

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Hugh Thomas Cropper landed this impressive golden tilefish—estimated at 45 to 50 lbs.—while fishing Washington Canyon aboard the “Myra HT.” Using electric reels and bluefish for bait, Hugh Thomas was joined by Capt. Hugh Cropper, mate JL Cropper, and friend Marshall Mumford. The crew also hauled in several other golden tiles, sea bass, and some greys while dropping in 650 feet of water. Just as the bite turned on, the “Myra HT” was surprised by a 185-foot research vessel, the “RV Endeavor” out of Rhode Island, which was surveying for methane gas—adding an unexpected twist to an already exciting day offshore.



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The central advertisement is a large blue rectangle with the Atlantic Tackle logo and text. It is surrounded by a collage of smaller images: top left shows colorful fishing lures; top center shows the exterior of the Atlantic Tackle building; top right shows a person holding a fishing lure; middle left shows a boat at sunset; middle right shows a person holding a fishing lure; bottom left shows fishing gear on a boat; bottom center shows two people fishing; bottom right shows fishing gear on a boat.



Young anglers Adley and Eva Pylypczuk absolutely tore up the sea bass at the Jackspot. The two caught their haul of sea bass using squid.



Young fishermen Weston Mills, of West Ocean City, and Mason Wright, of Stamford, Connecticut, were all smiles after catching this alien-looking monkfish. They caught this beast on Bucktail lures while drifting for sea bass on the "Brass Monkey."

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Capt. Fred Winward, Don Wingate, Bryon Flick and John Myers had some Memorial Day success on the "Stress Reel-lief." The crew caught three blue-line tilefish and nine golden tilefish, with the biggest one weighing in at 41.8 lbs., before running back in on some keeper sea bass.

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Welcome back to another offshore fishing report, I hope everyone enjoyed their weekend and managed to dodge the hailstorms. Unfortunately hail was about the only thing accumulating on the dock this week as this seasons slow start continues to drag on. A few bright spots in the last week included Chris Ragni and crew making the 100+ mile run to a pocket of warmer water on a good weather day and were handsomely rewarded with a nice catch of yellowfins. On Friday we made an 87

mile run ourselves and caught just as many tunas as the people fishing in the Ocean Pines pond.

Zack and the boys on the "Water Damage" did manage to catch a pair of yellowfins that morning, whom may have been lost as they reported the fish coming from 59 degree water which is much colder than yellowfins would typically be found. Luckily the void of pelagic species has been filled by decent catches of bottom dwellers such as sea bass and tilefish, as well as a few shark encounters from threshers and brown

sharks. The weather looks beautiful for this week so hopefully anglers are able to make the most of this deep dropping weather and maybe even stumble upon some chilly tunas.

The good news is that to our south, the charter fleet out of Oregon inlet has been on an absolute tear, often returning to the docks by lunch times with limits of yellowfins as well as good catches of dolphin, wahoo, and billfish flags. Although we are more than ready for our own taste of that action, it is a positive sign that there are still high numbers of tunas to our south, ready to be ushered in to us with our first warm water eddy. Talking amongst mates and captains at the dock, there wasn't much memory of a season where it had been this late into the year without a push of water of our own.

So anytime now , the docks will be buzzing

with excitement as boats prepare to head to the first eddies that push within 70 miles. How do I know when and where this "good" water is that would be worth getting excited over? Satellite imagery shows the oceans surface temp and is the best way to track currents and the movements of pieces of water. There are multiple subscription services such as ROFFS and Ripcharts that can provide you with up to date information on water temperatures, chlorophyll content, and color all of which will indicate where fishing efforts should be concentrated.

In the next few weeks/ months this information will be priceless to captains as they decide where our days will be spent. Hopefully within the next few reports we can talk about these eddies being within our canyons and discuss the fish being caught out of them. Until then I wish everyone good luck and encourage everyone to stock up on good deeds as we could use as much good karma as possible to kick start our season.

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Blake Flowers holding his 36" rockfish caught in the surf by Sea Watch. Blake caught his fish using the advice of Fenwick Tackle using finger mullet.

GOOD KARMA
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 A photograph of three men standing on a boat deck, holding a very large, silver fish (likely a blue marlin) vertically. The fish is the central focus, with its long, pointed snout and large eyes clearly visible. The men are dressed in casual fishing attire.

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Young angler Thomas Vance of Hummelstown, PA. reeled in these two flounder measuring 18 and 19” on a cold Memorial Day morning. Thomas caught these two fish on “The Last Cast” out of Sunset Island on a 3-inch white Gulp. Congratulations to Thomas on his first two keepers!















Angler Jim Thompson is proudly displaying his 44” rockfish that he caught off the Fenwick drive on. He lured in this sizable striper using live sand fleas and sand flea Fishbites.

2025

MARYLAND REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH 8" minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum 1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/20 Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers</p>
 <p>CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-27" minimum 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD 4 per person/day 12" minimum</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Ocean City we saw some big storms and a definite cool down in air temperatures. Flounder, in the back bays and inlets, has slowed compared to the huge blitzes we saw last week; however many keepers can be found in the channels and back bays. Just a reminder to anglers that as of June 1st the new size limit for flounder in Maryland will become 17½" minimum size for keepers. The nearshore wrecks are producing some quality sea bass along with a few nice flounder. Surf fishing is still producing, although the end appears to be coming with less big fish being caught each day.

Nearshore Wrecks and Reefs

The areas around Ocean City are producing good catches of sea bass with several anglers reporting catching limits. Several undersized fish must be

weeded though to find the keepers but the action is very steady with multiple fish coming in on each drop. The deeper wrecks near the Jack's Spot and Great Eastern Reef are producing the best. The African Queen and Bass Grounds are producing decent catches with a few nice flounder now also being caught. Targeting the down current sides of these wrecks are the key spots for finding the flounder which sit just off the wrecks. "Fish Bound Charters" reported several good sea bass trips this past week with hard fishing anglers achieving limits when doing their due diligence. "Bad Wind Charters" reported they had much calmer days as the wind laid down later in the week. They hosted Laurel's Elite Fishing trio and landed a limit of sea bass. They said the competitive nature among these anglers helped spur them on even when fishing

was tough. Captain Victor of the "Ocean Princess" reports the 2025 sea bass season is off to a good start. Anglers stayed active throughout the day reeling in some quality fish with many being hooked two at a time. Despite canceling a couple trips due to storms captain Monty stated the "Morning Star" had some good trips delighting their anglers with coolers full of black bass and flounder. "Ocean City Girl" also got in on the nearshore fishing, catching a triple limit of blues, bonita, and sea bass while guiding the Capital View Construction Company. Walter Moore stated the bass Grounds looked as busy as a late July day with boats everywhere and on every wreck and snag. The fishing was tough but limits could be had. "Wreck Dog Sportfishing" is preparing to run spadefish trips in the upcoming weeks. Many anglers have never had the

opportunity to target these hard fighting beautiful fish.

Back Bays and Inlets

The OC Inlet and back bays are still continuing to produce nice flounder. The larger blitzes of last week may be gone however fluke can still be found on the south side of the inlet as well in the main thoroughfares and further up the bay. Squid and minnow were the most productive baits with Gulp being a close second. "Coastal Guide Services" reports they had a heck of a week in the back bays catching flounder and blues. Many of the fluke would have been legal even in the upcoming weeks when the limit minimum size will become 17½". Nick Hulver had a good day with friends catching some decent blues along the inlet rocks. Craig Cropper was out with his buddy Phil throwing surface poppers and landed a double limit of blues and then some while fishing near the Rt. 50 Bridge. Blake Gunther hit the back bays early Tuesday and returned to the docks by 7:30 am

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with a limit of flounder. Lionel from Lancaster, PA, caught numerous rockfish, bluefish, and tog while fishing at the Oceanic Motel. Most of the fish were caught using a 5" Gulp on a 1 oz. bucktail. Capt. Nick, daughter and son had a fun family day on the water catching a few nice flat fish to bring home for dinner. Don King had a great day on Tuesday catching big flounder near the inlet Jetty. The "Happy Hooker" reeled in its first keeper of the year last week. For our visitors wishing to see Ocean City from the water as well as catch a few fresh fish for dinner the bay head boats are a family friendly and affordable option. Most of the bay boats offer 2-3 or 4 hour trips and provide knowledgeable crew as well as rods and bait. The "Miss Ocean City" stated that water temps were the key to finding keeper flounder in the back bays. The group ended the day with 4 keepers which for this early time of the year is a great haul. Just a reminder, on June 7th at the Oceanic Fishing Pier the Atlantic Coast Sportfishing Association will be hosting the kids fishing derby. This is a great event introducing our youth to recreational fishing in our area.

