

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHMAN

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There was a serious bluefish blitz the last week of April with big fish hitting everywhere from Assateague Island up to the Delaware Bay! They were also in the Ocean City Bays. Ivanna Harshman went to Stinky Beach to try her luck and connected with this 30.5" gator bluefish that hit on a 1/2 oz. jig head tipped with white Gulp. It put up quite a fight and was estimated at 14 lbs. She was joined on the outing by Mary Harshman.



There was a lot of action in the surf this spring with a great mix of bluefish, drum and stripers biting off the beach. Mildred Ritter caught this 44" rock off of Assteague Beach in early April using sand fleas.

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Jeff Weeks and Dave Weller took advantage of a break in the weather on a Saturday in late April to get on some fish! They caught 3 bluefish mid morning with the largest at 32 1/8" as well as 3 blackfish while working the Inlet and Rt. 50 Bridge.



Flounder catching legend Danny Cox of West Ocean City kicked off his 2024 flat fish season with this 18 incher caught in mid April. He fooled this one in the Thorofare using a combo of minnow and Gulp.

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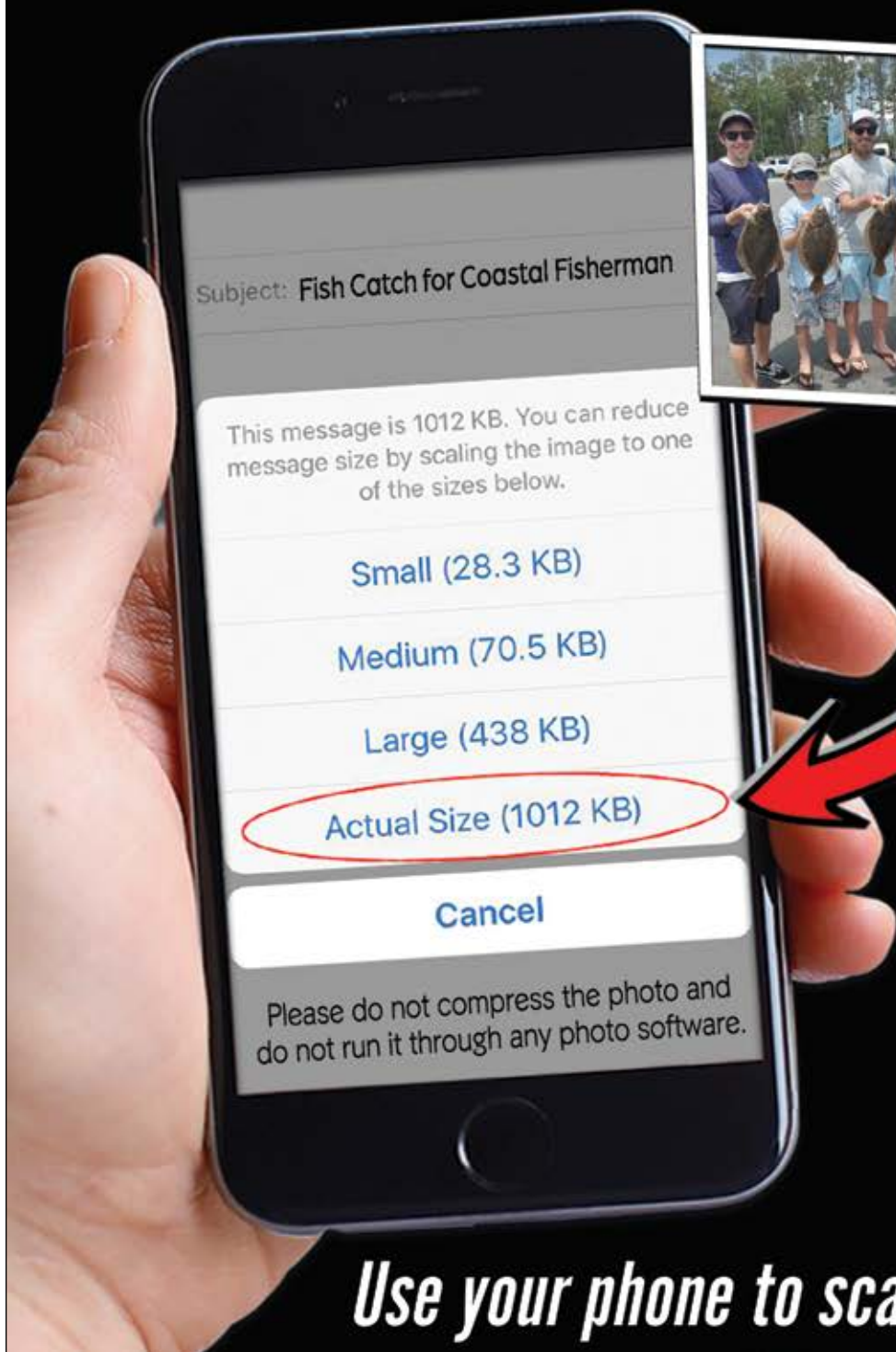
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It is another cool and breezy day as I write this report on the last days of April! It seems the winds have been blowing all spring without much of a break until mid April. Fortunately for us, many of our hardy fisherman headed out or took advantage of the few fishable days to get on the water and share their action with us. The last several weeks have also seen a pick up in black drum from the beach and a bluefish blitz! Check out the details in our fishing reports from Capt. BJ Pietryak and Capt. Matt Abell.

So welcome faithful readers to our 2024 Summer season of the Coastal Fisherman, our 49th season! In addition to our returning fishing report captains, we are fortunate to have our Mark Sampson returning. After many years of writing "Chum Lines",

Mark wanted to take a different approach this year. Observations with humor and edginess will be the theme of the new "Snarky Lines". I think you will enjoy the irreverent stories about fishing, life and just being! Our resident expert Capt. Steve Katz also returns offering insights and details about the boating industry, regulatory issues and operation issues. The man gets into the details. We are lucky to have both.

While the canyons remain in the high 40's, several of the early season regulars have made some runs or tries. Capt. Tommy Perry ran out past the Norfolk Canyon in mid April to test a warmish eddy on his new boat and enjoyed a nice ride! It also looks like other former first fish captains like Jim Barbey on the "Full Service" and

Zack Brunner on the "Hot Line" have been trying to get out. The current forecast looks like the wind may lay down for the weekend, but it is still early. Last year saw a lot of first tunas in the first week of May, marlins did not arrive until June.

So, in absence of offshore action to report, I thought I could share some of the happenings that occurred over the winter to help our offshore anglers for the season.

Marina's on the Move

Owning and operating a marina is not for the faint of heart. These are capital intensive businesses with Cap Rates lower than some other business type due to the ongoing infrastructure cost. They are sometimes compared to a "U-Store-It" type of company since you are basically storing a boat in a slot. However, your local storage facility is not typically subject to tidal conditions and wave action, not to mention the regulatory considerations. Marinas have fuel, pump out facilities and maintenance services that are subject to an ever increasing amount of oversight. So we have a great appreciation for facilities like Sunset Marina, Indian River Marina, OC Fishing Center, Bahia Marina and South Shore Marina for the level of service they provide.

A couple of these made some notable improvements over



Fisherman's Marina's New Bulkhead Location

the winter. The Sunset Marina acquired Fisherman's Marina in West Ocean City in 2023 and has been greatly enhancing and improving the facility. Notably they are working to restore the bulkhead to its original position. As the bulkheads needed maintenance or replacement, the prior owners would just build a new bulkhead in front of the old. Over the years



Fisherman's Marina's New Docks

that moved the seawall out 4' to 6'. That is significant and you can see from the pictures the impact of putting them back where they should be! Additionally, there are all new docks, electrical and services, as well as landscaping and lighting. Nice job Sunset!

An advertisement for Bank of Ocean City. It features a large image of a fish (likely a bluefish) with its mouth open, eating a lure. The logo 'bank of ocean city' is in blue and white. Below the image, it says 'SUPPORTING THE FISHING COMMUNITY SINCE 1916'. At the bottom, it lists 'West Ocean City Branch 410.213.0173' and 'bankofoceancity.com'. There is also a small FDIC logo.

A box containing the Coastal Fisherman magazine logo, which includes a fish and the text '2024 COASTAL FISHERMAN MAKING FISHING GREAT!'. To the right of the logo, it says 'is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12703 Sunset Avenue Ste.8, Ocean City, MD 21842'. Below this, in a white box, are the names and titles: 'LARRY BUDD • Editor & Publisher', 'CHRISTINE BUDD • Vice President', and 'TOM JOCK • Graphic Artist'. At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer: 'Phone 410-213-2200, e-mail: coastalfisherman@comcast.net. You can find current and past editions on the web at coastalfisherman.net. We welcome freelance stories and photos, but assume no responsibility for unsolicited material unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. All submitted stories, photographs, and ad materials are the property of the publisher and may not be used without written permission. © 2024'



South Shore Marina's new inlet on the west side of the marina. Note the old north entrance closed off in the right of the image.

Up north the South Shore Marina completed a major project, they moved the marina inlet. The historical entrance on the North side had a history of silting in

quite quickly. After changing hands a few years ago, the new owners committed to not only enhancing the facility but moving the entrance to the West side for improved access and navigation.

New to you Boat Blitz

This offseason saw a surprising number of notable boat sales and upgrades. The charter boat "Wrecker" made a move to a 57' Blackwell and did a major refit over the winter. The new boat is faster and has a bigger cockpit and will remain at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Capt. Dale Lisi made a big upgrade! He moved from his legendary 36 footer to a new 'Foolish Pleasure' charter boat, a 50'

Custom Carolina! He too has spent the winter enhancing this platform. You can find his new ride at the Bahia Marina.

