

Priceless

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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Capt. Austin Ensor had been watching the satellite water temp charts for days! He knew there were tuna out there, but the weather was just not cooperating. Despite reports of wind, he and the crew of Steve Strawbridge, Vinny McMahon, Josh Ensler, Casey Cameron, Joe Tight, Eric Peterson and Brian Sushke left the dock early last Monday at 3:30 AM to get lines in at first light. They set the spread right out front in 250 fathoms of the Baltimore Canyon and hooked up straight away. At one point they had 10 on at the same time! Soon they had 7 bigeye tunas that not only filled the fish box but several fish bags as well. Capt. Austin reported the yellowfin were biting too, but they had no more room!

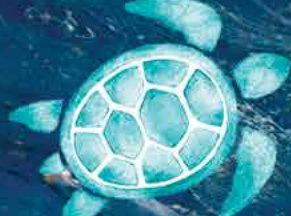




While the sea bass bite has not been as hot as last season and the NE winds remain unforgiving, we are seeing some fatties jump the rail! Richard Krauss pulled this 4.3 lb. monster from an ocean structure making it the Heaviest of the Season in DE so far! Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Angler Chic Stearrett is no stranger to big rockfish, he often works the Indian River Inlet and the DE beaches. He probably got one of the last nice keeper stripers before the new limit of 28"-31" took place on the 22nd. He fooled this 35" and 18.7 lb. 'keeper at the time' off of North Bethany Beach using a Salt Pro Minnow.




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We have been seeing some really nice weakfish lately and Hook 'em & Cook 'em Bait & Tackle at the Indian River Marina shared a nice one that Steve Gurczenski of Fairhill, MD landed using a Spec Rig in the Indian River Inlet. The tiderunner measured 21" and weighed 4.5 lbs!

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OC POWDER COATINGS





The big drum have set up shop in the Delaware Bay! We have reports of many good sized black drum including this 35 lb. fish caught and released at the Coral Beds by angler Damien Bradford.

Frankie Paul of Lewes reeled in several nice rockfish including this one from the suds at Herring Point in the Cape Henlopen State Park. He was fishing with a DS Custom Tackle Pompano Rig with Blood Worm Fishbites.

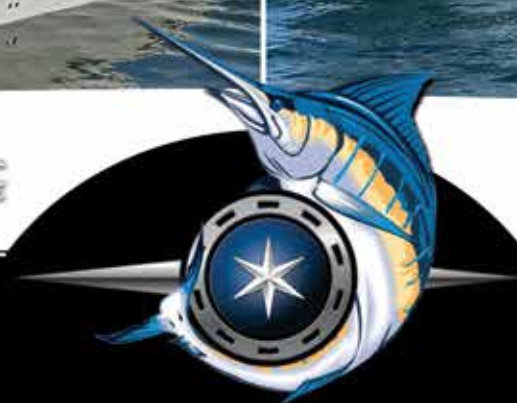
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**This Week Last Year**

- Diesel was close to \$7 per gallon on the docks.
- The crew of the "Hot Line" were on the cover again after making an over 100 mile run well east of the Poor Man's. They caught the first mahi of the season in 1400 fathoms as well as a couple of yellowfin tuna.
- Charter boats like the "Wrecker" and "Ro Sham Bo" were making trips to the Poor Man's Canyon for some tilefish before heading inshore for sea bass.
- The 13th Annual Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament was canceled due to poor fishing reports and fuel costs!
- Big bluefish were in the surf and Ocean City Inlet.

I write this offshore report weekly on Monday mornings so as to provide the most up to date information. As I sat down to write this week's update, my initial thoughts were on a different topic - Memorial Day. I thought of my father who was a Naval Aviator and World War II veteran of the battle in the Pacific. His Naval Academy Yearbook was full of notes next to pictures on how so many of his classmates of 1942 did not live to see 1945. I also thought of my college friend Brian who was a career officer in the United States Marine Corp. He served with honors in both Iraqi wars as well as other middle eastern incursions. Living most of my life in Northern Virginia surrounded by the US military industrial complex, my wife and I know many who have served, selflessly and with honor. All can recount

friends who gave their lives in service to this country. All of these people had a calling to serve despite the rigors and challenges of a military life. I am forever grateful for that service and the sacrifice of so many.

Now, let's switch back and talk about what's going on in the canyons.

After a nice start in early May, things definitely cooled for the second half of the month. For the last week, the NE winds again kept anglers onshore. Last Friday however, the various satellite services like SiriusXM's Fish Mapping, RipCharts and Rutgers University's Coastal Ocean Observation Lab started to show some nice eddies flowing into some canyons. Capt. Austin Ensor of the charter boat Primary Search

posted the screen shot below from RipCharts. He and other captains then turned to the weather forecast. While the onshore weather for the Memorial Day weekend was fairly nice, not so offshore. However, Monday looked like a go, and it was. On my drive into the office at 8:30 am I got a text from Pam Taylor that the aforementioned Capt. Austin already had 7 bigeye tuna in the box and was headed back to Sunset Marina! Capt. Jon Azato made a run out of the Indian River Marina to the canyons and already had a couple yellowfin tunas in the box as well. I suspect there will be many other reports as the fleet returns in the afternoon. The weather looks fair for the end of the week, so hopefully there will be more action to report during the first ever Battle for the Buckle Tournament tied to the Seacret Classic PBR Rodeo in Ocean City this weekend. The weekend however, at this point is looking like a blowout! So until next time, I will see you at the scales! §

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# Larry's

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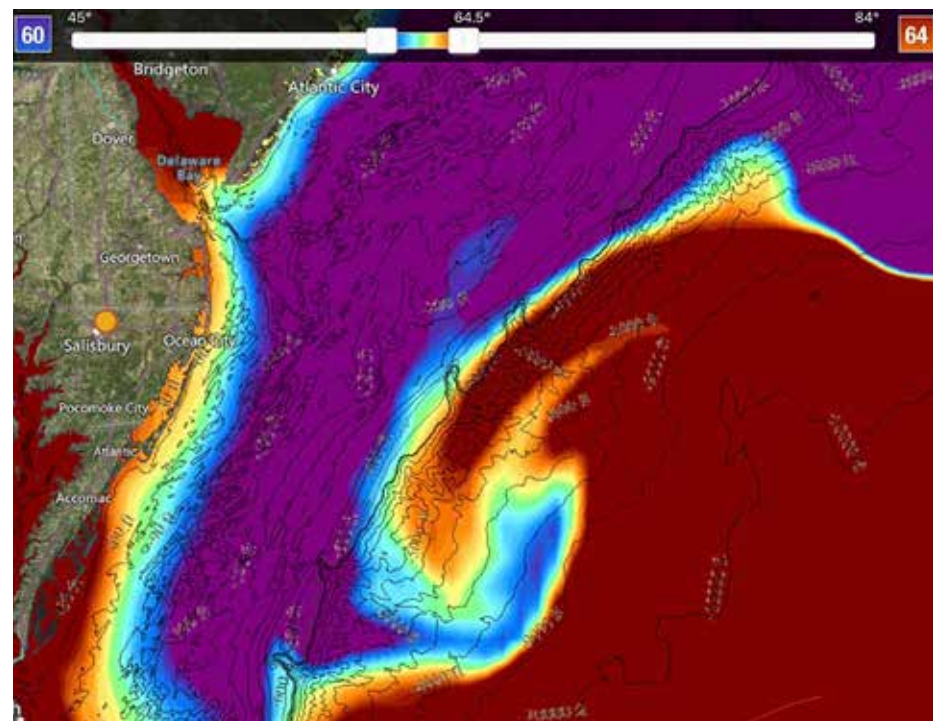
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**LARRY BUDD** • Editor & Publisher  
**CHRISTINE BUDD** • Vice President  
**TOM JOCK** • Graphic Design

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**Upcoming Tournaments**

- The **2nd Annual Blues for DU** is on tap for June 2-4 at Bahia Marina & Fish Tales. This bluefish tournament raises money to support the programs of Ducks Unlimited.
- There is a new tournament in town, the **Battle for the Buckle Tournament** is part of the Seacrets Classic PRB Bull Riding Contest. Anglers will compete for prize monies and well as custom western belt buckles. The event is May 31st and weigh-ins are from 5-7 pm at Sunset Marina.
- The **Annual Tuna & Tiara's Ladies Tuna Tournament** returns for it's 3rd season on June 16 & 17 at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Scales are open from 4 - 7PM. Come by and check out the action and Mickey Fins!