Surf Fishing

Surf fishing is still very productive, however, as the weather and water continue to warm, surf fishing will begin to dwindle. Many anglers are finding more sharks and skates around making targeting the drum and rockfish more difficult. Early morning time frames are producing the best catches of black drum and rockfish. Fresh

clams tipped with Fishbites are the best baits. Shawn O'Brien stated although he could not find any black drum willing to attack his baits, he did find a nice sheepshead. The fish measured 16" and is the first one from the beach I have heard of this year. Corey Zirkle had a good weekend last week landing several undersized rockfish and blues. He also hooked a nice eater size black drum. Roxane Marie reported having so much fun fishing with friends on Assateague Island catching several blues and stripers. The best part of the day was landing a nice black drum. Eddie Schaufert caught his biggest black this year landing a 36" on fresh clam and Fishbites. Sean McNelis and his fiancée scanned the beach and rips to find the perfect spot. After several stops they settled on what he thought to be a good spot. This spot proved to be just what he needed when he hooked and landed a beautiful big black drum. Judy Ridenour and hubby were out on the island and landed a huge drum using clam and fish bites. Guo Lukasz fished the north side of the island on Saturday with sand fleas and landed a nice black drum. Rob Gibson landed his first black drum using a slider rig with sand fleas. The fish was photographed and returned safely to the water to live another day. Jim Welsh hooked 3 nice drum over his 3 day trip to the beach. Michael Hornberger landed the first kingfish we have seen from the beach last week. He also caught a few spot fish.

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up



Anglers Brian and Sharon Ziegler of York, PA, caught three nice flounder up to 18½ inches. They caught the fish on white Gulp with a live minnow in the flats above the Thorofare. The Zieglers were fishing on the "Line Dancer."

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“Tips Up” had a great trip with some tuna biting. Capt. Chris Ragni, mate Jack Morris, team Schell Brothers, Eric Waibel, Devin Lamm, Ryan Humphrey, Sam Lamm, Courtney Metacarpa, and Joe Rocco went out on the 47 foot Freeman and came back with a nice haul. The crew went 11 for 14 with 8 coming on Sterling Trackers and Straight bars. Pictured at Hook’Em & Cook’Em.

2025

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p> <p>NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit</p>	 <p>BLUEFIN TUNA 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <73" curved fork length 1 per Headboat/day or trip</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/15 - 11/14 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)</p>
 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Limit Daily 10 per angler</p>		 <p>SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day</p>

SHARKS

AUTHORIZED SPECIES

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Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead

54" Minimum Fork Length
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose

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Photo credit: George Poveromo.

Beach Talk

by Skylar Snead and Chris Taylor



Late April and into May seems to always be when the toothy critters arrive in the surf. From bluefish to sharks of all sizes, this is when the real predators show up. Whether you are just out to bend a rod, stock up on some bluefish, or land a shark on the beach, we have a few tips and tricks to help you on your way to success!

Every spring when the bluefish arrive, it's generally no secret. Birds diving and fish busting water are hard to miss even for the beginner. It's time to throw some cut bait, and you're gonna want some heavy mono and steel leaders to avoid being bit off. A high-low rig with floats and finger mullet cut in half should be your go-to. There are, however, times you're gonna wanna throw some metal. Large stinging silvers, spoons, and even soft plastics can hook you more bluefish than you can count

when they are feeding in the surf.

Bluefish often get a bad rap as a "trash fish," but if you harvest the right size, they make great table fare. Personally, we like the 10-14" range. Everything else either goes back or becomes shark bait. Simple as that.

Along with the blues come the sharks. Sandbar sharks and sand tigers generally show up first, arriving in May, and you can catch plenty if you're prepared. As the season progresses, large dusksies, blacktips, spinners, and even tiger sharks make their way into our waters. To get started, you're gonna want some large circle hooks—13/0 or larger depending on the size bait and if you're casting or paddling them out. Additionally, you want a steel leader to prevent being bitten off and a good amount of heavy mono before your main line. Shark skin is super abrasive,

and a rub leader that can't easily be cut through is necessary. Shark skin will cut braided line like a knife!

Casting for sharks isn't a long-distance game. You're going to want to look for deep water close to shore. Keep your eyes open for spots where the waves break on the sandbar but fizzle out, not breaking again until they hit the shoreline. Another good place to look and fish for the sharks are rip currents and breaks in the bar. Sharks use these to get in close, and it's a perfect spot to set up.

The serious shark fisherman on the beach generally is accompanied by sit-on-top kayaks and large boat rods and reels like a Penn 50W. These big setups and larger baits that go with them have to be paddled out. Using one of the kayaks, we will take the baits and drop them anywhere between 150 to 300 yards offshore. A tactic that has always worked well for us is picking a variety of distances. The gear we use when fishing this way is a 20/0 circle hook with a 40-inch piece of braided cable connected to a heavy crane swivel. This connects to 25 feet of 350-pound mono leader. Connected to that is 200 yards of 200-pound mono top shot; beneath that, 800 yards of 80-pound braid. As mentioned

before, shark skin and braided line are not friends, and the mono top shot prevents swim-throughs. Even when not hooked up to a shark, a shark cruising around can cut your line off instantly.

When paddling lines out, we use a wide range of bait, including large bluefish, tuna bloodline, tilefish heads, small tuna heads, black drum heads that we saved for our spring season, and even those pesky skates! To have a good chance at hooking up, you have to let them eat, but there is a fine line between not enough and too much. A gut-hooked shark has a high mortality rate over the course of a month due to starvation or infection.



To prevent this, we use a blocker rig. This is a specialty rig some local tackle shops carry that won't let the shark swallow the hook too far. Six to eight inches above the hook is a piece of PVC or 1/2" conduit with a hole drilled in the center and secured above the hook. It should be perpendicular to the leader and secured with a rubber band or crimps. Fished alongside rigs without blockers proves they don't mind the awkward-looking rig one bit. If you're serious about your shark fishing and want your releases to have the best chance of survival, you need to give a blocker-style rig a try!

Summer is for sharks, and we're more than ready. Whether you're just starting out or gearing up for another season, it's time to hit the sand, cast big, and hold on tight.

See you on the sand!



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Angler Carter Carcamo caught his first monster sand tiger shark of the year at Assateague that came in at around 6-7 feet long and roughly 150 lbs. Carter paddled the bait out at around 250 yards and had a safe and quick catch and release. The shark swam back out strong.



'Assateague is unlike any other place!' Joshua exclaimed as he was itching to get back to the beach for some fishing. He's been waiting a long time to get back to the beach and was thrilled when he caught this 17½" bluefish on Assateague. His catch was made with a fish finder rig with a cut finger mullet.