Some names you know left the area. The "Blood Money" headed to a new port down South. The "Primary Search" headed south too, but a new and larger one will take up the moniker.

Of course, no boat update would be complete without a shout out to Duffie Boatworks and their latest hull. The new 79 foot "Reel Joy" has moved from their facility to Sunset Marina for final rigging before sea trials. The tower has been added and the wheels mounted, so it won't

be long before she is in the water. Beautiful boat! We hear the 59' "Boys Toy" is not far behind.

That's it for now. Please keep sharing your catches by texting or emailing:

CoastalFisherman@comcast.net \$

Upcoming Tournaments

- The **Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament** in Watchapreque runs through May 5th.
- Old Inlet Bait & Tackle hosts the **Delaware Seashore Spring Surf Fishing Tournament** on May 6th. This event offers over \$2,000 in cash and prizes. Visit OldInlet.com for more.
- The **Lewes Harbour Marina** will hold it's **Canal Flounder Tournament** on May 17th. For more info check Facebook or call (302) 645-6227.



The latest from Duffie Boatworks, the 79' "Reel Joy" moves for final fittings.

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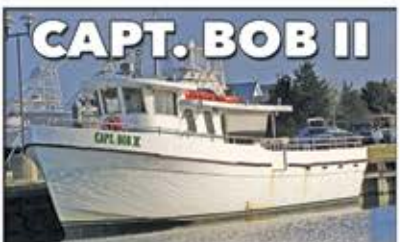
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Capt. Richard Harpel out of Lewes, DE was early to the perch run this year. He set out in early March on the Broadkill River and landed a big stringer of the tasty fish using bloodworms on a top & bottom perch rig set up with red beads and a 1 oz. sinker.



Bluefish off the beach were hot and heavy in late April. David Matthews caught this chopper blue in the suds just south of the Indian River Inlet Bridge.

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



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



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



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



CROAKER
9" minimum
25 per person/day



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



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



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



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16" minimum
4 per person/day
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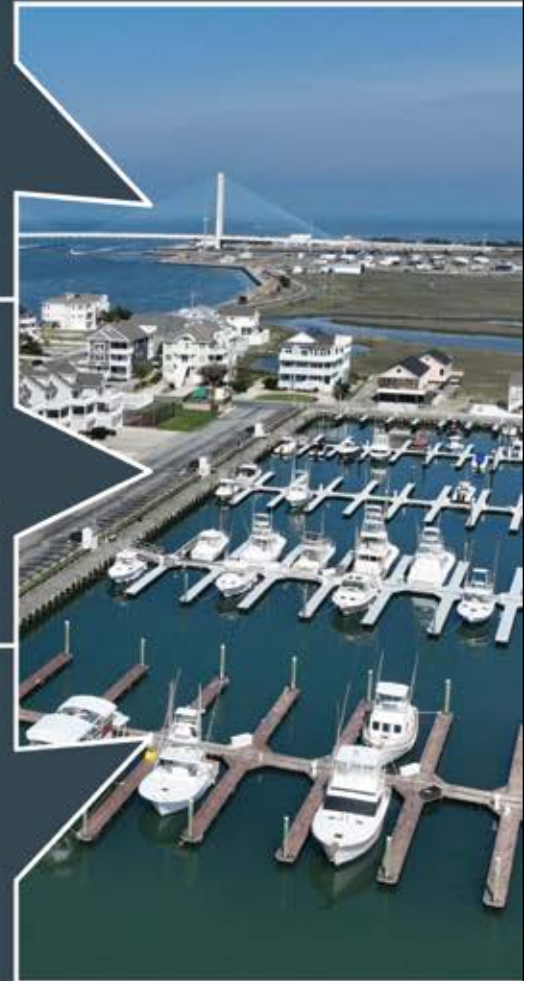


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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Spring is upon us and many anglers anxiously await the beginning of a new season of fishing in Ocean City. As the spring wears on and water temperatures rise, the fish begin to arrive into our home waters. The first ones are the black drum along with the stripers and bluefish. After these arrivals it won't be long before the flounder start to call the back bays home for the summer.

Back Bays & Inlet

The back bays of Assawoman Bay have been slow to start due to the colder weather but have begun to come alive in past weeks. The first flounder of the year was caught by Paul Musser. The keeper 17.5" fish was caught in the Thorofare in a water depth of 17 ft. and water temp of 52.5 degrees. The fish fell for a Deadly Double in chartreuse with a white Gulp bait trailer. Good job Paul! Lenny Gilliar got in on the slow fluke bite bringing home a nice 18" fish he caught on squid. "Lucky Break Charters" went out on a cold day on the bay, but

they did manage to catch their clients a nice 18 inch fluke along with a ¼ bushel of crabs. The crew including some young kids even got to feed a few pelicans on the way in. "Unreal" was fishing the north end of the Thorofare and caught 6 keeper fluke. The fish were caught on Squidnation Ottertail baits and mantis shrimp.

Keeper tog are showing up along the bulkheads in Ocean City along with the flounder. Kevin McNelis got a nice keeper as well as around 30 throwbacks from the rocks near Martha's Landing. The area between Martha's Landing and the inlet has also been the home of some big bluefish along with a few smaller rockfish. Swimbaits along with cut mullet chunks have been the key to catching these fish. Many anglers are using the larger swim baits, such as the Roy Rigs, first to attract the fish, and if no bites are made then switching to chunk mullet on a fish finder rig. Brian Reynolds snuck out for a couple hours on Tuesday and got

13 stripers on his 5'9" ultra light Penn rod with 5 lb braid. That had to be a great fight on such a light rod. Seth Price pulled some big gator bluefish from the inlet landing 7 fish with 3 of them being over 30". Seth also scored a few small schoolie stripers. Craig "Bird" Cropper said the weather was too gorgeous not to fish and headed off to the bridge to pull in some bluefish and a few small rockfish. Any guess what he caught them on? The Inlet also gave up the first speckled trout to Dillon Scoop. It was caught on a Deadly Duo with a Gulp trailer.

Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has been its productive self this early spring with big rockfish and huge slammer blues. The black drum have begun to show up and should only get stronger in the upcoming weeks. Charlene Moore pulled in a nice size black drum, snapped a few pictures and released it to swim free off the northern end of the island. Chris Linton was rewarded with

his first drum of the year while fishing near the Virginia line. He reported despite cold weather and rough surf, the fish was caught for a great photo for him and his son. Chris Taylor was out on Wednesday and pulled in a nice 28" black caught on fresh clam. Chris was our reported first black drum of the year. Great job Chris! Fred Berfel was happy to find the drum right where they were last year and invited a nice 30" fish to come home with him for dinner. George Guthridge pulled in a drum late Wednesday afternoon. Jim Bianco of Seaford, DE pulled a big slob of a black drum while fishing the surf. It was weighed in at Steve's Bait and Tackle. Vance Atkins was not going to let everyone else have all the fun, hooking a nice eating size black in the surf using sand fleas and Fish Bites. David Moore found a 38" rockfish willing to bite his line on Friday. I heard reports of birds diving out front of both Ocean City as well as Assateague Island. Hopefully more stripers will begin to move into our region in the coming days. Jeremy Ambro Savage found a couple of blues in the surf last week. The fish were caught on a mullet rig. Ben Witmer also got a few

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blues and sharks on mullet rigs while fishing the beach. Abe Lin said the blues hit everything he threw at them, but bit best on mullet rigs. He did say a 10 oz. weight was needed to keep the lures anchored to the bottom. Abe stated the day before he had been skunked, so it was nice to have redemption the next day. Kevin Zissimos didn't find any drum on the beach but did manage a 19" flounder. Not a bad by-catch fish if you ask me! Brian Lilly had a great day on the beach catching two big black drum within the first 20 minutes on the beach. Tristan Archer used Fish Bites and sand fleas to pull his big drum from the surf. Tanner Wazzog was on a hot streak, pulling a 38" striper, a 32" striper and a 32" black drum from the Assateague Island beach.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The tog fishing on the wrecks off Ocean City has been consistent but a little slow, but when fish are found they are usually big ones.

"Chasing Tides" hit the wrecks last week scoring some fat tog up to 20 pounds. Fresh whiteleggers and clams did the trick. Chris Meister got his first keeper tog of the year on green crab. Paul Reyburn used his custom JPR rod to catch a huge tog off ocean structure. "Double Trouble Charters" stated they had 4 productive days on the water with fish up to 17 lbs. as well as several smaller ones to bring home for dinner. All the double digit fish were full of eggs and released safely back into the water. May 15 will begin seabass season for the year, so until then we should see anglers targeting the big tog while prospecting the wrecks for black sea bass.

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Reports of a first fish caught for the season are always exciting and are seen as a harbinger for the season to come. Angler Curt Reuter of Harbeson, DE set the record for Delaware landing the first keep flounder from the Lewes Canal on April 11th. He was actually fishing for stripers using swim baits when he caught the 17" flatfish. Pictured and measured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Madison Myers checked in with Henlopen Bait & Tackle to share this picture after landing a big bluefish from the beach in Cape Henlopen State Park in late April. She was pretty far north as you can see the Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse in the top left.

2024 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p> |  <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p> |  <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p> |  <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p> |
|  <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p> |  <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p> |  <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p> |  <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p> |
|  <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p> |  <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p> |  <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p> |  <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p> |

eregulations.com



Angler Brian Reynolds of Berlin, MD has had a busy 2024. He started the year catching the 1st keeper rockfish of the season in January and has now moved to the sands of Assateague. He caught this 32.5" bluefish on a high/low rig using mullet.



