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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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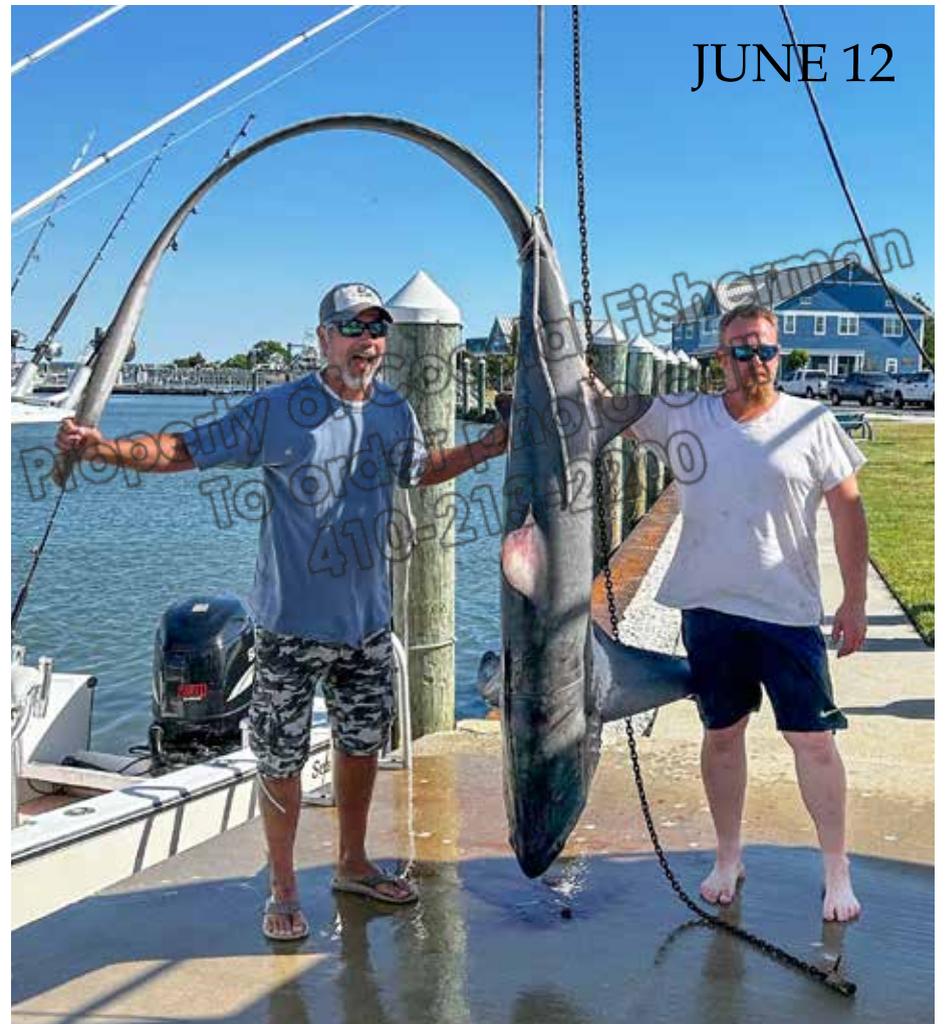


*Highlights
of 2024*



MAY 1

There was a serious bluefish blitz the last week of April with big fish hitting everywhere from Assateague Island up to the Delaware Bay! They were also in the Ocean City Bays. Ivanna Harshman went to Stinky Beach to try her luck and connected with this 30.5" gator bluefish that hit on a 1/2 oz. jig head tipped with white Gulp. It put up quite a fight and was estimated at 14 lbs. She was joined on the outing by Mary Harshman.



JUNE 12

It has been a long while since we have seen a thresher shark on the docks and at least several years for the crew at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina. Angler Paul Plummer of Ocean View, DE was fishing on the "Salty Hooker" at B-Buoy when he hooked the big fish on a mackerel. He is pictured here with the 250.6 lb. and 80" shark with fellow angler Eric Daughtry from Fleetwood, PA.

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2025 WINTER ISSUE!



Another Maryland swordfish record fell last fall when the crew of the "Ro Sham Bo" sauntered into the Ocean City Fish Pier. This 393 lb. swordfish! Capt. Willie Zimmerman and the crew of Albert DeCesaris, Lisa Williams, Linda Stamp, Bob Carrino, Kelly Carrino, Jeff Jacobs, boat owner Nick Shriver and mate Daniel Ames spent a successful day trolling Washington Canyon and were preparing to head back to shore when they got a hit, a hard one. The big fish was on an eel white skirt. Angler Jeff Jacobs grabbed the rod with a Shimano Tymo 50 reel and got to work. Despite having a hard fight, he fought the fish for five and a half hours before they could get it to the boat. This new Maryland Swordfish Record is larger than the previous one set in 2021.

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Last Saturday saw nice weather and a lot of boats headed offshore. The early word was the fishing was slow, however that changed around early afternoon when we heard that the first white marlin for 2024 had been caught! It was Jake Emche, the mate on the "Fish On", that hooked the highly anticipated fish. The crew of Capt. Anthony Dotterweich, boat owner Todd Willard, Chaz Manolakus, Will Lund, Jack Willard and Andy Strine had been tuna fishing all morning about 20 miles outside the Baltimore Canyon with no bites. At about 1:30 a pin popped on a sea witch line and the crew knew what had just hit. Jake quickly tossed out a pitch bait ballyhoo with a circle hook and maneuvered it into the spread, and it was 'fish on'! On top of the bragging rights, the catch earns a cash prize of \$5,000 from the town of Ocean City.

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THE Offshore Report

by Larry Budd

We are in prime marlin fishing season and the bite has not been a disappointment! While the weather has not always cooperated, boats are getting out and reporting double digit releases and regular upper single digit ones. The yellowfin tuna have also decided to make an appearance and at the inshore lumps to boot. Big wahoo are in the mix inshore too and we saw the heaviest for 2024 so far hit the scales this week. The Ocean City Marlin Club also held the 46th Annual Charles Kratz & Scott Smith Challenge Cup Tournament over the weekend for the first time in several years, so even as we enter the second season there is a lot going offshore.

The strong marlin bite we have been seeing over the past few weeks continues. While we are

seeing fewer boats heading out due to the time of year, those that are getting out are having a blast.

The week started off with some of our more notable boats returning to Sunset Marina with their outriggers adorned with flags. The "Billfisher" slid into the cut with 13 release flags flying as well as a blue marlin release. The "Boss Hogg" returned from the Poor Mans Canyon after going 9 for 15 on whites in 500 fathoms. The "Under Taker" out of the Indian River Marina reported they were fishing alone in 900 fathoms east of the Poor Mans midweek and went 10 for 14. They also just missed a blue marlin that was hooked for a moment on a pitch bait. The "Bet Sea" had a 3 day charter and released 7 whites and

caught 54 mahi. They were in the Washington Canyon and 000's working in 85-125 fathoms.

Last Thursday saw the start of the Charles Kratz and Scott Smith Challenge Cup Tournament. This event pitches two fishing clubs against each other for major bragging rights. From the north we have the Cape May Marlin & Tuna Club competing with the Ocean City Marlin Club. This is a billfish



release tournament, and while the action had cooled a bit, the docks were still full of marlin release flags flapping in the wind.

After 2 days of tight competition the Ocean City Marlin Club pulled ahead and won the Challenge Cup, besting the Cape May Club with a score of 750 points to their 687.5. Two Duffie Boatwork boats, the "Billfisher" and the "Reel Joy" took the top daily slots for Ocean City. The "Polarizer" snagged both daily spot for Cape May. The over all boat winner was the "Billfisher".

While billfishing may have gotten a lot of attention, they were not the only stars of the week. Yellowfin tuna decided

to show up in numbers we have not seen in weeks, if not all season. They were close too, with most being caught at the Hot Dog, the 30 Fathom Lump or nearby. Anthony Puglisi of First State Marine shared his catch from the Hot Dog. He landed a 130 lb. bluefin and his crew mates went 9 for 10 on tuna overall with the heaviest yellowfin tipping the scales at 57 lbs. Shelby Cook from Bethesda, MD was at the Dog too and she and her crew put 6 yellowbirds in the box, including her first one.

The charter boat "Restless Lady" gave me a call on Friday to share that they were headed back to the Talbot Street Pier from an overnight trip with an impressive haul. Capt. Todd Kurtz had the crew at the 30 fathom lump where they trolled catching 10 yellowfins including a couple hooked on their green stick. That must have been fun to reel in the green stick gear and 2 tuna! Overnight they switched to chunking and put another 8 in the box to get their limit of 18.

As mentioned above, we also reported a new Heaviest of the Season Wahoo this week. Angler Randy Buttion stopped by our office in West Ocean City to share the speedster he caught at the 30 fathom lump. At 92 lbs. it set a new record, besting the old one by over 20 lbs.! He and his crew were not wahoo fishing, but were lucky to hook this one in the corner

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of the mouth on marlin/tuna gear.

Since this is the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the season, I just want to take a moment to thank a few folks.

First, thank you to all of our faithful readers. The paper continues to fly off the rack each week and we always appreciate all the nice comments we receive. It definitely makes it worthwhile knowing that readers are enjoying the paper each week. I also appreciate all of the pictures that readers submit. This year, we ran over 1,400 pictures in the Coastal Fisherman, with many of them emailed to us each week. These are the fuel for our publication, so we appreciate all of those who take the time to share what they are catching with us at CoastalFisherman@comcast.net.

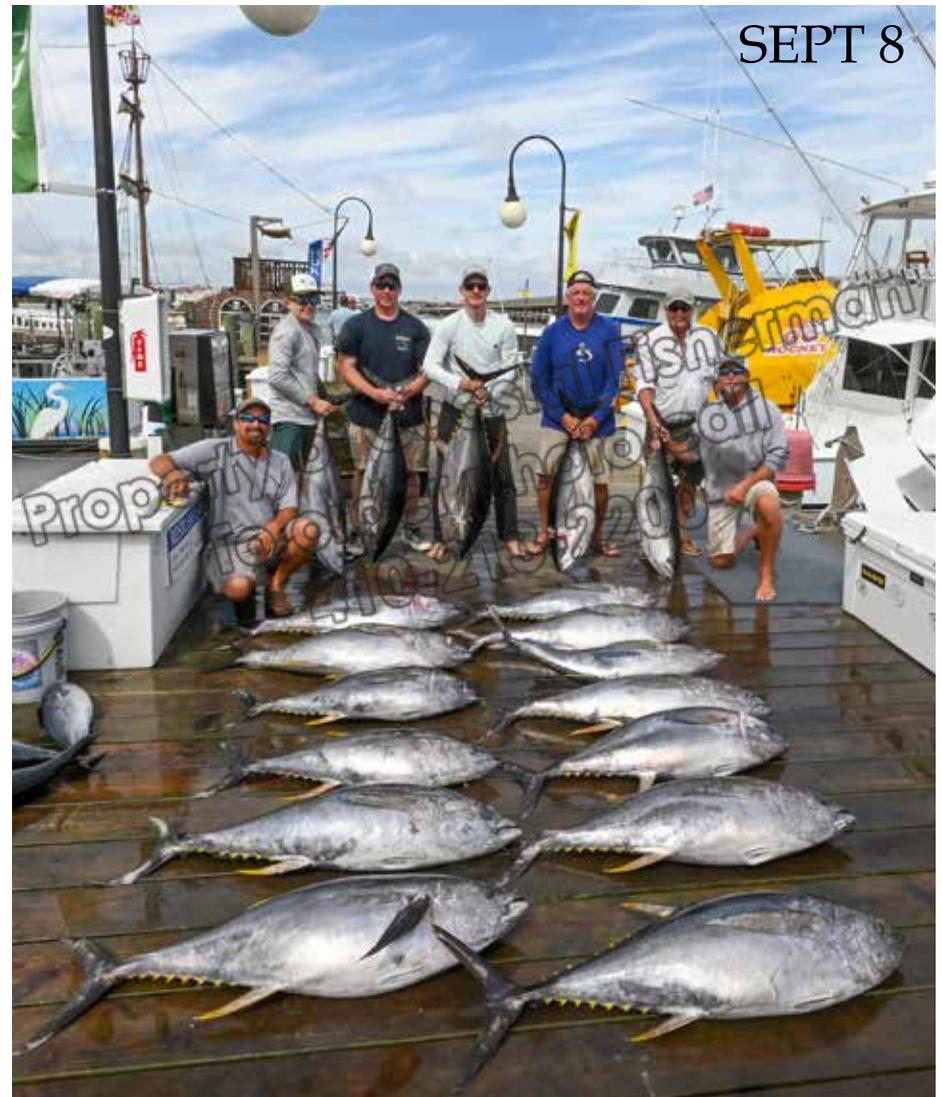
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That is why it is so important to give our advertisers as much business as possible. Nowadays, it is too easy to just sit at our desks and order online. Local businesses are the backbone of our community and especially our fishing community. Please let them know how valuable they are and how much they are appreciated by giving them your business.