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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
Bluefish 		May 11 Ronin Jehl Fenwick Beach 10 lbs 14 oz.	Weakfish 		January 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet 2.4 lbs.
Black Drum 		May 8 Billy Mister Delaware Bay 64 lbs.	Bigeye Tuna 		
Cobia 			Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen Hambone 442 lbs.	
Flounder 		May 17 Isaac Mitchell Lewes and RB Canal 4.34 lbs.	Longfin Tuna 		
Sea Bass 	May 26 Eli Hasco Great Eastern Reef 4.06 lbs.		Yellowfin Tuna 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio Poor Man's Canyon 58 lbs.	
Sheepshead 			Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler Poor Man's Canyon 8 lbs.	
Striped Bass 			Swordfish 		
Tautog 	March 28 Kevin Twilley Ocean Structure 16 lbs.	May 17 Eamonn Carey Indian River Inlet 17 lbs.	Blue Marlin 		
Wahoo 			White Marlin 		

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



Logan Smith's pending Delaware state record with this monster golden tilefish! This 56.2 lbs. catch and 42 ½ inch beast was caught on the "Blue Betty II", accompanied by friend, Cody Layfield and Capt. Austin Decker out at the Poor Man's deep dropping squid. Large golden tiles have been surfacing this week, but we hope Logan's catch is accepted and holds for the for some time. Photographed at Hook'Em & Cook'Em.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite a slow day aboard the "Angler" Deep Sea Fishing charter, Tim managed to reel in these two sizable flounder. Great work on the catch, but remember to try to hold flounder from the gills on their underside.



"Dirt Merchant" Charters had their first offshore charter of the season. They returned from this trip with some flat fish and seabass. Along with these flounder they caught a 25" citation flounder making for an exciting day on the water.

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


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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Happy Hooker" headboat landed their first keeper flounder of the season. Leaving from the docks at M.R. Ducks the crew found this flounder behind the wedge at Assateague.



"Manda Lu" Sportfishing out of Lewis Harbour Marina had a good trip this previous weekend, boating 126 croakers, as well as, some kingfish. The boat originally set out to catch drum, but after only finding rays they switched up their plans

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FISHING CHARTERS



Despite an east wind, the "Morning Star" was greeted with fine sea conditions and pleasant air temps. Aboard the boat was Paul, Bill, Little John, Big Al, and Capt. Monty, of course. Capt. Monty said he watched Big Jon bring up a nice keeper sea bass and even achieved double-digits. Bill won the pool and almost everyone caught themselves a nice dinner. One of the fellows was headstrong about bringing home a keeper for sushi for his lady at home.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Ocean Princess" charter boat reported that 'sea bass were the star of the show.' Alongside the seabass, the headboat also found a 22" flounder, ling, and even a monkfish.



A few days after, the "Angler's" slower day the headboat headed back out and found a decent bite. Angler William Walsh is proof of that holding three seabass and a good sized flounder.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The "Tortuga" charter boat got quite lucky with some great weather conditions and even better fishing. Capt. R. and first mate, Serge, always ensure a great time out on the headboat. These flounder are just a few of the fish that the "Tortuga" brought in on their recent trip.

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Twin brothers Jake and Cade Campbell, of Nazareth, PA, caught some nice bluefish on the South Bay. Their catches were made on stretch lures during the outgoing tide. This bluefish came at a solid 28". The brothers were fishing with their other brother, Maddox, their parents, grandparents Mike and Margaret Orchulli, and Kylee James on the "Reel Addiction."



Seth Strawser, of Liverpool, PA, caught this 16" flounder out in the South Bay. This was Seth's first ever flounder trip and keeper, and it's safe to say he's hooked now. Seth's catch was made using white grubs.

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2025

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Coastal Fisherman

PHOTO FLASHBACK



Looking back over 80 years to the year 1941, when the first blue marlin was caught and brought back to Ocean City, or anywhere north of Cape Hatteras. 13 year-old Harry Tellam Jr. of Baltimore, MD, became the first of a long lineage of fishermen to come, brining these beautiful fish back to Ocean City's shores. Harry's historic fish weighed in at 350 lbs. and totaled 11 feet 3 inches in length. Harry was aboard the "Em-Pris II" with Captains Jim Whaley and Paul Mumford. After a two hour and 25 minute fight Harry and crew made Ocean City history, ultimately paving the grounds for the offshore fishing culture we have today. Photo courtesy of the Ocean City Marlin Club Archives.

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Capt. Rich caught this flounder using the Flip N Fins Sandwich, a Gulp, piece of squid and a shiner on a fluke teaser and a white Bucktail lure. This 6 lbs., 25" flounder was caught and released in Fenwick Shoals.















Ashton Lambie, of Timonium, MD, brought home some nice sea bass. Ashton was fishing on the "No Limit" charter fishing boat with John Azato at the Del Jersey wrecks. His sea bass were caught using clams.

2025

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

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

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Angler Tim Gola Sr. reeled in this 'big and ugly brute' of a black drum. He turned this meaty catch into some thick and delicious tasting drum loins. Picutred at Cedar Creek Marina.

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A cartoon illustration of a skeleton wearing a yellow hat and a life preserver, sitting in a small boat on the water.

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A photograph of a white Robalo boat with a black canopy, moving across the water and leaving a wake.

Ship to Shore

STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE
by Steve Katz



Fishing Just Got Smarter: Meet the new Furuno CHS10 Omni Sonar

During the winter boat show season, Furuno unveiled its highly anticipated CSH10 Omni Sonar at the Fort Lauderdale show in October 2024. This new 360-degree full-circle scanning sonar system is engineered to significantly improve both commercial and sportfishing endeavors, thanks to its advanced sonar technology and user-friendly design, delivering exceptional underwater detection.

Here is a glimpse at some of its standout features:

Unmatched 360-Degree Scanning: The CSH10 provides real-time, complete underwater awareness. It emits ultrasonic waves in every direction, instantly capturing details about fish schools, seabed structures, and net positions. Operating at 83.5 kHz, it offers

sharp beam widths ideal for detecting near-surface fish and distinguishing them from the seabed.

Advanced Beam Stabilization: Even in rough seas, the CSH10 ensures clear sonar readings. Furuno's unique beam stabilization technology uses a built-in motion sensor to automatically adjust the beam angle, compensating for vessel movement. This results in reliable fish detection and seabed imaging, even in challenging conditions.

Intelligent Targeting Features: The CSH10 includes smart functionalities to enhance fishing efficiency:

Target Lock Automatically tracks schools of fish or fixed targets, maintaining focus without manual adjustments.

Fish Quantity Mark: Estimates the size, distance, and depth of fish

schools to help identify the most promising targets and improve catch rates.

Enhanced Imaging and User Interface: The CSH10 features a 32-color palette, doubling the previous standard for improved image clarity and easier differentiation between fish and the underwater environment. With detection ranges up to 900 meters (approximately 2,950 feet), it offers a comprehensive view. The redesigned control unit is more compact and intuitive, featuring controls like the RotoKey™, tilt lever, and a large trackball. Optional wired and wireless remote controls provide added flexibility.

Seamless Integration with NavNet TZtouchXL: The CSH10 fully integrates with Furuno's NavNet TZtouchXL multifunction displays, allowing direct control of sonar settings, including range,

gain, tilt, and event history, from the MFD. The unique Sonar Chart Overlay feature displays real-time sonar echoes on navigation charts, providing a comprehensive view of fish targets relative to



charted objects and underwater topography.

Designed for Diverse Fishing Applications: The CSH10's advanced features are suitable for a wide range of fishing, from targeting fast-moving pelagic species in sportfishing to tracking migrating species in commercial fishing, maximizing catch



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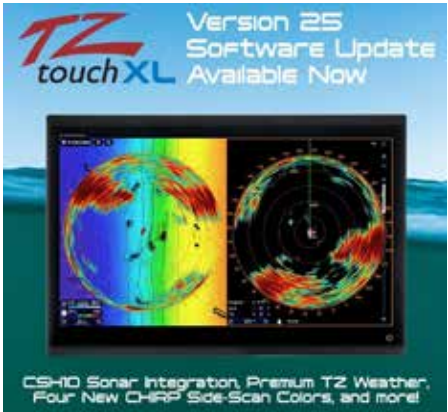
For those who are familiar with the prior model Furuno Omni

sonar, here is a Comparison of Furuno CSH8LMK2 vs. CSH10 Full-Circle Scanning Sonars:

Feature	CSH8LMK2	CSH10
Frequency:	85 kHz	85 kHz (selectable range 81.5-85.5 kHz)
Detection Range:	Up to 1,600 meters	Up to 2,000 meters
Display Colors:	16 colors	32 colors
Beam Stabilization:	Not Available	Standard with motion sensor
Target Tracking:	Basic automatic tilt scanning	Basic automatic tilt scanning
Control Unit:	Standard black box with compact keyboard	Redesigned compat unit with RotoKey™, tilt lever, trackball
Remote Control Options:	Wired remote controller	Wired remote controller (Bluetooth) remote controllers
Power Supply:	100-230 VAC	24 VDC
Hull Unit Stroke Options:	400 mm or 600 mm	400 mm or 600 mm
Feature	CSH8LMK2	CSH10
Transducer Hoist Speed:	varies	7 s (400 mm), 10 s (600mm)
NavNet TZtouchXL Integration:	Not available	Compatible

The Furuno CSH10 represents a significant leap forward in marine sonar technology, offering a powerful solution for enhancing fishing operations for both commercial and sportfishing professionals.