We are guessing this flounder did not see Paul Messer, Jr. coming up the Thorofare in his 'flounder' camo! That was a good thing as this was the 1st keeper flounder caught for 2024 on April 8th. Paul measured 52.5" water and used a Deadly Double with white Gulp to fool this 17.5" fattie.

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2024



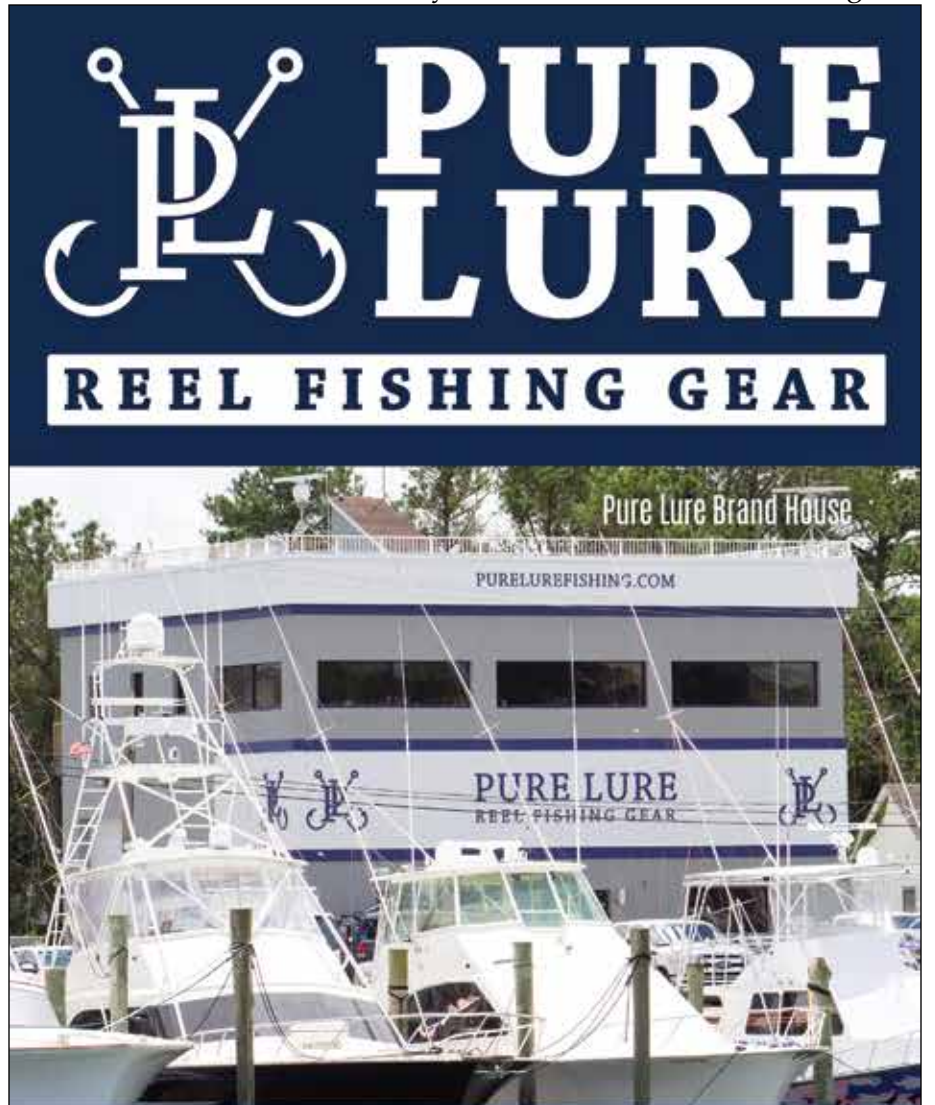
(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

| Species | OCEAN CITY | DELAWARE | Species | OCEAN CITY | DELAWARE |
|--|--|---|---|------------|----------|
|  Bluefish |  April 23 Jay Werner Fenwick Ditch 8 lbs. |  April 23 Kevin Golden Surf 9 lb. 12 oz. |  Weakfish | | |
|  Black Drum | |  April 15 Allen Sklar Assateague Surf 29 lbs. |  Bigeye Tuna | | |
|  Cobia | | |  Bluefin Tuna | | |
|  Summer Flounder | |  April 16 Craig Blocker Lewes Canal 4.46 lbs. |  Longfin Tuna | | |
|  Sea Bass | | |  Yellowfin Tuna | | |
|  Sheepshead | | |  Dolphin | | |
|  Striped Bass | | |  Swordfish | | |
|  Tautog |  April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs. | |  Blue Marlin | | |
|  Wahoo | | |  White Marlin | | |

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



Michael Guiley of Mohnton, PA got up close and personal with some tog in early April! He was fishing from Stinky Beach at the beginning of the incoming tide when he hooked this 18.25" keeper. He also released one that measured just at 16" so it could grow a little more.



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FISHING CHARTERS



While Delmarva enjoyed a mild yet windy winter, some around town headed to warmer climates. JT Thompson joined Rod & Pam Taylor with Andy Baxter for a trip to Walker's Cay in the Bahamas. They fished on the "Fishticuffs" out of Sunset Marina (coincidence?) and JT managed this nice bull dolphin.

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FISHING CHARTERS



While the charter boat "Sprint Mix II" is back in the slip at the Ocean City Fishing Center for the summer, they took one last trip before they left Islamorada, FL. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter had owner Paul Lebling's son Ace out for a mango snapper and lobster run in early April.

Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bounds" out of the Talbot Street Pier reported over 20 double digit tog releases on his trips in early April, up to 18 lbs. He suspected that the constant wind, rain and swell over the winter kept these big ones down deep.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Scott Shoup and crew had a banner day on the charter boat "Katydid"! Capt. Brent Wiest with mate Chris put the group onto 22 tog including a 8.4 lb. blackfish that Scott caught earning him a DE Citation. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Good weather was not abundant this spring, but Capt. Kane Bounds on the "Fish Bound" found one of the few nice days to get his crew on some nice tog. This trip looks like a summer day!

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FISHING CHARTERS



While their boat the "Kilo Charlie" sat on the hard in Ocean City, MD, the crew headed south to Los Sueños, Costa Rica to tune up their game. Here Jen Kinsley tangles with a sailfish, great shot!



Madison Myers has been tearing up the bluefish, pulling in some real choppers from the suds at Herring Point. Mullet from Henlopen Bait & Tackle has been doing the trick.

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The weather this spring has not been a friend to Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star"! This pretty fish was from a trip in March. Since then, Monty has been focusing on the Ocean City Reef Foundation's reef building effort as well as the upcoming fund raiser at Hooper's Crab House on May 5th.

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Erik Dowell of Ocean City, MD slipped his kayak into the waters behind Assateague Island in late March to take advantage of a calm day. He caught a handful of stripers between 15-22 inches mid morning using a Roy Rig.



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Lamont Hilbert took his boat "Seabum" out to the south Ocean City Bay and caught this 20" nicely spotted flounder and some shorty stripers on a jig with Gulp.



Bryan Keith from Fenwick Island, DE caught a rare fish while in Islamorada, FL this winter. He snared this juvenile goliath grouper using live shrimp and shared the pic with Fenwick Tackle.

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Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



Welcome to the 2024 fishing season! Hopefully it will prove to be a great one for all of us, with decent weather, hungry fish and enough time away from the responsible side of life that we have plenty of opportunities to take full advantage of both.

A great thing about saltwater fishing is that from year to year it's always changing. Species of fish that we've caught for years just fade away and are forgotten, fish we never dreamed we'd catch suddenly take up residence in our own backyards. Boats, tackle, equipment, electronics and everything else that helps us do what we do evolves, and so do we. Little by little, season by season, we all get older, things we couldn't do as a child we're able to do on a whim and then we find that things we've done most of our lives we can't do anymore. Yeah - a lot can change from one fishing season to the next!

Fossil records have proven

that throughout history species either evolve to meet changes in their environment or they die. About the only creature who has been able to buck that bit of "the natural order of things" has been the horseshoe crab. And who knows? In another ten million years even "they" might decide it's time to crawl out of the water, sprout wings and start living in trees!

If you've been a reader of this paper over the last umpteen years you might have noticed that there's been a column entitled "Chum Lines", which, for a lot of readers, would be similar to the "Legals" section of newspapers that folks usually flip past in order to find something that's actually interesting to read - like maybe the obituaries or the horoscopes. Anyway, Chum Lines was my column, and over the years Larry the editor has been kind enough (or crazy enough) to allow me to pretty much write

about anything I wanted, trusting that I would at least keep it somewhat related to fishing, boats, gear, the ocean and its creatures. And for the most part I think I've kept it within those guidelines. But after all this time I think I've finally milked all the ideas out of what little bit of gray matter is still left to slosh about under my fishing hat (I'm talking about "brains" not hair) and so I was leaning toward hanging up the keyboard and for the first time in a long-long time not go through a season worrying about deadlines, dangling participles, and what the heck I was going to write about each week.

Then last fall a friend accused me of being "snarky", which at the time I thought was some reference to the point that I was a shark fisherman, a few months later someone else suggested that I had a very "dry sense of humor" prompting me to look up the definition of both "dry sense of humor" and "snarky" just

to get a better idea of what I've been accused of, and here's what I found:

Snarky - critical or mocking in an indirect or sarcastic way.

