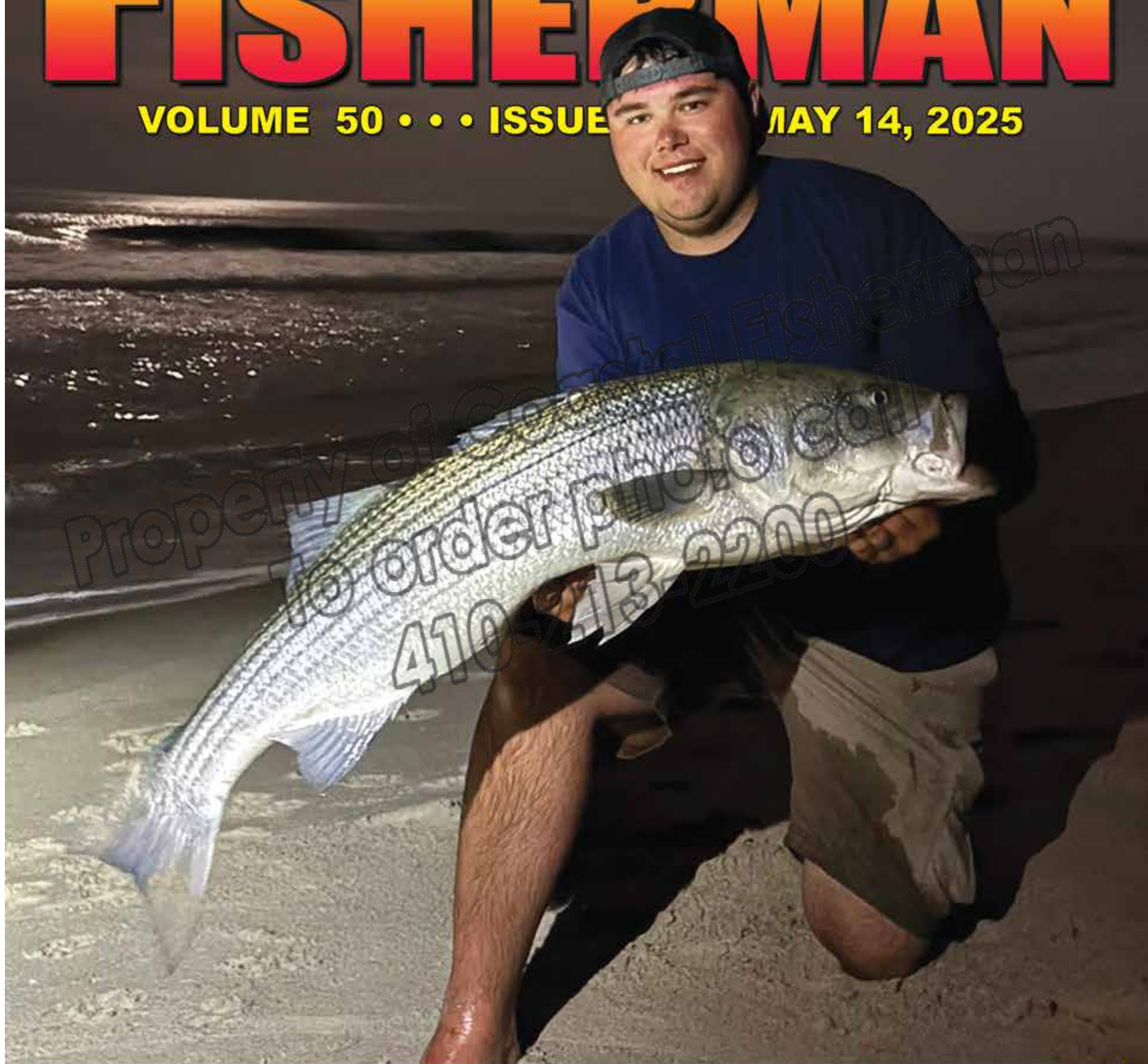


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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

**VOLUME 50 • • • ISSUE MAY 14, 2025**



Dominic Cenci, on the sands of Assateague, holding a whopping 50" rockfish. Dominic was out fishing with his wife Jessica who is currently eight months pregnant with their first child and said, 'he must be our good luck charm.' Dominic and Jessica were using sand fleas with a DS striper rig. The stripers made their presence known last weekend, in Assateague's surf, and this fish is no exception.





Don't trip when entering Rich Morgan's home because he's got a new doormat. Rich caught this 24" 11oz. flounder off the docks of the Lewis canal.



Lauren Staley showed her father Billy Staley how it's done by pulling in this 29" black drum onto the beach at Assateague. This memory making fish was caught during an outgoing tide using sand fleas.

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**Battle for the Buckle**

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**School's Out Tuna Tournament**

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**10th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament**

June 20-22 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

**46th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament**

June 21-22 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**7th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam**

**Kayak Fishing Tournament**

June 21-22 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

## JULY

**42nd Annual Canyon Kick Off**

July 4-6 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

**South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown**

July 9-12 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

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**www.coastalfisherman.net**



Jim Hitchens earned some big bragging rights landing this 2.41 lbs. weakfish, the first one caught this year! This special weakie came from the Roosevelt Inlet and was particularly attracted to a Bass Assassin. Pictured at Lewis Harbour Marina.

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Mike Dzurnak of Berlin, MD just found his new lucky fishing shirt after reeling in this sizable 31" black drum, on the shore of Assateague. Mike used sand fleas to lure this fish in.



Julia Mister, from Lewes, DE hooked up a 19" tautog, on the "Crown Jules". Mrs. Mister was fishing the Outer Wall, in the Delaware Bay, using shrimp as bait.

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# THE Offshore Report

by Joey Marowski

Hello everyone and welcome back to another offshore fishing report! Although there still isn't much to speak of offshore of Delmarva, there is plenty of fishing going on to our south and lots on the horizon for us to look forward to. Myself and some of the crew from the Roshambo were

able to get in a practice day of fishing down in Hatteras in preparation for the upcoming Hatteras Village Offshore Open, a 31 year old blue marlin tournament. We were able to release a small, 150lb blue one and we also pulled the hook on a much larger fish before getting to the leader to signify a release.

Best of luck this week to all the teams competing in the tournament, including several Ocean City boats. Outside of the tournament, there is still great fishing happening off of North Carolina with consistent catches of yellowfin, mahi, wahoo, blue marlin, and tilefish. With any warm water eddies remaining more than 100 miles from our inlets it will more than likely be a few weeks until we have a shot at most pelagic species. Luckily Mr. Bluefin can tolerate the colder water as they are one of the few fish species that regulate their own body temperatures. This means that there is a chance that bluefins are swimming around some of the inshore lumps or in the canyons waiting to be discovered. With the opening day of black sea bass this Thursday, an influx of boats in the ocean just may come across some of these cool water tunas. The lack of offshore targets shouldn't keep everyone at the dock! The Eastern Shore is full of productive fishing right now, from flounders in the back bays, rockfish

and bluefish around the bridges and jetties, as well as both black and red drum migrating through the bays and rivers. For those with boats too large to maneuver around inshore, there are starting to be some more ocean options as well. Aside from the upcoming sea bass opener, there are a few days left in the spring tog season as well. An inshore wreck trip is a great way to break in the boat for the season and ensure everything is running smoothly before making the 50+ mile run to the canyons soon. If you really want to stretch your legs a bit and make a longer run, the ole reliable tilefish can be a tasty option as its season opens as well, offering a solid backup plan for action if you're unable to find any bluefins. This is also the time to go through your gear and make sure everything is functioning after a long winter of collecting dust in the garage. There's nothing worse than tackle failure while fighting a fish so take the time now to set your drags, re-spool your reels with fresh line and re-rig with clean leaders. A few hours of preparation now can save you from heartbreak this summer. All of our local tackle shops are fully stocked with everything you may

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**COASTAL FISHERMAN**  
**50th EDITION**  
1976-2025

is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12507 Sunset Ave Unit 30, Ocean City, MD 21842

**DAVE MESSICK • Publisher**  
**SPENCER PAQUETTE • Editor**  
**IAN POSTLEY • Graphic Design**

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. © 2025



need to be sure your tackle arsenal has what it needs to be successful this season. Now is also a great time to hop on the phone and call one of the local marinas to get hooked up with a date on a charter boat, if you wait until you're seeing tunas on the dock to call you may be too late! Skip out on getting Dad another neck tie for Father's Day and get him what he really wants, a day fishing with (or maybe without) his family. Hopefully within the next few reports there will be some offshore activity from our own waters, but until then we will settle for daydreaming about it while keeping busy in preparation and maintaining an eye on both the reports and the warm water coming out of the south.