Due to high demand since its introduction in December, new CSH10 units are currently facing backorders extending into 2026. However, the CSH10 is priced similarly to the previous model when combined with the transducer extension. Many early adopters have upgraded to the CSH10 and are selling their existing omni sonar units. If a new CSH10 is not in your current budget, purchasing a good used



omni sonar is an excellent way to start fishing with this valuable technology.

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FIRST

2025

Fish of the Year

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

Species	2025	2024	Species	2025	2024
Bluefish 	April 9 Mike Powers Fenwick State Park	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	Weakfish 	May 8 Jim Hitchens Roosevelt Inlet	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay
Black Drum 	April 6 Chris Taylor Assateague	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	Bigeye Tuna 		May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon
Cobia 		June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	Bluefin Tuna 	January 1 Kenny Schoen "Chasin' Tides" Hambone	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon
Flounder 	April 4 Rick Gorsuch Thorofare	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	Longfin Tuna 		June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass 	May 15 Mike Depalma "Bet Sea Sport Fishing"	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 25 Matthew Abbonizio "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	May 8 Mike Ahlfeldt Thorofare	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	Dolphin 	May 25 Francesca Gessler "Boy's Toy" Poor Man's Canyon	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 29 Richard Harpel Indian River Bay	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	Swordfish 		June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon
Tautog 	January 6 Anthony Emerick "Chasin' Tides" Great Eastern	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	Blue Marlin 		June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon
Wahoo 		June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	White Marlin 		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



On a trip out to the Old Grounds, Cole Huey, Gavin Martin, Collin Troutman, and Jake Thomas brought home 11 flounder, all caught on CJ Tackle rigs from Rick's Bait & Tackle. Despite a slow start to the day, the bite turned on once the drift slowed up and the boys found some nice lumps. The boys' biggest flounder was over 21".



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

TOURNAMENT SERIES

— 2025 SCHEDULE —

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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

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

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

 **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

2ND ANNUAL LABOR DAY INVITATIONAL
 Registration: August 28, 6:30 - 8:00pm
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DELAWARE

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware we saw cooler weather and scattered storms early in the week. There were also very heavy storms on Thursday evening into Friday morning. These storms kept many anglers at the docks and strongly impacted surf fishing. Quality keeper fish were still caught by anglers braving the conditions and fishing is continuing to get better. Sea bass and flounder are being caught at the NJ/DE reef as well as anglers finding them on the nearshore Old Grounds and inshore coral areas.

Nearshore Wrecks and Coral Grounds

The nearshore wrecks and reefs are coming alive as the water warms to its summer temperatures. Flounder were

found on the coral grounds near the Old Grounds this past week along with scattered catches of sea bass. NJ/DE reef is still producing limits, but is becoming harder to fish with so many boats striking out to this spot. As the upcoming weeks arrive, finding smaller untouched areas will become the priority as the more common areas are stripped clean. Areas along the shipping channel and deeper snags and wrecks which sit alone will be the best chance of getting a limit of bass. Flounder on the Old Grounds are being caught using squid/minnow combinations as well as Gulp presentations. Hi-Lo, Klacker, AquaClear, and Deadly Double rigs remain the mainstay of fluke fisherman. "Action Jackson Sortfishing" had the Dave Ponn

Group on board for a day of sea bassin' and although the day was filled with numerous shorts they managed a good haul of quality bass to the delight of anglers. The anglers braved rain showers to bring quality fish up to 16" onto the boat. "Wreck Dog Fishing" had a solid day of fishing out on the bass grounds bringing home a limit and even returning to the dock early. Jim Clark was the hot angler of the day catching multiple double keepers at a time. The "Angler" headboat weeded through the shorts to provide their clients with a decent amount of nice sea bass to bring home. Dale Owen Jr. was out on the Old Grounds and snagged a nice 24", 5½ lbs. fluke. It's good to see the flounder arriving on the coral grounds. John Ebgler reported the first trip for the "Reel Chaos" was a bit breezy, laying out in the afternoon, but provided anglers with a good number of quality bass and even a few big flounder. "Flip N Fins" was out at Fenwick and landed a nice flat fish using a white bucktail tipped with Gulp squid and a shiner.

Back Bays and Inlets

The Delaware Bay continues to produce big black drum on most of the shoals with fresh clam and Fishbites being the best baits. A 5-10 foot 40 lbs. leader ending in a 7/0 circle hook is the best rig. The late evening hours are the best time with anglers stating you can hear the fish drumming on the surface as evening approaches. I would venture to say we have maybe one more week left of this fishery before the spawn ends and warmer water filters into the bay driving the fish to their northern summer haunts. The DE Bay is also showing signs of flounder and sheephead beginning to return. The past

few summers have brought big sheephead to the ice breakers as well as outer wall of the bay opening delighting anglers with sheephead over ten pounds. Small cut crab and sand fleas are the primary baits used to entice these hard to hook fish. The bait is fished on a sheep/tog stand up jig head or on a small knocker rig. Many local lure builders as well as all tackle shops in the area have a variety of these rigs to aid you in setting up to catch these hard fighting fish. As summer arrives and many of our larger fish, such as drum, move out of the area, sheephead remain a constant staple for anglers targeting larger fish. Many charter captains have begun adding this fishery to allow clients to target larger and more exotic fish. The back bays of Indian River have begun to show promise with a few big flounder being caught. In the evenings floating sand fleas or cut bait along the inlet rocks is producing nice size bluefish along with schoolie stripers. The main channel near the bridge as well as Massy's ditch are producing the best catches of flounder with anglers using squid, Fishbites, Gulp, and minnows. Danny Petrone had a good weekend fishing the walkways of the inlet hooking some nice flounder up to 20 inches. "Gale Force Charters" had the Walters crew fishing on Tuesday and ended up with a dozen flounder and several schoolie rockfish. Christopher Dorey also fished the walkway on the south side of the IR Inlet and landed a huge overslot rockfish which was safely released after a quick photo. Deborah Viscuglia and Julie Stevenson pulled in a pair of 22 inch fluke while fishing the back bay on Wednesday. Carlos Ramirez got his first striper of the year fishing the rocks along the inlet with bucktails. The Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier was providing anglers with a variety of spot, croakers, blues, and dogfish.

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Surf fishing was a little slow this past week due to storms and high seas but some anglers did manage to pull in a few nice drum and rockfish along with the ever present skates and sharks. Bluefish are also being caught but many are smaller than in past weeks and fewer in numbers. Chris Koper used diamond jigs just ahead of the storm fronts to catch big chomper blues from the surf. Niki Hickens had a good day on the beach catching undersized rockfish and blues from the surf. Director JR Griffith, DMS took advantage of a calm day last week to fish the surf, landing and releasing a huge 42 inch striper.

Crabs and Clams

Crabbing has improved with more keepers entering the pots and traps after the first few crab sheds. Larger male crabs are being found in water from 4-6 ft. Bunker remains the most consistent bait with trot lining the best way of scoring these tasty crustaceans. Clamming is steady with a good number of steamer clams close to the sandy bottom. Holts Landing and the VFW areas are the prime locations along with the nearshore areas of Rehoboth Bay.