Thanks also go out to our columnists. Capt. Mark Sampson, Steve Katz, Capt. BJ Pietryak, Capt. Matt Abell and my wife Chef Christine. They all did a great job this season writing entertaining and informative columns each week. Trust me, it's not easy coming up with an interesting topic every week. It is much harder than you can imagine, but our columnists continue to do it every year and their work is appreciated.

Thanks also to the many tournament directors and staff that allow us to be part of the crew at the scales to provide such great images and stories of the events.

Finally, thanks to my staff. We are a small business with a limited staff. Tom Jock works tirelessly with our advertisers to create and update most of the ads you see every week. My man Ray Wells helps us keep the racks full so that everyone



SEPT 8

Steve Kraft had signed up for an open boat charter on the "Restless Lady" and let his buddies know, so Neil McGarvey, Aaron Gardner, Rich Gardner and Drew Bower joined him and booked the whole boat! It was a good idea as their overnight trip to the 30 fathom lump saw 10 yellowbirds caught on the troll & greenstick and 8 more chunking overnight. Capt. Todd Kurtz was at the wheel with his brother Kevin in the pit. Pictured at the Talbot Street Pier.

who wants a copy, gets one! Special thanks to the South Bethany Crew that works with Christine to process and mail the paper weekly to our subscribers.

Well, that's it! Hopefully, we will have a nice fall. I wish everyone a safe and happy season and hopefully I may see you on the water. Look for the big Winter Edition the first week of January. §

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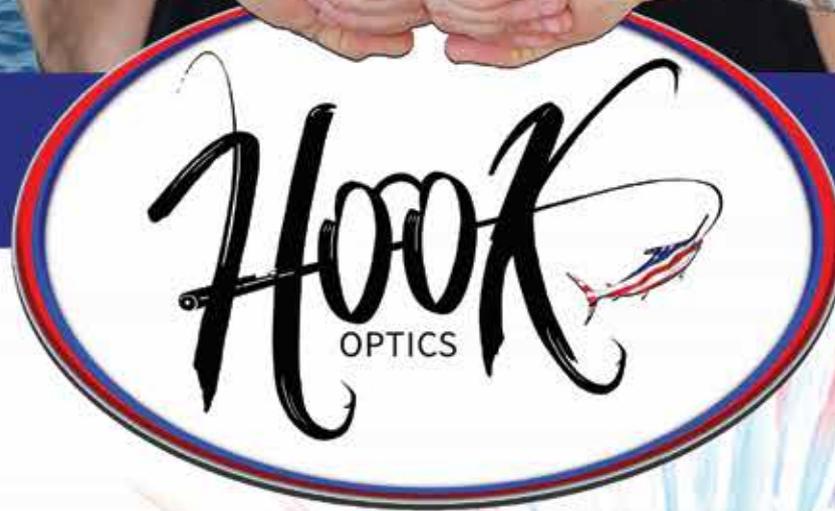
It was the catch of a lifetime for Sherri Saunders and team 'Absolut-ly Naughty' during the 30th Annual Capt. Steve Harman's Poor Girl's Open. Sherri caught this bull mahi while trolling between the Baltimore and Wilmington Canyons in 600 fathoms on the charter boat "Espadon". At 53.3 lbs. it not only locked in 1st Place for Heaviest Mahi at the tournament and \$11,002, it also set the record for Heaviest Dolphin for the year. Rounding out the crew were fellow anglers Anne Marie Burmeister, Sarah Trattmer, Cara Jondo, Chelsea Carper and Kiah Vanauken with Capt. Sylvain Coté and mate Dave Schulte.

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Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	-	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"	35 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	80 lbs. or 46"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"	30"
Black Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	5 lbs.	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	16 lbs. or 36"	SHARK:			
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	Any Size	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Cobia	44"	45 lbs. or 48"	55 lbs. or 50"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	3 lbs. or 20"	Thresher*	80"	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	25 lbs.	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"	72"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	6 lbs. or 26"	Swordfish	47"	Any Size	100 lbs.
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	30 lbs.	TUNA:			
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	1.5 lb. or 16"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"	40 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	20 lbs.	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"	32"
Red Drum*	36"	45"	-	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	-	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	10 lbs. or 24"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"	70 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	4 lbs. or 26"				
Speckled Trout	24"	-	5 lbs. or 24"				
Striped Bass	40"	44"	44"				
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	9 lbs. or 23"				

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OCEAN CITY

FISHING REPORT *by Capt. BJ Pietryak*



This past week in Ocean City we started out with clear skies and light wind and ended with 25 mph wind out of the north east churning up the ocean and keeping many boats at the dock for the weekend. Prior to the angry ocean, anglers did find fish willing to bite; however as has been the case all summer, the colder bottom water did not yield many good keepers. A few mahi are still on the pots at and beyond the 30 mile mark but even those are getting harder to find. Flounder has remained very spotty this past week with anglers managing a keeper or two but most not finding limits. Sea bass has started to improve with a few more keepers being found on the near shore wrecks.

Nearshore Wrecks & Reefs

The nearshore wrecks have been slow again with anglers struggling to find fish that are willing to bite the bait. Flounder fishing remains the struggle it has been most of the year. A few nice fish can be found but anglers must constantly change spots to find keepers. Sea bass has picked up a little this past week as the bottom water continues to get colder. Several knoheads were pulled off the wrecks and we have even seen a few tog being caught. The mahi have moved further offshore and anglers are not finding many inside the 40 mile mark. The "Angler" was fishing a nearshore structure last week and

although many trips started out slow, as the day went on the fish became more willing to take an offering. They managed several nice size flounder and even found a few wrecks that gave up some big knoheads. The boat has added a few tile trips to close out the fall season. Check their schedule for availability. The "Ocean Princess" also hit the wrecks targeting bass and flounder. They found the sea bass more willing to bite than they have in past weeks. There are still a ton of undersized fish to weed though but a better catch of keepers were found this past week. Kevin Miller was out fishing an ocean structure when he noticed a big sea turtle. Upon further inspection he saw a nice cobia following the turtle. Using a Freedom Bait jig, he casted to and hooked the big fish. The man in the brown suit made his slow day much more enjoyable.

The "Coastal Guide Service" was out after all the winds finally laid down and they ventured to the bass pots for mahi and found a few along with several bonito tuna willing to chase a bait. The mahi have been getting more scarce and further offshore as the water cools. "Fin Chaser" also hit the bass pots and scored a nice bunch of these beautiful fish. The trip started off slow until they ventured further off to the mid range pots about 40 miles offshore where they found fish staging on the pots. As the sun got near mid day the bite shut completely down. Peter Renzi had a good day catching bonito to use as bait for his pots catching 3 nice size tuna. No mahi were

found but he said the bait will provide a nice crab cake dinner soon enough. Russel Garufi, Randy Swain, along with Billy Davis fished Russell's Reef and a nearby ocean structure to land 14 keeper flounder. The fish were caught using bucktails and chicken strips. "Bottom Line Sportfishing" landed a big 54 pound wahoo while trolling just off the coast.

Back Bay & Inlet

The back bays and inlet continue to provide anglers with a good chance of finding keeper fish as opposed to the ocean. The area behind Assateague Island has been the best producer of keeper flounder with the area just north of the RT 50 bridge a close second. Fresh minnows and squid strips are your best bait. At the Inlet sheephead and bluefish can be found in the evening hours. The "Bay Bee" stated this past weeks action was hot with several anglers bringing fluke home for dinner on many of their trips. The "Miss Ocean City" was out this past week with light crowds. They were able to fish numerous spots catching their clients tons of flounder and other small bay fish. They found the end of the incoming tide to be the best for keeper fluke. Captain Tony of the "Tortuga" also fished the area around the bridge and caught several nice keeper flounder along with a few bluefish. Brandon Miller was out on the bay and landed a few rockfish, small flounder as well as a nice size sheephead. He fished with Joshua Crouchelli. On a trip later in the week they caught a few keeper flounder. Brian Reynolds had a good evening on the bay catching 9 different species of fish including spot, tog, pigfish, bluefish, rockfish, flounder, sea bass, and weakfish. The largest weakfish was a personal best



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at 24 inches and was caught on a 4 inch swimbait. John Foreman fished the marsh edges during an outgoing tide and managed 3 nice keeper fish. Using white and orange Gulp. Vincent Cannuli caught a few nice fluke this past week and is looking forward to the Ocean City Classic inshore tournament. Kevin McNelis finally got a big flattie at 23 inches and weighing 4.5 pounds. He and his brother fished the back side of the island and had dozens of throwbacks. His brother did manage a nice 18.5 inch keeper. Aderito Costa pulled a nice sheepshead off the Inlet rocks using sand fleas on a small circle hook. Kohr Crabbing Supplies stated some decent stripers are showing up at the Bridge and Inlet in Ocean City with the water cooling down. They have several swim jigs in stock. This week again saw a gag grouper caught in the inlet by John Foreman. This year has produced more grouper sightings than I have seen in years.

Surf Fishing

Assateague Island has produced a few big sharks and rays. A few flounder, rockfish and even an occasional drum are being seen along the coast. Laura Steffey fished Assateague Island and landed a few kingfish and then landed a unique chain cat shark. The unusual shark resembles a leopard shark with very vibrant markings.

Clams & Clams

Assawoman Bay near the Delaware border has been yielding 7-9 keepers per pot with females and males mixed in. Clamming off the back side of the island is a little slower than usual, with big chowder clams being the main harvest.

