

The crew of the "Gulf Stream" cleaned up at the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina! With no boats heading out on day 1 due to the weather, the action was concentrated on the weekend. Saturday saw all 30 boats fishing with a thresher coming to the scales, but no makos. The final day Sunday also started with another thresher, but it was the "Gulf Stream" that caught everyone's attention sliding into the scales at 5:15PM with this "129.8 lb., 74½" mako shark! Using bluefish, angler John Brittingham from Ocean City hooked up with the shark around 1:30PM in 61° water while inside the Poor Man's Canyon. Fishing in 60 fathoms, the shark only took a few minutes to get to the boat but still put on a show jumping 3 times. As the only mako brought to the scales, this one took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in addition to other calcuttas earning \$46,580 in award monies for the crew of Capt. Bill Brown, mate Jimmy Parrot and other anglers Sam Stuart Chris 'Gale Force Blasting' Stafford.

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You never forget the first time you catch a new fish and 24 year old Jeff Starner got two 'firsts' on a single trip! Fishing on the Miss Five-O out of White House Beach with his father Jeff and friends Jay and Morgan Way, they found this 34 lb. bluefin tuna and 9 lb. blueline tilefish in the Poor Man's Canyon. The bluefin took a purple & black sidetracker.



There continues to be good action at the Ocean City Inlet for keeper rockfish in the regulation slot. Jim Simon from Ocean Pines, MD dropped by to share this 10 lb., 31" striper he caught at the Inlet on a white bucktail with white Gulp.

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Memorial Day weekend was a washout weather wise, but the boys on "Turn Me Loose" kept a close eye on it and headed out when the weather broke on Memorial Monday! Anglers Dylan, Eric and Dave Mooney with Ryan McCall, Mike Callaway and Dennis Lineweaver were fishing in the Baltimore and Poor Man's Canyons where they found some eddies of 66° water to land 7 bluefin tuna overall keeping their limit of 2. All fish were in the same weight class and were the first bluefin tuna of the season brought in to Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina where they are pictured!



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You better not touch these two keeper flounders that Troy Bitler from Tennessee caught! He was fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey on the charter boat "On the Run" when they found these 17" and 20" fish in the Thorofare using Gulp for bait.



Rob Griggs had to have a custom handle to show of this catch! He was fishing on the "Liberty" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center last week when he landed this 33" and 13 lb. blueline tilefish and 5 others he found at the Rock Pile using clams. Second largest was 28".



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This Week Last Year

• Angler Andy Bleinbeger hooked into a 445 lb., 110" blue marlin between the Baltimore and the Poor Man's Canyon in 700 fathoms fishing on the "C-Boys". The first blue marlin release was reported from "Whiskey Kilo" on June 4th.

• Mahi were consistently showing up at the docks. The "Last Call" brought in 4 nice gaffers from behind the Baltimore Canyon with other nice catches on the "Boss Hogg", "Restless Lady II" and "Reel Fin Addiction".

• The yellowfin tuna action was in full swing. The crew of the "Fish Whistle" caught 15 in the Baltimore Canyon in 100 fathoms. With warm and mostly good weather moving into the area, last week was a hotbed of offshore activity, especially in the Poor Man's. It seems like everything being caught from the canyons was there! However, let's begin with a round up of our first tournament of the year, the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina!

This three day event allowing fishing for 2 of the 3 days was held last Friday thru Sunday. The weather for Friday was poor, so all 30 boats that registered chose that as their lay day. This meant all 30 boats went out on both Saturday and Sunday! Categories or divisions for the event were of course mako, both landed and released, thresher, but also bluefish! Saturday started strong



with the "Reel Fun" waiting for the scales to open with a large shark. Angler Scott Gettier spent an hour on the hook to get their 410.2 lb. thresher shark to the boat. They were in the Hambone using mackerel for bait. The only other fish to the scales that day were 2 bluefish from the "Reel Obsession" which turned out to be the only ones for the tournament, earning those anglers a nice award payout!

Sunday started like the day before with another thresher waiting at the dock to be weighed. This one was on the "Jacked Up" caught by Dennis Dieterle in the Fingers



on tuna fillet. Weighing in at 303.6 lbs., it held firmly in 2nd place. It was however the "Gulf Stream" with angler John Brittingham that stole the show and the majority of the prize money with the only mako brought to the scale! They caught the winning shark in the Poor Man's Canyon on a bluefish and it's picture graces this week's paper! You can check out more detail in the tournament coverage section toward the back of the paper as well as the details on the cover.

Outside of the tournament the action has been hot, hot, hot! Tuna dominated with many double digit catches reported for 'under' bluefins being caught early in the morning. With their limits met, with many crews moving a little

www.coastalfisherman.net further out spent the rest of the day catching double digits of tile fish! Our first two bluefin 'overs' for the season were also reported, caught on the "Roncito" and the "Primary Search". Sprinklings of yellowfin are also showing up. This week we saw some from the "Marli" and "Spring Mix II". A few large bigeyes were also reported, lead by a 164 lb. tuna caught on the "Rhonda's Osprey"! All of these were caught in the Poor Man's using mainly spreader bar, wide trackers and daisy chains with artificial bait or ballyhoo.

Given the fast tuna bites and the subsequent tile fishing, last week also saw several very large golden tiles caught again in the Poor Mans in 900 - 1100 feet of water. The "Long Shot" boated a 61.2 pound monster and "Foolish Pleasure" caught a 48.3 pounder.

We are still looking for that first white marlin of the season as well as the first dolphin! With the current weather forecast and summer charters running during the week, it won't be long now!

Upcoming Tournaments

- Patapsco Open Fishing Page on Facebook is putting together a 1 day event on June 11th focused on recreational anglers with weighins at Atlantic Tackle. Check out the details online.

- The first Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament is June 18-19 with weigh-ins at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Registration is open and there is limited tournament swag available. Captain's meeting will be the 17th.

Until next time, I'll see you at the docks! §





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Offshore fishing is more then just the catch, it is a chance to engage with the ocean, the elements and the life at sea. Brendan Hanley, owner of Pure Lure, was fishing last week on the south side of the Poor Man's Canyon on the "Double Trouble" with Capt. Kevin McCabe when they shared this piece of 500 fathom water with a school of dolphin!





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The Mayor or E-Dock at Sunset Marina, Jim Bugg, likes to share the offshore experience. On this trip last week he took Eric Moore from Salisbury, MD, and a server at Sunset Grille, out to the Poor Man's Canyon where she caught her first bigeye tuna (thus the big googly eye!). Fishing with mates Mike Halsey from Chesapeake Medical Systems and JR Spies, the crew hit a total of 7 tuna, mainly on spreader bars connecting as a single and then 2 triple hook ups.