Dry Sense of Humor - Subtle and sometimes not easily understood humor that works with the power of wordplay and is known for its nuances and intellectual wit.

So I don't know about the whole "intellectual" part, but I'm not going to argue with the rest of it. I'll admit that "maybe" my humor is not exactly dripping with slapstick comedy, but I think it's funny, and if someone else doesn't then maybe they're not "intellectual" enough to get the joke. So ha-ha!

Anyway, getting back to my column: As I've burned out my brain trying to come up with new ways to tell people about how to navigate a boat, maintain a fishing reel, catch bait, hook a shark, clean a tackle box, understand a regulation, freeze a fish, and all the other how-to topics I've expounded upon over the years, I thought I'd change things up this season and put my dry sense of

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snarky humor to the test by writing about the lighter side of the fishing and boating scene.

So Chum Lines is now officially "Snarky Lines" and I guess I should warn everyone that this column will indeed be very dry, snarky, politically incorrect, and some of it just plain ridiculous. So if you don't think something is funny it might be because I'm actually mocking you or a group you're a part of, and if you just don't understand what I'm saying maybe you should have paid more attention in school because apparently you're just not "intellectual" enough to understand the joke.

It has become one very upside down and crazy world out there and I think that to survive the times we all need less to worry about and more to laugh at. So as the

season unfolds I hope to do my part to save the planet by not only examining local fishing activities from some very unique angles, but also share my own warped insights on every group of anybody who has anything to do with the water, including recreational fishermen, charter captains, commercial fishermen, boat renters, locals, tourists, environmentalists, windmill people, marine scientists, PWC operators (of course), salt lifers, kayakers, they/ them, tournament people and any other coalition of folks who make a blip on my boat's radar screen. In fact, when we get close to the end of the season, if I haven't referenced a group you're a part of please let me know so I can do so before the last issue, I wouldn't want to deprive anyone of a good snarking. Snark season starts next week - see ya then! §



Someone has to be first, and this year it was Chris Taylor who landed the first black drum of the 2024 season on 3/31! He definitely put in the work for the title as he fished Assateague for 3 straight days from 10AM to 4:30PM. This one hit on sand fleas with orange Fishbites.

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Rod Taylor is all smiles with the blue marlin he caught and released while fishing on the "Fishticuffs" out of Walkers Cay in the Bahamas. He was fishing with his wife Pam, JT Thompson and Capt. Andy Baxter.



It was a big day in Key West for Bluewater Advisory's Mark & Janet Debinski this winter. Over their 2 day trip they caught 16 species, including this red snapper as well as dozens of blackfin tuna with top water lures.

2024 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles



BLUE MARLIN
99" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit



WHITE MARLIN
66" Lower Jaw Fork Length
No Retention Limit

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



DOLPHIN
No minimum Length
Boat Limit 54
Daily 10 per angler



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



BLUEFIN TUNA
27" to <47" curved fork length
2 per vessel/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
1 per vessel/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
3 per Charter/day or trip
27" to <47" curved fork length
6 per Headboat/day or trip
47" to < 73" curved fork length
2 per Headboat/day or trip



BIGEYE TUNA
27" Curved Fork Length
No Retention Limit



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



SAILFISH
Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit



GOLDEN TILEFISH
No minimum • 8 per person/day



BLUELINE TILEFISH
5/1 - 10/31
3 per person (Recreational)
5 per person Uninspected (Charter)
7 per person Inspected (Charter)



WAHOO
No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

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Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead
54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose
78" Minimum Fork Length
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Welcome back to a new year of fishing in Delaware! For many, the winter has been filled with hunting and repair of rods, reels and tackle. For others like myself, it was a long drive south to warmer weather and more fishing. The water last week in DE gave us temps in the low 50's. The bluefish are starting to show up along with a few rockfish. In the surf, the black drum are beginning to make their presence known. Surf fishing is the best way of catching quality fish, but a few flounder have been taken from both the inlet back bays as well as the Lewes Canal.

Flounder & Back Bay Areas

The Indian River Inlet is still

cold by normal standards for this time of the year with temps varying between 45 degrees on cold days to mid 50s on warmer, sunny days. The flounder are spread out and not easy to find. Curt Reuter was up at the Lewes Canal fishing for stripers and caught the first flounder of the year recorded at Lewes Harbour Marina. Great job Curt! A few flatfish have been taken out of the bay with many of those in the deeper main channel of the inlet. Alex Neiss fished the Lewes Canal on Tuesday and found his first limit of the year with 4 nice flatfish to bring home for dinner. Craig Blocker from Laurel fished the Lewes Canal and caught a fat 4.46 lb. fluke using squid. Craig

said he was warming up for the LHM Canal Tournament coming up on May 17th.

Summer flounder has new regulations for 2024. From now until May 31 flounder must be a minimum 16". From June 1st through December 31 the new minimum will be 17.5".

Surf Fishing

The ocean continues to warm daily with spring's rising temps bringing with it some of the biggest bluefish we've seen in years.

The annual migration of black drum up the Delaware Bay is definitely underway. The fish will remain here for about one month to spawn before returning to the ocean. This is the perfect time of the year to target these fish along our coast as they move to the breeding grounds. Fresh surf clams, sand fleas, cut bunker, and even squid can be used to entice these fish into biting a hook. Many of these fish are the smaller ones ranging from 10 lbs. up to around 50 lbs. They arrive before the true breeders of 50 to 100 pounders show up in the bay. A plethora of these fish are just past the first breakers, so a long cast is not necessary to catch one. Sliding sinkers and circle hooks in the 6/0-10/0 size are most effective. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times, but fish can be caught at all times during the day and night. Charles Ritter was out with his wife, Mildred Reyes-Ritter, fishing the beach when his wife caught her first fish of the season. This was a 27" black drum which fell victim to a fresh piece of surf clam. The fish was returned to the ocean to be caught another

day. The next one will surely end up in the frying pan! Later that week she did return to the beach and landed a whopper of a fish measuring 44". However, this one was a striper, and due to current regulations had to be returned to the water. Chase Haugh was also on the beach fishing and was rewarded with a nice little drum just perfect for the fryer. He stated he was used to this size showing up a little later in the month but was happy for one he could bring home for dinner. He returned to the beach later in the week and took second place to Mildred's 44" rockfish pulling a 40 incher from the surf. The fish was safely returned to swim another day. Jackson Lewis checked in with Delmarva Surf Fishing showing off his nice black. The fish was caught on sand fleas early in the morning. Josh Barfield got the monkey off his back when he pulled in a nice chunky drum off the Cape on Sunday morning. Freddie Salty was out Tuesday and caught his first black of the year. The angler used fresh clams to capture the fish on 3Rs beach. Richie Turner was out with his pops and caught a nice drum to warm up his cold day of fishing. Matt Dammeyer has been putting in the work and was rewarded with 3 drum and a few puffer fish. 3Rs gave up a nice rockfish to Spencer Unger of Bethany Beach. The fish was over slot and returned safely.

Wreck & Reef Fishing

Lewes Harbour Marina has been abuzz lately with boats returning from their maiden voyages of the year filled with nice tog and bluefish. The "Katydid" had anglers John Gunecht, Howard Goldstein, Bos Brownstein, Scott Shoup, Arron Hurd and Al Maahs using white

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leggers to fish for tog on nearshore structure. The group brought back 23 fish to the LHM table to be cleaned for dinner. Billy and Bruce Mister fished and caught their limit of tog on Tuesday. Great job guys. Shawn Ali and Damon Manley used white leggers and green crab to bring home their limit of blackfish. Captain Brent and mate Chris put their charter on the fish bringing home 21 tog. Ben Cavalier caught and released a 9.2 lb. 21" citation tautog. Great job not only catching such a trophy size fish but also in releasing it to spawn future generations. Lewes Tog Club angler Jim Osborne caught a nice limit of fish on Wednesday. Bruce Carlton and Billy Mister joined Jim, and between the three of them caught 39 fish with 16 keepers. That's quite the haul of fish but not uncommon for this group. Charlie Hughes used a 3 oz. Bird Dog tog jig to catch his personal best tog on a near shore wreck. Ted Proseus along with Brad Stauch and Dante Williams all ended up as well with personal best tog catches. The fish were 11.6, 7.6, and 7.7 lbs. Great job guys!

Crabs & Clam

Crabbing has been up and down the last couple of weeks with 4 pot hauls of 24 crab, 30 crab, 20 crab, and the last pull was 30 crab and most were large or jumbo males. Water is still a little cold but crabbing is picking up. Not many people are wading out for clams yet but I did hear of one angler who braved it and returned with 50+ clams in 2 hours. The clams are still deep in the mud and will need warmer weather before they are close enough to the top to easily rake up.