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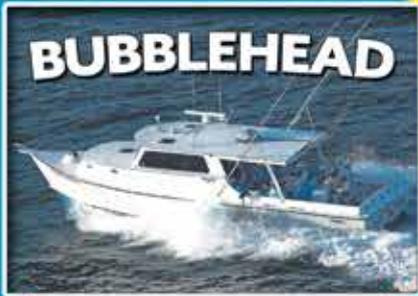
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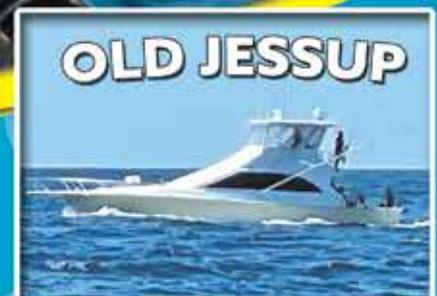
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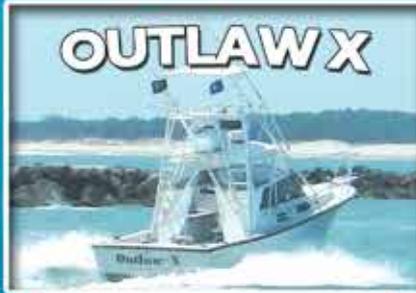
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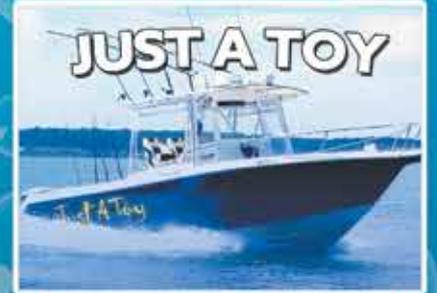
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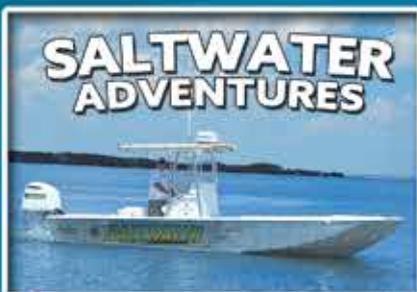
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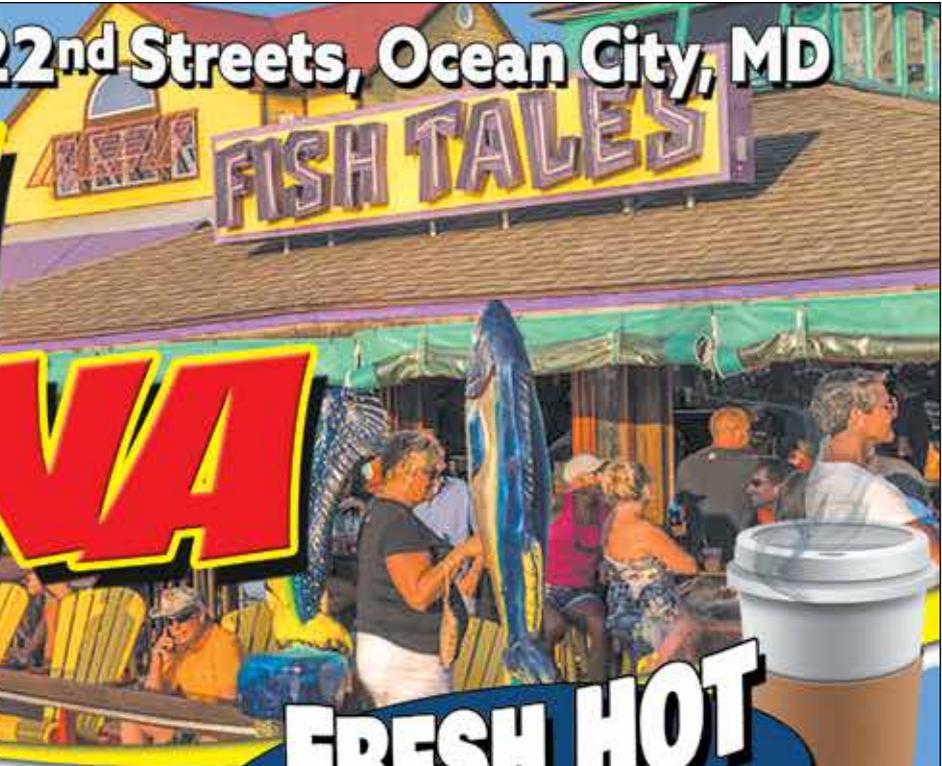
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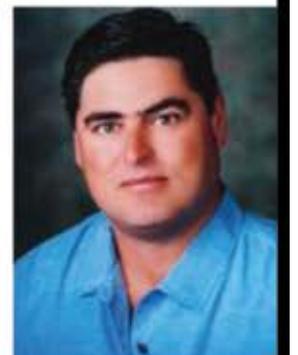
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SEPT 18

First State Marine Services owner Anthony Puglisi found a slot in his busy schedule to get out on the water. He and Capt. Kevin Parker with Frank Sardowski and Donald May rolled out of Sunset Marina on the "Henry Jane" to troll around the Hot Dog. They went 9 for 10 on tuna including a 130 lb. bluefin and a 57 lb. yellowfin. The bluefin ate a Sterling spreader bar and the yellowfin ate a Crazy 8 chain. They also put 30 mahi in the box they found at some pots.

 The advertisement features a large blue fish being pulled from the water by a fishing line. The background is a deep blue ocean with white-capped waves.

bank of ocean city

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West Ocean City Branch
410.213.0173
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Member FDIC

 The advertisement is for Pure Lure Reel Fishing Gear. It features a boat with the brand name and logo on its side, docked at a marina. Below the boat, there are several fishing shirts and a fishing vest.

PURE LURE

REEL FISHING GEAR

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AUG 14

Capt. Owen Horning got the chance to run some of the little kids from the Gessler family out for some inshore fun. Lucas, Mary and Francesca Gessler were on the "Little Whistle" with mate Kelly Horning fishing around the 1st Lump. They caught 2 cobia including this 45" and 25 pounder using eels. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

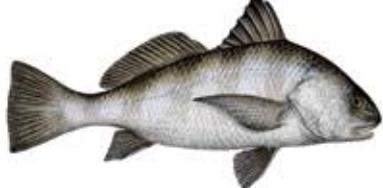
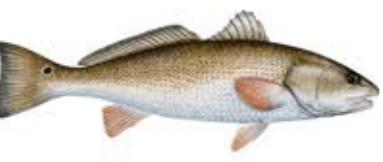
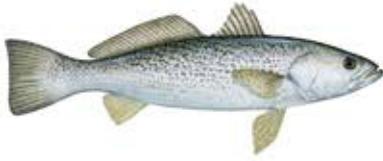


MAY 22

Another year and another first for the crew of the "Full Service" out of Sunset Marina. Last year they scored the first bigeye tuna of the season on May 5th, and this year it was the first yellowfin tuna! Cpts. Jim Barbey and Brendan Barbey saw a temperature break east of the Washington Canyon and decided to make a run. They were joined by anglers Chris Mentlik, Jeremy Heinz, Jeff Rosenkilde, Taylor Bakke and Todd Sauerwald with mate Mike Davis. After a 65 mile run east in mostly 40° water they found a temperature break with clear water up to 68.5° and in 400 fathoms! They saw birds, whales and lots of sea life which was promising. Shortly after lines in they had a double hookup. One pulled the hook at the boat, but they got Chris' in the box earning him and the crew First Fish for yellowfin for 2024. Other than a few skipjacks, these were the only bites for the day.

2024 DELAWARE REGULATIONS

STATE WATERS ONLY

 <p>BLACK SEA BASS 13" minimum / 15 per person/day May 15 - September 30 October 10 - December 31</p>	 <p>BLUEFISH No minimum size 3 per day / 5 per day Charter</p>	 <p>BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>COBIA 37" Minimum • 1 per person or vessel</p>
 <p>CROAKER 8" Minimum • No Limit</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 20-27" minimum 5 per person/day</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No limit</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" except 20-25" only from 7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay 1 per person/day Catch & Release only from 4/1 - 5/31 on Spawning Grounds</p>	 <p>SUMMER FLOUNDER 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day</p>

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2024
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HEAVIEST 2024

Fish of the Year



(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 7 Craig Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs.	July 2 Capt. Rich Harpel Indian River Inlet 13 lbs.	 Weakfish	May 21 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay 7.26 lbs.	June 17 Claude Davis Indian River Inlet 11 lb. 6 oz.
 Black Drum		May 3 Lacey Moffett Coral Beds 58 lbs.	 Bigeye Tuna	July 27 Steve Strawbridge Baltimore Canyon 305 lbs.	July 4 Crew "Rusty Reel" Baltimore Canyon 212 lbs.
 Cobia	August 25 Jason Stokes Ocean Wreck 50 lbs.		 Bluefin Tuna	August 7 Mason Wilkinson Hotdog 169 lbs.	June 12 Will Hall Poor Mans Canyon 143 lbs.
 Summer Flounder	June 19 Chris Boaston OC Inlet 7 lb. 3.5 oz.	August 8 Michael Harden Indian River Inlet 13.2 lbs.	 Longfin Tuna		June 18 Mark Steiner Baltimore Canyon 38 lbs.
 Sea Bass	August 5 Monty Neel African Queen 5.24 lbs.		 Yellowfin Tuna	August 8 Austin Craig Washington Canyon 185.5 lbs.	July 19 Wayne Whitney Hotdog 100.7 lbs.
 Sheepshead	June 23 Capt. Wayne Anderson Ocean Wreck 11 lbs. 10 oz.	June 19 Dan Sander Ocean Structure 10.8 lbs.	 Dolphin	August 15 Sherri Saunders Poor Mans Canyon 53.3 lbs.	August 15 Tara Katz Baltimore Canyon 30.3 lbs.
 Striped Bass	May 19 Justin Field Rt. 50 Bridge 13 lbs.	May 13 Chic Stearrett Indian River Inlet 42 lbs.	 Swordfish	June 1 Bobby West Poor Mans Canyon 125 lbs.	
 Tautog	February 5 Jeff Johnson Ocean Structure 22 lbs.	April 15 Scott Shoup Ocean Structure 8.4 lbs.	 Blue Marlin	August 7 Lance Blakemore Poor Mans Canyon 897.5 lbs.	
 Wahoo ★	September 11 Randy Buttion 30 Fathom Lump 92 lbs.	July 8 Kevin Alexander Poor Mans Canyon 67lbs.	 White Marlin	August 6 Ven Poole Poor Mans Canyon 77.5 lbs.	

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



MAY 22

We think Hanna Conway knew she had a good thing when she brought this black drum she caught in the Delaware Bay using surf clams to Rick's Bait & Tackle. It was her first time drum fishing and at 47.2 lbs. the big drum earned her a youth citation from Delaware. She even wore her Xtratuf cowboy boots!



JUNE 12

We have not seen many rays this year, so we thank Tony Nicholas for sending this one! He was on the beach in north OC trying to get in on the bluefish run using bunker and sand fleas, but only hooked this ray and another smaller one. It took 20 minutes to get it to the sand and was released.

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FISHING CHARTERS



Most of August was spent tournament fishing for Capt. Mike Burt and mate Dave Burt on the charter boat "Pumpin' Hard". They finally got back to charter fishing and hooked up this crew with 5 white marlin.



Anglers Cleon Atkins, Teryn Birgensmith, Tim Raysor, Russ Zies, Jeff Sommerfield and Tom Birgensmith stuffed the box on the charter boat "Spring Mix II" with 7 yellowfin tuna. Capt. Chris Watkowski with mate Chase Porter had them in the Washington Canyon where the tuna hit on ballyhoo and spreader bars.

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A Special Thank You to:
Capt. Chris Watkowski • Mate Chase Porter • OCFC Staff • T&S Marine
Phil Jones Boat Works • Edward's Marine & Son's • Fish In OC
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443-463-8902 | **SPRINGMIXFISHING.COM**
email: plebling@comcast.net WE'RE LOCATED AT THE OC FISHING CENTER IN SLIP B-12

FISHING CHARTERS



AUG 7



MAY 29

The headboat "Judith M" based at the Bahia Marina is running two 5 hours trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays in addition to their weekday morning 5 hour trips. An afternoon one worked well for this young angler as Capt. David Goldman reported the sea bass bite picked up nicely as compared to the morning trip.

Capt. Chris Huk on the charter boat "Restless Lady II" out of the Talbot Street Pier took advantage of the nice holiday weather. He had the party from TRG company on board and they had a field day catching 3 large golden tilefish and 7 blues. Billy Adams, above, caught the largest at 50 lbs. The anglers hand cranked some and used electric on others.

Sea Bass • Flounder • Bluefish • Tautog & More!



JUDITH M



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FISHING CHARTERS



This bachelor party hit the tuna hard with Capt. Chris Ragni and mate Niko Dias on the charter boat "Bill Slayer". He had them in the Wilmington Canyon where they went 3 for 4 on bigeyes and boated 2 yellowfins. The eyeballs hit on Nomad Design DTX Minnows.



Hook'em and Cook'em reports that the wind, weather and the new 17.5" minimum for flounder have not been their friend for the headboats "Judy V" and "Capt. Bob II". Still they persevered bringing back solid catches of sea bass and flounder like this pool winner for Tom Y.

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JUDY V.

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FISHING CHARTERS



JULY 10



8 year old Gianna Leitao from Westminster, MD was already an accomplished bay fisherman when she decided it was time to try offshore. Her first trip was with Capt. Chris Mizurak on the headboat "Angler" where she caught this seabass using squid over a natural bottom. It was the second largest fish that day!