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Bill and Fritz Winkler from Frankford, DE ended up with a seafood buffet after their 30 hour off shore trip! They started deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon catching a mix of barrel fish, snowy grouper, golden tilefish, black belly rose fish and an unusual and beautiful streamer bass. They ended the first day with two 'under' category bluefin tuna. The spent the night in the Poor Man's Canyon and got two more bluefins on the troll on green side tracker bars and daisy chains with green machine lures. In all the father & son duo caught 150 lbs. of tuna on this amazing trip!



It's good to see "Neighbor Dave" Leizear back on the water with Big Bird Cropper on the "Lost Time"! They were fishing on the outgoing tide by the south Ocean City jetty when Dave hit this 281/4" striper using one of Bird's Roy Rigs.





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The bluefin tuna bite south of the Poor Man's Canyon continues to be hot. Capt Chris Miller on the "Reel Escape" put anglers Bob Miller, Dave Stevens, Ron Tyszko and Shaun Patrick on the bluefins going 5 for 6 on the 27" - 47" range! They were using mainly spreader bars with Greene Machine lures in 1000 feet.







This week brought a big cool down, however it didn't really affect the fishing. Surf fishing as well as inlet and bays have really started to pick up.

Sea Bass

Sea bass remains strong! For those who have good numbers for near shore wrecks that have not been cleaned off, limits are still easy to catch. The well known spots like the NJ/ DE reef and site 11 are still holding some nice fish however there are more undersized fish you have to wade though to get close to a limit. Try finding some of the near shore wrecks for a better chance at a limit. The ratio I'm hearing is about 4 throwbacks to 1 keeper. Joe Cianele from Millsboro was out on the Katydid with Capt Brent on Tuesday and caught a big 3.36 lb sea bass. Was caught on fresh clam and weighed in at Lewes Marina. The headboat Judy V out of Indian River Marina had a few nice trips this week when

the weather cooperated. Several nice keeper sea bass were reported on their full day trips. Fishing for sea bass is still on fire so get out soon because this coming week is predicting warmer weather. Temps in the 90's, so the water is going to warm up quickly sending the sea bass out to deeper water. The Savanna Lynn reports good catches of sea bass on the northern end of Delaware along with some nice flounder now showing up in the catch.

Flounder

What a difference a week makes. Most anglers targeting sea bass began catching flounder as well. Reports from Fenwick Tackle as well as Hook 'em and Cook 'em are that the flounder have shown up. The inshore coral near B Buoy seems to be the go to spot this week. Areas around the A Buoy are also a great place to target these fish. Michelle Schnaitman was out on an ocean reef site and

caught a huge 21" flounder with squid. Luke Wiest along with his sister Emory were more than happy to show off their big flounder at Lewes Harbour Marina this past week. Flounder in the Delaware Bay as well as Indian River Bay areas have also started to show up. The hot spots in Indian River are the main channel near the Coast Guard station as well as the main channel in front of the red roof building. The area of Massey Ditch is also showing some nice fish being caught. This area is the well known sandbar party area and as more boats anchor up for the weekends fishing will begin to slow. The main channel of Massey's seems to be producing a nicer quality fish. Tip of the week: when targeting fish in this area, head out early about one hour before to one hour after high tide. Squid and minnow combos are a killer combo during these times. In the Delaware Bay reports are that the fish are on the edges of most of the shoals in a

www.coastalfisherman.net depth of 6-12 ft. Gulp on a long leader are the key baits this week for this area.

Sharks, Rays & Rockfish

The surf is full of sharks including some bigger sandbar sharks. Rays are really becoming a problem in the surf. Cut bait on a fish finder rig is working the best for targeting the blogger sharks and rays. If you can find fresh bunker, that would my recommendation, be however, frozen is a close second. A few slot and over slot stripers are still being caught in the surf as well as Indian River inlet. Bucktail tipped with a shad or plastic worm are the top producers here. Target these fish on a moving tide just prior to or after sunset. Kingston Ferenbach was fishing off a pier in Lewes when he caught his first striper. It's always great to see a young kid getting into fishing and a rockfish is a great catch!

Surf Fishing

Delawaresurffishing.com reports more and more rockfish are being caught in the surf this year. The past couple of years have not been the greatest, so its nice to see fish returning. Kingfish



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www.coastalfisherman.net on top and bottom rig or a small kingfish rig are also accounting for good numbers of keeper fish. Weakfish along the Cape Henlopen pier are also making an appearance. Many of these fish are reported to be filled with roe, so releasing them will really help out the population. Bloodworms are the top bait for surf fishing this week however fish bites are a close second and much more affordable.

Clams & Crabs

Crabbing remains strong with lots of big males in the pots. Bunker is the top bait with averages of 5-9 keepers per pot. Clams are getting much better with the clams being closer to the surface.

Until next week ...

Tight lines and fins up



There are still some nice drum being caught in the Delaware Bay. Sam Zaqzouq was fishing at the Coral Beds in the Bay when he caught this big 36" and estimated 25 lb. black drum using clams and sand fleas.



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Last week was all about the bluefin tuna. Anglers Mike Ahlfeldt and Brian Brannan were fishing on the "Wired" when they got their limit of two ($40^{"} \& 36^{"}$) from the Poor Man's last Wednesday.



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Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	
Bluefish	June 5 Ricky Windsor Fingers 10 lbs.	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	Mako Shark	May 28 Michael Eid Fingers 187 Ibs.	No Weights Reported	
Black Drum	April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	May 7 Adam Clarke Slaughter Beach 77.5 lbs.	Thresher Shark	June 5 Scott Gettier Hambone 410.2 lbs.	Wade Sartorial Fingers 309 lbs.	
Cobia	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Bigeye Tuna	June 6 Nick Nistazosi Poor Man's 164 Ibs.	No Weights Reported	
Flounder	May 8 Kevin Mcnelis Thorofare 4.2 lbs.	May 23 Heather Strickland Lewes Canal 4.08 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna	May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported	
Sea Bass	June 5 William Londron Ocean Structure 3 lb. 3 oz.	May 28 Denise Eddinger Del Jersey Reef 4.1 lbs.	Longfin Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	
Sheepshead	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Yellowfin Tuna	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	
Striped Bass	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	Dolphin	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	
Tautog	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	Wahoo	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	
Weakfish	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	White Marlin	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	

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Last week brought several large golden tilefish to the docks. This very deep water fish was caught by Scott Hall from Hummelstown, PA in 600 feet and spooled Scott twice as he wrestled it in on light tackle! Measured 42.2 lbs. and 46" long at Hook'em & Cook'em.



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Capt. Keith Beebe on the "Surface Tension" out of Lewes, DE got his anglers their share of the bluefin tuna bite fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon with Magic Tail side trackers.

