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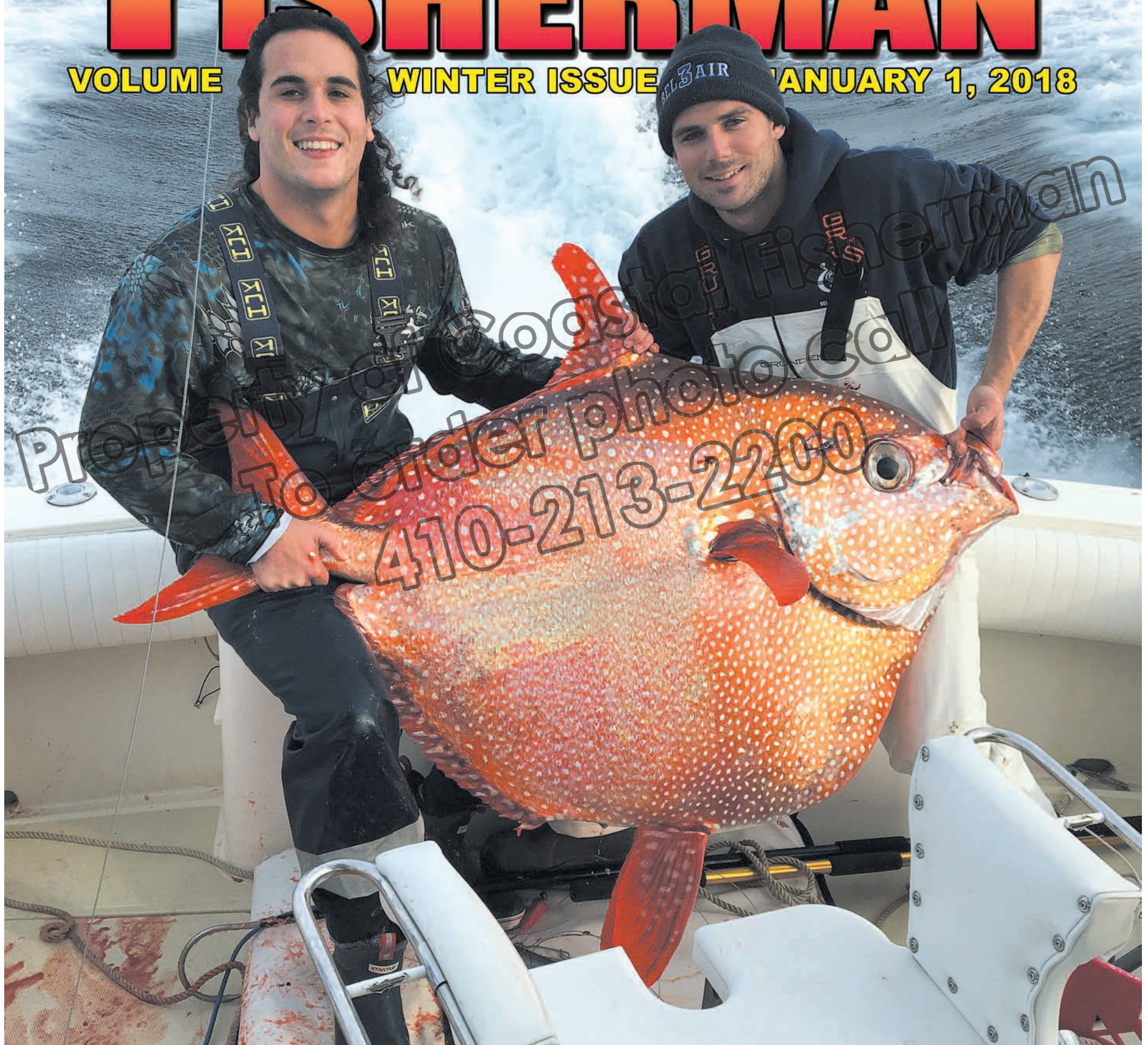
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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME

WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY 1, 2018



After catching the first opah by a recreational angler in Ocean City, MD on November 12th, the guys on the "Primary Search" headed 2 miles south of the spot on December 2nd and caught an even larger one while deep dropping in 1,800 feet of water on the southern end of the Poor Man's Canyon. The 159.8 lb. opah was hooked on a strip bait in 55-degree water and muscled in by James Doerzbach (not pictured), Tommy Clark and Capt. Austin Ensor. The team on the "Primary Catch" had a fall season to remember with 4 swordfish, a 170 lb. bigeye, 15 sea bass, 28 mahi and a pair of opahs, all in 4 trips over the span of 42 days.



Striped bass didn't show up in any numbers off the Delmarva coast until the 3rd week in December, forcing local anglers to head to the Jersey coast in search of linesiders. Jimmy Young jumped on the bite and caught this 50 pounder while trolling mojos with Mathew Anagnostakos and Ben Evick. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



Phoebe Neseth was one happy angler after catching a 26 1/2-inch flounder on a chunk of clam. Phoebe had to get her bait past a large number of spiny dogfish that were hovering over an offshore wreck. All of the action took place during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.

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The number of large bigeyes this past season were down compared to previous years, but on November 12th Chip Graves, Bill Low, Matt Baker and Steve Parseghian returned to the Indian River Marina with a 186.6 pounder caught in the Washington Canyon. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



On December 18th, television star Big Bird Cropper of Powellville, MD and Shawn Noel of Hampstead, MD had a great day drifting outside the Ocean City Inlet near the Ocean Pier. The duo caught 5 red drum, keeping a pair measuring 25 and 25 1/2-inches, in addition to releasing over 40 short stripers. Everything was caught on Roy Rigs while fishing on the "Lost Time". Pictured at Atlantic Tackle in West Ocean City, MD.

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2017 Year in Review

by Larry Jock



I think most anglers would agree that the 2017 fishing season is one that folks would be happy to forget. The few bright spots that immediately come to mind are sheepshead fishing around the South Jetty, flounder fishing on ocean reefs and wrecks (which was good but maybe not as good as in years past), bluefishing in the spring and the size (not numbers) of yellowfins caught during the summer. Other than that, not a lot was really noteworthy, but hey, we were due for a rocky season. You can really get a good sense of the billfish season by looking at the stats on the bottom of the Marlin Club Awards page in this issue. The numbers were noticeably down!

When it comes to notable catches this season you would have to put at the top of the list the new state record sheepshead caught by Robert Martin, the first recreationally caught opah by the guys on the "Primary Search" and the 184 lb. yellowfin tuna caught on the "Goin' In Deep".

We saw an increased interest in swordfishing by offshore anglers and I wouldn't be surprised if we see a jump in the number of swordfish hitting the local scales in the upcoming years. There's a knack to swordfishing and a definite learning curve, but anglers are getting the "fever" and more are giving it a shot.

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

May 3, 2017 - Water

temperatures never got as cold as we typically see resulting in species showing up earlier than expected. The first mako shark was caught on April 28th in 55 fathoms just north of the Rockpile, 17 days earlier than in 2016... blue sharks were thick in the canyons... yellowfins, bluefins and sharks were caught near the Triple 0's in 67-degree water... Site 10 was a hot spot for tautog fishing... chopper bluefish were numerous in the surf off Assateague and Ocean City... striped bass in the surf were scarce but were plentiful in commercial boat nets off the beach... bluefish were thick in the bay with many in the 10 lb. range... small stripers were caught around the Rt. 50 pilings... the flounder bite picked up in the Thorofare for slow trollers... In Delaware, bluefish dominated the action for anglers in the surf and bay... small stripers were caught right up to the bluefish invasion... a few black drum were caught off the beaches in Bethany and Fenwick... a few kingfish and puffers were caught from the beach in Lower Delaware... a few keeper flounder were caught in the Lewes Canal during the week... black drum were caught off Broadkill, Augustine, Slaughter and Cape Henlopen beaches... larger stripers were caught off Broadkill and Cape Henlopen.

May 10, 2017 - Horrible weather ruined fishing for the majority of the week... Emma Matarese muscled in a 12 lb. bluefish in the East Channel...

surfcaster caught some nice size stripers off Assateague late in the week... good numbers of stripers were caught by commercial boats just off the beach... chopper bluefish were caught in the bay, especially from 32nd Street down to the East Channel... big bluefish were also caught in the bay behind Frontier Town... flounder fishing showed some improvement in the Thorofare for slow trollers... weather kept offshore boats at the dock... In Delaware, the back bays behind Indian River was loaded with bluefish... surfcaster dealt with good numbers of skates in the suds... striper action was weak... short stripers were caught on the Rehoboth side of Herring Point.

May 17, 2017 - Victor Feleccio caught a 16 lb. 2 oz. tautog in 75-feet of water on ocean structure... windy conditions all week hindered fishing... bluefish dominated action in the bay and surf... when weather permitted, boats headed to 1,000 fathoms outside the Washington Canyon and caught yellowfin tuna, dolphin and mako sharks where water temperatures went from 65 to 73-degrees... commercial boats returned with good catches of bigeye tuna but none were found by recreational boats... good catches of tautog were found at wrecks in 75 to 100-feet of water... the hot tog bait was white leggers... sea bass opened on May 15th... big bluefish dominated action in the surf, but was not as good as previous weeks... striper fishing continued to be slow but a few big fish were caught in the surf off Assateague... Hog Island off Virginia was a hot spot for drum

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and stripers... the water around the Oceanic Pier was loaded with 20-inch stripers... flounder fishing was good in the Thorofare... In Delaware, most anglers were consumed with bluefish in the surf and bays... the chopper bite around the Cape Henlopen Pier was "epic"... the flounder bite in the Lewes Canal improved with the best coming during the incoming tide... black drum started to show up in the Coral Beds and off Broadkill Beach... striper fishing was weak, but a few were caught off 3R's Road.

May 24, 2017 - Offshore boats headed to 500 fathoms in the Norfolk Canyon and returned with nice catches of yellowfins and dolphin... tilefishing near the Rockpile produced both golden and blueline tilefish... bluelines were also found in the Baltimore Canyon... the San Gil wreck, 32 miles from Ocean City, was a good spot to pick up keeper sea bass... surfcaster continued to struggle with striped bass but the bluefish bite remained very strong... choppers also were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge and along the rocks off Martha's Landing... a few flatties were caught in the East Channel... In Delaware, 335 anglers completed in the Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament with a 4.3 pounder taking the top prize... the Coral Beds heated up for black drum with most fish in the 30 to 40 lb. range... weakfish were also caught around the Coral Beds and the Cape Henlopen Pier... most of the action around the Pier was on bluefish weighing up to 12 lbs... choppers were really snapping in the suds from Fenwick to 3R's Road... there was a good kingfish bite off the Fenwick beach... a batch of stripers in the 37 to 43-inch range, were caught in the Indian River Inlet over the weekend... speckled trout were

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caught behind Burton's Island... flounder fishing was tough, but a 23-incher was caught at the entrance to the Indian River Marina... anglers looking for sea bass had good luck at Site 11 and the Radford wreck.

May 31, 2017 - It was the week for thresher sharks... the crew on the "Stretchin' Lips" graced the cover with a 412 lb. thresher shark caught in the Norfolk Canyon... the Pino boys caught the first thresher of the year on May 27th at the Fingers... a 437 pounder was caught by a couple of junior anglers at the Hambone... mako sharks were caught in the Norfolk Canyon and southeast of the Jackspot... bigeye tuna were caught 100 miles south of Ocean City in 70-degree water... yellowfins were caught in the Norfolk Canyon... sea bass fishing was good at the Twin Wrecks and the Great Eastern Reef... a 5 lb. 4 oz. knothead was caught at the Old Grounds... flounder fishing turned on in the bay, primarily in the Thorofare and behind Assateague Island... the South Jetty also produced some good catches of flounder... weakfish and speckled trout were caught along the South Jetty on Roy Rigs... the bluefish bite slowed... tautog were hooked in 45-feet of water... In Delaware, bluefish caught in the Indian River Inlet were in the 2 to 4 lb. range and caught during the incoming tide... a few stripers were caught at night... surfcasters landed a few kingfish on bloodworms and some small bluefish on cut mullet... Site 11 and the east side of the Del-Jersey-Land Reef were productive for those looking for sea bass... flounder were caught around "B" Buoy... threshers were found around "A" Buoy and blue sharks were caught at the Fingers... bluefish, flounder and weakfish were caught at the Cape Henlopen Pier... a good flounder bite was found in the Lewes Canal... weakfish were picked at around the Coral Beds.

June 7, 2017 - During the Mako Mania Shark Tournament, a 583 lb. thresher was caught at the Fingers by anglers on the "Teaser"... a 228 lb. mako was caught on the "Moore Bills" below the Tea Cup... big threshers were also hooked at the Marine Electric, Parking Lot, Chicken Bone, in Massey's Canyon and just south of the Rockpile... several makos were

caught around the Hot Dog, Sausages and in the Washington Canyon... a 461 lb. mako was boated at the Elephant Trunk by John Pendell... a few white marlin were caught and released 126 miles south of Ocean City... yellowfins and dolphin were also in the mix... yellowfins were caught at the 461 Lump and in the Poor Man's Canyon... black sea bass were snapping on ocean structure in 100-feet of water with the best action coming at the Great Eastern Reef, the San Gil and the Del-Jersey-Land reef... flounder fishing in the bay was good behind Assateague Island and in the Thorofare, but short fish dominated the action... stripers were caught around the South Jetty and in the surf... snapper bluefish and small stripers were caught in good numbers around the Rt. 50 Bridge and South Jetty... Paul Lebling caught the first sheepshead of the year at the South Jetty... In Delaware, the flounder and striper bites improved in the Lewes Canal... bluefish bite slowed in the surf... big black drum caught on clams at the Coral Beds... most boats out of Delaware hit the Del-Jersey-Land reef for good sea bass fishing... some big flounder, weighing up to 7 lbs. 10 oz. were caught in the Indian River Inlet, around Burton's Island, the Coast Guard Station and the VFW... bluefin tuna were caught in 61.7-degree water in the Baltimore Canyon.

June 14, 2017 - Bluefin tuna were caught in 300 to 500 fathoms between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... bigeyes were boated between the Rockpile and the 461 Lump where water temperatures were around 66-degrees... boats that went below the Norfolk Canyon crushed the yellowfin tuna... "Foolish Pleasures" had 14 yellowfins, a mako and a white marlin release... some mahi were caught in 800 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... sea bass fishing was hit-or-miss with larger knotheads found in 100+ feet of water... flounder fishing was weak in the bay but was excellent at the Old Grounds... the throwback ratio ran high in the bay... larger bluefish entered the bay and were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... a cobia was caught off the beach in Bethany Beach, DE and one was hooked in the Ocean City Inlet... weakfish



Erica Minton from Wikesboro, NC fooled this weakfish with a sand flea while fishing around the South Jetty on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town in Berlin, MD.

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and sheepshead were caught around the South Jetty... In Delaware, short stripers, chopper bluefish and kingfish were caught in the surf... bluefishing was strong in the Indian River Inlet and a few flounder were caught near the VFW Slough... sharks dominated the surf action where anglers also found some kingfish and small bluefish... Fenwick Shoal also held snapper blues... flounder fishing was good at the Old Grounds... anglers on the "Valkyrie" boated a 408.2 lb. thresher shark at the Fingers.. a 328 lb. thresher was caught at Site 11... makos were caught in the Norfolk Canyon and at the Hambone... flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal improved, both in size and number of fish... the black drum bite at the Coral Beds died down.

June 21, 2017 - The first white marlin out the year out of O.C. was released on June 17th by Dave Taylor in 70 fathoms at the north end of the Poor Man's Canyon... a 15 lb. 11 oz. bluefish was caught at the Fingers... sea bass fishing was excellent at the San Gill and Old Grounds... sheepshead were caught around

the South Jetty... a couple of cobia were surprisingly caught in the Inlet and behind Assateague Island... flounder were caught in the East Channel on both sides of the bridge and near the duck blinds behind Assateague Island... yellowfins, bluefins and bigeyes were caught in 200 to 700 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon where water temperature was around 66-degrees... mahi were also caught in the Poor Man's... In Delaware, the big news was the first white marlin released by Ian Schwing in the Poor Man's Canyon... small stripers were caught along the rocks in the Indian River Inlet... flounder fishing in the Inlet was sub-par but action on ocean reefs and wrecks improved greatly... sea bass fishing was good in 100-120 feet of water... closer to shore sea bass fishing was weak... small bluefish were found on Fenwick Shoal... surf fishing was dominated by sharks at night and a few kingfish during the day... flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal was better but the throwback ratio remained very high... the black drum bite at the Coral Beds was nonexistent...

weakfish showed up on Delaware Bay structure.

June 28, 2017 - yellowfins were plentiful in 80 to 100 fathoms in the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyon... bluefins and yellowfins were caught at the Hot Dog... the first blue marlin of the year was released in 166 fathoms south of the Baltimore Canyon by Sasha Serpa on the "Maryland Pride"... another blue marlin was released on the "Primary Search", also in the Baltimore... sea bass and flounder fishing continued to be good in deeper water... flounder fishing in the bay improved, particularly in the Thorofare, East Channel and West Channel, south of the bridge... big bluefish invaded the bay and were caught in good numbers around the Rt. 50 Bridge... sheepshead, tautog, flounder, small stripers and bluefish were caught around the South Jetty... In Delaware, anglers fishing at the Old Grounds found excellent flounder fishing with fish up to 9 lbs... a few weakfish were caught in the surf near Sea Colony... bluefish were still snapping at Fenwick Shoal... triggerfish started showing up on inshore

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structure... flounder were caught on jigs at the Inner Wall... sheepshead and triggerfish were caught along the rocks at the Indian River Inlet.

July 5, 2017 - Yellowfins were caught in good numbers in the triangle formed by the Hot Dog, Sausages and Hambone... a few yellowfins were also caught in the Washington and Spencer Canyons with most in the 50 lb. range... bluefins came in from the Hot Dog and Hambone... a few white marlin were released in the Washington Canyon and a blue marlin was released in the Spencer... the first wahoo of the season was caught near the Sausages, 1 month later than last year... flounder fishing in the bay was horrible compounded with a high throwback ratio... better flounder fishing was on ocean reefs and wrecks, especially at the Old Grounds... sheepshead, weighing up to 12 lbs., were caught in good numbers around the South Jetty... tautog were also caught at the South Jetty, but the vast majority are undersized... anglers continued to pick at bluefish in the OC Inlet and a 12 pounder was caught at the Rt. 50

continued on page 10



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During a trip to the San Gil wreck in early December aboard the "In the Mix", Colin Campbell and Mike Johnston caught a black sea bass and their limit of flounder, weighing up to 7 lbs., while using Gulp Swimming Mulletts for bait. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City.



Tyler Long from Allentown, PA caught a couple of tautog while fishing with green crabs over ocean structure during a trip aboard the headboat, "Judy V" with Capt. Chris Adams. The "Judy V" is docked at the Indian River Marina.

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Bridge.

July 12, 2017 - Wahoo were caught at the Tea Cup and at the Fingers... the flounder bite continued to be slow with the best action coming from near the duck blinds behind Assateague Island... water temperature in the bay was 69-degrees... the flounder throwback ratio was very high... sheepshead, tautog, flounder, short stripers and weakfish were all caught around the South Jetty... surfcasters had kingfish during the day and sharks at night... surprisingly a triggerfish was caught in the surf off 124th Street... a spearfisherman shot a cobia at the Sugar Lumps... flounder and sea bass fishing on ocean structure slowed down... most of the tuna action was in the area between the Hot Dog, Hambone and Sausages... yellowfins around the Hot Dog averaged around 50 lbs... boats started chunking for tuna in Massey's Canyon... tilefishing was strong outside the Rockpile... In Delaware, a lot of flounder were caught in the Lewes Canal but the throwback ratio was off the charts with some boats reporting

40 short fish for every keeper... better flounder fishing was at the Old Grounds... slot stripers were caught in the Lewes Canal... DE Bay reef sites held flounder, weakfish and kingfish... spot were caught in the Indian River Bay... flounder were caught in Massey's Ditch... anglers hooked bluefins at the 12 Fathom Lump... sheepshead were captured by anglers fishing off the rocks at the Indian River Inlet... flounder fishing in the Inlet improved with fish weighing up to 5 lbs... a 417 lb. thresher shark was caught near "B" Buoy... a cobia was hooked at the Reliance wreck.

