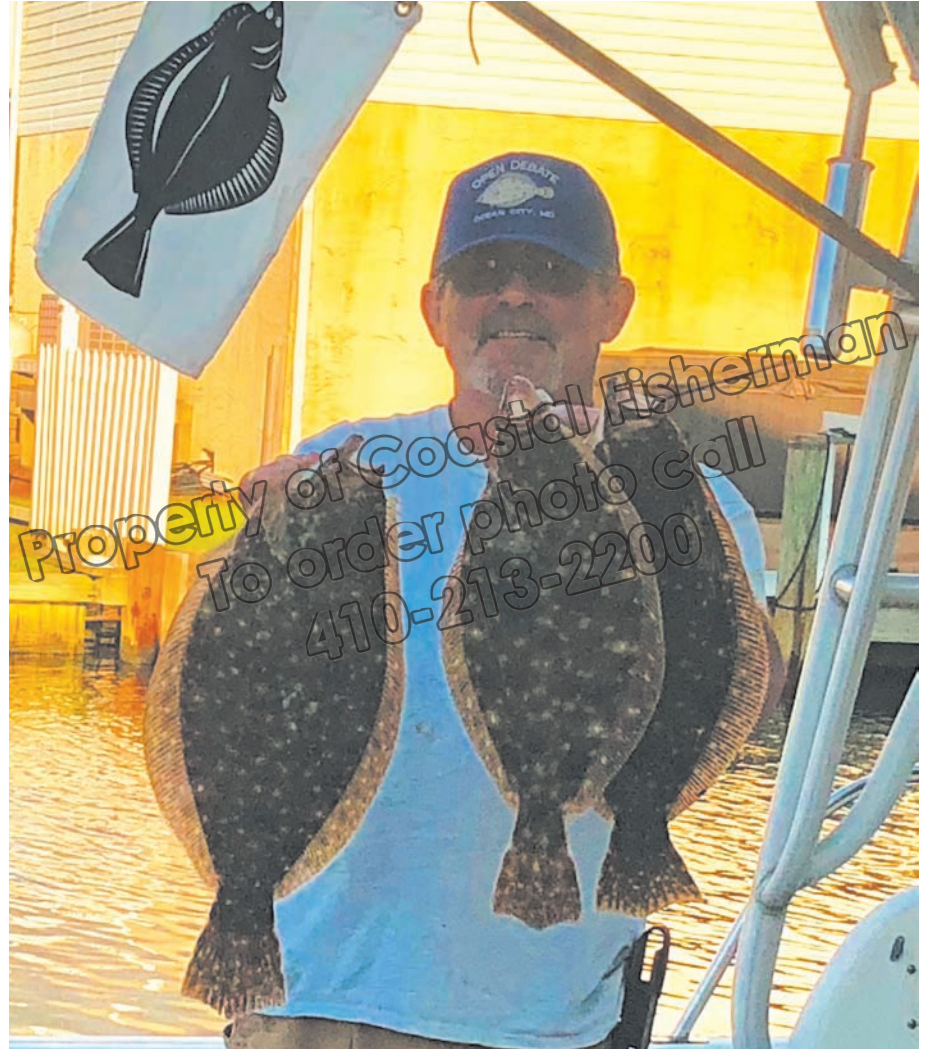
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On December 14th, Ronnie Arena ventured down from New York to fish on the charter boat, "No Limit" and he was sure glad he did. Ronnie ended up hooking into this 17 lb. 3 oz. tautog while fishing with green crabs on ocean structure. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.



After a horrible 2017 flounder fishing season, Tom Tatum of West Chester, PA went into 2018 worried that he would have a repeat of the prior year, but 2018 turned out to be a good one for Tom and on this day he captured 3 flounder measuring between 18 and 19-inches. All 3 came from the East Channel while using white Gulp Swimming Mulletts for bait.

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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2018	2017	Species	2018	2017
Bluefish 	May 1, 2018 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	April 17, 2017 Ayrton Pryor Assawoman Bay	Mako Shark 	May 23, 2018 Fred Weinhold "Marli" Marine Electric	April 28, 2017 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" Triple 0's
Black Drum 	April 19, 2018 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf	April 20, 2017 Tom Fox Assatague Surf	Thresher Shark 	May 26, 2018 Don King "Shallow End" Fingers	May 27, 2017 Anthony Pino Fingers
Cobia 	July 10, 2018 Mitchell Clark "Judith M"	June 3, 2017 Connor Wingate Bethany Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	May 26, 2018 Tanya Devine "Wrecker" Poor Man's Canyon	May 27, 2017 Mark Robbins "Husevo" Norfolk Canyon
Flounder 	April 14, 2018 Mike Tuel Thorofare	April 7, 2017 Lukas Layton Rt. 90 Bridge	Bluefin Tuna 	May 24, 2018 Donna Gutridge "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon	April 30, 2017 Dale Christensen "Wrecker" Triple 0's
Sea Bass 	May 15, 2018 Wayne Diaz "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	May 16, 2017 Tom Vaughan "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	Longfin Tuna 	June 9, 2018 Mike Lloyd Wilmington Canyon	August 25, 2017 Keith Fraser "FFMD" Norfolk Canyon
Sheepshead 	June 4, 2018 Hanna Bartell "On the Run" South Jetty	May 31, 2017 Paul Lebling South Jetty	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 24, 2018 Mike Curran "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon	April 30, 2017 Corbin Ensor "Tunafowl" Triple 0's
Striped Bass 	January 2, 2018 Jon Pulsifer Little Gull Shoal	April 28, 2017 Jack Austin Cape Henlopen Surf	Dolphin 	May 24, 2018 Steve Cumor "Marli" Poor Man's Canyon	April 30, 2017 Megan Humphrey "Wrecker" Triple 0's
Tautog 	January 3, 2018 Dennis Muhlenforth "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 1, 2017 Pat Scida "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Wahoo 	July 12, 2018 Jon Gross "Restless Lady" Washington Canyon	July 2, 2017 Scott Raleigh "That's Right" Sausages
Weakfish 	June 2, 2018 Matt Boyer Indian River Inlet	May 20, 2017 John Kelleher Ice Breakers	White Marlin 	June 13, 2018 Ron Bennett "Stalker" Poor Man's Canyon	June 16, 2017 Ian Schwing "Fish Whistle" Poor Man's Canyon

