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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

**VOLUME 49 • • • ISSUE 6 • • • JUNE 5, 2024**



Last Saturday saw nice weather and a lot of boats headed offshore. The early word was the fishing was slow, however that changed around early afternoon when we heard that the first white marlin for 2024 had been caught! It was Jake Emche, the mate on the "Fish On", that hooked the highly anticipated fish. The crew of Capt. Anthony Dotterweich, boat owner Todd Willard, Chaz Manolakus, Will Lund, Jack Willard and Andy Strine had been tuna fishing all morning about 20 miles outside the Baltimore Canyon with no bites. At about 1:30 a pin popped on a sea witch line and the crew knew what had just hit. Jake quickly tossed out a pitch bait ballyhoo with a circle hook and maneuvered it into the spread, and it was 'fish on'! On top of the bragging rights, the catch earns a cash prize of \$5,000 from the town of Ocean City.





After a cool spring offshore and slim pickings in the canyons, this week saw the action turn on! Several pelagic *First Fish* for the 2024 season were reported including this bigeye from the "Canyon Crew". Anglers Josh Painter, Adam Kurtz, Tyler Lanza and Jerry Alspaugh with Capt. Devon Martin and mates Brad Moyer & Landan Moyer headed out of Sunset Marina to work the waters south of the Poor Man's Canyon. Tyler hooked this eyeball in 450 fathoms on a Nomad Diver and it took him 2 hours to get it to the boat. It is not only the First Bigeye of the season, it is currently the Heaviest at 143 lbs. The crew also boated a yellowfin.

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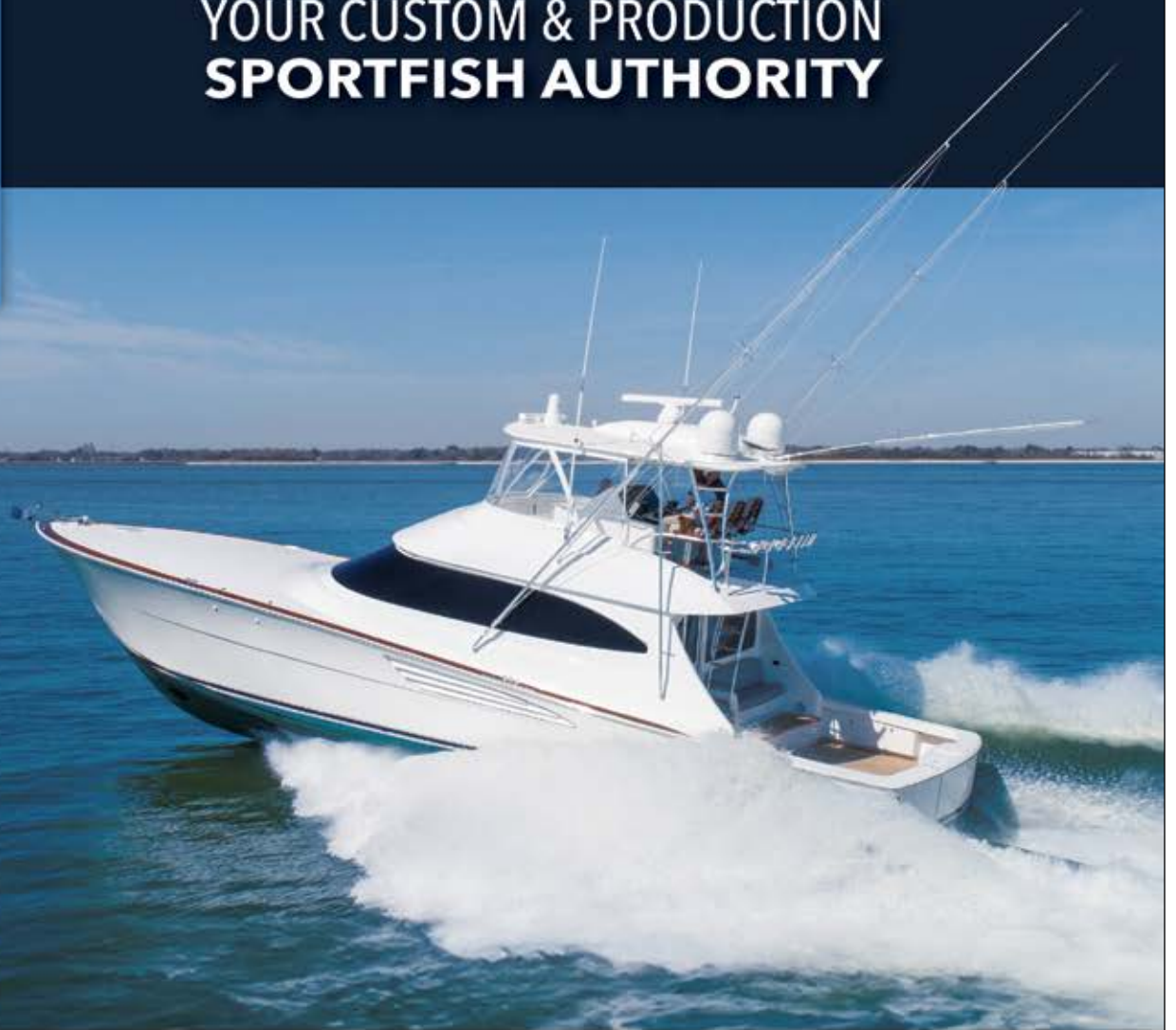




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Eric Feinauer from Morgantown, PA had calm seas and big action while fishing with Capt. Chris Keller on the charter boat "Action Jackson" out of the Indian River Marina. Eric hooked the 48 lb. drum using surf clams from Lewes Harbor Marina. He also holds the distinction of holding the record for biggest drum for the season caught on the "Action Jackson" in back to back years.

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# THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

After weeks of having to fill this space with anecdotes and predictions of things to come, it looks like we have turned a corner. As we slid into June it was like a light switch turned on in the canyon. In one short week we got reports of the first white marlin, the first bluefin tuna and the first mahi for 2024! The first offshore tournament was held and more beautiful whale sightings were shared.

The release of the first white marlin of the year is a highly anticipated event. As we reported last week there had been sightings, but no one had one on the hook yet. That changed last Saturday. It was a beautiful day, unlike one we had seen in a while given the wet and cool May we experienced. Lots and lots of boats headed out looking to get

in on the recent tuna bite. Like most that day, Capt. Andrew Dotterweich on the charter boat "Fish On" was trolling for tuna. He was outside the Baltimore Canyon in deeper water and was not finding a bite! Around 1:30 PM mate Jake Emche heard the pin pop out of the long rigger line that had a Sea Witch and the crew new what they had. He quickly slid out a ballyhoo with a circle hook and maneuvered it into the spread and they did indeed have 'Fish On'. Great start of the year for captain and crew as well as boat owner Todd Willard.

The tuna pattern from the prior week has continued with limited catches. Most boats are finding 1 or 2, if any yellowfins. Many are on the small side. We did have a couple exceptions however this week. First, I

heard from Capt. Mark Hoos last Friday on the charter boat "MARLI". He texted from offshore (got to love Starlink) that he had a 60" bluefin tuna in the box as well as four yellowfins. He was trolling in the Poor Man's Canyon working a patch of warm water that he saw had pushed in. The 122 lb. bluefin ate the only chain allowed on the "MARLI", a Sterling one! The yellowfins were attracted to MagicTail Lures with a ballyhoo. Angler Andrew Link now holds the First Fish honor for bluefin this year. Saturday saw calls from offshore (more love for Starlink) starting in the early afternoon. Around 2PM Capt. Brian Porter on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" called to share he already had 10 yellowfin on ice and was still fishing. He also hinted that he heard the first white might have been caught! Capt. Brian was first to admit he got lucky. They hit a decent sized school, and at one point got covered up with 5, getting all to the boat. A couple more doubles and single and the box was full. He had to work for that amount, starting in the Poor Man's and trolling well south fishing in water ranging from 62° to 66.5°. It was a great day for his nephew Chris Porter and his work friends. The new "Primary Search" returned to Sunset Marina and put 6 yellowfins on the dock from the Poor Man's Canyon. Unlike the others, his crew picked at

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them all morning before trying for swordfish.