July 19, 2017 - The OC Tuna Tournament was held during the weekend and Jamie Romero took top honors for single heaviest fish with a 115 lb. bluefin caught at the 19 Fathom Lump... with the yellowfin bite on the slow side, not many 5-fish stringers were weighed... the best bite was 85-miles south of the Inlet at "Wayne's World" and on the chunk at the Hambone and Hot Dog... the winning 24 lb. dolphin was caught inshore of Massey's Canyon... wahoo were caught inshore of Massey's Canyon and in the Baltimore Canyon... a 200

lb. swordfish was caught in 20 fathoms at the Chicken Bone... inshore sea bass and flounder fishing continued to be slow... fishing at the Old Grounds gave anglers a good shot at keeper flounder and triggerfish... snapper bluefish were caught on light tackle at Fenwick Shoal... flounder fishing in the bay was sporadic with a lot of short fish caught in the East and West Channels... In Delaware, a few flounder were caught in the I.R. Inlet but the best fishing was on ocean structure 7 to 10 miles off the beach... triggerfish and sheepshead were caught off the rocks in the I.R. Inlet... kingfish and small sharks in the surf... the wreck on Fenwick Shoal produced snapper blues, triggerfish and sea bass... yellowfins were caught at the Lobster Claw... the flounder bite in the Lewes Canal slowed down with a huge throwback percentage.. triggerfish were caught around the pilings at the Cape Henlopen Pier.

July 26, 2017 - Heavy storms rolled through the area, but the weekend was fishable... 400 junior anglers fished in the Kid's Classic... 50 lb. class yellowfins were caught on the troll and chunk at the Chicken Bone and in Massey's Canyon... flounder fishing at the Old Grounds produced good numbers of big fish... spot were caught in the bay behind Assateague... croakers were found around the Rt. 90 Bridge and in the Thorofare... big wahoo came from the Hot Dog and Baltimore Canyon... offshore water temps ranged from 76 to 80 degrees... tuna fishing was slow, but a few good catches came in while chunking in Massey's Canyon... dolphin were everywhere from the Fingers and Jackspot out to the canyons... tilefishing was good in the Baltimore Canyon... snapper bluefish were all over Fenwick Shoal... bay flounder fishing was horrible with some fish caught in the East Channel and Thorofare... croakers invaded the bay with catches coming from the Rt. 90 Bridge, the mouth of the Commercial Harbor and behind Assateague... good numbers of bluefish were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge.

August 2, 2017 - The weekend was a blowout with bad weather but tuna fishing was good during the week around the Hot Dog and Massey's Canyon

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with several double-digit catches of yellowfins hitting the scales... anglers needed to drop to 30 lb. leaders to hook picky yellowfins... "Bar South" released a sailfish in the Poor Man's Canyon... the inshore sea bass and flounder bites were inconsistent... fishing at the 1st Lump produced catches of king and Spanish mackerel, bonitos, skippies, mahi and cobia... bay anglers continued to be frustrated with the high number of throwback flounder caught mainly in the East Channel... red and black drum were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... triggerfish were found around the South Jetty... In Delaware, a few flounder were pulled out of the Lewes Canal but overall it was slow with small fish dominating the action... slot stripers were picked at in the Canal around the Railroad Bridge... triggerfish were biting at the Ice Breakers, around the pier at Massey's and along the rocks at the I.R. Inlet... red drum were caught in the I.R. Inlet near the Coast Guard Station... kingfish and sharks in the DE surf.

August 9, 2017 - The White Marlin Open had 353 boats competing which was 24 more than the year before... heading into the tournament the white marlin bite was decent in the Norfolk and Washington Canyons... a few blue marlin were released around the Rockpile and in the Washington and Baltimore Canyons... tuna fishing was hit-or-miss with chunkers finding fish in Massey's Canyon and trollers getting them in the Poor Man's and Washington... the quality of yellowfins remained strong with fish averaging in the 50-60 lb. range... dolphin were stretched up and down the line in the canyons and inshore at the Twin Wrecks and Bass Grounds... the sea bass bite was off the charts good, but fish were scattered... the Old Grounds continued to be the hot spot for flounder fishing... Fenwick Shoal held Spanish mackerel and snapper bluefish... flounder fishing in the bay was sporadic with most catches coming from the East Channel on squid and shiners... there were reports of croakers at the Rt. 90 Bridge... In Delaware, flounder were caught in the I.R. Inlet with pink grubs working the best...

Continued on page 12

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No stranger to readers of the *Coastal Fisherman*, angler Sung Park captured this 3 lb. 8 oz. black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo. Sung hooked the knothead on a strip of squid over an offshore wreck.

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Year in Review, cont'd.

I.R. Inlet also produced short stripers, snapper bluefish and shad... headboat anglers had to weed through a lot of throwbacks to get their keeper flounder at Site 10... flounder fishing at the Cape May rips was good for those fishing with Gulp and minnow combinations... good triggerfish bite at the Walls.

August 16, 2017 - On the final day of the White Marlin Open, Glen Frost on the "Wire Nut" caught a 95.5 lb. white marlin to win the tournament and a \$1,654,800 check... fishing in the tournament was slow with only 409 white marlin caught or released, down from 1,389 the year before... wahoo were caught in the Baltimore Canyon... no bigeyes were brought to the scale... bay flounder fishing continued to be dismal with a better bite at the Old Grounds... strips of belly meat was the top producer for larger flounder... sea bass fishing was hit-or-miss but if you visited several locations you could return with your limit... croakers were picked at around the Rt. 90 Bridge... small stripers and snapper bluefish were around the Rt. 50 Bridge... NOAA announced they were closing cobia fishing in Federal waters on September 5th... In Delaware, throwback flounder dominated the action in the I.R. Inlet... short stripers were caught along the rocks at the I.R. Inlet... inshore lumps produced catches of king mackerel, snapper blues, triggerfish, weakfish and black drum... yellowfins were caught

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in Massey's Canyon and while chunking at the 12 Fathom Lump... fishing was very slow in the Lewes Canal.. sheepshead and triggerfish were caught at both Walls in the DE Bay... the flounder bite picked up around Site 10... good size flatties came in from around "A" Buoy... small stripers were found at The Ditch.

August 23, 2017 - The Poor Girls Open had a record setting 765 anglers... white marlin were released in the Washington Canyon... yellowfins were hooked in 500 fathoms outside the Poor Man's Canyon... wahoo were caught in the Norfolk Canyon... dolphin were found in 500 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... flounder fishing on inshore structure improved dramatically with most of the action at Sites 9, 10 & 11 off Delaware... Winter Quarter Shoal produced a mix of flounder and triggerfish... flounder fishing in the bay continued to be sporadic with water temperature ranging from 74 to 77-degrees... the East Channel was the top flounder spot... striped bass were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge at night and black drum were hooked at the South Jetty... snapper bluefish were everywhere in the bay behind OC... In Delaware, short flounder dominated the action in the Lewes Canal... Spanish mackerel were caught between "A" Buoy and the Delaware Lightship on trolled spoons and feathers... croakers were thick at Site 10 and were caught on Fishbite bloodworms... Inner & Outer Walls held sheepshead and triggerfish... a 32-inch cobia was

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caught in the I.R. Inlet... reports of a lot of 16 1/2-inch flounder on inshore structure... small croakers were caught near Burton's Island... sand bar and dusky sharks were caught in the suds... Capt. Brent Wiest won the Paradise Grill Flounder Tournament with an 11.4 pounder worth \$100,000 in award money... tilefishing was strong in the Baltimore and Washington Canyons... good numbers of dolphin were caught in the Washington Canyon.

August 30, 2017 - In The MidAtlantic tournament, anglers on the "Goin' in Deep" weighed a 680 lb. blue marlin and a 184 lb. yellowfin with both hooked outside the Wilmington Canyon... 420 white marlin were hooked in the tournament compared to 798 in 2016... a 677 lb. blue marlin was caught in the Washington Canyon... most of the white marlin were hooked in 50 fathoms in the Washington Canyon... dolphin were caught in the Washington Canyon and wahoo came from the Norfolk... flounder fishing on ocean reefs and wrecks really took off this week, especially at the Bass Grounds... high number of short

flounder dominated action in the bay... black drum and sheepshead were found around the South Jetty... tilefishing was strong in the Baltimore Canyon... the first longfin tuna was caught on the "FFMD" while trolling in 1,000 fathoms outside the Norfolk Canyon... In Delaware, Tom Schanno caught a 46.5 lb. golden tilefish in 500 feet of water in the Baltimore Canyon to set a new DE State Record... Sites 10 & 11 produced good catches of large flounder... the number of short flounder found on ocean reefs and wrecks increased... a decent number of flounder were caught in the Indian River Bay... flounder fishing in the Lewes Canal was weak... triggerfish were really snapping around the Outer Wall and Ice Breakers... an 8 lb. flounder was caught at the entrance to the I.R. Marina... triggerfish were caught along the rocks at the I.R. Inlet... snapper bluefish and small stripers were hooked at night in the Inlet... small croakers came in from the Causeway... small bluefish and stripers dominated action in the surf.

September 6, 2017 - Sheepshead dominated the

action this week around the South Jetty with several caught that weighed over 10 lbs.... Jeffrey Peregoy caught a 14 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead... storms caused water clarity to be sub-par, resulting in even worse flounder fishing... small flatties were hooked in the West Channel, south of the Rt. 50 Bridge... sporty seas dampened offshore fishing but some yellowfins were caught in the Washington Canyon... a few white marlin were also released in the Washington... wahoo were caught around the Rockpile... flounder weighing up to 5 lbs. were caught on inshore structure... In Delaware, plenty of peanut bunker entered the I.R. Inlet... sheepshead fishing remained strong along the rocks at the I.R. Inlet... good size spot were found in the I.R. Bay... smaller weakfish, in the 15-inch range, were caught in the Lewes Canal... snapper bluefish were in the surf.

September 13, 2017 - The Big Fish Classic was held this week after bad weather forced them to reschedule from their normal July date... anglers on the "Reel Chaos" boated an 80 lb. wahoo in

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55 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon... swordfish, yellowfins, white marlin and blue marlin were all hooked between the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons... an 88.5 lb. wahoo was also caught in the Poor Man's... the Bass Grounds was the hot flounder spot for anglers using belly meat, minnows and Gulp... sheepshead continued to dominate action in the bay with loads of fish caught around the South Jetty... red drum were also caught around the Jetty... keeper flounder, up to 24-inches were caught around the Rt. 50 Bridge... In Delaware, a 50-inch cobia was caught just off Indian River... an 86 lb. swordfish was captured in the Baltimore Canyon... some spot, small croakers, flounder and weakfish were caught near the Roosevelt Inlet... triggerfish were hooked along the rocks at Pot Nets... flounder fishing on ocean structure was weak... the best spot for sea bass fishing was the Del-Jersey-Land Reef for anglers fishing with clams or squid.

September 20, 2017 - Good size wahoo dominated the action at local MD and DE scales... anglers on the "Stress Reel-ief"

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boated a 93.4 lb. speedster... anglers on the "Billfisher" caught a 93 lb. wahoo... most wahoo were caught in 75 to 100 fathoms from the southern end of the Baltimore Canyon to the northern end of the Poor Man's... anglers on the "Marli" returned with 5 wahoo in the box from 70 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon... a 164 lb. swordfish was caught in 1,400 feet of water on the north end of the Poor Man's Canyon... good catches of flounder came in from the Bass Grounds, African Queen and Great Eastern Reef... the number of short flounder continued to increase on ocean structure... the hot flounder spot was Site 10... a good number of cobia were spotted cruising the surface around Fenwick Shoal... sheepshead continued to dominate action in the bay with many fish caught at the South Jetty... flounder fishing in the bay was very slow... there was an excellent red drum bite in the East Channel... anglers pecked away at flounder and croakers in the Lewes Canal... better flounder fishing was at the Old Grounds... short stripers were hooked under the lights near the Coast Guard Station in the I.R. Inlet... triggerfish and sheepshead were still being caught at the Walls in the Delaware Bay... the Fenwick surf was loaded with snapper bluefish, 20-inch stripers and small sandbar sharks... small bluefish invaded the I.R. Inlet and were caught during the incoming tide... inshore anglers dealt with a large number of short flounder... a good number of croakers were captured on inshore structure.

October - December 2017 - For anglers fishing in the bay, catching sheepshead around the South Jetty was insane, probably too insane, with large numbers racked up for several weeks by anglers fishing with crabs and sand fleas.

Flounder fishing perked up a little in the East Channel, but anglers still had to contend with an extraordinary number of throwbacks. Flatties were also caught around the rocks of the South Jetty and in the Fish Bowl, but the better action was out on the ocean reefs and wrecks. The San Gil, African Queen and Great Eastern sites produced many catches of sea bass and flounder for boats willing to make the

trek... those looking for a shorter run headed to the Old Grounds and Winter Quarter Shoal for their keeper flounder, sea bass and triggerfish.

Tautog fishermen found plenty of fish along the rocks at Martha's Landing (West Channel), but unfortunately the vast majority were too short to keep. As always, larger fish were on ocean structure.

Striper fishing was rough. There really wasn't much of a spring run, frustrating many surfcasters up and down the coast and the fall run, through the 1st half of December, was dismal with fish remaining off the coast of Jersey much longer than we typically see, although the last 2 years have seen similar conditions. Just as this paper was going to press before Christmas, the striper bite seemed to be coming to life with anglers finally marking bait, seeing whales and locating diving gannets signaling bait and fish underneath. Hopefully, the water won't get cold too fast and a solid late December and January will save the season.

Offshore, the highlight of fall fishing had to be both the increase in the number of swordfish we saw come to the scale and the first 2 opahs caught by recreational anglers. The guys on the "Primary Search" had a remarkable fall season. During 4 trips in 42 days between October 22nd and December 2nd they racked up 15 sea bass, 4 swordfish, a 170 lb. bigeye, 28 mahi and 2 opahs.

The first opah weighed 105 lbs. and was caught on November 12th while deep dropping in the Poor Man's Canyon. Although they had been caught by commercial anglers out of Ocean City in the past, nobody ever remembered one being caught by a recreational angler. Almost 3 weeks later, the guys were at it again and caught a 159.8 lb. opah on the southern end of the Poor Man's Canyon, only 2 miles from where they caught their first opah. The "Primary Search" guys fish hard and should be congratulated for their incredible stretch of fishing!

The entire team at the *Coastal Fisherman* wish everyone a happy and safe winter. Look for us at all the outdoor and boating shows this winter.

See you next season!

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While trolling just south of Wildwood, NJ, angler Jeff Waxman (right) boated this 48-inch striper while fishing on the "Priceless" with Pat Petrera, Roger Meekins and Rodney Evans (pictured), who is probably laughing at the angle that this photograph was taken. The guys caught 5 keepers, measuring between 44 and 48-inches.



Hugh Cropper of Berlin, MD caught this 10 lb. sheephead at the end of September during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford. Hugh caught the fish on a green crab around the South Jetty.

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Local author releases book of Delmarva fishing and hunting stories.

Local outdoorsman and author, C.L. Marshall released his fourth book, "Hunting and Fishing the Chesapeake: Unforgettable Tales of Wing and Water".

According to the author, "This book provides a brief glimpse into a life that many kindred spirits choose. It's not necessarily where, but how one chooses to live that defines a man. Many on this little spit of land choose to take full advantage of the best the Chesapeake and Atlantic have to offer. For many, these activities profice more intrinsic value than most folks could ever imagine. The value doesn't come in the form of a paycheck, it's derived from



the sunrises and sunsets. It comes from the warm southerly breezes as fresh-caught dinner cooks on the open fire. It's about the sound of the surf and the anticipation of the sun's first peek over the distant horizon. It's about a successful teaser bite, a good retrieve and the smile a young hunter displays as their first goose is claimed. It's about the people we choose to share these moments with. At the root of all this is the land and the water. It's our playground. Cherish it."

Editor's note: For anyone who enjoys the outdoors on Delmarva, this book is a must read. With a combination of hunting and fishing stories, I found myself not wanting to put it down, enjoying one chapter after another, feeling like I was right there with the author as he spun his tales. It is a wonderful read, especially for

those familiar with the areas of Delmarva highlighted throughout the short stories. What follows is one chapter in C.L.'s latest book.

Small Craft Warnings

The erect dorsal of the six-hundred-pound blue marlin accelerated quickly as it zeroed in on the horse ballyhoo swimming very lifelike behind a large black-and-purple Islander. I stood in amazement at the force with which this very aggressive beast attacked her dinner. There was no need for a feathered drop back of the bait. She hammered the bait from the port side, accelerating as she swatted it with her bill and engulfing it quickly, leaving a shower of ocean water and a hole the size of a VW in her wake. I was glad to

be at the helm.

The day dawned as expected. For once, all the prognosticators were on the same page, mentioning light winds from the south. They all also used the word "variable," which to us was the signal to pull the trigger on a tuna trip. They'd been catching a few at 26 Mile Hill out of Wachapreague. The thirty-fathom lumps just inside the Washington Canyon held many more. A combination of an excellent forecast, favorable sea conditions and several other boats heading to the same area made me and my fishing partner Bill Hall anxious to put his nineteen-foot Swan Point, dubbed "Fishmaker," to the test. We intended to use all of its sixty-five-gallon fuel capacity.

To this point, the Swan Point had been an excellent

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fishing platform. We'd made several trips out of Chincoteague and Wachapreague for sea bass and tautog. It had performed admirably in the shallows off Elbow Tump for speckled trout and seemed to attract red drum down at Parker's Island. We had made several trips down to Cape Charles, catching limits of black drum on each trip. A fifty-two-inch cobia was found minding his own business swimming under a sea turtle. He was tricked into eating a yellow bucktail and subsequently released after putting up one hell of a fight on light spinning tackle. At this early point in the year, we had collected enough Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament plaques to use as placemats for a dinner service for eight. Things were going well as we moved into late June.

We had been looking for a weather window for some time to put some tuna blood on her floor. There was a good chance that we'd be able to find some bluefins at the Parking Lot in mid-July. The combination of weather, good numbers of mahi and the occasional yellowfin tuna at the "hills" would lure us and a few others to traverse the thirty or so miles to a sea mount off the Wachapreague, Virginia coast. Our destination would be 26 Mile Hill.

The smallish boat had been transformed into an offshore fishing machine over the course of three hours the prior afternoon. She was loaded with four Penn International 30 wides and a pair of 50s. Onboard were a couple gaffs, the insulated fish bag and a small cooler laden with brined baits affixed to Sea Witches in a rainbow of colors. Six larger, or horse, ballyhoos were fed onto larger lures, and three were rigged naked. They would be deployed on the larger 50 Internationals in the event that a larger pelagic predator would make an appearance in our spread. Though we would certainly be the smallest boat in the fleet, we wouldn't be undergunned. We also didn't

suffer from a lack of confidence.

On the ride to the little city by the sea, there was a noticeable calm in the air. We spoke very little, each sipping on rather tasty coffee from the Shore Stop. The boat was launched with little issue and was idling nicely as I returned from parking the truck. I hopped aboard and we began the seven-mile trek toward the Wachapreague Inlet. We fell in behind Captain Nat Adkinson on the Foxy Lady. Nat's boat wasn't the fastest in the fleet, and he used that to his advantage. Often he left earlier than his counterparts, and his lack of speed only enhanced his skill in fishing the inshore waters. He knew where every bump, hill, engine block, snag and upwelling was located that might hold a fish. He could catch them as well.

We made thirteen knots following him through the inlet and past the "C" bouy. Bill bumped her up to twenty-three knots on the flat surface of the ocean. Our ETA to the northern end of 26 Mile Hill would put us there right at sunrise. The ride there was uneventful. As we slowed to trolling speed two miles short of our waypoint, the outriggers were deployed and baits began to hit the water. The flat lines were first to go over. Clipping the second line to the transom clip, we took a second to admire how nicely they were swimming. Long riggers were sent out next to a distance of about one hundred yards behind the boat. Short riggers, with the larger baits on the 50s, split the distance between the flats and longs. We worked independently and in unison. If there was going to be an early-morning bite, we were going to be in on it.

Bill took the helm, and I took to the tower to survey the spread. Well, actually, it wasn't a tower. In actuality, I stood atop the cooler seat in front of the center console. From that vantage point I saw the first flash of neon green pick off the starboard long bait. The gaffer

Continued on page 20



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Book, cont'd.

dolphin jumped almost immediately as line began to peel off the reel, the drag of the Penn making that special sound that all fishermen treasure. As I brought the fish boatside, Bill leaded and gaffed the fish, cleanly swinging it into the open 128-quart cooler in one continuous motion. The skunk was out of the boat. We bobbed and weaved through the increasing number of boats for the next hour before we had our next customer.

This bite was unseen. There would be no jumping and no flashing in the baits, just an old-school street fight. It was down and dirty. There was little doubt that this was a tuna. I took the wheel as Bill settled into the circular battle that marked the near end of the fight, or so we thought. This fish had heart. After nearly thirty minutes, I sunk the steel through his head. Our first bluefin of the season joined the dolphin in the cooler.