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

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Adrianna Foreman from Ocean Pines, MD shows off the 13 lb. mahi she muscled in during an October 1st trip on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo (pictured) and Rich Fouts. The mahi was caught on a strip of squid over an ocean wreck.



Dave Vetter from Ellicott City, MD caught this 12 lb. 6 oz. tautog while fishing on the charterboat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest. Dave fooled the big blackfish with a green crab on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Chris Thawley took a trip on the charter boat, "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and ended up tangling with this 13 lb. 10 oz. black drum after hooking it on a sand flea off the coast of Delaware.

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Anglers on the charter boat, "Reel Chaos" boated this 66-inch bigeye back in November while fishing between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyon. The fish was estimated to weigh 200 lbs.



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Could there be anything more exciting than a group of bankers on a fishing trip? Well, that's what we have here with Maryland Banker's Association members Tracy Schultz of Kent Island, MD, Reed Tingle from the Bank of Ocean City, Earl Conley from the Bank of Ocean City, Melissa Quirk from Pasadena, MD and Andy Bulgin from Baltimore, MD. The anglers took a flounder fishing trip in early October on the headboat, "Tortuga" and ended up with 5 keepers in the box, including Tracy's 18-inch, 2 lb. 10 oz. flattie that took big fish honors. All were caught on squid and shiners behind Harbour Island. As always, Capt. Drew Zerbe was at the wheel and mate Serge Garder worked the deck. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

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Tyler Smith and Anthony Sousa, both from Berlin, MD caught some big sheephead and flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey. All of the fish were fooled with crabs around the South Jetty. The sheephead ranged in weight from 10 to 13 1/2 lbs. and the largest flounder tipped the scale at an even 5 lbs. Weighed at Bahia Marina.

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2019 TOURNAMENTS

<p>23RD ANNUAL</p> <p>MAKO MANIA</p> <p>JUNE 7-9</p>	<p>26TH ANNUAL</p> <p>CAPT. STEVE HARMAN'S</p> <p>POOR GIRLS OPEN</p> <p>AUGUST 15-17</p>	<p>14TH ANNUAL</p> <p>FLOUNDER POUNDER</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 8</p>
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On October 6th, Etienne Jehl from Wilmington, DE caught this 16 1/2-inch, 2 lb. 3 oz. pompano while fishing with bloodworms off the beach in Fenwick Island. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Colin Lynch is all smiles after boating a 10 lb. 12 oz. sheephead during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Grizzly" with Capt. Carey Evans. It was a family trip and the Lynch's ended up hooking 9 sheephead and releasing 5 black drum in the Delaware Bay.



Good friends, Jim Bialozynski of Baltimore, MD and Bob Bathurst of Pasadena, MD caught a pair of flounder while drifting live bait in the East Channel. Jim came out on top of this friendly competition with a 20 1/2-incher that barely beat out Bob's 19-inch flattie earning him bragging rights for a year!

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This 28-inch, 6 lb. 14 oz. flounder made a big mistake when it went after the bucktail tipped with a mullet being soaked by Shannon Pickens at the Great Eastern Reef.



Ryan Lewis was fishing with cut bait off Assateague Island when he caught and released a 50-inch red drum. Ryan was joined by Dan Iacangelo (top picture) who released a 48-inch red drum during their trip.



In late September, Brandon Solomon of Ocean Pines, MD caught and released this 53-inch red drum while fishing with live spot in the suds off Assateague Island.

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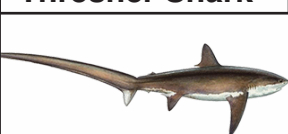


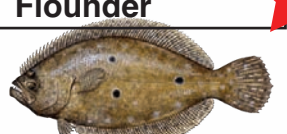








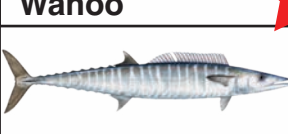


For Reservations Call: Carolyn "CJ" Downey 443.277.5592
 Capt. Sean Welsh 443.373.3413 Capt. Jim Duncan 443.995.1249

