

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

VOLUME 46 • • • ISSUE 5 • • • JUNE 2, 2021



"Go big or go home" applies to the crew of the "Blood Money" last Friday! Despite the approaching weather Capt. Anthony Pino with mates Kevin Knotts and Marshall Freng along with anglers Bill 'Squidnation' Pino, Bill Keller, Pete Gudiatis and Donnie Moore headed out. Starting a little inshore they connected with lots of undersized bluefins and kept heading to deeper water. At 8:07AM they got a nice surprise when Pete caught the first big eye tuna of the season on a Squidnation spreader bar in 66 degree water and 800 fathoms! The deeper they got, the bigger the tuna got! Not satisfied with the first big eye, Bill Pino also landed the first yellowfin of the season as the last fish of the day. Overall they boated 7 big eye, 2 bluefin and a yellowfin tuna all on Squidnation spreader bars with ballyhoo.



Capt. Jim Bugg on the "Magic Moment" was at it again. He and anglers J.R. Spies, Chesapeake Medical Systems CEO Mike Halsey, Gary Hall and Steve Poor headed out last Friday to the Poor Man's Canyon. Targeting sea bass to start, Chris caught his first one and had a triple header! They hit their limit of bluefin tuna in the Poor Man's Canyon in 66° water and 930 fathoms.



These three Sterns are happy campers! Mike Sr. with son Mike and his wife Lisa from Red Lion, PA found these keeper flatties in the Chincoteague Bay. The fish, up to 18 1/2" fell for their white Gulp and minnow combo.

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Scott Dolmetsch meant business last week! He caught this 17½ inch flounder while drifting in the Thorofare with a live minnow and Gulp combination. Interesting coloring on this one!



It has been good drum fishing lately. Anglers Andrew & Elizabeth Wegner with David Long went fishing in the Delaware Bay with Capt. Aaron Hurd and mate Logan on "Gale Force Charters". Andrew found this 40 lb. fish in the first 20 minutes!



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The OFFSHORE REPORT

by Larry Budd

This Week Last Year

- The first white marlin of the season was caught on May 23rd and was the earliest on record. Actually 2 were caught the same day, but it was angler Carl Sauer on the "Reel Escape" that took the title and \$11,000 in prize money from the Town of Ocean City and Fisherman United Ocean City.
- Mahi were showing up at the dock with the first one on May 23rd from the "Reel Fin Addict" south of the Poor Man's Canyon.
- "Full Service" brought a 217 lb. whopper of a bigeye tuna to the scales from the Poor Man's on May 27th.
- "That's Right" and "Blood Money" had limit catches of yellowfin tuna from the Baltimore Canyon in 800 fathoms.

The weekend was a washout with a strong nor'easter moving through the area from late Friday through Sunday. This kept everyone in the slip for those days and even caused the cancellation of the Ocean City Marlin Club Franky Pettolina Memorial Day Tournament. The 12th annual instantiation of this event would have given us the first large scale view of the offshore action, but fortunately for us several boats did go out last Friday and a couple on Monday with nice results.

Tuna Tuna Tuna!! As you can tell by the cover and pictures in this week's issue, the tuna have fully arrived. While the E Dock boys from "Hot Lick" found the first bluefin tuna of the season two weeks ago by running over 90 miles south, this week's bigeye, bluefin and yellowfin tuna were found closer to home on the outside of the Poor Man's Canyon. "Blood Money" with Capt. Anthony



Pino got his anglers onto not only the first bigeye tuna of the season (angler Pete Gudiat), but also the first yellowfin (angler Bill Pino). They headed out last Friday and started fishing a little inshore looking for white marlin and hit a lot of action on undersize bluefin. As they moved further out, they found an eddy of 66° water and 800 fathoms connecting with their first of seven bigeye tuna at just past 8 in the morning using Squidnation spreader bars. The bite was so hot that when they paused for lunch, they put out hookless bars and just watched the blues and bigeye hit them! By the end of the day the bluefins were hitting 5 to 8 at a time. The "Restless Lady II" took a 30 hour overnight trip on Thursday and also found the hot bluefin bite keeping their headboat limit of 6 and releasing many more. Not to be left out, the "Hot Lick" was also in the news for the two nice bigeyes they brought in weighing 150 and 138 pounds that they caught on a custom wood lure. This gave angler James Hammond the current Heaviest Fish title for now! The "Marli", "Ro Sham Bo", "Reel Escape", "Wrecker" and "Magic Moment" also found hot bluefin action in the Poor Man's Canyon using Sterling Tackle Crazy 8 Chains and spreader bars with skirted ballyhoo. Fish Down Sea Tuna Flares were also very effective.