Until next week,
Tight Lines and Fins Up



Kaylee Schaeffer and Mackenzie Motter both came back from the Indian River Inlet Canal with some flounder. Kaylee's flounder was 18 inches and Mackenzie caught a 17 inch flounder.

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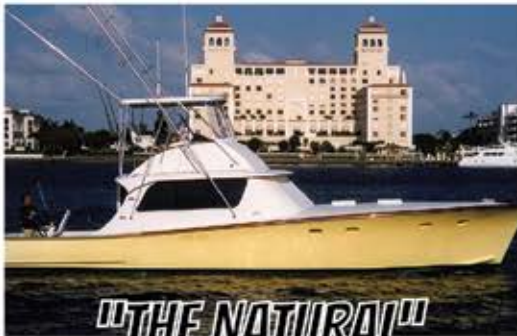


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For Your Next Go-To Appetizer:

Fresh off the boat and straight into the lime juice – this ceviche is made for dockside snacking.

Sea Bass Ceviche

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. filet of fresh sea bass, cut into 1/2 inch cubes
- 1/2 cup lime juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/2 cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1/4 cup red onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup red bell pepper, minced
- 1/4 cup parsley, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped



- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 tsp sea salt, adjust to taste
- 1/4 tsp ground pepper, adjust to taste
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper (optional)

Directions:

1. Place fish in a bowl. Pour lime and lemon juices over the fish. Cover and let it sit for 1 hour.
2. Add onions, red bell peppers, parsley and cilantro. Mix well.
3. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.
4. Add olive oil, salt and pepper to taste before serving.
5. Serve with crackers on lettuce.

For the Health Nut:

Light, but loaded with flavor, this one keeps things clean without skimping on that crab sweetness we all know and love.

Chesapeake Bay Crab Salad Lettuce Wraps

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. fresh lump crab meat, picked with shells removed
- 1/4 tsp Old Bay (add more to taste)
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tbsp fresh basil, chopped
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. champagne vinegar or apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

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1/4 cup cucumber, diced

1 avocado, cored and cut

About 8 baby romaine leaves

Directions:

1. Place crab meat in a bowl and season (generously) with Old Bay.
2. In a medium bowl, place garlic, basil, Dijon and vinegar and whisk. Gradually add olive oil, stirring until combined
3. Combine crab with vinaigrette and mix well. Fold in the cucumber and avocado.
4. Lay out the lettuce leaves and scoop the mixture down the middle, garnishing with a shake of Old Bay.

For the Hostess With the Mostess:

When you want to dress up the day's catch, this one brings the flavor and flair.

Pan Fried Black Drum with Tomato and Artichoke Ragù: (Serves 2-4)

Ingredients:

- 7-8 Campari tomatoes (can sub 18 oz. whole, canned tomatoes)
- 12 oz quartered artichoke hearts, rinsed and drained and coarsely chopped
- 2 large handfuls of baby spinach

1 cup cooked orzo pasta

1/2 white onion, thinly sliced

2 oz chopped pancetta

3-4 garlic cloves, minced

1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
Avocado oil

Ghee or another high temp oil for frying
Fresh lemon

Salted butter

Fresh parmesan cheese

Wet Wash:

3 eggs

2 tbsp. dijon mustard

1 tsp. garlic powder

Dry Batter:

1.5 cup panko breadcrumbs, unseasoned

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1 tsp. salt

Directions:

1. Thaw and prep the black drum.

2. Pat the fish dry with a paper towel.

3. Season with garlic, salt, and pepper.

4. Prep wet batter by whisking together eggs, dijon mustard and garlic powder until thoroughly incorporated, set aside.

5. Prep dry batter by mixing together panko breadcrumbs and salt. Use the back of a spoon or measuring cup to crush the panko a bit to create a smaller texture, set aside.

6. Bring a pan up to medium heat, add a dab of butter.

7. Sauté pancetta for 3 minutes, then add onions and garlic and cook until translucent and fragrant.

8. Turn up heat to medium-high and add the tomatoes.

9. Allow tomatoes to break down, about 3-5 minutes.

10. Reduce heat to medium, stir in artichoke hearts and allow all flavors to combine.

11. Top with a lid and let the sauce simmer while you prep your fish.

12. Flip back to black drum and dredge fillet in wet batter, shake off excess egg wash, then dip into panko, pressing down so the panko adheres to flesh of the fish.

13. Repeat for all portions.

14. Check on your sauce and reduce heat if needed.

15. Bring a heavy bottomed pan to high heat.

16. Add in oil until you have about 1/2 inch in the bottom of the pan (you don't want to fully submerge the fish in the oil, you want to cook one side at a time.)

17. While your oil heats, flip back to your sauce and add in 2 large handfuls of spinach, reduce heat to low and put the top back on, allowing steam in the pan to wilt the spinach.

18. Time to get to frying! Test oil to make sure it is ready for frying by flicking a bit of water into oil. If it pops, it's ready.

19. Add fish to the oil and cook 3-4 minutes per side until golden brown.

20. Once the fish are done cooking, remove from the pan, add a squeeze of fresh lemon and dab of butter on all portions.

21. Remove the lid from your sauce and stir in 1 cup of cooked orzo and chopped basil.

22. Add more lemon for brightness and/or a dab of butter for depth.

23. Plate sauce in the bottom of a shallow bowl and place fish on top, finish with parmesan cheese.

For When You Need a Quick, Delicious Meal In A Pinch:

Got a fresh fillet and a hungry crew? These tacos come together in 20 minutes and are guaranteed to hit the spot.

Easy Black Drum Tacos: (4 Servings)

Ingredients:

For the fish:

1 pound black drum

2-3 tsp chili powder, enough to coat the fish

1 tsp kosher salt

For the fish taco sauce:

1/2 cup sour cream

1/4 cup mayonnaise

3-4 tbsp. lime juice

1 tsp. hot sauce, optional

To assemble: Feel free to switch up toppings and customize tacos based on veggies you already have!

1/2 small head red cabbage, shredded (about 4 cups)

12 taco-sized corn or flour

tortillas

1 avocado, sliced

4 radishes, thinly sliced

4 spring onions, thinly sliced

1/3 cup roughly chopped cilantro

1. Make the fish taco sauce- In a small bowl, combine the sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice and hot sauce. Stir until combined.

2. Make the red cabbage slaw- In a medium bowl, combine the shredded cabbage with 3 tbsp of the taco sauce. Stir to coat and add more taco sauce if you like.

3. Warm the tortillas- In a dry skillet over medium-high heat, warm the tortillas one at a time for about 30 seconds on both sides. If you're in a hurry, wrap 1-3 tortillas in a damp paper towel and microwave for 30 seconds, until warm. Keep warmed tortillas wrapped in a clean dish towel while you cook the fish.



4. Season the fish- Sprinkle the fish on both sides with chili powder and salt. Gently rub in the seasonings with your

fingers to make sure the fish is entirely coated.

5. Cook the fish- Warm a large cast iron or nonstick skillet on the stovetop over medium-high heat. When hot, add one tablespoon of olive oil and tilt the pan to entirely coat the bottom. Add the fish to the pan and cook for 2 minutes. Flip the fish and cook for another 2 minutes. Flip and cook 1 to 2 minutes longer if needed; the fish is done when opaque all the way through and breaks apart easily. If any smaller, thinner pieces of the fish start to break off as you flip, just scoop them out and transfer them to a serving platter.

6. Serve the tacos: Transfer the cooked fillets to a platter and use a fork or knife to gently break the fish into large chunks. Assemble the tacos with a few pieces of fish, some cabbage slaw, toppings of your choice and a drizzle of taco sauce.

For the Foodies:

Old Bay, Hot Fries, and Lump Crab, this one's a crowd pleaser that disappears fast.