JUNE 5

I know when I get a call from Capt. Brian Porter on the charter boat "Boss Hogg" that he has something special to share. That was certainly the case last Saturday, he let me know he was headed back to Sunset Marina with 10 yellowfin tuna in the box. Work mates Chris Porter (Brian's nephew), Billy Cease, Matt Cahill, Gavin Goins and Scott Goins with mates Alex Bean and Jack Hannum trolled from the Poor Man's Canyon and headed south. They found the tuna hitting their spreads in groups including getting cover up with 5 at once.

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FISHING CHARTERS



SEPT 18

We guess that Capt. Dave Caffrey of "On The Run" charters has the luck of the Irish! Charter guest Linda Stauffer from Mechanicsburg, PA caught this 27¾" flounder on live bait in the Ocean City Bay the day after the Bahia Marina Flounder Pounder! At 8.5 lbs. it would have taken 1st Place.



JULY 17

Capt. Brin Parsons on the headboat "Thelma Dale IV" out of Fisherman's Wharf in Lewes has been dealing with wind and water temps this season. She reports the water is cold for this time of year making the fish inactive and making her travel 'all over the place' to get her anglers on the bite. This trip however was one of the better ones with plenty of keeper flounder coming over the rail.

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28' Parker CC
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JULY 17



Even though they fished the 2nd day of the 4th Annual Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament, the crew of the "Primary Search" had a number of firsts. They were the first boat to the scales that day. It was also the first time offshore for anglers Meaghan Coats, Carol Ann McCurdy, Kaitelyn McIntyre and Faith Engh with their experienced anchor Andrea Ensor. Capt. Austin Ensor had the boat right out front, by which he meant in the Poor Mans Canyon in 300 fathoms. Mates Wyatt Medlock and Brian Suschke had just set the lines first thing when the girls got covered up by 5 bigeye tuna and miraculously got all 5 to the boat with new anglers! Once to the scales the largest of the bunch weighed in at 113.5 lbs. and the stringer of 5 loaded down the scale to 508.5 lbs. That combo was enough to secure the crew 1st Pjace for Stringer Split and Stinger WTA as well as both daily prizes and several others for a combined total prize payout of \$47,970, the largest of the event. Pictured at the tournament scales at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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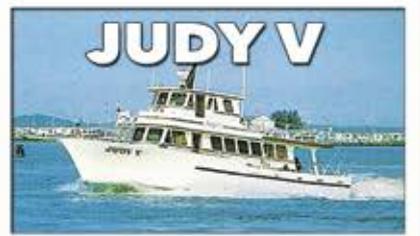
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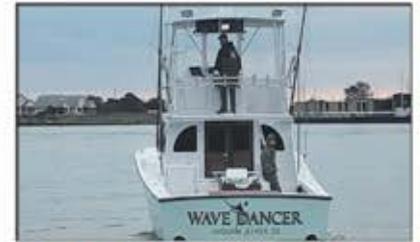
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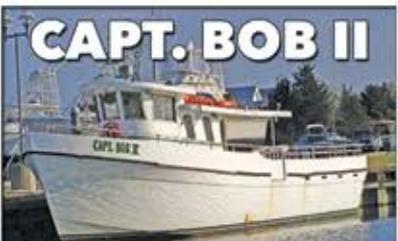
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JULY 17



Bill Pino of Squidnation, Zak Smith of Rt. 113 Boats Sales, Donnie Moore and Pete Gudiatis caught an interesting triple header while fishing with Capt. Anthony Pino on the private boat "Sea Hag". They fished the Baltimore Canyon and hooked 2 bigeyes and a white marlin at the same time. They all got to the boat, releasing the white and putting the 135 lb. and 103 lb. tunas in the box. They also released another white and a blue marlin. Zak even fought a giant bluefin tuna for a short battle on a dink rod.

AUG 7



Britany Lee was looking for sea bass, but this little flounder could not resist her sea bass jig. She was fishing at the DelJersey Reef.

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**2023 Pursuit S428 Sport
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Snarky Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



A Season Recap

So that bad news is that this is the last issue of the Coastal Fisherman for the 2024 season - bummer! But the good news for the four or five of you who have actually been following this column is that you won't have to put up with my ramblings anymore - yay! And speaking of bad, this week I'm doing a recap of my summer ramblings by rewinding key paragraphs from a few of my columns. Just in case you didn't get the "snark" the first time...

May 7, Do Fish Think?

Before reef building became a trendy way to get rid of our extra "stuff", if something went to the bottom of the ocean it was an accident, a mistake, or an attempt by someone to ruin someone else's day by purposely sinking their boat or shooting down their aircraft. But these days there are so many objects that are purposely being sent to a watery grave that the local residents below must think (if they think at all) that the terrestrial beings (that's us) have finally run out of places on land to store everything.

May 14, What We Know

So I've been wondering if maybe we're missing opportunities to

catch certain types of fish in places we'd least expect them to be just because we've never fished for them there. For instance - "marlin in the bay". Who do you know has ever tried to catch a white or even a blue marlin in any of our back bay waters? I know what you're thinking, "Considering all the people who fish the bay each year, and all the boats that use the coastal bay waters "someone" would have caught or at least seen a marlin if there were any in the bay!" Well "yes" maybe by now some evidence of billfish in the bay could have or should have shown up. But let's face it, have you ever heard of a blue marlin crashing a Roy Rig or a white marlin snatching up a Gulp paddletail or a shiner that's being bounced along the bottom? Never! We all know that Marlin don't eat little things like that, that's why offshore anglers troll rigged ballyhoo, mullet, squid and other relatively big baits for them. So of course no one is going to catch a marlin in the bay, just like hooking a swordfish in the surf, everyone is using the wrong bait! It just stands to reason that if you want to catch a marlin in the bay you've got to fish for them properly.

May 28, The Donkey Farm

In their efforts to cultivate

support for the windmill farms from fishermen, the (left-wing) donkeys have rightfully pointed out that each turbine island will act as an artificial reef and therefore be a good place to catch a fish or two. I'm just surprised that they've failed to mention the even better selling point for the farms that over time the footprints of the reefs created under each wind turbine might dramatically increase in size and relief on their own. In fact, given enough time the reefs could expand so much that the gaps between the 125 individual rubble piles could blend into one gigantic reef of such proportions that it rivals the size of Australia's Great Barrier Reef! Yeah, the way I see it, every time a fishing boat or huge merchant ship hits a turbine and sinks, the reef will get that much bigger and bigger and bigger until it's all just one big mass of stones, fiberglass, twisted metal, turbine blades, and sea bass!

June 11, Snakeheads Gone From Maryland Waters!

So just like that Maryland's "snakehead" problem is solved and we have a wonderful new species thriving in our waters known as the "Chesapeake channa" and to make sure they won't be accused of pulling the

www.coastalfisherman.net wool over the eyes of us dumb fishermen, the folks in Annapolis put out a statement about the exciting new change which stated, "The change is intended to make this tasty species a more loveable fish to diners and perhaps more appealing to consumers when it's sold in seafood retailers and restaurants". So fishermen may have lost their snakeheads but they've gained a "lovable" fish and I'm sure that all the downhome-good-old-boys who have been toughing it out by mucking their way through the rivers and marshes to hook a snakehead or two will be the first to admit that the cute little name of "chana" is a much better way to describe this tough, aggressive fish that very closely resembles the head of a snake and eats baby ducks, frogs, fish, and about anything else it wants.

June 18, What's in a Name?

The current trend of changing animal names for the sake of "political correctness" got me thinking about the biology of black sea bass and wondering if maybe their name might soon end up on someone's political chopping block. After all, in biological terms, black sea bass are known as "protogynous hermaphrodites", in that the majority of them begin life as females and eventually change to males. Imagine that, no surgery, no mental turmoil, no life changing decisions to be made, no controversy, just a strange physical transition from one sex to the next. So that's the way it is

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for black sea bass, but with this in mind I can only imagine that sooner or later there could be some folks who take exception to sharing descriptive terms with a hermaphrodite fish! In the same respect, there's another segment of our population that does indeed share some commonalities with a creature that goes from one sex to another. As I've not been able to keep up with, let alone memorize all the letters of the alphabet now used to describe these fine folks, I typically think of them as the "Alphabet people". So with all this in mind I'm wondering if perhaps instead of running the risk of insulting anyone by continuing to call the aforementioned fish "a black sea bass" maybe the critter should be renamed "ABC bass" which would work to take any perceived reference away from one group while giving another group a little acknowledgment. And since "ABC Bass" doesn't sound dramatically different from the original name of "a black sea bass", even the fish themselves shouldn't be troubled with the name change, in fact they might not even know. Brilliant, don't you think!?

July 16, Just how bad can it get?

Anyone who knows anything about boats is aware that at any time, and even on the best of days, the unexpected can happen. Like when you get up early in the morning, hop into your container ship for a simple cruise down the Chesapeake Bay, and end up knocking down a major highway bridge. Or when someone flips you the keys to their brand new cruise ship for a jaunt to New York City but you bump into an iceberg along the way and find yourself treading in ice water. When you have a boat things like that just happen, and as much fun as it sometimes is to chuckle at the follies of someone else, every boater knows that we're all just one zig or zag in the wrong direction from our own calamity on the water.

July 30, One Stupid Sharker

Of course the meat wasn't all we harvested from our slaughter that day as each unfortunate victim had a set of dentures we wanted to hang on our apartment walls. Since I had yet to learn the proper method for cleaning and

preserving shark jaws, I took the advice of the first fool willing to talk to me and boiled the jaws in a big pot of Drano drain cleaner! And the only reason I'm alive to tell this story is because I at least had the smarts to boil the jaws on a grill out on the beach and not in the kitchen where I'm certain the fumes would have pitted all the metal appliances and melted the paint from the walls.

August 6, How To Cheat
in a Tournament

Considering the the recent trend of biological men competing in women's sports and the recent popularity of ladies fishing tournaments, there's no reason why a bunch of dudes couldn't throw a keg of Bud Light on their boat and tap into their feminine side long enough to catch a few fish and beat the heck out of all the (real) women who think they're privileged just because they were born that way. And while we're on the subject, how about all those women's world records? The International Game Fish Association recognizes records for both men AND women. Guys - wouldn't you be proud to have hanging on your office wall an IGFA certificate saying that the heaviest bluegill ever landed on 6-pound test by a woman was caught by you?

August 13, Fame and Fortune

At our tournament I was the guy with the microphone and definitely caught grief more than once for not giving credit where someone thought credit was due. The first time was by a fellow who was absolutely livid as he complained to me after our award presentation. According to him I gave too much recognition to the angler who caught the winning fish and not enough to himself who was a part of the crew and helped rig the baits and run the boat. The sad thing about his complaint was that the angler was his very own 12-years old son.

August 20, Hungry Sharks

Apparently too many sharks are creating way too many problems on this side of the Atlantic. At the same time we have way too many aliens fording the Rio Grande river and causing way too much havoc on this side of the border. So I'm thinking



AUG 28

Sunday August 25th was one for the record books. We had reports of over 100 white marlin released. Most were from deep water outside the Baltimore Canyon, but there were reports from the Wilmington Canyon down to the 461 Lump just above the Washington. The biggest we heard of was from the new Duffie Boatworks "Billfisher" with 40 releases. They were fishing deep outside the Baltimore in 800 fathoms.

that the two problems could be taken care of at the same time if we were to simply round-up all the troublemaking sharks and "deport" them to the Rio Grande river. That would make a huge dent in the amount of shark depredation going on in the ocean and at the same time the sight of so many fins and tails patrolling back and forth across the river will likely give the invading force of illegals a reason to pause and think twice before taking the plunge and making the crossing. Who needs a wall when you have thousands of hungry sharks "depredating" for you...

August 27, How To Save Fuel

Anice thing about folks with boats is that they're always willing to help a fellow boater in trouble. Anglers can use this good nature to their advantage by allowing strangers to tow them to-and-from the fishing grounds. To start their trip anglers need only push their boat away from the dock and wait. It helps to take the

cowling off the outboard because nothing says HELP like exposed cylinders! In areas where there might be some uncertainty as to the generosity of others it can't hurt to also have a couple young kids aboard, everybody stops for kids! When a good-Samaritan pulls up and asks if they can lend a hand the shrewd angler should respond by pointing off to the direction they want to fish and say "yea if you could just tow me over there I've got some friends who will come along and take me the rest of the way." Once the towboat departs the fishermen can pull their rods out and get to business. When it's time to go home a simple lift of the cowling should attract another free ride in no time.