2018 Heaviest Fish of the Year

COASTAL FISHERMAN



(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Bluefish 	May 9, 2018 John Unkart Assateague Island 12 lbs.	May 30, 2018 John Douds Fenwick Surf 12 lbs. 3 oz.	Mako Shark 	June 16, 2018 Crew "Foolish Pleasures" 636 lbs.	June 18, 2018 Crew "FOMO" 205 lbs.
Black Drum ★ NEW 	December 1, 2018 Garrett Weir "Fish Bound" 59 lbs.	May 24, 2018 Trent Hill Coral Beds 66.5 lbs.	Thresher Shark 	June 2, 2018 Nick Skidmore Cigar 644.9 lbs.	August 25, 2018 Wolf Family "A" Buoy 252 lbs.
Cobia 	August 12, 2018 Madison Jones 1 mile off OC 65 lbs.	August 10, 2018 John Burbage Bethany Coast 79.4 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 	June 20, 2018 John Curry Baltimore Canyon 235 lbs.	June 19, 2018 Debbie Mumford "Last \$" 106.5 lbs.
Flounder ★ NEW 	October 7, 2018 Tim Calimer "Morning Star" 8 lbs. 8 oz.	May 11, 2018 Sheila Stohler Delaware Bay 9 lbs. 13 oz.	Bluefin Tuna 	June 24, 2018 Justin Burt "Over-Board" 185 lbs.	July 20, 2018 Rob Thompson Massey's Canyon 186 lbs.
Sea Bass ★ NEW 	December 19, 2018 Justin Eddy "Angler" 6 lbs. 13 oz.	June 16, 2018 Randy Eddinger Radford Wreck 4 lbs. 10 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	June 10, 2018 Pete Gudaitis Wilmington Canyon 41 lbs.	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	August 28, 2018 Dan Kous South Jetty 15 lbs. 3 oz.	December Ted Garman Ice Breakers 10 lbs. 10 oz.	Yellowfin Tuna 	August 17, 2018 Nancy Kohl "A Salt Weapon III" 112 lbs.	July 5, 2018 Johnny Coffiey Baltimore Canyon 97.1 lbs.
Striped Bass ★ NEW 	December 7, 2018 Kevin Weber Little Gull Shoal 39 lbs.	★ NEW December 9, 2018 Carter Dirado The 8's 42 lbs. 8 oz.	Dolphin 	August 7, 2018 Lou Genello Poor Man's Canyon 50 lbs.	August 16, 2018 George Packard Baltimore Canyon 28.6 lbs.
Tautog ★ NEW 	April 18, 2018 Ron McClelland "Fish Bound" 23 lbs. 9 oz.	December 14, 2018 Ronnie Arena "No Limit" 17 lbs. 3 oz.	Wahoo ★ NEW 	October 7, 2018 Bob Althausen Poor Man's Canyon 94 lbs.	July 20, 2018 Mo Hussin Massey's Canyon 66 lbs.
Weakfish 	June 21, 2018 Jennifer Kellington "Get Sum" 6 lbs.	June 2, 2018 Matt Boyer Indian River Inlet 6 lbs. 6 oz.	White Marlin 	Most Releases in 1 Day (trolling only)	
				September 1, 2018 "Buckshot" 15 releases	August 9, 2018 "Hollywood" 4 releases

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

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Capt. Chris Adams took the headboat "Judy V" out for the last 1/2 day trip of the season and returned with catches of sea bass and triggerfish. Even with a hat on crooked, Skip Stewart of Lewes, DE muscled in this sea bass and Ryan Bradley of Georgetown, DE boated a nice 3 lb. 8 oz. triggerfish, with both coming from Site 10. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em.



Matt Gino from Long Island, NY had a catch that would be the envy of many anglers when he hooked into this 16 lb. 3 oz. tog during a trip aboard the charter boat, "No Limit". Matt hooked the big blackfish on a green crab at the Clammer wreck, 2.5 miles outside the Indian River Inlet. Photo courtesy of Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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T-Volvo Diesel, T&H Floors
\$368,000



55' Californian MY '86
T-DD, Custom interior details
\$169,900



41' Sea Ray Sundancer '00
T-Merc. 454, Well kept
\$105,000



39' Silverton ACMY '99
T-Merc. Well maintained
\$94,900



37' Egg Harbor Sport '03
T-Cat Diesel, Full elects.
Under water lights **\$204,900**



36' Carver 366 ACMY '03
T-Crusader, winter cover
\$94,900



35' Sea Ray Sundancer '11
T-Merc. SeaCore, Lightly used
Must see **\$180,000**



34' Meridian 341 Sedan '05
T-Merc., Owner has moved up
\$104,900



30' Sea Ray Sundancer '05
T-350 Merc. MAG, Gen.
\$64,900



24' Tahoe LTZ 2485 '16
Mercury 150HP, Pontoon
Saltwater series **\$31,880**

42' Chris Craft 426'86, T-Crusader 1996 w/Bow thruster.....\$49,900
37' Sea Ray Sedan Bridge '95, T-Merc. 7.4.....\$55,000
33' Rinker Fiesta Vee '99, T-Merc. BIII, Gen.....\$29,900
30' Monterey 302 '04, T-Volvo Penta 5.0, Clean!.....\$45,000
30' Sea Ray Sundancer '92, T-Merc 5.7, Alpha 1 Gen.2.....\$16,900
30' Sea Ray Sundancer '85, T-Merc. 5.7 SEI.....\$12,500

28' Bayliner 285 '03, Merc. 350 MAG MPI.....\$33,500
26' Sea Ray 260 Sundancer '00, Merc. 7.4\$15,900
26' Crownline 262CR '03, Merc. 350 MAG MPI, A/C.....\$24,000
25' Crownline 250CR '94, FWC Merc. 7.4, w.trl.....\$9,700
24' Bayliner 245 '05, Merc. 5.0, w/trailer.....\$25,000
23' Chaparral 235XLC '88, Merc. 5.7 Alpha I, w/trailer.....\$6,500