While we'd had a rather

busy morning thus far, we couldn't help but overhear the chatter from the boats off on the thirty-fathom line. A few billfish had been sighted, and stories of dolphins and tunas being boated were coming across channel 69 with increasing regularity. We both were thinking about it, but neither voiced it until we got that call from Captain Mike Parker on The Lucky Dawg. Parker commented to Bill, "If there was ever a day to catch a billfish on a small boat, today is the day." With a small bit of coercion, we pulled the lines in and headed offshore. We pulled the throttles back at the thirty-fathom line and pointed her bow to the north toward the bumps just inside the Washington.

There was a definite color difference between the 26 Mile Hill and our current location. No longer was it the off color green, but rather a deep, clean blue. The water temperature difference was six degrees. Large sportfishermen from Virginia Beach and Ocean City

trolled in the same area. The Lord only knows what they thought when they saw us out there in the deep. Quickly, we got our lines in the water. After a little adjustment, we were right where we wanted to be. We began to wonder about the sanity of our decision after the first hour of trolling left our baits undisturbed. The second hour passed with just one more small peanut dolphin to show for our efforts.

Still pushing northward, I made for the outside edge of the bump. Bill went forward to pull a pair of cold Buds and our subs out of the cooler. Driving along with my back to the west, we nibbled on our food and savored the cold beer. In the calm water, the wake pushing ahead of the fish was very obvious. In disbelief I saw this massive blue-and-gold missile building speed toward the port shorttrigger. I couldn't speak in full sentences. Never had I seen such an animal move with such speed and precision. The words that came out were, "Bill...Bill...Billfish!!!!"

The fish hit with aggression, the rod doubled and line sped off the reel with a pace that I had not experienced. Bill pulled the rod from the rod holder, and I supplied him with a fighting belt. Quickly, I started to clear the lines, but that plan had to be aborted as the fish greyhounded away from the boat in a wide clockwise arc. Luckily, we had him on the 50. Bill just held on as the line peeled off the reel. My first instinct was to chase the fish, but I chose wisely and began to chase the line. Half a spool was gone and it was departing quickly. Bill moved to the front of the boat as we attempted to get line back on the reel.

The radio was ablaze with chatter about the "little boat." The entire fishing community sent suggestions and well wishes in our endeavor. At the forty-five-minute mark, we'd gained much of our line back, only to have it stripped off again. This ordeal replayed over and over again. I sent out

a request for harness for Bill. The belt had broken, and he was nearing the hour mark in this battle. Without a harness we had little hope of successfully landing this fish. Nick Katrobus, on his Maine-style boat Tuna Fortuna, didn't hear the call, but he did inquire about the "little boat" dead in the water and called to render assistance. I quickly answered on the radio as the fish made another long run to the starboard, launching its left airborne in full view of the Katrobus crew. Nick quickly backed to our port side, tossed us his harness, asked if we needed anything else, then eased off to watch the show. Momentarily leaving the helm, I retrieved the harness and quickly strapped it to Bill and the rod. He took a little break and then began to work on the fish.

Just after the two-hour mark, the fish rose to the surface and seemed to just linger there. Only twenty yards away, I needed to cover half that distance to get our hands on the leader. Touching the leader signaled a release, but I wanted to get our hands on this beast. In the gentle rolling swells of the ocean, I thrust the engine in reverse and quickly cut our distance in half, as Bill performed admirably on the reel.

With the boat at idle, I pulled the fish toward me and grabbed the bill. The old girl was played out. So was Bill. After a few quick pictures, forward gear was engaged and we "swam" the thirteen-foot fish beside the boat until she signaled her time to go with an angry thrash of her great bill. With that she slowly departed our company and returned to the deep. Crossing paths undoubtedly left an intense memory with all involved.

"Hunting and Fishing the Chesapeake: Unforgettable Tales of Wing and Water" and C.L.'s other books can be purchased at several local bookstores and also at www.clmarshallpublishing.com.



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This 27 1/4-inch flounder made the grave mistake of going after the live cobb mullet being fished off the Rt. 50 Bridge by Sean Whaley. The big flattie weighed 10 lbs. 7 oz. on the scale at AllTackle Ocean City.



In early October, Scott Savage was fishing a little south and inshore of Little Gull Shoal when he anchored up for some bottom fishing. Scott noticed a pair of loggerhead turtles on the surface so he rigged up an eel in case a cobia happened to swim by, which it did, and 35 minutes later the fish was in the boat. The cobia measured 54-inches and weighed 57 lbs. on the Sunset Marina scale.

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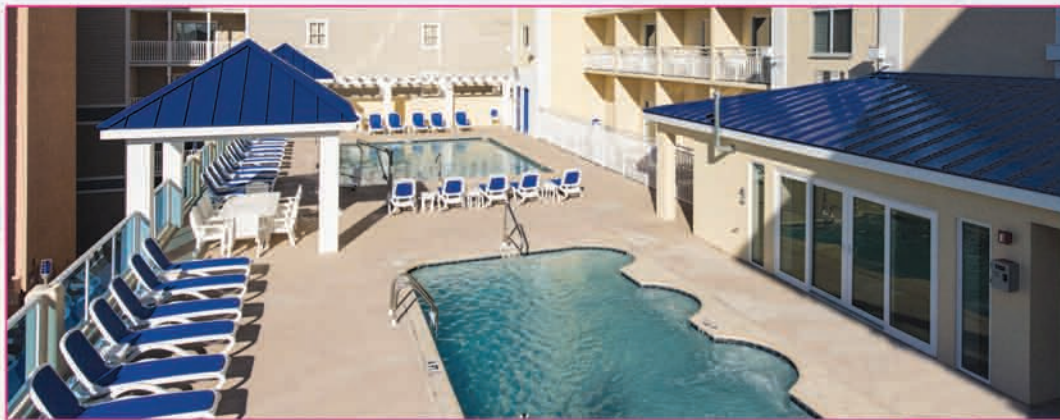
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In early December, Lamar Meekins from Seaford, DE caught this beautiful speckled trout on a swim shad at the Roosevelt Inlet. The fish weighed 4 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Lewes Harbour Marina.



On December 17th, Bob Telford of Snow Hill, MD caught this upside down flounder while fishing on the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Dean Lo and Rich Fouts. The fish weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz. and was fooled with a strip of squid on an offshore wreck.



Trent Myers from Lancaster, PA muscled in this 54 lb. swordfish during a trip to the Washington Canyon in late October. Trent caught the swordfish on his first drop of a strip bait in 1,800 feet of water while fishing on the "G-FORCE" with Capt. Tony Diesel, Capt. Marston Jones and mate Parker Smith. Weighed at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.



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Courtney Ritter is all smiles after muscling in this 8 lb. flounder at the Twin Wrecks. The big flattie was hooked on a 6-inch Gulp artificial bait during a trip aboard the "Hellbent" with Mike Johnston. The duo ended their day with a limit of 8 flounder, all measuring 22-inches or larger.



On October 7th, Grayson Wooldridge caught his first speckled trout while trolling Rapala plugs at the mouth of the St. Martin River. Grayson was with his dad, John Wooldridge when they found the trout among schools of bunker and bluefish in 70-degree water.

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Mike Hinton ventured down from northern Delaware to spend the day fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley and was rewarded with this 10 lb. 5 oz. flounder. Mike and his buddies ended their trip with 18 nice size flounder and a limit of sea bass in the box, including another big flattie for Mike that tipped the scale at 8 lbs. 6 oz.

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ANGLER Tom Distefano
BOAT Marli
DATE 7/31/16

The first to arrive at the scale on the final day of the 3rd Annual Huk Big Fish Classic was the charter boat, "Marli" with a 407 lb. blue marlin caught by Tom Distefano of New Castle, DE. Tom picked a good time to land his first blue marlin, hooking the tournament winning 112-inch on a skirted rubber ballyhoo in the Washington Canyon and Keith Nizer from Baltimore, MD, Robert DiGiacomo from Rehoboth Beach, DE, Capt. Mark Hoos and mates Mark Stephens and Joel Fryberger. The big blue marlin was the heaviest fish caught in the tournament and won the "Marli" team \$105,270 in award money. Pictured at the Tackle West Pier.



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Wayne Spindler, Jr. of Sykesville, Md jumped on the good sheepshead bite this past fall, hooking this 8 pounder at the North Jetty during a trip aboard the charter boat, "On the Run" with Meghan White and Capt. Dave Caffrey. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Al Restaneo took the trip north and fished off the coast of Stone Harbor, NJ where he caught this 45-inch striper in early December.



David Walker of Boothwyn, PA was fishing at Site 11 when he hooked this 10 lb. 8 oz. tautog on a white legger crab. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Dawn Foster caught a pair of mahi, including this 29 pounder, while fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon on the "Brown Dog" with John Foster, Jeff Corder, Tom Baker and Tim DuLaney. Weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



"Hurricane" Murray Adams from Ellicott City, MD and Cathy Creel from West Ocean City, MD had a great day of fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo. The duo caught their limit of flatties, with Cathy's 22-incher leading the way. All of the fish were caught over an ocean wreck and on natural bottom while using cut bait and clams.



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During a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley, angler Sunny Kim danced a butterfly jig over natural bottom and caught this 4 lb. black sea bass. Sunny's group caught their boat limit of 90 sea bass and a few flounder during their trip.

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Donna Harman from Bahia Marina is all smiles after catching a couple of big sheephead on the outside of the South Jetty during a trip aboard the charter boat, "On the Run" with Beth Mattox, Joey Collins and Capt. Dave Caffrey. The fish were hooked on sand fleas and weighed 8 1/2 lbs. and 11 1/2 lbs.



Jesse Harman of West Ocean City, MD took time off from touring with the West King String Band and jumped on an excellent sheephead bite around the South Jetty in early October. Jesse used a sand flea to fool this 8 pounder while fishing on the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey. Weighed at Bahia Marina.



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On October 21st, Scott Clasing, Morgan McGovern and Chris Clasing caught 3 keeper flounder while drifting in the East Channel and in the West Channel off Martha's Landing. Scott led the way with a 25-incher that weighed an even 7 lbs. The other 2 flatties measured 17 1/2 and 24-inches. All were caught on live peanut bunker at the end of the incoming tide. The following day, the anglers caught another 2 keepers at the same locations and racked up 45 throwbacks during their 2 days of fishing.



While fishing from his kayak in the Lewes Canal, Dean Lokey caught this big speckled trout on a Strike King Redfish Magic Spinnerbait.

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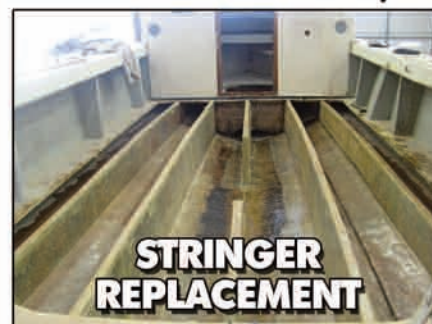
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During a trip aboard the charter boat, "On the Run" with Capt. Dave Caffrey, anglers Leif and Kyle Tolan caught 4 sheepshead at the South Jetty that weighed between 5 and 10 lbs. All of the fish were hooked while using crabs for bait. Weighed at Bahia Marina.

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Benjamin Rich took a trip on the "No Limit" with Capt. John Azato and muscled in this 18 lb. 8 oz. tautog while fishing with crabs on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Rebecca McGill from Pasadena, MD used a Gulp artificial bait to fool this 19-inch flounder while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Lee Baker. The fish was caught on the north side of the Rt. 50 Bridge in the Fish Bowl. The "Lucky Break" is docked at Frontier Town.

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Jason Burris caught a 42 lb. striper, Matt Basile boated a 36.5 lb. linesider and Matt DiSabitino added a 36 pounder to the box, all while tossing topwater poppers off South Jersey. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.




In late October, this 6 lb. 8 oz. flounder fell at the hands of Tom Adkins of Denton, MD during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mate Dean Lo. Tom hooked the big flattie on a strip bait at an artificial reef.

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COASTAL FISHERMAN



Congratulates all 2017 Marlin Club Award Winners

- Top Junior Angler**
Dillon Churchill - 4 (9/9/17)
Hannah Link - 4 (9/16/17)
Ayrton Pryor - 2

Top Lady Angler
Judy Duffie - 10
Liz Mellon - 3
Robin Ritter - 2

Top Gentleman Angler
Jeff Lessin - 20
Jim Rodgers - 11
Marc Verzaleno - 9

**Charles Kratz Award for
1st White Marlin Caught by a
Junior Angler on Member Boat**
Ian Schwing - "Fish Whistle"
June 16, 2017 @ 10:03 AM

Edna Hodgens Award
Bill Regan

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award
for Top Mate on a Charter Boat**
Jon Meade & Jake Emche
"No Quarter"

**Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award
for Top Mate on a Private Boat**
Domenic DiSanto
"Legasea"

Recreational Angler Award
Bill Miller - 9 releases
"Buckshot"
- Heaviest Tuna**
"Howes Fishing"
270 lbs.

Heaviest Dolphin
"Big Billin"
46 lbs.

Heaviest Wahoo
"Billfisher"
93 lbs.

Heaviest Shark
"Get Reel"
501 lbs.

First White Marlin of the Season
Ian Schwing - "Fish Whistle"
June 16, 2017 @ 10:03 AM

Last Billfish of the Season
September 30, 2017 @ 11:43 AM

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a
Charter Boat**
"No Quarter" - 39

**Most 1st Billfish Caught by a
Private Boat**
"Git R Done" - 7
- First Blue Marlin of the Season**
Pam McAteer - "Maverick"
July 2, 2017 @ 11:26 AM

**Most Blue Marlin
Released by Any Boat**
"Moore Bills" - 6

Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat
"Marli" - 243
"Boss Hogg" - 133
"Wrecker" - 96

Most Tuna Caught by a Private Boat
"Killin' Time" - 27
"Tunafowl" - 24
"Remedy II" - 23

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 35' to 46'**
"Game Changer" - 48

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 27' to 34'**
"Reel Fin Addict" - 18

**Most Tuna Caught by a
Boat - 26' and Under**
"Bet-Sea" - 7

**Most Billfish Released
Private Boat - 26' and Under**
"Sea Hunt 26" - 2
- Most Billfish Released
Private Boat - 27' to 34'**
"Brenda Lou" - 8
"Christine Marie III" - 8
"Caneelin" - 6

**Most Billfish Released
Private Boat - 35' to 46'**
"Poore Sport" - 17
"Gret's Three J's" - 15
"Spring Mix II" - 12

**Most Billfish Released by a
Private Boat**
"Legasea" - 37
"The Chaser" - 36
"Makara" - 26

**Most Billfish Released by a
Charter Boat**
"No Quarter" - 85
"Billfisher" - 52
"Reel Chaos" - 51

**Most Billfish Released
in 1 Day by a Private Boat**
"Gret's Three J's" - 7

**Most Billfish Released
in 1 Day by a Charter Boat**
"No Quarter" - 9

**Most Billfish Released
by Any Boat**
"No Quarter" - 85

~~ BILLFISH RELEASE CLUBS ~~

50 Club		
"No Quarter" - 85	"Billfisher" - 52	"Reel Chaos" - 51
25 Club		
"Marli" - 42	"The Chaser" - 36	"Boss Hogg" - 27
"Wrecker" - 38	"Top Dog" - 30	"Makara" - 26
"Legasea" - 37	"M.R. Ducks" - 30	"Grande Pez" - 25
"Buckshot" - 36	"C-Boys" - 28	

~~ TOTAL FISH RELEASED ~~

(January 1st to first Sunday in October)

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



The big winners at the Ocean City Marlin Club Seasonal Awards Banquet was the team on the charter boat, "No Quarter". In addition to being one of only three boats in the "50 Club" for releasing between 50 and 99 billfish during the season, they ended the evening winning the top prize for Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat in 1 Day (9), Most Billfish Caught - Charter Boat (85), Most Billfish Caught by Any Boat (85), Most First Billfish Caught by a Charter Boat (39). Mates Jon Meade and Jake Emche also won the Jimmy Jackson Memorial Award for Top Mates on a Charter Boat. Pictured are Mike Peet, Capt. Kyle Peet and mates Jake Emche and Jon Meade.



At the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet, the crew on the "Billfisher" won top honors for Heaviest Wahoo of the Year for this 93 pounder caught by Danny Gough of Glenwood, MD. Danny was fishing with Capt. Jon Duffie (pictured), Scott Hoffman, Noe Gonzalez and mates Austin Robins (pictured), Noah McVicker and Chris Wyandt. The wahoo was hooked on a naked ballyhoo in 60 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon on September 16th. Weighed at Sunset Marina.



At the Ocean City Marlin Club Awards Banquet in October, Dave Taylor (center) was recognized for catching and releasing the first white marlin of the season out of Ocean City earning him \$5,000 from the Town of Ocean City and \$6,000 from Fishermen United of Ocean City, a group formed by 6 local businesses (Sunset Marina, Ocean City Fishing Center, Bahia Marina, Atlantic Tackle, Bank of Ocean City and the Coastal Fisherman). Dave hooked the white marlin on June 17th while trolling in 70 fathoms at the north end of the Poor Man's Canyon during a trip aboard the "Reel Buster" with Chip Raynor and Tim Babikow.



As part of their efforts to provide scholarships to local youth and to donate to other non-profit organizations that support the advancement of marine activities, the Marlin Club Crew of OC contributed \$3,000 to the Ocean City Reef Foundation. Pictured are President Cathy Donovan, Vice President Cyndy Spicknall, Treasurer Michelle Hrebik, Reef Foundation representative Heather Bahrami and MCC of OC board members Helen Raum and Carolyn Conkel. The organization is dedicated to the sustained improvement of recreational fishing and diving in Maryland's coastal waters through habitat management, public education and conservation of natural resources. Pictured at the Ocean City Marlin Club in West Ocean City, MD.





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BEACON



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Greg Weddle from Elkton, MD caught a 2 lb. 4 oz. flounder and Vivienne Uzamere from Bowie, MD caught a 20 1/2-inch, 3 lb. 9 oz. flattie, both while fishing on the headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Drew Zerbe and mate Serge Garder. The flounder were caught on squid and shiner combinations near the Rt. 90 Bridge. Pictured back at the dock at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, MD.

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Keith Brendan of Newark, MD jumped on the good sheephead bite around the South Jetty and nailed this 6 pounder on a sand flea while fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford.



In early December, Chip Graves was deep dropping whole squid in the Washington Canyon when he surprisingly caught this 20 lb. cusk. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



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Flounder Cerviche

Submitted by Capt. Matt & Skipper Noah

Petite diced jalapeno
Petite diced red onion
Petite diced cucumber
Finely chopped green onion
Finely chopped cilantro

Add all of the above ingredients to 1/4 lb. of fillet of flounder cut in large dice.

Add the following ingredients to the flounder mixture:

Juice of half of lime
Juice of quarter of lemon
2 dashes of soy sauce
Dash of Old Bay seasoning
Salt and pepper, to taste

Lightly stir all of the ingredients.

Place in covered glass bowl for 15 to 30 minutes.

Serve as appetizer.

Hot and Sour Tuna

1/4 cup olive oil
2 medium onions, thinly sliced
2 jalapeno peppers, deveined, seeded and minced
1 lb. tuna steak
Flour for dredging
Salt and pepper to taste
2 TBSP. red wine vinegar
1/3 cup dry white wine
Minced parsley for garnish

Heat the oil in a covered 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-low heat.

Add the onions and jalapenos and cook, stirring occasionally until the onions wilt.

Remove from the pan.

Dredge the tuna in flour and raise the heat to high.

Brown the tuna on both sides in the same skillet, about 4 minutes.

Return the onions and peppers to the pan and add the salt, pepper, vinegar and wine.

Cover, turn the heat to low and cook 5 minutes.

Remove the tuna and reduce the sauce if necessary.

Spoon the sauce over the tuna, garnish with the parsley and serve.

Serves 2-3.

Marinated Mahi-Mahi

1/4 cup olive oil
1/2 cup red wine
2 TBSP. lemon juice
1 TBSP. balsamic vinegar
1/2 cup minced parsley
2 tsp. dried oregano
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. white pepper
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
4 mahi-mahi fillets

Thoroughly combine the first nine ingredients.

Place the fillets in a bowl or large ziploc bag and cover with marinade.

Pour the marinade over the mahi fillets.

Press out the air and seal the bag.

Refrigerate 30 to 45 minutes.

Preheat the broiler.

Place the fillets in a broiling pan and broil for 3 to 4 minutes.

Turn fillets over and, spoon some additional marinade on top.

Broil for 2 to 3 minutes more until lightly firm.

Serves 4.

Asian Style Striped Bass

4 TBSP. sesame seeds
2 tsp. minced garlic
6 scallions, minced
2 tsp. sesame oil

2 TBSP. soy sauce
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
Salt
Black pepper
4 striped bass fillets
6 TBSP. peanut or vegetable oil

Toast the sesame seeds in a dry pan over medium heat, shaking occasionally until they darken and begin to pop. This usually takes about 5 minutes in an oven or 2 to 3 minutes in a microwave.