Till next week,

Tight lines and fins up §

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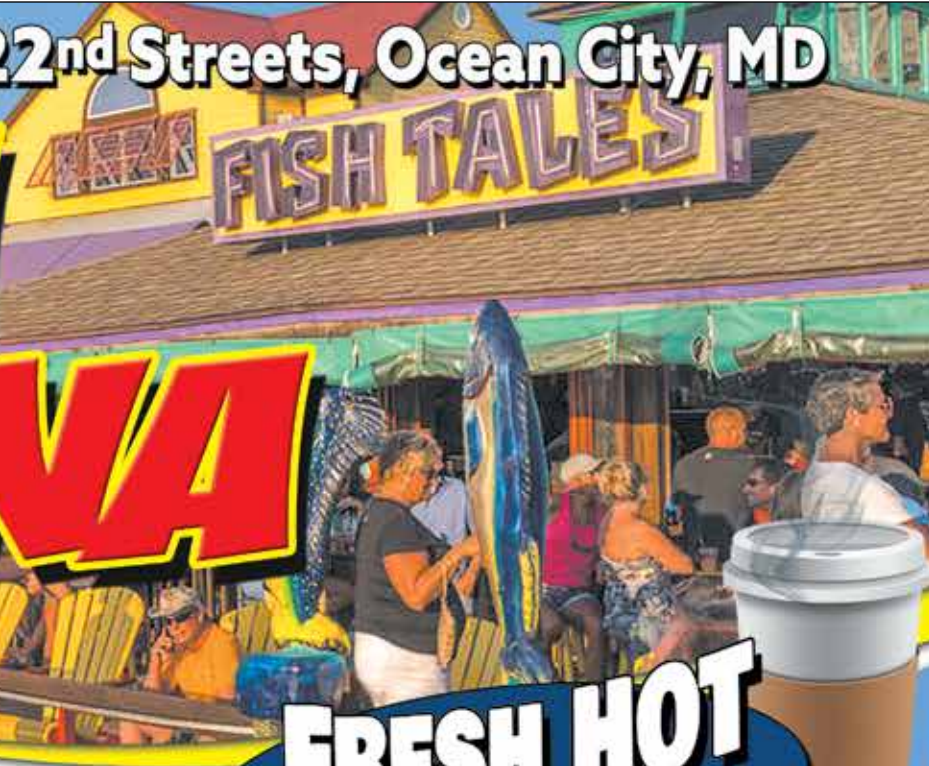


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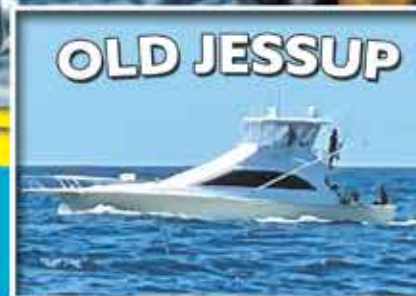
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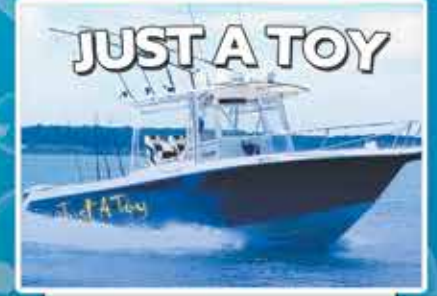
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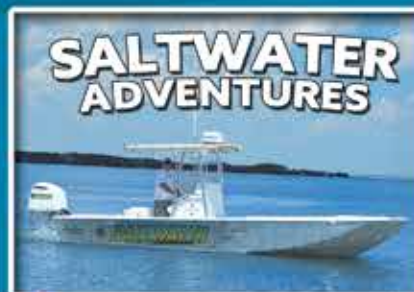
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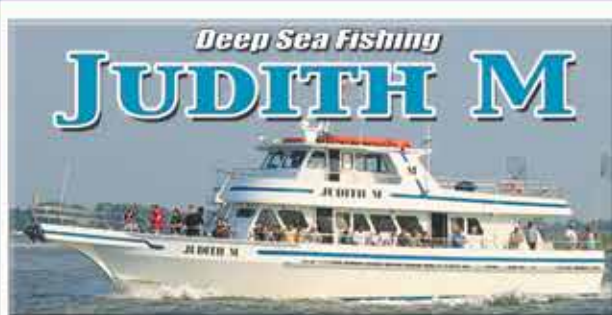
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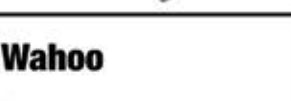

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(AS REPORTED TO THE COASTAL FISHERMAN - MUST BE OF LEGAL LIMIT AND REPORTED WITH PHOTO)

| Species | 2024 | 2023 | Species | 2024 | 2023 |
|--|--|--|---|------|--|
|  ★ New | April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague | April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island |  | | |
|  ★ New | March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague | April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC |  | | May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon |
|  | | July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward |  | | May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon |
|  ★ New | April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare | March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare |  | | |
|  | | May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef |  | | May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon |
|  | | May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty |  | | May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon |
|  ★ New | January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge | April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge |  | | June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon |
|  | | January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure |  | | June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon |
|  | | June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon |  | | June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon |

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



You can't say that the Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman's (DMS) director J.R. Griffith does not walk the walk. He fought off a cool April day to catch this nice black drum and a keeper 29" striper from the suds on Beach Plum Island, DE. Sand fleas did the trick for both.



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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine

30 seconds. Serve alongside the fish and drizzle with remaining dressing. Sprinkle with feta and mint.

Broiled Rockfish with Lemony Potatoes, Olives and Mint

Ingredients:

- 1 pound small red new potatoes, halved or quartered if large
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 small garlic clove, minced
- 12 ounces rockfish cut into 2 portions
- 6 to 8 pitted Kalamata or gaeta olives, halved lengthwise
- 2 ½ ounces baby spinach
- 1 ounce feta, crumbled



1 tablespoon fresh mint leaves

Directions:

Cook the Potatoes:

Preheat oven to 450°F with a

rack in the upper and lower third of the oven. Place a sturdy baking sheet in the oven while it preheats. In a medium bowl, toss the potatoes with 1½ tablespoons oil, oregano, and a pinch of salt and pepper. Spread on the hot baking sheet and roast on the lower rack until tender and lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes.

Make the dressing:

In the same bowl, combine the lemon zest and juice, garlic, and 2 tablespoons oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Cook the Fish:

Remove the pan with the potatoes from the oven and switch the oven to broil. Season the fish with salt and pepper and drizzle lightly with oil. Move some of the potatoes to make space and add the fish and olives to the baking sheet in the empty spaces. Transfer to the upper rack, and broil until fish flakes easily around the edges, 3 to 5 minutes depending on the thickness. Transfer the fish to plates.

Finish and Serve:

Add the spinach to the potatoes, toss with half of the dressing, and broil just until wilted, about

Extra Creamy Lobster Mac and Cheese

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces lobster meat cooked, chopped, about 2 cups *see notes
- 16 ounces dry pasta cavatappi, penne or shells
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard powder
- ½ teaspoon salt or to taste
- ¼ teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper to taste
- 2 ¾ cups milk
- ½ cup light cream
- 2 cups sharp cheddar shredded
- 1 ¼ cups Gruyere cheese shredded, or swiss, mozzarella, or havarti cheese
- ½ cup fresh parmesan cheese shredded

Topping:

- ½ cup bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons butter melted
- 2 tablespoons parmesan cheese grated
- 1 teaspoon parsley chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Grease a 9x13 pan.

Combine topping ingredients in a small bowl. Set aside.

Cook pasta al dente according to package directions. Drain and run under cold water and set aside.

While pasta is cooking, melt butter over medium heat in a saucepan. Stir in flour and seasonings and cook 2 minutes.

Combine milk and cream. Add to the flour mixture a little bit at a time whisking in after each addition. The mixture will

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be very thick at first but will smooth out as you continue adding liquid.

Once all of the liquid is added, bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 1-2 minutes or until thickened while whisking.

Remove from heat and stir in the cheeses whisking until the sauce is smooth and melted.

Combine the sauce and the pasta. Gently stir in half of the lobster meat and spread into the prepared pan.

Add remaining lobster meat on top and sprinkle with the topping mixture.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until bubbly and topping is browned. Do not overcook.

Notes:

This recipe uses cooked lobster meat. Use tails or a whole lobster if you prefer. You can cook just tails by broiling them (broiled lobster tail recipe here) or boiling in water below. Two to three small tails should be enough but you can add extra if you'd like.

Easy Blackened Tautog

Ingredients:

- 1 tautog fillet (8oz)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cumin
- 1 teaspoon thyme or oregano

1 teaspoon garlic powder

½ lemon

Directions:

Rinse fillet in cold water and pat dry with paper towels.

Mix spices in a small bowl and cover the fish entirely.

Heat butter on the skillet (it has to be very hot) and place fish in it. Cook for 4 minutes on one side and then for another 3 minutes on another side.

Move to the plate and squeeze some lemon on top and serve.



Notes:

Do not move fish during cooking otherwise it may stick to the skillet.

You can check the internal temperature by sticking meat thermometer into the thickest part of the fish. It should read 145 degrees Fahrenheit when fully cooked.

Top fish with chopped green onions, lemon slices, chopped cilantro or parsley.

If you want to slice the fish, move it to the cutting board and slice into equal pieces using a sharp knife.

Stuffed Flounder

Ingredients:

- 1 pound flounder fillets
- 8 ounces crab meat
- 4 saltine crackers
- ¼ teaspoon paprika, plus more for dusting
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder



¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 egg

2 tablespoons mayonnaise

1 lemon

2 tablespoons butter

1½ teaspoons kosher salt, divided

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Crush the saltine crackers by putting them in a plastic bag and hitting them with a rolling pin. Pour the crackers into a bowl. Add ¼ teaspoon of paprika, ½ teaspoon of salt, and

garlic powder, and stir with a fork. Add the Worcestershire sauce, egg, and mayonnaise, and stir.

Cut the lemon in half and juice one of the halves. Measure 1 teaspoon of juice and add to the cracker mixture. Combine with a fork. Cut the other lemon half into 4 wedges for serving.

Drain the crab meat and pick through it, removing any shell or cartilage. Add to the cracker mixture.

