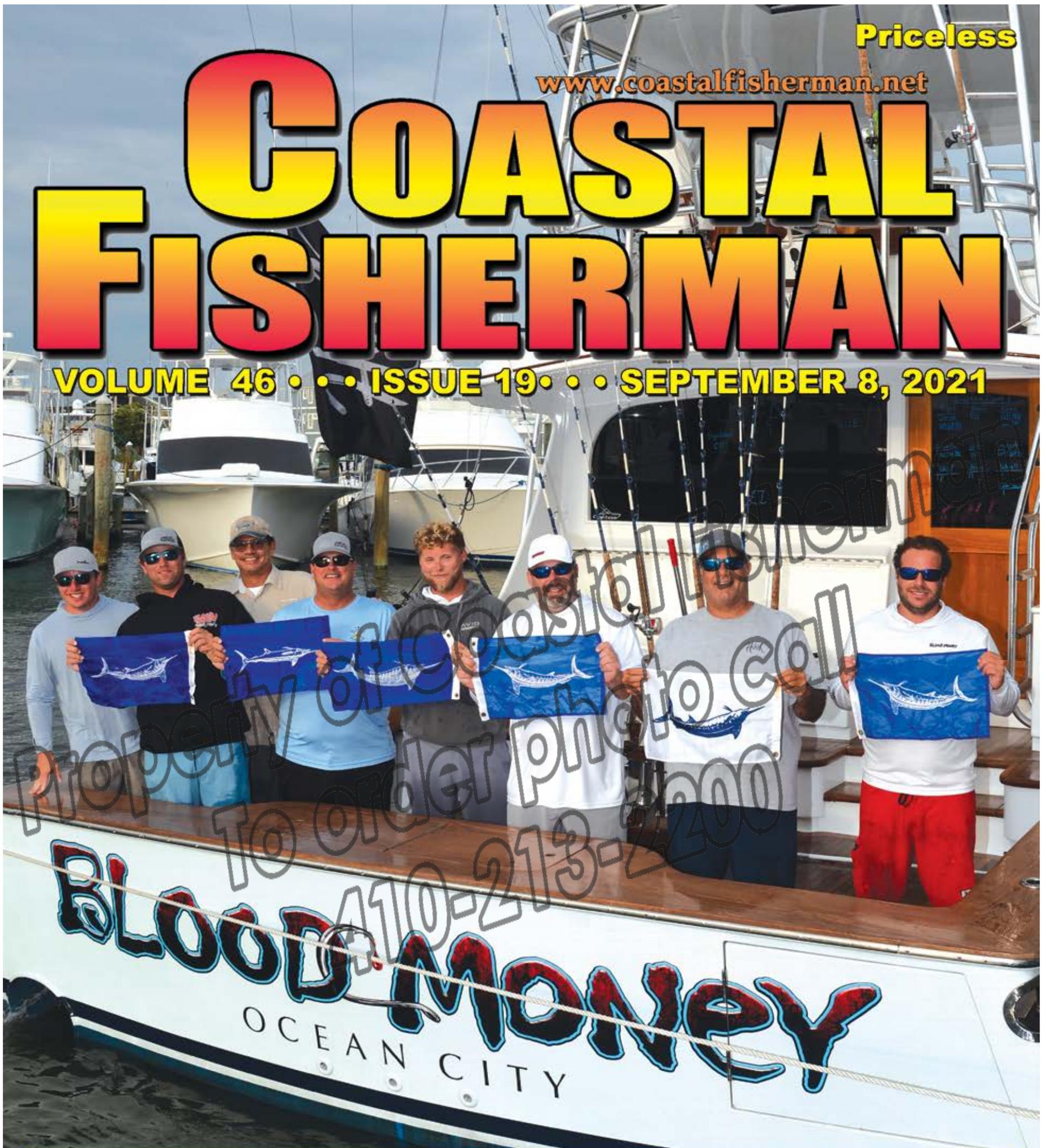


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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 46 • • • ISSUE 19 • • • SEPTEMBER 8, 2021



As a primarily billfish release tournament, the 63rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament saw all of the 21 boats entered focused on finding what have been a somewhat elusive prey recently. With the first day of the event a blowout, the normally fish 2 out of 3 day event became a fish 2 out of 2 over the weekend putting on more pressure. Continuing a solid summer of fishing, the "Blood Money" set the bar high on Day 1 releasing 4 white marlin and a blue marlin caught by Bill Pino while trolling outside the Washington and Poor Man's Canyons deep in 1000 fathoms. Capt. Anthony Pino might have had an advantage using his Hook Optics glasses to see the whites coming up on the dredges! This put the Day 1 score for owner Pete Gudaitis, Bill 'Squidnation' Pino, Donnie Moore, Zak 'Rt. 113 Boat Sales' Smith, Chris Pino from Optical Galleria and mate Kevin Knotts at 550 points, over twice the nearest competitor. On Sunday they added another white release raising the score to 650 points, and despite some good challenges they remained in the top spot taking 1st Place in the Billfish Release Division earning a total of \$12,712 in award money.

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Despite her shirt's direction, Carlina Briggs from Dagsboro, DE managed to fit some fishing into the schedule and landed this 20" flounder from the Indian River Inlet using a jig with squid and Gulp.



Miya and Miriko Blago are all smiles during their half day trip with Capt. Eric Shoaff on the headboat "Judith M" out of the Bahia Marina in Ocean City. They caught these triggerfish at the Bass Grounds using clams.

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Before the wind and Ida moved in, Matt Farr with Mark Willits from Bethany Beach, DE and Tyler Barnes of Oahu, HI found crystal clear water for some spearfishing. They got this 41.5" cobia, multiple triggerfish, and a spadefish while south of the Ocean City Inlet.

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page 56.

Outside the tournament the action offshore was slow most of last week due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida moving through the area. However it looks like the fishing turned on a little bit over the weekend especially for yellowfin tuna. Let's do the roundup.

Billfish

As we highlighted in the tournament summary, billfish were hard to find. Single bites for the day or just a couple were common. Boats with sonar equipment fared a little better but not reporting big release counts like this time last year. The "Big Stick" did an overnight trip over the weekend and came back with 5 white marlin and 1 blue marlin release flags flying. Most went offshore of the Poor Man's and Washington canyons in deep water of 700 fathoms or more, however several single release were reported at the Hot Dog.

We had a notable blue marlin release by Trey Mattes on the "God Willing". Trey was one of the good samaritans that came to the aid of the two boats that collided last week in the Baltimore Canyon. He returned to the same spot the following day and released a large blue marlin that he knew was in part the spirit of Capt. Chris Ragni, Sr. who lost his life the day before. He dedicated this fish in Chris' memory.

Tuna

Anglers are finding yellowfin catches in the 5 to 10 range usually running into one large school and getting covered up or having a couple multiple hookups for the day. Several captains report finding schools of yellows boiling at the surface in feeding frenzies and being able to catch as many as you wanted. The trick was finding them! The Poor Man's and the Rockpile were hot spots this week followed by the Baltimore. Saturday saw the "Marli" return from the Rockpile with 14 yellowfins, going 7 for 8 on one hookup alone. A notable however was the "Blue Label" that brought in a 137.5 lb. allison yellowfin tuna on Saturday.

Rounding out the rest, we continued

This Week Last Year

- The "Reel Joy" took top honors in the Billfish Release Division of the OCMC Annual White Marlin Tournament scoring 1,400 points. The "Blood Money" held 1st Place in the Tuna Division with a 63.3 lb yellowfin tuna. The "Schedule Sea" had the top 2 slots in the Dolphin Division but did not enter that calcutta!
- Longfin tuna finally started showing up at the docks. Mostly from the Poor Man's Canyon. The "Marli" boated 18 on one trip and the "Boss Hogg" had a trip with 10. Most were in the 30-50 lb. range.
- White marlin releases were abundant with many boats reporting multiple releases per trip. The "Buckshot" had 5 releases at the Rockpile and got another 14 a few days later!

With Labor Day come and gone the season may feel like it is winding down, however this is the time of year we look for more marlin action offshore.

The Ocean City Marlin Club kicks off this season with their Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament and the 63rd edition was held last weekend. The windy weather mid week and a poor forecast for Friday put a damper on participation compared to years past, however 21 boats entered the fray. The normally 3 day event was effectively reduced to 2 days as all the boats chose not to fish on Friday. While there are calcuttas for meat fish, this is primarily a billfish tournament, so all the boats were working their white marlin spreads on light tackle. This made for interesting catches as the crews ran into schools of tuna taking the baits on dink rods! The Tuna Division also proved to be the most volatile with the top three only separated by ounces until the very

end. So let's do a quick roundup.

Both days were tough for billfish with most reporting none or single or double releases. Day 1's standout was the "Blood Money" who went outside the Washington and Poor Man's Canyons in 100 fathoms to raise 3 white marlin and a blue marlin earning 550 points and setting a clear lead. Likewise, Day 2 saw similar mixes with the "Primary Search" finding and releasing 3 whites and a blue outside the Washington Canyon as well to end the tournament with 450 points and securing 2nd Place in that Division. The "Blood Money" returned to the same area and padded their lead by another 100 points by releasing a single white for the day.

The Tuna Division was dominated over both of the fishing days by yellowfins with the top contenders in the mid 50 pound range. At one point the top three were only separated by 0.4 lbs. The "Roll Grove" put some space in the leaderboard with a 60 lb. tuna they caught in the Washington Canyon on Sunday but were eventually bumped to 3rd Place by the "Sea Wolf" who brought in 2 big yellowfins with only 15 minutes left at the scales. Their 75 lb. and 67 lb. fish slammed them into both 1st and 2nd Place.

Lastly, the Dolphin Division was tight owing to the limited size of the mahi we are seeing currently. The top spot went to the "Reel Chaos" for a 12 lb. fish and they also took 2/3rds of 3rd place with a 3 way tie at 11.2 lbs. Again not a big spread across the top three spots and most were caught in the Washington usually around weed lines or other floating debris. Our coverage includes the cover shot and details starting on

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is published weekly from May through September and annually in January by Coastal Fisherman Magazine LLC at 12748 Sunset Avenue • Ocean City, MD 21842

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to see consistent bailer mahi action across the canyons and at the inshore reefs and wrecks through Saturday, however it appears to be slowing down as we entered the week. A new heaviest wahoo was reported by the "Quick Draw" that found a 101 lb. speedster at the rockpile in 350 ft.

Upcoming Tournaments

• Always a fun family event, the Ocean City Fishing Center will host the 19th Annual Sept. 11th Memorial Spot Fishing Tournament held on September 11th this year. The event has multiple age categories and offers rewards for each. Entry fee is only \$5 and registration starts at 4PM with fishing from the docks from 5-6:00PM. Call 410-213-1121 for more details.

• Bahia Marina in Ocean City will hold it's one day Flounder Pounder on September 12th. This tournament is a lot of fun and great for the kids. You may fish from your own boat or rent a skiff, skimmer, or pontoon from the marina if you wish. Call 410-289-7438 for more info.