The winds and cool water temps in the canyons kept most boats inshore at the docks last week. However, we got 'wind' that Christopher Kinsley with mate Burro Gonzalez on the private boat "Kilo Charlie" made an early run to outside of the Washington Canyon and found 70° water. They put in the effort and raised a 38 lb. yellowfin tuna and a decent sized dolphin!

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Grew Williams of Herndon, VA can check black drum off his bucket list! He caught his first one, 36", 8 miles south of the entrance to the OSV at Assateague Island using a Captain Steve's High/Low rig with sand fleas and Fishbites Sand Fleas as a sweetener.



Robert Atkins from Columbia, PA is no stranger to fishing the Indian River Inlet. He put on his spiked crampons to negotiate the rocks, then landed and released this 41" striper using sand fleas! Thanks to Old Inlet Bait & Tackle for the pic.

# 2023 VIRGINIA REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b> 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - December 11</p>	 <p><b>BLUEFISH</b> No minimum 3 per person/day or 5 per person/day headboat All Year</p>	 <p><b>BLACK DRUM</b> 16" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>COBIA</b> 40" minimum / Only 1&gt;50" 1 per person/day • 2 per boat/day 6/15 - 9/15</p>
 <p><b>CROAKER</b> No minimum 20 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>RED DRUM</b> 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>SHEEPSHEAD</b> No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>SPECKLED TROUT</b> 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1&gt;24"</p>
 <p><b>28-31" Coming Soon!</b> <b>STRIPED BASS</b> 28-36" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 &amp; 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p><b>FLOUNDER</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p><b>TAUTOG</b> 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 &amp; 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p><b>WEAKFISH</b> 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



The storms coming up from the south have given us a strong northeast wind making off shore angling very difficult. Many anglers kept to the back bays or surf fishing due to high seas and strong winds.

### Sea Bass & Near Shore Wrecks

Despite the winds, some boats did venture offshore and were rewarded with a better class of sea bass. The "Bill Slayer" did a sea bass trip and brought home numerous tasty fish for their clients. The wind, along with the tide, made fishing difficult but their crew fished hard and returned with some healthy sea bass.

The "Angler" head boat was also out this past week and said they have a new big sea bass for their seasonal big bass pool. Keith caught a big 3.2 pound

bass on ocean structure. Captain Chris reports the quality of bass greatly improved since opening week. They said with the current forecast, they will probably be at the dock for this coming weekend.

"Skipjack Sportfishing" had Bill Humpleby and his friend on board, and despite rough sea conditions they managed to pull in two nice black drum from the ocean structure.

"Double Trouble Charters" was also brave enough to venture out and returned with some stud sea bass. Captain DJ Churchill stated that he still has some upcoming dates available for both sea bass and tile fishing.

Kurt Howell said that as of now, the salt water inaugural Battle for the Buckle Tournament

has added a few new rules as well as a bigger pay out. This tournament is sponsored by Pure Lure and will surely become a big tournament in years to come.

The "Ocean Princess" had some nice sea bass and flounder on their trips last week.

Kane and "Fish Bound Charters" was out again last week making a nice dent in the sea bass population. The crew always seems to know just where to go on any given day to find the big schools of fish. They said that since the opening day of sea bass season, they've had maybe two calm days to fish. Despite the bad sea conditions, the crew has managed limits on all their trips. I guess all the years of running the "Judith M" has really keyed Kane into the fish. As always, great job captain!

Monty Hawkins on the "Morning Star" reported one of the biggest bass he has seen in a long time: the 21 inch 5 pound stud was caught by Wayne Small of southern Maryland. That is one trophy sea bass!

### Surf Fishing, Drum & Rockfish

Jen Thornton was fishing up at the Delaware line and caught three bluefish on finger mullet. Down on Assateague Island, the surf is still producing some really big fish.

Erick Fields pulled in a big overslot rockfish this past week.

Billy King and Harold Hughes caught a few of the big blues while he fished the island with cut bait.

Kevin McNelis got a nice keeper slot rockfish measuring 29 inches.

Joe Dinisio pulled in one bluefish and one shark on his trip to the beach last week.

Thomas Tyler also caught a

big sandbar shark measuring around 5.5 feet. He also caught a few kingfish and skates as well. Tyler reported he did not have any luck on rockfish nor drum. Maybe next time Tyler.

### Back Bays & Bridges

The back bays have been on fire with quality fish coming onto the boats. Joe Thorpe was out and pulled in a few bluefish. Cut bait has worked best for blues, however do not forsake throwing a topwater or swim bait, as these fish when feeding will attack almost anything that swims by.

Bluefish are a very dark meat oily fish and considered by many anglers, including this author, to be a trash fish. However, smoked and made into fish cakes or dip can be quite a tasty treat. So if you have never tried bluefish, smoking them may be an option. But please don't invite me to dinner.

Jacob Gouge pulled in one of those big 33 inch, 8 pound slammers off the 133rd Street area. The big blue was fooled by a whole mullet rig.

"Bay To Beach Guide Service" put the heat on some big red drum this past week. The guide service also reports lots of small stripers in the back bays along the grass edges. Schoolie rockfish are around the Verrazano Bridge. Casting swim baits and plugs near the bridge structure is the best options for targeting these fish.

Kevin McNelis reported some great action near the bridge.

"Get Sum Charters" reports they continue to pound the flounders in the back bays. The area near the airport has begun to turn on and anglers are catching more fluke every day as the water warms. The channel near the grass edges are producing the best on an incoming tide near the high tide mark.

"Lucky Break Charters" was also in the back country catching a variety of fish on live bait as



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well as casting swimbaits. Lots of big flounder as well as drum and trout are showing up with bigger fish arriving every day.

“Atlantic Coast Sportsman” was out with Craig Cropper and caught a lot of small blues and rockfish along the Rt. 50 Bridge.

“Bad Wind Charters” had been shut down due to high winds, but did make it out one day last week and while using the drum baits they had left over, managed to pull in some big specks.

It's great to see the specks coming in this early in the year. The main channel along the docks near the inlet remains the hot spot of this past week, however the areas north of the bridge are also heating up and producing some great fishing opportunities.

So get out now before the big summer crowds arrive and catch a few fish.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up \$



Capt. Justin Marshall with Coastal Guide Service on the charter boat “Mover Money” had a nice surprise for this couple on a trip to celebrate their 11th anniversary. After snagging a few sea bass for dinner, they switched up to sharking. Fishing only 4 to 5 miles of the beach they hooked up with a spinner shark and then this 6’ juvenile great white!

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Registration: June 29, 6:30-8:00pm  
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**19th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC \***  
To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation  
Registration: July 21, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23  
Weigh-Ins: July 22, 3:00-6:30pm and July 23, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

**15th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"\***  
To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund  
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Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 4 & 5  
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**65th ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT \***  
Registration: August 30, 6:30-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 1, 2, & 3  
Weigh-Ins: September 1, 2, & 3 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

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Fishing Days: (2 or 3) Sept. 14, 15 & 16  
No Weigh-Ins