"Restless Lady" owner Sean Welsh with Capt. Todd Kurtz headed out of the Talbot Street Pier for an overnight trip. They were in the Poor Man's as well and managed two chunky yellowfins, one at 72.5 lbs. and the other at 88.5 lbs. The larger one is the Heaviest Yellowfin Tuna of the season so far. The night time hours provided lots of action as well. They released several sharks including a tiger estimated at 600 lbs, a ~400 lb. hammerhead and a mako while trolling.

We had one other report of a big bluefin tuna from Capt. Chris Keller of the charter boat "Action Jackson" out of Indian River Marina. He was trolling at the Fenwick Shoals and chased a ~100" bluefin for an hour but could not get it to bite!

The Battle for the Buckle Tournament sponsored by Pure Lure returned for its second time, in association with the PBR Bull Riding Event that took place in Ocean City. 20 boats registered and \$75,000 as well as the prized cowboy styles belt buckles were up for grabs during the 3 day event. The first boat to the scales on Day 1 was the "Relentless". This crew had decided to take a different approach to the tournament, focusing on the Heaviest Fish Buckle. They decided to target swordfish and it paid off. They barely had their spread in

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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

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the waters of the Poor Man's Canyon when they hooked up with a sword in 1,100 ft. of water. Billy West lead the effort, and the whole crew helped get it up from the deep. That 125" fish held on to take the 1st Place Buckle for Heaviest fish and the top tournament award of \$31,329. The charter boat "Talkin' Trash" took the Buckle for Heaviest Stringer, earning \$21,969 and the charter boat "30 Deep" pocketed \$9,684 for a 17 lb. mahi. This is one of these events with a lot of energy at the scales, so well worth checking out!

Mahi were in the mix this week! There was actually a little competition on who would grab the spot for First Fish. Initially we heard from Gene Arantowicz about the peanut mahi he caught in the Poor Man's Canyon on May 29th. That was the first we had heard about so far this season, but it was only a few hours later that we learned that Finbar Rishko had reeled in a gaffer dolphin the day before from outside the Baltimore Canyon locking in the title. That one hit on a wide tracker tuna spread that was in 65° water. A new Heaviest Mahi of the season was set as well with the 17 pounder caught on the "30 Deep" during the Battle for the Buckle Tournament. All of these were caught on the troll, but still a good sign.

Tile fishing remained strong with more blues reported this week than goldens. The aforementioned "Restless Lady" trip boated a bunch of blues from their overnigher. The "Bill Slayer" out of Indian River Marina took their first trip of the season looking for tuna but switched up and stuffed the cooler with 28 tiles! Glen Clawson reported a nice sized golden as did Capt. Chris Keller from one of his trips on the charter boat "Action Jackson".

We have been sharing some of the great whale sightings that anglers have seen recently while on the deep blue. Pure Lure founder Brendan Hanley shared this picture of a whale



### Upcoming Tournaments

- Bahia Marina holds it's 3rd Annual **Blues for DU Bluefish Tournament** on June 7-8. Scales open at 4PM at Fish Tales. More at BahiaMarina.com.
- The Patapsco Open team hosts their **OC Smack Down Tuna Tournament** on June 7-8 based at the White Marlin Marina. Scales are open from 4-7. More on Facebook under Patapsco Open.
- The **Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament** returns to the Ocean City Fishing Center on June 14-15th. This event is always a show with lots of action, vendors and fun at Micky Finns. More at TunaandTiaras.com or on Facebook.

breaching in the Washington Canyon while they were fishing in the Battle for the Buckle Tournament. Apparently, they got a show that lasted for over an hour!

We also want to recognize the



local boat "Christine Marie". They entered the Swansboro Rotary Bluewater Fishing Tournament out of Swansboro, NC and won top honors for Largest Blue Marlin with a 557.3 lb. blue. Congrats to Capt. Brian Behe and angler Steve Summers.

Several tournaments are coming up for bluefish and tuna that should provide lots of action, so until next time, go fishing and share with us your experiences! §



There was a bit of a competition to claim the title of First Mahi for the 2024 season. We heard first from Gene Aranowicz about the peanut he caught last Wednesday, but then we saw this gaffer catch by Finbar Rishko from the day before. This one was from the Baltimore Canyon where they found 65° water and it hit on a wide tracker.

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Rich 'Delicious' Daiker caught just about the biggest striper allowed! At 30 7/8 inches, it just squeezed into the top end of the slot! He found this 14 lb. treasure at the south Ocean City Jetty using a Roy Rig.



Josiah Kantner of Reading, PA spent some time on the Rt. 50 Bridge and reported catching some nice bluefish on a high tide. This one was his personal best at 34" and 9 lbs. It ate a 2 oz. white Gotcha lure.

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It was a nice cow mahi for the crew on the "Island Time". They were trolling deep in the Poor Man's Canyon when angler Frank Killian of Ocean City hooked this dolphin on a red and black skirted ballyhoo.



It is real news when Big Bird Cropper lands a fish that sets a new personal best for him! He set his new PB for stripers with this 55" one caught at the North Ocean City Jetty using his Roy Rig. Impressive fish.

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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Maryland produced nicer days as well as calm seas for fishing. Surf fishing on Assateague Island is still productive but a little slower than past weeks. Big drum both reds and blacks are in the surf biting clam and cut bait. The back bays are finally producing some decent catches of fluke. The Rt. 50 Bridge is still holding rockfish and blues on the near ebb tides.

### Back Bays & Inlet

The inlet is still producing some quality fish on the incoming tides. Swim baits as well as cut bait are producing rockfish and blues along the rocks.

The Rt. 50 Bridge has been holding big blues and rockfish. Fishing on the down current side of one of the bridge pilings has been the best method for scoring one of these hard fishing fish. Eric Gable pulled in a nice slammer bluefish last Sunday. The Oceanic Pier has had lots of blues and shad being caught. Scott Sacks used a white spec rig to fool his fish into biting. He stated he can't wait till July 4th to come back down and do it again. Craig Cropper pulled in some nice choppers near the bridge this past week. He was of course using his Roy Rigs. Later in the week he scored his personal

best, that being a 55 inch rockfish off the south jetty. The "Miss Ocean City" had a few customers out on Wednesday. The bite was not on fire however, Ben Boyer and his girlfriend Corryn White did catch a nice fluke. "Lucky Break Charters" stated the past few trips have been very productive with flounder, bluefish, rockfish and even some trout thrown in. The "Tortuga" had a very productive morning last Sunday bringing 8 keeper flounder back to the dock for their clients. The bay head boats are a great way to explore the back side of Ocean City and are even a better way to bring young children out for a day of fishing. The captain and crews of these boats are very knowledgeable and eager to help the young anglers and even the novice adult. They have all the bait, rods, and knowledge you need to have an enjoyable day on the water. The larger headboat offers after dinner cruises as well as a couple of wine cruises that are being tried out this year. Seth Price had an epic catch from his kayak reeling in a 30 inch weakfish.

### Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Sea bass has been spotty this past week with many anglers finding fish reluctant to bite even the freshest of bait. Jigging has worked the best with fresh clam as a close second. The "Ocean Princess" stated fishing was fair with calm seas. Although many anglers

did not achieve a limit they all had fish to bring home for dinner. The "Ocean City Fishing Girl" got some quality bass this past week. While not exactly jumping in the boat, they are putting in some quality catches. The "Angler" was out again this past week adding up their totals of sea bass as well as some quality flounder. Captain Chris stated the anglers had to fish hard but the work paid off for many bringing home a cooler of fish for the table. The biggest fish on the boat for this week was a 4.5 lb sea bass and a 5 lb flounder. Kevin McNeilis was out with a buddy and managed to bring home 5 nice flounder with the biggest being 23 inches. Ted Poseus was out fishing the wrecks this past week and pulled in several big flounder. He stated the squid things on a hi-low rig worked best. It is great to see the ocean sites producing these quality fish so early in the season. The "Judith M" stated the wind and seas have been very cooperative this past week with anglers bringing home the bass as well as a few fluke. The crew offers 8 hour trips leaving Bahia Marina at 7:00 am and returning at 3:30 pm. Peter Renzi along with Mike Renzi and Tyler Niblett had a productive day on the ocean in front of Ocean City. Mike caught and released a 25 inch tog on a jig. The crew brought home some big sea bass for dinner.