It was a nice surprise to get this picture from Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina. Jesse Coulbourn, Dave Wade, Drew Henninger and Pat Miles (not pictured) headed offshore and boated a ton of golden and blueline tilefish. Jesse's golden was 36 lbs. and Dave reeled up a massive 51.6 lb. one that was just shy of the Delaware state record. Their 7 goldens and limit of bluelines were caught on whole squid and jigs.

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Last weekend was a hit for the surf fishermen of Assateague on the hunt for rockfish. Scott Lenox, host of Hooked On OC, brought in his personal best being 48” and an estimated 35 lbs. Scott hooked this animal up using sand fleas and Fishbites clam on a hi-lo circle hook rig. It’s obvious from the photo that Scott is at least mildly enthused by his catch.

2025

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p><b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p><b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p><b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to &lt;47" curved fork length 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to &lt; 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p><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</p>	 <p><b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p><b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p><b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p><b>WAHOO</b> No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

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.

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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week, in Maryland,, gave us another big week for surf fishermen on Assateague Island. Several big rockfish, as well as black drum, were pulled out of the surf. The inlets and back bays are coming alive with flounder and tog are being found along the rock walls and near the inlets. Tog are slow on the nearshore wrecks, however with sea bass opening on the 15th of May, the nearshore report should get a lot more interesting.

### Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets continue to improve as the water warms up. Flounder are being taken more readily from the channels as well as some showing up on the flats. Tog

and bluefish are on the rocks at the inlet, along with rockfish at the Rt. 50 and Rt. 90 bridges. Craig Cropper took the boat out, to the Rt. 50 Bridge, and landed a few small rockfish using his famous Roy Rig.

Tom Scibek had 2 customers from Maryland fishing floater rigs with live minnows. The duo landed a few flounder including two keepers. Rich Fiore fished the inlet and landed a few small rockfish on artificials.

Although "no keepers" he stated, what a blast on light tackle. Josh Valliant fished the Thorofare Thursday morning and appeared to be perfectly dialed in to the fish catching a limit of flounder for his boat and crew. Brian

Reynolds found the tog at the inlet ready to bite. He landed several pregnant ones which were returned, but did manage to find a nice 18" and an 18½" one. Brian also hooked a bluefish and small striper. Scott Rohrbaugh went out for 3 hrs. and managed to find 7 rockfish willing to bite despite the high winds. No fish fell within the slot and all were released unharmed. Matt White was fishing the south end of Assateague Island when he got his only bite of the day. The medium size rockfish measured 33 inches and was safely released after an epic battle. Funny how one bite can make even a slow day seem like a great one! Corey Glover fished the south Jetty, on an incoming tide, and landed and released a 38 inch rockfish. The fish fell victim to the infamous Roy Rig. Brian Blackney had a good week on the bay landing several flounder and even taking four keepers home for dinner. Brian Marine and son found their first keeper fluke of the year. Thomas Cline also found his first flatfish keeper of the year last week landing a nice 18" fish in the back bay. Jeff Messick and James Cathell also did a little bay fishing and landed their first keepers of the year. Dillon Scopp landed the first speckled trout of the year along with a nice 31" black drum.

### Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

Sea bass season starts on May 15th. The regulations this year are 13 inches and 15 keepers per person. Many anglers looking forward to the start are gearing up and getting ready for the fish. When rigging up for bass a top and bottom rig is the most common rig to use, tipped with clam or squid. Due to the popularity of sea bass fishing,

many spots are loaded with boats causing the fish to be shy about striking baits. This leads many seasoned anglers to use a small 1 or 2 oz jig on a spinning rod with ten pound line. The lighter line allows the lure to get down the 60 ft. needed to reach the bottom. If using a high low rig, make sure you are using fresh clam or squid to assure the best attractant for fish to attack. Tog are also being caught on the wrecks with lots of shorts and a few keepers. Double Trouble Charters' Captain DJ Churchill stated the bite has been pretty good lately, with many anglers limiting out. He advised anglers to follow his advice and release the big spawning females. John Coffey was on the "Fish Bound Charters" and he and crew landed limits of tog, releasing several big females full of eggs.

### Surf Fishing

Surf fishing has been on fire on Assateague Island. Several large black drum along with over slot rockfish have been taken from the beach. Ron Loeffler was using sand fleas and an 8 oz. weight and landed a nice black drum. Ronald Marquez checked big ugly off his bucket list. The big fish took a fresh clam sand flea combo. Kristen D'Amore Benk fished at the MD/VA line when he landed his drum on sand fleas. Parker Steele found a couple fish willing to bite his offering fishing the island last Tuesday. Ian Hinman got it done using a 7/0 circle hook on a high low rig while fishing a falling tide with cut sooks. Dylan Fogle and Daniel Hubbard had another successful trip landing 2 black drum. The fish came on an incoming tide and the second was at a slack high tide. Connie Alderfer caught a nice drum while fishing the beach with cracked crab. (His sons were more excited than he was!) Chris Jenkins stated, "he had one day to make it happen" and

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he scored. The big black drum was successfully reeled to the beach and invited home. Billie Thomas had a good trip last Sunday bringing in his second drum of the year. Jimmy Sands stated "it was tough to let the big 36" striper go", but safely released the over slot fish. The fish was caught using a high low rig tipped with sand fleas. Yusof Amireh was fishing with his two sons on the north side of Assateague Island when they hooked into and landed an over slot rockfish. Sean McNelis finally landed his first ever black drum. The fish was hooked 20 minutes after setting his lines. Great job Sean! Dennis Kaler had a pretty good day on the beach landing both a rockfish and shark while soaking sand fleas on a high low rig. Both fish were released unharmed. Alessandra Calcara and son had a beautiful day on the beach, which was made even better by catching a 26 lb drum. Chris Taylaor fished 4

days in a row. The first day he caught one and lost one. Day 2 his friend Georgie caught one and lost 2. Day 3 Chris caught one. The 4th day they fished all morning and had to wait till late afternoon before catching the final one. These guys really seem to have drum fishing dialed in. Great job guys! Ben Witmer and wife Charlene fished the beach on Friday afternoon. Charlene was able to land her first ever black drum 5 minutes after their setting up. The couple ended up with a total of 3 fish before dark. That's one hell of an afternoon fishing! Steve Wenn was also out Friday and landed one drum, one stingray, and 10 skates (not too shabby). These fish will soon be moving into the DE Bay to spawn and then leaving for cooler water way up north. So you have maybe two more weeks before these big uglies are gone till September.

Until next week  
Tight Lines and Fins Up !



Rich 'Delicious' Daiker must be training for the upcoming Bluefish Tournament at Bahia Marina this June. This 31" bluefish caught at the Inlet at an estimated 11 lbs. would be a real contender.