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At the beginning of October, this group of fishermen on the headboat, "Morning Star" caught a smorgasbord of fish. Black sea bass dominated the action with most anglers catching double-digits and one ending his day with a limit. Tom Hoy took Largest Sea Bass honors with a 22-incher and Jake Hurlock boated a 30-inch mahi. There were plenty of big triggerfish, but none were larger than Jim Spencer's 17 1/2-incher. Rounding out the group were Pat Zurgable, Walt Simmons, Brian Carnerro, Kephart Pryor and Tim Calimer. All of the fish were caught on ocean wrecks and natural bottom while using squid, clams, Gulp, jigs and cut bait.

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2019 TIDE TABLE

Indian River Inlet. DE add 25 min. for high. Wachapreague Inlet. VA add 5 min. for high. 20 min. for low. Quinby Inlet. VA subtract 5 min for high.

APRIL			MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
	Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High
01	----- 12:38	06:33 06:34	01	12:05 12:26	06:17 06:41	01	01:02 12:48	06:55 07:31	01	01:20 01:00	07:06 07:52	01	02:33 02:25	08:32 09:17	01	03:43 04:01	10:05 10:35	01	04:02 04:43	10:37 10:57	01	05:09 06:18	11:54 -----	01	04:30 05:43	11:10 11:23
02	12:38 01:14	07:07 07:15	02	12:50 12:58	06:56 07:22	02	01:46 01:29	07:40 08:16	02	02:08 01:49	07:58 08:43	02	03:21 03:18	09:29 10:08	02	04:32 04:59	11:00 11:23	02	04:50 05:41	11:29 11:45	02	06:03 07:17	12:05 12:48	02	05:24 06:36	11:57 -----
03	01:20 01:45	07:41 07:54	03	01:32 01:30	07:36 08:02	03	02:30 02:12	08:26 09:02	03	02:55 02:39	08:52 09:35	03	04:10 04:14	10:25 10:58	03	05:52 05:59	11:54 -----	03	05:42 06:42	----- 12:24	03	06:01 07:15	12:58 12:47	03	06:21 07:26	12:16 12:49
04	01:58 02:14	08:16 08:33	04	02:11 02:04	08:16 08:43	04	03:14 02:57	09:14 09:50	04	03:43 03:31	09:46 10:26	04	05:01 05:13	11:20 11:48	04	06:15 07:03	12:13 12:53	04	06:37 07:45	12:36 01:25	04	07:02 08:11	12:59 01:53	04	07:21 08:13	01:17 01:43
05	02:34 02:42	08:52 09:10	05	02:51 02:40	08:57 09:23	05	04:01 03:45	10:03 10:38	05	04:33 04:26	10:41 11:16	05	05:53 06:15	----- 12:17	05	07:10 08:07	01:06 01:58	05	07:35 08:46	01:33 02:36	05	08:03 09:03	02:07 02:53	05	08:21 08:57	02:21 02:37
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Tides are adjusted for Daylight Savings Time - ☾ 1st Quarter Moon ☽ Full Moon ● New Moon ☾ Last Quarter Moon ☽





Rich Daiker and Ken Schoen had a great 2018 flounder fishing season and they extended it right into the fall when they caught their limit (4 pictured) while drifting live bunker under the Rt. 50 Bridge. They each caught their largest fish of the season, with both fish measuring 25 1/2-inches and weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz.



The mahi bite at the end of September was hot so Sharon Daugherty of Ocean City, MD ventured out on the "Top Notch" and returned to the White Marlin Marina with 16 in the box.

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Multifunction Displays: A Look Ahead

During the fishing season, this column covers a wide range of marine electronics topics. Have you wondered if those individual systems will converge into a single interface? Similar to today's modern automobiles, where once there were separate controls for each system and now there is a "command" center of sorts with one large screen that monitors and operates many or all of the cars systems. This command center is making its way onto pleasure boats by way of the MFD (multifunction display)

Up until the year 2000, most marine electronics were stand-alone systems, based on their function: a stand-alone fish finder, a stand-alone radar, a stand-alone GPS receiver – with or without a chart! Over the years, the integration of hardware has allowed individual systems to be combined and shared with one or more multifunction displays. No longer are you required to have a dedicated screen. System flexibility allows navigational

and fishing resources to be available on numerous displays, including those that are wireless.

It seems that the manufacturers are once again moving forward with additional integration to provide as much information as possible on the helm displays. Navico – the parent company of Simrad, Lowrance, B&G and C-MAP, have named their 2019 new technology the "Information Display" or ID. The ID systems will allow monitoring and control of most any boat function through this display, or multiple displays, while providing the traditional functions of radar, sonar, chartplotter or whatever the priority is at that time.

For those who have not experienced a ride in a Tesla automobile, it is like a tablet on wheels. The "dashboard" on the Model S is a 17-inch touch screen display located in the center of the dash where the radio would have been years ago. This screen can provide almost all of the information a driver or passenger would need while riding in the car and can also provide password protected technical information for the maintenance of the vehicle.

The yachting world has had similar systems for years.