OCEAN CITY INLET					
IDES &	MOON	PHASES			
WED. JUNE 9	High 07:49 am High 08:32 pm	Low 02:13 am Low 01:42 pm			
THUR. JUNE 10 ••New Moon••	High 08:32 am High 09:11 pm	Low 02:51 am Low 02:16 pm			
FRI. JUNE 11	High 09:15 am High 09:50 pm	Low 03:29 am Low 02:52 pm			
SAT. JUNE 12	High 09:58 am High 10:30 pm	Low 04:06 am Low 03:30 pm			
SUN. JUNE 13	High 10:40 am High 11:09 pm	Low 04:45 am Low 04:12 pm			
MON. JUNE 14	High 11:23 am High 11:49 pm	Low 05:26 am Low 04:59 pm			
TUE. JUNE 15	High High 12:09 pm	Low 06:10 am Low 05:51 pm			
WED. JUNE 16	High 12:32 am High 12:58 pm	Low 06:55 am Low 06:48 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. Page 20 Coastal Fisherman June 9, 2021

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Brooke Bowen and her grandfather Pete Ennis from Salisbury, MD caught a sweet 29" inch rockfish and a close to keeper throw back at 27" inch near the Ocean City Inlet. They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break".



Mike Sponseller and Don from Laurel, MD know how to put out a flounder for pictures! They got these two 18" flatties while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey's charter boat "On the Run" in the Thorofare using Gulp.



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Capt. Chris Mizurak on the deep sea fishing vessel "Angler" with mates Rich and Steve are keeping their anglers on the fish! They caught limits of sea bass on this trip including this 2³/₄ pounder that Jim Elidias landed while fishing an artificial reef with squid!





The "Ro Sham Bo" with Capt. Willie Zimmerman had another great day on the water! Anglers Paul Defruscio, Rodger Meske, Jake Mello, Roger Williams, Al Rosenberg and Todd Markawitz with mate Daniel Ames caught 9 under bluefins before 8:30AM in the Poor Man's Canyon on the 100 fathom line, heading out a little further they got 8 nice golden tiles and released a nice tiger shark estimated at 300 lbs!







On Memorial Day, Deb Patton and family went 4 for 5 on bluefin tuna and kept 3 unders! They were fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon with Capt. Mark Malamphy and mate Brandon Malamphy. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Aletha Williams has a big smile and a solid grip on this 4¼ lb. flounder! It is one of the few we are starting to see being caught offshore. She was fishing at a natural reef fishing on the headboat "Angler" using squid.







Anglers Jacob Calvert, Carlo de Simone, Seth Ross, Zach Gillis, and Alec Jennison got a nice mix of bluefin and emerging yellowfin tuna last weekend! The were fishing on the charter boat "Spring Mix" with Capt. Chris Watkowski and mate Jacob Bialk in the Poor Man's Canyon. The found the tuna in 63°-65° water using spreader bars with ballyhoo.



Anglers Todd Cannady, Brian Stewert, Kevin Gilfedder and Steve Lovecchio brought back some of the first yellowfin tuna of the season. Fishing with Capt. Mark Hoos with mate Danny Prettyman and Jax Moore on the "Marli" they caught 2 yellowin, 3 under bluefin tuna, 12 blue line tilefish along with sea bass and a bluefish! They were in the Poor Man's Canyon using spreader bars & chains with ballyoo and 64.5° water & 400 fathoms.



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The headboat "Judith M" with Capt. Eric Shoaff at the wheel traveled from Bahia Marina 18-20 miles offshore toward the Jack Spot and put his anglers, including Gene Garfield from Philadelphia, PA on the sea bass. Lots of fish caught in 100 feet of water using squid, clams, and shiners.



Capt. John Prather on the charter boat "OC Guide Service" was in the Poor Man's Canyon last Friday where his solo angler John Gooze made short work of catching their limit of under bluefin tuna on Squidnation spreader bars. After the tuna they headed inshore and caught and released a sandbar shark. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.







Mike Hamilton fished on a full day trip on the headboat "Judy V" out of the Indian River Marina with Capt. Christopher Adams and caught his limit of black sea bass. They were fishing the Del Jersey reef site using clams.





It was a beautiful and flat calm day when Capt. Kevin McCabe with Ian Hanley and Doug 'Minit Market' Jacobs on the "Double Trouble" were working in 500 fathoms on the southside of the Poor Man's Canyon when they caught this under bluefin tuna.



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Last week was the start of the tuna season for most of the charter boats and the "Primary Search" hit them hard! Capt. Austin Ensor with mate Brian Suschke took anglers Jordan Bosse, Josh Ensor, Gus Everhardt, Steve Strawbridge Jr, Mike Walker, Adam/Aaron Zinkhan, and Joe Tight to the Poor Man's Canyon where they raised their limit of 3 bluefin tuna between 27" & 47" and the first bluefin "over" regulation of 47" to 73" that we have seen this season! The fish came on trolled sterling tackle, crazy 8 chains, spreader bars and ballyhoo. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





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It was another good day fishing on the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey" with Capt. Joe Drosey. Anglers Nick 'tilt the scales' Nistazosi from Ocean City, Jimmy Kaminaris from Baltimore, Manoli Salpeas from Baltimore and Tamas Burmann from Salisbury. MD with mates Eric Strauss and Mario Rosales found this 164 bigeye tuna in the Baltimore Canyon on spreader bars with ballyhoo. It was a team effort with all anglers taking multiple turns to get this one to the boat!





'Shark Depredation" is a term that many folks are probably not familiar with, but one that's being used more and more by fishermen and fisheries management people around the world. If you're an ocean fisherman and have never put those words together in a sentence, don't worry - you will! Shark depredation describes an event where a commercial or recreational fisherman's catch is eaten or mutilated by one or more sharks, and while most anglers who have spent time fishing waters inhabited by sharks will have a story or two to tell about losing a fish off their line, there are some specific places along our coast where depredation has become a daily and absolutely overwhelming event. Fortunately such losses are few and far between for Delmarva fishermen, but in the future, whether directly or indirectly, all of us could end up having our fishing activities affected by depredation.

Shark Depredation

There is no dispute that shark depredation in both the recreational and commercial fisheries is occurring and has most likely increased in the last decade. Anglers from Maine to Florida and all of the Gulf states have stories to tell about sharks being so problematic that it's common for them to lose a part or all of their catch to sharks or, at the very least, be harassed so much by sharks that they are not able to fish how or where they would prefer. Besides the hooked fish that anglers are losing from their lines, sharks are preying upon fish that anglers release.

Fisherman's frustrations with shark depredation are escalating and certainly understandable. Since the late 90's we've transitioned from virtually unrestricted commercial and recreational shark fishing to a very complex and often confusing suite of rules, regulations, seasons, prohibited species, gear restrictions, and permitting requirements. U.S. fishermen must now comply with some of the most comprehensive shark regulations in the world and as a result, the directed commercial shark fishery has all but collapsed and recreational shark fishing has become primarily a catch-andrelease fishery.