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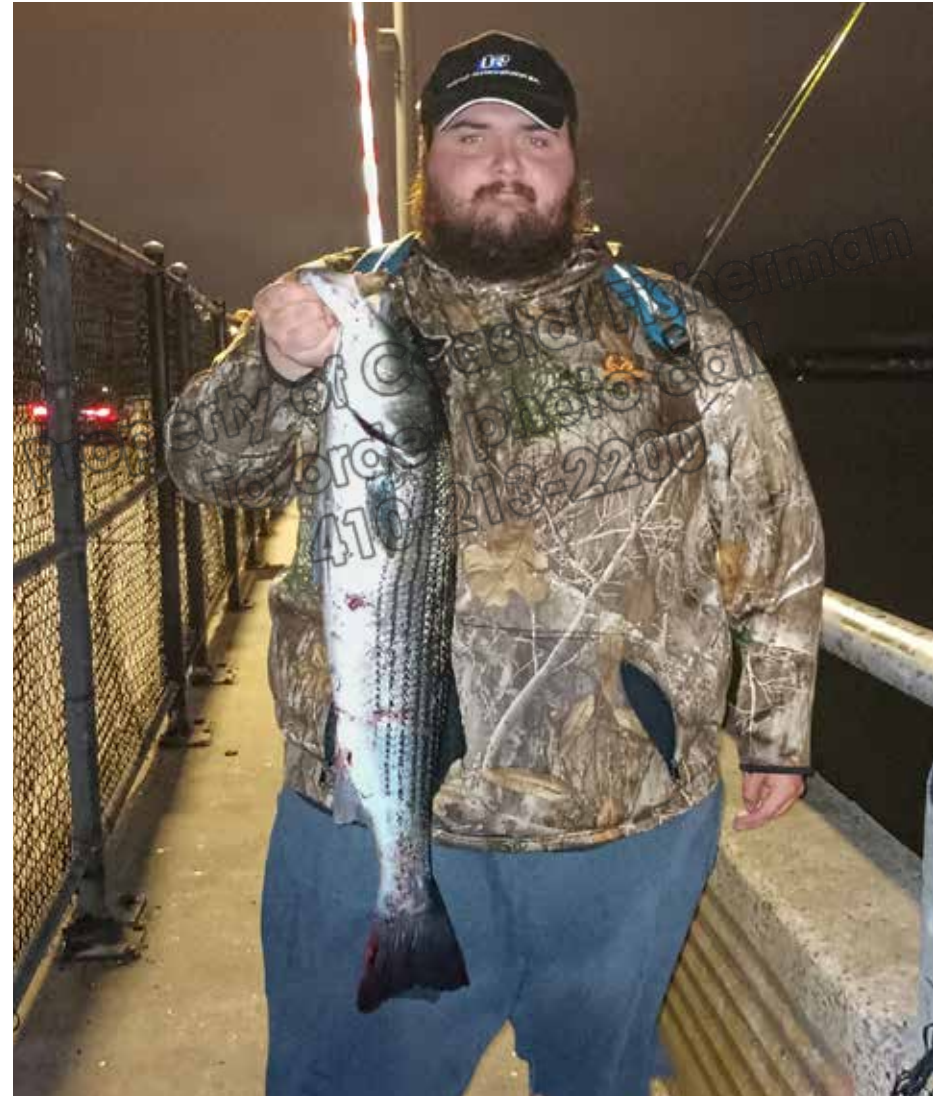
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There definitely were some big bluefish in the surf last week up and down our coast. Jacob Gouge checked in with Fenwick Bait & Tackle after he landed this 33" and 8 lb. blue off the beach at 133rd St. in Ocean City using a whole mullet on a whole mullet rig!



The Rt. 50 Bridge continue to produce for anglers fishing the evening hours! Dakota Martin pulled up this 30½" keeper striper from the dark using a 1½ oz. jig head with a 5" Fin-S Shad just at the beginning of the outgoing tide.

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# HEAVIEST

## Fish of the Year

2023



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
<b>Bluefish</b> 	May 19 Rich Daiker OC Jetty 14.5 lbs.		<b>Thresher Shark</b> 		
<b>Black Drum</b> 	April 4 Tom Berry Assateague 19 lbs.	May 19 Eric Feinauer Delaware Bay 53 lbs.	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	May 5 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
<b>Cobia</b> 			<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	May 6 David Borrell Thorofare 5.75 lbs.	May 19 Monica Powell Lewes Canal 4.93 lbs.	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 20 Wayne Small Ocean Structure 5 lbs.	<b>New</b> May 22 Richard Krauss Ocean Structure 4.3 lbs.	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	May 6 Charlie Watson Poorman's Canyon 113.2 lbs.	
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty 1.8 lbs.		<b>Dolphin</b> 		
<b>Striped Bass</b> 		<b>New</b> May 22 Chic Stearrett Bethany Beach 18.7 lbs.	<b>Swordfish</b> 		
<b>Tautog</b> 		May 6 James Milano Ocean Structure 22.9 lbs.	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		
<b>Wahoo</b> 			<b>White Marlin</b> 		

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





You don't always need a boat to find some keeper flounder. Derek Hench and Marlin Martz fished from the Cape Henlopen State Park Fishing Pier and reeled in these 4 keepers. Marlin learned to tie a rig at Lewes Harbour Marina and has been addicted ever since.



Chace Schindler had a nice catch on his 15th birthday! He landed this 11 lb. bluefish at the south Ocean City Jetty using a Roy Rig while fishing on the "Delicious" with Rich Daiker.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Sunday was a good day on the bay! The DC crew of Jim Rendon, San Rendon, Zach Rendon and Ian Steinberg had a big day while fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" Charters. They bagged 7 keeper flounder from the Thorofare and 3 bluefish from the Rt. 50 Bridge.



The wind over the past week has kept most headboats tied snugly to the docks including the "Angler". On Capt. Chris Mizurak's last trip before the blow saw a good mix of knotheads but no flounder for this trip.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Ryan Mays and his wife had a banner day fishing with Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters. They pulled 4 keeper flounder from the Thorofare using Gulp. Pictured at the Bahia Marina.



After a midday start due to the weather, Capt. Kane Bounds on the headboat "Fish Bound" got the crew out and onto their limit of sea bass. The "Fish Bound" is docked at the Talbot Street Pier.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the headboat "Morning Star", based at the Ocean City Fishing Center, tried initially to drift for sea bass. Got to be a little too fast so he moved onto a reef and found knothead stacks up. Jigs and bait did the trick, including this double, but no limits on this run.



It is looking like Bob Telford is living on the headboat "Angler", fishing for sea bass yet again! Capt. Chris Mizurak put him and his fellow fishermen onto some nice knothead before the blow came to town.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Ed Rothstein from Sykesville, MD shares a sweet 42" striper he pulled from the south Jetty at the Ocean City Inlet. He was fishing with Bluewater Advisory's Mark Debinski of North Ocean City on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Mason Heatherington.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



It was a quick trip for Jenna Love with Barry Richardson and their crew from Pittsburgh, PA, but they did well! They were fishing with Capt. Nick Clemente on the charter boat "Get Sum" in the north Ocean City Bay and fooled these 5 keeper flounder with white Gulp. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Kane Bounds on the charter boat "Fish Bound" has made some happy anglers this season. Despite 'sporty weather' his anglers have been able to get their boat limits of sea bass including this beauty.



What do charter crews do when they have some time off, they go fishing! Capt. Carey Evan and mate Josh Evans ran out one evening after getting clams at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Young Reece Schindler has been doing well under the tutelage of Rich 'Delicious' Daiker! Reece caught this just in the 'slot' 28½" rock at the Rt. 50 Bridge using a Roy Rig!



The Borrell's of New Bloomfield, PA are back in full swing on their pontoon boat. Pat nabbed this 19¾' flounder in the West Channel using Gulp. It's up to David to now catch up!

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# Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson

By now most boat owners who like to fish have their boats either in the water, ready for the water, or at the very least well along the way to being ready for the water. After all, despite this past week's bout of rather cool, breezy weather, the fishing season is here, the fish are biting, the summer is closing in fast, and not too many anglers that I know of want to be stuck in a boatyard when all their buddies are out on the water pulling in fish.

For the last few months local boatyards and backyards have been humming with the vibrations of sanders, resounding to the unmistakable tones of marine engines being run on freshwater hoses, and reeking with the aromas of

paint, varnish, and epoxy as everyone has been striving to be ready for this exciting time of the year.

Of course boats are only half of the equation, because even if someone has the hottest rig on the water, if they don't have the right tackle and equipment onboard, they can forget about throwing any fish in it! Rods, reels, terminal tackle, electronics, anchors, gaffs, bait wells, fish boxes, cutting boards, and all the other "stuff" we pile in or on our vessels is what helps transform them into fish-catching-machines.

Fishing by itself can be expensive, add a boat to the equation and it's a wonder how anglers can even afford to "pay" attention. From

sandpaper to stainless screws, battery boxes to butterfish, trailer lights to treble hooks, paint brushes to planers, so much is needed by those getting ready for the new season that it's no wonder fishermen are always looking for a bargain.

Of course, these days we're all just a click or two away on our phones or a "road-trip" to one of the super-mega sporting stores in one of the big cities from finding the cheapest price on anything from spark plugs to sportsman's pliers. But folks should know that the best price might not always prove out to be the best value. In the long run, saving a couple dollars on the initial purchase might require incurring debts some

fishermen won't want to pay.