Westport Yachts designed their own vessel information and control system (V.I.C) that allows a captain to see and interface with many of the ships systems from one central computer station. Carling Technologies developed the OctoPlex system, an automation system for the control and monitoring of most shipboard systems, very popular in Viking and custom sport fish boats. Boning, a German company specializing in ship automation, allows captains and crew to monitor the operation of a large vessel from a centralized location.

It's not surprising that this type of technology and command and control center philosophy is working its way into the pleasure boating world. How can this technology be used effectively on a sport fish or even a center console? Years ago, the cost and implementation world have been prohibitive for a smaller boat. The ability to use a newer MFD display and enable it to act like a high-end automation display can give a boat owner the opportunity to add on to an existing system and get similar functionality that yachts and ships have at a cost proportionate to the vessels size.

Proprietary systems work well but typically cannot integrate with each other, often resulting in many individual complex systems onboard. The electronics manufacturers have listened to the needs of pleasure

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boaters and are aware that boat owners want integration for all their systems and recent advances in MFD designs and software have made this very obtainable without the expense of a proprietary system. In the last year or so, this capability has suddenly expanded with the introduction and development HTML 5 along with the proven NMEA2000 data standard.

While many readers may be familiar with NEMA2000, HTML 5 is just getting started. Its current revision is only a few years old.

HTML 5 is the computer language used to structure and present content on the World Wide Web. The "5" in HTML 5 refers to the 5th version of HTML and is the default standard since its major update in 2014. How does this "web browser language" relate to a boats MFD display?

Just like on the internet (world wide web), it doesn't matter much which web browser you use (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, IE) or what type of device your use (tablet, smartphone, Windows or Mac), the information you see and the format in which it is presented is the same or very similar in appearance and function across all devices and platforms. This same standard way of presenting data has recently worked its way into the marine MFD. All of the major MFD manufacturers, currently or soon, will offer a model with HTML 5 compatibility. This



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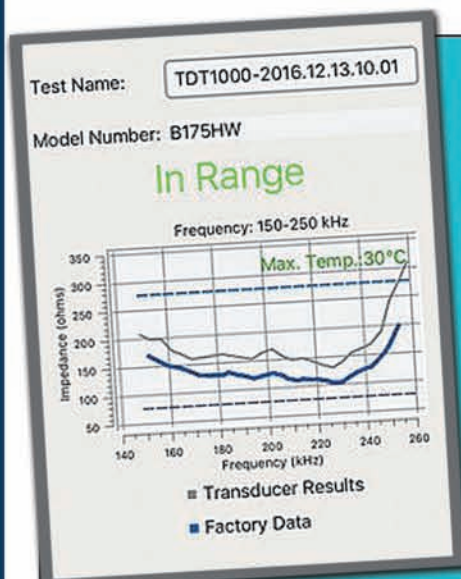
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Cabela

Cabela the Boxer Mix takes his coffee black, and his Starbucks Loyalty Card is his prize possession. Enjoys crafting, and even has his own Pinterest page! He tries selling his wares at the local Bow Wow Bazaar. Guilty pleasures are binge watching Animal Planet and cheese nachos. Come in and check out this very cool dude!

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allows the marine industry to develop products with an HTML 5 interface that can connect to the screen of a compatible MFD.

The major MDF manufacturers, Furuno, Garmin with their OneHelm, Raymarine Lighthouse Apps, and Simrad ID, already have (or will soon have) HTML 5 capability in their newest offerings. This will allow a boater to purchase a MFD from one company and vessel components from another company and integrate the two together using a pre-engineered solution. If this sounds like apps on your phone, you are correct; Raymarine even offers some non-marine apps for use on their MFD's!

If you are wondering why it took so long for marine electronics industry to catch up to the functionality of our smartphones, you may not realize that the Smartphone is now inside our MFD. The Furuno TZT2, Raymarine newest MFD's and Si-Tex NavStar all run a variation of the Android operating system as their internal operating system, making the adaptation of HTML 5 much easier. For those who don't know, Android is a major mobile operating system that competes with the Apple system.

Some of the integrated products currently offering HTML 5 compatibility include, Seakeeper, Lumishore, Shadow-Caster, CZONE and Maretron. Many other manufactures are building HTML 5 integration into their newest products to allow control and monitoring from compatible MFD displays.

Wrapping up 2018

Every fall, the National Marine Electronics Association polls its members to secretly vote for their favorite marine electronics as nominated by the manufacturer. This year, ten manufacturers took home awards across 17 categories in the annual National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) Product of Excellence Awards. These results are significant since they are voted on by industry professionals who design systems that incorporate this hardware for the end user.

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If it is a problematic product or doesn't work as designed, it most likely won't receive enough votes to win an award. History has demonstrated that the products on this list perform as expected and meet customer's needs.