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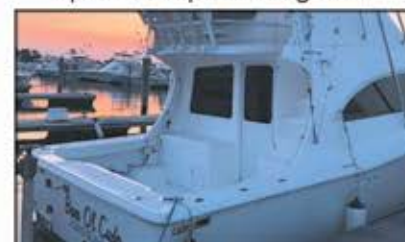
### PRIME HOOK

37' Sunny Briggs  
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### UNDAUNTED

37' Topaz Express  
Capt. Beau Fibelkorn  
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### HOOKED UP

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Capt. Brian Ludwig  
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### SPORTY

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Capt. Dan Iacangelo  
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The Oceanic Fishing Pier is always a great place to get in on the action at the Ocean City Inlet. Regular angler, Bob Haltmeier was there in late April and hooked this 19" tog using sand fleas.



Dave Borrell's excitement is clear with his hat trick of three flounders ranging between 16" to 18". White grubs were on the menu for these flatfish that came from the Thorofare.

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You can also mail a check to Coastal Fisherman • 12703 Sunset Avenue Ste. 8 • Ocean City, MD 21842





While fishing for flounder, Mike Ahlfeldt caught the first sheephead of the season on the "Storm Damage". This 21" anomaly must have gotten lost as it is an early season catch for convicts in the Thorofare! Mike brought in this fish using an orange Deadly Double and white gulp.

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Melissa and Olivia Brozefsky spent this past Mother’s Day on the water and brought back this 47 lbs. black drum. Hopefully this was a much better Mother’s Day gift than your typical candle. Pictured at Lewis Harbour Marina.















Evan Donohue pulled in this rockfish just outside the limit coming in at 33”. Evan brought this striper onto the shores of Assateague during a dead low tide using sand fleas.

2025

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> 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 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 12" minimum</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> 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>

eregulations.com





Andy Dripps' first attempt at tautog fishing was a success bringing home three keepers that he caught on the south jetty wall.



Joey Marowski and his Mother, Kim Marowski, enjoyed Mother's Day weekend together catching their limit of flounder. The mother son duo used gulf and shiners, at the Thorofare.

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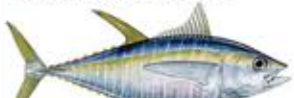











# HEAVIEST

## Fish of the Year

2025

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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 		 <b>May 11</b> Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	<b>Weakfish</b> 		 <b>January 8</b> Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
<b>Black Drum</b> 		 <b>May 8</b> Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 		
<b>Cobia</b> 			<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	<b>January 1</b> Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
<b>Flounder</b> 		<b>April 27</b> Carter Frackerton Indian River Bay 2.6 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 			<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sheepshead</b> 			<b>Dolphin</b> 		
<b>Striped Bass</b> 			<b>Swordfish</b> 		
<b>Tautog</b> 	 <b>March 28</b> Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 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)





Angler Stephanie Van Gasbeck took advantage of the striper hot streak on Assateague’s beaches catching ‘a mess of,’ stripers ranging from 32”-39” as well as multiple black drum reaching up to 36”.



# TOURNAMENT SERIES

## — 2025 SCHEDULE —

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

### UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

#### 46th ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT

Registration: June 20, 6:30-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 21 & 22  
Weigh-Ins: June 21 & 22, 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

#### 43rd ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF \*

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



#### 21st ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC \*

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation  
Registration: July 18, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 19 & 20  
Weigh-Ins: July 19, 3:00-6:30pm and July 20, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

#### 17th ANNUAL FRANKY PETTOLINA "HEELS & REELS" TOURNAMENT \*

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund  
Registration: July 31, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 1 & 2  
Weigh-Ins: August 1 & 2  
5:30-7:30pm at Fisherman's Marina

#### 2ND ANNUAL LABOR DAY INVITATIONAL

Registration: August 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 of 3) August 29, 30 & 31  
NO WEIGH-INS:  
This is strictly a release tournament.  
Release reports MUST be turned in to OCMC Clubhouse on your fishing day BY 8:00PM

#### 45th ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: Sept. 10, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) Sept. 11, 12 & 13  
NO WEIGH-INS  
Release reports turned in nightly to OCMC Clubhouse 6:00PM - 8:00PM

### Check for Updates on our WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On the Run" charters based at the Bahia Marina is always one of the first boats out for the season. He had several charters in mid April catching nice sized flounder in the south Ocean City bay.



Mike Kazmierczak's flounder may not be the largest, but it was the first one for the season aboard the bay boat "Tortuga" based at the Bahia Marina. Good omens for the season.

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**410-213-2200**

**INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:**

- Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
- If you are using a cell phone, make sure it is taking photos at the largest setting possible
- Shoot vertical photos & always Smile!



# FISHING CHARTERS



One of the last trips in North Carolina before returning to the Ocean City Fishing Center was very productive for the charter boat "Wrecker". They put 12 yellowfin tuna in the box and boated a nice sized speedster. Good action in NC this time of year is a good sign that the tuna will be here soon.

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Fishing out of Sunset Marina Slip C-17 ... [pumpinhardsportfishingcharters.com](http://pumpinhardsportfishingcharters.com)



# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound" based at the Talbot Street Pier has been hitting the tog hard finding limit catches including some double digit fish.



We knew the first tog of the season was probably caught in January during our off season! Thanks to Capt. Kane Bounds for helping out by reporting this blackfish to us that was caught by Anthony Emmrick Sr.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



The bay boat "Tortuga" based at the Bahia Marina is finding a lot of keeper flounder action in the back bays of Ocean City. This Mother's Day trip took advantage of the nice weather and the bite!



Salisbury natives Robert & Carrie Webster with Dawn Simpson had a productive day aboard the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Wyatt Bostic. This batch of blackfish were caught off of Stinky Beach using green crabs. The largest was 18 1/2".

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Jake Stuckey, Ivan Koretic, Bushman and Jake Horton knocked down some fish on this trip to an inshore structure. They got a 4 man limit of 16 tog up to 19" and a 16½" flounder using sand fleas.



You can see the pride 9 year old Ronin Jehl of Wilmington, DE has showing off this 34" bluefish at Old Inlet Bait & Tackle. He was fishing off the sands of Fenwick Island when the snapper hit on a lure. At 10 lbs. 14 oz. it is the current Heaviest for the year! Always weigh your fish!

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Bryn Hermann and her proud dad Allen Hermann, of Ocean Pines, MD, with a 24" striped bass. Bryn caught her fish on a bucktail at the Ocean City Inlet. Though the fish is not a keeper, the memory sure is.