Delmarva has more than enough tackle shops, marine supply, and hardware stores to keep the area's fishing and boating enthusiasts well equipped and ready for whatever is needed for a productive season. But in these days of one-click global shopping there seems to be an assertion that buying from local stores means paying a premium price. If the catalog has the item for \$29 and Internet store has it for \$26, why pay \$32 at the local tackle shop?

Hey, I'm as much of a tightwad as anyone (probably more) and spending money I don't have to doesn't exactly help me to sleep at night. But I've come to know that sometimes the couple-or-so extra dollars spent with a local merchant is well worth the benefits that may come later.

Look at it this way: Suppose I need to buy a light spinning



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www.coastalfisherman.net  
 reel. If I get it from a local shop I pay for the reel, plus tax, that's all, and I have it today. Internet orders often require shipping fees and often there goes the price difference. If I have a problem with my purchase I can go through the hassle of sending it back but I'll probably still have to pay the shipping fees, and of course there will be more of a time delay before I can use the reel. If I buy locally and have a problem I can exchange the reel right over the counter and immediately be back to fishing with it.

Buying locally also allows me to see, hold, play-with, and compare the reel to others before I buy it. Maybe "in person" the reel isn't what I thought it was from the advertisements and so I have to consider a different one. Most of the tackle shops will have one or more employees who are very knowledgeable about the products they carry and can be a great assistance in steering customers toward making the right purchase. You surely won't get that from an Internet or catalog sale!

Probably one of the greatest benefits of supporting local stores is the appreciation and support you'll get back from the establishment you patronize. Store owners recognize repeat customers and make the extra effort to help ensure that their fishing and boating experience is safe and enjoyable. They're genuinely concerned about the wants and needs of local fishermen and boaters because in the long run it helps their business too. So if they can point you in the direction to catch some fish, show you how to rig a lure or bait, or explain how to properly apply a particular paint on the deck of your boat they're happy to do it. It's good for you and good for them. Try to get any of that kind of service from "operator-29" when you place your order online. §

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Species	2023	2022	Species	2023	2022
<b>Bluefish</b> 	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague Island	April 26 Morgan Mericle South OC Jetty	<b>Thresher Shark</b> 		May 20 Mike Eid "HotLine" Fingers
<b>Black Drum</b> 	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	March 29 Jay Phillips Assateague Island	<b>Bigeye Tuna</b> 	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon	June 12 Richie Widmayer "HotLine" Baltimore Canyon
<b>Cobia</b> 		June 11 Numen Bilal Fenwick Island Beach	<b>Bluefin Tuna</b> 		May 17 Andrew Dietz "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
<b>Summer Flounder</b> 	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	April 3 Scott Lenox Thorofare	<b>Longfin Tuna</b> 		June 5 Chad Tingle "Sea Bear" Wilmington Canyon
<b>Sea Bass</b> 	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	May 15 Jeremy Michalski Jack Spot	<b>Yellowfin Tuna</b> 	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poorman's Canyon	May 17 James Haren "Take Em" SE Poor Man's
<b>Sheepshead</b> 	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	June 4 Blake Gunther OC Inlet	<b>Dolphin</b> 	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poorman's Canyon	May 29 Adam Davidson "HotLine" East of Poor Man's
<b>Striped Bass</b> 	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	April 20 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	<b>Swordfish</b> 		June 4 The Crew "Espadon" Poor Man's Canyon
<b>Tautog</b> 	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	March 27 Michael Guigley Stinky Beach	<b>Blue Marlin</b> 		June 13 The Crew "Rhonda's Osprey" Poor Man's Canyon
<b>Wahoo</b> 		June 30 Tim McCartney "Chasin Tides" Hot Dog	<b>White Marlin</b> 		June 6 Kevin Gibb "WRECKER" Baltimore Canyon

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Jacob Raber of Harrisburg, PA has a plan and sticks to the plan! He always cuts his mullet in 1" pieces when fishing the surf at the Delaware Seashore State Park. The mullet pieces did the trick on this trip with Erika Houser with both landing some nice chopper bluefish at high tide.

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It was a chilly day in May when Bill and Kathy Kohler joined Capt. Bruce Lynch on "Bad Wind Charters" for a trip in the Delaware Bay! They fished the Coral Beds where Kathy connected with this nice black drum!

Brian Brannan battled the blowing winds in the Thorofare to boat this 20" flounder! He was trolling with a chartreuse spinner with white Gulp in the back bays of Ocean City.

# 2023 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
13" minimum / 15 per person/day  
May 15 - December 11



**BLUEFISH**  
8" minimum  
3 per person/day or  
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**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
1 per person/day up to 6 per boat/day



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40" minimum  
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9" minimum  
25 per person/day



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18-27" minimum  
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2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31  
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



**WEAKFISH**  
13" minimum  
1 per person/day





Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" based at the Talbot Street Pier managed a few trips before the blow that kept most at the docks last week. Despite a perception that jigs were a better rig, the sea bass pool on this trip was won by Keith Chu with a 3.2 lb. knothead he caught with bait!




The dynamic duo show off some of the week's catch! On this outing Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty got their limit of bluefish and Bird nailed this 'in the new slot' 30" striper. Roy Rigs were the weapon of choice of course.

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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Last week in Delaware, the wind blew out of the northeast at a gale. The semi tropical storm heading north from Florida sent strong winds and rain up the east coast making it very difficult for boats to head offshore. Even larger headboats canceled many trips due to rough seas. For those that did get out, sea bass has gotten a little better than the dismal start we had for opening week. Flounder are getting stronger in the back bays as well as some are starting to arrive on the near shore wrecks.

### Flounder & Back Bays

Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reported that the flounder have finally started showing up in the back bays. A steady flow of anglers are checking in with some nice flatties caught in the bays of Indian River.

Shawn Hastings checked into Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle with two of the first flounder brought in this season. The first measured 22 inches and weighed 2.5 lbs., the second was 19 inches and weighed 2.4 lbs. The fish were caught

in the Indian River Bay on minnows.

Steve Gurczenski of Fairhill, MD, was fishing the inlet and caught a beautiful 24 inch, 4.5 pound speckled trout. It's an early catch for this species but a much welcomed sight. Specks of this quality have been hard to find over the past few years. Years ago we had a big speckled trout and weakfish population, however the past 5 years has seen a big decline in catches of these fish for unknown reasons. Hopefully this year will be a better stock of fish coming into our area.

Chris Curliet checked in a 3.11 lb. flat fish at Lewes Harbour Marina. Conner Lucey also checked in with a big 4.95 lb. fluke he caught in the Lewes Canal. He was using live minnows from LHM. The marina has tons of tackle as well as baits for all your fishing needs. The staff is very helpful and can help both novice and seasoned anglers achieve the best results in their fishing exploits.

Tony Walls was up at the Cape

Pier and hooked a 16.5 inch flounder. Lewes Ice House checked in a ton of flounder as well as some big blues out of the bay.

Gracie Hudson also fished the northern area at the Lewes Canal and caught a flattie on a Nick Rig. The smile on this young lady's face showed how happy she was with the catch. This is a nice reminder to take a kids fishing with you and pass along the skill and happiness to the next generation. Gracie had one of the biggest flounder in reports I received this past week. Girl power, as my daughter always says when she outfishes me- which yes, is most of the time! Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reported the bite continues to improve both in the back bays as well as the ocean for the elusive flounder. Live minnow and squid combos are the best baits so far this early season.

### Striper, Drum & Surf Report

Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reports there are some big fish in the surf. They held their Cast for a Cure Surf Team Tournament,

with the highlight being striped bass up to 41 inches as well as a few around 38 inches. Robert Atkins released a big 41 inch striper from the area around the inlet. Live eels and floating sand fleas was the reported best bait for targeting these fish. Joseph Shultze had success on 3-5 pound blues in the surf. Most fish are being caught in the incoming tide close to high tide. Tim Wallace had the big 40 inch striper from the tournament.

Christopher Villanueva fished the surf and pulled in one of the biggest rough tail rays I've ever seen from the beach. It was hooked about 40 yards off the beach. Lauren O'Brien caught her first ever fish from the beach. The fish was a good sized kingfish. A few nice trout and kingfish have also been taken off the surf. John Unkart pulled a few out of the suds using a small kingfish rig. The kingfish have been a little further out around the second outer bar. Brandon Bowers got his first keeper striped bass off the surf this past week weighing 15 pounds. The "Freak", Frankie Paul, was out with Rich King of DS Custom Tack and pulled in a few nice rockfish along with some big blues.