The main tournament season may be winding down, but we still have some fun ones to go! There are also more fall events so keep an eye on our schedule in the paper and on-line to keep up to date!

Until next week, I will see you at the scales!



The crew of the "Kiyo" with Capt Alan Wingate and Mate John Coleman out of the Indian River Marina hit it hard at the Del-Jersey reef. Anglers Capt. John Strangfeld and Blaine Fuller of Fort Lauderdale, FL with Eric Filgueras of Cocoa Beach, FL and Doug Scavanner of Long Boat Key, FL boated these two crisscrossed 30 lb. wahoo as well as some mahi and sea bass. Picture at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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The Massey's Ditch was giving up some nice flounder before the winds mixed up the water. John Spence caught this 22" and 4 lb. flounder as well as another one at 18.5" on a homemade bucktail with a swing hook and a squid skirt. Measured and weighted at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



We think this sheephead is clearly mad at Ernie Stone for catching him! It was his mistake for hanging around the Inner Wall in the Delaware Bay where Ernie tricked him with sand fleas. The fish weighed in at 6.72 lbs. at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Fishing makes everybody happy! Ryan Asper, Joe DiNenna and Mason Asper from Treasure Beach RV Park ventured out to the Thorofare on the "Real Salty" where all three caught keeper flounder, the largest at 21". All the flatfish fell for JD Lures.

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 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-35" Less than 3 miles from shore 1 per person/day</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 16.5" minimum 4 per person/day</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31 4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>



Leslie Raffensperger from Angola, DE has been fishing at Canary Creek for a couple of days recently and she has figured it out, catching flounder both days with minnows! This flat fish from our 'best dressed angler' weighed 4 pounds at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Eric Church, Jr. and Myra Chuck with Eric's Dad Eric Church, Sr. had an epic day in the Thorofare of the Ocean City Bay! They caught over 20 flounder with 4 keepers including a 21" fish Eric Sr. caught. All fish were caught on live minnows from Fenwick Bait & Tackle.



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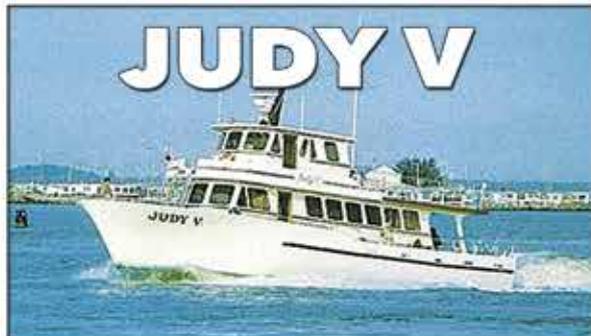
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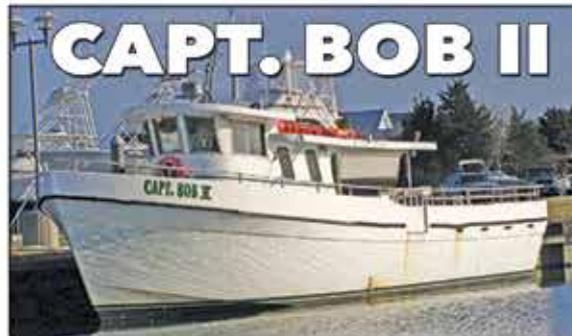
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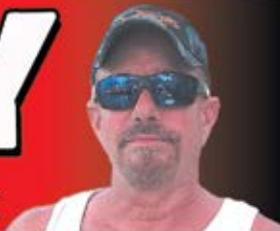
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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This week in Ocean City had everyone on high alert as Hurricane Ida rolled up from the south. Prior to the winds and rough seas caused by Ida, some good fishing was to be had. After the storm passed and the water calmed down the fishing rebounded back to normal if not even a little better. At the end of the week we saw Saturday with light winds and calm seas making the Labor Day crowds very happy but the fish unhappy. Big catches of sea bass, flounder, and mahi were reported on Saturday. Both in the bay as well as the ocean.

Back Bay Reports

The back bays of Ocean City have been alive with multi-species of fish all summer and this week was no different. From big keeper rockfish, redfish and of course the town favorite, flounder! The main thoroughfare was a great place to target flounder early in the week as well as after the storm passed. Long squid strips with a live minnow was the most widely used bait this week. The water near Ocean City Airport has also been a good spot for flounder. 16 yr. old RJ Storm, along with his dad and grandfather were fishing their boat the Nauti Storm and caught 4 keepers up to 18 1/2". Look for the deeper holes when fishing near the airport and drift through the rise and fall of the

holes. The fish are usually on the down current side of the holes. The area near the airport has also been holding some good schools of croaker. Although these fish are usually not as big as the ocean ones, it is a great way to spend an afternoon if you're fishing with small children. Small pieces of squid or Fishbites are great baits to use. Croaker are ready to bite just about any bait and will keep the young ones entertained. Croaker have also been caught in good numbers near the Rt. 90 Bridge. The area just south of the bridge near Seacrets is also a good spot to try for croaker. Rich Daiker was fishing the back bays of Ocean City, and even with the dirty water managed 3 flounder up to 20 1/2". Rich also caught about 25 rockfish but they were all undersized. Mike Quade Sr. & Jr. were fishing the west channel and caught a limit of keepers up to 19.5" on a jig and Gulp shrimp. Ryan Asper and crew fished the Thoroughfare and caught flounder up to 21". These fish were fooled by JD Lures. Eric Church also fished there with his crew and caught over 20 flounder. The group kept 4 fish with the largest being a nice 21" flounder. The area just above the Rt. 50 Bridge was a little slower this week. The water was very muddy and high due to the storm. A few stripers did come off the Rt. 50 Bridge this week though,

including a nice 42" over slot one caught on an outgoing tide. The fish was released unharmed after a quick photo.

The bridge is also producing several small rockfish and a few bluefish. Greater numbers of stripers can be found further south near the Verrazano Bridge. Most of them are young juvenile fish but are very fun to catch on light tackle. Small bucktails and swim baits are a great way to target them. Live or frozen shrimp on a popper will also work.

This week also saw a very nice redfish measuring 25" caught at the inlet by Chris Day while he was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on his charter boat the Lucky Break. As the water begins to cool many more redfish will be caught around the inlet. The bigger ones are usually found off the surf at Assateague Island. Black drum and red drum will make their migration south sometime near the end of September or early October.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Prior to and after the storm passing, fishing was very good on the reef structures outside of Ocean City. As I was coming back from a tile fishing trip on Saturday, I spoke with several boats on the Bass Grounds that told me flounder and sea bass are plentiful,

www.coastalfisherman.net but that they were finding lots of throwbacks. Information from the African Queen site as well as Marine Electric was that the keeper ratios were a lot higher the further south or the deeper you went. This time of year even finding a keeper sea bass is usually very difficult. The water is just too warm. This year however has been different with keepers being found more frequently at the near shore wrecks and snags. Clam and squid are producing about the same.

The Judith M reports before the blow from Ida that they were catching lots of triggerfish at the Bass Grounds as well as a few nice sea bass. Most of the fish came on squid bait. Miya and Miriko Blago were out on the Judith M and took home some nice triggerfish using clams. They are reported to be on most of the inshore wrecks. The Bass Grounds and Fenwick Shoals are the best locations for finding good numbers of these fish. Clam, squid, and sand fleas are your best baits.

Cobia was pretty good this week with several catches just south of the inlet being reported. Many of these fish were undersized, however, a few nice keepers were around for those who put in the time on the shoals. I spoke with Tim Tribbitt who was down in Oyster, VA this weekend and he stated that cobia are still very active there. Hopefully this will signal a strong fall fishing season for our waters.

Until next week...

Tight lines and fins up



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Toby Rowland looks like he is about to air guitar with his first white marlin caught and released aboard the boat "Saltwater Cowboy"! Capt. JP Thiede with fellow anglers Todd Crown and Noah Thiede were trolling at the northern edge of the Hot Dog in 140 ft. and 78° water when this one took their Meathead lure from Imperium Lures.

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Another day, another rockfish each for Big Bird Cropper and Shaun Flaherty! They continue to work their Stretch lures, this time a red & white medium 6" model to land keeper rocks. They also got their limit of bluefish casting Roy Rigs on the incoming and outgoing tides. They donated the blues to feed a shark in captivity locally for research.



Amanda Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina still gets excited when she gets to write up a citation size fish! She got to do just that for David Johnson and the 7.04 lb. flounder he caught on the 'Lil Skipjack' with Capt. Beau off of an ocean structure. The crew also boated sea bass.

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Kyle Mooney likes to work the Rt. 50 Bridge at night. On this outing he fooled this 42" striper with spot and snapped a quick picture before releasing the oversized fish.

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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - TIES GO TO FIRST FISH REPORTED. HOOK & LINE ONLY)

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 Bluefish	June 9 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs. 3 oz.	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	 Mako Shark	July 1 Vince Cusimano Poor Man's 250 lbs.	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 7 Roman Brady Fingers 542 lbs.	June 17 Rory Badger Old grounds 458 lbs.
 Cobia	June 17 Shannon Pickens S. of OC Inlet 36 lbs.	No Weights Reported	 Bigeye Tuna	July 28 John Edward Washington Canyon 257 lbs.	July 11 Fiore Celano Poor Man's 171 lbs.
 Flounder	July 4 Richard Rudell Old Grounds 10 lbs.	July 20 Mark Bonk Site 10 8.8 lbs.	 Bluefin Tuna	May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Sea Bass	May 27 Michael DePalma Jack Spot 4.05 lbs.	May 28 Denise Eddinger Del Jersey Reef 4.1 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna	July 17 Kayler Michael Baltimore Canyon 61 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Sheepshead	July 14 James Williams OC Inlet 13 lbs.	August 16 Tom Smith Outer Wall 13.6 lbs.	 Yellowfin Tuna	July 24 Shane Surrency Spencer Canyon 111 lbs.	June 26 Julia Dadisman Poor Man's 118 lbs.
 Striped Bass	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	 Dolphin	August 11 Mike Hendrickson Poor Man's 49 lbs.	July 15 Bill Dickinson Poor Man's 26.6 lbs.
 Tautog	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	 Wahoo ★	September 4 Hudson Wise Rockpile 101 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Weakfish	June 23 Doug Stewart OC Inlet 3.9 lbs.	May 27 Cole Singer Indian River Bay 8 lbs.	 White Marlin	August 6 Butch Wright Norfolk Canyon 85.5 lbs.	No Weights Reported

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



17 year old Connor Mister finished August with a bang while fishing with his father on the uniquely named "Marmaduke's Revenge". They were using 5" white Gulp and landed several flounder including this 22 incher.



OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT 8	High 09:29 am High 09:54 pm	Low 03:08 am Low 03:23 pm
THUR. SEPT 9	High 10:15 am High 10:36 pm	Low 03:48 am Low 04:14 pm
FRI. SEPT 10	High 11:03 am High 11:21 pm	Low 04:31 am Low 05:08 am
SAT. SEPT 11	High 11:54 am High -----	Low 05:19 am Low 06:07 pm
SUN. SEPT 12	High 12:09 am High 12:51 pm	Low 06:11 am Low 07:10 pm
MON. SEPT 13 <i>1st Quarter Moon</i>	High 01:03 am High 01:58 pm	Low 07:08 am Low 08:16 pm
TUE. SEPT 14	High 02:07 am High 03:17 pm	Low 08:09 am Low 09:23 pm
WED. SEPT 15	High 03:21 am High 04:34 pm	Low 09:13 am Low 10:30 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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FISHING CHARTERS



The charter boat "Spring Mix II" headed out Saturday with this 'split trip' crew after a slow Friday. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Jacob Bialk took the anglers to the Baltimore Canyon and caught mahi around some sea bass and pot markers. Moving to trolling they released a white marlin in the morning and found some tuna boiling at the surface landing 3 nice yellowfins.



Capt. Monty Hawkins on the "Morning Star" had an adventure on this special mahi trip! Heading out in a little bit rougher weather than expected but finding nice blue water far inshore, they did find the mahi on the troll and were just 3 shy of the boat's limit. They also hooked up with a manta ray on a 50W that was at least 16' across!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Eric Shoaff got in a few half day trips in on the "Judith M" before the remnants of Hurricane Ida blew through the area. Julian Buitrago from Union, NJ was on one of those trips and caught this triggerfish at the Bass Grounds using squid.



Corey and Michael Staats had a good day with Capt. Rodger Meekins and mate Will Shahan on the headboat "Judy V" out of Indian River Marina. Working inshore wrecks and reefs they boated a mix of flounder and sea bass using squid.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Chris Day from Lutherville, MD had a nice surprise finding this 25" red drum in the Ocean City Inlet. He was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat "Lucky Break" out of Frontier Town using sand fleas to catch this one.



And then there were two! The House of Balance mechanical contractors had booked a company trip on the "Marli" with Capt. Mike Hoos and mate Daniel Prettyman when 4 of the group canceled leaving only Mike Bachman and Chris Langeluttig. They caught their crew limit of 12 yellowfin tuna in the Baltimore Canyon in warm 83° water on bars and chains. At one point they had 9 on at the same time and the largest caught was 73 lbs.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Now this is a perfect example of the Delaware stretch! Aaron Hurd was fishing with Capt. Brent Wiest on the charter boat "Katydid" when he landed this 6.12 lb. flounder. Overall the crew caught their flounder limit of 4 per person and some mahi as well at various ocean structures using jigs with variations of Gulp, squid and shiners.



Regular angler Steve Doctor was at it again on this trip with Capt. Chris Watakowski on the headboat "Angler" with mates Rich and Steve. Using squid at an artificial reef he landed flounder up to 4.5 lbs. and this nice gaffer mahi. We are not sure of the significance of having Super Mario with his Cappy Hat on board, but he got a cameo!

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Alex Beane on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" came on strong after the weather cleared last week! Maryland anglers Garrett, DJ, and Doug Widlake with Andrew Gamble and Brendan Mundorf headed out 60 miles toward the Baltimore Canyon last Saturday in 500 fathoms to land these 5 yellowfin tuna and 19 mahi. The tunas came as a double and a triple and the mahi were found around floating debris.



The inshore fishing continues to be solid providing catches of sea bass, flounder, mahi and triggerfish! On this trip aboard the headboat "Judith M" with Capt. Eric Shoaff, Devon Callahan from Colonial Heights, VA landed this nice knothead on a half day trip to the Bass Grounds. We can still see the squid strips used for bait; clams and shiners were used as well. Other anglers also caught triggerfish on the trip.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Mike Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard" put anglers Marina Bryan and Ellie Sturgill on some nice fish last week. They were in the Washington Canyon trolling ballyhoo and went 1 for 3 on white marlin releases as well as these 3 yellowfin tunas and gaffer dolphins. David Burt was the mate. Pictured at Sunset Marina.



One of the few boats that hit the waters on the last day of August was the charter boat "Rhonda's Osprey". Maryland anglers Sam Chairs, Bruce Steffe, Jerry O'Neill with Andrew and DJ Ford headed out with Capt. Joe Drosey and found 6 good sized yellowfin tuna and a little tunny false albacore tuna!

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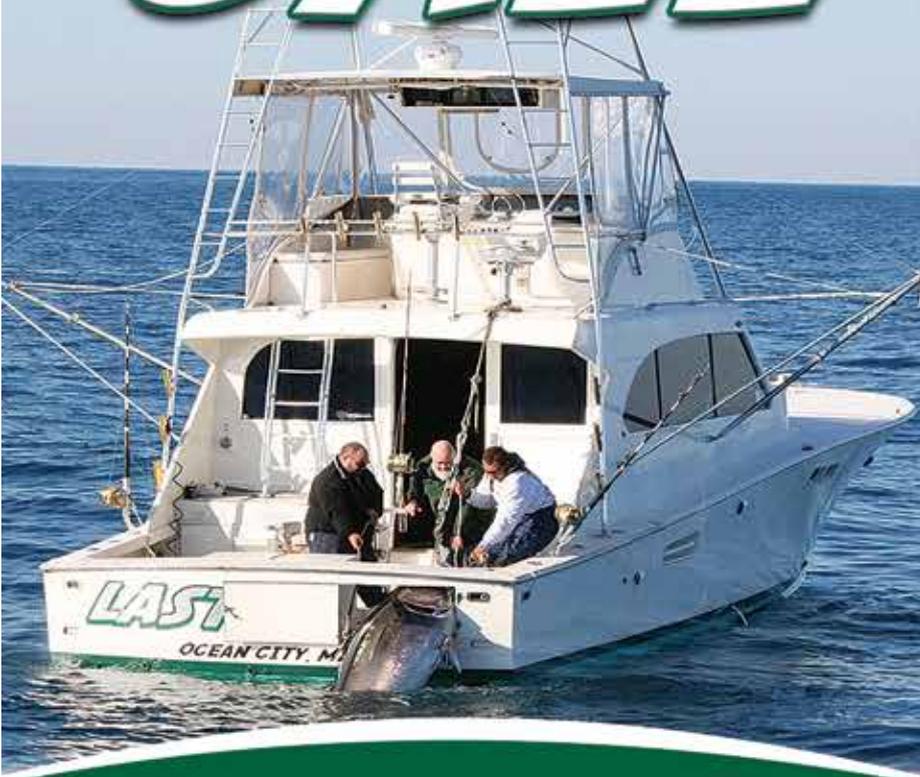
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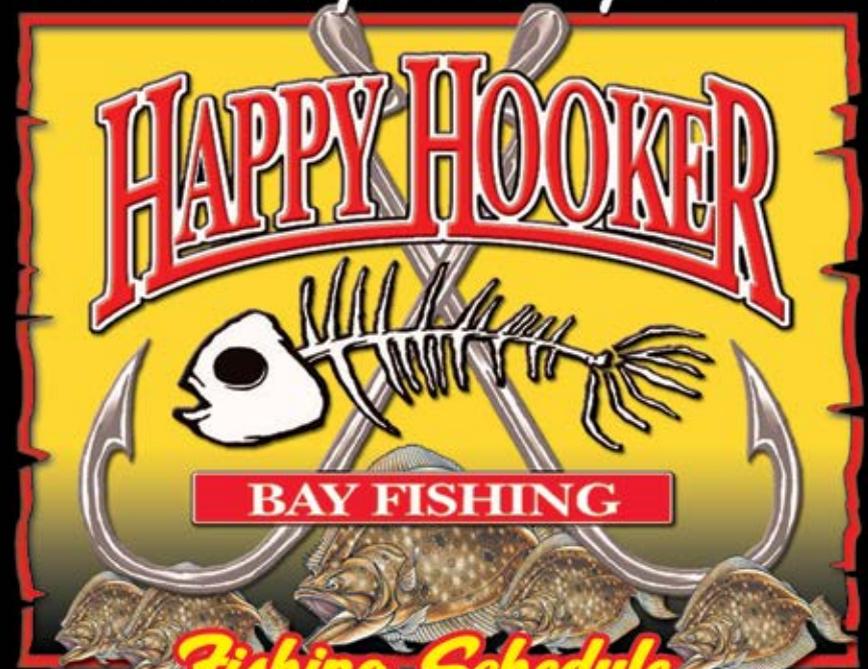


Lacey Mitchell landed and released her first white marlin while trolling at the Hot Dog with a naked ballyhoo. She was fishing with Colby Mitchell, Kyle Salmon, Capt. Scott Stapleford and mate Donald Downs on the charter boat "Game On" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center.

“Thank You”

to the Ocean City Coast Guard, Dept. of Natural Resources, Ocean City Fire Department and notably to TowBoat U.S. and private boat "Obsession" for their swift response to assist us in saving the lives of all on board. Lastly, one final "Thank You" to all of our charter clients. You made it possible to keep our charter business running for nearly 40 years. We are forever grateful.

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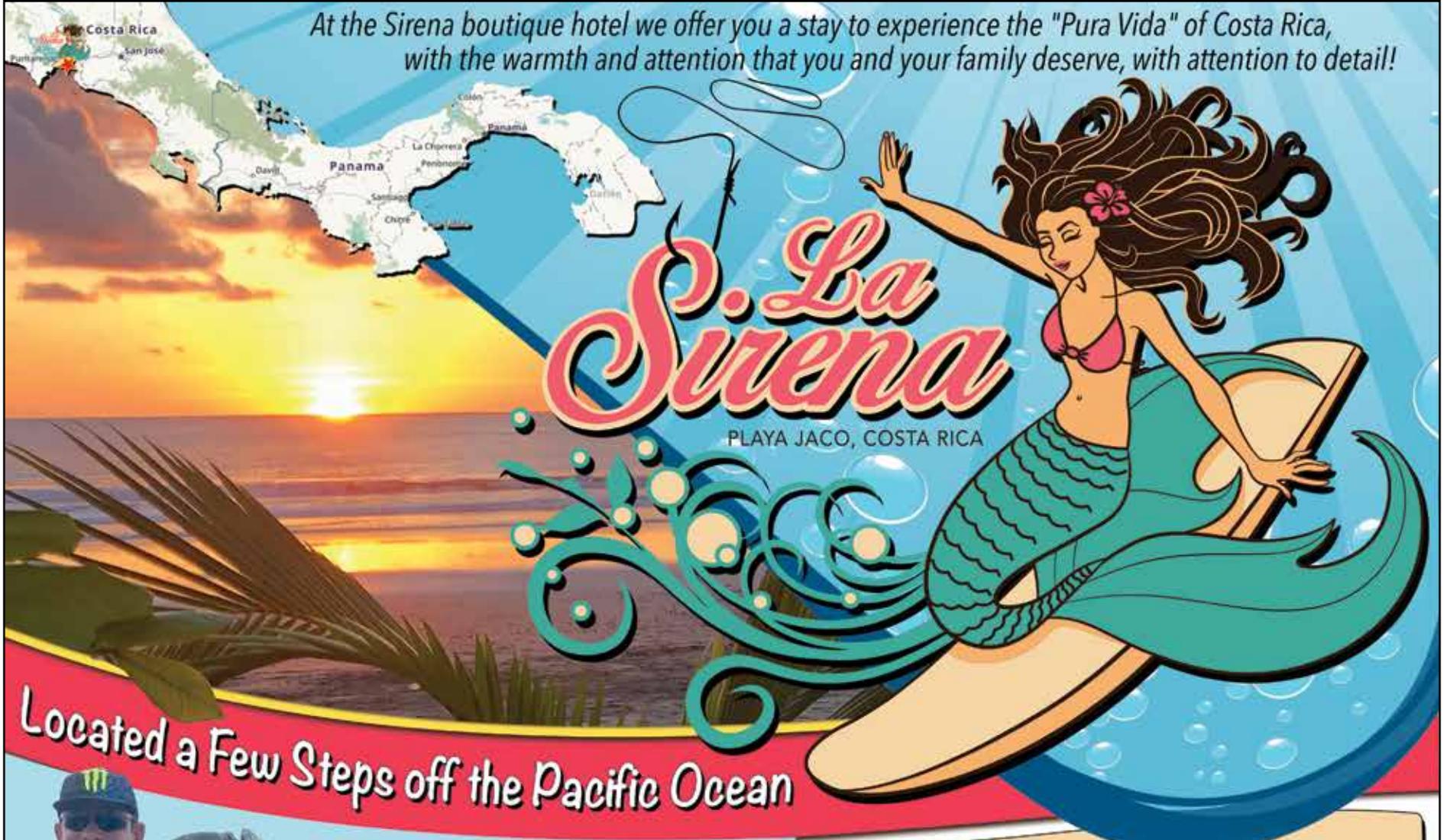
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Mike Quade Sr. & Jr. made short work of it while fishing in the Ocean City West Channel with Kern Ducote. They caught 10 keeper flounder up to 19.5" using jigs and Gulp shrimp.