Reports of shark depredation are rampant. At times Outer Banks anglers are losing more tuna to sharks than they actually land and if snapper and grouper aren't stolen from Florida fishermen's lines as they crank them up, the ones they release are eaten as they attempt to swim back to the safety of the reef. The conservation advantages of traditional catch-and-release fishing for vulnerable and critically important gamefish such as tuna, tarpon, sailfish, and permit are being minimized by this upsurge of shark depredation. Even spear fishermen are reporting personal safety concerns from sharks that are becoming more abundant and aggressive in their attempts to steal the fish that have been speared.

For many anglers, losing a fish or two to sharks has gone from an occasional event that might add a little extra excitement to their fishing day to a situation whereby they are so overwhelmed by sharks they have no alternative but to abandon their fishing efforts. While part time recreational fishermen might find this imposition enough to ruin their hopes for an enjoyable time on the water that ends with a meal or two of fresh fish, captains and guides in the fore-hire fishing industry are seeing it tap directly into their annual revenues. Depredation has spawned a new level of anger and frustration in fishermen that has prompted some to choose other ways to spend their free time and money rather than pursuing fish they feel they have little chance of successfully landing, thus threatening stability within the corresponding fishing industry.

What's The Problem?

At first glance it might seem obvious that the cause of the depredation problem is simply that there are now more and "too many" sharks, and that conclusion could indeed prove-out to be correct. However, considering the extreme complexity of the marine ecosystem, the answer to "why is this happening?" might not be as simple as an overabundance of sharks, and before a proper and effective action can be determined www.coastalfisherman.net that will help mitigate depredation it will be critical to correctly identify what the underlying circumstances are that are creating this dilemma.

Things to Consider

White sharks congregating off Massachusetts.

In the last decade white sharks have been observed off the coast of Massachusetts in increasing and unprecedented numbers. From their own observations, coastal residents of that state might be inclined to conclude that white shark populations have exploded. However, in reality it's pretty much agreed that the abundance of white sharks is not the direct result of an increase in the population of the species, but from sharks being drawn to the area to feed on the increased number of seals that have taken up residence along that part of the coast. Rather than being distributed over a wider area of the ocean the white sharks are aggregating along the Massachusetts coast because they've become conditioned to recognize it as the place to be for a consistent and easy meal during certain months of the year.

Dusky Sharks Off North Carolina

Dusky sharks are high on the NMFS's Prohibited Species List because, according to stock assessments, their numbers are so critically low that an elevated level of conservation is needed to bring their population back to sustainable levels. However, apparently duskies are one of the primary culprits in the depredation that's going on off the Outer Banks. Are the stock assessments now wrong



www.coastalfisherman.net because dusky shark populations have rebounded so much and so quickly? Or, like the white sharks off Massachusetts, is the word out among the remaining duskies that the Outer Banks is "the" place to be in the spring for an easy meal?

South Florida Turmoil

It might be said that south Florida is the epicenter of shark depredation. Over some reefs and wrecks bottom fishermen are finding it virtually impossible to successfully land a snapper or grouper, more and more tarpon anglers are experiencing the horror of having their prize fish attacked before they can get it to the boat or ripped to shreds after it's released, and an increasing number of bluewater anglers are complaining about depredation on sailfish, tuna, wahoo and other pelagics. Off Key West an entire reef has been closed to fishing of any kind because sharks were taking such a heavy toll on permit, snapper and other fish that were being caught and released during their important spawning season. Anglers claim that the primary culprits are bull, blacktip, lemon, and sandbar sharks. Could it be that all of these species have become overpopulated?

Shark's Nature

The weak, the injured, and the dying have always been fair game for sharks, and most folks recognize this as an important and necessary part of keeping balance within the marine ecosystem. Sharks are both the ocean's janitors and apex predators, and whether it be from the sight, sound, smell, or vibrations given off by their intended meal, they are uniquely designed to quickly and efficiently capture, and consume prey that they recognize as being in distress. Obviously, a hooked fish struggling on the line as it works against the drag of the reel is exactly what a shark was designed to identify as prey. And as fishermen we must recognize that every fish we engage will transition from "healthy" to "distressed" the moment we set the hook. The fish are just doing what they do until we put them in peril by putting a bait or lure in front of them, and the sharks are just doing what million years of evolution have taught them to do in response.

While there's no "villain" here, it can be argued that if we fishermen didn't make the fish act erratically by hooking them - they wouldn't end up being eaten by the sharks. Then again, aside from maybe becoming more efficient at it, we fishermen are also just doing what we've always done. Could the catalis of the depredation problem be that because there are so many more fishermen out there than ever before there are a lot more opportunities for sharks to learn where the easy meals come from?

More Questions

We've all seen how with so much of their natural environment being lost to urban development, deer, bear, and other wildlife are increasingly losing the fear of man and showing up in our own backyards. Is there now so much boating, diving, and fishing activity going on that sharks are becoming so accustomed to being around us that they're losing their natural wariness and actually becoming conditioned to look to us for a source of food? Could they be putting off their natural fear of man because their natural prey is diminishing? Or have sharks just finally wised up to the fact that man's fishing operations are a source of easy meal?

Effects on Fishery Regulations

Since fishery managers must take into account all sources of mortality when determining catch

June 9, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 31 aybe limits, shark depredation must t, we be factored in. Therefore, if too what many tuna, snapper, billfish, sea the bass or whatever are being nailed blem by sharks, regulations could be adjusted to compensate for lost fish even in areas where the depredation more isn't occurring. How would you learn like to have your sea bass or tuna imits cut in half because sharks are eating so many of them off North Carolina? So, indirectly, this issue could affect anglers who never even encounter sharks.

Answers?

Right now there are a whole lot more questions than there are answers about shark depredation and what, if anything, can be done about it. Fishery people are certainly aware of the situation and some studies are in the works and others being considered. The kneejerk reaction by some folks has been that we need to start culling shark populations by liberalizing regulations, right now there is so much unknown about what's really going on that such action would not be rational or likely to happen. The only thing certain about the answer to shark depredation is that it's sure to be controversial!



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Caden Whitman beams a smile sharing the 18" flounder he landed on a spec rig in the Ocean City Inlet while fishing on his dad Lenny's boat!



Local Ocean City boat "Kilo Charlie" with Capt. Howard Lynch is still cranking it while prepping for the Big Rock Tournament in NC. Here is Chris Kinsley working the leader on a white marlin hooked by Scott Dolmetsch. The crew also caught 2 nice size mahi that day while running a 6 line spread of Black Bart lures and mackerel.





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The fishing this week remains steady even with the cooler weather. Sea bass is still the most targeted species but flounder is making a strong surge.

Sea Bass

Captain Monty on the Morning Star reports he has had some great trips with limits to most anglers fishing the near shore wrecks. His best trip was June 1st with fantastic weather and a great bite to go along with it. The Angler also reports some of the best sea bass fishing they have had in years. Most of the targeted areas like the Bass Grounds and the African Queen are being hit hard and are now producing a lot more undersized fish than in past weeks. If using your personal boat, try targeting the deeper areas like the Great Eastern wreck or the Marine Electric areas for a less pressured area. Clams still remain the best bait, with squid being second. Fresh over frozen is still the better choice. Target the down current sides of these deeper wrecks to find wrecks are not as prevalent as staging fish.