Here is the list of the 2018 NMEA Product of Excellence Award winners:

Autopilot: Garmin GHP Reactor

Multi-function display: Garmin GPSMAP 8624

Radar: Furuno DRS4DNXT

Fishfinder: Furuno DFF3D

Marine VHF radio: Icom M605

Satellite communications antenna: KVH TracPhone V7-HTS

Safety device: McMurdo SmartFind G8 AIS EPIRB

Commercial Radar: Furuno FAR2127 IMO radar

Satellite TV antenna: KVH TracVision TV3 with HUB A+

AIS: Furuno FA170 Class A NMEA 2000 sensor: Furuno SC33

Marine app-aids to navigation: Nobeltec TZ iBoat

Marine PC software: Nobeltec TZ Professional

Marine camera: FLIR M625CS

Multimedia entertainment: Fusion Apollo RA770

Remote vessel monitoring system: GOST Apparition SM GPS XVR

Marine app-utility (tie): Airmar SensorCheck TDT1000 and Garmin Active Captain

Manufacturer of the Year for support of products in the field: Garmin

2018 NMEA Technology Award: Garmin's Panoptix live sonar

Here's a quick peak at the details for some of the winners:

Autopilot

Garmin GHP Reactor 40 autopilot

This autopilot uses a solid-state 9-axis Attitude Heading Reference System (AHRS) that mounts in any orientation with minimal heading error, course deviation, rudder movement and power consumption, all providing a more comfortable ride. With minimal commissioning and calibration

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and an optional brushless SmartPump, the autopilot fits most hydraulically steered boating applications and Garmin's Patented Shadow Drive™ technology keeps you in control, even when autopilot is engaged.

Multi-function Display Garmin GPSMAP 8624

These are modern MFD Touchscreen Chartplotters with optional Sonar Combo with Full HD In-plane Switching (IPS) Display, full HD IPS touchscreen display preloaded with both BlueChart g3 U.S. coastal and LakeVü HD maps featuring Navionics data and Auto Guidance¹ technology. Fully network capable with NMEA 2000 connectivity and the Garmin Marine Network. Includes built-in support for the full suite of Garmin sonar capabilities. Includes ANT technology and Wi-Fi networking and SmartMode station controls for quick, one-touch access to the information you need.

Radar Furuno DRS4DNXT

The DRS4D-NXT is a Solid-State Radar with pulse compression and Doppler frequency shift sensing technology that is built into a compact 24-inch Radome. This "NXT" generation radar is designed for use with both NavNet TZtouch and TZtouch2 MFDs. The DRS4D-NXT is packed with new features, but perhaps the most innovative and revolutionary is called "Target Analyzer", facilitated by Furuno's Doppler technology. The Doppler "Target Analyzer" will automatically change the color of targets approaching your boat to clearly show any hazards. Green echoes are stationary targets, land or approaching targets moving at a velocity of less than 3 knots. Echoes dynamically turn red when targets are approaching your vessel at a speed of 3 knots or faster. It works the same when you are following another vessel. If the target is getting closer at a speed of 3 knots or more, the echo will be depicted



On December 18th, Pete Renzi of Ocean City, MD decided to head to Little Gull Shoal where he saw some birds diving on bait and was rewarded with a doubleheader of striped bass, measuring 31 and 34-inches. Both were hooked on trolled, deep running mojos.

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in red on the screen. Incredibly, "Target Analyzer" works independently of one's own ship speed.

Fishfinder Furuno DFF3D

Revolutionary 3D multi-beam sonar for deep and wide water columns. Furuno's DFF3D takes 3D fishfinding to new depths. We're talking depths of over 980 feet, with Side Scanning over 650 feet. The system allows you to see schools of fish and the underwater landscape at great depths in amazing detail. The DFF3D turns your NavNet TZtouch or TZtouch2 MFD into a multi-beam sonar that can see 120-degrees port to starboard, allowing you to see the depth and direction that fish schools are moving, while displaying the seabed condition in real time.

Marine VHF Radio Icom M605

The M605 is not just a VHF radio, it's a system that allows

the user choices on how to set up the radio with up to three display stations. Boaters can now add an exclusive complete display as another station on the vessel along with two COMMANDMICS. Customers will appreciate the radios large bright display that includes night mode to view easily in the dark. The full featured M605 also gives customers the option of the radio with an integrated AIS receiver.

Satellite Communications **Antenna**

KVH TracPhone V7-HTS

The KVH TracPhone V7-HTS System delivers maritime satellite broadband at triple the speed. The 60 cm, Ku-band satellite antenna system enables leisure boaters and commercial mariners to stream HD content and conduct video calls at sea while simultaneously supporting a free, unlimited use data channel.

Safety Device

McMurdo SmartFind G8 AIS EPIRB

The McMurdo SmartFind G8 AIS are the world's first EPIRB to include 406MHz, 121.5MHz, AIS and GNSS (better known as GPS) to accelerate search and rescue. The unique power of these new, award winning beacons is in the flexibility and additional tracking capabilities long demanded by maritime customers. This will further reduce rescue times by combining the global location power of 406MHz with the localized rescue capacities of AIS, first introduced to the world in McMurdo's AIS MOB range.

Satellite TV Antenna KVH TracVision TV3

With its single-cable design, compact 14.5-inch antenna and device-friendly user interface, the TracVision TV3 is easy to install, set-up and use. The DVB-S2 compatible TracVision TV3 is the perfect solution for single- or multiple-receiver installations. A great choice for powerboats frequenting cruising areas located within 100 nautical miles

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offshore, the TracVision TV3 supports DIRECTV, DISH Network, Bell TV, and circular and linear Ku-band regional services worldwide.

NMEA 2000 Sensor Furuno SC33

The SC33 Satellite Compass provides highly accurate information for navigation equipment such as radar, plotter, autopilot, fishfinder and sonar. With its compact GNSS antenna and built-in processor, it can be used for a wide variety of applications on any type of vessel. This all-in-one system delivers incredibly accurate heading and roll & pitch information as well as heaving information, GPS position, SOG (Speed Over Ground), COG (Course Over Ground) and ROT (Rate Of Turn) data. Employing a two-antenna system with a 3-axis gyro and acceleration sensors, the SC33 enables high-speed response capability.