The tax man always takes his bite! Anglers Josh Green, Steve Summer, Joe Rhoa and John Barnett landed these 9 whole yellowfin tunas after losing 1 and keeping the half that were taken by sharks. They were in the Washington Canyon with Capt. Josh Ardis and mate Jim Hukill on the "Christine Marie".

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Capt. Willie Zimmerman on the charter boat "Ro Sham Bo" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center had been finding a good mix of mahi, tilefish and yellowfin tunas like this chunky one as well as a few white marlin releases before tropical storm Ida passed through.

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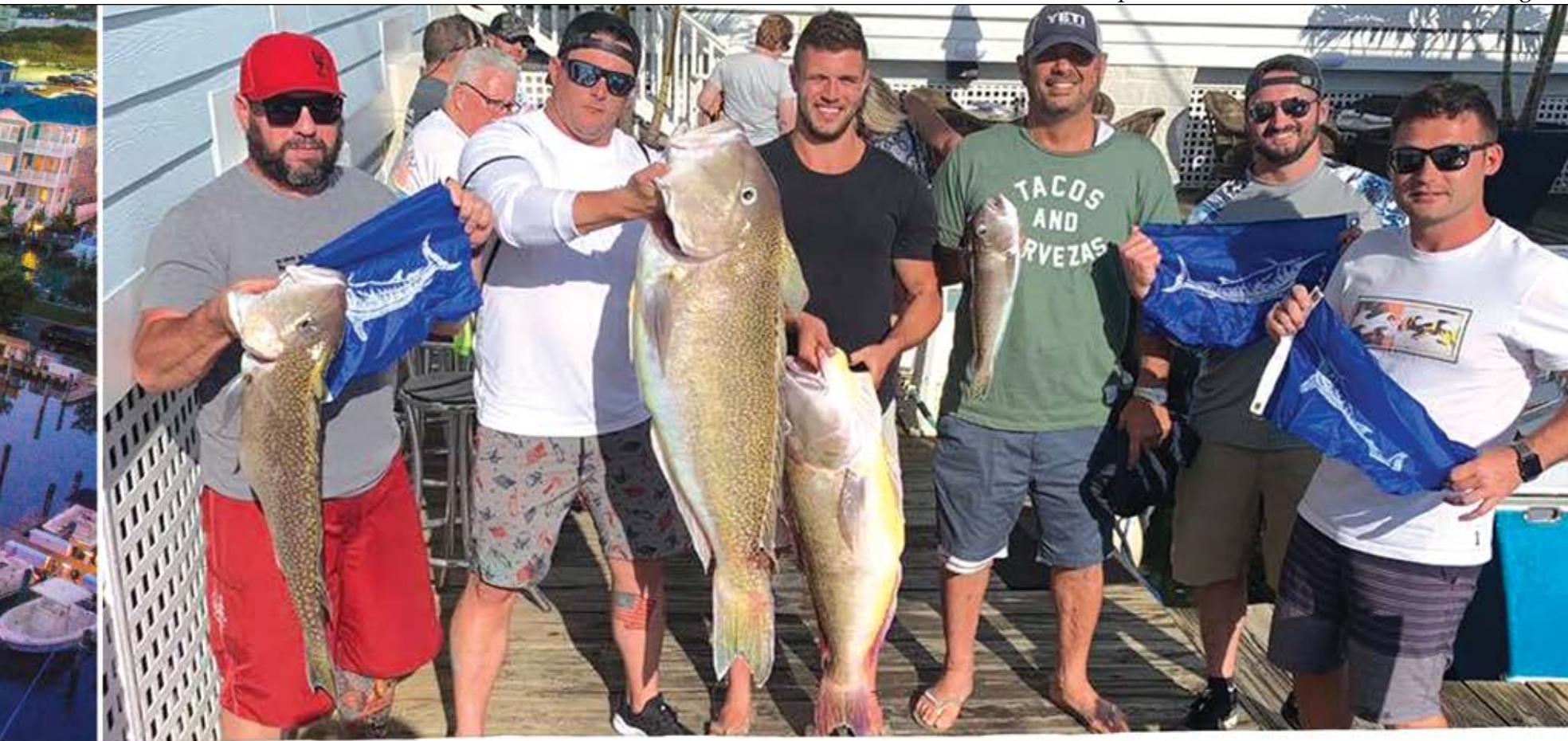
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The crew from "Castin' and Blastin'" know how to organize their mahi catch by size! Bill and Fritz Winkler from Ocean View, DE fished in the Baltimore Canyon and used side tracker spreader bars to land this 204 lbs. of yellowfin tuna and 42 lbs. of mahi that they brought to the cleaning table at Hook 'em & Cook 'em at the Indian River Marina.

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	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE **</u>
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"	TUNA:		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Speckled Trout	24"	-			
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"			

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

** DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements



Charter boat "Jacked Up" went 1 for 2 on a double header hookup of swordfish last Sunday in 1300 ft in the Poor Man's Canyon. On top of the 180 lb. sword the crew had 8 nice tile fish up to 59 lbs. along with 8 mahi. Capts. Nick Skidmore and Jeff Landis worked together to make it all happen! Pictured at Bahia Marina in Ocean City.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

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September 11 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

16th Annual Flounder Pounder
September 12 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

43rd Annual OC Marlin Club Challenge Cup
September 17 - 18 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic
September 25-26 • Old Inlet Bait & Tackle • 302-227-7974

OCTOBER

DMS Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament
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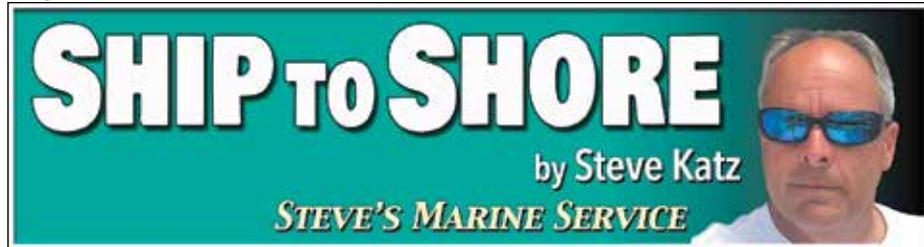
40th Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament
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Lewes Harbour Marina Tautog Tournament
October 23 - November 21 • Lewes, DE • 302-645-6227

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





The last few articles have reviewed first aid and insurance, unfortunately these topics became more relevant with recent trouble on the water in our area. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all.

In keeping the recent themes, this week's article will review boat fires and their causes.

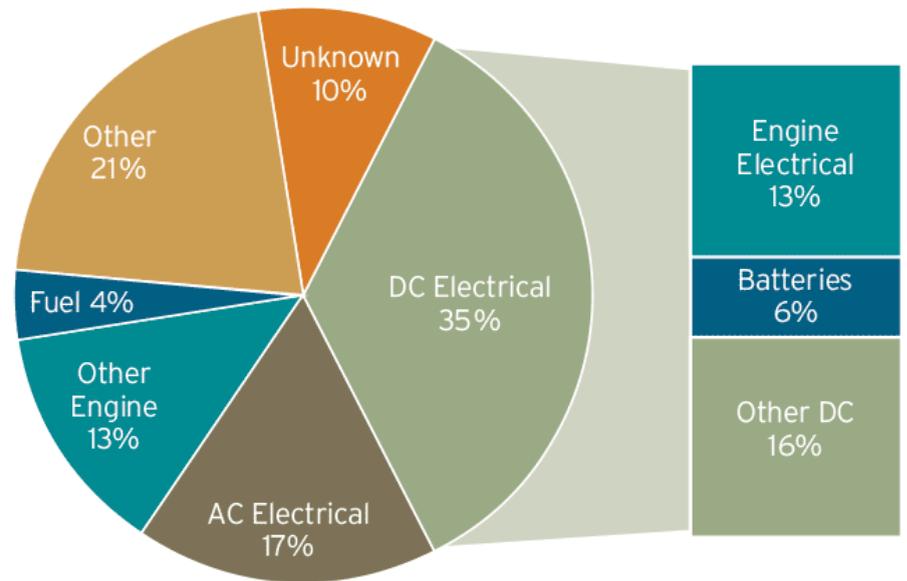
Fire was ranked 5th on the Geico/Boat US insurance company causes for boat loss claims (2015-2019). It's not too surprising, since a boat contains all the ingredients in close quarters needed for a fire; generally referred to the "fire triangle", heat, oxygen, and fuel.

When these three elements are combined - a fire begins. The good news is if you can remove one of these three components from an existing fire, the fire ceases to exist, that is generally the job of a fire extinguisher. As we all know, boat fires are preventable even though we cruise along the water with

the elements the fire triangle, the key to preventing fires is to regularly maintain your boats system and only install and modify systems with approved products and methods.

Thankfully, the USCG statistics from accident investigations show that fire is not often a cause of a boat accident, injury, or death- they report collisions, flooding, grounding, and falls are the top USCG reported accident types.