### Surf Fishing

The southern beaches are a little slower in producing quality fish this past week however if you're there at the right time big black and red drum can still be had. Jim Johnson did

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a quick evening trip on Tuesday and was glad he did. He wasn't there long before he hooked into a big 46 inch black drum. Although he thought the fish was too big so he safely released it. He said it was a hell of a fight. Many anglers, myself included, won't keep the big black or red drum as they tend to have worms in the meat after they attain 50 lbs or more. Adam Sierocinski took about 35 minutes to bring in his 48-50 inch red drum. The 50 lb. fish was caught on the Delaware line. They didn't get a true measurement because they wanted to keep her in the water to assure a safe release. That's a big drum for this far north. Mark Stull used sand fleas to fool his big black drum while fishing the north side of Assateague Island on Wednesday afternoon. Sand fleas and fish bites are still producing some real quality fish off the surf. Marcelo Zangrilli decided it's time to end his rockfish season. After a strong start in May he expected larger numbers of fish to be caught. He stated he can't complain though, despite not catching as many as past years he did manage several nice ones including a few brutes he caught this past week. He also stated he met several nice people along the way. George Frigm fished on the Fenwick line Friday about one hour after high tide and while using finger mullet managed to score two big blues from the surf. The first fish was 32" and 8 lbs and the second was 26" and 5 lbs. I bet those fish put up one heck of a fight.

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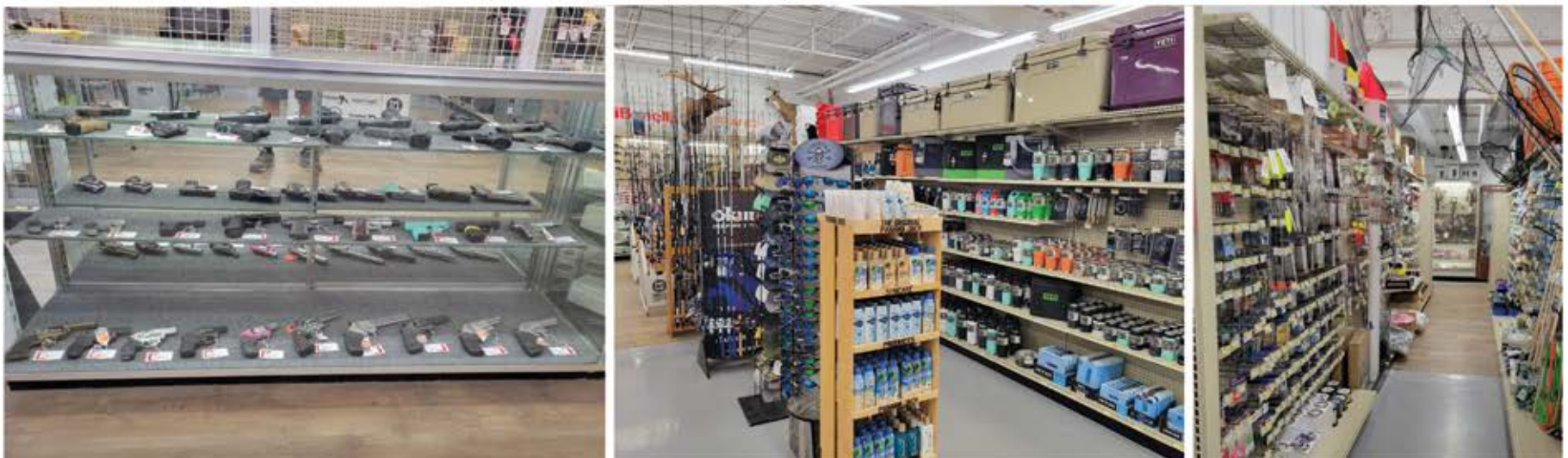


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Mike Hammer and his pals AJ and Chad headed out to Site 11 to go for some sea bass and caught a mess of them using salted clams & squid! They had a nice bonus though finding 6 keeper flounder with the largest at 7.2 lbs. The big flatfish hit on a bucktail with a strip of sea robin that they caught and Gulp.

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 <p><b>FISH BOUND</b> Capt. Kane Bounds</p>	 <p><b>SKEETS</b> Capt. Stu Windsor</p>
 <p><b>FIN CHASER</b> Capt. Dan Stauffer</p>	 <p><b>DOUBLE TROUBLE</b> Capt. DJ Churchill</p>




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Who wouldn't smile showing off a limit of nice sided flounder. Douglass Robinson from Catonsville, MD was fishing with his Dad on the "Something Fishy" at B Buoy and caught these 4 keepers using Gulp with cut bait. The largest was 20".



The crew of the "Tom Cat" reported a banner day fishing last Sunday. Capt. Tommy Perry with mate Hunter Clark had anglers Shaun Sank, Gus Andujar, Gordon Griffith Jr. and Chris Minor fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon and the Rock Pile. Shaun caught this big blueline tilefish using cut squid. At 17.8 pounds it was just shy of the 20 lb. MD state record!

2024

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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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# FIRST

## 2024

### *Fish of the Year*

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

Species	2024	2023	Species	2024	2023
<b>Bluefish</b> 	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	<b>Weakfish</b> 	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay	
<b>Black Drum</b> 	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	 May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poorman's Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
<b>Cobia</b> 	 June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabriella Kendus Faithful Steward	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	 May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	<b>Dolphin</b> 	 May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	<b>Swordfish</b> 	 June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poorman's Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poorman's Canyon
<b>Tautog</b> 	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
<b>Wahoo</b> 		June 9 Josh Short Poorman's Canyon	<b>White Marlin</b> 	 June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore 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](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





There were some beautiful days to get out on the water last week. The crew of Taylor and Linde Bakke got out and found some real chopper bluefish in just a couple feet of water in the back bays of OC. They were site casting with 4" paddle baits when young Linde hooked this 36" blue. It was one of 4 over 30". This is a good sign for the upcoming Blues for DU Tournament!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The cutting table at Bahia Marina was full after this trip on the charter boat "On the Run". Capt. Dave Caffrey took anglers JT and Dru Herber out to the Thorofare to get these 6 keeper flounder using Gulp.



Capt. Dave Collins on the charter boat "Capt Ike II" based at the Indian River Marina had a solid flounder trip. He did report anglers had to work to get keepers. Bait for this trip was shiners and flounder belly.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The charter boat "Restless Lady" took an overnight trip last week. Capt. Todd Kurtz headed to the Poor Man's Canyon with Bob Felts, Paul Daisey, Kevin Kurtz and Eric Milton with boat owner Sean Welsh. Overnight they released several sharks including a hammer head and returned to the dock at the Talbot Street Pier with some nice tilefish and 2 yellowfins. The largest caught by Eric at 88.5 lbs. is currently the heaviest we have seen this year.



Weather made for a sloppy start for anglers on the "Thelma Dale V" out of Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes, DE. Capt. Brin Parsons reported the first drift was too fast, but fortunately the wind laid down and the fishing picked up! Keeper sea bass were sparse, but a lot of keeper flounder made their way into coolers.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



It is tough out there for sea bass. Anglers have to really work through some undersized fish. The headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina had Bernie and Ron Lesco from near Baltimore, MD and others out last week and the captain reported anglers having to work through 10 *shorts* to get 1 keeper. Still a beautiful day on the water and some fish for the grill.

## DEEP SEA FISHING

**5 HOUR MORNING TRIP**  
7:00AM - 12 NOON Tue & Thur  
8:00AM - 1:00PM Wed & Fri

**5 HOUR AFTERNOON TRIP**  
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**\$56 ADULTS / \$30 CHILDREN**

**8 HOUR TRIP**  
7:00AM - 3:00PM Sun & Mon  
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**10 HOUR TRIP**  
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# FISHING CHARTERS



I know when I get a call from Capt. Brian Porter on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" that he has something special to share. That was certainly the case last Saturday, he let me know he was headed back to Sunset Marina with 10 yellowfin tuna in the box. Work mates Chris Porter (Brian's nephew), Billy Cease, Matt Cahill, Gavin Goins and Scott Goins with mates Alex Bean and Jack Hannum trolled from the Poor Man's Canyon and heading south. They found water ranging from 62° to as high as 66.5° with the tuna hitting their spreads in groups including getting cover up with 5 at once. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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# **FISHING CHARTERS**



The head boat "Capt. Bob II" out of the Indian River Inlet hit the flounder hard on this trip (pictured above and to the left). Capt. Chris Adams reported steady action as he found the right conditions. His anglers boated 31 flounder, just short of a boat limit, despite dealing with some undersized fish given the new 17.5" limit for flounder.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



There were lots of happy anglers on the headboat "Angler" this week despite Capt. Chris Mizurak reporting a picky sea bass bite. On this trip Tim caught this 4.5 lb. sea bass and the largest flounder was 5 lbs!