Before the bad weather we continued to see good tilefish reports mainly with the bluefin tuna trips going for tiles after getting their bluefin limits.

Capt. Mark Hoos on the "Marli" had two trips to the Poor Man's Canyon where his anglers hit their tilefish limits early in the morning. Capt. Jeremy Blunt on the "Wrecker" also reported limit tilefish action on his trips last week.

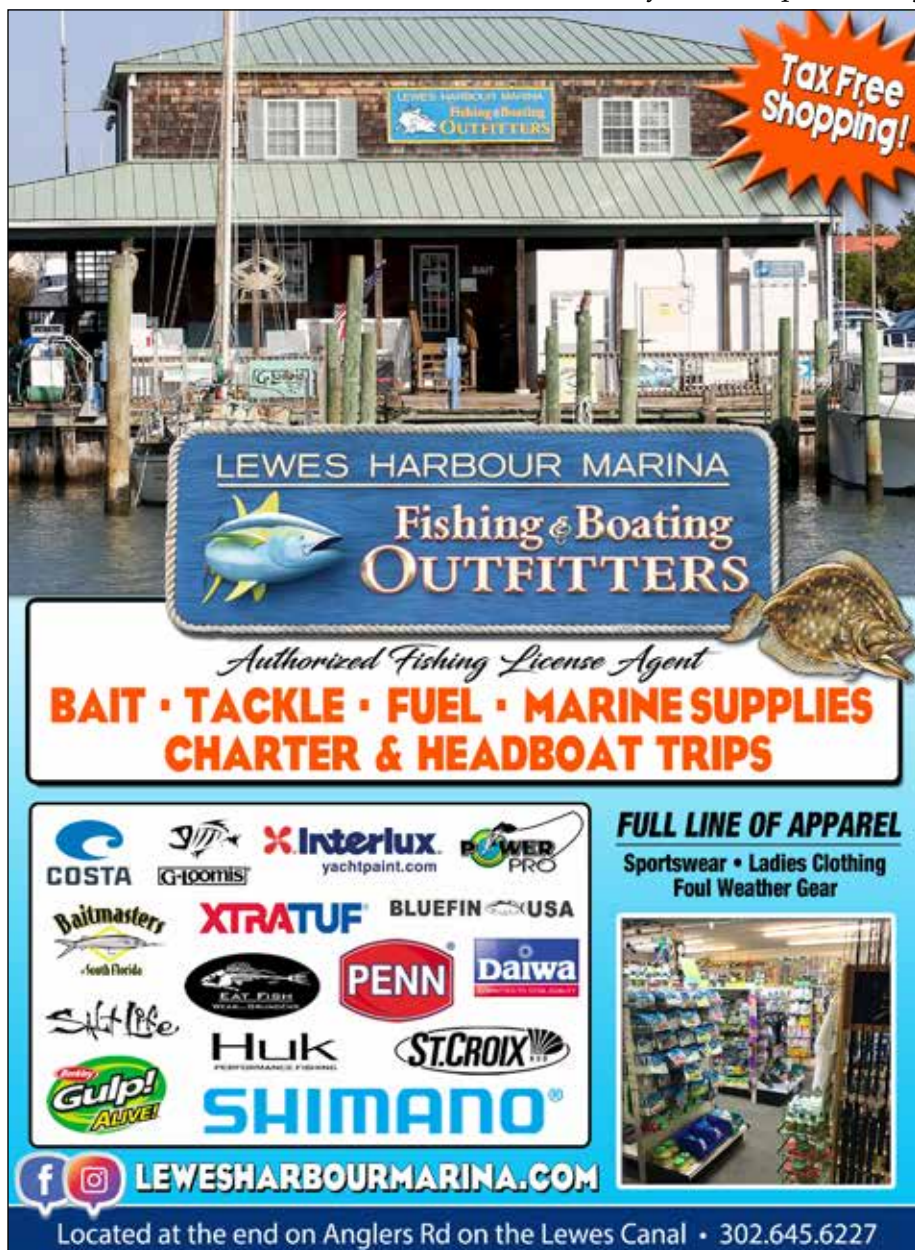
Shark fishing is also picking up. We got our first report of a keeper mako from Capt. Zach Brunner on the "Hot Line". Angler Michael Eid caught an 85" male mako in 20 fathoms at the Fingers using a dead mackerel that weighed in at 187 lbs. at the Ocean City Fishing Center. The "Restless Lady II" on that overnight trip had several undersize mako releases as well as a tiger shark release. The first thresher shark in DE was also reported by Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina from the Capt. Ike II. The 309 lb. shark was found at the 20 fathom line and took a whole bunker and bunker chum.