Mix half of the sesame seeds with the garlic, half the scallions, the sesame oil, soy sauce, cayenne, salt and pepper.

Coat the fillets with this mixture and allow them to sit while you heat the oil.

Heat the oil in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium heat until it shimmers.

Carefully add each fillet.

Cook until lightly browned and cooked all the way through.

Cook and brown the other side.

Serve immediately after garnishing; serve with reserved scallions and sesame seeds.

Serves 4.

Pineapple Fried Rice with Shrimp

1 lb. peeled and deveined shrimp
2 garlic cloves, grated
1 inch piece ginger, peeled and grated
1/4 tsp. black pepper
3 tsp. vegetable oil
2 large eggs, beaten
2 cups pineapple chunks
1/2 lb. green beans, cut in 1-inch pieces
3 cups cooked brown rice
2 TBSP. less sodium soy sauce
3 scallions, sliced
1/4 cup roasted unsalted peanuts, roughly chopped

Toss together shrimp, garlic, ginger and pepper.

Heat 1 tsp. of oil in a skillet over medium-high heat.

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Add eggs and cook, stirring until scrambled and cooked through, 1 to 2 minutes, set aside.

Wipe skillet clean, add 1 tsp. of oil and increase heat to high.

Add shrimp and cook, stirring occasionally, until opaque and pink, 3 minutes; set aside.

Wipe skillet clean and heat the remaining 1 tsp. oil over high.

Add pineapple and beans and cook until crisp-tender, 2 minutes.

Stir in shrimp and eggs and cook to reheat.

Remove from heat and stir in soy sauce and scallions.

Serve topped with peanuts.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass in Yellow Curry

1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut
2 cups boiling water
5 TBSP. vegetable oil

1 lb. striped bass fillets, cut in chunks
Flour for dredging
2 cups sliced onion
1 tsp. turmeric
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp. ground coriander
1/4 tsp. black pepper
Salt to taste
2 TBSP. fresh lemon juice
Minced cilantro for garnish

Put the coconut in a blender.

Cover with water and blend.

Let rest for a few minutes.

Heat 3 TBSP. of oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat until it is hot.

Dredge the bass chunks lightly in the flour and cook quickly until lightly browned, 3 to 4 minutes.

Remove fish with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Add the remaining oil to the pan and cook the onion, over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until very soft and beginning to turn brown,



Chris Vann of Lewes, DE was fishing in the Delaware surf when he hooked into this 26-inch red drum while using clams and Fishbites for bait. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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While fishing on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford, Ken Church, Dan Sheeran, Jr. and Dan Sheeran, Sr. teamed up to catch 3 sheephead (1 pictured) and 2 keeper tautog. The largest sheephead of the day was a 12 pounder caught by Ken on a sand flea at the South Jetty.

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about 10 minutes.

Stir in the turmeric, cayenne, coriander, pepper and salt.

Cook for 2 minutes.

Strain the coconut milk and add the liquid to the onion mixture.

Bring to a boil over medium heat and reduce by about third.

Add the fish, reduce the heat to medium and cook for about 5 minutes.

Add the lemon juice and garnish with cilantro.

Serves 4.

Shrimp and Broccoli Casserole

12 oz. package egg
noodles

1 lb. fresh broccoli crowns

1 cup baby carrots

1 small onion, chopped

2 TBSP. olive oil

1 lb. medium-large raw
shrimp, peeled and
deveined

1 can condensed cheddar
cheese soup

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1/2 cup chicken broth

2 TBSP. minced parsley

1 cup bread crumbs

1/4 cup melted butter

Cook noodles according to package directions; drain well.

Over medium-high heat, sauté broccoli, carrots and onions in oil.

Add shrimp.

Cook until shrimp turn pink. Do not over cook.

Combine shrimp and vegetable mix with noodles and pour into buttered casserole dish.

Heat cheese soup, broth and parsley together.

Pour over casserole and mix gently.

Top with bread crumbs.

Drizzle with the melted butter and bake at 350-degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

Allow to stand 5 minutes before serving.

Serves 4-6.

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1 lb. bag frozen corn

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2 TBSP. butter
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
1/2 cup chopped red pepper
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 large tomato, seeded and chopped
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. cayenne
1/4 cup half and half or milk
Hot pepper sauce to taste
1/2 cup melted butter
1 tsp. each dried thyme, garlic powder, paprika, cumin, salt and pepper
4 tuna steaks

Pulse corn briefly in food processor until coarsely chopped.
Melt the butter in a pan.
Sauté corn with garlic and vegetables for 7 minutes.
Add the sugar, spices and milk.
Cover and simmer for 20 minutes.

Stir hot sauce into the butter and brush over the tuna.
Combine all the spices and dust tuna liberally.
Heat a heavy-bottomed skillet until very hot.
Sear tuna for 1 to 3 minutes per side.
Let rest 1 minute; slice and serve over the vegetables.
Serves 4.

Crab-Stuffed Fish Fillets

2 slices white bread (crust removed), torn in pieces
8 oz. crabmeat, cleaned well
1 tsp. minced chives
1 TBSP. prepared horseradish
1 TBSP. mayonnaise
Salt and pepper to taste
12 thin lemon slices
4 fish fillets of your choice
1 TBSP. light olive oil
Lemon pepper

Pulse bread in food

processor until fine.
Mix the bread crumbs with the crabmeat, chives and horseradish.
Add mayonnaise to bind; season with salt and pepper.
On an oiled pan, lay the lemon slices in 4 rows of 3, not overlapping.
Divide the stuffing and mound on the middle slice of each row.
Mold the fillets over the stuffing and secure with toothpicks.
Brush with oil, season with lemon pepper.
Broil until fish is cooked through and golden, about 5 to 7 minutes.
Serves 4.

Grilled Flounder and Summer Squash Packets

1/2 cup extra-virgin oil, plus extra for drizzling
2 shallots, sliced thin
Salt and pepper
1 lb. yellow squash, sliced 1/4-inch thick
12 oz. plum tomatoes, sliced 1/2-inch thick
1/4 cup capers, rinsed
4 skinless flounder fillets, 1-inch thick
2 TBSP. minced fresh parsley

Spray centers of four 18 x14-inch sheets of heavy duty foil with vegetable spray.
Microwave oil, shallots, garlic, 1 tsp. salt and 1 tsp. pepper in a small bowl until garlic begins to brown, about 2 minutes.
Combine squash, tomatoes, capers and garlic oil in a large bowl.
Pat fish dry with paper towels and season with salt and pepper.
Divide vegetable mixture evenly among centers of each piece of foil.
Top vegetables with fish and then top fish with lemon slices.
Bring short sides of foil together and crimp to seal tightly.
Crimp remaining open ends of packets.

Grill packets over hot fire, squash side down until fish is cooked through and vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes.
Let rest for 5 minutes.
Cut packets open, sprinkle with parsley and drizzle with extra oil.
Serves 4.

Beer-Battered Onion Striped Bass


1 cup flour
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. cayenne
1/2 cup beer
Oil for frying
2 lbs. striped bass fillets



Combine the first 8 ingredients in a bowl.
Slowly add the beer until a thick batter is formed.
Heat 2-inches of oil in a dutch oven or heavy stockpot to 375 degrees.
Rinse and dry fillets.
Dip in batter and carefully lay fillets in oil.
Fry a few pieces at a time, maintaining temperature, until golden.
Drain on a rack and keep warm in a 200-degree oven until all pieces are done.
Serves 4.

Oysters Provencal

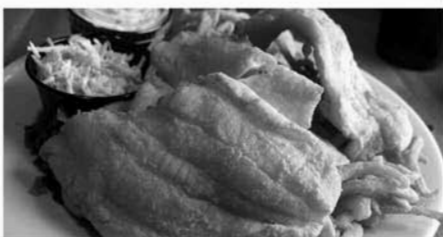

1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
4 large thick slices peasant bread
4 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed
2 large shallots, minced
1 large green pepper, chopped
4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and chopped
2 medium zucchini, chopped
2 tsp. fresh rosemary or 1 tsp. dry
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper

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1/4 cup rose wine
1 pint oysters in their
liquor

Brush 2 TBSP. of the olive oil over the bread.

Broil or pan sear the bread until nicely toasted.

Rub each slice all over with a crushed garlic clove.

Mince crushed garlic and sauté in olive oil until softened.

Add the next 7 ingredients and cook for 5 minutes.

Add wine and simmer for 3 minutes.

Stir in the oysters and liquor.

Cook until the edges ruffle.

Adjust salt to your liking.

Place a piece of grilled bread in a shallow bowl.

Spoon oysters and sauce over the bread.

Serves 4.

Oven-Barbecued Shrimp

2 lbs. jumbo shrimp, shell on

4 TBSP. butter

2 TBSP. olive oil

1 TBSP. minced garlic

1 TBSP. Worcestershire sauce

1 tsp. hot pepper sauce

1 TBSP. black pepper

1 1/2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning

1/2 tsp. paprika

1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper

1/ lemon, sliced thin

Dry the shrimp and place them in a large baking dish.

In a saucepan, melt the butter and oil and add the next 7 ingredients.

Pour the seasoned butter over the shrimp.

Add the lemon slices and stir thoroughly to coat.

Bake in a preheated oven at 400-degrees for 15 to 20 minutes until shrimp are pink and tails curled.

Serve in shallow bowls with warm crusty bread for dipping.

Serves 4-6.

Crab Balls

2 eggs, mix well

1 TBSP. mayonnaise

2 tsp. mustard

6 saltines, more or less, crushed

1/2 tsp. Old Bay

Salt and pepper to taste

1 lb. jumbo crabmeat

Mix all ingredients except crab.

Add the crabmeat and shape into golf ball size balls.

Fry in small amount of oil and serve with tartar sauce or condiment of your choice.

Serves 4.



Up until the third week in December very few striped bass were caught along the Delmarva coast, but Andrew Coffiey and Jon Azota found some nice ones in mid-December while trolling mojos off the coast of Rehoboth. They caught their limit of fish with the heaviest tipping the Hook'em & Cook'em scale at 37 lbs.



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On November 12th, anglers on the “Primary Search” boated the first opah ever caught by a recreational angler out of Ocean City. The 105 pounder ate a strip of bonita in 59-degree water in the Poor Man’s Canyon. Fishing on the “Primary Search” were Brian Stewart, Tommy Clark, Capt. Austin Ensor and James Doerzbach (not pictured). The crew followed up this catch almost 3 weeks later with another opah caught only 2 miles to the south. Their second fish weighed in at 159.8 lbs. The “Primary Search” is docked at Sunset Marina.

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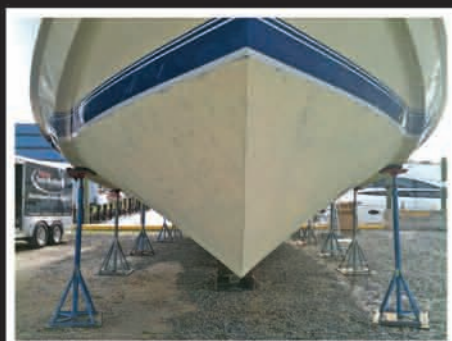
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As of the 3rd week in December, it was another disappointing season for striper fishermen along the Delmarva coast, but on December 19th, Capt. Devin Wiley, Dylan Wiley and Kendall Wiley, all pictured, joined Steve Schmidt and Brett Mathis for a trolling trip outside the Indian River Inlet and ended up with a pair of good size fish measuring up to 46 lbs. Both were caught on 32 oz. mojos.



The largest flounder caught out of Ocean City this season came late in the year, on November 25th, when Ben Semiatin boated this 10 lb. 15 oz. flattie during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo. The 29-inch flounder was hooked on a strip of squid at the San Gil wreck.



Caleb Cody from Berlin, MD had a great trip fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo this past fall, ending up with a good catch of sea bass and bluefish, an 18-inch flounder and a release of a 42-inch sand shark. All were hooked on cut bait and squid over an ocean wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



Prior to 1993 there were no U.S. federal recreational shark fishing regulations, and as one can imagine, shark fishing to that point was like the wild west and many anglers found much more incentive to bring home everything and anything they caught than get involved in catch-and-release. Back then it was not unheard of for a boat to return with 4 to 6 big sharks on their deck, which they would hang up for photos and then dump at sea the next day.

Fortunately not as many recreational anglers were inclined to fish for sharks back then as there are now, so the impact on shark populations from this abuse was not quite as bad as it could have been. Unfortunately, a pretty strong commercial shark fishery had developed for both meat and fins, and like the recreational fishery, there were little to no commercial shark fishing restrictions either. Shark populations off our coast, and around the world for that matter, took a huge hit and suddenly the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which had at one time suggested that fishermen start targeting sharks which they

classified as “underutilized species”, suddenly found themselves scrambling to reign-in fishing efforts by imposing shark fishing regulations on both recreational and commercial fishermen.

The first regulations went into effect in 1993 and as far as recreational anglers were concerned, they were simple and not very restrictive. Anglers were limited to four sharks per boat per day from the large coastal (sandbars, duskies, blacktips, etc.) and the pelagic groups (makos, blues, threshers, etc.) and five sharks per person per day from the small coastal group (Atlantic sharpnose, bonnethead, etc.). There were no minimum size limits on any. So for the most part fishermen could still just keep on doing what they had been doing all along, leaving shark populations with almost no additional conservation.

But as it turned out, while they were not overly burdensome to fishermen, those first regulations would turn out to be the foundation on which NMFS could build a more comprehensive shark management plan, and as we

know - over the years they have done just that. Recreational shark fishing regulations have gone from overly simplistic to downright confusing, and it's certainly understandable how some anglers might be somewhat bewildered by how intricate they've become. Complicated or not, as they say, “the rules is the rules” and believe it or not, in 2018 the rules are about to become even more complex! Knowing that some anglers are already fed-up with the current shark regulations, let me try and shed some light on how this whole thorny mess got going in the first place.

Right from the start, and still today, one of the biggest stumbling blocks for effective management of sharks has been the fact that so many anglers do not have the skills to properly identify the different species they're likely to catch. Here in the mid-Atlantic there are about 14 different types of sharks caught with relative frequency. Some, such as the mako, hammerhead, blue and thresher are pretty identifiable by their somewhat unique morphological characteristics (physical appearance) while other sharks such as sandbars, duskies, blacktips, spinners, sharpnose, etc. are more generic in appearance and often confused. To be truly effective, a good shark

management plan must take into account special conservation needs of each individual species because the biology, life history, habitat requirements, migration patterns, populations and everything else about each species is so different from one type of shark to another. Managing all sharks by one or two sets of rules, as was started in 1993, would be as effective as managing blue marlin under the same set of rules as black sea bass. It just won't work for either fish or fisherman!

So the 1993 four shark per day “foundation” limit proved to be so ineffective as a conservation tool that it eventually transitioned to two per boat and finally one large shark per boat per day. The limit of five small coastal sharks per person also got weaned down to one small coastal shark per person. NMFS also elected to initiate and 54-inch minimum (fork length) size limit on pelagic and large coastal sharks.

In 1997 fisheries also recognized that while some shark populations were healthy enough to allow at least some harvest, certain species of sharks were either so overfished or so little was known about their numbers that they needed total protection altogether. With this

Continued on page 62



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The central image shows two people on a white flats-skiff in shallow, clear water. One person is standing on the bow, holding a long fishing rod, while the other is standing on the stern. The background is a clear blue sky and a distant shoreline with trees.

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Chum Lines, cont'd.

in mind NMFS started a "Prohibited Species List" which has now grown to include 21 species of sharks that anglers may not keep at any time. Sharks from the prohibited list that are somewhat common catches off Delmarva include duskies, sand tigers, great whites, sandbars, longfin makos and angel sharks.

For a while, local shark anglers were able to slip into a rather familiar groove of knowing that they could take one large shark a day measuring at least 54-inches as long as it's not on the prohibited list. Other than that there wasn't too much in the way of regulations for anglers to remember. Then about a decade or so ago it was decided that in order to protect certain large coastal species of sharks in the inshore nursery and pupping areas, anglers should be prohibited from landing large coastal sharks until the middle of July. Since then local shark anglers have

been limited to landing only makos, threshers, blue, sharpnose and dogfish sharks prior to July 15th. While the regulation hasn't proven to be any huge burden for anglers to follow, it did become just "one more" in a growing list of regulations shark fishermen had to learn and remember to follow.

Anglers were able to coast along pretty well with those regulations until some issues with hammerheads popped up. It seemed that according to certain studies, catch statistics and stock assessments, populations of hammerheads had declined dramatically and overfishing was occurring. Whenever a species that is managed by NMFS is deemed to be overfished the agency is required by law to do something about it by coming up with a management plan that would reduce the mortality to a level that will allow the species to recover to a certain level within a specific time frame.

Although records showed

that recreational shark fishermen were taking very few hammerheads (most were taken by commercial fishermen), by law the recreational catch still had to be reduced by a certain percentage. The NMFS didn't wish to prevent anglers from landing hammerheads altogether so instead, they elected to try a two-pronged approach of increasing the minimum size limit to 78-inches (that's a pretty big hammerhead!) and requiring that anglers who have a tuna, billfish or swordfish on-board may not land a hammerhead, or if a hammerhead is landed first, then anglers may not keep a tuna, billfish or swordfish.

While the latter part of the new hammerhead regulations might seem kind of wacky, there was actually some method behind their madness. The folks at the NMFS knew that a lot of the hammerheads being boated by recreational anglers were not ones that were being caught specifically

by shark fishermen as much as they were being taken by anglers primarily targeting billfish, tuna or swordfish out in the deep waters beyond the Continental Shelf or in the canyons either during the day or at night. Since it was deemed that most anglers doing that type of fishing would likely prefer to have the opportunity to boat the other species rather than a single hammerhead, fisheries figured that if they put the "one-OR-the-other" provision in the regulations that most anglers would elect to release any hammerheads they caught, thereby facilitating the desired reduction in recreational landings of the species.

Then, just when it seemed as though the stack of sharks regulations couldn't get much higher, along came some issues with dusky sharks that again had NMFS tasked with the responsibility of providing additional conservation to a specific species. Dusky sharks are deemed to be severely overfished as a result of



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incidental (accidental) catches in the commercial and recreational fisheries and have been on the prohibited species list for over a decade, so they may not be fished for or harvested at anytime or by anyone. Supposedly too many dusky sharks are dying because they are not surviving the catch and release process, or in some cases as a result of anglers boating them because they either don't know that dusksies are a prohibited species or because they are misidentifying them as a legal species.

In response, this year NMFS initiated new regulations requiring all anglers who intend to fish for sharks to obtain a "shark endorsement" on their HMS Permit as well as require the mandatory use of circle hooks whenever someone is fishing with bait intended for sharks. It's predicted that these two recreational regulations, when combined with a number of new commercial fishing regulations, will provide enough additional conservation to dusky sharks that it will eventually allow their populations to return to the desired levels.

Shark endorsement? Circle hooks? What the heck?! These new regulations went on the books back in April, but knowing that it might take anglers a little time to understand and prepare to comply with them, NMFS didn't schedule the start date until January 1, 2018. For the first time new shark regulations have nothing to do with what anglers can and cannot keep as much as how they may or may not fish.

The "Shark Endorsement"

Most offshore fishermen should already be familiar with the federal regulation that requires anyone who wishes to fish for tuna, billfish or sharks in the EEZ (3-200 miles off coastline) to obtain a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Permit. In 2018 this requirement will remain unchanged and as in years past

recreational anglers will still have to choose whether to get an HMS "Angling" Category Permit if they have a strictly private boat, or an HMS "Charter/Headboat" Category Permit if they take passengers for hire. However, new in 2018 is the requirement that if a fisherman intends to fish for sharks, or they would like the opportunity to keep a shark they might accidentally catch, when they are applying online for their HMS Permit they will need to request a "shark endorsement" be applied to their permit. There will be no fee for the endorsement, however, the angler will be required to watch a short safe-handling and identification training video and then answer a few easy questions about sharks to confirm they paid attention to the video.

The training video is one tool NMFS will use to help anglers properly identify dusky sharks in hopes that such knowledge will minimize the chances that they will mistakenly boat and not release dusksies that are accidentally caught. It's important for every offshore angler to know that even if they intend never to fish for sharks, if they catch one while fishing for something else, and wish to keep it, they may not do so unless they have the shark endorsement on their HMS Permit. Having the endorsement will not require anglers to possess or use any special tackle or make changes in the gear they would normally use when they are targeting fish other than sharks, so there is no downside to having the endorsement. However, those who do not have the endorsement will not be able to keep a shark at any time.