So there you have it - this column has finally run its course. Still, the 2024 fishing season is far from over, so don't put your boats or rods away yet or you might miss a golden opportunity to catch a few more fish and do something worthy of a good snarking! §

MAY 8



Well, if you are going to catch your first black drum you might as well go big! That is what Dantzler Lambert did last week at the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay. She was fishing with her fiancé Devin Medd, Colleen Bailey and Capt. JT DiGuglielmo. This one hit on surf clams and was released.



AUG 28

This crew had miles of mahi to weigh at Rick's Bait & Tackle. Brandon Hoey, Collin Troutman, Jeff Troutman and Jeff King caught the 17 mahi while fishing around some inshore Bass Pots.

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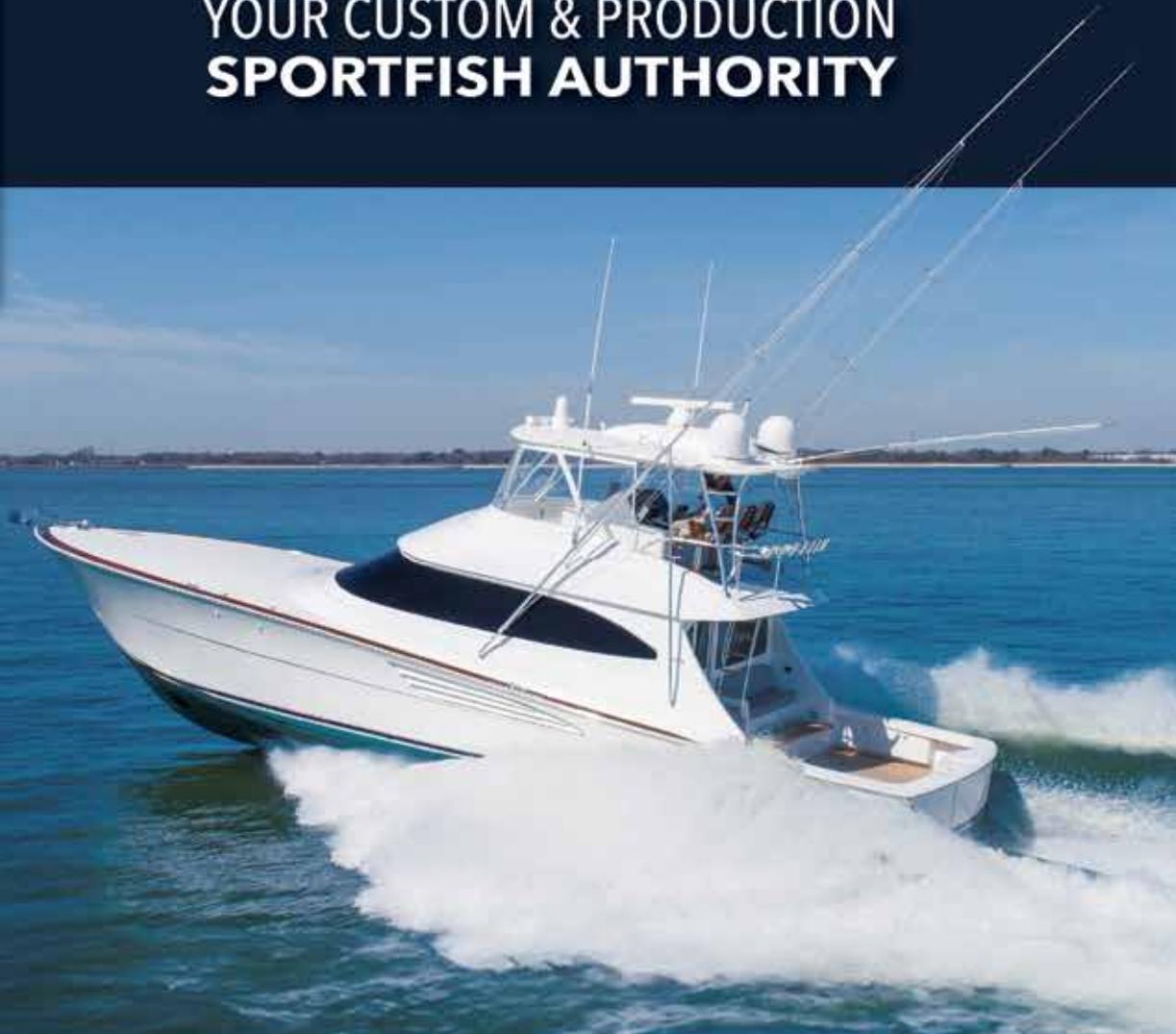
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SEPT 18



The Boyer Family of Mark, Beth, Luke and Emily from Douglassville, PA could not have asked for a better day with Capt. Jon Azato on the charter boat "No Limit". They fished inshore and caught their limit of 60 sea bass and some ling fish as well as Emily's first ever flounder, a 22" keeper. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.

AUG 7



Capt. Charlie Horning got to spend the day on the rip with his kids last week on his legendary "Fish Whistle". They fished the first lump and Owen Horning caught this Delaware Citation worthy 51" and 37 lb. cobia using an eel. Larry and Kelly Horning were his enthusiastic helpers. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.

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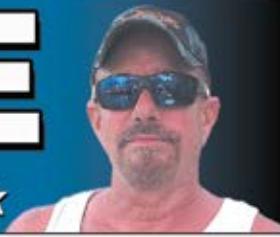
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THE SPORT FISHING SURF SHOP

DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



This past week in Delaware saw calm seas and pleasant weather. The fishing remains slow with keeper flounder being hard to find. Sea bass have started to get better and the keeper ratio is around 8 fish to one keeper. The end of the week saw strong northeast winds keeping many boats at the dock for the weekend. The back bays are still producing keeper fish better than their ocean counterpart. Surf fishing is beginning to show a few more larger size fish moving back into the area for the fall run south. Mahi are on the pots about 30 miles out but in smaller size and quality.

Nearshore Wrecks & Coral

As the summer draws to a close many anglers have reported one of the worst summers for inshore fishing in years. The south wind kept our water colder than normal resulting in less fish and fewer keepers when the fish were found. Flounder has picked up a little bit last week with more fish caught. Many of the fish being caught were undersized and needed to be returned. "Bad Wind Charters" had Bill and Cathy and his crew out hopping pots nearshore. It was a slow

start but they managed a nice cooler full when they found the right pots. Bill even managed a couple nice gaffers. On a trip later in the week they had Ed, Art and Vido who crushed the mahi, easily limiting out until a big hammerhead shark crashed the surface sending the mahi running. David Johnson, Beau Fibelkorn, and a couple others had a good day and caught nearly a full limit of sea bass. Fresh clams and jigs accounted for their success. Ted Proseus stated that the water has stabilized a little this past week allowing his crew to hit the wrecks with their ocean arsenal orange crush jigs to land limits of sea bass. The 2 oz. jigs kept many of the pesky smaller fish away allowing them to target the bigger keeper bass. The jigs are available at Rick's Bait & Tackle as well as All Tackle in West Ocean City. Timothy Bingnear had a great day fishing on the "Bottom Line Sportfishing" out of Lewes, landing a cooler full of mahi and sea bass. William Krug had a tough day out at the Old Grounds with only one keeper at 22.5 inches along with a few shorts. He reported the water was very green and dirty. "Skipjack Sportfishing"

had the DJ's Lawn Service crew on board last week. They reported as fast as they could reach the bottom they were hooked up. Many of the fish were undersized however, they did manage a nice cooler of fish for dinner. The "Shooter Dog" charter landed several big flounder along with knothead sea bass while fishing the Old Grounds. Great job Captain Chris! Jacob Webb and crew had a great day catching sea bass up to 2.7 pounds along with a few mahi and triggerfish.

Bays & Inlets

The bays and inlets are holding warmer water than the ocean and continue to give up a nicer quality of fish.

The Delaware Bay has been producing large flounder along with spot and spanish mackerel. Indian River bay and inlet continue to produce nice flatfish along with blues, small rockfish and spot. The inlets have been showing some big sheepshead and trout along with a few tog. Maseys Ditch and Roosevelt Inlet are the hotspots for last week with both producing good catches of flounder and sheepshead. Vincent Guy Lee was out early

in the morning and nabbed a keeper rockfish off the inlet rocks. Jeff Webb was up in Delaware Bay and managed to catch 9 rockfish on swim jigs and glide baits. Mark Evans caught a nice 20", 3.6 pound flounder while using drop traps for crabs and ended up pulling in the big flounder in one of his traps. Taiwan Meeks caught his first sheepshead at the inlet. The bite was slow but still managed a nice size one to bring home for dinner. Greg Allen caught a nice sheepshead along with seven tog using a number 3 split shot weight and a No.2 hook tipped with sand fleas. He fished the southside of Indian River Inlet.

On the outer wall, Frank De Oliveira finally found a few sheepshead willing to take his offer. Khang Huynh and Phat Nguyen had a blast catching tons of tog near the wall, however, none of the fish made the size limit. They reported despite no keepers they still had a great day on the bay. Dorey Zimmerman and Jennifer Whaley of Ocean View fished the wall using sand fleas and caught 2 black drum along with a bunch of croaker. Further up the bay Mattius Vialva landed a nice size sand shark late Thursday night. Greg Allen fished the incoming tide at IR inlet and caught a keeper tog using a #2 hook and sand fleas. Bowers Beach Bait reports that the beach had decent

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flounder bite along with tons of croaker, and of course spot fish. Brandon Fenstermaker was using a sabiki rig for bait when he hooked and landed a stud 5 pound sheepshead. That fish must have put up one heck of a fight on the light line bait rod. Campy checked into Lewes Harbour Marina with his personal best sheepshead weighing 11.7 pounds. Mike Garcia fished the inlet Thursday night and landed a keeper rockfish using swim plugs. Martin Smith and son fished the inlet over the weekend and caught several small blues and rockfish using swim plugs.

Surf Fishing

We are seeing a better quality of fish coming off of the surf with a few rockfish, blues and even a few drum thrown in. The majority of keepers are still kingfish but as the water cools with the night temps in the 50s we are seeing the fall migration starting to begin. Joseph R Griffith was out on the Bethany Fenwick surf and reeled in a citation kingfish/sea mullet. The fish weighed 1.38 pounds. The fish was checked in at Old Inlet Tackle. Lloyd Meeks fished 3Rs and using shrimp managed to bring home 2 flat fish for dinner. Douglass Scott had the unique catch this past week landing an almaco jack while fishing the inlet. James Schiffner had a bunch of small bluefish while fishing the beach near the inlet. Team Salty Bones, with all members from Delaware, took first in the Little Hatteras Tournament. Great job guys, there is usually tough competition down in NC.

Clams & Crabs

Clamming is good at the VFW and surrounding areas with big soup clams making up most of the harvest.

Crabbing was a little slow with the big storms of the last 2 weeks churning up the water and spreading the crabs around. The average pot yield is 6-8 crabs per pot on a three day soak.