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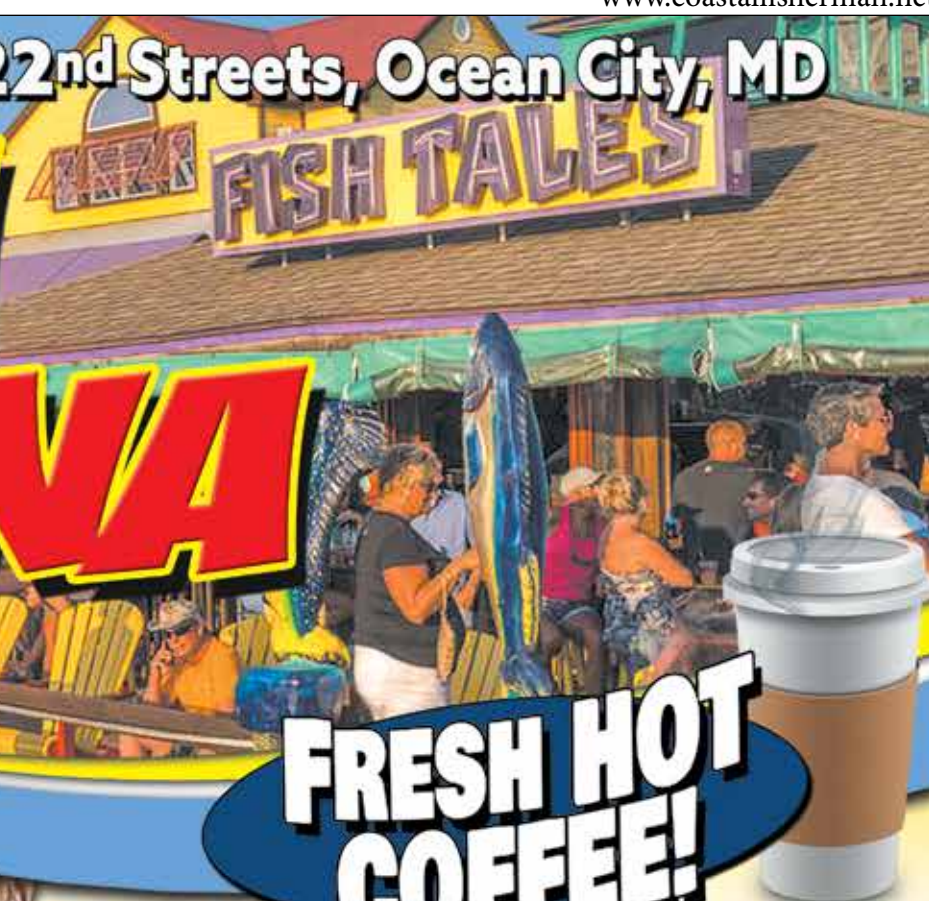


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Phillip Lewis and his family found some nice red drum in the Tangier Sound. Phillip reeled in this 47 inch and his son Dalton boated a 46 inch. Both using peelers.

# 2024 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 40" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> 4 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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It was a family fun day for Kraig Leiby, Mary Leiby, Jack Hamilton, Tin Yerkes, Matt Saunders and Bryanna Lisiewski aboard the private boat “Horizon” out of the Indian River Marina. It was their first trip of the season and despite the fog they put the hurt on the flounder fishing at the Old Grounds using bucktails and bait rigs with cut bait and minnows.



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## FISHING HEADQUARTERS



# JULY 12-14<sup>2024</sup>

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Capt. Willie Zimmerman



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Capt. Jeremy Shandrowski



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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware we saw some really nice days with temperatures in the mid to upper 70s and lighter winds. The sea bass on the wrecks and coral grounds has still been inconsistent to say the least. Many anglers are reporting limits with as many anglers reporting only a few keepers. The surf is still very active with big drum, reds, bluefish, and even big stripers. Back bays are warming up and small flounder are around the inlet and ditches.

### Nearshore Wrecks & Coral Grounds

The nearshore fishing on a whole has been daily consistent. Some big early season flounder are being caught both off the wrecks as well as on the coral grounds near A and B buoy. Long strips of squid are the number one producer of these early fluke. The squid is working best when tipped onto a bucktail, however the traditional flounder rigs with squid are also producing well. Gulp baits are doing fair and should really start producing better as the water temps get

closer to the 70 degree mark. Sea bass has been very spotty this early summer with many anglers reporting the fish are only biting during a small time window of the day and then reluctant to bite a hook no matter the bait that is used. I am hearing from many anglers that small jigs are working best for catching the big knotheads. When using these smaller jigs a light line with a test of around 10-15 lbs is needed to prevent these jigs from scoping out too much and getting snagged on the bottom. Carl Gutberlett was out last weekend and landed a few decent sea bass along with a keeper flounder. He fished clam and squid on an Aqua Clear rig. "Bad Wind Charters" was out in the ocean this week and reported some decent catches of sea bass. They reported the sonar showed tons of fish on the spots but just couldn't get them fired up to bite. The crew of Jene, Brock, Jim and John managed to bring home fish for dinner, just not the freezer filling trips we are used to this time of the year. Mike Hammer along with AJ

and Chad went out for sea bass had a nice catch of the black beauties. The crew also brought home a bonus of 6 flounder, with the largest at 7.2 pounds. The flounder bite has really turned on in the nearshore area early this year. Just a reminder as of June 1st, the new size limit for flounder is 17.5 inches. "On Delivery Sportfishing" was out on the Old Grounds and hooked up their clients with a nice cooler full of flatfish along with some sea bass. The crew was all thumbs up at the fillet table at Lewes Harbour Marina upon their return. David Quigley returned to Indian River Inlet with 13 sea bass up to 15 inches. John Coffey checked into Hook'Em & Cook'Em Bait & Tackle out of Indian River Marina with 35 sea bass and a cooler full of flounder up to 25 inches. He said it was a picky bite, but they kept grinding and it paid off.

### Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has remained very strong with big rockfish, reds and drum being pulled onto the beach. Bluefish, although not as numerous,

are still around with a few nice slammers thrown in the catch. Most anglers are fishing a 2 rod set up. One rod is baited with a mullet rig while the other has a circle hook and either clam or sand fleas and Fish Bites. Stanley Chaplinski was out Tuesday morning and pulled in an 18 inch bluefish along with a few skates, and a 16.6" flounder. Stanley was fishing at 3Rs beach using squid. Richard Lebow caught a big bluefish off the surf using a red high-low rig. Khaliq Still managed to find his dinner Thursday eve when he hooked into a bluefish. Richard Wagner caught 2 fish while fishing Fenwick Beach. Rich used cut spot on a DS Custom float. Chris Connolly was at York Beach Crossover and landed a nice bluefish. It is good to see these blues hanging around despite the warmer water. Steve Bleiler was at 3Rs and landed a 34" blue on a mullet rig. He said this fish put up one heck of a fight. Rich Wagner scored a big blue at Fenwick Beach using a top and bottom rig tipped with cut spot. Josh Barfield reported watching a few redfish get pulled from the surf. He said despite his hard effort he had to be different and only pulled in bluefish. The following day he finally got to hook one of these

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overslot redfish. This was his first ever red from the beach. We see a lot of redfish south of Delaware but the past couple of years we are seeing more in our own backyard. Clam, finger mullet, cut bait and fish bites are all good baits for these hard fishing fish.