We have still not had reports of mahi or white marlin within 100 miles from the sea buoy, but with the season now in full swing and reports of many boats headed out this week we expect them soon!

Upcoming Tournaments

- This weekend is the 25th Annual Mako Mania Tournament at Bahia Marina. This event was cancelled last year due to the pandemic so there is a lot of excitement building up. Registration starts at 4PM Thursday with the Captain's meeting at 4PM. Weigh-ins will be held at Bahia Marina from 3:30-7:30pm Friday through Sunday.
- Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament is on June 18 & 19 being held at the Ocean City Fishing Center. Registration is June 17th from 2-8pm.

Until next week follow us on Facebook and Instagram and I will see you at the dock!


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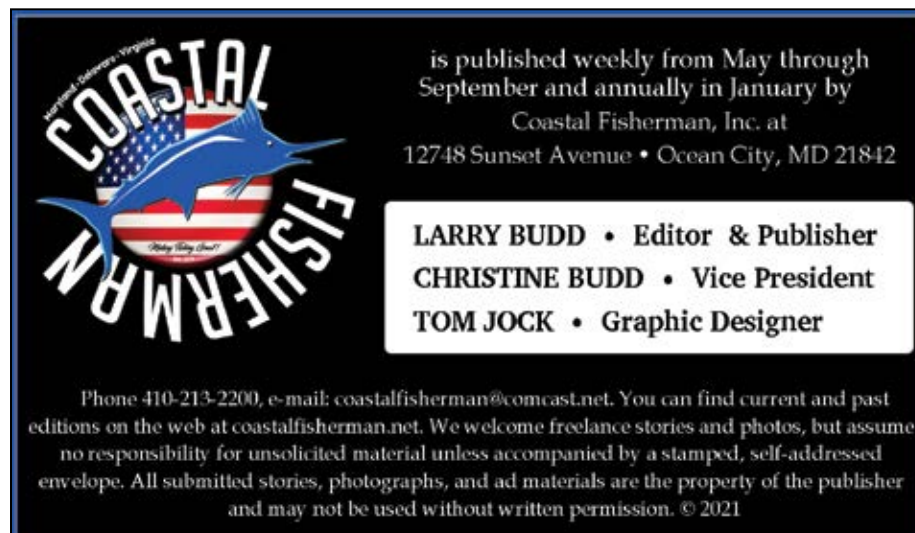
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Catching the Coastal Fisherman First Fish is a big deal! Capt. Zach Brunner and the crew of the "HotLine" did just that last week landing this 187 lb., 85" first of the season mako shark! Angler Michael Eid connected with this one in 20 fathoms at the Fingers on a dead mackerel! Pictured at the OC Fishing Center.



Rumors of bigeye tuna made their way onshore last Friday! Lucky for us they were true and the crew of Travis D'Antonio, Ryan Turner, Rod Taylor and James Hammond from Middle River, MD returned from the Poor Man's Canyon with 3 bigeye tuna and a limit of 2 bluefins. They were fishing on the "Hot Lick" in 63°-66° water and 800 fathoms using a custom wood lure. The 2 big tunas weighed in at 150 and 138 lbs. at Sunset Marina.

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Zack Jester was night fishing in the Chesapeake Bay, just east of Island Bay off of the Virginia Peninsula. He was using whole peelers on circle hooks during the flood tide of a full moon looking for red drum and speckled trout when this one hit in 3' of water!

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1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15
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CROAKER
9" minimum
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
28-35"
Less than 3 miles from shore
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SUMMER FLOUNDER
16.5" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
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2 per person/day 7/1 - 10/31
4 per person/day 11/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
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1 per person/day



Sometimes it pays to be last! Philip Burkhart of Reading PA caught this 14.2 lb. and 27" citation tautog on the very last day of the season! He caught this one at the Del-Jersey reef site while fishing on the "Paul B. Sands".