Surprisingly, Geico/BoatUS insurance company reports that more than 25% boats burn when something else goes up in flames - "the marina, the storage facility, the house, the garage, the barn, the neighbor's house. In more than 70% of those cases, it's the marina that burns. A high percentage of those fires start on someone else's boat. That means that every boat owner has a responsibility to prevent fires on board, not just to keep his or her boat safe, but also to



keep the people, boats, and property around it safe."

Learning about the historical causes of the remaining 75% boat fires can help you prepare for but more importantly prevent fires on your boat. Not surprising, fuel and electrical systems were the main areas that caused boat fires in the Geico/Boat US insurance company findings.

Batteries - You might think that loose battery connections, chafed battery cables and aged battery switches cause fires aboard, they do but the most common cause of battery-related fires is operator error when working with batteries. Incorrectly connecting or re-connecting the battery and cables can cause sparks, shorts or even

battery explosions, which can all start a fire.

Along with batteries, wiring harnesses and starters cause a disproportionate number of fires on boats that are more than 25 years old. BoatUS recommends that if you have a vintage boat and those parts are original, consider replacing them.

An interruption of engine cooling water can lead to overheating and then to a fire. Overheating can be caused by impeller failures due to age or sediment in the water. If your engine overheats, check the engine compartment before getting underway again. Change your impeller regularly or after a grounding or when operating in particularly dirty waters.

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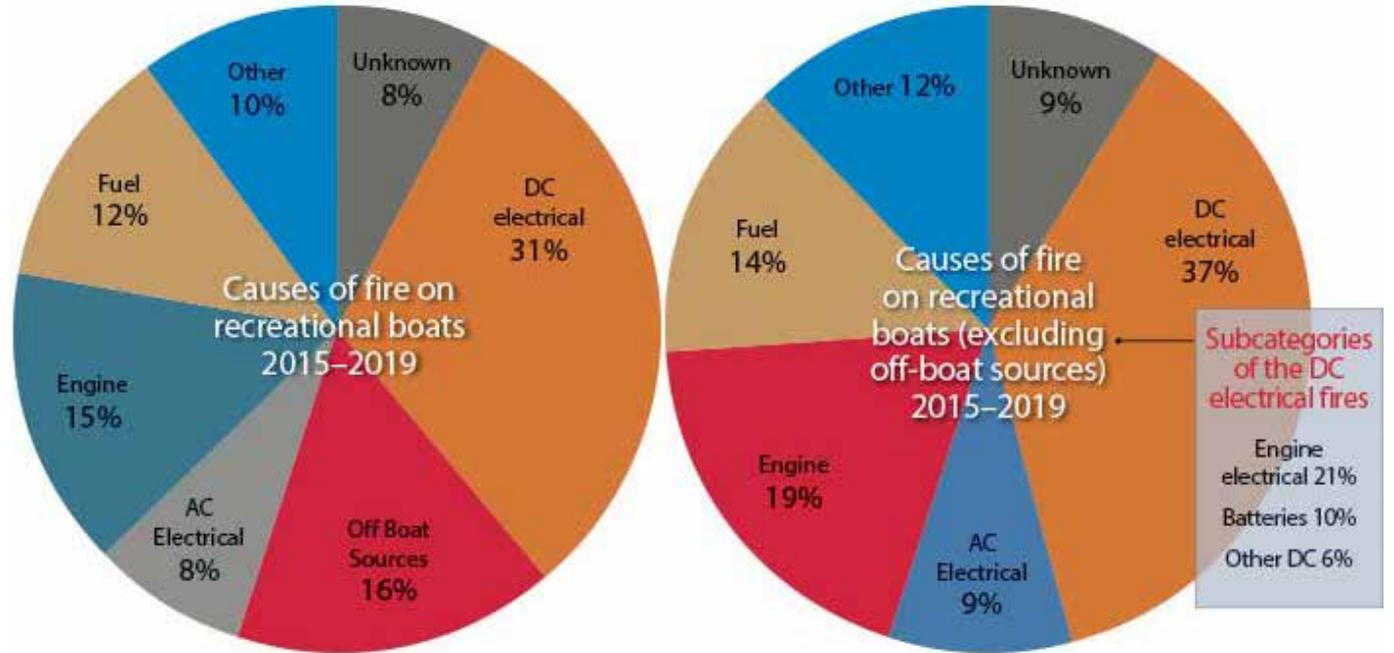
Connecting your boat to electrical power on land, referred to as shore power, is common but has been shown to be a popular source of fire. Boat US says most AC electrical fires start somewhere between the marina pedestal and the shore power inlet on the boat. BoatUS has long recommended using only marine-grade power cords with proper adapters and replacing them at the first sign of wear on the cord or pitting on the blades of the plug. Analysis of BoatUS fire claims has identified another high-risk area on boats more than 10 years old: the back of the shore power inlet where the ship's wiring connects to the shore power inlet terminals. BoatUS recommends replacing the shore power inlet on older boats if it is original, or at least inspecting the

connections in an effort to prevent overheating and fire.

Outboard powered boats inherently allow an engine fire to be immediately visible to those on board, unlike an inboard powered boats where a fire below decks

is a common cause of fires. The failure rate increases with age after 10 years. So, if your outboard is at least 15 years old, replacing the regulator may well keep you from having a bad day on the water.

systems after an event such as collision, grounding, water leak, flooding etc. is a good idea to help identify a compromised system that could cause a fire. Next week we will review fire prevention systems - extinguishers and



may go unnoticed until too big to control.

BoatUS has found that on older outboards, the voltage regulator is by far the most

Proper maintenance and regular inspections can help identify issues that can become a future cause for a fire. Checking all

shut down systems etc.

Until next time...

Stay Grounded



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The waters in the Sinepuxent Bay off of the Ocean City Airport have long been known for their flounder honey holes. 16 year old RJ Storm with his dad, grandfather and some neighbors headed there and got these 4 keepers up to 18½” while fishing on their boat the “Nauti Storm”.



Jean Bew from Ocean View, DE is tickled pick with this 12” croaker and 19” flounder pair she caught while fishing on “The Jean Machine” near Site 10 using a clam and live minnow combo on the very last drift of the day!



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In Loving Memory of

Lloyd Lewis



*A loving husband, father,
grandfather, great grandfather
and veteran to our nation*

October 26, 1936 - August 28, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lloyd Lewis, a true icon of the fishing community.

A Salisbury native, Lloyd graduated from Buckingham High School in Berlin, and the University of Maryland in 1959 where he earned his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. After six years of active service, Lloyd resigned his active status as a Captain and served 2 years in the reserves and 4 years in the active reserves.

A real estate developer, Lloyd was active in the growth of condominiums in Ocean City. In 1971, Lloyd and his wife Gail purchased property at Talbot St. and the Bay in Ocean City and opened the M.R. Ducks Bar & Grill in 1982. Additional M.R. Ducks clothing stores followed.

Lloyd was a founding member of Worcester Preparatory School and served on the boards of the Tax and Appeal Board of Worcester County, Home Bank in Newark, MD, and the Planning and Zoning Board of Ocean City. He was a member of the Ocean City Downtown Association, the Ocean City Marlin Club, Ocean City Lions Club and Ocean City Development Corporation.

Lewis is survived by his wife, Gail Turner Lewis, sons John and Stephen Lewis and their families.

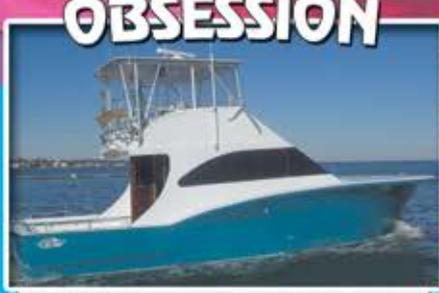


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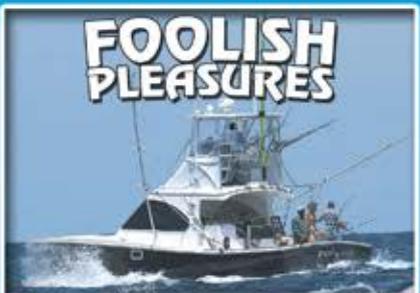


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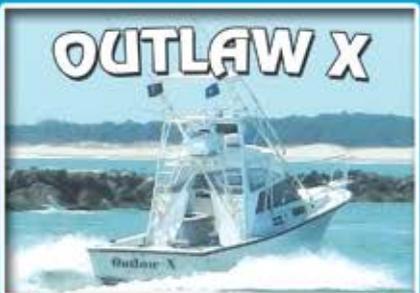
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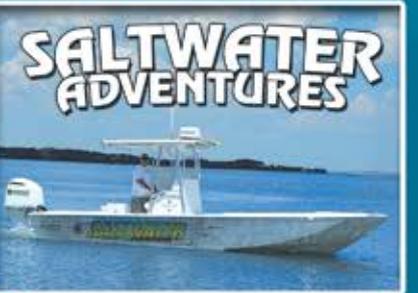
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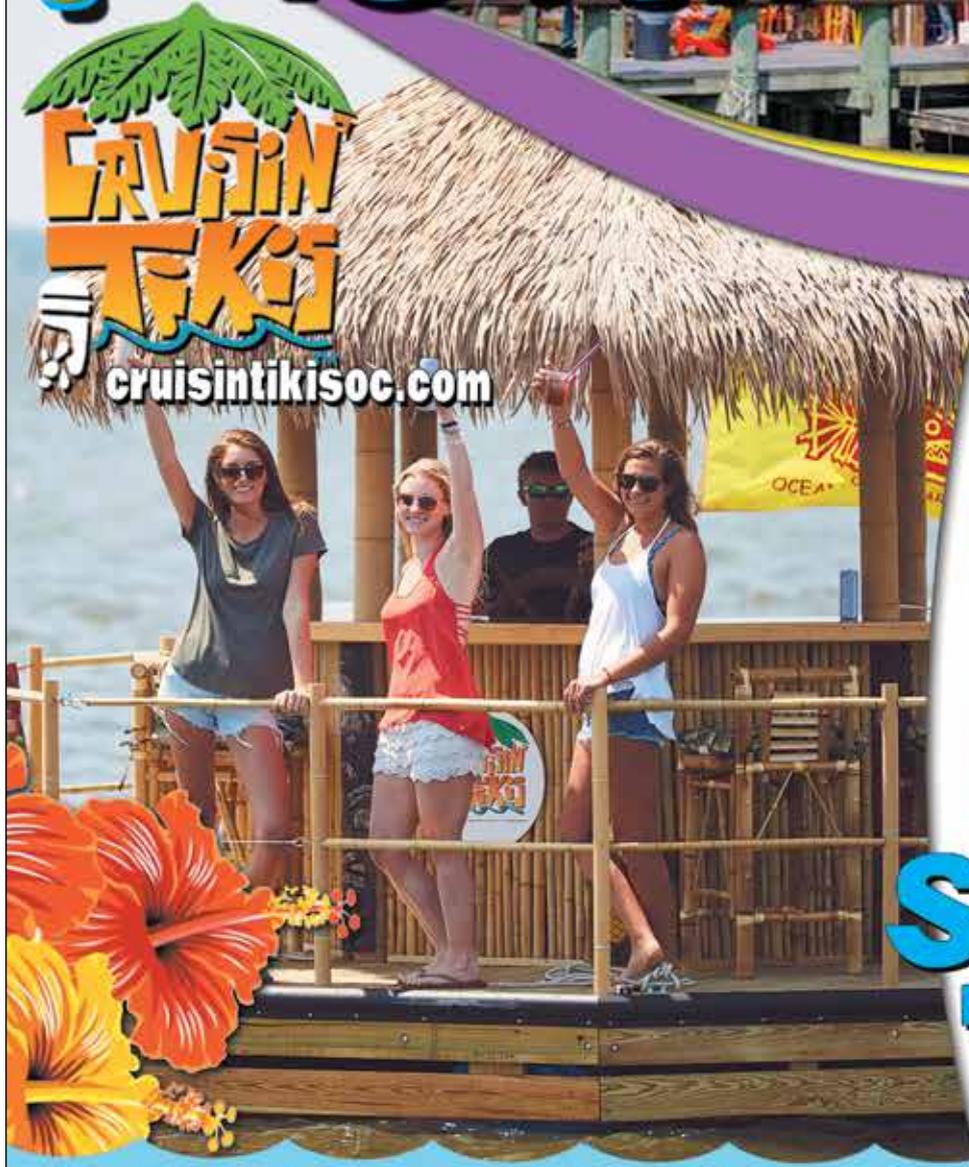
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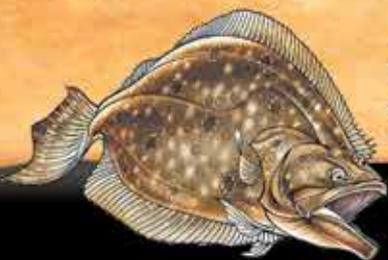
Bahia Marina