Irresistible Maryland Crab Fries

Ingredients:

4 medium russet potatoes (about 1.5 lbs), opt for frozen fries for a quicker option



1 cup lump crab meat, preferably fresh

2 tbsp. of Old Bay

1/2 tsp. garlic powder

1/4 tsp. black pepper

8 oz softened cream cheese

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup sour cream

1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Few drops of Worcestershire sauce

Fresh parsley and lemon wedges (for garnishing)

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 425° F for set airfryer to 375° F.

2. Wash and scrub the potatoes thoroughly. You can peel them or leave the skin on, depending on your preference.

3. Cut the potatoes into evenly sized fries, about 1/4 inch thick.

4. Soak the potatoes in cold water for at least 30 minutes to remove excess starch, which helps them crisp up during cooking. Drain the potatoes and pat them dry with a clean kitchen towel or paper towels.

5. In a large mixing bowl, toss the potato slices with olive oil, Old Bay seasoning, garlic powder and black pepper until evenly coated.

6. Spread the fries in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or in an air fryer basket. Avoid overcrowding for even cooking.

7. Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, flipping halfway through, until the fries are golden brown and crispy. If using an air fryer, cook for 15-20 minutes, shaking the basket occasionally.

8. In a medium mixing bowl, combine the cream cheese, mayonnaise, and sour cream. Mix until smooth and creamy.

9. Gently fold in the lump crab meat, shredded cheddar cheese, Old Bay seasoning, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, minced garlic and parsley (if using).

10. Transfer the mixture to an oven-safe dish and bake at 375°F for 20 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. Alternatively, heat it in a microwave-safe dish for 2-3 minutes until warmed through.

11. Remove the fries from the oven or air fryer and sprinkle with additional Old Bay seasoning to taste.

12. Transfer the fries to a serving platter and garnish with fresh parsley, if desired.

13. Serve the fries with the cheesy crab dip on the side for dipping, or drizzle the dip over the fries for a more

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Black-Eyed Susan:

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1 oz. bourbon

1 oz. vodka

1 oz. peach schnapps

2 oz. orange juice

2 oz. sour mix

Orange slice, for garnish

Cherry for garnish

Directions:

1. Fill glass with ice.

2. In a shaker, combine spirits,
juice and sour mix.

3. Shake and pour into glass.

4. Garnish with orange slice
and a cherry.






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I didn't see the bite. I did hear the frantic call from the Venezuelan captain and mates, "AZUL! Marlin Azul Grande! Muy Muy Grande!", The fish was on for a minute but quickly popped off. Everyone went to another rod. But I reached for the 80 Penn that was rigged with a mackerel down the middle of the spread. The bait looked untouched. I waited for her to return. I starred at the bait and behind the bait stood the mountain range of Venezuela and the village of Caraballeda. I first saw a push of water and then a bill with the thickness of a baseball bat, followed by the point dorsal, and finally a tail that could only be described as unbelievably huge. The mates and captain started yelling again., "MUY, MUY GRANDE. AZUL!" Before the line got tight, I understood why I saved my money and flew thousands of miles to go fishing. I was hooked faster than the marlin. 40 minutes

later, after a blistering run and acrobatics that are normally saved for their smaller male blue marlin counterpart, after an aerial collision of marlin and tuna tower we got the release on the largest billfish I have seen to date. I knew right at that moment, traveling and fishing must become part of my life.

That was May 5th, 1991 and since that amazing day, I have taken every opportunity afforded to me to travel the world. I have met amazing people. I have eaten their food and loved their sunsets and I have spent countless hours gazing behind their boats to at a chance to catch one more fish.

So how does one go about finding the right crew, the proper boat, the correct season, the desired species, the best airfare and hotel. Hell, how do I get to from the airport to the marina hotel? So many questions



will arise and some things that may seem mundane will become part of the adventure. The name of this section is called Destination Fish and hopefully I will answer some of the questions you might have to prepare yourself for a wonderful, fruitful travel experience. We will get to the fun part of this section in future articles. This piece will discuss the desires, costs and logistics of international fishing travel. Believe me, the internet has made the world a much smaller place. Social media has opened our eyes to so many potential fishing destinations and so many captains and crews. So how do I get started.

I struggled a little with the idea of the first question. Honestly there are about half a dozen first questions that need to be answered. Let's start with budget. Can I get what I am envisioning with what I can afford? What can I afford? Once

I have a dollar figure in mind I can tackle the rest of the adventure. Let's start with, what I'd want to target. If there is a specific species then write it down.

Hypothetically, I want to target striped marlin. Chances are if you have fished offshore on a charter boat in the states and ask the crew you fished with, you'd get some suggestions for locations. Now that I have 4 or 5 destinations for targeting that striped marlin, I need to research seasons. When is your best chance at targeting a striped marlin? It does me no good to plan a trip to a destination when striped marlin are prevalent in March and April, especially if I happen to be an accountant. So now I know when and where I can go. How do I get there? Find the destination and nearest airport and track prices through Google or Expedia or one of the many sites that can track airfare for you. Some operations will offer you package deals that include all meals, lodging, airport transfers and boat. That pretty much covers everything but tips, drinks and airfare. Here's



a very important topic that often gets overlooked. Who do I want coming with me on this trip. Is it a family trip? Are there things for the family to do while I am fishing, Does the family enjoy fishing or sightseeing? Is it a boy's trip? Make sure all the guys have the same desired target species. I had

make sure we are all after the same adventure. Is my desired location safe? Check out the part of the country you want to visit on state.gov.

I hope anyone that has a desire to travel to fish finds this section helpful. Maybe we have even piqued your interest to put a trip together.



a guy drop a substantial amount of money to go marlin fishing with us and he was so upset at the end of the week because he didn't catch any tuna! Let's

Stay tuned for our next issue where we will dig deeper into some real destinations and experiences that will help with your next or first adventure.



Ashton Cherivtch, of Berlin, Md, holding up his personal best 14 lbs. barracuda. Ashton caught his fish far from Berlin, near Cudjoe Key, FL. Ashton was fishing with his grandfather Al Rittmeyer as well as his mom Lisa. Ashton was using a spoon when he boated his new PB.



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	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **	<u>VA</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	22" or 8 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.
Red Drum*	36"	45"	46"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	Any Size
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"
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"

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u> **	<u>VA</u>
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
SHARK:			
Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Thresher*	54"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size	100 lbs.
TUNA:			
Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.