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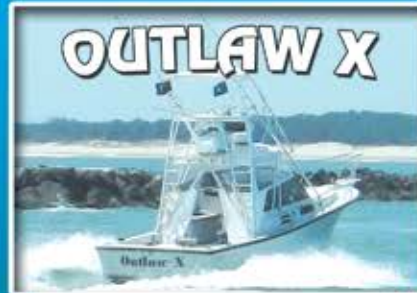
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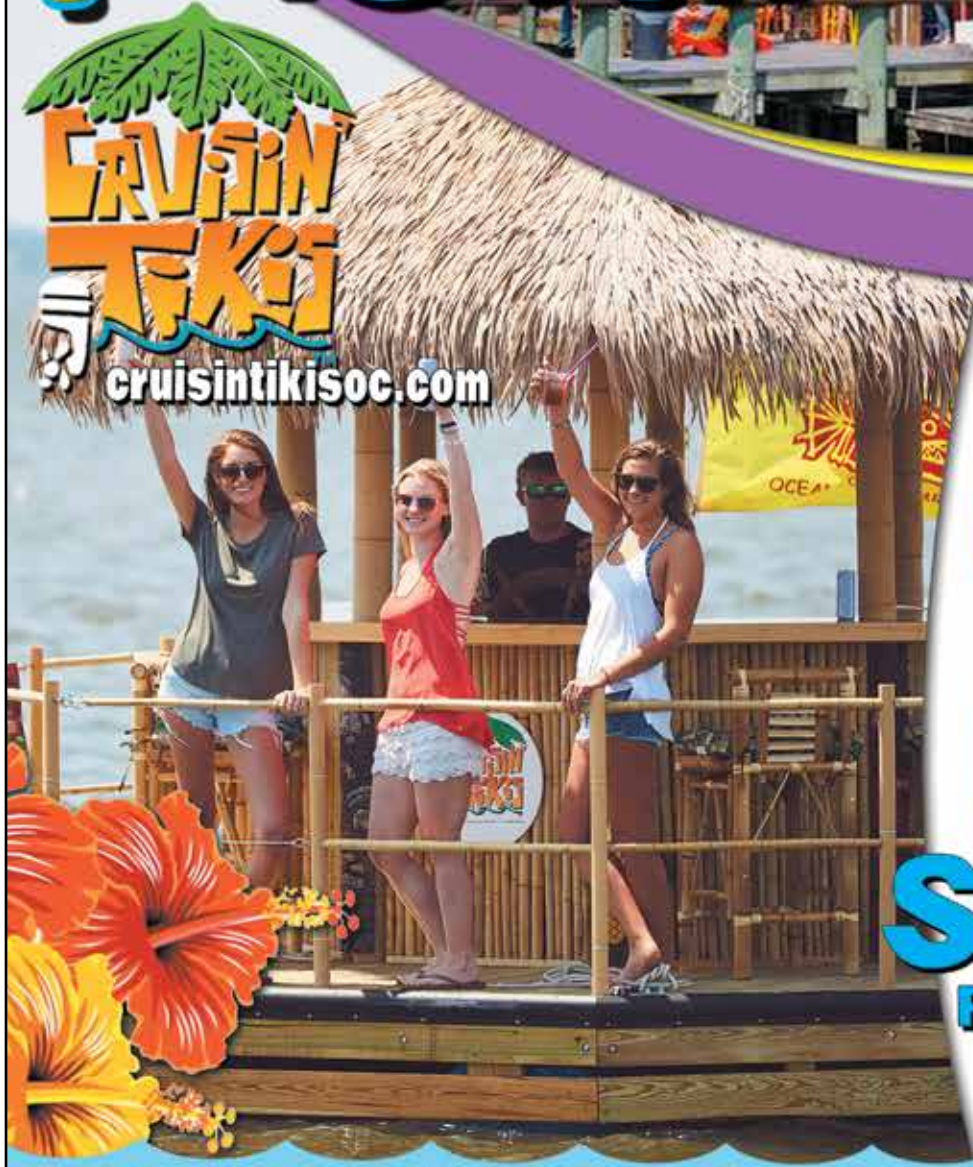
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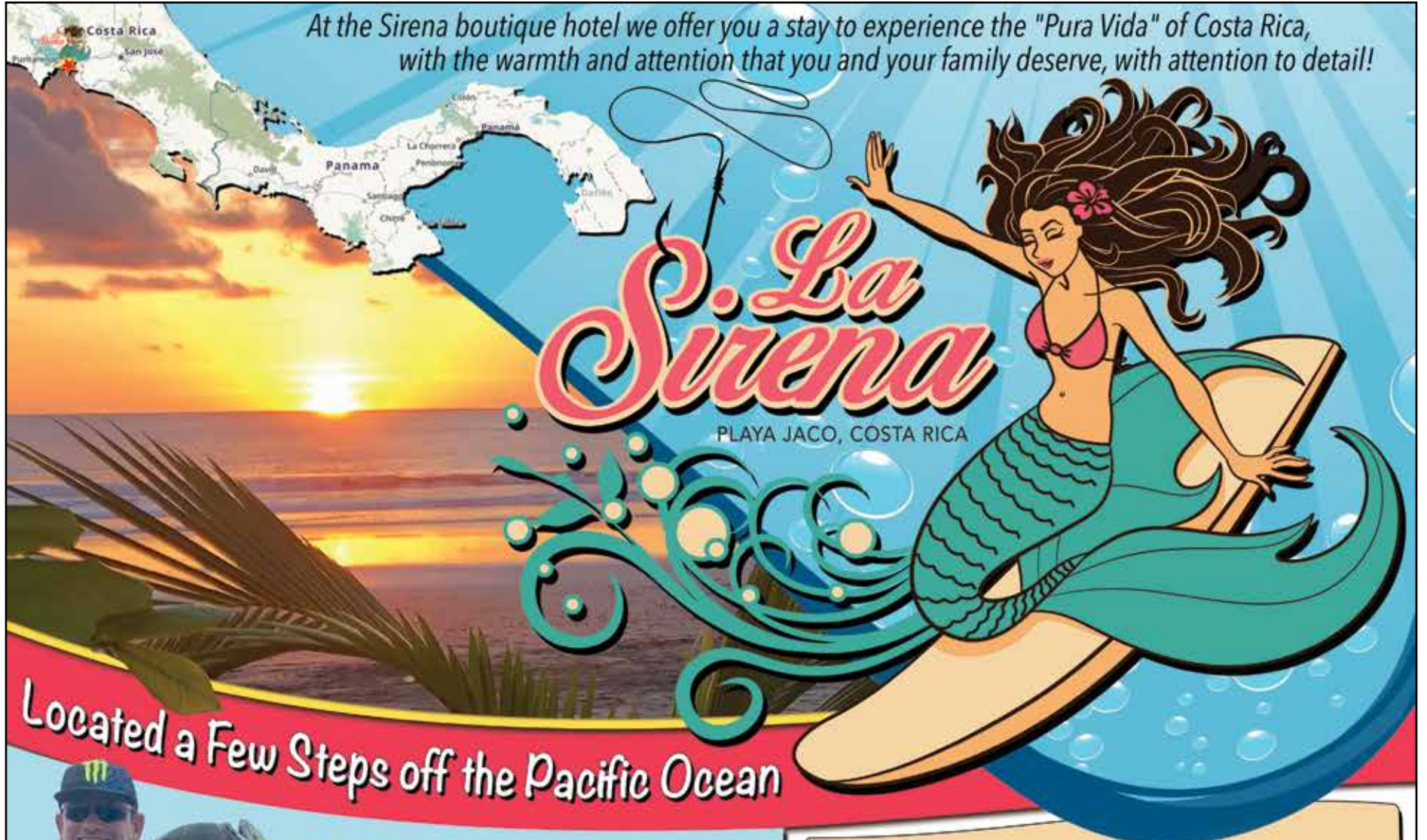
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There is still a good rockfish bite off of the lower eastern shore. Steve Burkett from Lancaster, PA fished the waters near Rumbly, MD and landed this 40 pound 54" striper on soft shell crab. These big rocks are legal in the southern Chesapeake Bay through July 15th.