Flounder

Flounder in the bay areas have really heated up with most of the bay party boats reporting some great catches. The main area of interest seems to be above the Rt. 50 Bridge. Drifting the main channel with squid/minnow combos on a nice long leader is the key to tricking one of these fish into biting. The Thorofare leading to Ocean Pines is also producing some nice fish. The key times being at the end of any moving tide. The area behind Assateague Island which has been really hot the past few weeks took a big slowdown with very few fish being reported. The area near the Commercial Harbor in the deep hole to the south has been producing some decent fish with both small stripers as well as a few sea trout thrown in. For the rockfish and sea trout, throw a small bucktail tipped with a colored worm or a paddle tail swim jig. Flounder on the

up north however a few nice keepers are being reported.

Sharks, Rockfish & Rays

Sharks have shown up on the surf and near shore wrecks. Lots of dogfish sharks are on the wrecks sometimes making it hard to get down to the flounder and sea bass.

Tip of the week... after hooking a sea bass, don't stop reeling as the fish comes up. You don't have to horse it up as fast as you can but a steady retrieve will help to keep the sharks away. When the dogfish become too abundant you'll have to move to another wreck. Although I personally am not a fan of dogfish sharks, many people think the white meat is very tasty. Overseas the dogfish are used for fish and chips and have a big commercial fishery for them. Here in the states there are no regulations on dogfish and you can keep what you catch. Please keep only what you can eat. Dogfish do not freeze very well and

www.coastalfisherman.net should be eaten fresh. Also in the surf we have reports of sand tiger sharks as well as a few duskys. Cut bait on a circle hook is the best presentation for these. After dark is when these sharks are most active. Assateague Island is also reporting a few rockfish in the surf however most are over slot when found. In the bay the Rt. 50 Bridge is still producing small stripers as well as a few blues. Bouncing a jig along the bottom near the bridge structure is the key to getting these fish to bite. Along the channel leading into Ocean City small rockfish and trout are still being caught, but they are not as abundant as in past weeks. Most of these fish are coming from the areas of the Ocean City fishing piers both bay side and oceanside. Swim baits thrown and retrieved on or near the bottom account for most of the fish caught. This upcoming week looks to be a hot one so I would expect to see a few cobia hitting the hooks. Eels are your best bait. Set up on a nearby shoal and chum heavy. Let your bits drift back at different intervals so as to cover the water top to bottom. smart thing to do is keep a



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www.coastalfisherman.net plastic or rigged eel on a rod as many times these cobia will swim right next to the boat when checking out your baits. Having a bait ready to toss in front of these finicky fish is often a day saver.

Clams & Crabs

Clams at the Assateague bays have really turned on. As the water continues to warm the clams come up from their deep muddy depths and are closer to the top of the sand making raking easier. Crabs are still a little slow down south here, although the numbers are increasing. About 4-7 keepers per pot is about average.

We always like to see pictures of your catches, please send them to so the Coastal Fisherman at coastalfisherman@comcast. net

Until next week ...

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- into small cubes
- 4 green onions, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds

1 avocado, chopped into small pieces

1/2 cup diced cucumber

A handful of cilantro, chopped

1 tbsp. lime juice

Pinch of salt & pepper Sauce: 2 cloves of garlic, minced 1 tbsp. grated ginger

- 2 spring onions, chopped 2 tbsp. soy sauce, gluten-free if

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needed.

- 1 tbsp. sesame oil
- 1 tbsp. rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp. honey

Directions:

Add all the sauce ingredients to a bowl and mix together. Set aside.

Add the cut up tuna, green onions and sesame seeds directly to the bowl of sauce and mix until combined. In a separate bowl, mix together the finely chopped avocado, cucumber, cilantro, lime juice, salt, and pepper.

Plate your tartare by using a mold or a circular ramekin.

Pan Fried Rockfish with **Quick Rosemary Mushroom** Sauce and Broccolini

Ingredients:

Roasted Veggies:

10 stems of broccolini, 8 ounces

- 6 small tomatoes, 8 ounces
- 1 Teaspoon olive oil
- Sea salt and pepper to taste
- Mushroom Pan Sauce:

12 cremini mushrooms, 8 ounces

1 Tablespoon butter, or olive oil for

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- 1 shallot, minced, 1/4 cup
- 2 Teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
- 1/2 cup white wine, or chicken stock

Sea salt and pepper to taste

1-2 Teaspoons reserved flour mixture from fish

Pan fried rockfish:

12 ounces of rockfish for a 6 ounce serving each

- 2 Tablespoons flour
- 1/2 Teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 1/8 Teaspoon garlic powder

1 Tablespoon olive oil for pan frying

Preheat the oven to 450°F and line





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a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Cut the tomatoes in half and place them on the lined baking sheet with the broccolini. Drizzle with olive oil and season with sea salt and pepper. Set the veggies aside until you're done with the pan sauce.

Make the flour mixture for the fish by whisking together the cassava flour, sea salt, black pepper, cayenne, and garlic powder. Reserve 2 teaspoons of this flour mixture on the side for thickening the mushroom sauce.

Thoroughly clean the mushrooms and thinly slice them.

Preheat a 9" cast iron pan over medium heat, add the butter or olive oil and minced shallots. Sauté the shallots until translucent and lightly browned, about 3-4 minutes. Turn the heat up to medium high, add the minced rosemary and sliced mushrooms, sauté turning the mushrooms 30-45 seconds when every they've browned. When the mushrooms are tender, turn the heat back down to medium, and add the white wine. Simmer for 1-2 minutes and season to taste with salt and pepper. Thicken

the sauce by stirring vigorously while sprinkling in 1 teaspoon of the reserved flour mixture. If the sauce is still too thin, stir in the remaining teaspoon of reserved flour mixture. Set the sauce on a back burner over the lowest heat to keep it warm while you cook the fish and veggies.

Place the prepared veggies in the oven to roast until tender, about 12 minutes.

Preheat another 9" cast iron skillet or nonstick skillet over medium heat. Rinse the fish thoroughly with water and pat the fillets dry with paper towels. When the veggies are halfway cooked, you're ready to start the fish.

Add the tablespoon of olive oil to the preheated pan, and dredge both sides of each fish fillet into the flour mixture you made earlier. Place the fillets into the pan and fry for 4-6 minutes per side, or until golden and the fish is beginning to flake apart. The timing will vary every time depending on the thickness of your fillets.

Serve by placing a fillet on each of the 2 plates, split the roasted veggies onto each plate, and top with the mushroom sauce.

Serve immediately.