### Back Bays & Inlet

The back bays and inlet are still producing some decent catches of bluefish wandering into the bay for a quick meal. Flounder catches have started to increase with bigger fish being caught both at the inlet as well as Massey's Ditch. Richard Hanna caught a 33 inch blue at the inlet on the end of the outgoing tide. The big fish hit a pink Mister Twister paired with a minnow.

The Delaware Bay is still producing big spawning black drum. Kevin Graybill reported his friend Brody Naranjo checked the black drum box on Friday while fishing the coral ground at the mouth of the bay. DNREC even made a safety check of their vessel. Keven said they were very friendly and did their job quickly. Jim checked into Cape Henlopen Bait & Tackle with a limit of flatfish he had caught in the bay. Great job getting a limit this early in the year. Ryan Leonardo fished the Lewes canal this past Saturday and returned home with 2 keeper fish. It would seem the canal has calmed down after all the boats fishing the Lewes Canal tournament.

### Crabs & Clams

Crabbing was on fire this week with my pots yielding 12-14 keepers per pot. Several keeper crabs were released with us keeping only large or jumbo crabs. Mullet is still the prime bait. Clamming is starting to heat up with claims closer to the sand surface and easier to rake up

Till next week...

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Gene Arantowicz had us excited about this peanut mahi he caught on May 29th on the "Mrs Crabs II" in the Poor Man's Canyon. At the time it was the first we heard about in 2024, however a few hours later we got a report of one caught the day before! Still a great catch for May!



Fran Hernandez of Garnett Valley, PA checked in at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle with this 5 lb. bluefish he caught in the suds off of 3Rs beach.



**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

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## — 2024 SCHEDULE —



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

<p><b>42nd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *</b>              Registration: July 3, 6:30-8:00pm  <b>FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS</b>              Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 5, 6 &amp; 7              Weigh-Ins: July 5, 6 &amp; 7              5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p> <b>20th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *</b>              To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation              Registration: July 19, 6:00-8:00pm              Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 20 &amp; 21              Weigh-Ins: July 20, 3:00-6:30pm and July 21, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina</p>	<p><b>16th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS &amp; REELS" TOURNAMENT *</b>              To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund              Registration: August 1, 6:00-8:00pm              Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 2 &amp; 3              Weigh-Ins: August 2 &amp; 3              5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle</p>
<p><b>44th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ &amp; SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP</b>              Registration: Sept. 11, 6:00-8:00pm              Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 12, 13 &amp; 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 &amp; 14, 6:00pm - 8:00pm</p>	<p><b>66th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *</b>  <b>TBD</b></p>	

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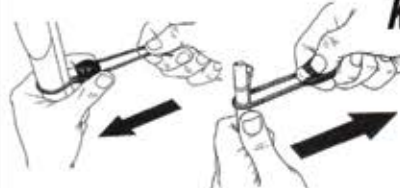
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### Weather or Not

Two weeks ago, the De Gallant, a steel hulled 90-foot sailing schooner, sank 20 miles north of Great Iguana, the southernmost island in The Bahamas. Six survivors were hoisted to safety and transported to Coast Guard Air Station Miami in Opa Locka, Florida, reportedly in good health, however, two crew members are unaccounted for and presumed dead.

How does a ship over 100 years old, with successful voyages around the world, suddenly sink 20 miles from land in the Bahamas? Weather!

As reported by the ship's owner, Blue Schooner, they indicate "The first information we have indicates an unforeseen meteorological phenomenon, extremely sudden and violent when the ship was underway in mild conditions. This would have led to its capsizing and then its loss at a depth of more than 2,000 meters, "Most of us have been out in a boat when uncomfortable weather conditions negatively affected the trip. Usually, we end up wet from rain or spray, and a slower voyage due to wind and waves

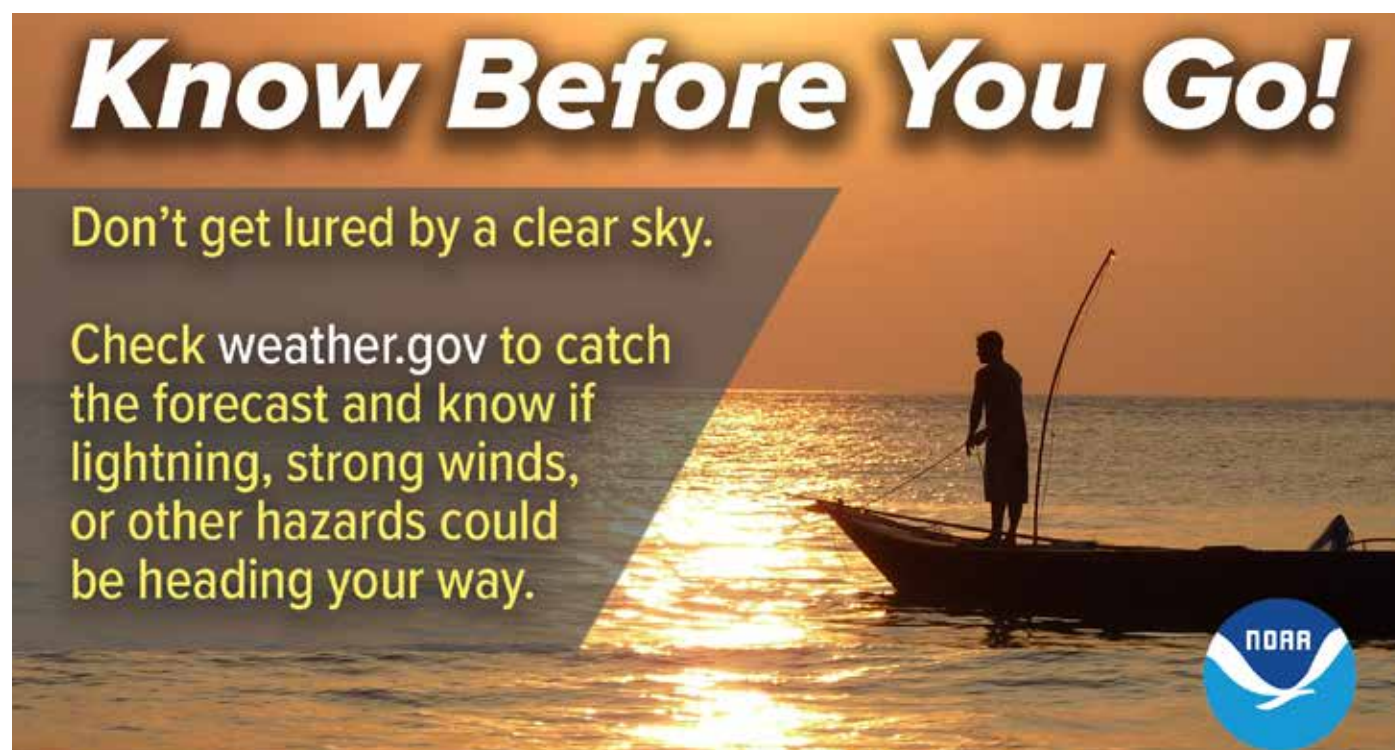
and not an offshore sinking".

There seems to have been two problems with the De Gallant; one, they were prepared for light breezes during the overnight hours and two, their weather information did not

and how can other boaters do the same? Have multiple and accurate weather forecasts and personalized forecasts when needed.

For most boaters and anglers, fishing on inland and near

weather, monitoring oceanic and atmospheric conditions, charting the seas, conducting deep-sea exploration, and managing fishing and protection of marine mammals and endangered species in the US exclusive economic zone. The agency is part of the United States Department of Commerce and is headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland. Additionally, the National Weather Service (NWS) is tasked with providing



include the squall potential. Based on their experience and the ship's history, it seems that if they were prepared for the dangerous weather, they would have all survived, including the ship.

What could the crew of the De Gallant have done differently

coastal water in the USA benefits from the free and extremely detailed marine weather forecasts provided by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA is a US scientific and regulatory agency charged with forecasting

weather forecasts, warnings of hazardous weather, and other weather-related products to organizations and the public for the purposes of protection, safety, and general information.

NOAA works to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts.

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Their work supports severe weather preparedness, and international shipping. With nearly 4,900 employees in 122 weather forecast offices, 13 river forecast centers, 9 national centers, and other support offices around the country, NWS provides a national infrastructure to gather and process weather data.