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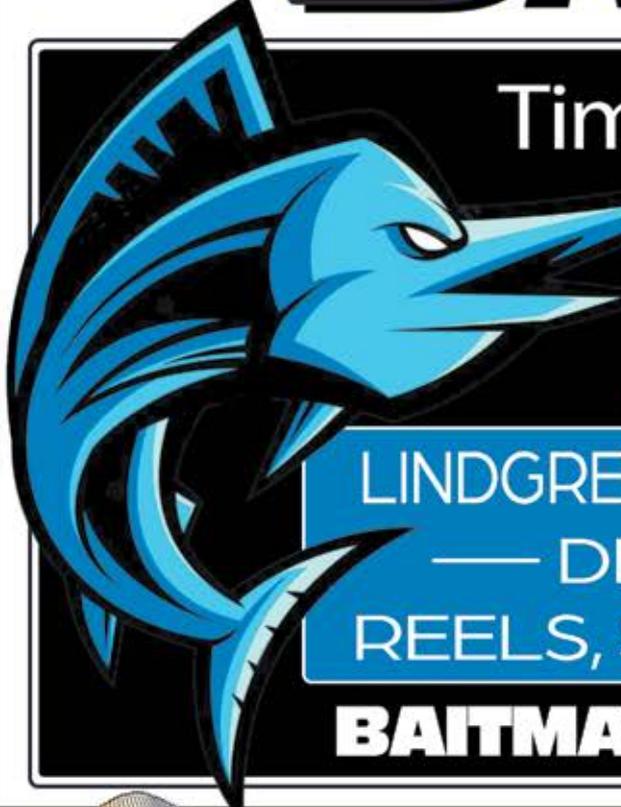





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THE GALLEY

by Chef Christine



Bacon-wrapped Cobia with Rosemary Caramelized Onions & Arugula

Ingredients:

Rosemary Caramelized Onions:

- 2 Tbsp grass-fed butter or ghee
- 6 medium onions sliced
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary finely minced
- 2 Tbsp organic chicken broth
- Pinch of sea salt

Bacon-wrapped cobia:

- 4- 4 oz cobia fillets approx. 1/2 inch thickness
- 8 slices thick-cut bacon
- 1/2 tsp avocado oil
- 4 cups fresh baby arugula
- 1 lemon



Directions:

Rosemary Caramelized Onions:

Melt butter in skillet over medium-low heat.

Add onions to skillet and cook for 30 minutes, stirring every 5-10 minutes and scraping the fond from the bottom of the pan.

Add in the rosemary, stir, and let it cook for another 15-20 minutes.

After the onions are brown and caramelized, add chicken broth and a pinch of salt to deglaze the pan. Scrape the bottom and gently mix.

Set aside the onions in a bowl.

Bacon-wrapped cobia:

Rinse and dry the cobia fillets.

Lay out bacon strips in pairs with one slightly overlapping the other.

Place each fillet at the end of each pair of bacon strips and tightly wrap the bacon around the fillets. Tightly enough for the bacon to stay put while cooking but not so tight that you begin to actually stretch the bacon.

Lightly coat a large skillet or sauté pan with avocado oil (I actually use a spray bottle kind) and heat over medium heat.

Once the pan is hot, place the fillets seam side down in the

pan and cook for 7 minutes.

Flip the fillets to the other side using a spatula and cook for another 7 minutes.

Now take a couple minutes and carefully brown the other sides of the fillet to get the rest of the bacon crispy before serving.

The total cooking time will be approx. 16-17 minutes for 1/2-inch thick fillets.

Arrange arugula on plates, divide the caramelized onions over the arugula, then place one fillet on top of each.

Squeeze a little lemon juice over the arugula and serve immediately.

Shrimp & Chorizo Stew

Ingredients:

- 1 pound head-on shrimp
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 4 cups chicken stock
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1/2 pound fresh chorizo sausage
- Olive oil
- 2 minced shallots
- 1/3 cup diced tomatoes (use canned in the winter and fresh in the summer)
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- Salt to taste

Two slices of your favorite rustic bread

1 small handful fresh thyme leaves for garnish

Directions:

Begin by removing the heads and shells from the shrimp. Save the heads separately from the shells. Using a paring knife, make a shallow slit running along the back of each shrimp. Remove and discard the vein that runs the length of each shrimp. Store the shrimp in the refrigerator.

Set a large pot over high heat. Do not add anything to the pot, leave it completely dry and empty. When the pot is hot, add the shrimp heads, and roast

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them in the dry pot, flipping them with tongs occasionally so that all sides are lightly charred. When all sides of the shrimp heads look slightly charred, reduce the heat to low and add the white wine. When the wine is almost fully evaporated, add the stock, thyme, and shrimp shells. Adjust the heat to high and bring the stock to a boil, then reduce the heat so that the stock is gently simmering. Cook until the stock reduces by half. Strain the stock with a fine mesh strainer. Save the strained stock and discard the

rest. This stock can be made 1 day ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator.

Remove the chorizo meat from its casing. Flatten the meat into the shape of a large, thin pancake. Set a large pot over high heat, and add enough olive oil to just cover the bottom of the pot. When the oil is about to start smoking, add the chorizo (shaped like a thin pancake). Let the chorizo cook, undisturbed, until the bottom of the chorizo pancake is nicely caramelized. Using a

wooden spoon, aggressively chop the chorizo into bite-size, crumbly pieces (this "pancake" technique helps develop more caramelization and flavor with the chorizo). Stir the chorizo until it is fully cooked, breaking up any large pieces with the spoon. Reduce the heat to low and add the shallots. Cook the shallots, stirring occasionally, until they appear soft and somewhat translucent. Do not let the shallots burn.

When the shallots appear soft and somewhat translucent, add the diced tomato and paprika. Season the pot with a pinch of salt. Add the reduced and strained stock. Increase the heat to bring the stock to a boil, and then reduce the heat so that the stock is just barely simmering. Add the shelled and deveined shrimp.

While the shrimp are cooking, toast your slices of bread under the broiler (or in a toaster oven). When the toast is ready, set it aside. When the shrimp are fully cooked, taste the broth

in the pot. Adjust with salt as necessary. Ladle the stew into bowls, garnish with a sprinkle of fresh thyme leaves, and serve along with the toasted bread. Enjoy!

Chili Lime Mahi with Blackened Broccoli

Ingredients:

- 3 cup broccoli florets, fresh or frozen
- 2 T water
- 3 T fresh lime juice
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 T honey, preferably local
- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes*
- 1 T chili powder
- 1/2 T ground cumin
- 1/2 T garlic powder
- 1/2 T Salt
- 1/4 T ground black pepper

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

We do our best to run the pictures we receive, however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.



2 - 6 oz. mahi fillets

*Use 1/4 T crushed red pepper flakes for less spicy results

Directions:

Place the broccoli florets in a microwave-safe bowl along with 2 tablespoons of water. Cover and microwave on high for 2-3 minutes, or just until crisp-tender. (Cook time will vary by unit, so check after 2 minutes and adjust cook time accordingly. Do not overcook).

Remove from microwave and transfer broccoli to a strainer to drain. Set aside.

While the broccoli is in the microwave, whisk together the lime juice, cilantro, one-quarter cup olive oil, honey, red pepper flakes, chili powder, ground cumin, garlic powder, salt, and black pepper in a medium bowl until well combined. Set aside.

Heat the remaining olive oil in a large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. Pat the mahi fillets dry with a paper towel and add to the hot skillet. Brush the tops and sides generously with the chili lime sauce while it cooks. After 4-5 minutes, carefully flip the fillets and brush the exposed surfaces with additional sauce.

Cook for another 3-4 minutes, or just until the fillets are cooked through. Remove from heat and transfer the fillets to a plate and set aside.

Toss the steamed broccoli with the remaining chili lime sauce and transfer to the skillet.

Increase heat to medium-high and cook, stirring frequently, until the broccoli is nicely browned and caramelized, approximately 3-4 minutes.

Apple Cinnamon Mule

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 ounces vodka
- 1 1/2 ounces apple cider
- 1/2 ounce freshly squeezed lime juice
- 3 to 4 ounces ginger beer

Apple slice, for garnish

Cinnamon stick, for garnish

Directions:

Gather the ingredients.

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, pour the vodka, apple cider, and lime juice.

Shake well.

Strain into a copper mug filled with fresh ice. Top with ginger beer. Garnish with an apple slice and cinnamon stick. Serve and enjoy. §



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5/29 - Coastal Fisherman neighbors and friends Sue and Scott Kinney love to fish off of the beach behind their South Bethany, DE home. They caught these 2 bluefish using whole mullet on a whole mullet rig on an evening high tide around 5PM. His was 33" and hers at 21". First time catching blues this big off the surface.

2024 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	 GOLDEN TILEFISH No minimum • 8 per person/day
 WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit NOTE: Blue Marlin, White Marlin and Roundscale Marlin combined 250 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 12 per Headboat/day or trip 47" to < 73" curved fork length 2 per Headboat/day or trip	 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	 BLUELINE TILEFISH 5/1 - 10/31 3 per person (Recreational) 5 per person Uninspected (Charter) 7 per person Inspected (Charter)
 DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 54 Charter Limit Daily 10 per angler	SAILFISH Minimum Length 63" • No Retention Limit	 WAHOO No Minimum Length • 2 per person/day	

<h3>SHARKS</h3> <h2>AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h2>	No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead	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.	<h3>PROHIBITED SHARKS</h3> Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger, Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose, Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin Mako , Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White
	54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose		

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



The charter boat "Reel Chaos" kicked off last week with a big bang, or really a bigeye bang! Capt. Anthony Matarese Sr. with mates Jon Henry and Josh Blume had anglers Jim Strusowski, Mike Long, Doug Banks, Scott Trice and Chris Bannister trolling in the Wilmington Canyon. The crew landed 6 bigeyes averaging 140 lbs. each on artificial lures and ballyhoo as well as boating 5 mahi and 16 golden tilefish! Pictured at Sunset Marina.

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Tommy and Marie Perry hit the sandbar by Hooper's Crab House in Ocean City again for some summer fun. This time Marie was tossing her hi/low rig with Gulp from the sand toward Sneaky Pete's and hooked a 19½" flatfish!



We usually see Emonn "Irish" Carey on a head boat working the reefs and wrecks, however this time he hit the beach at 3R's in Delaware and was rewarded with a sweet ~5 lb. weakfish! He was fishing with a 3" Z-Man paddle tail.

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SEPT 18

Just when you think the records are set for the season, in walks Randy Buttino to our offices. He came to share the wahoo he caught at the 30 Fathom Lump while tuna fishing on the "Reel Desire". At 92 lbs. it is the Heaviest of the Season besting the last one by over 20 lbs! Fishing with Randy were Capt. Kevin Cheetham, mate Chuck Powell, Sam Glass and Don Donatelli. Pictured at Fisherman's Marina.

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Rolling into Fall & Winter

Another Mid-Atlantic summer season is ending, though it seems the fish do not know that yet. Hopefully, we get a few more weeks of fishing before the end of the season.

For many anglers and boat owners, the dates on the calendar are meaningless, our seasons are dictated by fishing and weather. When the fall weather turns colder and fishing slows down, many anglers turn to other activities, such as hunting. Meanwhile, before the Mid-Atlantic winter sets in, many boat owners and crew use this time to accomplish scheduled boat projects. Some of these projects, take just a weekend or two and some take this non-fishing time to get started

on major projects, such as re-powering, painting, or other large-scale projects. One look at the boatyard at Sunset Marina and you can see the numerous boats already on-land for service and repairs. Many of these projects need to be finished by Thanksgiving, when many boats head south for the winter, or even travel on a ship to far-flung destinations, such as Costa Rica.

An additional benefit of keeping a boat in the Mid-Atlantic area through November is to avoid the added insurance cost and storm requirements of being farther south during the traditional Atlantic Hurricane Season that runs from June 1-November 30. In the Atlantic, the hurricane belt falls between 12° N and 30° N latitude from June 1 to

December 1. Of course, there can be hurricane-force storms anywhere and at any time of year, but statistics show that they are more likely to occur in this area during this period than at other times.

This off-season is also a great time of the year for traditional preventive maintenance projects. It is a good idea to get started on these things now, since sometimes a little issue is bigger or more time-consuming than you thought. If you have an outboard engine, changing the engine oil and the lower unit oil in the fall is a recommended practice, so it sits with clean lubricants during the off-season. Just the opposite when it comes to batteries, if you think your batteries are at the end of their life, or have a problem, it is best to wait until spring to buy new batteries so that way you don't have new batteries sitting in storage during the cold winter.

The changing of the season marks the start of the Fall and Winter boat shows and the associated new product introductions, for boats, fishing gear and my favorite, marine electronics. Many consumers, anglers, boat owners and hopeful boat owners visit these shows to learn about the latest and greatest offerings.