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Jonathan Beile got his first striper off the beach along with a bluefish. Cut bait, clams, and sand fleas are the definite bait of choice for these big fish heading north for the summer. Jacob Raber stated that cut bunker was the ticket for his catches of some bluefish.

Joe Dinisio said the high winds kept many anglers off the beach this week and brought a lot of rays and skates in close together, giving him some hard fish to reel in. Mark Conklin pulled an undersized striper off the beach. Just a reminder, the new Delaware Surf Fishing reservations are in effect if you plan on using the drive on permit for the weekends.

Jenn Thornton went full on beast mode for her day on the beach bringing in fat bluefish. The big blues are perfect for the smoker and make a good fish dip or fish cakes.

### Drum & Sea Bass

Sea bass was spotty at best, but this was mainly due to the high winds which made it difficult to stay on the wrecks. Many anglers could not maintain a slow enough drift even with a sea anchor out.

Drum are being caught in the surf, Delaware Bay and the near shore wrecks. Ted Proseus was out with Scott Riniker and brought some big black drum onto the boat.

Most of the tackle shops have gotten in fresh clam for targeting these fish but they sell out quickly. The drum should remain in the bay for a few more weeks spawning before moving on.

Until next week, with hopefully less wind and warmer temps...

Tight lines and fins up §



The Lewes Canal offers up nice flounder for those willing to work the drifts! Gracie Hudson did just that last week catching this flatfish on a Nik Rig with a minnow from Lewes Harbour Marina!

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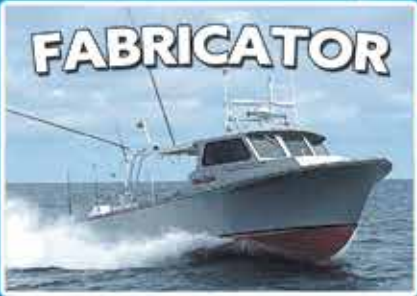
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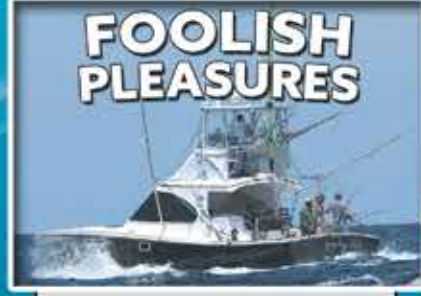
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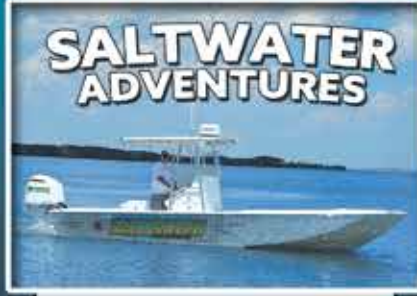
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# THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



## Oven Baked Weakfish

### Ingredients:

- 2 weakfish fillets (4 oz each)
- Handful of cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh baby dill
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon olive oil, or olive oil spray
- 1/2 lemon

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F  
 Rinse and pat dry weakfish fillets. Brush baking dish with olive oil and place fillets on top. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and white pepper.



around the fish. Add dill and green onions on top of the fish. Thinly slice lemon and place on top of fillets.

Bake for 15 minutes.

### Notes:

To prevent fish from curling up,

make little slits in the skin or cook fillets skin side down.

Internal temperature of all the way cooked fish is 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Use instant meat thermometer to check it or just make sure weakfish is flaky and opaque in color before taking a bite.

Squeeze lemon juice on the fish before baking for more intense lemon flavor. You don't want to overpower delicate fillet so don't use too much.

## Baked Garlic Shrimp Oreganata

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb jumbo shrimp
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 lemon

### Directions:



Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mix breadcrumbs, oil, garlic, parsley in a medium size bowl.

Place cleaned shrimp in the baking dish. Squeeze the juice

of lemon right on top of the shrimp. Sprinkle salt on the shrimp.

Lay breadcrumb oil mixture on top of the jumbo shrimp.

Bake for 15 minutes.

### Notes:

Transfer shrimp from the baking dish to a glass or plastic container. Close the lid and store for up to 4 days. You can freeze leftovers as well. Reheat in the microwave.

## Black Sea Bass with Garden Salsa

### Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 -2 pounds black sea bass fillets, skin on, descaled (check fillets carefully for pin bones)
- 1 teaspoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

### For the Salsa:

- 2 medium tomatoes diced (or about 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved)
- 1 jalapeno seeded and finely diced
- 1/4 medium red onion diced
- 1/2 cup loosely packed cilantro chopped
- 1 clove garlic finely minced
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

### For serving:

- 1 lime cut into wedges
- Sea salt

### Directions:

Preheat grill to high heat. Clean and oil grates well. This will help prevent the fish from sticking. Pat fish dry with a paper towel. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, cumin, garlic and black pepper on both sides. Set aside.

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In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, jalapeno, red onion, cilantro, garlic, lime juice, extra virgin olive oil, salt, cumin and pepper. Stir well. Add more salt to taste, if needed. Set aside.

Place black sea bass on the grill, skin side down. Grill until fish is opaque and flakes easily with a fork. Flip halfway through cooking time. These fillets tend to be thin, so they will cook quickly. Remove from grill. Spoon salsa over fish. Sprinkle with sea salt.

Serve with lime wedges and additional salsa. You can also sprinkle with feta cheese, for a salty, briny twist.

Notes:

Black sea bass fillets tend to have quite a few pin bones. Prior to grilling check fillets carefully and pull out any pin bones with a tweezer or your fingers.

You can also score the skin prior to grilling to prevent the flesh and skin from curling up, but this is optional.

### Crab Stuffed Flounder

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds flounder fillets
- 1 cup crab meat - drained, flaked and cartilage removed



- 3 crushed saltine crackers
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped green bell pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Ground white pepper to taste

- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

#### Topping:

- 1 egg yolk
- 5 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Rinse flounder fillets and pat dry with paper towels. Lightly grease a shallow baking dish.

Combine crab meat, crushed saltines, bell pepper, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and white pepper together in a medium bowl. Combine egg white and 1 tablespoon mayonnaise in a small bowl; stir into crab meat mixture.

Brush fillets with melted butter; place in the prepared baking dish. Spoon crab meat mixture over fillets and drizzle with any remaining butter.

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, make topping: lightly beat egg yolk in a small bowl. Stir in 5 tablespoons of mayonnaise. Remove fish from the oven and spread this mixture over stuffing; sprinkle with parsley and paprika.

Increase oven temperature to 450 degrees F and bake until

golden and bubbly, about 5 or 6 minutes.

### Fried Fish Po' Boys with Cajun French Fries

Ingredients:

- 4 cups canola oil
- Two 8- to 10-ounce (or four 4- to 6-ounce skinless fillets) skin-on firm white fish fillets, such as rockfish
- 1/4 cup plus 1 teaspoon creole seasoning
- 2 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- Two 5-ounce baguettes, halved lengthwise
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded iceberg lettuce (3 to 4 leaves)
- 1/2 cup dill pickle chips
- 2 medium beefsteak tomatoes, sliced 1/4 inch thick
- Hot sauce, for serving

#### Cajun French Fries:

- 2 russet potatoes
  - 2 tablespoons creole seasoning
- Creole Mayo:**
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
  - 1 teaspoon creole seasoning
  - 1 teaspoon hot sauce

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 200° F. Heat the oil in a large, deep heavy-bottomed skillet or dutch oven over medium heat until a deep-fry thermometer registers 350°F. Line 2 baking sheets with paper towels.

For the fried fish po' boys: If using skin-on fish fillets, remove the skin, then cut into 4 equal pieces. Season each side of the 4 fillets with 1 teaspoon creole seasoning. Whisk together the eggs, milk and 2 teaspoons of the creole seasoning in a large shallow bowl, baking dish or cake pan. Whisk together the flour and the remaining 1 tablespoon of the creole seasoning in a second large shallow bowl, baking dish or cake pan.





Dip 2 fillets in the egg mixture and carefully shake off any excess. Dip the fillets in the flour mixture and shake off any excess. Fry the fillets, flipping halfway through, until golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes depending on the thickness of your fish. Transfer the fish to

the second prepared baking sheet and keep warm in the oven until ready to serve. Bring the oil back to 350°F, then repeat with the remaining 2 fillets.