Circle Hooks

The other half of the new shark regulations is the requirement that anglers who are targeting sharks use non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks. Since circle hooks have been proven to provide fish that are caught and released

the best chance for survival because they usually hook in the jaw rather than the gut, NMFS has determined that if recreational anglers use circle hooks when targeting sharks with bait (not lures or flies) there will be an increased chance that dusky and other species of sharks caught and released in the recreational fishery will survive. NMFS is hoping that the combined results of better educated fishermen along with the use of circle hooks result in an increased level of conservation for dusky sharks so that tighter regulations will not be needed later.

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2018 Shark

Regulation Count

- One pelagic or large coastal shark per boat at 54-inches or larger fork length.
- Special hammerheads size limit of 78-inch minimum fork length.
- One small coastal shark per person.
- No large coastal sharks until July 15th.
- No hammerheads if a tuna, billfish, or swordfish has been boated.
- Shark endorsement on HMS Permit
- Circle hooks must be used when targeting sharks with bait.

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So in 25-years recreational shark anglers have gone from zero restrictions to seven pretty substantial regulations that are sure to have more than just a few fishermen scratching their heads and wondering why do "they" have to make it so complicated just to catch a shark! While we're on that note, I should point out that there are actually more than just seven, but some of them are not unique just to sharks and some are somewhat limited in where they apply. For instance:

- Just like tuna and billfish, a shark must not be brought into the boat before being released.

- Shark fishing is not allowed from Ocean City's beaches.

- Sharks caught from Delaware beaches may not be brought out of the water prior to release.

- Sharks may only be taken using "authorized gear" which includes rod-and-reel or handlines. NO bow-fishing, free-gaffing or any other

method of taking sharks is allowed.

- Sharks may be gutted at sea but must be brought in with the head, tail and fins naturally attached.

- Maryland anglers are required to report all shark landings by filling out a catch card and putting a catch tag on the shark before removing it from the boat or the boat from the water.

Yea, that's a lot of regulations to keep track of, and it begs the question of whether or not NMFS is going a bit overboard in trying to manage sharks? The answer to that question brings me back to what I referenced at the start of this article when I wrote that "managing all sharks by one or two sets of rules as was done in 1993 would be as effective as managing blue marlin under the same set of rules with black sea bass – it just won't work for either fish or fisherman!" Shark species are so diverse that, to truly get it right, fisheries would need to have a completely different set of

regulations for every different species anglers might encounter. Imagine how bizarre that would be! Instead, to benefit fishermen, NMFS is trying to keep regulations generic when possible and then only break from the norm as necessary – as they did with hammerheads.

Over time, if anglers get better at identifying shark species NMFS might begin to initiate more species-specific management, which will be a bit of a double edged sword for fishermen as they will see more regulations, some of which might be more restrictive on some species, but they may also become more liberal for others. For instance; many anglers are probably unaware that the 54-inch fork length minimum size that anglers must abide by for large coastal and pelagic sharks came about because it was determined that 54-inches was the size at which a female sandbar shark became sexually mature. That size has nothing to do with makos, threshers,

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blacktips or any other shark that recreational anglers are likely to bring home for dinner. Sandbar sharks are no longer even allowed to be taken by recreational anglers, but that arbitrary measurement is still being used to determine if the other species can be retained or not. Maybe for some sharks that measurement should be larger, while for other species it should be lower. Either way it just goes to show how, despite the increasing complexity of our current shark regulations, there is still a need for improvement.

As our knowledge of the biology and life history of sharks increases, so will the challenge to properly manage all sharks in a way that balances a necessary level of conservation with anglers rights to participate in the fishery.

Capt. Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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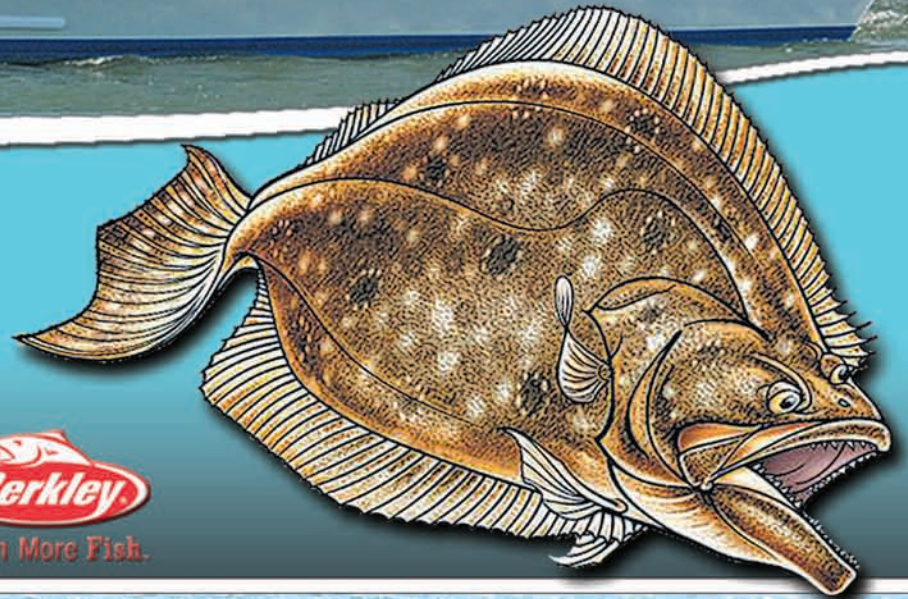
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On December 21st, Joe Hurley (center) caught the heaviest striped bass so far this season out of Ocean City while trolling mojos 2 miles straight outside the Ocean City Inlet. Joe muscled in the 49-inch, 47 lb. linesider while fishing on the "Slack Grabber" with his dad, Pat Hurley. They also caught a pair of 46-inchers that weighed 33 lbs. 12 oz. and 42 lbs. 3 oz. Pictured with the guys at Sunset Provisions is their buddy, Steve Spindler.



Bob Fitzwater was trolling a sunrise-colored Stretch lure off the coast of Avalon, NJ when he caught this 43.5 lb. striper. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



This 29 1/2-inch striper made the mistake of going after the whole mullet being fished at The Point by Darica Ward. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Danny Cox and Mike Austill were trolling mojos 2.5 miles off the coast of Indian River when they hooked into this pair of striped bass measuring 36 and 45-inches.



Catherine Mills from Ocean City, MD hooked this beautiful 47-inch red drum on cut bait while fishing with Matt Powell in Silver Beach, VA.

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- 2013: 3rd Place Tuna, Canyon Kickoff
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- Heaviest Daily Stringer, OC Tuna Tournament
- Heaviest Shark, OC Marlin Club
- 2011: 3rd Place Dolphin, OCMC Ladies Tournament
- 3rd in OCMC for Most Tuna Caught by a Charter Boat
- 2010: 2nd Place Dolphin, White Marlin Open
- 3rd Place Open Division, OC Shark Tournament



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During a trip aboard the "Katydid" with Capt. Brent Wiest and mate Chris Vann, angler Jack Henriksen of Lewes, DE muscled in this 29 1/2-inch, 16 lb. 8 oz. tautog after fooling it with a crab on ocean structure. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Art Ludwigsen, Bill Wohl, Steve Harbold, Ron Harrell, Tom Lambert and Rob Chafer ended their trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with 120 sea bass and 32 flounder in addition to a few triggerfish and bluefish. All were caught at the Del-Jersey-Land reef towards the end of October. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was behind the wheel with mate Kevin Twilley worked the deck.

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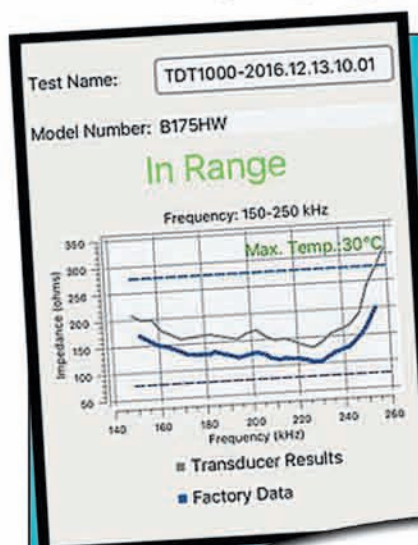
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Thinking about buying a boat lift? Here's what you need to know.



by: Randy Warden, Jessica Short and Kirby Short, Ocean City Boat Lifts & Marine Construction

What should you look for when choosing an installer? Is there a professional organization?

Yes, there is, the Maryland Marine Contractors Association. You should always ask an installer to see their showroom or parts inventory, so that you are comfortable that they have the parts on hand to make any emergency repairs.

What is the advantage of installing a boat lift?

The boat lift prevents the need for bottom paint on your boat, which increases the speed of your boat and lowers your fuel cost. Also, the customer can winterize their boats right on the lift, saving storage and towing fees. They also don't need to

spend money on a boat trailer that ends up sitting in their yard like a lawn ornament. For boat owners who live out of town, a boat lift keeps their boat safe while they are away. Overall, a boat lift will pay for itself by keeping maintenance and repair costs low and providing a higher resale value.

How do I determine what size boat lift I need?

Everything depends on the weight of the boat.

What is the typical cost of installing a boat lift?

The first cost is permits. They vary depending on the area and work being done, but on average, permits for a boat lift in Worcester County, Maryland take 4 to 6 months to get and cost between \$900

and \$1,750. In Ocean City they are about \$200 more. In Delaware the cost varies depending on if you are on a canal or open waterway, so there are several variables involved in the permit process.

You also need to run electricity to operate the boat lift and have a licensed electrician sign off on the permit. Your final cost is the purchase and installation of your boat lift. Our most popular lifts run about \$7,000 to \$10,000, but we also carry both less and more expensive lifts to meet the needs of each customer and their boat.

Do I need to have any additional work done before the boat lift is installed?

Before the installation of your lift, you will need to make sure you have the necessary pilings installed.

If I have two boats, can I use one motor to alternate between 2 lifts?

In some cases, yes. It really depends on the location of the lift and the boats.

Can boat lifts be installed over the winter?

YES! That is the best time to get a boat lift installed. We are out of our peak sales and emergency repair season.

How long does it take to complete the installation?

Well, permits take about 4 to 6 months, and if we have good weather we can put in a boat lift in 1 to 2 days after the piling work is complete.

What is the life expectancy of a boat lift?

Throwing away old galvanized rust buckets is 60% of our business. You are putting a large piece of equipment in the worst environment possible. In the

long run, quality costs less. The oldest lift I have can be seen across Rt. 90 bridge. It is 17 years old, still operational, in excellent condition and looks almost new.

Most galvanized lifts have a 5-year structural warranty and rust is not included. Aluminum lifts have a 10-year structural warranty and generally will last longer than that. The 6061T6 Alcoa grade aluminum that we use comes with a 15-year structural warranty.

How many different styles of boat lifts are available and how do I know which one is right for me?

Your marine contractor will help you decide which size and style you need for the type of boats and/or water toys that you have or expect to collect in the next few years. That is one thing customers ask a lot. Can they somehow upgrade the lift to a larger one, and the answer is NO! My number one question to ask our customers is, "How big is your next boat?". This way our customers can plan ahead and save thousands of dollars in permit fees, new construction, and a new boat lift.

Are there any add-on options available that improve a typical boat lift?

The number one item has to be a remote control with "auto stop". It should be required by law that boat lifts come with them. The last thing you are thinking about when your granddaughter falls overboard is turning off the motor to your boat lift. When you have equipment that lifts thousands of pounds, if it is not turned off

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properly, bad things will happen. Serious damage is caused when a lift isn't shut off will end up costing more than the remote control.

Our most popular add-on items for boat lifts and dock accessories are catwalks for washing the outside of your boat, a stern service platform for ease in servicing the motor, fish cleaning stations, retractable ladders and the Swiftshield by Sunstream boatlifts (which has a great web site with a video clip worth watching; <http://sunstreamcorp.com>).

Besides the cradle design, are there any other differences between boat lifts for a mono hull, cat hull, or pontoon?

We do have special hull supports for pontoons. Pontoon boats are very popular in Ocean City. The lifts that you see that have wood hull supports with indoor/outdoor carpeting covering them will ruin the bottom of your pontoon boat. We see this every day. Our lifts have aluminum hull supports and will not damage your boat or rot like the wood with carpet.

How do I know if the boat lift was installed correctly?

The most important thing to do is to check if your electrical works. Make sure it is encased in conduit, carflex, and has compression fittings.

What is the maintenance schedule for a boat lift? Are annual inspections needed?

Yes, your lift should be serviced once a year. We offer a regular maintenance contract to our customers.

What are some common questions customers have asked you about new boat lifts?

"I just bought a bigger boat, can my lift be upgraded to hold the new one?" -NO!

This is why our number one thing to ask is "How big is your next boat?". We want to save our customers time and expense by helping them plan for their future boat or water toys, avoiding unnecessary delays or expense. We see it every day, people will tell us they hate kayaks and don't need space on the lift for one, then soon enough they call back and say that their son-in-law wants one!

Another question I hear a lot is, "Why do you recommend a lift larger than what the manufacturer states the boat weighs?" This is because the boat is not lifted proportionally (most of the weight is in the stern) and when you add in the weight of the batteries, fuel, motors, and people your total is considerably more than the listed manufacturers' weight.

Randy Warden, Jessica Short and Kirby Short are owners of Ocean City Boat Lifts & Marine Construction

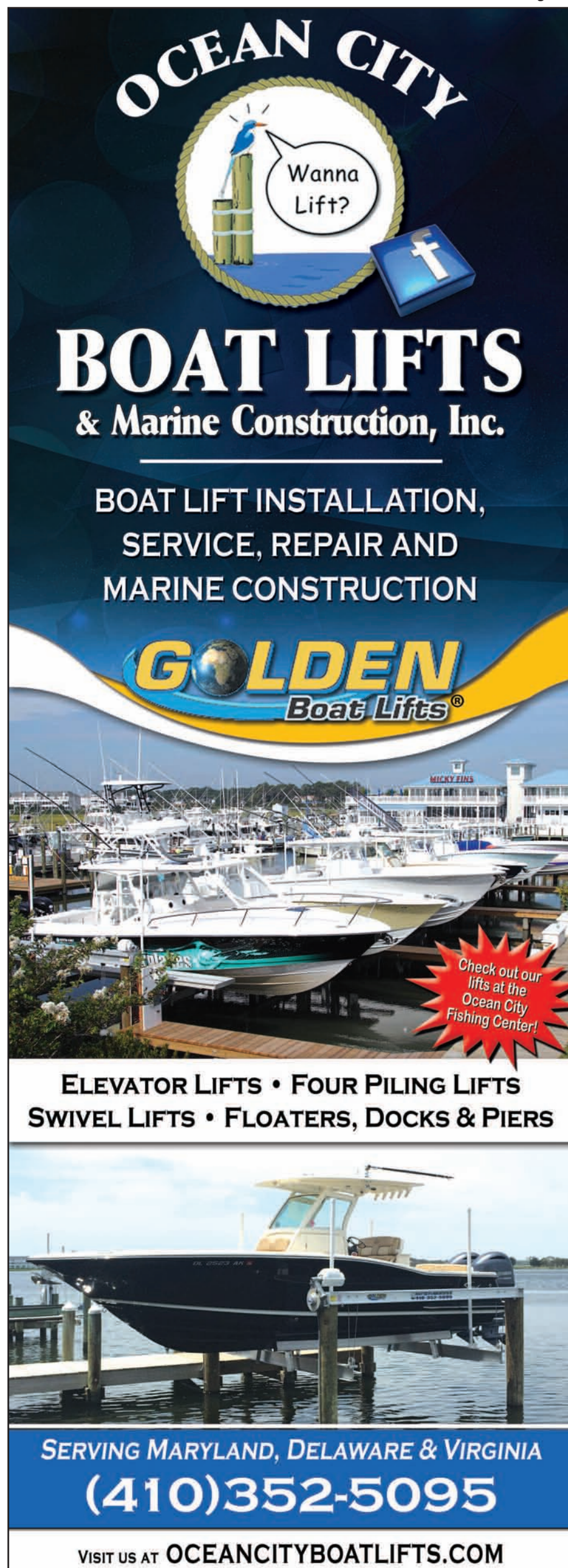


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Page 78 Coastal Fisherman Winter 2018 Recreational Black Sea Bass Fishery Closes Effective Jan. 1, 2018

The secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced that the recreational black sea bass fishery will be closed from 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2018, through 11:59 p.m. February 28, 2018.

In order to implement the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Black Sea Bass, the department will establish the season, catch limit and minimum size for the recreational black sea bass fishery for the remainder of 2018 in a later notice.

Maryland Sets 2018 Summer Flounder Season, Size and Creel Limits

The secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced the season, catch limit and minimum size for the summer flounder fishery for 2018, effective 12:01 a.m. January 1, 2018.

The season will be open January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. Recreational anglers may keep up to four summer flounder per person per day. The recreational minimum size for summer flounder is 17-inches in all Maryland state waters. All other rules remain the same.

The season, size limit and creel limit may be adjusted pending Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission action.

NOAA Sets Blueline Tilefish Regulations

NOAA Fisheries announced that they are implementing regulations for Amendment 6 to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. This action sets commercial and recreational management measures for the blueline tilefish fishery in the Mid-Atlantic. Blueline tilefish (*Caulolatilus microps*) is also known as grey tilefish. This rule goes into effect on December 15, 2017.

Blueline tilefish have been managed for many years under the South Atlantic Council's

Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, whose measures only apply south of the Virginia/North Carolina border. The fishery in the Mid-Atlantic was considered very small and remained unregulated until recently.

Recreational and commercial blueline tilefish catch has been increasing steadily in the Greater Atlantic Region (Virginia to Maine) since 2011. In 2014, commercial landings increased more than 20-fold from the previous several years' average. This rapid increase in unregulated harvest represented a risk to the long-term sustainability of the stock, and triggered the Mid-Atlantic Council to request emergency management measures in 2015. Interim management measures took effect in June 2016, while the Council developed this proposed amendment.

Amendment 6 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan manages the federal waters blueline tilefish fishery north of the Virginia/North Carolina border, as part of the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. The rule requires fishermen to hold a

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valid Greater Atlantic Region open access tilefish commercial or charter/party permit to ensure adequate reporting and monitoring of blueline tilefish fishing activity.

Through this action, the recreational season will run from May 1st through October 31st, and will close as of December 15, 2017, when this rule becomes effective. When the fishery re-opens in May, recreational fishermen will have limits of:

- 7 fish per person on Coast Guard inspected for-hire vessels (party boats)
- 5 fish per person on uninspected for-hire vessels (charter boats), and
- 3 fish per person on private recreational vessels.

Amendment 6 also calls for new permitting and reporting requirements for private recreational vessels. These measures are not being implemented at this time. Because they require additional development and outreach, they will be implemented later through a separate rule, and will not be in effect for the 2018 fishing season that starts on May 1, 2018.

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The crew on the "Primary Search" had a fall season to remember. From late October to early December, the guys caught 15 sea bass, 28 mahi, a 170 lb. bigeye tuna, 4 swordfish and 2 opahs, including the first caught by a recreational angler out of Ocean City. One of the swordfish was this 110 pounder muscled in by angler Tommy Clark (left) in late October. The swordfish was hooked on a strip bait in the Poor Man's Canyon and took 1 hour to bring it up from 1,800 feet. Tommy was fishing with Parker Marshall, James Doerzbach and Capt. Austin Ensor (right). The "Primary Search" is docked at Sunset Marina in West Ocean City, MD.

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On October 28th, Diana Abbaticchio of Berlin, MD captured this 19 1/2-inch flounder while fishing on the headboat, "Tortuga" with Capt. Seth Hetherington. The flattie ate a strip of squid in the Thorofare. The "Tortuga" is docked at Bahia Marina.



Lisa West from Millsboro, DE ventured down to Cedar Island, VA and hooked this 49 1/2-inch red drum on a mullet in early October. Lisa was fishing with Brad and Julia Clark.

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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, 2017



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What's New?

Furuno



Furuno's new Multi-Beam Sonar, the DFF3D, is a special transducer and black box combination that works with Furuno's newest displays, the TZT and TZT2. Don't get confused by the 3D name. While it has a 3D view option there is a lot more to this system! The DFF3D is a multi-beam sonar that displays a cross section, in real-time, of the sea column echoes for a total of 120-degrees of width

under your boat. This system aids in instantly understanding the distribution of bait fish and the water column condition under and to the sides of your boat, with a detection range of over 650-feet in width (side scan) and up to 1,000-feet downward with the main center beam - all dependent on sea and installation conditions. This extreme depth, as compared to other systems, is made possible by the lower frequency used by Furuno. The side scan clearly displays the shape of structure as a high definition image in port and starboard direction. It is suitable for searching the seabed and understanding the sea floor structure.

The unique transducer has a built-in motion sensor that stabilizes the display to give you clear and stable images

even under rough sea conditions, keeping everything in perspective to your boat on the screen. There are multiple ways to view the data, including a cross section view showing the whole 120-degree beam, a 120-degree 3D image of the seafloor, a single beam under the boat, each of the three beams (port, center and starboard) on the same screen, side scan and more.