Melt the butter in the microwave. Brush about ½ of the melted butter on the inside of a 9x13-inch baking dish.

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Season each side of the flounder evenly with the remaining salt. Spoon the crab mixture evenly on top of the flounder fillets. Roll and place in the baking dish seam-side down. Pour any remaining melted butter over the flounder. Sprinkle the top with paprika (optional, but makes it look pretty).

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the interior temperature registers 140 F with a probe thermometer and the flounder flakes easily with a fork.

Serve with a squeeze of lemon.

Crab Dip Maryland Style

Ingredients:

8 ounces full-fat brick cream cheese, softened to room temperature

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup sour cream

1 1/4 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided

1/2 teaspoon ground mustard

1 teaspoon lemon juice

1 and 3/4 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 pound fresh lump crab meat

Optional - 2 dashes of hot sauce (or to taste)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F (191°C).

In a large mixing bowl using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the cream cheese on medium-high speed until smooth and creamy, about 1 minute.

Add the mayonnaise, sour cream, 1 cup cheddar cheese, ground mustard, lemon juice, Old Bay seasoning, Worcestershire sauce, and hot sauce (if using). Beat on medium-high speed until combined. Using a spoon or silicone spatula, gently fold in the lump crab meat. If you used hot sauce, taste, then add more hot sauce if desired.



Transfer to a 9-inch (or slightly larger) baking pan, pie dish, or oven-safe skillet. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup of cheddar cheese.

Bake for 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly around the edges.

Serve warm.

Cover and store leftovers in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. Reheat in the microwave or in a 350°F oven until warmed throughout. §



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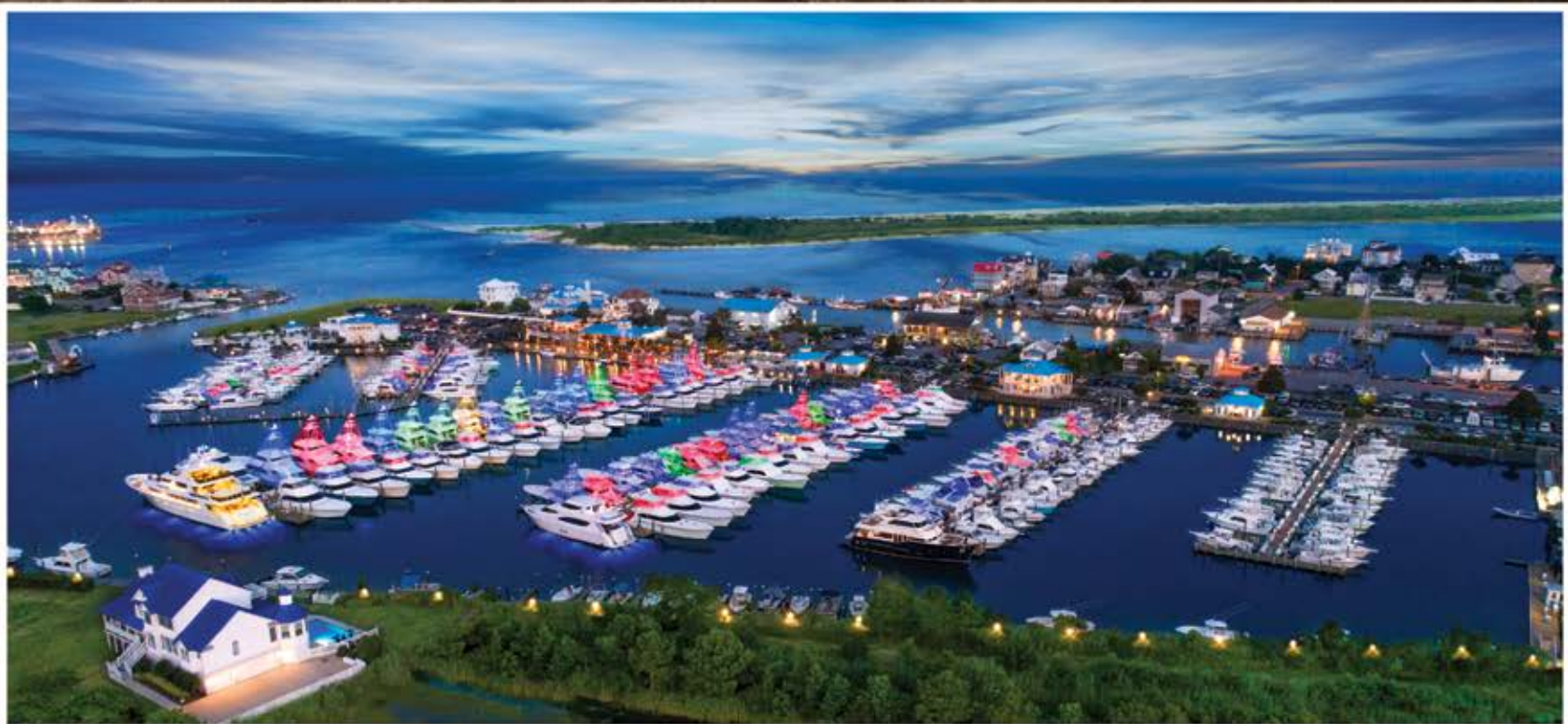
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Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



No matter the activity, the start of any season always brings excitement and a fury of preparation activities to all involved. The beginning of our fishing and boating season is around the corner and hopefully April showers and wind will give way to better fishing weather.

When it comes to seasons, nature's creatures have their own season and migratory schedules. Recently, there has been a lot of activity regarding the North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW). Most vessels 65 feet or longer must travel at 10 knots or less in certain locations (called Seasonal Management Areas) along the U.S. East Coast at certain times of the year. This reduced speed lowers the threat of vessel collisions with endangered right whales. The government is serious about enforcing this speed limit. NOAA has assessed \$950,306 in civil penalties for vessels exceeding these regulations across 56 cases in 2022 and 2023. In addition to these cases, other speeding violations are being actively investigated and may be subject to potential civil penalties by NOAA.

NOAA is currently proposing to amend these restrictions to include smaller 35 to 65 foot vessels and stretch from the



coast out to 100 miles in some areas. The zones cover almost the entire length of the Atlantic seaboard, from Massachusetts to Florida. This is a big concern for people who boat and fish recreationally, but also commercial transportation and fishing along the east coast.

One group is proposing that the government implement a different solution using technology combined into marine electronics that can protect the Right Whales. A diverse group of marine industry stakeholders have established the Whale and Vessel Safety (WAVS) Task Force. This panel of experts will work to identify, develop and implement technology and monitoring tools to mitigate the risk of vessel

strikes to marine mammals, with special attention to North Atlantic Right Whales.

In the near future, infrared cameras, drones, forward-facing sonar and even radar, calibrated to detect the spray from whale spouts, might also be brought to bear. Whale-mounted AIS trackers were suggested as an idea earlier last year, but they are now deemed unlikely given that trackers placed in a whale's fin can get infected.

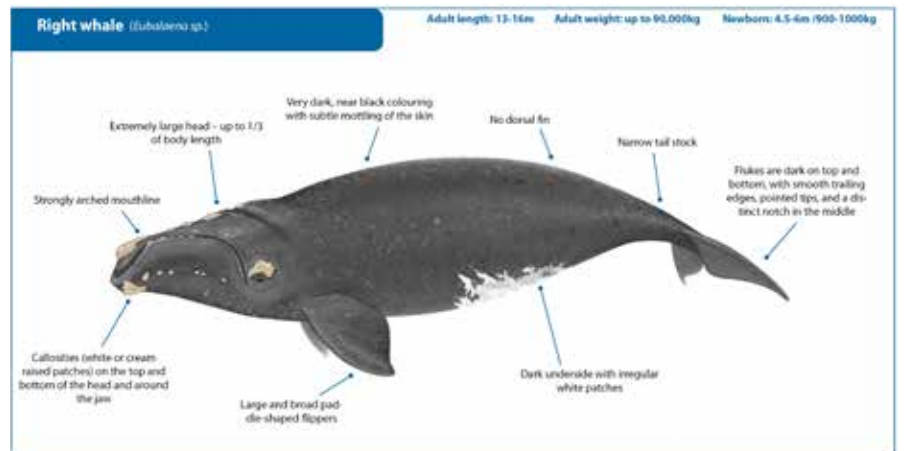
"The marine industry is committed to working with NOAA and industry partners to reduce the risk of vessel strikes on NARW and other marine mammals through the use and development of scalable, quantifiable technology-based solutions," said John DePersenaire, Director of Government Affairs and

Sustainability for the Viking Yacht Company.

"Management of the NARW has proven difficult for resource managers, and the marine community is stepping forward to help meet that challenge."

WAVS Task Force members represent a broad spectrum of concerned independent stakeholders with backgrounds in marine mammal monitoring and detection, spatial risk analysis, marine electronics, marine biology, data analysis and telemetry. Group members are committed to a collaborative approach to provide answers for ongoing and future challenges in an ever-changing environment.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently hosted a workshop in Arlington, VA, where the Whale and Vessel Safety Task Force and other stakeholders demonstrated technological advancements that can reduce vessel strikes of the critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. NOAA



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managers, WAVS members, marine industry stakeholders, researchers and conservationists came together in great numbers for two days with a common goal: protect the NARW through science, technology, and communication. The workshop was the first time that experts in the marine industry and other industries outside of marine conservation were invited to the table together and in a significant way.