Detailed marine forecasts are available for most inland and near shore waters where many boats travel and fish within the USA. NOAA, or NWS provide numerous ways to receive a marine weather forecast, the easiest is the VHF weather radio, the forecast reception is available in most areas on one of the 10 marine weather channels built-into modern maritime VHF radios. NOAA also provides weather data and forecasts via the internet on the NOAA and associated websites and through apps on smartphones etc. Some of the App's are third party apps that obtain their weather data directly from NOAA and package it for their audience.

Many coastal boaters rely on the local TV stations and broadcast channels for land-based weather and forecasts, which often include marine related weather, though these are not often as detailed as the information obtained directly from NOAA/NWS.

SiriusXM offers marine weather service via satellite to an on-board weather receiver, including regularly updated forecast available on your chartplotter while offshore. This is a great source of information when you are out of VHF or cellular data range.

For some captains who are heading out on a longer voyage or traveling in waters not covered by NOAA, a subscription to independent weather services that include forecasts and routings.

These businesses often provide an aggregated forecast based on numerous sources, including buoy weather, government agencies, satellite imagery and reports from nearby weather stations and vessels in the forecast area. Often, these independent companies can provide a more accurate and detailed forecast for a specific area, due to their specialized data collection and analysis.



Combined with fishing data, this can help assure a captain that they are headed out for a smooth and successful trip.

The next level of weather service is a weather routing service, these companies provide a specific forecast that covers your vessels intended route. This type of service is often used during voyages outside of the USA and for multi day voyages, especially traveling across long stretches of open water. These agencies even give detailed travel recommendations, including

routes, courses and ports recommended for your specific vessel and schedule.

As an example of a weather router forecast, The "unexpected" weather event that sunk the De Gallant was forecasted by an American weather router, Chris Parker, and he will tell you that the potential for violent weather was not only foreseen, but a crucial part of his forecasts to amateur mariners passing through the same area in days and hours leading up to the loss of De Gallant at 4 a.m. on Tuesday.

Parker said he went out of his way to warn his clients—and indeed anyone with access to a single-sideband radio—that danger was in the air.

There are many weather resources available to boaters, with today's resources there should be no unexpected weather when heading out on the boat. §



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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 2 Joe Payne Assateague 10.2 lbs.	May 17 Josh Frantz 3R's 12.25 lbs.	<b>Weakfish</b> 	<b>New</b> May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	May 17 Eleuturiu Abreu Indian River Inlet 5.2 lbs.
<b>Black Drum</b> 		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	<b>New</b> May 31 Tyler Lanza S. of Poorman's Canyon 143 lbs.	
<b>Cobia</b> 			<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	<b>New</b> May 31 Andrew Link Poorman's Canyon 122 lbs.	
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	May 21 Doug Brissey Ocean Structure 7.1 lbs.	<b>New</b> May 26 Michele Lambie Site 11 7.64 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 24 Tom Sullivan Ocean Structure 5 lbs.		<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	<b>New</b> May 30 Eric Milton Poorman's Canyon 88.5 lbs.	
<b>Sheepshead</b> 		May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure 11 lbs.	<b>Dolphin</b> 	<b>New</b> June 1 Joel Hoover S. of Poorman's 17 lbs.	
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	<b>Swordfish</b> 	<b>New</b> June 1 Bobby West Poorman's Canyon 125 lbs.	
<b>Tautog</b> 	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		
<b>Wahoo</b> 			<b>White Marlin</b> 		

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)





Matt from Fenwick Tackle shared this catch report from Kevin Caudell of Middletown, MD. He was on the beach at the Fenwick Island drive on and caught this 28" bluefish on a whole mullet rig. I guess his hat says it all.

# Pounding on the Pokomoke

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# THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



## Manhattan Clam Chowder

### Ingredients:

50 littleneck clams (3 pounds, 8 ounces total), scrubbed

2 cups water

2 cups dry white wine (such as Sauvignon Blanc)

2 (1 ounce each) thick-cut bacon slices, finely chopped (1/2 cup)

1 medium-size (10 ounces) yellow onion, chopped (about 1 cup)

1 medium-size (8 ounces) green bell pepper, seeded and chopped (about 1 cup)

2 medium (about 4 ounces total) carrots, peeled and chopped (about 3/4 cup)

2 medium (about 2 ounces total) celery stalks, chopped (about 3/4 cup)



4 garlic cloves, minced (about 1 tablespoon)

2 teaspoons fresh chopped thyme, plus more for garnish

1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper

1 1/2 pounds baby Yukon Gold potatoes, unpeeled and quartered

2 teaspoons kosher salt

1 dried bay leaf

1 (14 1/2-ounce) can fire-roasted diced tomatoes

Black pepper

### Directions:

Place clams, water and wine in a medium-size Dutch oven. Cover and bring to a simmer over medium-high; simmer until clams have opened, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Remove and discard any clams that did not open. Set a fine mesh strainer lined with cheesecloth over a large heatproof bowl; pour clam mixture through strainer into bowl. Remove half of the clams from shells, and roughly chop (you'll have about 1/4 cup). Reserve remaining clams in shell and clam broth separately (you'll have about 5 cups broth). Rinse Dutch oven, and wipe dry.

Return Dutch oven to medium heat. Add bacon; cook, stirring often until browned, about 8 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer bacon to a paper towel-lined plate to drain. Add onion, bell pepper, carrots, and celery to drippings in Dutch oven; cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Add garlic, thyme and crushed red pepper; cook, stirring constantly until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Add potatoes, salt, bay leaf and reserved clam broth to mixture

in Dutch oven; bring to a boil, partially covered over medium heat. Boil, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Using a wooden spoon and gently mash some of the potatoes to thicken broth. Stir in tomatoes, chopped clams, clams in shell and bacon. Cook, stirring occasionally until heated through, about 5 minutes. Remove and discard bay leaf. Garnish with black pepper and additional thyme.

## Spicy Baked Sea Trout with Lemon Sauce

### Ingredients:

2 pounds of sea trout fillets or other firm fleshed fish

2 Tablespoons minced onion

1/4 cup stick unsalted butter melted

2 Tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon paprika

2 teaspoon red pepper flakes

Dash of black pepper

1 Tablespoon capers rinsed (optional)



### Directions:

Heat oven to 350 F.

Butter a glass casserole -large enough so that the fillets aren't crowded.

Lay the fillets in a single layer in the glass casserole.

Whisk the melted butter, lemon juice, minced onion, salt, paprika, red pepper flakes, black pepper until well blended. (Also add the capers

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if you wish.) Pour the sauce evenly over the fillets.

Bake in the heated oven for 20 to 25 minutes. The fillets will be firm but still moist.

Serve immediately and spoon some additional sauce over the fillets.

## Spinach Stuffed Flounder

### Ingredients:

6 flounder fillets

½ tsp. Old Bay seasoning or to taste

1 tbsp. olive oil

For the Stuffing:

3 oz. cream cheese

½ cup mozzarella cheese

½ cup feta cheese

3 oz. baby spinach, roughly chopped

### Directions:

Place the cream cheese, mozzarella, feta, and chopped baby spinach into a large mixing bowl. Massage the spinach and the cheeses with your hands until they are well combined (it should look like a thick paste). Set aside.

Place the flounder fillets onto a large board. Sprinkle the desired amount of Old Bay Seasoning onto each fillet.



Divide the stuffing into 6 equal portions. Working one at a time, shape the portion of the stuffing into an egg shape and place it close to the tail of the fish. Then starting from the tail, roll each fillet up jelly-roll style and place it seam side down on the baking dish.

Sprinkle some more Old Bay seasoning on top, and using a pastry brush, spread some olive oil over the fillets.

Bake at 350°F for about 20 minutes, until the fish is cooked through.

## Mahi Parmesan Appetizer Bites

### Ingredients:

For Beer Batter:

1 cup of all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon of each, parsley, oregano, basil

2 tablespoons of paprika

2 teaspoons salt

2 teaspoons black pepper

1/4 teaspoon of cayenne pepper

1 egg

1 12 oz. can or bottle of beer

All Other:

2 quarts of cooking oil for frying

1 jar of favorite marinara sauce

1 package shredded whole milk mozzarella

Grated parmesan

2 pounds of firm mahi fillets

### Directions:

Heat oil to 375° while preparing batter.