The DFF3d won the 2017 NMEA (National Marine Electronics Association) Technology Award in a competition involving 10 nominated products. The annual award scores new products based on innovation, benefit to boaters, practicality and value.

Currently, there are two different Furuno DFF3D transducers, one is a thru-hull mount and one is a transom mount. I hear there may be a combination CHIRP and DFF3D transducer available in the near future. The Furuno DFF3D system retails for \$3,995 with either of the above transducer.

Another new Furuno product was introduced in December 2017, the DRS4DL+ Compact UHD Radar. This is a replacement for the existing DRS4DL. The new DRS4DL+ adds the ARPA feature, most often only found on larger high-ends systems. What is ARPA? ARPA is Automatic Radar Plotting Aid. This means that the radar can automatically lock onto and track targets and determine their course and speed, as well as the Closest Point of Approach (CPA) and Time of CPA (TCPA) that you and that vessel will experience as long as both maintain course and speed. While there is a similar feature that often gets confused, called MARPA or mini-ARPA (referred to as manual ARPA because the operator has to select each radar target to acquire and track that target), it is not always an easy process on a moving boat with moving targets!

The DRS4DL+ is a Compact 19-inch 4kW/24

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RPM/36NM Radome with a 5.2° horizontal/25° vertical beam width. The radar has Ultra-High Definition (UHD) Digital Radar delivers crystal-clear targets. This is a great radar dome for smaller boats, due to its light weight of 12.5 lbs and low power consumption of 23 watts while transmitting and only 10 watts on standby. This radar is compatible with Furuno's NavNet TZtouch and TZtouch2 and has a list price of \$1,900

Garmin

It has been a busy year for Garmin. They bought a couple of companies, won and lost a lawsuit about sonar, won a lot of awards and introduced new products.

This year, Garmin bought Active Captain, a developer of crowd sourced rich content for boaters. Marketed as ActiveCaptain, it is a community-based, electronic marine database that contains near real-time information about marinas, anchorages, local points of interest and marine hazards, most of which is user-generated, for cruising and sailing destinations around the world. Garmin just introduced many Active Captain features with a new software update, released in November 2017, for most current GPS chartplotters and an accompanying Smartphone/tablet app.

Garmin ActiveCaptain is a free all-in-one mobile app for mariners that delivers a seamless content management system with unlimited access to cartography, automatic delivery of the latest software available, off-vessel planning capabilities, connected services and so much more in one simple, yet powerful application. The ActiveCaptain app is compatible with a range of Garmin chartplotters and MFDs, including the new ECHOMAP™ Plus 6cv, 7cv, 7sv and 9sv; the new STRIKER™ Plus 7cv, 7sv and 9sv; as well as the GPSMAP® 7 x 2 / 9 x 2, 10 x 2 / 12 x 2, 7400/7600, 8000/8200 and the

Have You Heard?

Worcester County Humane Society is opening a low cost spay and neuter clinic early 2018 in West OC.

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8400/8600 series.

Garmin was named NMEA Manufacturer of the Year for the third consecutive year, an honor given to the most recognized company in the marine electronics field for its support of products in the field. It is voted on by members of the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA®). Garmin also dominated the NMEA's Product of Excellence Awards with eight wins in the following categories: radar, autopilot, multi-function display (MFD), mobile application—aid to navigation, mobile application—utility, fishfinder, AIS, and multimedia entertainment.

Garmin acquired Navionics S.p.A., a privately-held worldwide provider of electronic navigational charts and mobile applications for the marine industry. In addition to a popular boating app, Navionics has developed an extensive repository of nautical charts for oceans, rivers, and lakes. Many of these charts have been developed with Navionics' proprietary surveys, done both in the field and with remote sensing such as satellite imagery and airborne laser scanners.



This fall, Garmin introduced the ECHOMAP™ Plus series, its next generation of chartplotters and sonar combination units with industry-leading features for both saltwater and inland anglers and boaters. Building on the success of its predecessor series, ECHOMAP CHIRP, the new ECHOMAP Plus features powerful sonar capabilities, preloaded charts and mapping, and built-in wi-fi for access to the new Garmin ActiveCaptain™ marine app.

Navico

Simrad and Lowrance introduced a new series

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of similar chartplotters/multifunction displays this spring, the Simrad NSS evo3 and Lowrance HDS Carbon. These got off to a late start but are worth the wait. Both Simrad and Lowrance belong to parent company, Navico and although the evo3 and Carbon are similar, they are designed for different markets. While there are many new features that go into these new models, the two most important items I see are the screen and built-in sonar. The SolarMAX™ HD display on these machines is fantastic, very bright and able to be viewed at almost any angle, even with polarized sunglasses. These units now offer true dual-channel CHIRP sonar, allowing the unit to transmit sonar on two channels at the same time, such as low and high CHIRP, which was not previously available in their older models.

This fall, Simrad announced some new models of the popular GO chartplotter series, the GO12 XSE and GO7 XSR.

Loaded with today's latest boating technologies, the GO12 XSE and GO7 XSR multi-touch chartplotters are the perfect fit for boaters looking for high-quality, all-in-one navigation products for cruising, fishing and watersports, that are easy to use and offer more features at an affordable price. The GO12 XSE offers a new, 12-inch display option for the GO Series, while the upgraded GO7 XSR features a restyled, glass-helm design, along with radar compatibility, not previously available on the GO7 XSE. Pricing starts at \$649.

Raymarine

Late this summer, Raymarine introduced a new display, the Axiom Pro in 9, 12 and 16-inch display sizes. The Axiom Pro is designed for serious offshore enthusiasts and professional captains. With a 1kW, high-powered CHIRP sonar and Raymarine's built-in RealVision 3D sonar, the Axiom Pro features Raymarine's HybridTouch™

user experience, combining multi-touchscreen controls with an ergonomic keypad for additional confidence in rough seas. The Axiom Pro uses Raymarine's LightHouse 3 interface, a user friendly operating system for the control and use of the Axiom Pro. These new systems are compatible with the optional RealVision transducer. The units have four different CHIRP-assisted sonar modes and can display all modes all at once if desired, CHIRP DownVision, CHIRP SideVision, High Frequency CHIRP, and RealVision 3D.

FLIR



Earlier this year FLIR introduced a few new models of cameras, the M100 and M200 series thermal cameras and a new line of stabilized cameras.

These cameras "see" the heat of objects and display that information in an easy to understand picture on a screen.



These cameras are significantly less expensive than previous models of similar thermal cameras. FLIR's most compact pan-and-tilt marine thermal cameras to date, the FLIR M100 and M200 are engineered with FLIR's Boson™ high-performance thermal camera core, which features an integrated multi-core video processor that delivers superior image quality and artificial intelligence features. When the M100 and M200 are combined with a Raymarine Axiom MFD, users can take advantage of FLIR's new ClearCruise™ intelligent thermal analytics that brings boaters an advanced level of

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awareness and safety by visually and audibly alerting the operator when “non-water” objects such as boats, obstacles, or navigation markers are identified in the scene.

The FLIR M232 marine thermal camera is FLIR’s smallest and most affordable pan-and-tilt marine thermal night vision camera. The M232 lets boaters see at night in 320 x 240 thermal resolution and also features 4x digital zoom. The FLIR M132 adjustable tilt (fixed view) marine thermal camera is FLIR’s smallest and most affordable installed marine thermal night vision camera. The M132 lets boaters see at night in the 320 x 240 thermal resolution and features a 2X digital zoom. These cameras transmit the video signal over ethernet wiring, often called “video over IP”, allowing a simple two wire connection from the camera.

FLIR purchased Raymarine a while back and have integrated many of their marine products into a new

marine division. Initially, these M100 and M200 cameras were only able to connect to a Raymarine Axiom MFD. Just recently, Garmin announced a software update that will allow the FLIR video over IP to integrate with many modern Garmin displays. Furuno is also working on the ability to officially support these new FLIR cameras. If you want to view the video output from the M100/M200 cameras on other displays, you will need additional hardware to convert the video signal.

FLIR has added stabilization at a much lower cost to their traditional line of M series thermal cameras, identified by the model number ending with an “S”. This was once an expensive upgrade to an M series camera and now is basically included in the price as compared to the price of past models. If you are in the market for a thermal camera, the entry level cameras are a great buy along with all of the stabilized models. FLIR Maritime’s M-625CS Gyro-

Stabilized Thermal Imaging Camera was recognized as the 2017 Product of Excellence in the Marine Camera category by the members of the National Marine Electronics Association.

Shakespeare and Glomex



If you thought there was nothing new in marine antennas wait until you hear about the Shakespeare® Marine QuickConnect™. Every boater knows about the hassle of replacing a damaged marine VHF antenna. Soldering, crimping or just replacing the wire is usually the hardest part. Now with the QuickConnect™, the antenna

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coax cable is attached to the antenna base and the 4-foot or 8-foot antenna is available separately. The antenna screws down by hand to this special mount and connects the coax cable to the antenna at the same time. This lets you replace or remove the antenna at any time without the need to touch the coax cable.

Glomex, an Italian manufacture of marine antennas, has also introduced an innovative new way to connect and install marine antennas. The Glomex Glomeasy line of marine antennas includes VHF, FM, AIS and DAB antennas. Using a Glomex antenna mount, coax cable and antenna, a boater can easily connect an antenna without soldering or crimping the traditional PL259 coax connector and can also replace a broken antenna or upgrade without changing the coax cable.

2018 and Beyond

Let’s take a look at what’s trending into 2018?

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Nick Denny of Ocean City, MD caught this 8 lb. 8 oz. sheephead while fishing from his kayak with sand fleas around the South Jetty back in October. Photo courtesy of Alltackle Ocean City.

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AIS MOB (automatic identification system man overboard) beacons – while an EPIRB or PLB is great for most any emergency where you need assistance from a worldwide satellite rescue network, a device that also incorporates an AIS transmitter is even better. The AIS feature sends an alert in seconds to all local boaters that have an AIS receiver allowing them to see your position on their chartplotter and know there is a man overboard situation. A local boater may be able to respond faster than the traditional dispatch of rescue services from an EPIRB or PLB distress signal. Currently one manufacturer offers combined EPIRB/AIS and a few manufactures offer personal MOB AIS devices.

There is more to AIS than what many of us use today. AIS for navigation are electronically charted aids to navigation or AtoN. If your electronic navigation system is equipped with an AIS receiver, most likely your chartplotter will automatically display these AIS AtoN's.

An AIS AtoN is an IALA (International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities) compliant beacon that is designed to be installed on navigational hazards, offshore wind farms, oil and gas platforms/pipelines etc as well as fixed or floating aids to navigation such as buoys and markers, further enhancing their operation by alerting any AIS equipped vessels that are within range, while also providing additional data such as position, current status, real time warnings and reducing the risk of collision even in poor visibility.

The AIS ATON can be used to depict an existing aid to navigation that is off station or not working properly or to convey an aid to navigation that has yet to be charted. The USCG and NOAA are already using this in some areas and it is becoming more relevant for agency's working with smaller budgets, the cost of broadcasting a local radio

signal is less expensive and much faster than installing new aids to navigation on the water. AIS navigation aids are also great for temporary events like notifying boaters of drifting or damaged aids to navigation or temporary events like boat racing or other public events. One of the recent Wallops Island VA rocket launches this fall was canceled due to a boat entering a restricted area before the launch countdown – maybe an AIS AtoN would have helped.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a network of physical devices such as vehicles, home appliances embedded with electronics, software, sensors and network connectivity which enable these objects to connect and exchange data. This IoT has come to the boating world at a quick pace this year, often referred to as the connected boat. Original devices such as GOST Global products are still a popular choice for boaters along with monitoring products by companies such as Siren Marine and Boat Command. There are even a few new ideas on Kickstarter such as the TeamSurv and FloatHub, who both offer new and innovative ways to stay connected to your boat using the internet.

While the above products have all been publically introduced, many manufacturers wait until the Miami boat show in February to introduce new products and make company related announcements for the upcoming year. If you want to learn about the newest boating products be sure to attend or follow the Miami Boat Show, at the Miami Marine Stadium on Virginia Key from February 15 to 19, 2018.

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.



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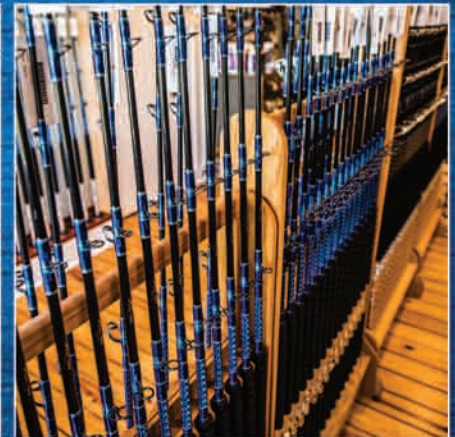
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Delaware State Records



<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	82 lbs.	Joe Costello	07/07/12	Russell's Reef
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 18, 2017

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Recreational Fishing Participation Increases Nearly 20% Over Past 10 Years

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has released its initial report of the 2016 National Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife - Associated Recreation national survey. The survey, conducted every five years in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, shows that fishing participation is up nearly 20 percent over the last 10 years. Anglers also increased their overall spending by 2.4 percent during the past five years.

Overall, fishing participation increased 8.2 percent for individuals 16 to 65 years of age over the last five years. This is the highest level of participation since 1991. Revenue from equipment purchases to all trip expenditures also increased from \$45 billion to \$46.1 billion in the last five years.

ASMFC Approves Cobia Plan

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission approved the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Migratory Group (AMG). The FMP complements many of the aspects of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) cobia regulations for federal waters extending from Georgia through New York. The FMP was initiated in response to recent overages of the federal annual catch limit (ACL) for AMG Cobia. Managing the recreational ACL on a coastwide basis has resulted in federal closures and significant overages in 2015 and 2016, disrupting fishing opportunities and jeopardizing the health of the stock.

Under the Interstate FMP, the recreational fishery will be managed with a 1 fish bag

limit and minimum size limit of 36-inch fork length (FL) or total length equivalent. Vessel limits will be determined once individual states set their seasonal restrictions, but may not exceed 6 fish per vessel. State-specific allocations of a coastwide recreational harvest limits will be set.

Recreational harvest overages of specific-state allocations will be evaluated over a three-year time period. If overages occur, states will be required to adjust management measures to reduce harvest in the subsequent three-year period.

States must submit implementation plans to the Commission by January 1, 2018 for Technical Committee review and Board approval at the February 2018 meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. Approved plans must be implemented by April 1, 2018.

Maryland Boaters Can Now Renew Their Vessels Online

As part of Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's Customer Service Promise to provide government services in an accessible and convenient manner, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources announced today that boat owners can now renew their vessel registration online.

The new digital platform can be accessed through the department's online licensing and registration service or through the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration eStore.

Users only need their hull identification and vessel numbers to complete the transaction. Upon completion, the customer will receive a receipt that will serve as a 30-day temporary registration and should be kept on the vessel at all times. Original registration and decals will be sent by mail within 10 business days.

Mail-in and in-person renewal options will continue to be available at the department's regional service centers and Motor Vehicle Administration kiosks as part of both agencies' growing partnership that is colocating and integrating offices, services and staff.

There are nearly 200,000 registered boaters in the state. All required boating vessels need to be titled, along with payment of excise tax with the state within 30 days of purchase or within 30 days of use upon entering Maryland waters.

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Kyle Falgowski showed the guys how it is done, boating this 6 lb. 8 oz. sheephead while fishing with crabs at the Outer Wall. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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2018 Tournaments

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28th Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament
April 27 - May 6 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

MAY

35th Annual MSSA Championship on the Chesapeake
May 4 - 6 • M.S.S.A • 410-255-5535

Joe Morris Memorial Canal Flounder Tournament
May 18 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

9th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament
May 26 - 27 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JUNE

22nd Annual Mako Mania
June 1 - 3 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

38th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament
June 6 - 9 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

60th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament
Ladies Tournament - June 8 • Tournament - June 11-16
Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

29th Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment
June 15 - 17 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

39th Annual Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament
June 16 - 17 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Canyon Club Overnight Tuna Tournament
June 20 - 24 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

10th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tournament
June 22 - July 28 • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

4th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 22 - 24 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

36th Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off
June 29 - July 1 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

JULY

South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown
July 11 - 14 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

31st Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 13 - 15 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

14th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 21 - 22 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Big Fish Classic
July 27 - 29 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

AUGUST

10th Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament
August 3 - 4 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

AUGUST (continued)

10th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament
August 4 • Pines Point Marina • 410-641-5306

44th Annual White Marlin Open
August 6 - 10 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder
August 15 - 19 • Millsboro, DE • 302-945-4500
25th Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open
August 16 - 18 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

27th Annual The MidAtlantic
August 20 - 24 • Cape May, NJ & Ocean City, MD

60th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament
August 31 - September 2 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

SEPTEMBER

3rd Annual OC Marlin Club vs Light Tackle Club Shoot-Out
September 8 - 10 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

13th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 9 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

19th Annual September 11 Memorial Spot Tournament
September 11 • O.C. Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

40th Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Challenge Cup
September 13 - 15 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual MSSA Mid-Atlantic Flounder Tournament
Dates TBD • 410-255-5535

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September 20 - 23 • 410-944-3036

OCTOBER

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
October 1 - 31 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

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26th Annual MSSA Chesapeake Bay Fall Classic
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- Capt. Deane Lambros – Specialized Big-Eye Tuna Trolling Techniques
- Capt. Deane Lambros – Advanced Canyon Recon – How & WHEN to Find and Catch Your Quarry Without Fishing the Crowd
- Capt. Craig Angelini – Advanced Offshore Sharking for Monster Makos
- Using Your Electronics to Find Fish "Core Class" – Matt Finney – Master Electronics Technician – Winron
- Capt. Tred Barta – Warm Core Eddies – How & WHEN to Fish for Maximum Success
- Capt. Tred Barta – The End Game – Throwing the Poon and Proper Gaff Techniques
- Capt. Tred Barta – Spending Your Time Wisely in the Canyons – Percentage Fishing – WHEN, Where and How
- Capt. Tred Barta – The End Game – Leadering and Wiring Like a Pro
- Capt. Mark DeCabia "Rebel" – Why 10 % Catch 90% of the Fish - Top 10 Reasons Same Crews Regularly Outfish the Fleet
- Capt. Mark DeCabia "Rebel" - How to Have a Successful Canyon Trip Without Targeting Bigeyes (Yellowfins, Longfins, Mahis, Swords - How to Adapt to What & WHEN the Ocean Gives)
- Capt. Tim Pickett – Day Time Swords in Northeast Canyons – It's On in the Northeast - Just Ask Some of our Attendees Last Year
- Capt. Dave Tilley – Master the Weather – Learn How To Truly Understand the Forecasts
- Lt. Wynn Carney – Supervisory Enforcement Officer, Mid-Atlantic Region - Ask any questions you may have and learn why the rules are what they are
- Capt. Sean Welsh – Offshore Game Plan - Trolling & Chunking
- Capt. Joe Shute – Hi-Tech Rigging Baits for Big Fish

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Canyon Runner Team is honored and humbled to proudly welcome back Capt. Tred Barta to the Northeast Canyons as our newest speaker. Way too many folks these days try to take credit for inventing canyon fishing and how to target big-eyes, when in reality Capt. Tred Barta was the true offshore canyon & big-eye pioneer. He blazed the way for all those to come. You can be sure every single member of the Canyon Runner Team will be sitting in on all of Capt. Tred's Brand New Break Out Sessions – all new sessions from the prior year!