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

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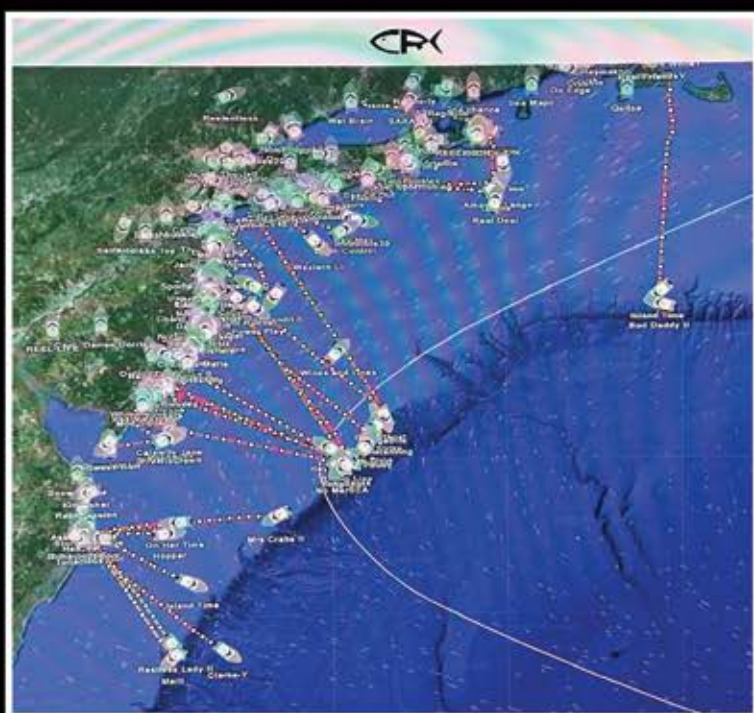
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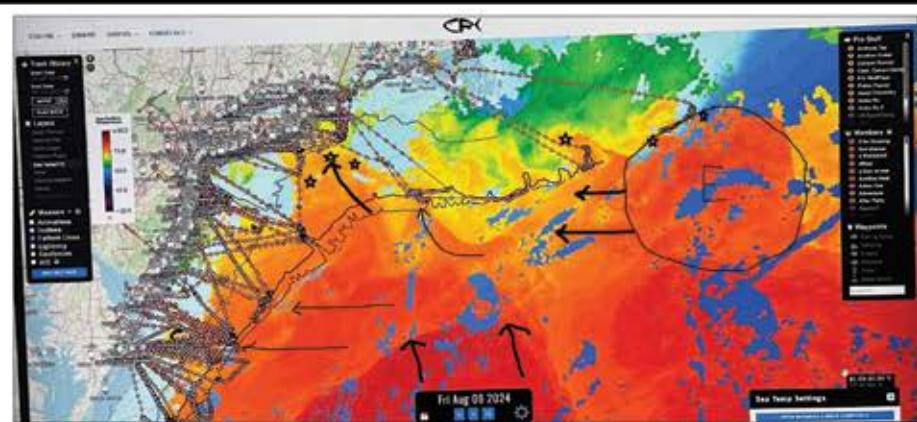
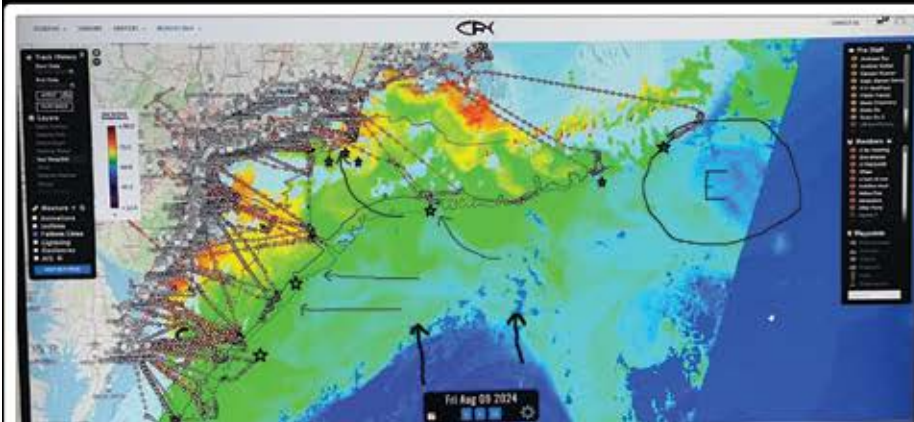
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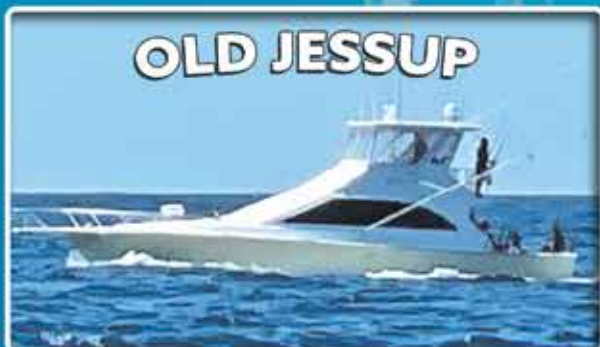
50' Custom Carolina
Capt. Dale Lisi 443-397-8455

CAH-CHING



48' Ocean
Capt. Steve Martin 732-735-0922

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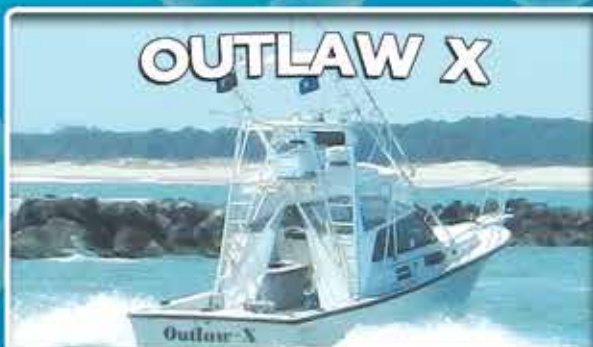
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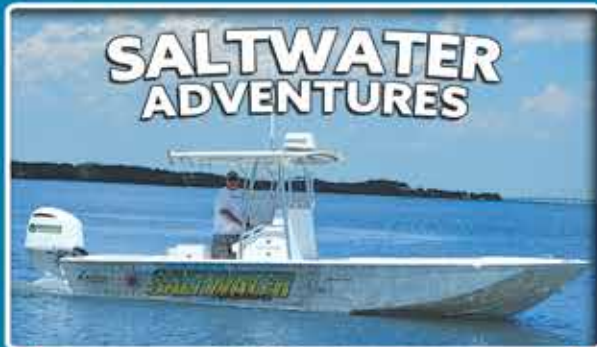
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Surf fisherman Tristan Archer, with his 82" sand tiger caught in the surf of Assateague. Tristan reported that he saw lots of rays and sharks while he was fishing. Tristan ended up catching another 6 foot sandbar shark that was wrapped up in rigs and sinkers. Tristan remained on the beach until the winds hit 30 m.p.h. and then he called it quits.

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In the final week of May, John Spence has had lots of luck. In two days, John caught one striper and 34 flounder, 20 of them being caught in just one day with seven keepers. In total, John caught nine keeper flounder. His biggest flounder was 18".

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School's Out Tuna Tournament

June 18 - 22 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

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

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July 13-19 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com

21st Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 19-20 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

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Cape May Marlin Tournament

July 24-27 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177

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



J.R. Griffith, of Milford, DE, caught this 42" striper. J.R. was surf fishing at Cape Henlopen.



"Mango On The Island," of Frankford, DE, reeled in this 47", 42 lbs. bull red drum. He was using bunker head on a fish finder rig and an eight oz weight, and he had a cast of over 1000 yards. "Mango On The Island" was fishing on Assateague Island.



OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 4	High 03:36 am High 04:16 pm	Low 09:41 am Low 10:09 pm
THUR. JUNE 5	High 04:21 am High 05:06 pm	Low 10:25 am Low 11:07 pm
FRI. JUNE 6	High 05:02 am High 05:49 pm	Low 11:07 am Low -----
SAT. JUNE 7	High 05:42 am High 06:30 pm	Low 12:02 am Low 11:47 am
SUN. JUNE 8	High 06:22 am High 07:11 pm	Low 12:50 am Low 12:25 pm
MON. JUNE 9	High 07:05 am High 07:52 pm	Low 01:34 am Low 01:02 pm
TUE. JUNE 10	High 07:48 am High 08:34 pm	Low 02:13 am Low 01:38 pm
WED. JUNE 11 Full Moon	High 08:33 am High 09:16 pm	Low 02:51 am Low 02:15 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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Richard Hoenes, from Harbour Island, took his first trip on his new boat. Richard withstood the wind and choppiness of the waters and found that he was only the boat out. Being the only boat out, the big sea bass must have flocked to Richard as he only caught keepers on his trip. Richard was using ball jigs tipped with squid.

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Will Schinder was all smiles with his 26" striper. This striper was just one of many that Will caught from the South Jetty.



Angler Sam Frank from West Ocean City, MD caught this sizable keeper flounder, coming in at 2 lbs. 8 oz. and 19 1/2 inches. While targeting bluefish at the bridge, Sam stopped for two casts between the docks at Martha's Landing on the way home, when this flounder came biting. Sam's flounder was caught using a 3 oz Kastmaster lure.