For the cajun french fries: Cut the potatoes into 1 1/2-inch sticks and transfer to a large bowl of cold water. Stir until

the water is cloudy. Drain the potatoes, transfer to one of the prepared baking sheets, top with paper towels, press down to blot and let sit until the potatoes are dry, 1 to 2 minutes.

Working in batches, gently add some potatoes to the hot oil, carefully shaking the skillet if needed to make sure the potatoes are completely

covered with the oil. Fry until pale golden, about 2 minutes. Transfer the fries with a spider to the same baking sheet. Bring the oil back to 350°F between batches.

Increase the temperature of the oil to 400°F. Working in batches, add the fries and cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes. Transfer to the same baking sheet, sprinkle the Creole seasoning over top and toss with tongs.

**To assemble the po' boys:**

Evenly spread 1/4 cup mayonnaise on each baguette half. Place 1 cup lettuce, 1/4 cup pickles, half of the tomatoes, 2 fried fish fillets and hot sauce on the bottom half. Add some fries if desired, then add the top half. Repeat with the remaining baguette, lettuce, pickles, tomatoes, fried fish fillets and hot sauce.

For the creole mayo: Stir together the mayonnaise, creole seasoning and hot sauce in a small bowl. Serve with the po' boys and cajun french fries. §

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The Lewes, DE Canal is a great place to not only find flounder, but to fish when the weather keeps other options closed! Anthony Hojnicky and Logan Serpico fished there last week with minnows and went home with 4 keeper flatfish for dinner! Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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### LET'S GET STARTED

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E: [stephen.soulas@nm.com](mailto:stephen.soulas@nm.com)

**Nolan Soulas** | Associate Wealth Management Advisor  
P: 267.507.2559 | F: 215.563.2750 | E: [nolan.soulas@nm.com](mailto:nolan.soulas@nm.com)



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The unseasonably cool weather did not keep David Michulka and his nephew David Andrews from getting in on the big black drum in the Delaware Bay. They headed out one evening to the Coral Beds off of Slaughter and Broadkill beaches and landed two big drums on chowder clams and surf clams.

# 2023 FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

## 3-200 Miles

 <b>BLUE MARLIN</b> 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>YELLOWFIN TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 <b>BIGEYE TUNA</b> 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 <b>GOLDEN TILEFISH</b> No minimum • 8 per person/day
 <b>WHITE MARLIN</b> 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit  NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 Limit	 <b>BLUEFIN TUNA</b> 27" to <47" curved fork length 2 per vessel/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 1 per vessel/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 3 per Charter/day or trip 27" to <47" curved fork length 6 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 <b>SWORDFISH</b> 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 <b>BLUELINE TILEFISH</b> 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 <b>DOLPHIN</b> No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler	 <b>SAILFISH</b> Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 <b>WAHOO</b> No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day	

### SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES

- No Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead
- 54" Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose
- 78" Minimum Fork Length  
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

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

### PROHIBITED SHARKS

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

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov





We have a number of reports for good catches of weakfish and more recently now a couple of speckled trout! Taylor Bakke found them biting well in the back bays of Assateague Island.

Dean Miller and Tracey Helzinger are living the fishing dream! After kicking off sea bass season with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the "Angler" they scooted down to Ponce Inlet, FL for an off shore run on the "Tails Up". They caught sailfish, mahi, barracuda and this nice red snapper.

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VOLUME 47 • • • SPECIAL EDITION • • • MAY 25, 2022

In Florida, knock a few angles down a peg on the leaderboard during the Joe Starnes Memorial Flounder Tournament last Friday. He skipped the 5:00 a.m. start on the dock at the mid afternoon to take his placement.

You go

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**Theft Deterrent Systems**

A marine theft deterrent system is like a home or car alarm system but designed for the marine environment. While you may not think that your entire boat will be stolen, there are numerous expensive on-board goods targeted by thieves, such as electronics, fishing rods and coolers. Many of the theft protections systems use sensors such as door and hatch monitors and motion detectors. A more complex system can use invisible light beams, pressure sensors and outboard engine cowling sensors. Once an unauthorized event has occurred, numerous alerts can be triggered, such as lights, strobes, sirens, acoustic barriers and even fog cloaking. In addition to onboard alarms, alerts can be sent out to key people responsible for the boat, via text, email etc.

**Monitoring Systems**

Automated devices to monitor a boat's status and systems have become much more popular in the last few years, with offerings from mainstream electronics manufactures along with companies who specialize in remote monitoring. The best monitoring systems can monitor things like bilge

**Around-the-Clock Boat Mate**

Don't you wish you had a mate that would work 24 hours a day, in all conditions, checking on the boat and all its systems, for little pay?

Well with today's remote boat monitoring systems, you can have all of this and more, and let your mate go back to fishing. Today there are numerous technological solutions that can add to the captains' or owners' awareness of the status of the boat and associated systems.

Many readers here are responsible on some level for maintaining at least one boat. While most owners and crew are aware of the status and condition of the boat while on board - what about when you are not there? Most rely on a neighbor or the marina to look after the boat; is the high-water alarm going off, did the shore power breaker trip, is the air conditioner pump strainer clogged or worse, did the boat get broken into or stolen? These are some of the most common concerns when

the boat is unattended. If your boat is stored on a trailer or high and dry rack system, you would like to know that your boat is located where it should be and that the onboard systems are ready for your next use.

Our phones and computers keep us connected; wouldn't it be great if the boat was like a social media friend? Checking-in with us, telling us how they are feeling, telling us where they are and where they have been? Well today's boat monitoring systems are like a reliable friend watching over the boat around-the-clock. Often referred to as smart boats, IoT (internet of things), monitored boats or connected boats - technology and the boat have come together to help us do a better job monitoring and controlling any size boat.

**Tracking vs Theft vs Monitoring vs Control**

There are a few distinct categories of systems available for the marine market and some products can include all features in a single solution, let's review:

**Tracking Systems**

If you have a center console boat with multiple engines, many insurance companies require satellite tracking to be eligible for insurance coverage depending on where you use your boat. This has led to numerous companies offering solutions that meet the needs of these boaters. Most of these tracking system will notify you of unplanned boat movement via text or email. Some companies such as GOST can also offer live assistance during a boat theft event working with local authorities to track and recover a stolen boat.

In 2016, the Lumitec (marine led lighting company) company boat was stolen from their gated facility in Delray Beach and ultimately recovered with the help of the GOST satellite tracking system. The GOST security system even captured a clear picture of the perpetrator through the on-board video system.

[www.gostglobal.com/lumitec-stolen-boat-story](http://www.gostglobal.com/lumitec-stolen-boat-story)

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pump operation, high water, shore power, battery power, temperature, and other key vessel systems. While a monitoring system seems like a good idea for any boat owner, one boat owner said he didn't need a system like this because he had insurance.... Though finding the shore power breaker tripped and the bait freezer or live-well off can cause a loss of precious bait needed for fishing the next day and is probably not covered by insurance or falls below the deductible.

### Control

Many of the boat monitoring systems can also remotely control on-board systems, such as lights, air-conditioner etc. remotely using a website or smartphone app. While this capability adds to the complexity of a monitoring system, some of the newest boats built with electronic switching have this capability built-in.

### What System to Choose

Often these types of systems overlap in features while others specialize in one aspect of the above capabilities. It is best to determine your needs and desires before shopping for a system, this way you can select a manufacturer that can support all the requirements,

so you do not end up with an overly complex multiple brand system that is difficult to use.

The entire category of tracking, theft and monitoring and control systems is not new but is constantly evolving. There is a wide range of costs for these systems, beginning at \$130 for a self-contained stick-up battery powered tracking device, like the SPOT Trace satellite tracker.

Some of the most popular systems in the marketplace are offered by GOST, Boat Command, SPOT, Siren Marine, Gplink, locmarine, Blue Guard Innovations Smart Skipper, Garmin OnDeck, Nautic Alert X3, Raymarine YachtSense Link, and Yacht Sentinel.

Most of these systems contain a central processor box and numerous sensors located throughout the boat. Some can use an optional satellite connection instead of or in addition to a cellular data connection - great for use in remote areas or while out at sea.