Denise Eddinger on the "Paul B. Sands" is overjoyed with her citation sized sea bass! She caught the beast at the Del-Jersey reef weighing in at 4.1 lbs. and measuring 20". Measured at Hook'em and Cook'em.



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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Well we started out with some real nice weather but it certainly did not end up that way. By Thursday we had strong winds and heavy seas. The bay areas were as low as I've seen them in a long time. I was down by the inlet area on Dorchester St. and observed many boats sitting on the sandy bottom. Then came Friday ... high winds and rain, and that's how it played out for the rest of our weekend. Unfortunately most boats sat at the dock all weekend.

Sea Bass

Sea bass remains strong with many boats boating limits for their customers. I spoke with Victor on the Ocean Princess who told me that his reservations have been booming. I think people are ready to get out of the house again after being cooped up for the past year. The hot spots for sea bass

this week are the African Queen Reef as well as the Bass Grounds Reef. Not as many boats ventured the long distance to the Great Eastern Reef or Jack Spot but those that did found bigger keepers than that of near shore. Monty from the Morning Star headboat also reported some great catches of sea bass this week.

Flounder

Flounder just keeps getting better in the bay. The channel along Assateague Island is still the best spot to target big flounder. Live minnows and squid combinations are working best. Target the deeper holes on the west side where the water is a little deeper. As the weather is warming the horses are being seen closer to the water. It is always an added bonus when fishing these areas as the horses quite often

put on a nice show. The areas along the bulkhead as well as the thorofare north of the bridge are also producing some nice flounder. Out in the ocean the reports of flounder are not as good with only a few fish being reported on the wrecks and many of them are small. The Ocean City fishing piers are reporting a few flounder as well as a mixed bag of sea trout and bluefish. For those without access to a boat, these piers can be a great way to spend an evening. They are family friendly and many of the regular anglers are more than willing to help out a novice fisherman. Fees are reasonable and rod rental is available.