**WATCH**

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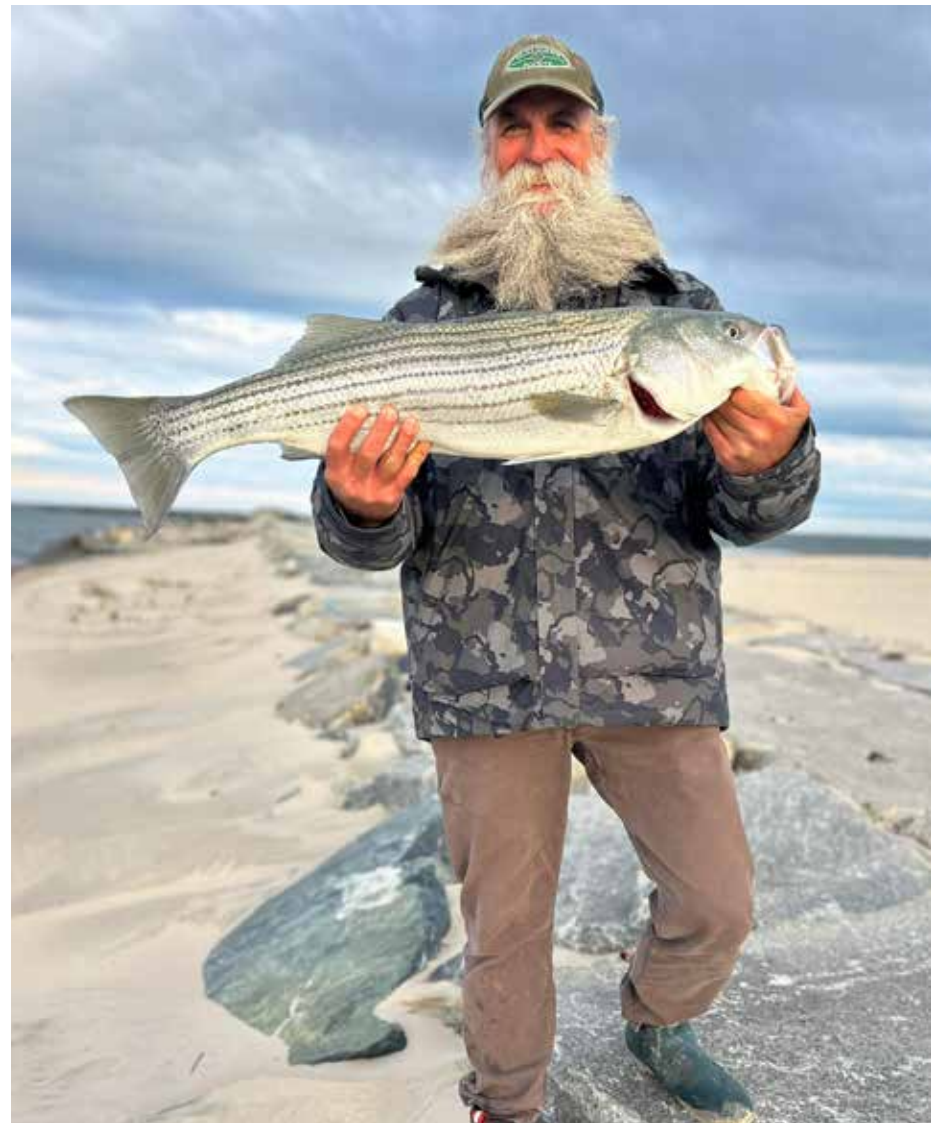


**@HOOKEDONOC**





84 year old angler Birt Webley has taken up his summer residency at the Oceanic Fishing Pier! On this early May trip he pulled a tog out of the Ocean City Inlet that measured 18" and tipped the scale to 4 pounds.



Shaun Flaherty (aka Nature Boy) was back on the rocks at the north end of Assateague Island. He was fishing with his trusty Roy Rigs and caught and released a number of over the slot rocks including this one at 35".

# 2025 MARYLAND • DELAWARE • VIRGINIA CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	MD	DE **	VA		MD	DE **	VA
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	<b>SHARK:</b>			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	<b>TUNA:</b>			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

\*\* DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

\*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements

eregulations.com





Angler Dave Weller took advantage of the summer like weather on the last few days of May to get on the water. He boated this 23" flounder using a white Gulp and minnow combo in the Thorofare on the "Turn Me Loose".

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Capt. Jake Shaffer



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Capt. Mark Malamphy



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Capt. Chris Watkowski



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Capt. David Midgett



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Dan S. Pogonowski got some good tips from a Facebook group and used them to land his first striper from the beach at Assateague Island. This one hit on double sand fleas on a circle hook during an outgoing tide. At 32" is was just over the slot so it got returned to swim another day.



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*Chuck Bartholme*

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Jim Osborne had a good day at the Wall his man Dave English. The pair caught about 35 fish with 5 keepers. Some nice fish, one was 19" and they had a couple of 18 inchers.



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**THE 38TH ANNUAL OCEAN CITY**  
*Tuna Tournament*

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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware brought us a strong west wind causing low blow out style tides in the back bay and dirty nearshore waters. Fishing is continuing to improve as the water warms and fish begin to return to the area after the cold winter months. The back bays and inlets are producing a lot more fish than in previous weeks with rockfish, blues and now even a few trout being found along the rocks in the evening on the higher tides. Tog are venturing closer to the beach and can be found on most wrecks now along with a couple of flounder. Sea bass season will open on Thursday May 15th and should see waters in an agreeable range for a good harvest much to the delight of anglers. Black drum are still being caught along the beach as well as the big breeders being found on the DE Bay shoals.

### Back Bays and Inlets

The back bays and inlets are improving daily with big bluefish and stripers being found along the rocks of Indian River Inlet each night,

hungry to strike a paddle tail or cut bait tossed by eager anglers. Flounder still appear to be in deeper water but are beginning to show up more regularly. The Delaware Bay is one of the biggest breeding areas for the black drum and has began to show the big cows moving in to begin their breeding ritual for the year. Large females between 50 and 80 pounds are on the shoals near the mouth of the bay. Fresh surf clams, sand fleas, and fish bite strips in crab or clam flavors are the best baits for targeting these huge fish. A simple fish finder rig with a sliding 6-8 oz sinker and 40 pound mono leader tipped with a 6/0 hook is the best rig for targeting these spawning fish. A few fresh clams can be dropped into the water to draw the fish close and then the main bait on hook can be placed behind the boat resting on the bottom. If you have never caught a trophy black, be aware the larger fish over 50 pounds do contain a worm parasite which becomes more prevalent as the fish grows. The parasite is a

natural occurrence and is not harmful to fish or humans, however many anglers lose their desire upon seeing the worms while fileting the fish. Jamie Watson checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with a big 52 pound Black drum he caught using fresh clams in the bay. 'Master Sportfishing' said the drum are booming in the bay and several clients have brought in fish over 50 pounds. The big uglies will only be here for a short time so get out soon to capitalize on the action. Charlie Keller also got in on the breeding bay action landing a nice 25 pound black on clam and sand fleas. Fenwick Tackle had Jim Thompson checking in with a 40" rockfish (released), as well as a 28" black drum which he invited home for dinner. Sand fleas tipped with fish bites (sand flea flavored) did the trick for both fish. Lex Hons fished the bay and caught a couple big drum on clams. On the outer wall of the bay Zac Johnson caught a limit of tog with several shorts. Trevor and Terry each got a nice drum from the bay weighing 42 and

30 lbs respectively.

Back at the south pocket of Indian River Inlet, TJ Mull caught a nice slammer bluefish on a cut mullet. The fish was checked in at Old Inlet Tackle. Jose Luis Aparicio got his first keeper flounder off the rocks at IR Inlet. The nice 17.5 inch fish fell to a white gulp. Tony Walls was fishing the slack tide along the rocks at the inlet and hauled in a 17" tog. Tod Furster stated the guy down from him pulled in a 20" one. Dave Evens and group fished the back bays of IR and landed 2 keeper flounder along with 2 keeper tog.

Up In Lewes Canal Brian Blackney had a good week landing 4 keeper flounder along with several shorts. Rich Morgan fished off the docks of the canal and landed a huge early season 24 inch, 5 pound 11 oz fluke using a minnow rig. The canal also provided Jay Shinn with 3 keepers and a few more shorts. Matthew Soen housed 2 nice fish in the ice box along with a few throwbacks. Squid /minnow combos are taking most of the keeper flatfish from the canal. EJ Turner pulled in the first weakfish I've seen this year. The fat fish was full of eggs and safely released. Jim Hichens weighed in the first weakfish at 2.41 lbs.

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Nearshore fishing is still slow with sea bass season not opening till the 15th, however Jay Shinn did manage 3 keeper fluke this past week. Young Finley Cleveland caught a 19", 2.2 lb flounder fishing just outside of IR Inlet. Matt Brough caught a limit of tog on structure but returned the females to spawn, looking to save the big breeders for the fall. 'Bad Wind Charters' used their clacker rigs to land a limit of fish from ocean structure. Although not easy, the crew persevered and got the job done.

### Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is producing several large black drum as well as over slot rockfish on both clams as well as sand fleas. Keith Liller fished the drive on and landed a big over slot rockfish last Thursday eve. Mike Mikalonis landed a 47" black off Fenwick beach on sand fleas. Jo Jo fished the Cape Henlopen Pier with mullet and shrimp, landing a big bluefish. Ben Fisher finally got his first drum of the year using fresh clams. Ted Proseus went 2-3 on big bluefish while fishing the Fenwick beach last Wednesday.

### Clams and Crabs

As the water warms, the clams are being found closer to the water of their sandy homes. Many anglers are finding clams just below the sandy bottom and easy to rake up. Crabbing remains fairly slow with an average of 5-7 keepers per pot or around 25 crabs per 4 pots. I have found that each pot contains between 25-35 crabs per pot with most being juvenile crabs or egg bearing females. Probably one or two sheds from now and all the crabs will reach mature keeper size. Bunker is still the preferred bait.

Until next week

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Rebecca Young reports that she is still learning to surf fish. Looks to us that she is doing just fine after landing this big bluefish at Assateague Island, an exciting catch to be sure.

2025

# DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

 <b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31	 <b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter	 <b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 3 per person/day	 <b>COBIA</b> 43" Minimum • 2 per person or 2 per vessel
 <b>CROAKER</b> 8" Minimum • 50 per person/per day	 <b>RED DRUM</b> 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day	 <b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No limit	 <b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 12" minimum No creel limit
 <b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day <u>Catch &amp; Release only from</u> 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds	 <b>SUMMER FLOUNDER</b> 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"	 <b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31	 <b>WEAKFISH</b> 13" minimum 1 per person/day

eregulations.com





Master angler David Moore spent Sunday on Assateague Island targeting rockfish. He reported a slow morning but his persistence was rewarded when a school passed through for about 45 minutes. He beached 4 including this 49 incher! The other 3 were between 36" and 38".



Stefan Talabisco (aka The Freak) took his freak down from Ocean City to Wanchese, NC to hook up with Capt. Scott Stapleford on the charter boat "Game On". He hit the yellowfin tuna hard which is a good sign for our fishery.

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## Sip with Confidence: A Guide to Testing Your Drinking Water

It is becoming increasingly common for Sportfish boat owners to rely on their freshwater systems for drinking water. While traditionally, many boaters opted for bottled water, this can be costly, consume valuable storage space, and generate a significant amount of waste.

The advancements in water makers and secondary freshwater reverse osmosis processing systems like Spot Zero have given most captains and crew confidence in the cleanliness of the water entering their storage tanks. However, the integrity of these systems can be compromised if tanks and plumbing are not properly

maintained or are susceptible to contamination, particularly during periods of inactivity in the off-season or extended stays in tropical environments.

I recently experienced this firsthand while working with a captain in Costa Rica who was encountering water pressure issues on a large Sportfish boat. By tracing the plumbing lines, we located the primary filter, and upon removal by the captain, he was astonished (visibly sickened) by the extensive biological growth. He had been drinking the tap water, unaware of the contamination that had developed after the boat sat idle for a few months.

It was clear that a simple filter change would not suffice; the entire system required decontamination due to growth



within the lines and clogging aerators. This involved a lengthy and repeated cleaning process, following guidelines from organizations like the United States EPA or the World Health Organization for potable water systems. The captain mentioned above indicated that he had successfully used a two-step water system cleaner made by Thetford for this purpose.

If you have a water tank with clear water that you simply want to make sure it is safe to drink or use for human contact (hand washing, laundry, etc.), then you can follow the protocol for emergency disinfection of drinking water. In that case, the correct ratio of bleach is 1 teaspoon Clorox® or another brand Disinfecting Bleach per 7 gallons of water (or for a smaller size container, 4 drops per quart). Stir the bleach into the water and let stand for 30 minutes. Properly treated water should have a slight chlorine odor—if not, repeat the dosage and let stand an additional 15 minutes.

To clean out a dirty water tank, thoroughly flush the tank using

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a bleach solution made with 1/3 cup Clorox® Disinfecting Bleach or another brand per 3 gallons water (a 500ppm bleach solution). As an example of how much bleach solution

you will need to clean a tank, here is one example: to make approximately 9 gallons of bleach solution, then you would start with 9 gallons of water, and then add 1 cup bleach. After flushing the tank with the 500ppm bleach solution for 5 minutes, then rinse with a 10ppm bleach solution (1 teaspoon bleach per 10 gallons of water). You can get some chlorine test strips to confirm the bleach concentration of the solutions you mix up. These can usually be found at pool supply stores.

With the prevalence of freshwater RO systems like Spot Zero, many boats now have small electronic testers (\$25) to measure TDS (total dissolved solids), which are crucial for identifying minerals that can cause water spots. However, it is important to note that TDS measurements alone do not indicate drinking water quality, other essential aspects of drinking water, such as the presence of chlorine, alkalinity, pH, or, most importantly, bacteria.

While processing water through an RO system can

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remove most minerals, chemicals and bacteria may still be present. UV lights are often integrated into treatment systems to eliminate bacteria, but these are typically installed before the freshwater tank. Consequently, any bacteria that develop within the tank or lines after this point can still proliferate.

Fortunately, a variety of DIY on-board water testing systems are available, with basic options including test strips like those used for pools. These kits fall into two categories: testing for minerals, pH, etc., and others

that specifically detect bacteria, including E. coli, which is a contaminant from sewage and not removed by reverse osmosis.

Bacterial test kits cost approximately \$15 per test and require up to 24 hours for results to develop, while more comprehensive chemical/mineral kits cost about \$1 per test with immediate results. If your boat's freshwater system is used for drinking, cooking, and bathing, regular water testing is highly recommended to ensure acceptable water quality and safeguard your health.



George Frigm brought back a 22½ lbs. 34" black drum and four bluefish with the largest being 3 lbs. 18" to Hook'Em & Cook'Em In South Bethany to be weighed. George reeled these fish in with whole mullet on an incoming tide at Fenwick State Park.

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# THE GALLEY

## Baked Flounder with Parmesan Crumbs

### Ingredients:

4 flounder fillets (2 pounds total)

3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup coarse fresh bread crumbs

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted



Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425°F. In a large baking dish, season the fish fillets with salt and pepper.

Mix the parmesan with the breadcrumbs, melted butter, and olive oil.

Sprinkle the parmesan and breadcrumb mixture over the fillets. Bake for 15 minutes, or until the fish is cooked and the topping is golden.

Let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

## Savory Grilled Black Drum

### Ingredients:

4 black drum fillets

1 lemon, juiced

1 tablespoon garlic powder

1 tablespoon onion powder

2 teaspoons paprika

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried basil

Salt and pepper to taste

Olive oil

www.coastalfisherman.net  
with the herb spice mixture and salt and pepper to taste.

Brush the grill grates with olive oil. Place the fillets onto the grates and cook for 3 minutes on each side, until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

Serve the fillets and enjoy!

## Pan Seared Striped Bass

### Ingredients:

8 ounce striped bass (2 fillets)

1 tablespoon flour Use gluten-free all purpose flour if needed.

Pinch of salt, pepper

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 tablespoons butter, divided

1 lemon, juiced

1 tablespoon capers

Small handful fresh herbs, such as fresh rosemary, chives, or oregano

### Directions:

Pat bass fillets dry. Dust with flour, and shake off any excess. Sprinkle them on both sides with salt and pepper.

Prepare a heavy pan with the olive oil and 1 tablespoon butter. Heat on medium-high until butter is melted but not browned, then turn the heat down to medium.

Place the fillets skin-side down in the pan and cook about 4 minutes. (If your fillets don't have skin, it doesn't matter which side you cook first.)

Don't touch the fillets until they're ready to flip.

Use a thin metal spatula to test the fish. If you can slide the spatula under the fish without the fish sticking to the pan, it's ready to flip. If the fillets won't release, give them another 30 seconds. They'll release when they've finished cooking.