Whatever system you choose, knowing the status of your boat when you are away offers peace of mind and may even help reduce expenses if an unexpected situation arises. §



Bethany Beach's Woodland Salon owner Michelle Gentry slipped away to Costa Rica this past March with her husband, Titan Yachts Jay Gray. They found some great fishing including boating this big cow dolphin!

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Capt. Lloyd Behney  
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Monte Whaley of Laurel, DE marvels at the 42" rockfish he pulled from the surf at the Maryland side of Assateague Island! He was fishing with Steve Goff and Buck Pusey under the guidance of Capt. Bruce Lynch when he landed this one using a top & bottom rig with peeler crab.

## PICK UP YOUR COASTAL FISHERMAN AT THESE LOCATIONS

### OCEAN CITY

- Talbot Street Pier
- Oceanic Fishing Pier
- Wockenfuss Candy - Boardwalk 1st St.
- Reel Inn - 17th St.
- Bahia Marina - 22nd St.
- Minit Market - 31st St.
- Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St.
- Dough Roller - 41st St.
- Advanced Marina - 66th St.
- Holiday Inn - 67 St.
- Rommel's Ace Hardware - 68th St.
- Dough Roller - 69th St.
- Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St.
- Acme - 92nd St.
- Liquid Assets - 94th St.
- Carousel Hotel - 117th 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
- Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets

### WEST OCEAN CITY

- 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
- Shark Restaurant
- Sunset Marina
- Sunset Provisions
- Pure Lure Fishing Gear
- Harborside Bar & Grill
- Harbor Marine
- Optical Galleria - Rt. 611
- Southside Deli - Rt. 611

### BERLIN

- Cheers - Berlin
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- Crabs To Go - Rt. 50
- Walmart - Rt. 50
- Food Lion - Ocean Pines
- Rite Aid
- Royal Farms - Rt. 50

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- Fenwick Tackle
- Fenwick Hardware
- Lighthouse Liquors
- Bayville Package Store
- Food Lion Rt.54
- Royal Farms Rt. 54
- Harris Teeter
- Rt.113 Boat Sales

### INDIAN RIVER

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

### DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

- Lewes Harbour Marina - Lewes
- Henlopen Bait & Tackle
- Wheelhouse Restaurant
- Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
- Atlantic Liquors - Rt. 1 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
- Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
- Wawa - Rt. 26
- Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
- Banks Wine & Spirits
- Downtown Bethany by Bandstand
- Bob's Marine
- Giant - Ocean View
- Rite Aid - Ocean View

### LONG NECK

- Short's Marine
- Rick's Bait & Tackle







Kevin McNelis and Morgan Mericle had a fishing frenzy last Saturday! They caught over 40 rockfish on swimbaits at the South Jetty and Rt. 50 Bridge. They also caught some flounder and bluefish including the chopper!

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Richard Hoenes is breaking out! This was his first striper trip without his Dad! He and his Harbor Island buddies Austin and Chase Poter got their boater's license over the winter. They caught lots of rocks using spot and jigs at the North Jetty. Lots of fun but no keepers.



Rich Daiker and Stacey Schindler snagged their limit of 6 bluefish from the South Jetty at the Ocean City Inlet. They were using Roy Rigs on the outgoing tide.

# 2023 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
13" minimum / 15 per person/day  
May 15 - December 11



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size  
3 per day / 5 per day Charter



**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
3 per person/day



**COBIA**  
37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel



**CROAKER**  
8" Minimum • No Limit



**RED DRUM**  
20-27" minimum  
5 per person/day



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No limit



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
12" minimum  
No creel limit



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7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay  
1 per person/day  
Catch & Release only from  
4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds



**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16" minimum  
4 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
16" minimum  
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4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



**WEAKFISH**  
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Earl Bentz, CEO, Caymas Boats



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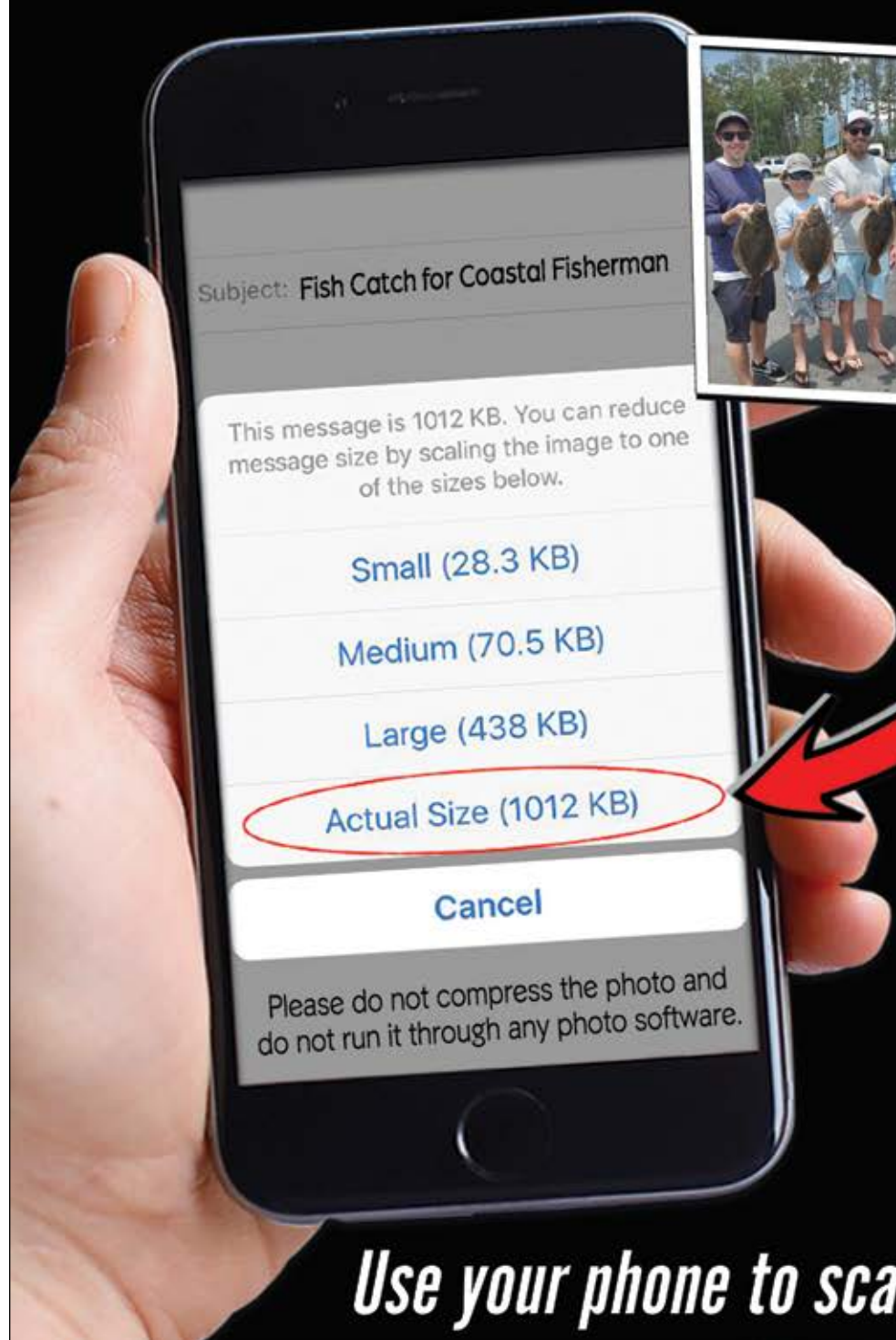
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# Share Your CATCH WITH US!

The 2023 fishing season is here and we are excited to capture the moments in the COASTAL FISHERMAN! Whether it's surf fishing, a private boat or charter service, send us your catch for us to review.



**ALWAYS** send your fish catch photos at  
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  - Names & towns of others in photo
  - Weight and/or length of fish
  - Bait & Lure used
  - Location of catch
  - Name of boat, if any
- Email or text to:  
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*Use your phone to scan this code to assist you!*







The surf at Fenwick Island was a hot spot for bluefish last week. Angler Jenn Thorton quickly hit her limit of 3 using a DS Custom Tackle Mullet Rig.



George Sauer Jr. chose the west side of the Virginia peninsula to seek some spotted trout. He found this beautiful example of a speck near Saxis, VA using peeler crab.