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3. Warm Core Eddies – How & WHEN to Fish for Maximum Success – Capt. Tred Barta
4. Offshore Sharking for Monster Makos - Capt. Craig Angelini & Canyon Runner Crew
5. Water Temp Analysis "Core Class" Basic Courses for First Time Attendees - Capt. Len Belcaro
6. Advanced Water Temp Analysis and Year in Review - Capt. Len Belcaro
7. Warm Core Eddies "Core Class" – How & WHEN to Fish for Maximum Success – Capt. Tred Barta
8. Using Your Electronics to Find Fish "Core Class" – Simrad & Canyon Runner Team
9. Why 10 % Catch 90% of the Fish - Top Ten Reasons Same Crews Regularly Outfish the Fleet – Capt. Mark DeCabia
10. Rigging Ballyhoo for Tuna "Core Class – Hands On Training" – Capt. Chris Squieri Atlantic Yacht Have & Canyon Runner Crew
11. Spending Your Time Wisely in the Canyons – Percentage Fishing – WHEN, Where and How – Capt. Tred Barta
12. Canyon Trolling 101 "Core Class" – Must Know to Excel Offshore – Capt. Craig Angelini & Canyon Runner Crew
13. The End Game – Throwing the Poon and Proper Gaff Techniques – Capt. Tred Barta
14. The End Game – Leadering and Wiring Like a Pro – Capt. Tred Barta
15. Day & Night Time Sword Fishing the Canyons – Yes It's Happening – Capt. Tim Pickett – Lindgren Pitman
16. Supervisory Officer - NOAA – Ask Any Question You May Have – Learn Why The Rules are What They Are - Lt. Wynn Carney
17. Master the Weather – Learn How To Truly Understand the Forecasts - Capt. Dave Tilley
18. Hi-Tech Rigging Baits for Big Fish – Capt. Joe Shute - The Inventor of the Best Big Tuna Skirt Ever
19. Canyon Chunking 101 "Core Class" Rig Up like a Professional Crew – Capt. Mike Zajac & Canyon Runner Crew
20. Tuna Jigging 101 – Learn from The Best – Dave Arbeitman – The Reel Seat
21. Offshore Trolling & Chunking from a Center Console – Capt. Freddy Gamboa – Andrea's Toy
22. Winning Marlin Tactics - Tournament Winning Angler Brad Burgess – Canyon Runner
23. Offshore Game Plan - Trolling & Chunking - Capt. Sean Welsh & the Crew of the Restless Lady
24. Inshore Tuna – When, Where, Why & How "Core Class" – Capt. Gene Quigley/Capt. Jim Freda - "Shore Catch" (NY Seminar Only)
25. Engine Preventative Maintenance & Repairs at Sea - John Lane - Forked River Diesel
26. Tilefishing the Canyons – Dave Arbiteman – Reel Seat
27. Learn How to Service and Maintain Your Reels - Penn Reel's Technicians - 15 Minute Hands-On Session
28. Rod Building, Repair and Maintenance – Joey Lamonica from Joeys Rod Building -15 Minute Hands-On Session

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Chris Wentz took the trip down from Pennsylvania to do some fishing at the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay and ended up catching this 12 lb. 15 oz. sheephead while using green crabs for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



On October 28th, John McFalls of the Ocean Pines Anglers Club caught a 24-inch flounder on a peanut bunker in the East Channel.

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For the 3rd season in a row, warm water temperatures kept stripers to our north longer than expected forcing local anglers to head to the coast of South Jersey for their linesiders. On this day, Charlie Ruggiero of Lewes, DE fished off the coast of Avalon, NJ and caught this 48-incher that tipped the scale at 46.5 lbs. The big striper sported a 30-inch girth and was hooked on a trolled mojo. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Nick Ager had a great fall season of catching and releasing striped bass while fishing with spec rigs off the Rt. 50 Bridge. On this day, Nick released this nice 25-incher.



Mike Ransing of Bishopville, MD had more success than the Philadelphia Phillies did last season, catching a doubleheader of 19-inch black sea bass while fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo. Mike fooled the knotheads with strips of squid over ocean structure.

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Dave Lynam took a trip out of Lewes, DE and ventured up the coast to the waters off Wildwood, NJ where he caught this 33 lb. striped bass. Dave's fish, along with Roger Rabain's 30 lb. striper and George Cole's 27 pounder were all caught on trolled mojos. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Species	2017	2016	Species	2017	2016
Sea Bass 	May 16, 2017 Tom Vaughan "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	May 15, 2016 Steve Billingsley "Morning Star" Sue's Reef	Mako Shark 	April 28, 2017 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" Triple 0's	May 14, 2016 Brian Leader "Keep Er Wet" Poor Man's Canyon
Tautog 	January 1, 2017 Pat Scida "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 1, 2016 Dave Moore "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	White Marlin 	June 16, 2017 Ian Schwing "Fish Whistle" Poor Man's Canyon	May 27, 2016 Andy Urban "In the Black" Norfolk Canyon
Striped Bass 	April 28, 2017 Jack Austin Cape Henlopen Surf	January 14, 2016 Connor Metz "G-FORCE" Little Gull	Blue Marlin 	June 25, 2017 Sasha Serpa "Maryland Pride" Baltimore Canyon	May 28, 2016 Bo Appel "Boss Hogg" Norfolk Canyon
Weakfish 	May 20, 2017 John Kelleher Ice Breakers	June 2, 2016 Rod Grodzicki Inner Wall	Bluefin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Dale Christensen "Wrecker" Triple 0's	April 21, 2016 Joe Cantianelli "Reel Life" Baltimore Canyon
Flounder 	April 7, 2017 Lukas Layton Rt. 90 Bridge	April 16, 2016 Hannah Johnson "Lucky Break" Sinepuxent Bay	Yellowfin Tuna 	April 30, 2017 Corbin Ensor "Tunafowl" Triple 0's	May 7, 2016 Jeff Rosenkilde "Mate Trix" Baltimore Canyon
Bluefish 	April 17, 2017 Ayrton Pryor Assawoman Bay	April 15, 2016 Sean Fox Assateague Surf	Longfin Tuna 	August 25, 2017 Keith Fraser Norfolk Canyon 31 lbs.	June 5, 2016 Jeff Drury Lindenkohl Canyon
Black Drum 	April 20, 2017 Tom Fox Assatague Surf	March 31, 2016 Billy Powell Assateague Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	May 27, 2017 Mark Robbins "Husevo" Norfolk Canyon	May 26, 2016 Denise Rust "Marli" Norfolk Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 31, 2017 Paul Lebling South Jetty	May 7, 2016 George Easter Russell's Reef	Dolphin 	April 30, 2017 Megan Humphrey "Wrecker" Triple 0's	May 20, 2016 Randy Tracey "Talkin Trash" Washington Canyon
Thresher Shark 	May 27, 2017 Anthony Pino Fingers	May 20, 2016 Chris Stafford "Reel Nauti" Jackspot	Wahoo 	July 2, 2017 Scott Raleigh "That's Right" Sausages	June 2, 2016 Ryan Morris "Jade II" Washington Canyon

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

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Brian Caleb and Gideon Sheetz from Eden, MD, Rudy Lukacovic from Kent Island, MD and Charlie Sanza from Baltimore, MD caught sea bass up to 17-inches and flounder up to 23-inches during a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mates Dan Iacangelo and Nick Denny. All of the fish were hooked on clams, squid and cut bait.


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Pat Petrera took the long trip up to the coast to Cape May, NJ where he caught this 44-inch striped bass while trolling mojos with Jeff Waxman and Rodney Evans on the "Priceless".



Aaron Strausbaugh from Milton, DE muscled in a 15 lb. sheepshead and Steve Reitz added a 12.9 pounder to the box after spending the day fishing with Capt. Len Karpen on the "FOMO". The fish were fooled with clams and sand fleas at the Lighthouse and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Jarrold Hess captured this 55 lb. wahoo while fishing on the "Addiction" with Capt. Mark Hess and mate Jim Henry. The speedster was hooked on a trolled ballyhoo, 6 miles inshore of the Poor Man's Canyon.



While fishing on an offshore wreck during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler", Phil Watts of Westminster, MD captured this 4 lb. 12 oz. flounder after fooling it with a strip of squid. As always, Capt. Chris Mizurak was at the wheel and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo were working the deck. The "Angler" is docked at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock in Ocean City, MD.



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OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT



The Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament is a 9-day event where boats could venture a maximum of 100 miles from the Ocean City Inlet in search of the winning linesider, and with rockfish nonexistent off the Delmarva coast, boats were forced to head to the coast of New Jersey where the bite was good. On December 11th, the crew on the "Nontypical" trolled mojos off Avalon, NJ where Andy Smelter muscled in a 45 1/4-inch, 36.8 lb. rockfish to take 1st place in the Heaviest Rockfish Division. The guys also weighed a pair of rockfish that tipped the scale at 18.8 lbs. and 20.4 lbs. Rounding out the "Nontypical" team were David Peterson, Chris Smelter and Capt. Terry Layton. For their 1st place finish, the anglers won \$7,403 in award money.



During the 2017 Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament, anglers on the "Black Magic" ventured up the coast to the waters off Avalon, New Jersey and returned with a pair of rockfish weighing 10.4 lbs. and 12.6 lbs. Both were caught while trolling mojos 2.5 miles off the beach. Pictured back at Atlantic Tackle are Robert Remo, John West, Chet Cernava, J.R. LaPearl and Mark Robbins.



In the 2017 Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament, 2nd and 3rd place in the Heaviest Rockfish Division and 1st place in the Heaviest Stringer Division was won by the team on the "Hellbent" with fish caught while trolling mojos just north of Avalon, New Jersey. The anglers caught 8 rockfish this day with their 3 heaviest weighing 16.1, 31.2 and 32.2 lbs., giving them a stringer weight of 79.5 lbs. Fishing on the "Hellbent" were Nate Gregory, John Rogowitz, Jimmy Willey and Mike Johnston. Also pictured is Tanner Thatcher. For their top 3 finishes, the "Hellbent" team took home a check for \$2,835. Pictured at Atlantic Tackle.



On December 15th during the Ocean City Marlin Club Rockfish Tournament, the team on the "Bubblehead" returned to Atlantic Tackle with 5 nice size rockfish in the box after spending the day trolling the 47-degree waters off Atlantic City, New Jersey. Their 3 heaviest fish weighed 15.0, 16.8 and 19.2 lbs. with their largest taking 5th place in the tournament, earning the lady anglers \$432 in award money. Fishing with Capt. Buddy Whetzel and mates Gregg Peters and Zach Ware were Sue Hersman, Chrissy Auker, Chris Butler, Nichole Hersman and Sue Carpenter.



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Tom Adkins boated this 4 lb. 8 oz. flounder during a trip aboard the headboat, "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich Fouts and Dean Lo. Tom hooked the flattie on a strip of squid at an ocean wreck.



A non-existent striper bite forced David Spencer and Travis Scott to head up the coast to the waters off Stone Harbor, NJ where David caught this 45-inch, 39 lb. linesider on a trolled Tony Accetta spoon. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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Virginia State Records



<u>Species</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bluefish	25 lbs. 4 oz	Gayle Cozzens	1986	Bluefish Rock
Cobia	109 lbs.	Joseph Berberich, II	2006	York Split
Croaker	8 lbs. 11 oz.	Norman Jenkins	2007	New Point Light
Dolphin	71 lbs. 8 oz.	Don Dorey	1991	Off Virginia Beach
Drum, Black	111 lbs.	Betty Hall	1973	Off Cape Charles
Drum, Red	85 lbs. 4 oz.	Herman Moore	1981	Wreck Island
Flounder, Summer	17 lbs. 8 oz.	Charles Cross	1971	Baltimore Channel
Mackerel, King	63 lbs. 1 oz.	Susan Smith	2007	Off Sandbridge
Mackerel, Spanish	9 lbs. 13 oz.	Everett Cameron	1993	Off Virginia Beach
Marlin, Blue	1,093 lbs. 12 oz.	Edward Givens	1978	Norfolk Canyon
Marlin, White	131 lbs. 10 oz.	Rudolph D. van't Riet	1978	Off Virginia Beach
Porgy	5 lbs. 5 oz.	Charles Haines	1978	Off Chincoteague
Sailfish	68 lbs. 8 oz.	P.J. Murden	1977	Off Virginia Beach
Sea Bass	10 lbs. 4 oz.	Allan Paschall	2000	Off Virginia Beach
Sheepshead	20 lbs. 12 oz.	Arun Nhek	2005	CBBT, Seagull Pier
Spadefish	14 lbs. 14 oz.	Roland Murphy	2009	The Cell (Ches. Bay)
Striped Bass	74 lbs.	Cary Wolfe	01/20/12	Off Cape Henry
Swordfish	446 lbs.	Joseph Harris	09/01/12	Norfolk Canyon
Tarpon	130 lbs.	Barry Truitt	1975	Off Oyster
Tautog	24 lbs. 3 oz.	Ken Neill, III	03/25/12	Morgan Wreck
Tilefish, Blueline	23 lbs. 5 oz.	Michael Adkins	2009	Norfolk Canyon
Tilefish, Golden	58 lbs.	Joshua Jung	06/27/17	Norfolk Canyon
Triggerfish, Gray	6 lb. 12 oz.	Dave Walden	11/01/17	Chenango Wreck
Trout, Gray (Weakfish)	19 lbs.	Philip Halstead	1983	CBBT
Trout, Speckled	16 lbs.	Bill Katko	1977	Masons Beach
Tuna, Bigeye	311 lbs.	Vic Gaspeny	09/25/13	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Blackfin	33 lbs. 15 oz.	William Charlton III	2004	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Bluefin	606 lbs.	Chase Robinson	04/06/15	80 miles SSE of VA Beach
Tuna, False Albacore	25 lbs. 4 oz.	Jack Sparrow	1964	Off Virginia Capes
Tuna, Longfin Albacore	68 lbs.	Irvin Fenton, Jr.	1992	Norfolk Canyon
Tuna, Yellowfin	203 lbs. 12 oz.	Bruce Gottwald, Jr.	1981	Norfolk Canyon
Wahoo	122 lbs. 1 oz.	Susan Nelson	06/23/12	Off Wachapreague
Sharks				
Black Tip	76 lbs. 10 oz.	John Thurston	1988	Off Virginia Beach
Blue	266 lbs.	Wayne DeFord	1987	The Cigar
Hammerhead, Great	430 lbs.	Ronald Ault	1984	S.E. Lumps
Hammerhead, Scalloped	245 lbs.	Don Lips	1977	S.E. Lumps
Hammerhead, Smooth	272 lbs.	Carolyn Matthews	1988	Off Virginia Beach
Mako	728 lbs.	Geoffrey Newbill	1983	Chesapeake Light Tower
Thresher	525 lbs.	Andrew Schuyler	2004	Triangle Wrecks
Tiger	1,099 lbs. 12 oz.	John Thurston, Jr	1981	S.E. Lumps

Note: all records recognized as of December 18, 2017



Todd Willard, John Stackowski and Joe Nudge teamed up to catch a 55 lb. yellowfin tuna, 17 mahi and 6 blueline tilefish during a trip to the Washington Canyon aboard the charter boat, "Fish On" with Capt. Andrew Dotterweich. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



On November 28th, Dave Hrycyk of Parsonsburg, MD caught this 25-inch red drum while tossing Roy Rigs around the South Jetty with Big Bird Cropper on the "Lost Time". In addition to the red drum, the duo ended their day with 23 short stripers released and 7 bluefish in the box, the largest of which weighed 9 lbs. 8 oz.

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This 47-inch, 41 lb. striped bass fell at the hands of Matt Hitchens while trolling mojos off the coast of Wildwood, NJ. Matt was fishing on the "Betsey Ann" with Rick Parrett and Evan Huovinen.



Judy Gordon is one happy angler after catching a doubleheader sea bass and bonito during a trip aboard the "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting. The fish were caught on squid outside the Jackpot.

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Evan Falgowski of Lewes, DE ventured out to the Del-Jersey-Land reef and used clams to fool this 3 lb. 4 oz. black sea bass. Evan and his group caught their limit of knotheads with all the fish measuring greater than 14-inches. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.



UPS driver extraordinaire, Charlie Donohue took the trip down from Philadelphia, PA and spent a day fishing on the headboat, "Angler". H was rewarded with a load of bluefish in addition to a 4 lb. flounder and a 2 lb. 8 oz. black sea bass. Both were caught on squid over ocean structure.

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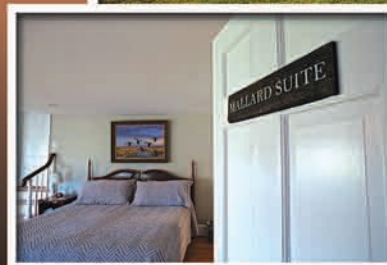
www.coldwellbankerbudchurch.com



In early December, Steve "Chief" Hoffman from 28th Street Pit & Pub in Ocean City, MD took some time off from putting out delicious barbeque to do some fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Chief ended up catching this 22-inch black sea bass while using clams for bait.



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First place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Tog Tournament was won by Chris Thawley for his 9.17 pounder caught at the Outer Wall on green crabs. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Harry Ferzetti caught this 7.56 lb. tautog and held on to win 2nd place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Tog Tournament that took place in October. Harry hooked the fish on a green crab at the Outer Wall. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Third place in the Lewes Harbour Marina Tog Tournament held during the month of October was won by Sheila Stohler with a 6.82 pounder fooled with a green crab at the Outer Wall. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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COASTAL FISHERMAN 2018 TIDE TABLE

These are Ocean City, MD tides at the Ocean City Inlet. Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge. First time listed each day is a.m. high or a.m. low tide.
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	03:05	09:30	01	03:34	09:36	01	04:39	10:27	01	04:50	10:46	01	05:22	11:41	01	06:08	12:08	01	06:35	12:35	01	08:29	02:39	01	08:28	02:47
	03:21	09:48		03:28	10:03		04:12	10:55		04:25	11:11		05:30	11:57		06:55	12:38		07:42	01:15		09:33	03:27		09:08	03:14
02	03:51	10:07	02	04:18	10:13	02	05:22	11:09	02	05:28	11:28	02	06:01	-----	02	06:59	12:54	02	07:35	01:34	02	09:38	03:53	02	09:36	03:54
	04:01	10:28		04:05	10:40		04:52	11:35		05:09	11:49		06:21	12:23	☾	07:55	01:34	☾	08:46	02:24		10:32	04:35		10:03	04:12
03	04:38	10:43	03	05:03	10:52	03	06:06	11:54	03	06:06	-----	03	06:43	12:37	03	07:54	01:49	03	08:39	02:43	03	10:46	05:01	03	10:39	04:52
	04:40	11:08		04:43	11:19		05:37	-----		05:56	12:12		07:16	01:09		08:59	02:39		09:50	03:39		11:28	05:33		10:54	05:04
04	05:27	11:21	04	05:50	11:34	04	06:49	12:18	04	06:44	12:29	04	07:30	01:22	04	08:53	02:53	04	09:46	03:55	04	10:50	04:59	04	11:36	05:44
	05:21	11:49		05:25	-----		06:26	12:41		06:48	12:57	☾	08:14	02:03		10:04	03:50		10:52	04:48		11:19	05:24		11:41	05:49
05	06:19	12:02	05	06:40	12:02	05	07:31	01:03	05	07:25	01:12	05	08:20	02:15	05	09:57	04:00	05	10:54	05:02	05	11:47	05:51	05	-----	06:30
	06:05	-----		06:11	12:19		07:19	01:32		07:43	01:47		09:17	03:04		11:09	04:58		11:50	05:48		-----	06:11		12:27	06:31
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	06:53	12:48		07:02	01:09	☾	08:15	02:27	☾	08:40	02:41		10:22	04:08		-----	05:59		-----	06:42		12:39	06:55		01:14	07:11
07	08:08	01:26	07	08:19	01:41	07	08:55	02:45	07	08:55	02:52	07	10:14	04:15	07	12:09	06:06	07	12:42	06:58	07	12:48	07:25	07	01:05	07:52
	07:45	01:41	☾	07:57	02:06		09:14	03:23		09:42	03:38		11:27	05:10		12:06	06:57		12:56	07:32	●	01:27	07:36	●	01:57	07:50
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11	11:37	05:24	11	11:19	05:18	11	12:13	06:10	11	12:46	06:34	11	02:14	08:16	11	03:25	09:49	11	03:39	10:12	11	03:29	10:08	11	03:39	10:20
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13	12:25	06:50	13	12:42	06:49	13	01:59	07:54	13	02:33	08:31	13	03:53	10:09	13	04:57	11:27	13	05:05	11:40	13	05:00	11:36	13	05:11	11:45
	12:52	07:07		12:45	07:19	●	01:48	08:36		02:24	09:18		04:00	10:42		05:34	11:43		06:05	11:51		06:18	11:54		06:16	-----
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	01:27	07:50		01:28	08:06		02:39	09:31		03:18	10:12		04:57	11:30		06:32	12:16		07:01	12:27		07:09	12:28		06:58	12:33
15	01:54	08:12	15	02:18	08:22	15	03:42	09:45	15	04:17	10:27	15	05:33	11:57	15	06:36	12:28	15	06:43	12:38	15	06:48	12:50	15	06:59	01:06
	02:03	08:33	●	02:12	08:54		03:31	10:25		04:14	11:04		05:56	-----		07:32	01:10		07:58	01:20	☾	07:57	01:24	☾	07:40	01:25
16	02:37	08:53	16	03:06	09:11	16	04:35	10:42	16	05:10	11:24	16	06:25	12:17	16	07:27	01:16	16	07:37	01:31	16	07:45	01:52	16	07:58	02:06
	02:41	09:16		02:58	09:44		04:26	11:20		05:13	11:56		06:58	12:52	☾	08:31	02:11	☾	08:54	02:20		08:43	02:21		08:23	02:20
17	03:22	09:36	17	03:56	10:02	17	05:32	11:39	17	06:05	-----	17	07:16	01:06	17	08:21	02:11	17	08:34	02:31	17	08:44	02:53	17	08:59	03:03
	03:23	10:00		03:47	10:36		05:26	-----		06:15	12:22		07:59	01:53		09:30	03:18		09:47	03:23		09:26	03:14		09:10	03:13
18	04:09	10:20	18	04:50	10:54	18	06:30	12:15	18	06:59	12:48	18	08:08	01:58	18	09:16	03:12	18	09:32	03:34	18	09:42	03:46	18	10:00	03:56
	04:07	10:47		04:40	11:29		06:31	12:40		07:19	01:23	☾	09:00	03:00		10:27	04:21		10:38	04:20		10:07	04:02		09:58	04:03
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OCEAN CITY MARLIN CLUB