After flipping, divide the remaining 1 tablespoon butter over both fillets.

Cook fish another 2-3 minutes until done. (Thicker fillets will take longer than thin fillets.) Fish will be golden on both the



### Directions:

Preheat the grill to medium-high heat.

In a shallow bowl, combine garlic powder, onion powder, paprika, oregano, thyme, and basil. Mix until well combined.

Brush the fillets with the lemon juice, then season both sides

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top and bottom and opaque all the way through when finished cooking.

Transfer the fish to plates, leaving the excess butter in the pan. Cover fish to keep warm, or set fish in a 200°F oven.

Reduce heat to medium. Add the lemon juice and capers, and stir with a wooden spoon. Add half the herbs and stir again.

Serve fish hot with pan sauce and remaining herbs.

### Lobster Mac and Cheese

Ingredients:

6 small fresh lobster tails (1 1/2 pounds total)

8 tablespoons (4 ounces) unsalted butter, divided, plus more for greasing baking dish

1 small (5 ounces) yellow onion, sliced (3/4 cup)

3 cloves garlic, sliced

1 (6-inch) thyme sprig, plus thyme leaves for garnish

1 cup dry white wine

2 cups whole milk

1 cup heavy whipping cream

2 (6-inch) tarragon sprigs, plus tarragon leaves for garnish

1 pound uncooked short curly pasta (such as cavatappi or campanelle)

1/3 cup (about 1 1/2 ounces) all-purpose flour

12 ounces fontina cheese grated (about 3 cups)

6 ounces Gruyère cheese, grated (about 1 1/2 cups)

8 ounces mascarpone cheese

1 1/2 teaspoons soy sauce

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 teaspoon ground mustard

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

3/4 cup panko (Japanese-style breadcrumbs)

1 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated (about 1/4 cup)

1 teaspoon grated lemon zest (from 1 lemon)

1/2 teaspoon paprika

Directions:

Grease a 3-quart, 13- x 9-inch baking dish with butter; set aside. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over medium-high. Add lobster tails; cook, undisturbed, until shells turn red but meat is still slightly translucent, about 2 minutes (lobster should be undercooked). Using tongs, transfer lobster to a large bowl; let cool 5 minutes. Transfer 2 cups of the cooking water to a heatproof measuring cup and set aside; reserve remaining water in pot on stovetop. Using kitchen shears, and working over the bowl to catch any juices, cut down the center of each lobster tail shell, transfer meat to a cutting board, and add shells to bowl. Remove and discard digestive tract from the lobster tails. Chop lobster meat into 1-inch pieces and place in a medium bowl; cover and refrigerate.

Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a large saucepan over medium-high. Add reserved lobster shells with any juices from bowl; cook, stirring often, until aromatic, about 2 minutes. Add onion, garlic, and thyme sprig; cook, stirring often, until onion is soft and translucent, about 3 minutes. Add wine; cook, stirring often, until almost dry, about 6



minutes. Stir in reserved 2 cups cooking water in measuring glass, and bring to a simmer over medium. Simmer, stirring occasionally, until reduced by half, about 15 minutes. Stir in milk, cream, and tarragon sprigs; cook over medium-low, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Pour through a fine mesh strainer into a large heatproof bowl; discard solids. There should be about 4 cups lobster stock; set aside. Wipe saucepan

clean; set aside. Preheat oven to 400°F.

While lobster stock reduces, return remaining lobster cooking water in large pot to a boil over high. Add pasta and cook for 1 minute less than package instructions for slightly less than al dente. Drain and set aside.

Melt 4 tablespoons of the butter in cleaned saucepan over medium until foamy. Whisk in flour; cook, whisking

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constantly, until bubbly and light golden brown, about 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in reserved 4 cups strained milk mixture. Cook, whisking often, until thickened, 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from heat; gradually whisk in fontina and Gruyère, whisking until melted. Add mascarpone and whisk until smooth. Stir in soy sauce, pepper, mustard, and nutmeg. Gently stir in cooked pasta and lobster meat. Spoon mixture into prepared baking dish; set aside.

Microwave remaining 2 tablespoons butter in a medium-size microwavable bowl on HIGH until melted, about 30 seconds. Stir in panko, Parmesan, lemon zest, and paprika. Sprinkle evenly over mac and cheese mixture in baking dish. Bake in preheated oven until bubbly and light golden on top, about 20 minutes. Remove from oven; let stand 10 minutes. Garnish with thyme leaves and tarragon leaves and serve.

## Quick & Easy Crab Pasta

### Ingredients:

1/2 lbs linguine, spaghetti or pasta of your choice  
3 tbsp unsalted butter  
2 cloves garlic  
1/3 cup dry white wine  
1/2 lemon, juice only  
1 cup ready to eat crab meat  
1/2 cup finely grated fresh parmesan cheese, not pre-grated cheese  
2 tbsp chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper to taste

### Directions:

Cook the linguine in a large pot of salted, boiling water according to package instructions.

Five minutes before the pasta is ready, set a large pan over low heat and melt the butter, add sliced garlic and sauté for 1 minute over very low heat without coloring it, then pour



in white wine and lemon juice, turn the heat up to medium and let it reduce for a couple of minutes.

Stir in the cooked crab meat and take it off the heat. Drain the pasta once cooked and reserve 1/2 cup of pasta water. Add the pasta to the pan with the crab meat and toss to combine, add half of the reserved of pasta water and freshly grated Parmesan cheese, stir over low heat until the cheese melts and coats the pasta. If the pasta is a bit dry, add a splash of pasta water. Your pasta dish should be loose but not swimming in sauce, just lightly coated. Salt to taste. Sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving.

## Flounder in Jalapeno Cream

### Ingredients:

2 scallions, white parts only, chopped  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
1 -2 tablespoon jalapeno, chopped (including seeds)  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/2 teaspoon salt



4 (6 -8 oz.) flounder fillets  
1/8 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 cup grape tomatoes, quartered  
1 tablespoon cilantro

### Directions:

In a large skillet over medium heat cook the scallions in the butter until softened (3-5 minutes). Add jalapeno, cream and 1/4 teaspoon salt and bring to a simmer.

Pat fish dry then sprinkle with pepper and remaining salt (1/4 teaspoon).

Fold each fillet in half crosswise and place in sauce and cook at a simmer until fish is cooked through (5-10 minutes). Transfer fish to a platter and keep warm.

Add tomatoes and cilantro to sauce in skillet and cook over medium low heat until heated through (1 minute).

Spoon sauce over fish and serve.

## 10 Minute Honey Garlic Shrimp

### Ingredients:

1 lbs shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1 tbsp light soy sauce  
1 tbsp cornstarch  
2 tbsp vegetable oil  
3-4 cloves garlic  
1 tbsp ginger paste or grated ginger  
4 tbsp honey  
1/4 tsp chili flakes, optional  
2 green onions, for garnish

### Directions:

In a medium bowl combine the soy sauce and cornstarch, then add the shrimp and toss to combine. Set aside till needed. (This method is called "velveting" in Chinese cooking and is used to protect delicate meat like shrimp and chicken from drying out during cooking.)

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Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan and cook minced garlic with ginger for no longer than 30 seconds over medium heat, then add the shrimp and cook for 1-2 minutes on each side depending on the size of the shrimp.

Pour in honey and chili flakes if using, toss to coat the shrimp and take off the heat. Sprinkle with sliced green onions for garnish. Serve over rice or as a starter.