Best Easy Healthy Baked Salmon

Ingredients:

4 salmon fillets - about 6 ounces each

2 tablespoons olive oil

 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt - or to taste

¹/₄ teaspoon cracked black pepper - just a pinch if using finely ground black pepper

2 teaspoons minced garlic

1 teaspoon Italian herb seasoning blend - or herbs de provence, or ¼ teaspoon each dried thyme, parsley, oregano, and basil

1 medium lemon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees



June 9, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 41 and grease a large baking pan. Arrange salmon fillets on the baking sheet and season generously with salt and pepper.

> Stir together olive oil, garlic, herbs, and juice of 1/2 lemon. Spoon over salmon fillets being sure to rub all over the tops and sides of the salmon so it has no dry spots. Thinly slice remaining 1/2 of lemon and top each piece of salmon with a slice of lemon.

Bake for 15-18 minutes until salmon is opaque and flaky when pulled apart with a fork. You can broil the last 1-2 minutes if desired.

Garnish with fresh thyme or parsley if desired and serve.

Flavor tip: swap out the lemon for lime and add a sprinkle of cilantro at the end!

Ahi Tuna with Ponzu Sauce

Ingredients:

For the Ponzu Sauce:

1/3 cup soy sauce

1/4 cup fresh lemon juice (from 2-3 lemons)

2 tablespoons fresh lime juice (from 1-2 limes)

2 tablespoons mirin or rice vinegar



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1 tablespoon brown sugar plus more to taste

1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

For the Ahi Tuna:

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 (8 ounce) Ahi tuna steaks (about ³/₄ of an inch thick, see note 4)

Scallions for garnish

Cooked rice for serving



Directions:

To make the Ponzu Sauce:

In a small bowl, whisk together soy sauce, lemon juice, lime juice, mirin, brown sugar, and cayenne pepper. Divide sauce in half and reserve half the sauce for dipping. To make the Ahi tuna:

Coat the tuna steaks in remaining ponzu sauce and marinate for at least one hour.

In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil until shimmering. Remove tuna steaks from marinade, wipe off excess, and add to skillet. Sear 1 to 2 minutes per side for rare.

Transfer to cutting board and let rest 5 minutes. Slice into 1/4-inch slices and garnish with scallions. Serve with white rice and reserved ponzu sauce for dipping. Notes:

Mirin: If you can't find Mirin (a sweet Japanese cooking wine), substitute 2 tablespoons white wine or rice vinegar + 1 teaspoon sugar.

Brown sugar: Start with 1 tablespoon and add more to the ponzu sauce to taste, if desired.

Cayenne pepper: Add to taste or omit entirely.

Ahi tuna: Also known as yellowfin tuna or bigeye tuna. Fresh tuna will be red or pink in color and will usually come in a giant loin that gets cut as it's requested. If you can only find pre-cut pieces of tuna, look for tuna steaks that are moist and shiny with barely translucent meat. If the steaks look dull, brown, or if the muscle starts to separate into flakes, the fish isn't fresh. Fresh tuna smells like the sea; if it smells too "fishy," pass.

A different fish: Try mahi, sea bass, cod or even salmon. You may prefer to cook these fish a bit more thoroughly in this recipe, depending on your personal taste.

Pan-Roasted Swordfish Steaks with Mixed-Peppercorn Butter

Ingredients:

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature

2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley

1 garlic clove, minced

1/2 teaspoon ground mixed peppercorns, plus more for sprinkling

1/2 teaspoon (packed) grated lemon peel

1 tablespoon olive oil

4 1-inch-thick swordfish fillets (about 6 ounces each)



Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Mash butter, parsley, garlic, 1/2 teaspoon ground mixed peppercorns, and lemon peel in small bowl. Season to taste with salt.

Heat oil in heavy large oven proof skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle swordfish with salt and ground mixed peppercorns. Add swordfish to skillet. Cook until browned, about 3 minutes. Turn swordfish over and transfer to oven. Roast until just cooked through, about 10 minutes longer. Transfer swordfish to plates. Add seasoned butter to same skillet. Cook over medium-high heat, scraping up browned bits, until melted and bubbling. Pour butter sauce over swordfish and serve.





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A little rainy weather did not keep Capt. Dave Caffrey or his boat "On the Run" off the water! He took Josh Therit and Laken Tolbert to the Thorofare to catch these two 19½" and 18" keeper flounder using Gulp. Pictured at Bahia Marina.



Beginner's luck is one of the best lucks! Andy Paternoster who is new to fishing definitely had beginner's luck last week landing his first keeper flounder at 17" while fishing the Lewes Canal with minnows. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Shaun Flaherty has been on fire lately. Last week he kayaked over to Assateague Island and fished of the rocks. Tossing a Roy Rig, he hit an 'Inshore Grand Slam', catching a 21" flounder, 22" sea trout and a 30" rockfish all in one day!



Addison Hedrick got in on the tuna action this week while fishing with Capt. Chris Rangi and mates Connor Campbell (pictured) and Reese Yost. They were in the Poor Man's Canyon using Sterling Tackle wide trackers.



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Zack Nock and Chip Nock from Stockton, MD look more like brothers than father and son! They found this 21" keeper flounder in the south Ocean City Bay using a white Otter Tail Split Tail with a minnow. They were fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break"





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Poco Loco

You may have heard of the Poco, a product with the product before from Lumitec, the marine it was officially released company lighting Delray Beach, Florida and product has evolved into wondered what it was, what can it do, and do I 3 and now includes Pico

I first learned about the

Poco hardware during my

unique experience as part of the Poco beta team, working in in 2019. The original the current version, Poco

synchronize the boat's lights, along with offering remote control from the MFD or smartphone. While the 3" x 5" white plastic encased Poco device looks plain and simple, there is a lot going on under the hood. In simplest terms, it is a central controller for Lumitec LED lights. If you are thinking other companies have this, you



need it?

C-4 and Pico S-8 expansion products. I discovered that the Poco was the most cost effective and simplest way





are correct BUT the Poco device is unique in its low cost and ability to be used for just about any type or brand of lighting, not just Lumitec, and allows control from many sources.

The Poco device and its optional add-on modules serve as a central "hub" where Lumitec and now other lights are joined together for centralized control. In addition to using a traditional switch to control the operation of lights, a boater can also connect the Poco device to the boats' Multifunction display (MFD), currently compatible with the newest Garmin, Simrad, Lowrance and Raymarine products. Using the boats MFD as a control hub for the boats lighting gives the captain an easily accessible centralized control of the lighting, without the need to run all the lights' wires to the helm, just a single network cable from the remotely mounted Poco. When light control is desired, but you are at the

www.coastalfisherman.net to control, customize and dock, a built-in wireless connection to the Poco is available that allows most modern smartphones to use an app to communicate with the Poco on your boat, controlling the lights from your smartphone. For the traditionalists, the Poco also allows a traditional rocker type switch or toggle switch to control your lights, with the advantage of the Poco features.

> The Poco features are varied and flexible, depending on the lights you have or want to control.