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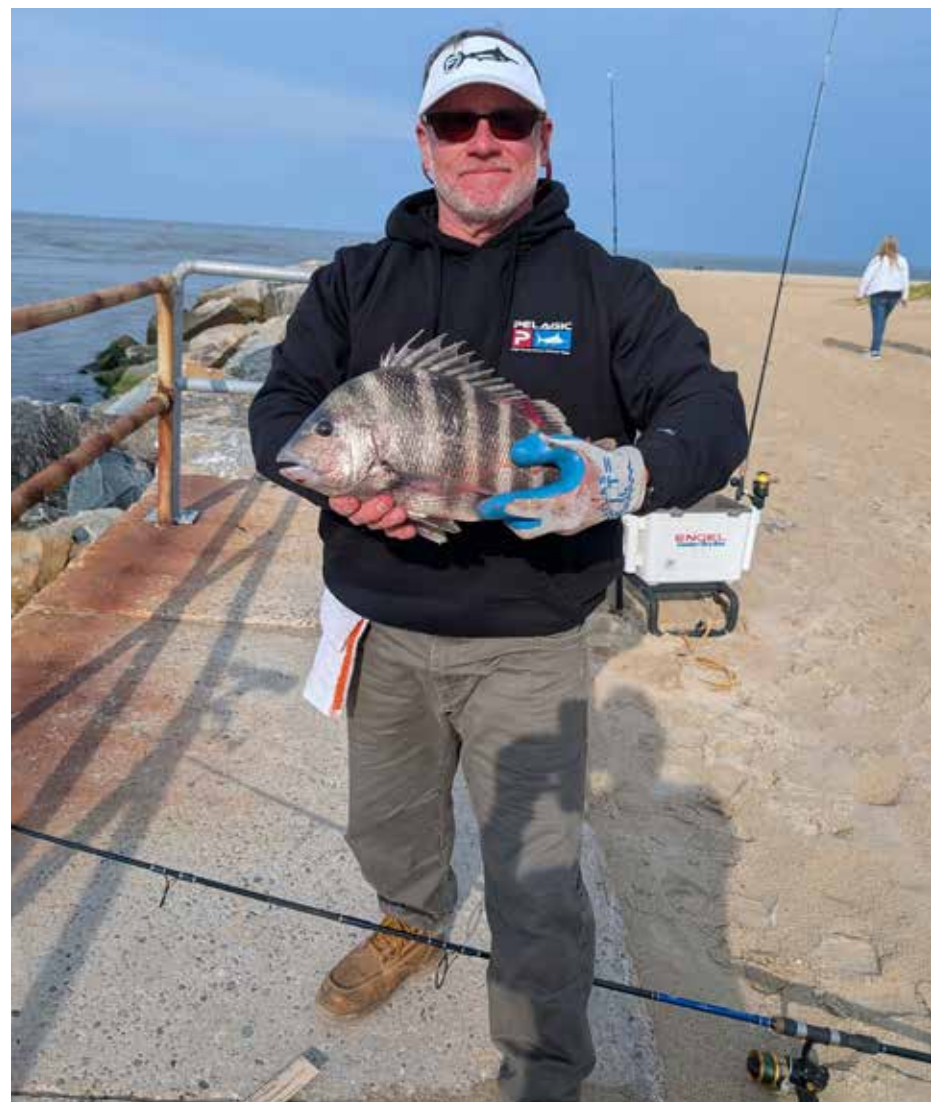





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Greg Allen, at the Indian River Inlet holding his first sheepshead of the season. Greg was on the southside of the inlet when he caught this striped fish. Sand fleas were this sheepshead bait of choice.



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Jeff and Dawn Troutman caught several flounder on Memorial Day out at the Old Grounds, with the help of Capt. Cale Mutter of "Sweet Emocan." Dawn scored with the biggest flounder that came in at 3.4 lbs. and 23". The Troutman's catches were caught using rigs and Gulp from Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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Anger Dale Owens, fished the Old Grounds of Delaware, where he and the rest of his crew caught 60 sea bass and 11 flounder. Among the 11 flounder that they caught two were keepers and only one of the 60 sea bass was a keeper. The biggest of the flukes came out to be 24" and 5½lbs. Undoubtedly a busy day for Dale and crew.

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Angler Erik Dowell reeled in this flounder off the shore from Stinky Beach. Dowell made this catch using Paddle Tail and Gulp on a ¼ oz jig head.



Experienced angler Owen Fisher stands with his dad, Steve Fisher, and more importantly his proud catch, a nice flounder caught on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. What a nice catch!

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A circular logo for the Coastal Fisherman 50th Edition. It features a fishing rod and reel, a fish, and the text "COASTAL FISHERMAN 50th EDITION 1976-2025 Making Fishing Great!".

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VIRGINIA

FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Some breaks in the weather have allowed eager anglers to get out on the water and pursue their prey. The Lower Eastern Shore has provided some productive tides and times. We are all pretty lucky to have all of this right out our back door.

The Chesapeake continues beating it's drums (both black and red). Blacks have been located in their normal haunts, around oyster rocks in depths of 12-25 feet. Along with hard bottom a chunk peeler on a 8/0 circle hooks with fishfinder style rigs. On these rocky knolls, bull reds have also started to appear and give extra pullage, but unfortunately not adding fillets to fill the family dinner table. The shallows are improving as far as speckled and striped adversaries. While chunks of crabs have been the

main stay for attracting specs, rock and reds, popping corks and surface walking plugs are starting to grab more attention as well as opportunities to grab the net. The start of the transition from bait to artificials has been welcomed, as the bait stealing croakers, spot and kingfish, emaciate crab baits as fast as they can be presented. Along with stalking the shallows, casting for some big blues can get the excitement boiling and drag screaming. These fish have been around some of the man made structures and taking surface plugs and rap-10's. While you are around these same snaggy structures, put a sweeper jig on, tipped with crab for a striped sheepshead struggle that is as much fun on the rod as it is on the plate.

The seaside has produced some welcome sea bass action as anglers dunk squid strips on inshore wrecks to lure lunker knotheads out of their lairs. Farther inshore floundering fishermen fill limits (on the good days) and have family fun corralling up some of the most coveted fillets a fish could provide. Pink teasers and silversides are still in the lead for productivity. However, clear water is the most crucial component to a delicious dinner. The water has been cleanest during the last of the flood and first of the ebb. Remember, as June 1 approaches the size limit will change to a 17½" minimum. The 4 fish creel remains the same. Summer is almost here!

The surf has given up some













www.coastalfisherman.net beautiful spot-tails and a few rock as well. The sportsman of the sands have been using a combination of hi-lo rigs and modified fishfinder rigs to sneak these big guys from the bar through the suds and onto the sand. Some blues and kingfish also have come to play, however, until the titans of the beach move on, their presence will barely raise a brow.

Today in the store I got opportunity to see a friend of mine sneak away from work and school with his son for a school year flounder finally. After getting their bait and anything else they needed, they were off to make memories that will last longer than those summer nights of chasing fireflies that seemed to never end. As Ethan, Sammy and Belle get older and more immersed in (nearly adult) life we all need to remind ourselves to not take time for granted. So get out there and enjoy this wonderful place that we call home!

2025

VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - July 15 August 4 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>COBIA 43" minimum / Only 1>50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/20</p>
 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

eregulations.com



Ryder Troup, from Hanover, PA, holding his first black drum on the shores of Chincoteague. Ryder caught this 25" drum on a hand tied high low rig with Capt. Steve's #7 circle hooks and sand fleas. Congratulations on the first catch and we hope Ryder will have many more in his future.



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 <p>\$75,000</p> <p>2023 Pathfinder 2200 TRS Yamaha F150 w/ 77 Hours, Trailer Included</p>	 <p>\$299,000</p> <p>2023 Cobia 320 Center Console Twin Yamaha 425XT0 w/ 55 Hours Yamaha Warranty Until 6/14/2031 - No Trailer Included</p>	 <p>\$239,500</p> <p>2020 Pursuit S288 Sport Twin Yamaha F300 w/ 117 Hours, Tandem Axle Trailer Included</p>



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