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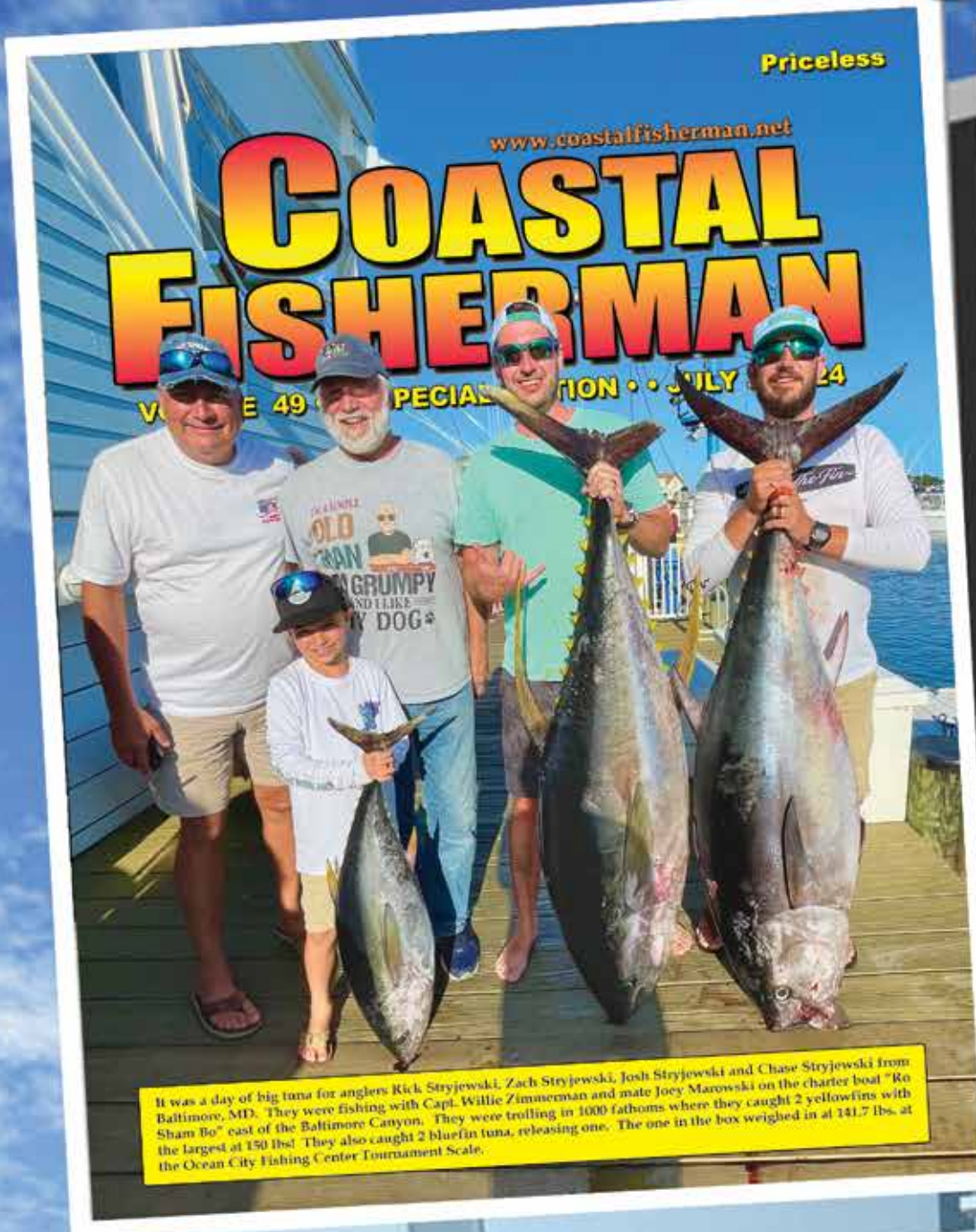
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Nick Lerman, of Berlin, MD, pulled this 36" striped bass, on the Route 50 Bridge. Lerman dropped a 5" swim bait into the bay during an outgoing tide. Unfortunately over the slot, but without a doubt a good looking fish.



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Mike Austill, from Reading, PA, took a page out of the flounder's book and used camouflage to stay hidden. Besides the camo, Mike used minnows to bring in these 18¾" and 19¾" flukes, from the Thorofare.



Moving north from the busy weekend of Assateague's shore to one of Delaware's beaches, Mark Chambers pulled up this nice black drum. Mark's bait of choice for this trip were shrimp and sand fleas.

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- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

*Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.*

- Have the angler facing into the sun to minimize shadows
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available
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# FIRST

## 2025

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

Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
<b>Bluefish</b> 	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	<b>Weakfish</b> 	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
<b>Black Drum</b> 	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 		May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
<b>Cobia</b> 		June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
<b>Flounder</b> 	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
<b>Sea Bass</b> 		May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 		May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	May 8 Brian Brannan Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	<b>Dolphin</b> 		May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	<b>Swordfish</b> 		June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
<b>Tautog</b> 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
<b>Wahoo</b> 		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	<b>White Marlin</b> 		June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon

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





Young angler, Finley Cleveland, proudly shows off her 19" 2.2 lbs flounder. Finley was using live minnows and caught this fluke, in the Indian River Inlet. Photographed at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



Brothers Ryan and Liam G. from Pasadena, MD headed to the sands of Assateague Island to target black drum. Liam (left) caught this 31 inch using live sand fleas on an 8/0 circle hook and a fish finder rig.

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**3rd Annual  
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**32nd Annual  
Capt. Steve Harman's  
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**20TH Annual  
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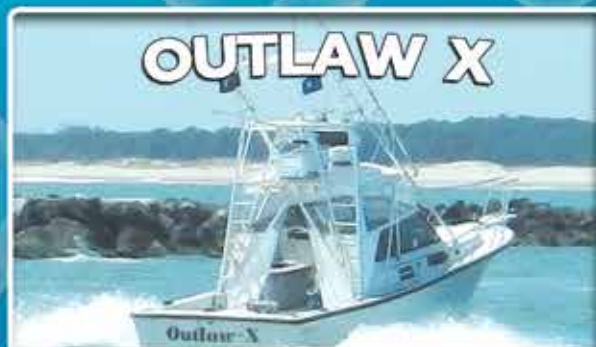
**48' Ocean Yacht**  
Capt. Robert Grimes 443-864-7681

## JACKED UP



**45' Ocean**  
Capts. Dean Metcalfe 717-404-3331  
& Nick Skidmore 717-615-0644

## OUTLAW X



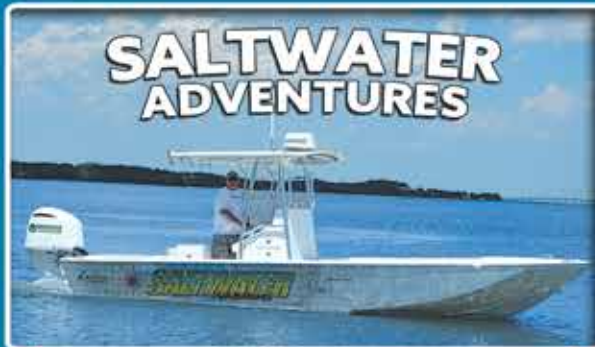
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Joe Norvell hanging out with his 44" 48.4 lbs. black drum. Joe was fishing, in the Delaware Bay, and was using clams. Photo taken at Rick's Bait and Tackle.



Big Bird Cropper hit the slot with this striper. Big Bird said, "saw a lot of [keepers] being caught and I got mine." Keeper stripers seemed to be uncommon this week, but not for Big Bird.