Marine App - aids to navigation Nobeltec TZ iBoat

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TZ iBoat, the latest innovative app for coastal boating features easy-to-use functionalities and the fastest and smoothest chart display ever, as well as 3D data and weather information. The smooth handling of the iPad and TZ iBoat gives you the freedom of movement.

Marine Camera FLIR M625CS

The camera features a 640 x 512 resolution thermal camera, a 1.4 Lux daylight CCD camera with a 36x optical zoom and 360-degree Continuous Pan and +/- 90-degree tilt capabilities for complete situational awareness 24/7. The M-Series integrate seamlessly with existing electronics including select multifunction displays from Furuno, Garmin, Raymarine and Simrad. M-Series cameras are also supplied with a joystick control unit, giving you full control of the camera. FLIR Next Generation M-Series thermal cameras feature active gyro-stabilization so the camera always delivers a steady image, even in rough seas.

Multimedia Entertainment Fusion Apollo RA770

The world's first touchscreen marine stereo with Apple AirPlay and built-in Wi-Fi, the Apollo RA770 incorporates revolutionary technology and innovative design including Fusion's Digital Signal Processing, PartyBus, over-the-air software updates, a one-piece glass display and more source options than ever before, including advanced SiriusXM features.

Remote Vessel Monitoring System GOST Apparition SM GPS XVR

The GOST Apparition SM-GPS-XVR is the most powerful, customizable and user friendly GOST security system ever released and is the only system on the market offering the capability of security, monitoring, tracking and surveillance integrated together in one system. This integration allows the system to

communicate over cellular or satellite networks. The GOST Apparition can be controlled via an App, key fob or the new simplified, user friendly touchscreen keypads, available in 5 or 7-inch displays.

Marine App Garmin Active Captain

The free all-in-one ActiveCaptain mobile app allows you to manage your marine experience from nearly anywhere. It creates a simple, yet powerful connection between your compatible mobile device and your compatible Garmin chartplotter, charts, maps and the boating community.

2018 NMEA Technology Award Garmin's Panoptix LiveScope sonar

See highly detailed, easy-to-interpret live scanning sonar images of structure, bait and fish swimming below and around your boat in real time, even when your boat is stationary. Easily adjust the transducer to fit your fishing techniques; point forward to see around your boat, or point down to see directly below your boat. See incredibly sharp, real-time scanning sonar images up to 200-feet down and away. Attitude Heading Reference System (AHRS) stabilizes sonar view on your chart plotter screen, even in rough conditions. The simple plug-and-play Garmin Marine Network connector makes it easy to install and seamlessly integrate with your compatible Garmin chartplotter

Wow, an impressive list of products. My field experience re-assures me that this list is the cream of the crop of marine electronics. If you are looking to add on or replace your marine electronics, the products above are well worth a look.

Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers. To reach Steve, call (631) 264-1600.

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The Willard family moved their boat, "Fish On", from Sunset Marina down to Palm Beach, FL to jump on the November sailfish bite and went 4 for 5 while during a trip on November 23rd. Pictured are Todd, Grace, Christy and Jack Willard.

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Babs came to the shelter with her kitten Beeper who was quickly adopted and now she is patiently waiting for her forever home also. Babs is 3 1/2 years old and loves being close to people and showing them how much she loves them! Stop by and ask us to meet her!



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2019 TOURNAMENTS

APRIL

29th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament
April 26 - May 5 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

MAY

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament
May 17 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

10th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament
May 25 - 26 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

23rd Annual Mako Mania
June 7 - 9 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

39th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
June 5 - 8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

61st Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
Ladies Tournament - June 7 • Tournament - June 10-15
Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

40th Annual Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament
June 15 - 16 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

The MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament
June 19 - 23 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

10th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tournament
Dates TBD • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

5th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 21 - 23 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

CBSFA Tuna-Fortuna Tournament
June 21 - 23 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

The MidAtlantic Cup
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

37th Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off
July 4 - 7 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

CBSFA Flounder Souder Tournament
July 6th • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown
July 10 - 13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

32nd Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 12 - 14 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

15th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 20 - 21 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Yacht Club of Stone Harbor Marlin Tournament
July 25 - 28 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

5th Annual Big Fish Classic
July 26 - 28 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

AUGUST

11th Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament
August 2 - 3 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

11th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament
August 3 • Pines Point Marina • 410-641-5306

46th Annual White Marlin Open
August 5 - 9 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder
August 14 - 18 • Millsboro, DE • 302-945-4500

26th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open
August 15 - 17 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

28th Annual The MidAtlantic
August 19 - 23 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

61st Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament
August 30 - September 1 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

SEPTEMBER

4th Annual OC Marlin Club vs Light Tackle Club Shoot-Out
September 6 - 8 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

13th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 8 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

41st Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Challenge Cup
September 12 - 14 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

20th Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament
September 14 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

CBSFA Flounder "Fall-Haul" Tournament
September 14 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

18th Annual Harbor Tackle Red Drum Tournament
September 26-29 • Ocean City, MD • 410-957-4516

OCTOBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
November 1 - 30 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament
October 3 - 5 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

15th Annual A.M.S.A. Ronald Bounds Fishing Tournament
October 18 - 20

NOVEMBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Striper Tournament
December 1 - 23 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

DECEMBER

7th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament
December 7 - 15 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

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At the end of September, Steve McDonald, Natalie Donato, Ron Lukehart and Rick Johnson returned to Bahia Marina with 6 keeper flounder after fishing on the headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Drew Zerbe and mate Serge Garder. All of the fish were caught on squid and shiners in the East Channel with Rick's 18 1/2-inch, 2 lb. 11 oz. flattie taking top fish honors.