2021 TOURNAMENTS

16TH Annual

FLOUNDER POUNDER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12



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Grilled Tuna Steak Salad with Wasabi Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

Grilled Tuna Steak Salad:

2 fresh yellowfin tuna steaks

Olive oil

Kosher salt and cracked black pepper

4 handfuls of mixed salad greens

Juice of one lime

1 avocado, diced

1 medium-sized cucumber, diced

1/4 cup thinly sliced scallions, white and green parts (extra for garnish)

2 tsp. sesame oil

1 tsp. rice wine vinegar

1/2 tsp. fresh grated ginger

2 Tbsp. toasted sesame seeds (extra for garnish)

Wasabi Vinaigrette:

1/2 tsp. wasabi paste

1 Tbsp. rice wine vinegar

1 Tbsp. low sodium soy sauce

3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Directions:

Heat a clean grill or a grill pan or griddle over high heat. Wipe with a thin layer of oil over the



surface using tongs and a paper towel dipped in olive oil. Wipe over the surface a few times until it's slick.

Pat the tuna steaks dry with

paper towels, then season with a bit of salt and pepper. Place the tuna steaks onto the hot cooking surface and sear them for 1-2 minutes per side. You want a sear on each side with a cool pink center. When done, remove the tuna from the heat. Set the steaks onto a cutting board and let them rest.

Place the salad greens into a large bowl. Drizzle them with lime juice and massage the lime juice into the greens for a light and even coating, then distribute the greens evenly onto serving plates.

Transfer the avocado, cucumber, and scallions to the bowl you used for the greens; sprinkle with the toasted sesame seeds.

In a small bowl, whisk together sesame oil, rice wine vinegar, and grate ginger until thoroughly combined. Drizzle over the avocado and cucumber mixture, and gently toss to coat. Dividing the mixture in half, place over top of the plated greens.

Carefully slice the tuna against

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the grain into bite-size cubes. Top each salad with the cubed tuna. Drizzle each salad with wasabi vinaigrette, top with extra sliced scallions and toasted sesame seeds if desired, and serve.

Wasabi Vinaigrette:

Place the wasabi paste, rice wine vinegar, and soy sauce into a small bowl. Whisk to combine. While whisking, slowly drizzle the olive in with a steady stream to emulsify.

Hot Shrimp Dip

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. cream cheese softened
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/4 cup shredded Pepper Jack cheese
- 1/2 Tbsp. Old Bay Seasoning
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- 3-4 dashes hot sauce
- 16 oz. shrimp cooked, coarsely



- chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic minced
 - 3 green onions thinly sliced
- Directions:**
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Using a hand held mixer beat cream cheese, mayonnaise, sour cream, 3/4 cup cheddar cheese, 3/4 cup Pepper Jack cheese, Old Bay Seasoning, Worcestershire Sauce and hot sauce until smooth. Stir in shrimp, garlic

and green onions.

Spoon into a baking dish and top with remaining cheddar and Pepper Jack. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the dish is bubbly and heated through.

Best Blackened Cobia

Ingredients:

- 1 cobia fillet (6 oz.)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme or oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 lemon

Directions:

Rinse cobia in cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Mix spices in a small bowl and cover the fish entirely with it. Heat butter in a skillet (it has to be very hot!) and place fish in it. Cook for 3 minutes on one side



and then for another 3 minutes on other side.

Move to the plate, squeeze lemon on top and serve.

Crab Ceviche Appetizer

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. crabmeat or imitation crabmeat
- 1 1/2 cups cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 white onion, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 1 seedless cucumber
- 3 limes

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3 finely chopped serrano peppers (optional)

1 tablespoon ketchup

1/2 cup Clamato juice

Directions:

In a large bowl blend crab meat without breaking it up too much.



Add juice of 2 limes, onion, tomatoes, chopped cucumber and serrano peppers.

Add salt.

Combine the ketchup, Clamato and the juice of the third lime.

Add more salt if necessary.

Serve with Mexican corn chips or crackers.

I serve in a margarita glass with a wedge of lime on top.

Note: You can use V8 juice

instead of Clamato if you want.

Seared Tuna with Avocado & Salsa Verde

Ingredients:

2/3 cup lightly packed flat-leaf parsley leaves

3 tablespoons drained capers

1 clove garlic, smashed

4 teaspoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon anchovy paste

1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon olive oil

4 tuna steaks, about 1 inch thick (about 2 pounds in all)

1 avocado, cut into 1/2-inch chunks

Directions:

Put the parsley, capers, garlic, lemon juice, anchovy paste, mustard, 1/2 teaspoon of the salt, and 1/8 teaspoon of the pepper into a food processor.



Pulse to chop, six to eight times. With the machine running, add the 1/2 cup oil in a thin stream to make a coarse puree. Leave the sauce in the food processor and, if necessary, pulse to re-emulsify just before serving.

Heat a grill pan or heavy cast-iron pan over moderately high heat. Rub the tuna steaks all over with the 1 tablespoon oil. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Cook the fish for 3 minutes. Turn and cook until done to your taste, 3 to 4 minutes longer for medium rare. To serve, top the tuna steaks with the avocado and drizzle with the sauce.

Classic Margarita

Ingredients:

1 ounce Triple Sec

1 ounce fresh lime juice

2 ounces Tequila

1/3 ounce Agave syrup

1 cup ice

Directions:

Fill up cocktail shaker halfway with ice

Add the rest of the ingredients & shake 10-15 seconds

Pour into glass & garnish with lime wedge - salt the rim beforehand if you'd like!



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It was mixed grill time for Mike Moss, Joey Wallace and Ryan Scopin from western Maryland with Beth Pfaff, Jason Pfaff and Tyler Bradley from Selbyville, DE. They worked the Poor Man's Canyon in 50 fathoms with Capt. Dave Collins and mate Alex Neiss on the "Capt Ike II" landing this nice wahoo and some sea bass with quite a few tilefish that could not fit in the picture!

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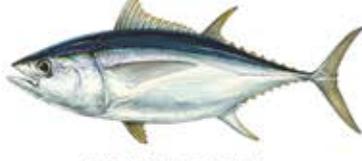
Janeen Weik of Fenwick, DE and Karen Cooper of Bishopville, MD had a great day aboard the "Sold" with Capt. Josh Fallon and mate Mark Cooper. They caught a limit of mahi, a limit of flounder with a few sea bass mixed in fishing inshore wrecks with natural and artificial baits. It was also Janeen's first flounder, mahi and sea bass.



Capt. Ken Fleetwood, Jim Zimmerman and Hudson Wise on the "Quick Draw" were quick to get out after the winds of IDA blew through and were rewarded! They were trolling a rigged eel when 12 year old Hudson connected with this 101 lb. wahoo setting a new Heaviest for Maryland for the season!

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day	 BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit	 BLUEFIN TUNA 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
 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit	 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per passenger/day	 SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat	 WAHOO No minimum Length 2 per person/day
<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h3>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h3>	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	71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako 78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead	83" Minimum Fork Length Female Shortfin Mako 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, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White

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.

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



After some slow days followed by days lost to the wind, some of the fleet got back at it last Saturday and saw some decent tuna action. One standout was the charter boat "Marli". Capt. Mark Hoos put angler Joe Kozielec Sr., Ralph Kozielec, Joe Kozielec Jr., Don Tresnicky and Sean Armstrong out by the Rockpile, and mate Danny Prettyman set the spreader bars and chains. It was a slow day overall, but you only need one to get some fish. In this case these 5 yellowfins came all at once. The crew finished the day landing a bunch of tilefish. Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



As Hurricane Ida rolled by to our west, the ocean rolled from the residual flow. Many anglers stayed close to shore or at the docks. Fishing remains strong with good catches of flounder and mahi near shore, as well as flounder and croaker in the back bays.

Back Bays & Beaches

Flounder remains the mainstay of the back bays. The main channels are your best chances for a couple of keeper flatties. Looking north to the Delaware Bay, the various shoals are producing some nice doormats. Brown Shoal and Brandywine Shoal are top producers. The main

locations for the flounder on these shoals are on the down current side of the drop off to the deeper water. Large Gulp and curly tail strip baits are your best baits. White and pink are the most widely used colors.

Ernie Stone caught a nice 6.72 lb. sheephead off the Inner Wall Delaware Bay. For those of you who know sheephead, this is a very large fish for our area. Way to go Ernie!

In Lewes the canal fishing has been fairly slow. This time of year with lots of traffic coming out of the harbor the best place to fish is along the docks and edges of the canal or north

of the inlet opening. Gulp and squid baits are the most productive baits.

Looking towards Indian River Inlet the main entrance along the rock jetties have been producing some nice keeper flounder. Keep in mind this area is a fast current and often hard to control your drift. The area in front of the Coast Guard Station is also a great location to target. Carlina Briggs was fishing Indian River Inlet using a jig with squid and gulp and caught a nice 20" flounder. During the slower tide currents try drifting live spot on a circle hook. This technique will target the larger flounder. When using live spot you will not get the numbers of bites as if you used squid or minnows, but the bites you get will be of higher quality. The main channel winding through the middle of Indian River Bay is also a good place to target flounder. Look for the deeper holes and set up your drift from deep to shallow. The area in front of the VFW remains a good area for keeper flounder as well as Massey's Ditch near the boat ramp. John Spence fished there before the winds messed up the water and landed a nice 22", 4 lb. flounder and another one at 18.5" on a homemade bucktail and squid skirt.