There are boat show events for everyone this fall and winter, some are local, and some offer an opportunity to get away to warmer weather:

The Annapolis Powerboat Show, October 3-6, 2024

Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show October 30- Nov 3, 2024

Miami Boat Show February 12-16, 2025

Our local Ocean City Seaside

Boat show February 14-17, 2025

Palm Beach International Boat Show March 19-23, 2025

And many more regional shows, The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) has a great list of boat shows on their website, nmma.org.

For those who work in the marine trade, there are two upcoming popular shows. In early October is the annual International Boatbuilders Exhibition & Conference (IBEX). This annual trade only event is the largest technical marine event in North America and the three most valuable days of the year for all marine professionals. This event includes over 700 exhibitors, 70 technical sessions and numerous opportunities to meet and learn from industry professionals. This week is the National Marine Electronics Association (NMEA) annual conference where many new products are introduced and product awards are presented, along with training and technical sessions for marine electronic professionals.

What is on the horizon in marine electronics from the major manufacturers:

Garmin

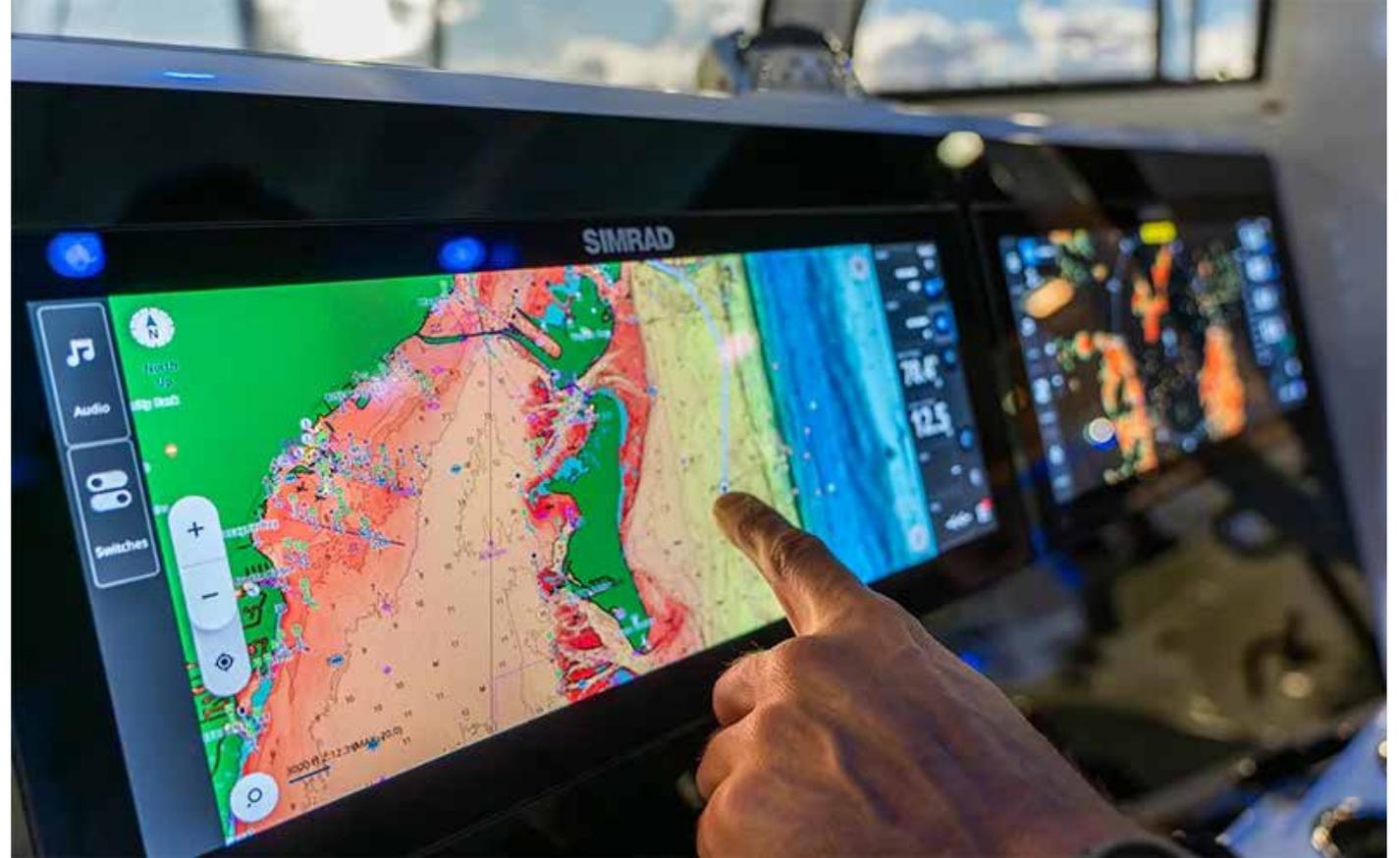
Recently introduced a 9000 series black box chart plotter that includes the new Garmin BlueNet™ network, all-new Garmin GC 245 and GC 255 marine cameras built for Garmin chartplotters can provide distance markers and guidance lines to enhance situational awareness when docking in tight quarters, Garmin Spectra™ LED control module—a compact lighting controller that makes it easy to control onboard LED lights from a compatible Garmin chartplotter or the ActiveCaptain® app on a compatible smartphone.

Furuno

The newest Furuno multifunction display, TZtouchXL have begun shipping, ranging in size from 10" to 24" these screens are a completely new build, incorporating many features and offerings requested by Furuno users. This is the first time the professional grade TimeZero marine charts have been built-in on a multifunction display. One of the most groundbreaking aspects of TZ MAPS is called BathyVision, providing amazingly detailed bathymetric data that can be configured to an incredible resolution of a mere 3 inches between contours! That's 3 times better than any other bathymetric chart currently on the market. BathyVision data, along with custom depth shading, can easily be overlaid on TZ MAPS navigation charts to create the ultimate "Fishing Charts"

Simrad

Earlier this year, Simrad



introduced a unique GPS chartplotter combo screen, the NSX Ultrawide. It offers the same active area as two smaller displays, but in terms of functionality it offers so much more. The screen is 14.5" diagonal but only 7" high,

which can allow it to fit into the helm of smaller boats.

There are other new products and offerings of marine electronics in the works by manufacturers, keep an eye out for announcements during the upcoming show season for

new product introductions.

The upcoming second season is a great time to catch up on projects on your boat, prepare for winter fishing in warmer climates or explore new boats and products at the fall and winter boat shows. §

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JUNE 26

Mike Newcomb crushed it last week on flounder. He caught these two monsters at an ocean structure with the largest on the right tipping the scales at Lewes Harbour Marina at 9.6 lbs. That sets a new bar for Heaviest of the season for Delaware.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

SEPTEMBER

Delaware Seashore Fall Surf Fishing Classic
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OCTOBER

41st Annual Mid-Atlantic Surf Fishing Tournament
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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

JULY 10



SEPT 18



It may look like Jack Harris of Frankford, DE is in Florida, but he was actually in West Ocean City. He caught these 2 keeper flounder using a Gulp/minnow combo with a red jig head at the entrance of the Ocean City Commercial Harbor.

Roy McIntyre made the right choice when he chartered with Capt. Matt Abell of "Sea Hawk Sportfishing" out of Pocomoke, MD. He caught this citation sized 11 lb. 8 oz. sheepshead in the Tangier Sound using sand fleas.

2024 MARYLAND REGULATIONS

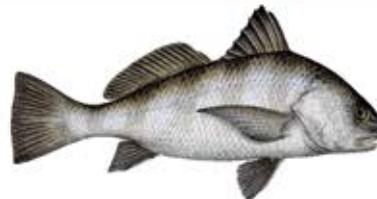
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COBIA
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Boat limit 2 for up to 2 anglers



CROAKER
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25 per person/day



RED DRUM
18-27" minimum
1 per person/day



SHEEPSHEAD
4 per person/day



SPECKLED TROUT
14" minimum
4 per person/day



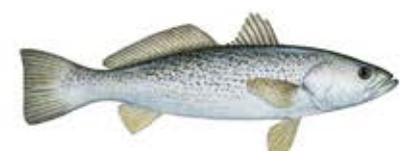
STRIPED BASS
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Less than 3 miles from shore
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SUMMER FLOUNDER
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1/1 - 5/31 - 16"
6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"



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Species	2024	2023	Species	2024	2023
 Bluefish	April 19 Aiden Sparano Assateague	April 19 Dave Moore Assateague	 Weakfish	May 2 Jim Hitchens Delaware Bay	
 Black Drum	March 31 Chris Taylor Assateague	April 3 Jeremy Zinn 145th Street, OC	 Bigeye Tuna	May 31 Tyler Lanza "Canyon Crew" S. of Poor Mans Canyon	May 5 Jeff Rosenkilde "Full Service" Baltimore Canyon
 Cobia	June 1 Chuck Guerra OC Beach	July 4 Gabiella Kendus Faithful Steward	 Bluefin Tuna	May 31 Andrew Link "Marli" Poor Mans Canyon	May 29 The Crew "Marli" Baltimore Canyon
 Summer Flounder	April 8 Paul Musser Jr. Thorofare	March 27 Dakota Bittner Thorofare	 Longfin Tuna	June 18 Mark Steiner "Don't Ask" Baltimore Canyon	
 Sea Bass	May 17 Bob Houser Ocean Structure	May 15 Mike DePalma Sr. Great Eastern Reef	 Yellowfin Tuna	May 18 Chris Mentlik "Full Service" Washington Canyon	May 6 Chris Kroh "Kilroy" Poor Mans Canyon
 Sheepshead	May 7 Joe McNeal Ocean Structure	May 5 Anthony Carrieri Ocean City Jetty	 Dolphin	May 28 Finbar Rishko Baltimore Canyon	May 6 Brad Hubbard "Talkin' Trash" Poor Mans Canyon
 Striped Bass	January 3 Brian Reynolds Rt. 90 Bridge	April 15 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge	 Swordfish	June 1 Bobby West "Relentless" Poor Mans Canyon	June 16 Crew "Wrecker" Poor Mans Canyon
 Tautog	January 8 Anthony Emerick Ocean Structure	January 31 Josh Schwemiein Ocean Structure	 Blue Marlin	June 12 Tom Healy "Elizabeth Ann" Poor Mans Canyon	June 1 Steve Sylvester "Talkin' Trash" Norfolk Canyon
 Wahoo	June 17 Greg Stansky Poor Mans Canyon	June 9 Josh Short Poor Mans Canyon	 White Marlin	June 1 Jake Emche "Fish On" E. of Baltimore Canyon	June 2 Joe Huk "RESTLESS LADY II" Baltimore Canyon

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



SEPT 4

There are still big bluefish in the Ocean City Bay, especially by the Rt. 50 Bridge. Danielle Boyer hauled in this behemoth there. At 30" it is her biggest catch of the season.



SEPT 18

Zachary O'Leary of Hockessin, DE caught his first flounder while fishing with his grandparents John & Lynn Hormanski. They were drifting the north side of the Indian River Inlet using a top & bottom rig with live minnows & squid. He also caught 5 other throwbacks, a sea robin and a skate.

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SEPT 18



It was a big smile and tired arms for angler Jenn Pastorius. She hand cranked this huge golden tile from the Poor Mans in 780 feet of water. She was fishing on the "Just One More" with Capt. Tommy Perry, Capt. Bobby Pastorius and Michael Channell.

JULY 24



What does Aiden Sparano do after his shift at Fenwick Bait & Tackle? He goes fishing of course. He headed down to the boardwalk behind the Cambria Hotel by the Rt. 50 Bridge to fish for tog and sheepshead, but caught this 23" flounder instead using a jetty jig with frozen sand fleas.