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OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES		
WED. MAY 14	High 09:40 am High 10:12 pm	Low 03:49 am Low 03:17 pm
THUR. MAY 15	High 10:20 am High 10:52pm	Low 04:27 am Low 03:55 pm
FRI. MAY 16	High 11:01 am High 11:33 pm	Low 05:09 am Low 04:38 pm
SAT. MAY 17	High 11:44 am High _____	Low 05:54 am Low 05:27 pm
SUN. MAY 18	High 12:18 am High 12:32 pm	Low 06:41 am Low 06:22 pm
MON. MAY 19	High 01:07 am High 01:27 pm	Low 07:30 am Low 02:22 pm
TUE. MAY 20 3rd Qtr. Moon	High 02:01 am High 02:31 pm	Low 08:20 am Low 08:26 pm
WED. MAY 21	High 02:59 am High 03:35 pm	Low 09:10 am Low 09:32 pm
source: usharbors.com		
<p>Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.</p> <p>Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide</p> <p>Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide - subtract 45 minutes to low tide</p> <p>Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide - 21 minutes for low tide</p> <p>Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide</p> <p><i>These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.</i></p>		



# VIRGINIA

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



April showers bring May “FLOUNDERS”... or something like that. Some warm weather and more conducive conditions have led to a “BLOOM” of Eastern Shore fishing that is sure to bring smiles to fishermen, followed by forkfuls of flavorful fillets. It doesn’t matter if you are searching for a seaside trophy or bursting for a bayside beast, all you have to do is cast a line for some “REEL” eastern shore action.

The flounder action is off the hook... or maybe on the hook would be a better use of words. The water temperature has crept up allowing for decent fishing on both tides. The most important environmental component for a successful seaside excursion is finding waters with low turbidity. Clean conditions are necessary to bring these sight

feeding predators to the side of the boat. To aid in making baits more visible and tempting, rigs sporting jigs, teasers and spinners like the Sea Hawk flounder ring or Deadly Tackles “Deadly Double” help get your line tight. The rigs can be enhanced with strips of squid, or gulp swimming mullet curltails and tipped with silversides and big bull minnows. The best colors have been a mix of white, chartreuse and pink (pink has been a little better for us) . Bites have been most concentrated in 2’ to 12’ depths in the seaside bays of the VA Barrier Islands from Wachapreague to Chincoteague. While there has been an abundance of short fish, there have been plenty of keepers with some trophy fish mixed in. Definitely some fantastic floundering fun.

The middle Chesapeake has

kept a quick tempo thanks to the beating of huge black and red drum. The big blacks have engaged in battle with anglers on some of the many oyster rocks of the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds in depths of 12-25 feet of water. These bar-baled black bullies have taken chunks of peeler crabs deployed on 6/0-8/0 circle hooks with fish finders. The shallows have produced REEL good red bites on similar rigs with soft crab or peeler fished along the edges of grassy flats and stump beds. In addition to some trophy bronzed bulls, there has also been some catch and release rocking and the first of this years speckled trout in the same areas and on the same baits.

The southern bay has continued to offer good black and red drumming. Anglers have bottom fished the blacks in typical spring

time stops like Latimer Shoals and the Cabbage Patch with clams. Elsewhere, reds have been battled to the boat around the shoals of Smith or Fisherman’s as well as the CBBT where shoals of big bronze bulls have been spotted.

The suds have been the scene of spots and stripes as a mix of reds, blacks and rock have been wrestled through the whitewater. Sand fleas and peelers have been the pull to attract these big beasts for a real test of pullage with surf anglers.













This week we give thanks to the Mothers who keep our families together and make it possible to enjoy our passions. Grab that special lady, hook up the boat and give her the best Mother’s Day present ever...Take her fishing. What else could our beautiful ladies possibly want to do to enjoy this wonderful place we call home!

\*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*. This fishing report is known to the state of the Eastern Shore to cause marital harm. Please use with CAUTION!

2025

# VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - 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> 43" minimum / Only 1&gt;50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</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> 4 per person/day All Year 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 &amp; 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

eregulations.com





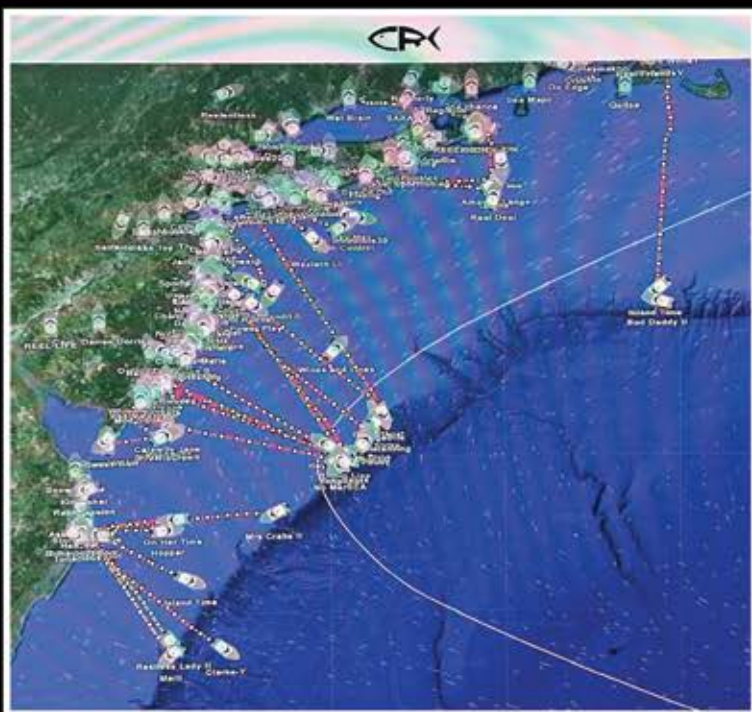
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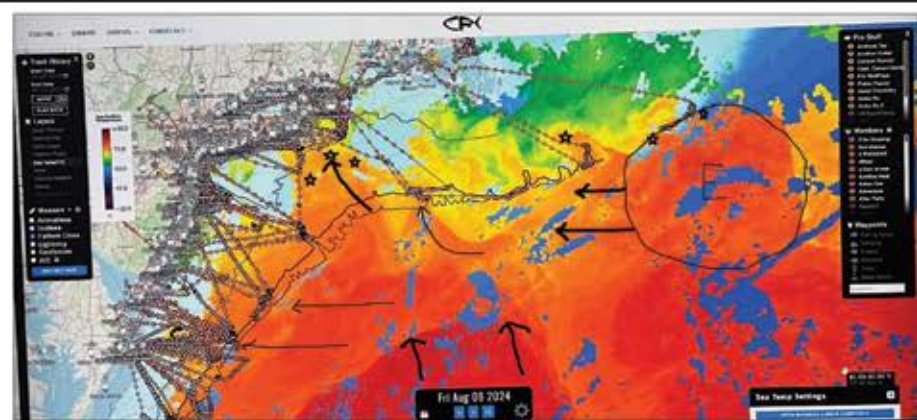
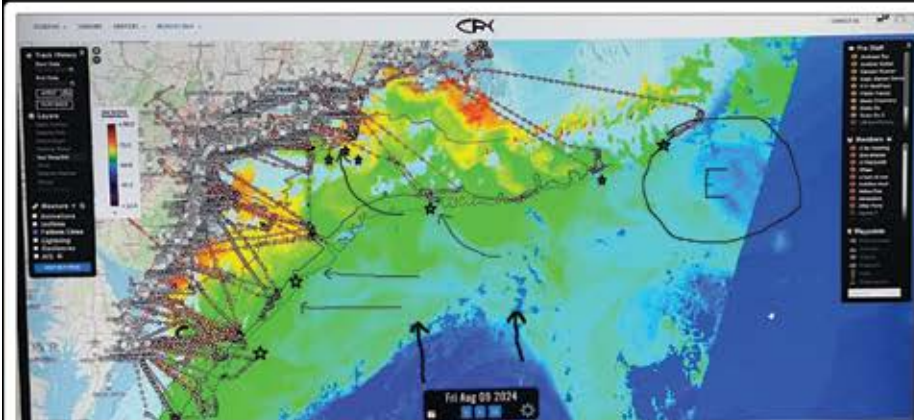
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