Rockfish, Blues & Cobia

Rockfish around the Rt. 50 bridge are still pretty strong. Shaun Flaherty was fishing with Craig Cropper and pulled in a nice 32 inch keeper

www.coastalfisherman.net rockfish this week. Craig also caught a 34" one. The fish are holding tight to the pilings and will chase a paddle tail bait that is allowed to sink in the current. Some big bluefish are also being caught along the bridge. Further down the bay near the Verrazano bridge I have received reports of a few trout being caught as well as a few smaller stripers. Paddle tails and jigs pulled along the bottom are producing the best results. The southern areas of Assateague Island are reporting a few more black drum this week. An occasional rockfish is also being reported from the beaches. Sand fleas are the best bait this week with peeler crab as a close second. For those of you fishing in Virginia, Tim Tribbits reports that Oyster, VA has been on fire with tons of big red and black drum. This week also saw the first cobia being caught near the Chesapeake Bay opening. Site fishing has worked well and the fish are eager to chase bait. Flounder in the back bays are also heating up and

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the first reports of sea trout are coming in from both Chincoteague and Oyster, VA. As the water warms up, the puppy drum will inhabit the back waters. These fish along with sea trout are great fun to catch and provide a ton of action all summer long. Anglers in our area can judge the upcoming week's catch by looking at what's happening in the Virginia area. We are about a week behind, so I anticipate we will see cobia arriving next week in Ocean City. The shoals around the inlet as well as Fenwick Shoal areas are a great place to chum and target cobia. Cut bait top water lures and eels are great baits to use for the Man in the Brown Suit!

Surf Report

Surf fishing remains a

little slow in the Ocean City area. Assateague Island had a resurgence this week of some nice fish being caught. Many of the rockfish hooked on the beaches are still over slot but some nice bluefish have been thrown into the mix keeping the action going.

Crabs & Clams

Clamming has turned on in the bays. With the warmer water the clams are not as deep. Assateague Island reported that the clams are plentiful and many smaller ones (the best eating) are readily available. Rakes are available at most tackle shops, and if rinsed with fresh water, will last several seasons.

Until next week...

Tight Lines and Fins Up §



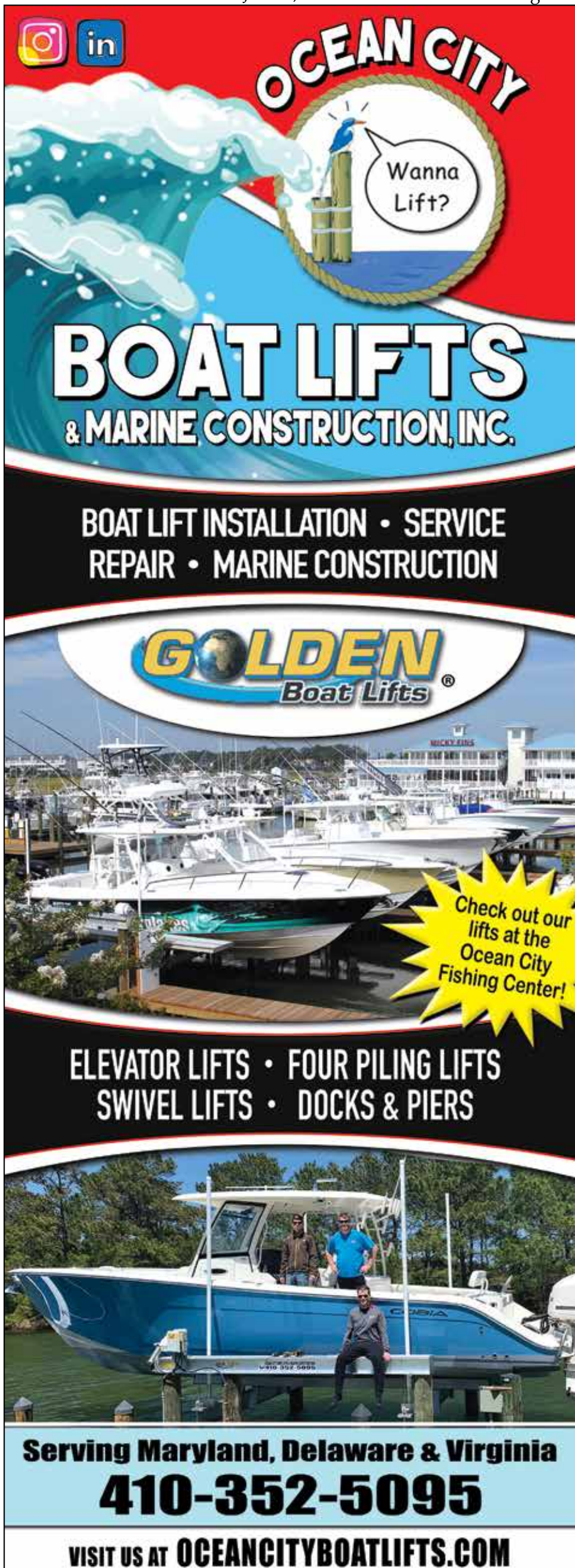
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On the opening day of sea bass season Capt. Les Brightbill and fishing partner extraordinaire Trent from Dagsboro, DE were hitting them hard aboard the "Ocean Blue" returning with 21 keepers including Capt. Les' 17.5 inch, 3 pound citation fish and double header keepers.