Many of the Lumitec lights are controlled through the existing power wiring pair (traditional positive and negative circuit) without the need to rewire the boat or add special modules, a traditional switch can control the color selection and or brightness of the light fixture. This ability is called TTP or Timed Toggle Protocol and uses a traditional switch to control the lights. These TTP lights work wonderfully with the Poco.



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One step above the TTP is the Power Line Instruction or PLL. а way to digitally control lighting using the same pair of wiring to provide the electricity to transport the communication from a controller to the light. This PLI feature is also available to integrate with the Poco.

For those who are not aware, in the past many LED lighting systems needed additional and or proprietary wiring to control the lights making upgrades or retrofits very time consuming and expensive compared to reusing the existing boat wiring. Most Lumitec lighting now can reuse existing wiring to modernize a boat lighting system with or without the optional Poco and offer modern features, such as dimming and color change.

The Poco device can now

also control third party lights, lighting accessories and devices, including the trending speaker lights and multicolor strip lights.



One of the most creative aspects of the Poco is the ability to create and save color schemes for any or all the compatible Lumitec lights.

I have seen combinations of above the water line and below the waterline lights synchronized and saved as a pre-set Poco "button" for a red, white and blue scheme, or a button for an evening cruise scheme, or a button programmed with your favorite sports team colors and more.

The Poco digital lighting

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simple two wire installation per circuit that can replace up to 4 conventional on/ off switches or dimmer modules. The Poco module controls up to 4 channels and up to 32 "virtual circuits" and requires no additional command wires run to the lights. Set up and configuration can be completed from your MFD or smartphone app. Here are the detailed our specifications for technical readers: each of the four channels can control up to 10 Amps of lighting between 10 and

June 9, 2021 Coastal Fisherman Page 47 controller module is a 30 volts DC, the Poco contains built-in Wifi for Smartphone connection and RJ45 connection for MFD.

> The Poco is a great device to add on to your existing lighting or new LED lighting to create a modern system that can be controlled from numerous sources and allow your boat's lighting to be custom tailored to your desires.§

Until next time...

Stay Grounded!



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The Indian River Inlet was good to the Singer boys from Columbia, PA! 12 year old Cole caught a 28" and 8 lb. weakfish and Brent landed a nice 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch flounder. Both caught on white bucktails with plastic white worms.



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Pure Lure founder Brendan Hanley put his own gear to work last week fishing on the "Double Trouble" with Capt. Kevin McCabe, his son Ian Hanley and Doug 'Minit Market' Jacobs. They were in 500 fathoms on the south side of the Poor Man's Canyon when Brendan caught this one of several under bluefin tunas.





Rich 'Delicious' Daiker is at it again! This time he caught a 30" rockfish at the south Ocean City Jetty on the outgoing tide using one of Big Bird Cropper's Roy Rigs.



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William Condron from Ellicott City, MD dropped by to get his sea bass measured and weighed after his trip on the "Over-Board" with Capt. Dustin Lorah. They were fishing 20-30 miles offshore in about 60' of water when this 20¹/₄ and 3 lb. 3 oz knothead took their bait!





The charter boat "Marli" hit the hot bluefin tuna bite catching 16 for the day, keeping their limit of 3 unders. Then switching to tile fishing, they landed 30 by the end of the day. Anglers Mike Hill, Jonathan Wright, Kevin Hanna, Steve Gialloretto, Evan Mohrman and David Moffett were on the charter boat "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Daniel Prettyman south of the Poor Man's Canyon in 65° water and 150 fathoms when the blues hit their Sterling spreader bars & chains.



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The first trip of the season is in the books for the "Hammy V"! It landed them right on top of the bluefin tuna first thing in the morning at the Baltimore Canyon, even before all the lines were in the water. Capt. Kenny Hamilton, Capt. Jon Katz, mates Richie Katz and Ben McAdams with anglers Michelle Reninnger and Sam Giansanti released a short bluefin tuna to start. They hooked up again before all the lines were back out, doubled up twice and ended up boating 6 tunas and keeping their limit of 2, estimated 38" unders and got back to the dock early!

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OCEAN CITY

Talbot Street Pier Oceanic Fishing Pier Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St. Park Place Hotel - 2nd St. Reel Inn - 17th St. Bahia Marina - 22nd St. Minit Market - 31st St. Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St. Dough Roller - 41st St. 64th Street Market - 64th St. Advanced Marina - 66th St. Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St. Dough Roller - 69th St. Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St. Acme - 92nd St. Liquid Assets - 94th St. 7-11 - 119th St. Wawa - 120th St. Montego Bay Market - 130th St. Primos Hoagies - 134 St. 7-Eleven - 139th St.

WEST OCEAN CITY

Wawa - Rt. 50 Mione's Pizza - Outlets

WEST OCEAN CITY

Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets Bank of Ocean City West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50 All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50 **Bluewater Yacht Sales** Ocean City Fishing Center Ocean City Marlin Club Atlantic Tackle Sunset Grille Sunset Marina Sunset Provisions Pure Lure Fishing Gear Harbor Marine Food Lion - Rt. 611 Optical Galleria - Rt. 611 Southside Deli - Rt. 611

BERLIN

Frontier Town - Country Store Rt. 611 Cheers - Berlin Food Lion - Berlin Crabs To Go - Rt. 50 Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances) Food Lion - Ocean Pines

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE Fenwick Tackle

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INDIAN RIVER

Indian River Marina Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop Old Inlet Bait & Tackle

DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rehoboth ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth Fisherman's Wharf - Lewes Wawa - Rehoboth (near Fresh Market) Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt.1 G&E Supermarket G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd. Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26 Gull's Way Campground Tuckahoe Campground Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26 Wawa - Rt. 26 Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26 Downtown Bethany by Bandstand Bob's Marine

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Short's Marine Rick's Bait & Tackle





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Last week saw an unusual amount of very large golden tilefish brought to the docks ranging from the mid 40 pounds to this monster 61.2 lb. fish! Capt. Adam Lankford caught this one of four total tile fish after hitting their limit of bluefin tuna at the Poor Man's Canyon in the morning. Fishing with him on the "Long Shot" were Capt. Carey Cox (pictured), Thomas Jackson, Steven Martin, Matt Caitlin, Rob Taylor, Scott Banks, Derrick Williams and Jon & Melissa Blake.

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Bill and Fritz Winkler from Frankford, DE took a long 30 hour offshore trip and caught a lot of fish! They started deep dropping in the Baltimore Canyon catching a mix of barrel fish, snowy grouper, golden tilefish, black belly rose fish and this unusual and beautiful yellow tail bass.