Combine all dry ingredients, (except fish) add egg, then beer and beat till smooth.

Dip fish chunks in batter and fry in hot oil until golden brown.



Drain on paper towels.

On a large baking sheet lined with parchment paper, place fried chunks of mahi on the sheet.

Top with marinara sauce and cheese and bake until the cheese melt.

Serve with picks for appetizers.

## Ahi Tuna Appetizer with Wasabi Glaze

### Ingredients:

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

2½ teaspoons wasabi paste

2 teaspoons low-sodium soy sauce

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3/4 teaspoon honey

1 pound Ahi tuna fillet, sushi grade

Neutral oil for the pan (like vegetable, avocado, grapeseed)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Fresh chives for garnish, washed and dried, finely chopped

#### Directions:

Make the glaze. Over low heat, melt the butter in a very small sauté pan. Add the wasabi, soy sauce and honey. Gently whisk until it's smooth and then remove it from the heat and set it aside.

Prepare the tuna. Cut the fillet into approximately 1-inch strips and season them with salt and pepper on all sides.

Sear the tuna. Coat the bottom of a large (preferably non-stick) skillet with a thin layer of oil and place it over high heat. Once the pan is very



hot, add the tuna strips and sear all of the sides. (If you don't hear a sizzling sound when the tuna hits the pan, it's not hot enough.) Only cook it through a bit, about 1/8 inch, probably about 10-15 seconds per side. Use small tongs to turn them. Remove them from the pan as soon as they're done and place them on a plate or sheet pan. I would do this in two batches. Once they're cool enough to handle, slice them

into approximately 1-inch cubes.

Assembly. Drizzle the wasabi glaze over them, add a toothpick in each one and serve. (If the glaze is too thick to drizzle, warm it slightly.) To garnish, sprinkle with finely chopped chives.

### **Crispy Skin Black Sea Bass with Avocado, Tomatillo & Fennel Relish**

#### Ingredients:

Relish:

1 medium fresh tomatillo, husk removed, rinsed well, cut into small dice

1/2 large ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and cut into small dice

1/2 serrano, seeded and finely diced

1/4 small head fennel, cut into julienne

1/4 small red onion, thinly sliced against the grain

1 tablespoon canola oil

Juice of 1/2 fresh lime

Touch of red wine vinegar

Honey

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Crispy Skin Fish:

Canola oil

1 black sea bass, cut into 4- to 6-ounce fillets, skin on, slits cut into skin

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon butter

Extra-virgin olive oil for finishing

#### Directions:

For the relish: Combine the tomatillo, avocado, serrano, fennel and onions in a medium bowl. Drizzle with the canola oil, lime juice, vinegar and honey. Season with salt and pepper, and fold in the cilantro.

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For the crispy skin fish: Heat a saute pan over medium-high heat until very hot. Add some canola oil and heat until hot and smoking.

Meanwhile, sprinkle the fish on both sides with salt and pepper. Lay the fish in the hot pan, skin-side down, pressing down with your fish spatula. Add the butter to the pan and let melt.

When the edges of the fish look golden brown and crispy, after 3 minutes, flip the fish. Reduce the heat and cook another 2 minutes. Using a spoon, baste the crispy skin with some of the butter.

Remove the fish to a plate. Serve with the relish. Finish with some extra-virgin olive oil. §



Big John Bahn was slamming the sea bass on this trip with Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star". These would be perfect for Chef Christine's Crispy Skin Sea Bass with Avocado, Tomatillo & Fennel Relish recipe to the left!



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Another First Fish hits the chart! This time it is a 60" bluefin tuna caught by Andrew Link of Ellicott City, MD. He was fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos on the charter boat "MARLI" in the Poor Man's Canyon. The big blue ate a Sterling Chain and the 4 yellowfins hit on MagicTail Lures with ballyhoo. Rounding out the crew were fellow anglers James Hanna of Ocean City, Kevin Matsui from Farmington, MN, Al Hinson of Charlotte, NC and Arch Noha from Belair, MD with mates Jake Pilkerton and Jax Moore. At 122 lbs. it is also the Heaviest to date.

2024

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 <p><b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
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There continues to be lots of action at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE. Billy Talbot and Cathy stopped by to share the big flounder they caught fishing an open ocean bottom using LHM bait. "Crab Burner" charters also shared their haul with PA natives Samuel Lennox, Jow Maddox, Bilal Mian, Harrison Fritz and Matt Brake.









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We are amazed at the amount of weakfish being caught this season and angler Jim Hitchens has dominated the action so far. He caught the first weakie on May 2nd and then reported this citation winner to Lewes Harbor Marina on the 21st. This 29" fish with a girth of 14" was caught in the Delaware Bay using a swim bait. At 7.26 lbs. it is the Heaviest of the season!

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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

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## JULY

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Cape May Marlin Tournament

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



Ryan Leonardo put his new Mako skill to good work in the Lewes Canal. He caught these 2 keeper flounder using Gulp Swimming Mullet with the largest at 19". Looks like he has some spices to cook them up!

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# Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



## The Donkey Farm (part 2)

This is a continuation of last week's in-depth and very technical discussion of the controversial wind farm (aka "the Donkey Farm") that some people want to build off our coast.

In their efforts to cultivate support for the farm from fishermen, the wind donkeys have rightfully pointed out that each turbine island will act as an artificial reef and therefore be a good place to catch a fish or two. I'm just surprised that they've failed to mention the even better selling point for the farm that over time the footprints of the reefs created under each wind turbine might dramatically increase in size and relief on their own. In fact, given enough time the

reefs could expand so much that the gaps between the 125 individual rubble piles could blend into one gigantic reef of such proportions that it rivals the size of Australia's Great Barrier Reef! Yeah, the way I see it, every time a fishing boat or huge merchant ship hits a turbine and sinks, the reef will get that much bigger and bigger and bigger until it's all just one big mass of stones, fiberglass, twisted metal, turbine blades, and sea bass!

Like any fishery, it will probably take a little while for recreational anglers to figure out the best techniques to effectively fish the donkey farms. Anchor, drift or troll? What are the best baits or lures to use and which turbines are producing the best results. Fishing the turbines will be different from fishing

over other types of reefs. Right now if your boat were to actually "hit" an artificial reef then something has gone terribly wrong and you're either in a life raft or wishing you had one. Fishing next to a turbine you could goof up and accidentally bump the structure and if you're lucky come away with only minor damage, but there will be other hazards to contend with:

"Hey John, you got a copy? It's me Frank in the blue boat fishing the turbine to your south. How's it going for you over there?"

"Not too bad, we've been here an hour, caught a few sea bass and have only been hit by two herring gulls and a pelican".

"Okay, that's good to hear. We didn't have any problem with birds at all until a bunch of little bait fish popped up on the surface and the terns started working over them. Now it's raining birds so hard that I can't leave the cabin long enough to push us off the dead whale that drifted under our bow!"

Despite the huge division between the "donkeys" and... well... "rational thinking people" I do see some creative options for compromise that might work for both sides of the debate. For instance, about the donkey farms being an eyesore to beach goers - there's a very simple solution, just block the view of people on the beach so they can't see the turbines. This should be a relatively easy fix and can be done with resources already on hand by simply having the banner planes and parasailers fly much lower to the water, effectively providing a curtain between those on the beach and the beautiful ocean beyond the breakers. The town could also contract more floating billboards to cruise up and down the beach because

www.coastalfisherman.net nothing diverts one's attention from the natural view than ten thousand flashing lights advertising smorgasbords and happy-hour specials! And by all means, bring back the Frontier Town stagecoach! I'm pretty sure that most folks from Pennsylvucky who are relaxing on the beach are not going to pay much attention to 125, tall, white chessmen waving their arms 20-miles offshore when just beyond the breakers they can watch a horse pulling a stagecoach that's propped up on a deck boat being driven by a big bearded guy trolling a fishing line!

Another way our town leaders could divert people's attention from the donkey farm is to go ahead and approve the request made by the "we want the right to go topless on the beach women" to have the freedom to expose themselves and I guarantee at least half the people on the beach will be much more focused on what "is" visible on the beach than anything that might be seen offshore.