MARYLAND & DELAWARE CITATION ATLANTIC COAST SIZES

	<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

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2021 FIRST FISH OF THE YEAR COASTAL FISHERMAN



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

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

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



We can only wish we could be as happy as Charlie Donohue was when he caught this 20" schoolie striper! He was fishing on the "Lucky 1" by the Rt. 50 Bridge at the top of the incoming tide tossing jig heads with soft body lures. He ended the day with 4 shorties and an 18" bluefish.



Capt. Chris Miller got the bluefin tuna buzz going last Thursday with his trip 65 miles out to a new eddy that pushed some warmer water. Anglers Bob Miller, Jeremy Banover, Ed Gravely and Jeff Rosenkilde on the "Reel Escape" went 15 for 18 using spreader bars and Joe Chute's, keeping their limit of 2.

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FISHING CHARTERS



It was nice to see the off shore action finally picking up last week and Capt. Mark Hoos on the "Marli" is always early on the water! This trip with Tom Birago from Berlin, MD, Bill Birago & Bill Hughes from OC with Danny Kawaguchi from Honolulu, HI and Jordan and Ian Black from Philadelphia, PA headed out to the Poor Man's Canyon and hit their limit of tilefish in the first 2 hours! Pictured at Sunset Marina.



The south Ocean City bay behind Assateague Island is still yielding some nice fatties! Peter Burgers, Jay Trstensky and Sue Schaefer from Upper Black Eddy, PA headed out with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" and boated these 6 keeper flounders using white and pink Otter Tail Split Tails with minnows on the incoming tide. Largest fish measured 20 inches.

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FISHING CHARTERS




Always an early boat on the action, the "Wrecker" with Capt. Jeremy Blunt and mate Bobby Layton put Sam Smith and his group of anglers on the bite. Fishing in the Poor Man's Canyon with spreader bars and ballyhoo, they kept their limit of 3 bluefins and released 10 more, finishing the day with tilefish and sea bass.



Fishing last Friday before the weather moved in, the headboat "Angler" fished at a natural reef with squid for bait. The sea bass were picky at first, but got better once the current slacked off with fish up to 3 1/4 pounds.