On September 29th, Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat, "Angler" had his anglers positioned over an artificial reef when Jerry Dodd fooled this 4 lb. 8 oz. triggerfish with a strip of squid. In addition to triggerfish, anglers battled sea bass, bluefish and flounder. Joining Capt. Chris were mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts.

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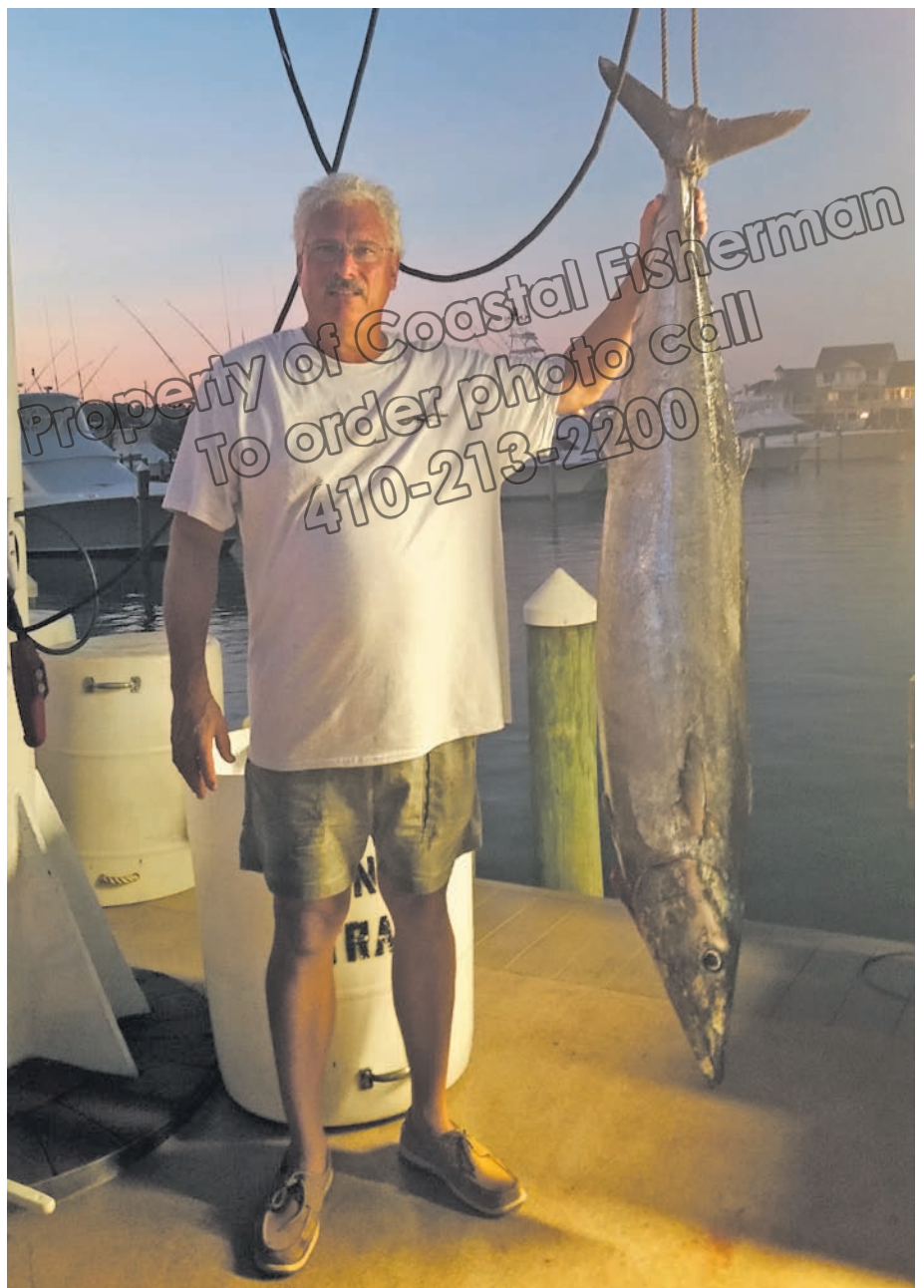
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On October 7th, Bob Althaus on the "Barbara Rose" caught the heaviest wahoo of the year in Ocean City when he muscled in this 94 pounder while trolling in 200 feet of water inside the Poor Man's Canyon. Weighed at Sunset Marina.

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LEGACY - 2003 57' Sullivan Call Jeff James



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DOUBLE EAGLE - 2002 52' Viking Call John Blumenthal



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NATURAL - 1978 53' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields



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JACKAL - 2012 36' Yellowfin Call Joel McLeod



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OUT OF ORDER - 1993 50' Viking Call Jimmy Fields



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TAKIN A BREAK - 1997 45' Ocean SS Call Steve Trattner



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REEL NAUGHTY - 1997 40' Ocean Call Steve Trattner



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SLAUGHTERHOUSE - 1989/2017 31' Shamrock Call Steve Trattner



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