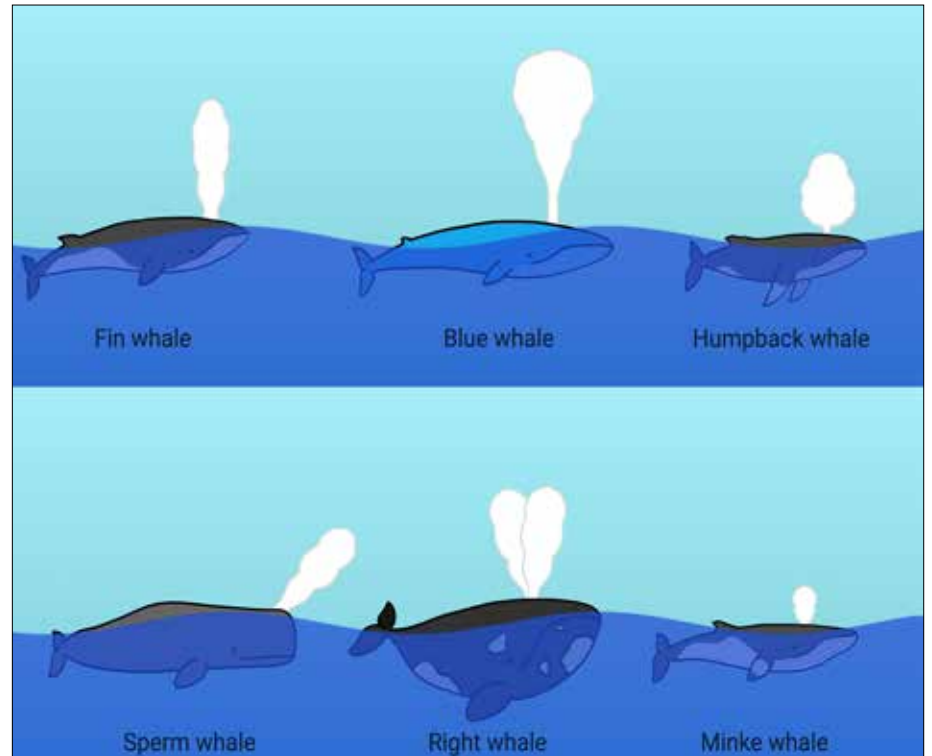
“Technology and tools already exist. They just need to be harnessed and fully utilized and much more can be implemented in the near future,” says WAVS Taskforce Chairman John DePersenaire. “Utilizing marine electronics commonly installed on a broad range of vessels is critical to receiving and transmitting NARW information to reduce vessel strikes,” says DePersenaire. “Thermal imaging technology coupled with artificial intelligence software, for instance, will allow mariners to identify whales directly on their multi-function display and notify others through communication tools such as

AIS (Automatic Identification System).”

A momentous change in the NOAA regulations will affect all of us who are involved with coastal waters. Please get involved and help ensure our voices are heard by the lawmakers.

Just around the corner: If you can spare the time to help to advocate for our industry, the American Boating Congress is a 3-day event in Washington DC focusing on boating advocacy, hosted by the National Marine Manufacturers Association. This annual event is hosted by approximately 20 other boating recreation organizations. This conference is a time to learn about issues facing the boating and fishing industry. And most importantly a time for the recreational boating industry to educate decision-makers on Capitol Hill, this year’s event is May 8-10, 2024 at the InterContinental Washington, D.C. – The Wharf 801 Wharf St SW, Washington, D.C. 20024

<https://www.nmma.org/advocacy/take-action/abc> §



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Our wild spring weather did not keep Aiden Sparano of Coatsville, PA from hitting the beach on Assateague in mid April. He caught this 19" bluefish on a mullet rig and earned the title for First Bluefish reported to us in 2024!



While not particularly local, we like to highlight catching invasive species! Bryson Andrew Youngblood from North East, MD landed this massive 13.5 lb. and 35" snakehead on a chatter-bait near the Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

2024 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

| | MD | DE ** | VA | | MD | DE ** | VA |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Atlantic Spadefish | 24" | - | - | Wahoo | 60" | 20 lbs. or 50" | 35 lbs. |
| Black Drum | 48" | 50 lbs. or 45" | 80 lbs. or 46" | Weakfish | 24" | 3 lbs. or 20" | 30" |
| Black Sea Bass | 20" | 3 lbs. or 17" | 5 lbs. | White Marlin* | Any Size | Any Size | Any Size |
| Bluefish | 34" | 12 lbs. or 29" | 16 lbs. or 36" | SHARK: | | | |
| Blue Marlin* | Any Size | Any Size | Any Size | Blue Shark* | Any Size | 100 lbs. or 66" | 72" |
| Cobia | 44" | 45 lbs. or 48" | 55 lbs. or 50" | Hammerhead* | Any Size | 100 lbs. or 66" | 72" |
| Croaker | 18" | 3 lbs. or 19" | 3 lbs. or 20" | Thresher* | 80" | 100 lbs. or 66" | 72" |
| Dolphin | 45" | 15 lbs. or 41" | 25 lbs. | Tiger* | Any Size | 100 lbs. or 66" | 72" |
| Flounder | 24" | 7 lbs. or 25" | 6 lbs. or 26" | Swordfish | 47" | Any Size | 100 lbs. |
| Golden Tilefish | 35" | 35 lbs. or 40" | 30 lbs. | TUNA: | | | |
| Kingfish (Northern Whiting) | 14" | 1 lb. or 13" | 1.5 lb. or 16" | Longfin Albacore | 36" | 30 lb. or 32" | 40 lbs. |
| King Mackerel | 40" | 10 lbs. or 26" | 20 lbs. | False Albacore | 24" | 12 lbs. or 26" | 32" |
| Red Drum* | 36" | 45" | - | Bigeye*** | 60" | 70 lbs. or 48" | 70 lbs. |
| Sailfish* | Any Size | - | - | Bluefin*** | 55" | 100 lbs. or 60" | 100 lbs. or 60" |
| Sheepshead | 20" | 8 lbs. or 22" | 10 lbs. or 24" | Yellowfin*** | 50" | 70 lbs. or 48" | 70 lbs. |
| Spanish Mackerel | 22" | 5 lbs. or 22" | 4 lbs. or 26" | | | | |
| Speckled Trout | 24" | - | 5 lbs. or 24" | | | | |
| Striped Bass | 40" | 44" | 44" | | | | |
| Tautog | 24" | 7 lbs. or 25" | 9 lbs. or 23" | | | | |

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program
 ** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release
 *** Use curved-fork-length measurements

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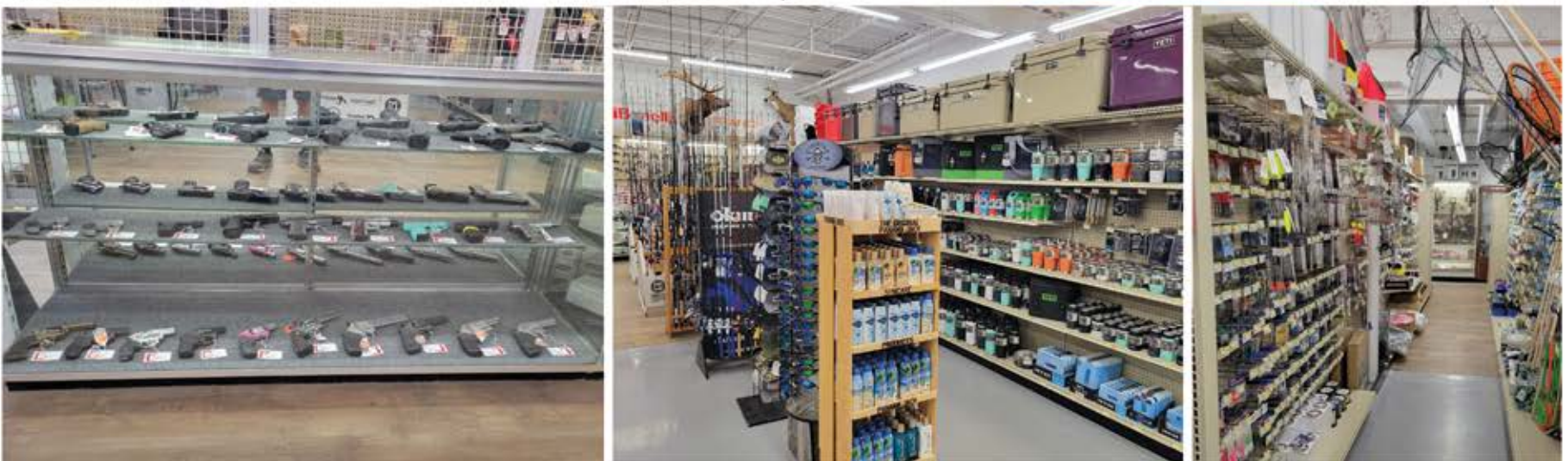
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2024 TOURNAMENTS

APRIL

33rd Annual Capt. Zed's Spring Flounder Tournament
April 26 - May 5 • Wachapreague, VA • 757-789-3222

MAY

Old Inlet Annual Spring Surf Fishing Tournament
May 4 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

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

Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament
May 18 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Battle for the Buckle's
May 31 - June 2 • www.pbroceancity.com

JUNE

3rd Annual Blues for D.U.
June 7-9 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

OC Smackdown Tuna Tournament
June 7-8 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-289-7438

3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament
June 14-15 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159

School's Out Tuna Tournament
June 19 - 23 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

9th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 21-23 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

45th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament
June 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**6th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam
Kayak Fishing Tournament**
June 22-23 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