Croaker are all over the back bays but finding them can sometimes be difficult. The area near the entrance to the ocean appears to be the most dependable, however,

you will have to deal with a lot of boat traffic.

Old Inlet Bait & Tackle reports that rockfish have been few and far between, even at night. The heavy tidal flows due to the hurricane may be responsible for this. As the weather cools over the next few weeks the striper fishing should get steadily better. Chunk baits and bucktails are your best baits.

This week I received several reports of false albacore just outside the inlet and along the shoreline. Large schools of bait can be found inside the inlet as well as outside. Spec rigs, spoons, and bucktails are all good lures to throw at these fish. Further up the bay redfish are still around the power plant however the reports were not as good as past weeks.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

Looking to the nearshore areas, flounder and mahi remain the big catches. Regarding mahi, they are in a different location every day. Most days they are located near A Buoy. When the schools can be located the fishing is fast paced with tons of action. Casting a light circle hook to the fish with a piece of squid seems to be the best option. These fish are only a few weeks old and are not very big. They will make a nice fish taco or fried fish finger but are too thin for much else. This is fun fishing but remember in a few more weeks these fish will be full size so return what you're not going to eat quickly to the ocean to preserve the hatch.

The Old Grounds is the hot spot of the week with big

Gulp baits as the clear cut winner.

Diane Vansant was fishing the Old Grounds and landed a huge 27 1/4", 7.8lb. flounder while fishing on the boat "High Pressure". Several triggerfish are also around with anglers reporting if you hook one and leave it in the water you can catch many more that will follow it to the surface. Sand fleas are the best bait for triggerfish, however, squid will also work. 17 year old Connor Mister was fishing with his father using 5" Gulp baits and landed an impressive 22" flounder along with his limit. David Johnson weighed in a huge 7.04 lb. flounder at Lewes Harbour Marina. David caught the fish while fishing on the Lil Skipjack with Capt. Beau. The crew also caught some keeper sea bass. Leslie Raffensperger caught a nice 4 lb. flounder from Canary Creek on minnows. Aaron Hurd was fishing with Capt. Brent Wiest on the "Katydid" and landed a nice limit of flounder with his biggest being 6.12 lbs. Jean Bew was out at Site 10 and got a nice 19" flounder and some croaker using a clam and minnow combo. Corey and Michael Staats had a good day on the Judy V out of Indian River catching a mix of sea bass and flounder on ocean structure. The pair used squid to catch their fish. Sea bass also remains strong with the NJ/DE Reef being the best place to find large numbers of keepers.

As the weather begins to cool the sea bass fishing should get even better!

Until next week...

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You may often hear the phrase ‘pretty work’ when someone sees a nice catch. For angler Tom Baires from Collegeville, PA it is both pretty work and pretty fish! He was trolling near the Hot Dog on the private boat “Mrs Crabs II” with owner Gene Arantowicz from Birdsboro, PA, Andy Camela and mate Justin Strouse. This bull dolphin weighed 30 lbs. and the crew also caught 9 smaller ones.

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- Wawa - 120th St.
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- Wawa - Rt. 50
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WEST OCEAN CITY

- Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets
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- Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle - Rehoboth
- ACME - Rt. 1 Rehoboth
- Fisherman’s Wharf - Lewes
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- Wawa - Rehoboth (Northside near Walmart)

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- Hocker’s Deli - Rt. 26
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- Short’s Marine
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Rich Daiker, Kenny Schoen and Tony Ellis worked the near shore wrecks and reefs to catch a nice haul! Overall they got a limit of sea bass, 6 flounder and 6 peanut mahi.

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About this time every year, light-anglers from all over the country start to make the trek to specific places in the mid-Atlantic region to get a piece of what many of them consider to be some of the most exciting and enjoyable action on the East Coast. Heading out in the morning anglers might find their quarry waiting for them a stones throw from the shoreline, 40-miles offshore, or anywhere in between. Once the fish are located captains will strategically position their boats and then shut down so that anglers cast lures or flies

in hopes of getting a solid hook-up to a critter that is sure to test every inch of line, every knot, every drag washer, and every tensed muscle between man and fish. Once landed the fish are carefully unhooked and released, because just like billfish, tarpon, bonefish and many other top gamefish, almost no one targets these fish for food - they're just "fun to catch"!

It's the kind of quality light tackle fun that we sometimes read about in the glossy pages of national fishing magazines or watch on the outdoor channels

on Saturday mornings. Sound like fun? Do you want to give it a try? Are you wondering what-in-the-heck fish I'm talking about?

If the answer to any of those questions is "yes," I've got some good news: If they follow their regular migration schedule by the time this paper hit the streets those same fish should be off the coast of Delmarva in some pretty great numbers and I expect that many local fishermen will be "cursing" them for at least until the middle of October.

"Cursing them?" You ask. Yes I said "cursing" because the fish I'm referring to is the wonderful, or lowly (depending upon how you look at them) false albacore, a.k.a. little tunny, albi, apple-knocker, turkey, or bonito. In these parts most anglers have traditionally looked not too favorably upon the false albacore because the little 5-20 pound members of the tuna family typically attack baits and lures intended for billfish or other (more edible) fish such as tuna, dolphin, and king mackerel and it can be quite a disappointment when the outrigger pin pops, the cry of "fish-on" resounds throughout the boat, and someone plunks themselves down in the fighting chair with the thought of engaging battle with one of the larger "glory" fish only to realize that their "big catch" has turned out to be a false albacore.

But as "one man's trash is another man's treasure,"

false albacore under the right circumstances are a wonderful resource for anglers to tap into. They're strong, fast, willing to hit both natural and artificial baits both at the surface and at mid-depths, and are often available in great quantities. What more could you ask for out of a game fish? OK, I know, how about good table-fare? Well, as far as that goes, forget it! The super-strong taste of false albacore makes them virtually inedible. But that's OK because true "sportsmen" do this fishing thing for the fun of it, not just for "meat" - right?!

In the early fall false albacore can typically be found anywhere from 10-25 miles offshore. Good places to look for them include the Jack Spot, Twin Wreck area, Southeast Lumps, the Bass Grounds and all along the 20-fathom line, although sometimes it's necessary to run all the way out on the Hotdog to find them. If you can't get a tip from another fisherman, a good way to locate false albacore on your own is to troll small spoons, feathers, or cedar plugs. Once you get a few bites in one area you can shut down and either anchor or drift (I prefer to anchor) and then do some light chunking to hold them around the boat. The little peanut bunker we catch around the docks are great for chunking with and can also be used on the hook. But for even more fun, anglers should consider casting small

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diving plugs, spoons, jigs, or even surface poppers because false albacore can be pretty voracious feeders when they're worked up! Of course anyone who's into saltwater fly fishing knows that hooking and landing a false albacore on fly tackle is a pinnacle achievement of the sport. They won't jump like a dolphin or bust your back like a big tuna, but these miniature members of the tuna family will always give the light tackle enthusiast the kind of fun they'll not likely forget. When hooked, a false albacore will typically stay just under the surface as it makes a series of long fast runs that often end with a quick change of direction that sometimes has them racing back towards the boat. Anglers can only

hold-on during the runs, crank like mad when the fish charges in, and then be ready to run, crawl, or climb around the boat as the fish darts from one end to the other. Exciting fishing? You bet!

One nice thing about false albacore fishing off Delmarva is that since hardly anyone targets them around here you'll typically have all the fish to yourself and won't have to worry about other boats in close proximity interfering with your efforts. And if you have any trouble finding the fish just shut your engine off and listen. If you hear someone cursing - go that way, because it's probably coming from some tuna fisherman who just got covered up by false albacore!§

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The Old Grounds continue to give up some serious flounder! Linda Ferreri caught this 26" and 6.6 lb. doormat on a combination of squid and minnows. Measured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



Capt. Chris Miller of the "Reel Escape" took an overnight trip to the Poor Man's Canyon with Bob Miller, Bob Reese, David Stephens and Carl Sauer and returned to the dock with this nice yellowfin tuna they caught after dark.

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

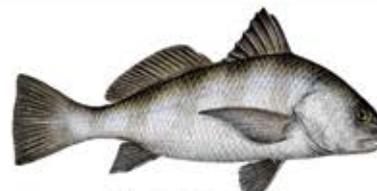
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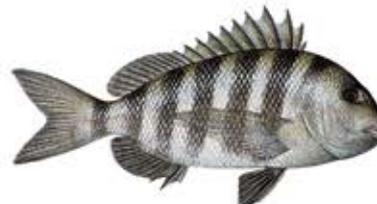
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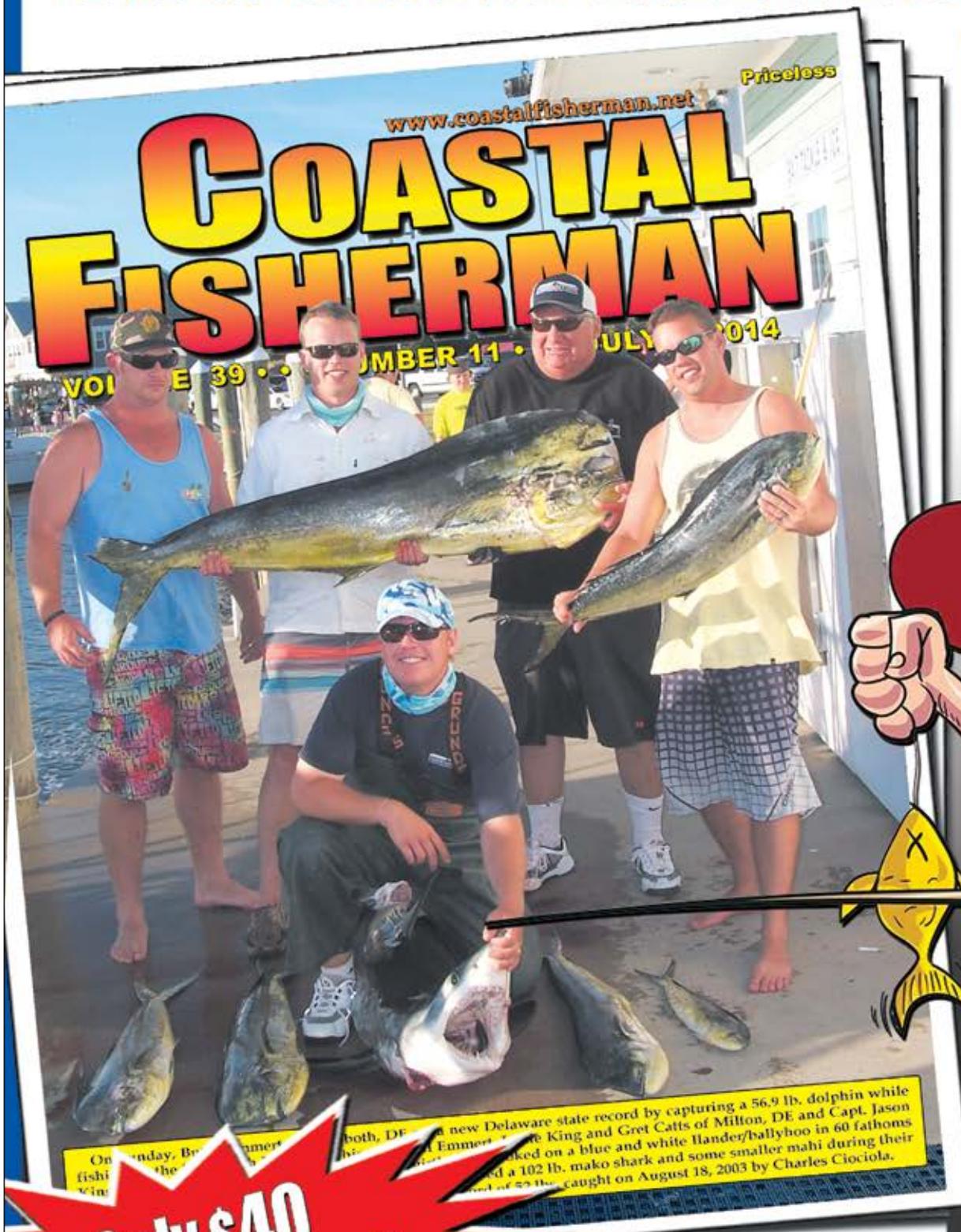
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The "Sea Wolf" usually brings some excitement to the scales when they come ripping into the docks and there was no exception during the 63rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament! Coming in with only 15 minutes to spare on the last day of the event, mate Josh Brindley threw 2 big yellowfin tunas on the deck. The anglers were marlin fishing so Josh Grant had to work to reel in the 75 lb. 1st Place winner that connected on a dink rod. Taylor Serafenas landed the 2nd Place 67 lb. finisher, wearing her arm out in the process on a dink as well! The 2 tuna earned \$6,237 in award money. Capt. Donnie White had the boat above the Washington Canyon and east of the Rockpile in 1000 fathoms for both days. Rounding out the crew were fellow anglers Pete Roskovich, John Grant, Amber Nielsen and Austin King, all from Ocean City.