2018 TOURNAMENT SERIES



9th ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY TOURNAMENT*

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

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Chris Evans, & Terry Layton

Registration: May 25, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 26 & 27

Weigh-Ins: May 26 & 27, 4:30-7:00pm at Sunset Marina

Awards Banquet: May 27, 6:30pm

39th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT*

Chairmen: Colin Campbell, Boz Jefferson, & Bill Regan

Registration: June 15, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 16 & 17

Weigh-Ins: June 16 & 17, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

Eastern Shore Style Crab Feast:
June 17, 6:30 - 9:00pm

36th ANNUAL CANYON KICKOFF*

Chairmen: Al Rittmeyer & Bob Althausen

Registration: June 28, 6:30pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30, July 1

Weigh-Ins: June 29 & 30, July 1, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

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

14th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC*

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott

Registration: July 20, 6:30pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 21 & 22

Weigh-Ins: July 21, 3:00-6:30pm, July 22, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 22, 5:00-8:00pm

10th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT* "HEELS & REELS"

To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund

Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Ryan Freese & Amanda Shick

Registration: August 2, 6:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & 4

Weigh-Ins: August 3 & 4, 5:30-7:30pm, at Atlantic Tackle

Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30-9:00pm

60th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT*

Chairmen: Steve Poore, Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick

Registration: August 30, 6:30pm

FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

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

Weigh-Ins: August 31, September 1 & 2, 5:30 - 7:30pm at Sunset Marina

Awards Banquet: September 2, 6:30-9:00pm

3rd ANNUAL OCMC VS OCLTC SHOOTOUT

Chairmen: Pat Svehla & Frank Goodhart III
Angler Meeting: September 6, 7:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 7, 8 & 9

No Weigh-Ins

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

40th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Chairmen: Jon C. Duffie & Andy Helms

Registration: September 12, 7:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 13, 14 & 15

No Weigh-Ins

Italian Night: September 14, 6:30-9:00pm

Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30-9:00pm

6th ANNUAL OCMC ROCKFISH TOURNAMENT*

To benefit the Jimmy Fund

Chairmen: Colin Campbell & Jeremy Blunt

Registration: December 7, 6:00pm

Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 8 - 16

Weigh-Ins: December 8 - 16, 3:00-5:00pm at Atlantic Tackle

Awards Banquet: December 16, 5:00-7:30pm

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COASTAL 2017

FISHERMAN

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



Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 Sea Bass	May 28, 2017 Lee Vincent "Fish Bound" 5 lbs. 4 oz.	June 16, 2017 Stephen Pistoia Del-Jersey-Land Reef 4 lbs. 2 oz.	 Mako Shark 100 lb. minimum	June 15, 2017 Shane Kline "Restless Lady" 564 lbs.	June 4, 2017 John Pendell Elephant Trunk 461 lbs.
 Tautog	February 21, 2017 Sam Furest "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 4 oz.	NEW October 28, 2017 Jack Henriksen "Katydid" 16 lbs. 8 oz.	 Thresher Shark	June 4, 2017 Mike Fritsch Fingers 583 lbs.	July 6, 2017 Chris Pugh "B" Buoy 417 lbs.
 Striped Bass	NEW December 21, 2017 Joe Hurley North of Little Gull 47 lbs.	NEW December 6, 2017 Jimmy Young South Jersey Coast 50 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	June 16, 2017 Neil Smith Poor Man's Canyon 210 lbs.	July 1, 2017 Frank Perna Baltimore Canyon 126 lbs.
 Weakfish	June 10, 2017 Rich Daiker South Jetty 5 lbs. 6 oz.	May 20, 2017 John Kelleher Delaware Bay 7 lbs. 2 oz.	 Yellowfin Tuna	August 24, 2017 Mike Cassidy Wilmington Canyon 184 lbs.	September 5, 2017 Corey Evans Last \$ 68 lbs. 3 oz.
 Cobia	NEW October 7, 2017 Scott Savage Little Gull Shoal 57 lbs.	September 9, 2017 Robert O'Neal Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna	August 25, 2017 Keith Fraser Norfolk Canyon 31 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Flounder	NEW November 25, 2017 Ben Semiatin "Angler" 10 lbs. 15 oz.	August 19, 2017 Brent Wiest Site 10 11 lbs. 4 oz.	 Bigeye Tuna	June 16, 2017 Greg Weber "That's Right" 180 lbs.	NEW November 12, 2017 Chip Graves Washington Canyon 186.6 lbs.
 Bluefish	May 4, 2017 Emma Matarese "OC Guide Service" 15 lbs. 12 oz.	April 21, 2017 Alex Neiss Cape Henlopen Surf 18 lbs. 8 oz.	 Dolphin	May 17, 2017 Chris Middendorf Norfolk Canyon 46 lbs.	July 24, 2017 John Gravatt Massey's Canyon 19 lbs.
 Sheepshead	NEW September 22, 2017 Robert Martin South Jetty 18 lbs.	September 15, 2017 Jake Allnutt South Jetty 14 lbs. 13 oz.	 Wahoo	September 16, 2017 Danny Gough "Billfisher" 93 lbs.	September 15, 2017 Heath Berger Poor Man's Canyon 93.4 lbs.
 Black Drum	May 11, 2017 Zach Nagler Assateague Surf 40 lbs.	June 1, 2017 Paul Stermer Brandywine Shoal 70.5 lbs.	 White Marlin	Most Releases in One Day (trolling only) August 18, 2017 "Rhonda's Osprey" 8 Releases June 25, 2017 "Fish Whistle" 5 Releases	

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



Rhonda Daub, Rusty Daub, Bill Gordon, Judy Gordon, Gary McGintey, Bob Rohloff, Daniel Salezur and Melvin Jimenez show off the sea bass, bluefish, bonito and mackerel they caught during a mid-November trip aboard the headboat, "Judith M" with Capt. John Bunting. The fish were hooked on squid outside the Jackpot. The "Judith M" is docked at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, MD.

Fenwick BAIT and TACKLE

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Fish Stories

by Capt. Franky Pettolina



The first time I ever tried day time deep dropping for swordfish was in Venezuela in 1998. I was working as the mate on a boat called the "Reel Tease" at the time. I had no idea how to do it. I was using a borrowed strobe light and lead rig that one of my dock partners had used with success on several occasions. My captain, Jay Champlin, had a set of latitude and longitude coordinates given to him by the same dock partner who had some recent success.

The night before the trip I sent my Venezuelan mate, Gigi, out in search of fresh swordfish baits. He returned with two semi-frozen squid and a couple of fresh octopi. I had no idea how to rig an octopus. I don't even like touching an octopus. As a matter of fact, in hindsight, I think Gigi was hoping that we would change our minds and go white marlin fishing instead. That way he could have fresh octopus ceviche for lunch!

The next morning as we were heading out of the harbor in Caraballeda, Capt. Jay told me to measure off a thousand feet of line on our Shimano TLD 50 reels and mark the distance. We were going to be dropping close to the bottom in 180 fathoms in an area known to hold swordfish. In hindsight, a TLD 50 spooled

with 60 pound monofilament (braid backing was not a common practice yet) doesn't have a whole lot of line left on the reel when you have over a thousand feet out. One of the members of my charter party that day was helping me mark the line. If you have read my columns before you have heard of my helper. His name is Robby and he and I have been fishing together since 1983. Robby was running a boat out of Bahia Marina at the time and he came down to Venezuela with one of his regular charter clients and the owner of the boat. While we were marking the reels, Gigi was grudgingly sewing hooks into his lunch.

About an hour later we arrived at our destination. The plan was to drop an octopus on our borrowed strobe light rig and a squid on our own rig made with cyalume chemical glow sticks and leads rigged like the ones on our borrowed rig. Like I said earlier, this was my first attempt at daytime deep dropping for swordfish. It was also my first time trying to drop to the bottom in more than 300-feet of water (for those of you not well versed in the terminology, there are 6 feet in a fathom, and for those bad at math that means we were trying to hit bottom in 1,080 feet of water... give or take).

The plan was for Capt. Jay to hold the boat steady in the current and I would drop a bait on one side of the cockpit and Gigi would drop one from the other side. Let me clue you in, this plan was mistake number three. Mistake number one was that we should have been using larger reels with more line capacity, but we did not have them. Mistake number two was that we weren't using enough lead on our baits. While we had borrowed a rig from a friend that was having success catching swords, this friend didn't tell us all of his secrets. The rig he loaned us had about a pound and a half of lead on it. What he didn't tell us was that he had another two to four pounds of weight that he would rig to break away from the line after it got to the bottom. The lead that was permanent on the rig was only for holding the bait on the bottom once it got there. We were doomed from the start.

First thing I learned during our attempt to drop to the bottom that day was to only drop one bait at a time. It is more or less impossible to keep the boat properly positioned for both baits to be dropped at once without one of them ending up under the boat or in the props. The second thing I can tell you is that the line most likely to get tangled in the boat's running gear is the one that has the rig you borrowed on it. Gigi was quite upset when I sent him in the water to untangle the rig. I am just not that aquatic. Thankfully, we did not lose the borrowed rig, but this was an omen. We should have given up then and went marlin fishing. I knew how to do that!

After we figured out that we could only drop one bait at time we successfully got both baits out to our marks at a thousand feet (give or take). I knew that we were supposed to be fishing close to the bottom. I also knew that the way our lines were stretched out behind the boat that there was no way we had our baits

on the bottom. I wish I had known that we weren't using enough weight. We thought our rigs were right and our technique was wrong. We had that half right!!! Capt. Jay kept trying to back the boat up enough to get the rigs to drop and it just wouldn't work. Then the weirdest thing happened. We got a bite!

While I was misinformed on the technique and the tools, I was well informed on what to expect of the swordfish fight. Everyone I had talked to on the dock told me that the fish were relatively timid until they got closer to the surface. About half way up they would start to fight is what I was told. This was all going according to plan. We had a fish on. It wasn't fighting that hard. The problem was that after we had most of the line back on the spool the fish still wasn't fighting that hard. Capt. Jay had the answer. "It must be a little one!" Like the rest of this ill fated fishing trip, he was half right.

I could see the glow of our borrowed strobe light steadily rising. I could make out something spinning on the leader back behind it. The rod was shaking a little, but still not enough for a fish with the fighting reputation of a swordfish. Even a little one. And sure enough, a few moments later I saw why. What we had caught was definitely not a swordfish. I had no idea what it was. It was about two-feet long. It was dark colored with very big eyes and very thick scales. Gigi was licking his lips. I looked at him and asked him what it was. He rattled off a string of words in Spanish that ended with "Buena Comida!" I still had no idea what it was, but I knew that Gigi thought it was very tasty!

We attempted another drop and then gave up and went white marlin fishing. Thankfully we caught a few of those. While we were trolling for marlin I went below and dug out my *McClane's Field Guide to Fishes*. After a lengthy

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search I discovered that we had caught an Atlantic Pomfret. Apparently Gig was the only one fully informed on the boat that day. The guide said that they were a valuable food source!

It wasn't until several years (and several unsuccessful attempts) later that I successfully caught a daytime swordfish in Venezuela. The successful attempt came on a boat called the "Ravenous". My friends Eric "El Capitan Sluggo" and his brother Wayne were working as the crew. This time I was the charter client. Watching "Brother Wayne", I learned how to properly rig a breakaway weight to the line. I paid close attention to how the bait was dropped to the bottom and how Capt. Eric maneuvered the boat to keep it there. Even more tricky was the boat handling that allowed the second bait to get to the bottom without fouling the first bait. But Eric and Wayne had it dialed in and we had a little luck on our side I am sure. By the time the second bait was set the first bait was getting bit. Just like that. Hooked up!

I was harnessed to a 130 pound class Shimano Tiagra in the fighting chair for this battle. Like I was told prior to my first attempt at daytime swordfishing, the first half of the fight was uneventful. This time however, right on cue, the fish began to show signs of being a fighter as soon as I had it half way up from the bottom. Drag was peeling off of the reel. There were several rapid direction changes. Eric kept the stern aimed towards the line. I kept the pressure on. Then it happened. A moment that will forever be etched in my mind's eye. Directly behind the boat, looking into the bright Venezuelan sun, my swordfish took to the air! The first jump was almost in slow motion. The bill broke the surface and the fish kept rising until it's full length was out of the water as it jumped away from us. As soon as it splashed

back into the water it made a U-turn and somersaulted back at us. Eric sped the boat ahead and I cranked the reel for all it was worth. The hook held. For the next half hour there was a give and take between me and the fish. Ultimately, Wayne was able to grab the leader and gaffs were placed in the fish. I may or may not have hopped out of the harness and placed an additional, and unnecessary, gaff in the fish just for good measure. Minutes later the swordfish was on the deck and celebratory cervezas were being passed around!

Since those days in Venezuela I have watched the fever that is daytime deep dropping for swordfish spread. Since the mid-2000s the fishery has boomed in South Florida and on the Gulf Coast. Daytime swordfishing is now gaining popularity in the Mid-Atlantic these days. More boats are trying it, and a few of them are already having consistent success at it. My friends on the "Stalker" and the "Primary Search" caught swords on consecutive daytime trips this past fall. I know of boats out of Delaware and New Jersey that are completely dialed in. There are plenty of us that are making plans for next year too. I have also witnessed the "Primary Search" gang boat the first two recreationally caught Opahs for Ocean City this past fall. They kind of remind me of a much larger and much more colorful Pomfret. It will be interesting to see what other creatures come up from the depths in the coming years. I look forward to trying my luck at it, and if I happen to catch another Pomfret I will know what it is this time. And I will add more weight to my rig.

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.



In early October, anglers Mike Robertson and Billy Herold caught a pair of wahoo while fishing on the "Dead Money" with Capt. Reed Cassady. Both were caught in 50 fathoms inside the Poor Man's Canyon with one hitting a trolled spreaderbar and the larger 80 pounder eating a skirted ballyhoo.

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Ocean City Convention Center
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Frederick MSSA Saltwater Fishing Expo
Frederick County Fairgrounds
January 13, 2018

Heroes on the Water Benefit Tackle Show
Lake Shore Volunteer Fire Co. - Pasadena, MD
January 21, 2018

Baltimore Boat Show
Baltimore Convention Center
January 25-28, 2018

Kent Island Fisherman's Flea Market
Kent Island American Legion Post #278
January 27-28, 2018

NRA Great American Hunting & Outdoor Show
Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex - Harrisburg, PA
February 3-11, 2018

Seaside Boat Show
Ocean City Convention Center
February 16th, 2018 - 11am to 7pm
February 17th, 2018 - 10am to 7pm
February 18th, 2018 - 10am to 5pm

Annapolis MSSA Saltwater Fishing Expo
Annapolis Elks Lodge #622
February 24, 2018

Atlantic City Boat Show
Atlantic City Convention Center
February 28 - March 4, 2018

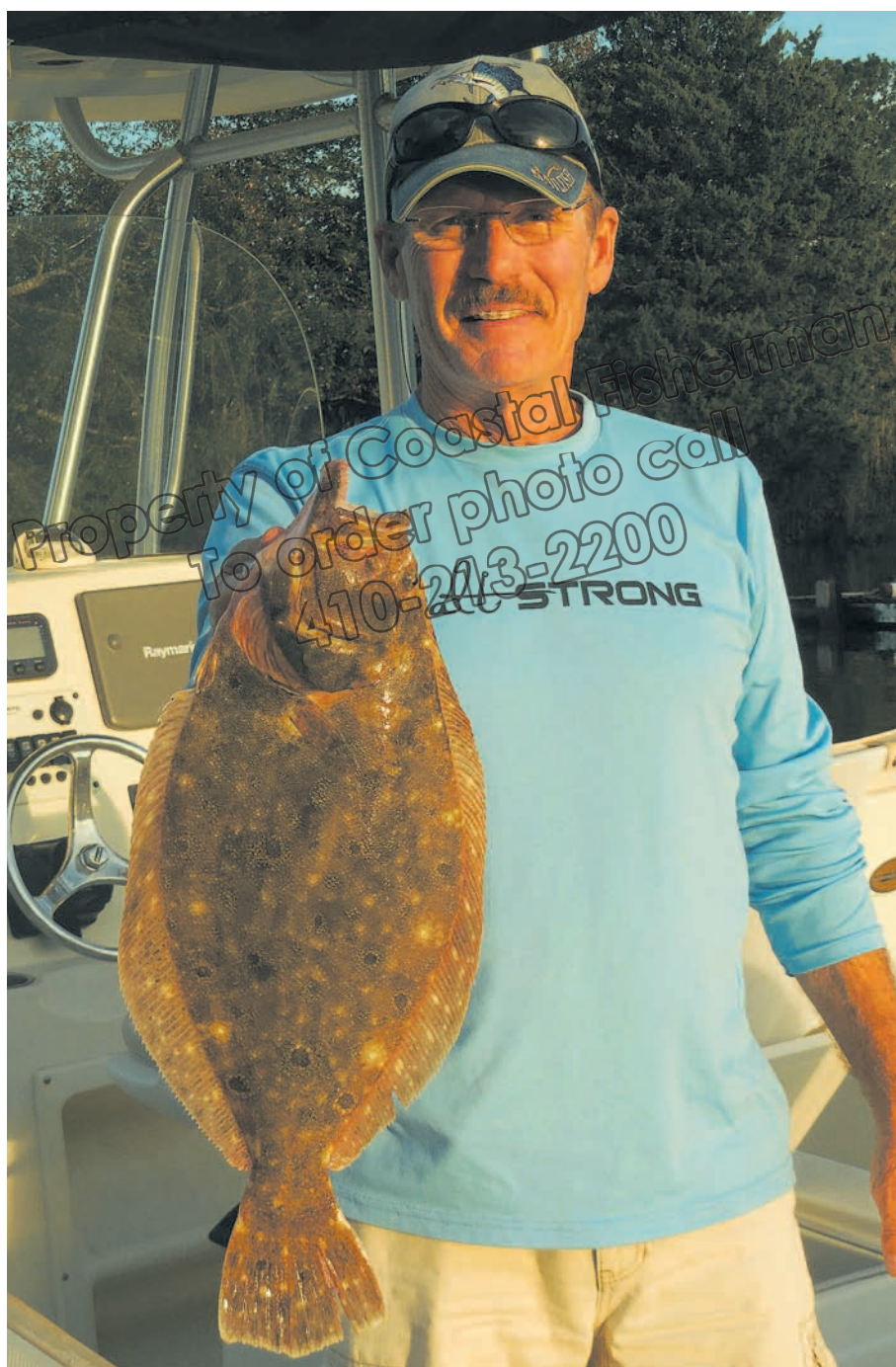
Greater Philadelphia Boat Show
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center
March 9-11, 2018

Essex-Middle River MSSA Fishing Flea Market
1909 Old Eastern Ave. Essex, MD
March 17 - 18, 2018

Southern Maryland MSSAA Soloman's Fishing Fair
Solomons Island Firehouse
April 7 - 8, 2017



Jake Dahlberg from Towson, MD was fishing in the suds off Bethany Beach in early November when he caught and released this 26 1/2-inch red drum. Jake was able to get his whole mullet rig under a school of snapper blues right outside the wash while using 6 oz. of lead.



Towards the end of September, flounder fishing around the Ocean City Inlet turned on a bit, providing Richard Crosariol of Fenwick Island, DE the opportunity to capture this 20 1/2-incher on a 4-inch Gulp artificial bait.



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One of the highlights of the 2017 season was a sheephead bite around the South Jetty that was as good as anyone can ever remember and it certainly was a memorable one for Robert Martin of Sykesville, MD. On September 22nd, Robert muscled in a 29-inch, 18 lb. sheephead to set a new Maryland State Record during a trip with his dad, Bradley Martin. The fish ate a green crab and beat the existing Maryland State Record of 17 lbs. 8 oz. set by Raymond Daniel back in 2004. On the following page, you will see the unique mount Robert had made of his record fish. Pictured at the *Coastal Fisherman* office on Sunset Avenue.

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Rich Daiker of Reisterstown, MD caught his limit of 4 flounder, highlighted by this 26-incher that weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. All of the fish were caught on bunker at the change of the tide while fishing in the East Channel near the old concrete plant.

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