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# VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



Memorial Day on the Eastern Shore means many different things to many different Shore men. Remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice should definitely be number one in the hearts and minds of Americans. Particularly those of us who appreciate and love the land (and waters) so many have laid down their lives to protect. This past week has provided the opportunity to take the good things God has blessed us with and let everything else blow away with a gust of northeast wind. However, the seas will calm and the water will clear and the Eastern Shore will continue to be the greatest place with the best people in the world!

The Chesapeake has probably been the highlight of the week as anglers seek sheltered waters in search of skinny water stripes and spots. Bait fishermen are being productive with chunks of crab fish on the edges of grassy flats and

stumpy structure. A mix of rock, specs and reds have brought tight lines and big smiles to many fishermen who didn't yield to the less than perfect conditions. We at Sea Hawk Sport Fishing have been chunking paddle tails, Rap-10's and popping cork's to bend a rod while bringing good numbers of rock, and a few big specks across the gunwale. This past week we had the awesome opportunity to catch (and release) a couple of trophy trout on a popping cork and paddle tail. An experience like this strips stress off your mind about as fast as the big spec stripped the line of your reel. Needless to say there is still fun to be had on a leeward shore even on a windy day. We also ran into a nice class of bluefish that blistered drags while giving aerial acrobatic exhibitions. These scrappy speed demons were tight to wrecked structure and willingly took the same rap-10's that we had been

rock fishing with earlier.

The southern Eastern Shore is still producing some black drum and sheephead on crab and clam baits fished near structures like the CBBT as well as other reefs in the southern Chesapeake. The shoals of the lower Shore have still contributed some big reds and bent rods, as anglers try to sneak out when the swells subside. The man in the brown suit made his entrance last week with some catch and release encounters. The middle of June is not far away and will offer the opportunity for the E. S. Cobia not only stretch a line but also a chance to come home for dinner. There has also been a good number of kingfish and spot tossed in the cooler of angler's bottom fishing with bloodworms on top and bottom rigs on hard bottom from the mouth of the bay to the Tangier Sound.

The seaside has slowed a

bit as it has been pledged by dirty water. Anglers that did find some water with acceptable turbidity found fish in fairly shallow depths during the start of the ebb tide. Silversides and Gulp were the most productive baits displayed on chartreuse and pink teasers.

Fittingly, with Memorial Day upon us, myself and 4 other guides had the privilege to take a veterans group called the "Freedom Hunters" out on the Chesapeake for a day of fun with fins. We got to meet new friends, have fellowship along with some fish, and most importantly one heck of a lunch on Tangier Island (all donated by the families of the island). I was able to witness folks that worked their entire life protecting our country, get to enjoy (some for the first time) the blessings that we sometimes take for granted. So find a calm quiet spot, spend some time with your friends and family, and most of all take a minute to remember those that have worked and sacrificed to give us this wonderful place we call home! §

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Sometimes you just cannot beat the Eastern Shore of Virginia and the lower Chesapeake Bay! Owen Reed was fishing near Smith Island in the Bay with George Sauer Jr. and boated this 52" bull red drum using peeler crab!

# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

## JUNE

- 2nd Annual Blues for D.U.  
June 2-4 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438
- 3rd Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament  
June 16-17 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159
- School's Out Tuna Tournament  
June 21 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400
- 8th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament  
June 24-25 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071
- 44th Annual OCMC Small Boat Tournament  
June 24-25 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 5th Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam  
Kayak Fishing Tournament  
June 24-25 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

## JULY

- 41st Annual Canyon Kick Off  
June 30 - July 2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- MidAtlantic Cup  
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown  
July 5-8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 36th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament  
July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- AC Quest for the Ring  
July 16-23 • Atlantic City • www.QuestfortheRingAC.com
- 19th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic  
July 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- Cape May Marlin Tournament  
July 27-30 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 10th Annual HUK Big Fish Classic  
July 28-30 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325

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](http://www.coastalfisherman.net)

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Thomas Tyler landed a pretty sandbar shark of the OSV beach at Assateague Island. The 5½' shark hit on sand fleas and put up a fight! Thomas also found a few kingfish and a skate in the suds that day.



Shawn Crony and Larry Lee got off to a solid start for their 2023 flounder season. They caught 4 meaty flounder from the Ocean City Bay.

## OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

<b>WED. MAY 31</b>	High 05:24 am High 06:02 pm	Low 11:21 am Low -----
<b>THUR. JUNE 1</b>	High 06:09 am High 06:47 pm	Low 12:16 am Low 12:04 pm
<b>FRI. JUNE 2</b>	High 06:54 am High 07:34 pm	Low 01:05 am Low 12:48 pm
<b>SAT. JUNE 3</b> Full Moon	High 07:41 am High 08:23 pm	Low 01:53 am Low 01:33 pm
<b>SUN. JUNE 4</b>	High 08:31 am High 09:14 pm	Low 02:39 am Low 02:20 pm
<b>MON. JUNE 5</b>	High 09:22 am High 10:06 pm	Low 03:27 am Low 03:08 pm
<b>TUE. JUNE 6</b>	High 10:16 am High 10:59 pm	Low 04:18 am Low 04:01 pm
<b>WED. JUNE 7</b>	High 11:11 am High 11:53 pm	Low 05:12 am Low 04:57 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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Capt. Gray Brown and crew on the "Reel Classic" out of the Indian River Marina had reason to smile on sea bass opening day. Not only did they bag a mess of sea bass with a few heavies, they got them before the blow set in!



Jim Mack found himself a fat 30" striper in the Indian River Inlet! The 12 lb. rock hit on a eel that Jim was drifting through the inlet. Pictured at Ricks Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

 The advertisement features a large, two-story white house with a porch and columns. The Bay Capital Mortgage logo is in the top left corner. Below the house, there is a blue banner with white text that reads "Rates have improved since recent highs... ACT NOW!". At the bottom left is a portrait of J. Allan Hossick. To the right of the portrait are several bullet points and contact information.
 

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 The advertisement for Rick's Bait & Tackle features a cartoon fish character holding a fishing rod. The text includes "Let Us Help You ENJOY & AFFORD Your Fishing Experience!", "RICK'S BAIT & TACKLE", "Long Neck, DE", "The Biggest, Little Tackle Shop in Delmarva", "Friendly Service!", "We're a Delaware Fishing License Agent", "WE HAVE THE BAIT!", "INSHORE · OFFSHORE · BACK BAY CRABBING SUPPLIES", "ROD REPAIR & LINE SPOOLING", and logos for Shimano and St. Croix. At the bottom, it provides the website "ricksbaitandtackle.com" and phone number "302.945.9245".
 

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**Joel McLeod** 772.834.8549   
**Steve Hedrick** 717.586.9841   
**Dave Shockley** 561.262.6726   
**Erik Anderson** 850.974.5600   
**Charley Pereira** 252.216.6291   
**Mark Pagano** 561.309.7867   
**Colton Cunningham** 561.718.4182

## Featured Boat of the Week



# \$425,000

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



# \$1,475,000

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



# \$945,000

### HADLOCK - 2002 61' Viking Convertible Call Ronnie Fields



# \$690,000

### 1997 50' Alex Willis Custom Convertible Call Joel McLeod



# \$625,000

### SEA HUNTER - 2019 45' Mark Willis Call Chris Workmon



# \$329,000

### POUND FOR POUND - 2000 42' Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



# \$325,000

### CONSTELLATION - 1984 37' Sunny Briggs Call Ronnie Fields



### CALLIE MAY - 2011 40' Cabo Call Chris Workman



# \$295,000

### DRIFTWOOD - 2017 28' Harrison Boatworks Call Jeff James



# \$242,000

### HIGHSHARE - 1996 38' Duffy Call Mark Pagano



# \$180,000

### 1998 45' Ocean Yacht Call Chris Workmon



# \$140,000

### 1986 28' Ocean Master Call Glenn Cameron



# \$139,000

### 2017 27' Cobia Call Colton Cunningham



# \$129,900

### 2003 38' Fountain Call Terry Layton



# \$129,000

### 1982 31' Bertram Call Ronnie Fields



# \$109,000

### SAILFISH - 2018 24' Sailfish Call Jimmy Fields



# \$99,500

### FOWL HOOKED - 1979 35' Custom Carolina Sportfish - Call Jeff James



# \$49,000

### CARIBENA - 1982 34' Bertram Call Jimmy Fields



# \$45,900

### 2020 18' Key West Call Jimmy Fields

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