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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2021	2020	Species	2021	2020
Bluefish	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island	May 29, 2020 Kathy Grab Fenwick Island State Park	Mako Shark	May 28 Michael Eid "Hot Line" Fingers	April 16, 2020 Ron Griggs "Finatic" Wilmington Canyon
Black Drum	March 31 Allen Skylar Assateague Island	April 19, 2020 Bill Grubb Fenwick Island State Park	Thresher Shark	May 22, 2021 Patrick Snell "MAKO me CRAZY" Twin Wrecks	June 13, 2020 Charlie Boyles "Hook It Up" Old Grounds
Cobia		June 21, 2020 Aaron Reeves "On the Run" South Jetty	Bigeye Tuna	May 28 Pete Gudiatis "Blood Money" Poor Man's	May 27, 2020 Ryan Turner "Full Service" Norfolk Canyon
Flounder	April 18 Danny Cox Rt. 90 Bridge	May 5, 2020 Mackenzie Cathell Thorofare	Bluefin Tuna	May 7 James Hammond "Hot Lick" Norfolk Canyon	June 9, 2020 Shannon Gore Baltimore Canyon
Sea Bass	April 12 Camryn Baeder Inshore Wreck	May 15, 2020 Brent Bortner "Green Machine" Offshore Wreck	Longfin Tuna		June 9, 2020 Evan Winterbottom "PYY Fishing" Poor Man's Canyon
Sheepshead		June 12, 2020 Keith Smith "On the Run" South Jetty	Yellowfin Tuna	May 28 Bill Pino "Blood Money" Poor Man's	April 29, 2020 Dylan Wiley Washington Canyon
Striped Bass	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel	May 7, 2020 Patricia Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	Dolphin		May 23, 2020 Jeremy Phares "Reel Fin Addiction" Norfolk Canyon
Tautog	January 1 Mike Sadowski "Tide Runner" Ocean Structure	January 2, 2020 Patrick Enoch "Morningstar" Artificial Reef	Wahoo		June 18, 2020 Jack Hannum "Blood Money" Poor Man's Canyon
Weakfish	May 6 Rich Harpel North Jetty Indian River Inlet	June 17, 2020 Muhamad Arshad Oceanic Fishing Pier	White Marlin		May 23, 2020 Carl Sauer "Reel Escape" Washington Canyon

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

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Charlie Donohue with Ben Semiation had a good day of sea bass fishing last Sunday even though it was a little rough on the way out. Fishing some of the inshore wrecks, the sea bass were a little picky at the start, but the bite turned on after the tide change! They were using clams and squid and boated 18 keepers overall.



14 year old Peyton Elder from Pheonix, MD can barely hold up this 41 lb. golden tilefish he caught in the Poor Man's Canyon! He was fishing on the "Canyon Hunter" in 200 fathoms and 63° water when this one hit on tuna belly. The crew of Capt. Mike Vaughan and mate Don Schline and other anglers Tim Odachowski, Bob Elder and Chris Marsh ended the day with 2 bluefin tuna, 5 goldens and a rosefish. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



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The crew of the "Gulf Stream" cashed in at the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina! Bringing the only mako to the scales over the 3 day event they took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in addition to other calcuttas to earn \$46,580 in award monies for the crew of Capt. Bill Brown, mate Jimmy Parrot and other anglers Sam Stuart from Ocean City with Chris 'Gale Force Blasting' Stafford from Cherry Hill, NJ.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST STRAS

	MD	DE **		MD	DE **
Atlantic Spadefish	24"		Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Black Drum	48″	50 lbs. or 45"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	SHARK:		
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18″	3 lbs. or 19"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45″	15 lbs. or 41"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24″	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35″	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14″	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40″	10 lbs. or 26"	onoransii	Any Size	/ inj bize
Red Drum*	36″	45″	TUNA:		
Sailfish*	Any Size	1	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	False Albacore	24″	12 lbs. or 26"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bigeye***	60″	70 lbs. or 48"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"	* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program		
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release *** Use curved-fork-length measurements eregulations.com		



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With day 1 of the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina a wash out due to the weather, all 30 boats focused on the weekend for their 2 days of fishing. The "Reel Fun" kicked off the tournament bringing this 410.2 lb. and 94" thresher shark to the scale right as they opened on Saturday! Angler Scott Gettier from Ocean City connected with this shark at the Hambone in 62 degree water using a mackerel. It took an hour to get to land even though Scott got the leader to the boat 4 times. Despite a single challenger, the shark held onto 1st place to earn \$12,462 in award monies for the crew of Capt. Rob Skillman, mate James Coates and other anglers Andy Mayr, Trey Gettier, Andy Bradshaw and Wendall Austin.



There was competition for the top slot in the mako release category of the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina! Both the "Side Piece" and the "Take Em" released 3 makos each, however, the "Side Piece" alone had entered the Release Calcutta earning them 1st place in that category and \$2,200 in award money for their releases in the Fingers and Sausages! Fishing in the tournament were Capt. Brad Carey, mate Pat Rice and anglers Joseph Haller, Tim Tracy and Stephen Martz.



It was the crew of the "Take Em" that took the W.W. Harman Award for most released makos at the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina! Capt. Skip Daisy with legendary mate Dakota Bittner and Eastern Shore anglers Richard Osborne, John Schmitz, Andrew Dietz, Fred Wyman and James Haran released a total of 3 makos in the Poor Man's Canyon before any other boats securing them the \$1,500 prize money.



Thresher Division

137 Anglers

Gulfstream 129.8 lbs. \$46,580

Reel Fun 410.2 lbs. \$12,468 Jacked Up 306.3 lbs. \$7,308

Mako Release

1 - "SIDE PIECE"	2 Releases	\$2,200
2 - "KEEP ER WET"	1 Releases	\$5,967
3 - "MAKO ME CRAZY"	1 Releases	\$3,609
Bluefis	h Division	
1 - "REEL OBSESSION"	10 lbs.	\$3,606
2 - "REEL OBSESSION"	4 lbs.	\$1,134
WW Harman	Most Releas	ies
1 - "Take Em" TEAN	A 3 Releases	\$1,500

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The 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina saw two great starts to the weigh-ins over the weekend. Both days started with a bang with a thresher shark waiting to be weighed at the opening. It was the crew of the "Jacked Up" that got the action going on Sunday bringing their team shirts and this 306.3 lb. thresher caught by Dennis Dieterle from Green Castle, PA. Caught on tuna fillet at the Fingers, it took 40 minutes to get to the boat. With no other threshers brought in, this one held onto 2nd place winning \$7,308 in award monies. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Dean Metcalfe, Bob Evans, Dave Stephens, Nick Skidmore, Jeff Payne, Jeff Landis with Jason and John Crawford.



The bluefish division of the 2021 Annual Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina was uncontested with only 2 fish brought to the scales, and by the same boat! The "Reel Obsession" locked first and second place in the division leading with the 1st place 10 lb. bluefish caught by Ricky Windsor from Waldorf, MD at the Fingers on cut bluefish. A second 4lb. fish secured 2nd place giving the crew of Ricky, Kyle Schmidenberg from North Beach, MD, Randel Garner from Lothian, MD, Kenny Schoen from Roxana, DE and Rich Daiker from Westminster, MD a total of \$4,740 in prize money!



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