Maybe our Mayor should consider working out a deal with the donkeys that they can build the turbines really close to shore providing that, on the super hot days when there's not much wind blowing anyway, they would point the things west, reverse the engines, and let them run as big fans that would provide a pleasantly cool breeze for everyone on the beach.

And if an air-conditioned beach wasn't enough to bring more vacationers to Ocean City, why couldn't they build apartments inside the turbine towers? How cool would it be to have a VRBO rental that's not just "at" the ocean but that's actually "on" the ocean! Imagine enjoying the beautiful sunrises and sunsets while sitting out on your private deck watching the stars, counting the birds that fall from the sky or the dead dolphins as they drift past. Of course there would be the ever



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present risk of a giant container ship running into you, you'd want to be very careful not to stick your head too far out of any window on the side that faces the spinning blades and you probably wouldn't want to do any swimming around your oceanic condø due to the abundance of sharks attracted to all the dead and dying marine life - besides all that it might be a really fun stay.

Finally, after all the painstaking research I put into this important news story, I've come to the conclusion that the primary reason for this whole wind turbine project has nothing to do with providing electricity back to the beach so that Thrasher's can fry their fries and Fisher's can pop their popcorn, it's all about EVs. I'm thinking that with

all the effort so many of the donkeys have put forth to get everyone to drive electric cars, scooters, bikes, skateboards, and everything else that moves, it's only a matter of time before they'll pass some kind of law that requires us to drive around in electric boats as well. Look at all the electric motors on the bows of boats these days and it's clear that the conversation has already started, but before they can pass such a law they'll need to show that they already have marine charging stations ready to charge the fleet.

Imagine that, you could tie-off to a turbine, plug in and sit back for 8-10 hours, maybe catch a couple sea bass, dodge a few falling birds, and get enough charge to make it almost half way home. The "Donkey Farm", what a wonderful idea! §

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Felix Strater of Chadds Ford, PA found plenty of action while fishing off the bulkhead by the new 3rd Street Recreational Complex in Ocean City. He was fishing with Dennis O'Neill of Ocean City and used sand fleas to catch this juvenile tog, his first tog ever!



You could say Brian Rexrode has been waiting 25 years to make this catch! That's how long he has lived in Bethany Beach. He caught this 32" and 9 lb. 3 oz. bluefish off Key Box Road Beach using a whole mullet on an outgoing tide.

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3-200 Miles

 <b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 <b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day
 <b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit  <small>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</small>	 <b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 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 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 <b>SWORDFISH</b> 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	 <b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 <b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler		 <b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 <b>WAHOO</b> No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length

Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length

Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

78" Minimum Fork Length

Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

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

PROHIBITED SHARKS

Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov





John Friedfeld with Ted Proceus from Ocean Arsenal Tackle were out fishing with Brad Stauch on his private boat “Reel Strong” out of the Sunset Marina. They found a natural ocean bottom in about 100’ of water and managed their limit of 12 keeper flounder up to 6.5 lbs. The flatfish hit on Ocean Arsenal’s Squid Thing and Tsunami Glass Minnows with Gulp.

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Another great weakfish for the grill! Philadelphia, PA's George Magaw caught this 26.5" and 6.5 lb. weakie in the Indian River Inlet using a green swim shad.



It was once and done for angler Ben McAdams of Elkton, MD. He and Bobby Hamilton went deep dropping on the "Hammy V" from Fenwick, DE inside of the Poor Man's Canyon for tilefish. They were using a top & bottom rig baited with chunks of ballyhoo and squid and on a single drop they caught two tilefish and two sea bass! The big knothead was 22.5" and weighted 6.2 lbs. and the second one was 19". Not bad recovery from a slow day tuna fishing.

# OCEAN CITY INLET

## TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 5	High 07:24 am High 08:13 pm	Low 01:33 am Low 01:18 pm
THUR. JUNE 6 New Moon	High 08:16 am High 09:05 pm	Low 02:25 am Low 02:05 pm
FRI. JUNE 7	High 09:06 am High 09:53 pm	Low 03:14 am Low 02:51 pm
SAT. JUNE 8	High 09:54 am High 10:39 pm	Low 04:03 am Low 03:38 pm
SUN. JUNE 9	High 10:41 am High 11:22 pm	Low 04:53 am Low 04:25 pm
MON. JUNE 10	High 11:27 am High -----	Low 05:44 am Low 05:16 pm
TUE. JUNE 11	High 12:04 am High 12:15 pm	Low 06:35 am Low 06:10 pm
WED. JUNE 12	High 12:46 am High 01:07 pm	Low 07:23 am Low 07:07 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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A small cartoon skeleton is holding a large fish. The fish has a human-like skeleton inside it, showing the spine and ribs.





Michele Lambie got herself a prize of a flounder last week. She was fishing on her boat the "Audrey V" when she landed these two keeper flounder at Site 11 using a squid & minnow combo. The largest at 7.64 lbs. not only earned her a DE Citation, it is the Heaviest Flounder of the season from DE.



The crew of the "Relentless" took a different approach during the Battle for the Buckle Tournament last weekend. After seeing the focus on tuna and sharks, Capt. Kevin Conrad with mate Mason Howell decided to target swordfish for Heaviest Fish. The plan worked and they were the first to the scales on Day 1 with this 125 lb. sword caught by the crew with Bobby West as the main angler and earning 1st Place in the calcutta. Rounding out the crew were boat owner Dale Lucas and fellow angler Dylan Mandley. Pictured at the tournament scales at Sunset Marina.

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# VIRGINIA

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The days are getting longer, the greenheads are getting bolder, and the water and weather are becoming warmer. All of these factors point toward one unmistakable condition... the end of spring and the onset of summer. So grab your rods, gas up the boat, get some bug spray & sunscreen and get jamming this June!

The temperature in the Tangier is climbing faster than the tide during a north east blow. However the grassy shallows are holding a good number of specs reds and rock. The most lucrative method has been chunks of peeler deployed on a bottom rig or fishfinder. Unfortunately in the last week the shed of these Chesapeake treasures has slowed to a crawl leaving Eastern Shore

anglers hard up for soft crabs. To deal with this hopefully short lived crustacean crisis, sweet water sportsman have turned to artificial enticement. Popping corks with paddle tails have bent some rods aboard the Sea Hawk Jones. We also have rattled up some rock and decent blues with the renowned Rap 10 suspending slash baits. The lure is ideal to throw around structures like the target ships or rock piles of the bay. In addition to the skinny water scrappers, some guys in "brown suits" (cobia) have made an early showing in the Chesapeake. While the season is not in till the middle of June they still provide a thrill on the rod with long runs and picturesque arial antics that only could be rivaled by a treasured Tangier sunset.

If you desire a rod bending battle along with an Eastern Shore style meal, bellowing blacks are still beating up on chunks of crab on fishfinder rigs deployed on the many oyster rocks of the Pocomoke sound.

The salty seaside still offers some pretty good floundering. The fish seem to be staging in and around the inlets or in deeper holes than we previously observed. However, at the time of high tide some thin water flatfish had been taken off the flats, coerced by Sea Hawk flounder rigs tipped with silversides, big bull minnows, and a side of gulp swimming mullets. A hand full of eager anglers have ventured out to some of the inshore reef

sites and found a few flatties. Hopefully, this will continue to improve with regards to size and quantity along with triggers and spades to help fight the impending summertime doldrums. Till then folks will have to suck it up and be satisfied on succulent seabass suppers... not stinky for a sporting shoreman! Don't forget the flounder Minimum size limit is due to change to 17.5 inches on 6/1.













A lot of eyes are on the warm water which is washing in from the Gulf Stream. There has not been a persistent pelagic bite but hopefully an increase of offshore energy is soon to come.

So as God gives us more time with kids finishing school and the daylight hours growing like your fishing buddies past trophies, take advantage of this blessing and get out there and enjoy this wonderful place we call home. §

2024

# VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

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

eregulations.com





Carl Ward reported a solid Memorial Day in Chincoteague, VA fishing with Cassidy Baer and crew. They caught a 3 man limit of keeper flounder with Cassidy landing the nicer ones!



George Frigm from Summer Time Park in Fenwick Island, DE wandered across Rt 1 to spend some time on the beach at Fenwick Island State Park. He caught this 22" bluefish there on a whole mullet at low tide.

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