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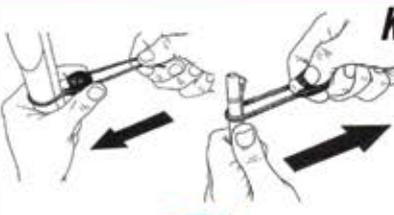
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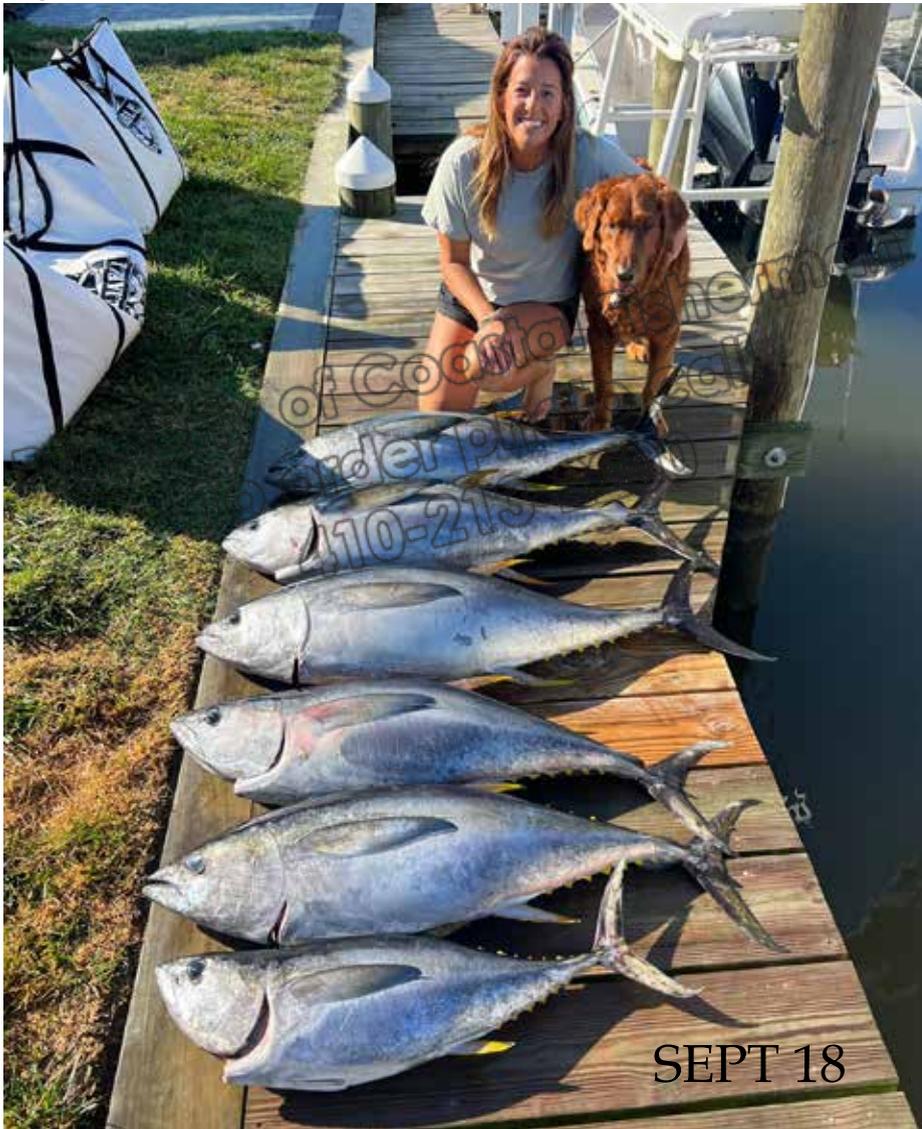
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Sandy Cook of Bethesda, MD hit it right on this quick trip to the Hot Dog with Josh Fallon, Mark Cooper and Josh Mercer. They put 6 nice yellowfins on ice including Sandy's first tuna ever.



Spencer Steffy was still dripping wet from his jump in the harbor after catching and releasing his first two white marlin! He was fishing on the "Pachanga" at the Dump Site with Capt. Blaine Champlin and mate Scott Sheffy along with fellow anglers Dave Reeves and Steve Trabosh.



It was a beautiful day for the Ocean City Fishing Center's 23rd Annual Sept. 11th Memorial Spot Tournament last Saturday. Over 50 anglers spent an hour fishing from the docks catching an wide array of fish including spot, croaker, minnows, dogfish and even some crabs and mussels! All received certificates for their catches with prizes for the top fish.

AUG 28



Our Delaware and Maryland Fishing Report author Capt. BJ Pietryak got to put his tactics to work last Saturday. He fished the DelJersey reef with his daughter Samantha and Carl Gutberlet, and they filled their cooler with some sizable mahi as well as bonito, sea bass and some lingfish. Pictured at the Indian River Marina.



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Jason Haltmeier was fishing with his grandfather Bob Haltmeier at the Oceanic Fishing Pier at the Inlet in Ocean City. He caught a sweet 17" weakfish using a white spec rig.



Brandon Miller had a doozy of a fish tale to tell from his time fishing in the Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament this year. He was in the Indian River Inlet by the Coast Guard Station when he thought he hooked a flounder on live spot that was putting up a fight. Once closer to the surface he had actually caught a legal size lobster with the hook in its mouth!

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. SEPT 18	High 08:29 am High 08:59 pm	Low 02:11 am Low 02:33 pm
THUR. SEPT 19	High 09:22 am High 09:47 pm	Low 02:54 am Low 03:27 pm
FRI. SEPT 20	High 10:14 am High 10:35 pm	Low 03:39 am Low 04:21 pm
SAT. SEPT 21	High 11:07 am High 11:24 pm	Low 04:26 am Low 05:20 pm
SUN. SEPT 22	High ----- High 12:03 pm	Low 05:16 am Low 06:22 pm
MON. SEPT 23	High 12:15 am High 01:06 pm	Low 06:11 am Low 07:27 pm
TUE. SEPT 24 3rd Qtr. Moon	High 01:12 am High 02:23 pm	Low 07:11 am Low 08:33 pm
WED. SEPT 25	High 02:20 am High 03:45 pm	Low 08:14 am Low 09:37 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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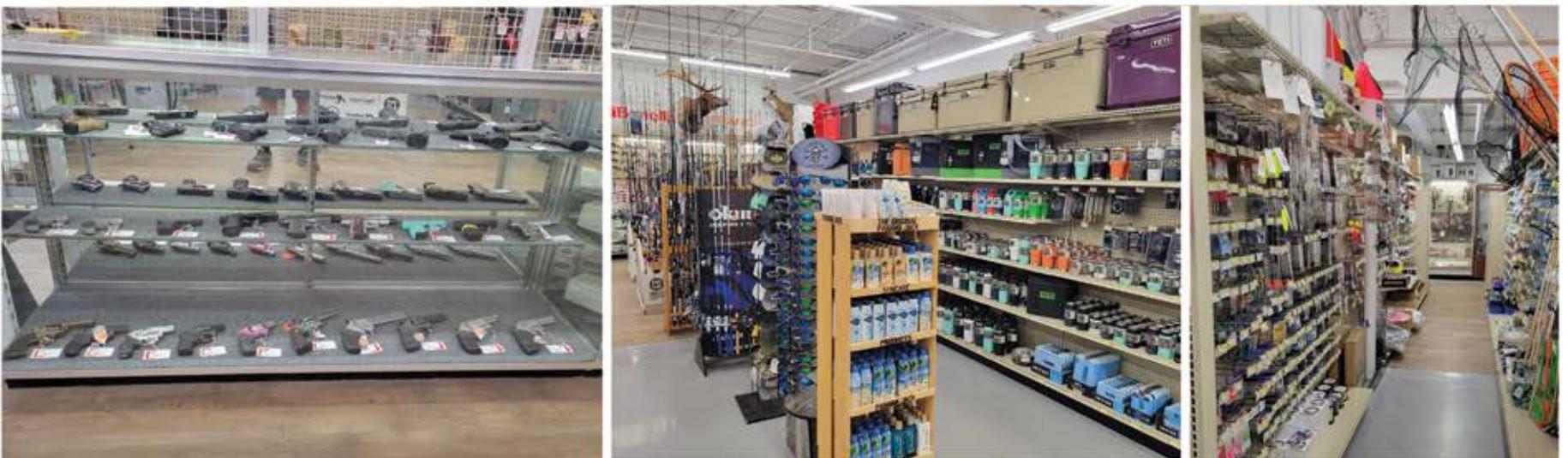


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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

by Capt. Matt Abell



The Eastern Shore has had a lot to offer this past week with the temperatures dropping and the fishing heating up. There is plenty of action on both sides of our little neck of paradise to bring bent rods and big smiles to autumn anglers. The Chesapeake took the main stage this week with fall fishing at its finest.

The only thing more red than a fiery September sunset is a fiery red drum in the landing net. Fish have ranged from sub-legal scrappers to 50 plus inch spot-tails with plenty of slot fish to show off their beautiful colors while showing up on delectable dinner plates. The bulk of the bronze brawlers, along with some specs and rock, have been located in the shallows by casting popping corks with chunks of crab or Gulp baits. The middle

and lower Chesapeake grass beds and stumps have been the setting for a shallow water struggle that satisfies even the most somber of September sportsmen. However, the reefs of the lower Chesapeake have also relinquished some rewards of red. Anglers bait fishing with peelers have been able to pursue and persuade both mid sized as well as large channel bass over the gunwale while also stretching some lines on black drum, sheepshead, and blues. Earlier this week Mr Roy McIntyre had a citation sheepshead while Mr Jack and Mr. Mark doubled up on both black and red drum trophies during a Sea Hawk Sportfishing trip of a lifetime.

The southern Chesapeake Bay has also offered some pretty good site fishing opportunities

for cobia around the CBBT. Casting jigs and live eels have brought many fillets to dinner wearing brown suits.

The seaside has also had a September score with redfish as anglers cast popping corks around the feeder creeks of the Va barrier islands during the start of ebb tide. Paddle tails and shrimp imitations have been the most productive lures while fresh caught shrimp have been the ringer in the bait department.

While you are enjoying the serene seaside, make a couple of drifts in hopes of receiving a delicious dividend. Flounder fishing is still fairly good inside the ESVA inlets. The fish are on the edges of the channels, and also up on the flats as the shorter days and cooler nights help create a more palatable

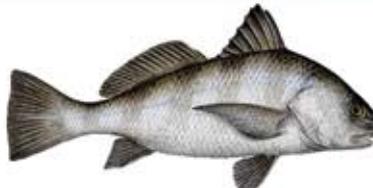
www.coastalfisherman.net playground to find a bunch of fall flounder. Sea Hawk flounder rigs tipped with Gulp, silversides and big bull minnows have produced flatfish fillets fit for a king.

If you are short on time, you don't have to go far for a frying pan full of fillets. The creeks around the mouths of the rivers feeding into the Tangier and Pocomoke sounds have produced good numbers of black perch while seaside plates have been filled from the sudsy surf with spot and kingfish coming ashore. Bottom rigs with bloodworm and small pieces of mullet have performed on this sandy pan fish while offering a chance at spotted surf trophies as well.

With the fishing getting better and the days getting cooler, the only thing shrinking faster than the daylight is your list of excuses not to go fishing. So let the chores wait a little longer, grab the family or friends and get out there and enjoy this wonderful place we call home! \$

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 <p>CROAKER No minimum 50 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>RED DRUM 18-26" minimum 3 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SHEEPSHEAD No minimum 4 per person/day All Year</p>	 <p>SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person/day All Year Only 1>24"</p>
 <p>STRIPED BASS 28-31" 1 per person/day 1/1-3/31 & 5/16-12/31</p>	 <p>FLOUNDER 4 per person/day All Year 1/1 - 5/31 - 16" 6/1 - 12/31 - 17.5"</p>	 <p>TAUTOG 16" minimum 4 per person/day 1/1-5/15 & 7/1-12/31</p>	 <p>WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day All Year</p>

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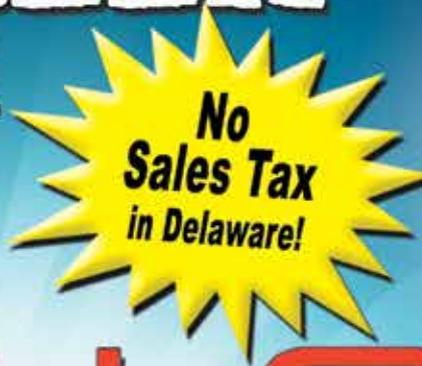
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