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

42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off
July 5,6,7 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

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

36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 12-14 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

Paradise Bay Tournament
TBD • ParadiseGrillDE.com • 410-213-1613

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

Cape May Marlin Tournament
July 25-28 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

11th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic
July 26-28 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

AUGUST

Marlins for Mason
August 2-3 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613

16th Annual OCMC Franky Pettolina "Heels & Reels" Tournament
August 2-3 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

17th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament
August 3 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306

51st Annual White Marlin Open
August 5-9 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229

Paradise Grill Flounder Pounder
TBD • Long Neck, DE • www.FlounderPounderOpen.com

31st Annual Capt. Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open
August 15-17 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

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

SEPTEMBER

66th Annual OCMC Labor Day Tournament
TBD • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

23rd Annual Ocean City Fishing Center Spot Tournament
September 14 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

19th Annual Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder
September 8 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic
September 28-29 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

OCTOBER

41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament
Oct 5-7 • Ocean City, MD • 410-251-2203

8th Annual Ocean City Inshore Classic
Oct 5-6 • Atlantic Tackle • 410-430-1016

DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament
Oct 11-13 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
Late October - Late November • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

For complete tournament coverage results, pick up the Coastal Fisherman every week from May through September or log on to our website at www.coastalfisherman.net



What do you do if you love fishing and Ocean City, MD and it's winter? You head south with all your local gear! That is exactly what JT Thompson, Capt. Rod Taylor, Pam Taylor and Capt. Andy Baxter did this year. They spent 4 days fishing on the "Fishticuffs" out of the Sunset Marina in Walkers Cay, Bahamas. Notable catches included Pam releasing a blue marlin on day 2 and Rod releasing a blue on day 4. JT also boated a bull dolphin. Props for representing local businesses - Tuna & Tiara's Ladies Tuna Tournament, Pure Lure Gear, Atlantic Tackle and Duffie Boatworks! Where is their Coastal Fisherman gear?



TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2024 SCHEDULE —

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

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

45th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT
 Registration: June 21, 6:30-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 22 & 23
 Weigh-Ins: June 22 & 23, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

42nd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *
 Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm
 FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 5, 6 & 7
 Weigh-Ins: July 5, 6 & 7
 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

20th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *
 To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation
 Registration: July 19, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 20 & 21
 Weigh-Ins: July 20, 3:00-6:30pm and July 21, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

16th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT *
 To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund
 Registration: August 1, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 & 3
 Weigh-Ins: August 2 & 3
 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP
 Registration: Sept. 11, 6:00-8:00pm
 Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 12, 13 & 14
 Weigh-Ins: NO WEIGH-INS This is strictly a release tournament. Catch reports will be turned in to the Marlin Club Office nightly Sept. 12, 13 & 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

66th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *
TBD



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- The Framing Center
- The Inn at Turville Creek
- The Windrow Group
- Topsy Tikis

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A picture like this makes you forget about our windy spring weather! Jules Mister found a nice day to catch this 20" tog on an ocean structure using green crabs and chowder clams from Lewes Harbour Marina in late April.



We don't think Allen Sklar is happy unless he is knee deep in the surf. Always one to fish for drums early, he landed this 36" and 29 lb. black drum using sand fleas at Assateague Island.

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The Delaware Bay has been a hot spot this spring for drum and bluefish. Ron Capone landed this black drum off of Broadkill Beach using green crab from Lewes Harbour Marina.



Craig Blocker from Laurel, DE set the bar for Heaviest Flounder in DE so far this season with this 4.46 pounder. He pulled the fattie from the Lewes Canal in mid April using squid.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WED. MAY 1 | High 02:08 am High 02:30 pm | Low 08:30 am Low 08:25 pm |
| THUR. MAY 2 | High 03:16 am High 03:42 pm | Low 09:28 am Low 09:34 pm |
| FRI. MAY 3 Third Qtr. Moon | High 04:20 am High 04:48 pm | Low 10:24 am Low 10:44 pm |
| SAT. MAY 4 | High 05:16 am High 05:46 pm | Low 11:18 am Low 11:50 pm |
| SUN. MAY 5 | High 06:09 am High 06:40 pm | Low ----- Low 12:08 pm |
| MON. MAY 6 | High 06:59 am High 07:32 pm | Low 12:50 am Low 12:56 pm |
| TUE. MAY 7 New Moon | High 07:49 am High 08:24 pm | Low 01:45 am Low 01:42 pm |
| WED. MAY 8 | High 08:38 am High 09:15 pm | Low 02:37 am Low 02:27 pm |

source: usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

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

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 Expires 10/15/24



Donna Wilkerson-Gutridge found one of the few nice weather days in mid April to get out to Assateague Island. She landed this 29" black drum from the suds using sand fleas.



Looks like Kevin Golden of Magnolia, DE may want to buy a bigger cooler from Old Inlet Bait & Tackle! He had to curl this 9 lb. 12 oz. bluefish to fit and still needed room for his 17" flounder. Both caught from the surf in DE.

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 This is a promotional advertisement for the Dewey Beach Yacht Club. It features a background image of a boat slip with a forklift. The ad lists various services offered, including dry rack storage, forklift services, boat slips, and a lounge. It also promotes the Dockwa boating app, showing a smartphone screen with the app's interface. Contact information, including a phone number and website, is provided at the top and bottom. Social media handles for Instagram and Facebook are also included.

VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



As springtime graces us with breezes that challenge our skills as anglers, the Eastern Shore fishing scene blossoms like a colorful daffodil. With waters warming, sky's clearing and fish biting, it's time to fuel up the boat and cast a line to enjoy the thing we love to do in the place we love to do it!

One of the most sacred duties for the Eastern Shore sportsmen to partake in, is the pursuit of seaside spring flounder. This spring is no exception, as anglers take to the coastal bays and creeks in search of fantastic flounder fillets to fill a frying pan. The feisty flatfish have been found feeding on a falling tide in fairly shallow depths of less than 15 feet of water. Top baits include minnows, silversides, squid, and Gulp (swimming mullet or shrimp). We have had good success with Sea Hawk rigs

in colors of pearl, chartreuse, and pink with emphasis on pink and chartreuse. With all the wind we have endured, clean and clear water is the most crucial component for a successful seaside excursion.

The waters east of the ESVA inlets have held some tasty tuggers as well. The inshore structure has had some keeper tog taking crab and clam baits dropped to the bottom on sweeper style jigs. The suds have offered up some fairly good drumming, with blacks up north to Assateague and reds down towards Fishermen's Island. The brawling bottom feeders have been bought on the beach with modified fishfinder rigs and hi-low rigs bearing baits of clam, fleas, and hard crab. There have also been a few nice bluefish caught on cut baits like mullet.

The Chesapeake has also offered a rhythmic beat with some shallow drum action. Both black and reds have been tempted with hard crab baits soaked on fishfinder rigs. Along with the drum a few incidental and forbidden trophies adorn with stripes have stretched some line being released back to the shallows of the sound.

The Pocomoke river is still offering some pretty productive panfishing. Crappies and perch are still bending rods and providing smiles. Jigs tipped with small minnows have lured these from the black waters of the river into the hot grease of the pan. Bluecats are also pulling drags of anglers, fishing cut and even live baits in the lower parts of the Eastern Shore rivers.













Some of these whisker laden predators have buried scales beyond the 20 pound mark, a true river monster.

So rather you find yourself drifting your favorite salty seaside creek, standing in the suds of the surf, or even rowing down the river for some fillets of perfection, grab your family and friends and enjoy this wonderful place we call home! §



2024 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

eregulations.com



The Eastern Shore of Virginia has been a hot spot for flounder this spring, always producing flounder weeks before the Maryland area. Dawn spent the day on the "Megan Leigh" and netted several keepers, including this spotted beauty.



Brian Reynolds spent the first half of January with some friends on the water! His efforts earned him the First Fish for 2024 for stripers with this 29.5" in the slot beauty caught on January 3rd. He snagged this one on a swim bait by the Rt. 90 Bridge.

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FEATURED BOAT



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ROLL GROOVE - 2005 58' RITCHIE HOWELL - CALL JIMMY FIELDS



\$4,200,000

**DONA LUCY - 2022 58' F&S Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$3,195,000

**PREDATOR - 2014 66' Viking
Call Joe Crawford**



\$2,699,999

**A KNOT - 2008 62' Titan
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$1,895,000

**EL BENDIDO - 2004 61' Blackwell
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$1,475,000

**BARRATUNA - 2008 53' Sculley
Call Steve Hedrick**



\$1,350,000

**2022 42' Freeman
Call Ronnie Fields**



\$895,000

**2023 41 SeaHunter
Call Colton Cunningham**



\$775,000

**FULL CIRCLE - 1984 50' Buddy Davis
Call Jeff James**



\$570,000

**DAY BY DAY - 2003 62' Ocean Yacht
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$425,000

**1985 47' Hines-Farley
Call Ronnie Fields**



\$695,000

**2023 39' HCB Speciale
Call Colton Cunningham**



\$484,000

**2019 35' Boston Whaler
Call Chris Workmon**



\$389,000

**GAL-O-MINE - 1988 46' Hudson
Call Jeff James**



\$370,000

**THE 3 G's 2021 38' Fountain
Call Adam Peeples**



\$269,000

**2010 36' Yellowfin
Call Jimmy Fields**



\$239,000

**MAMA LOVE - 1999 56' Ocean Yachts
Call Jeff James**



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**2003 38' Fountain
Call Terry Layton**



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**2001 24' Pursuit
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