63rd Annual Labor Day WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT RESULTS

BILLFISH RELEASE		
1 - "Blood Money"	650 pts.	\$12,713
2 - "Primary Search"	450 pts.	\$2,363
3 - "Buckshot"	400 pts.	\$3,600
TUNA		
1 - "Sea Wolf"	75 lbs.	\$4,995
2 - "Sea Wolf"	67 lbs.	\$1,242
3 - "Roll Groove"	60 lbs.	\$828
DOLPHIN		
1 - "Reel Chaos"	12 lbs.	\$4,995
2 - "Buckshot"	11.8 lbs.	\$1,242
3 - "Buckshot" (T)	11.2 lbs.	\$276
"Reel Chaos" (T)	11.2 lbs.	\$276

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DAILY BILLFISH RELEASE DIVISION

DAY 1 - "Blood Money"	550 pts.	\$3,375
DAY 2 - "Buckshot"	400 pts.	\$3,375

MASTER ANGLER AWARD - Pete Cudaitis 300 pts. "Blood"

Total Boats - 21 Days Fished: Day 1 - 0 Day 2 - 21 Day 3 - 21



Just like last year, the "Buckshot" got into the money in 3 categories during the 63rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament. Day 1 saw the crew of Cash Stanton, Cutter Stanton, Mike Runk, Kyle Pelino with mates Cody Puller and Andres Mayorca bring 2 qualifying mahi to the scales at 11.2 and 11.8 lbs. Day 2 brought in 2 yellowfin tuna and a report of 4 white marlin releases. This mix earned the crew 3rd Place in the Billfish Release Division, 2nd Place in the Mahi Division as well at one part of the 3 way tie for 3rd for a combined total of \$8,493 in award money.



Boats in the Tuna Division of the 63rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament were competing for the top spot with fish in the mid 50 lb. range, so when the "Roll Grove" arrived with 3 yellowfins with the heaviest at 60 lbs., they slid easily into 1st Place at the time. Anglers John Shelton, Steve Poore, Eddie Kehl and Darren Helwig were marlin fishing so they had to battle all of these tunas to the boat on dink rods! Capt. Jake Farley with mates Charlie Coates & Jim Arnold put the boat deep in the Washington Canyon landing 6 tuna overall on 2 triples and going 1 for 2 on white marlin. At the end of the day they finished in 3rd Place in the Tuna Division securing \$828 in prize money.

Overall the marlin fishing was tight during the 63rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Labor Day White Marlin Tournament. Weather reduced the traditionally 3 day event to 2 with most boats finding only a couple all day. One standout was the "Primary Search" who found 3 white marlin and a blue marlin on Sunday, earning 450 points and securing 2nd Place overall in the Billfish Release Division. Capt. Austin Ensor with mates Brian Suschke and Dakota Bitner had the crew of Rod Claridge, Gus Everhardt, Allan Williams, Lisa Poore, Kelly Kappus and Kevin Grimm deep in the Washington Canyon in 1000 fathoms. The fish earned a total of \$2,362 in award money that will most likely be spent on headsets for the crew!



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2021 SCHEDULE

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

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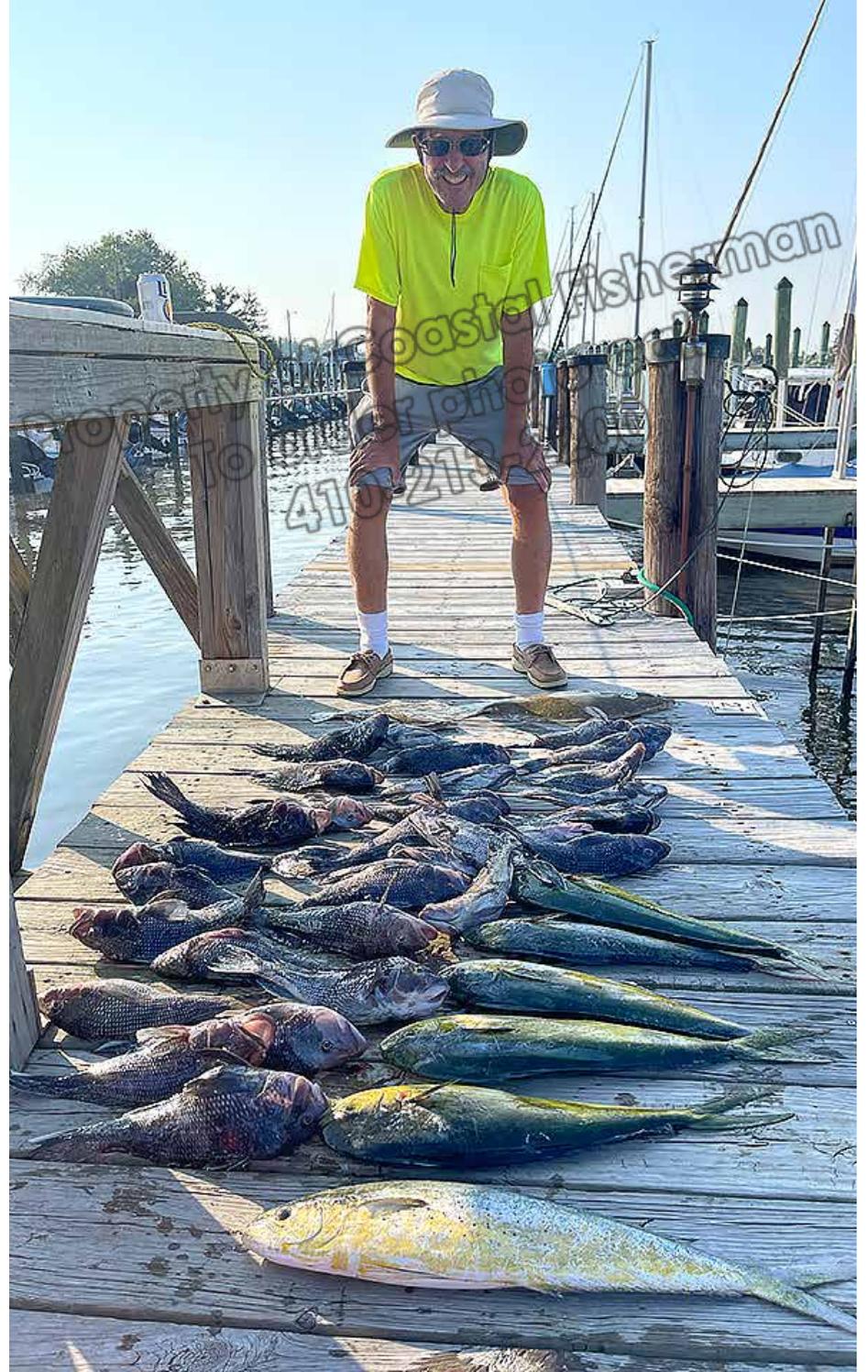
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Capt. Treye Matthes on the "God Willing" was one of the good samaritans that came to the aid of the two boats that crashed last week in the Baltimore Canyon. He was a friend of Capt. Chris Ragni Sr. who passed away that day and he decided to return to the same spot the next day where he released a monster blue marlin that he dedicated to the memory of Chris Sr.



Jay Savopoulos from Lewes, DE has a big smile showing off this catch from the Del-Jersey Reef, and it was a nice distraction from the stage 4 cancer he is battling. He was fishing with Andy Shelton on his boat and finished the day with a limit of 30 sea bass up to 19", some mahi from the pots and a few flounder including a 26" doormat! Clam, squid and Gulp did the trick.

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Charley Pereira
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John Caselli
954-290-8866



Colton Cunningham
561-718-4182

Featured Boat of the Week



DOUBLE NICKEL - 1997 42' Buddy Harris - Call Ronnie Fields



HOT MIX - 1995 56' Jarrett Bay
Call Jimmy Fields



APAVA - 1969 56' Rybovich
Call Colton Cunningham



SALVATION - 1977 Omie Tillet Sportsman 50'
Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



HEBE - 1988 43' G&S Sportfish
Call Ronnie Fields



TOBASCO - 1979 48' Whitticar
Call Jimmy Fields



MISS ANNIE - 2005 52" Viking
Call Jimmy Fields



CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty
Call Jeff James



WORK LESS PAY MORE - 2019 32'
Century - Call Dave Shockley



SOUTHBOUND 2019 30' Grady White
Call Jimmy Fields



2007 39' Gillikin Custom Express
Call Ronnie Fields



2021 24' St. James Custom Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields



2019 24' St. James Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields



BILLIN TIME - 2005 32' Albemarle Express
Call Jeff James



2007 33' Buddy Cannady
Call Ronnie Fields



2018 25' Custom Blackfin
Call Jimmy Fields



2018 27' Baja Outlaw
Call Chris Workmon



1982 34' Crusader
Call John Caselli



DOUBLE TROUBLE - 2004 35' Mar Lago
Call Terry Layton

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