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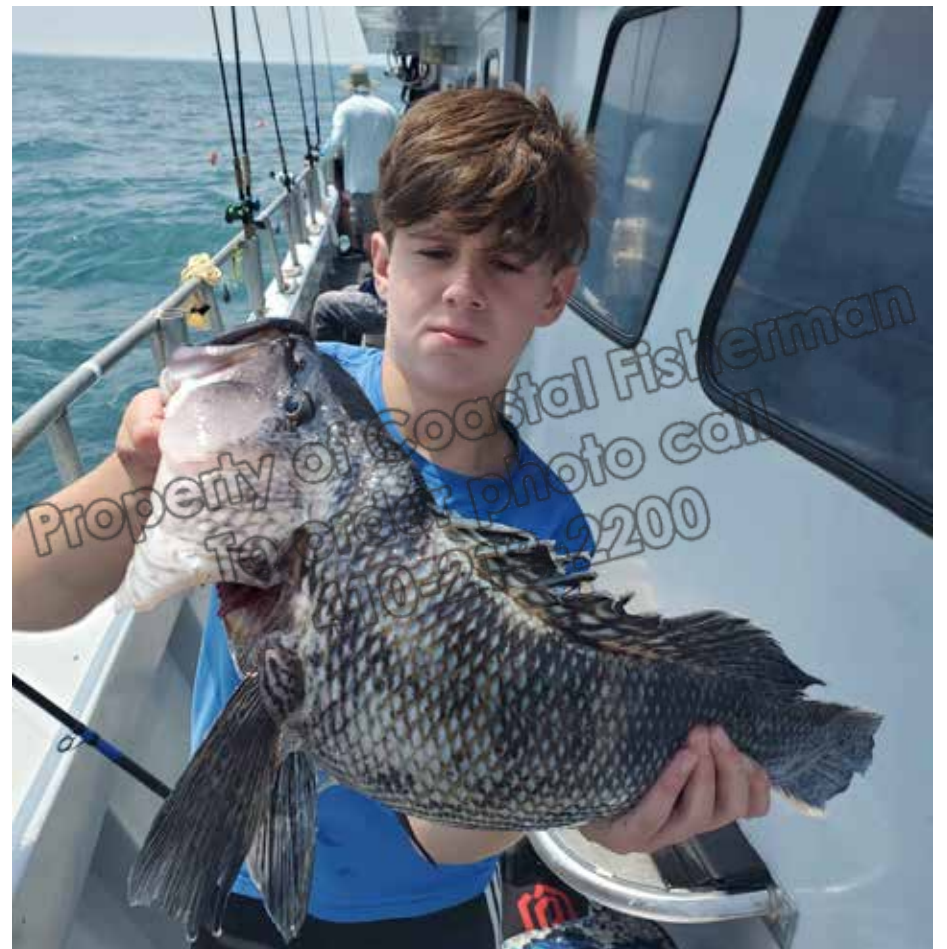
Capt. Mike Burt
410.726.8804
Fishing out of Sunset Marina Slip C-17



FISHING CHARTERS



Big Bird Cropper dropped by the office again this week after another successful day on the water. He caught this perfectly sized 34" rockfish near the Rt. 50 Bridge by the #6 marker using his Roy Rigs on the incoming tide.



Last Friday, as a gift from his grandfather, Brayden Warfield of White Hall, MD, enjoyed his first time off-shore on the headboat "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Brayden caught this beast of a sea bass at just under 5 lbs. to win the boat's pool money of \$175.

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FISHING CHARTERS




Tatum Brittingham gives the thumbs up for catching these keeper flounders and for mate Ethan Nock holding the fish! She and Adam Guisewite from Milton, PA fished with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" in the south Ocean City bay behind Assateague Island. They were using Otter Tails Split Tails and minnows on the outgoing tide.



Capt. Eric Shoaff on the head boat "Judith M" better watch out, looks like Harold Mills from Harrisburg, PA might be gunning for that job! The two 'captains' were fishing about 20 miles offshore in 100' of water when Harold landed this sea bass and others on squid, clams and shiners.



KEYS TO TAKING A GREAT FISH PICTURE!

Or call us at the office and we'll come take your photo!

Email it to coastalfisherman@comcast.net
410-213-2200

INCLUDE IN THE EMAIL:

- Angler's full name and town
- Names & towns of others in photo
- Weight and/or length of fish
- Bait/lure used
- Location of catch
- Name of boat, if any

Please do not compress the photo and do not run it through any photo software.

- 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.

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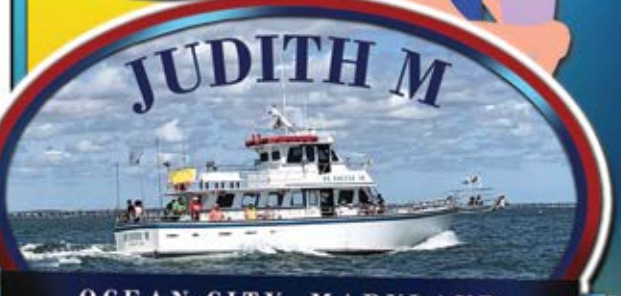


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FISHING CHARTERS



Anglers who got offshore before a nor'easter blew in late Friday were rewarded with some nice fish. Dave McCreedy landed this 2 3/4 lb. sea bass while fishing with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve on the headboat "Angler".



Long time top Ocean City tuna boat Capt. Mark Hoos on the charter boat "Marli" worked the emerging bluefin tuna action outside of the Poor Man's Canyon late last week. His anglers Jacob Smith, Alex Mollica, Sam Rivera, Linda Sprague, Andria Riden and Tom Mollica with mate Danny Prettyman boated their limit of 6 bluefin tuna and 30 tilefish. The tuna were found in 500 fathoms and 67° water using Sterling spreader bars and ballyhoo.

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FISHING CHARTERS



The tuna are here! Several boats headed out last Friday despite the threat of weather in the afternoon and were rewarded with some nice catches. Capt. Willie Zimmerman on the "Ro Sham Bo" was one of those and they found some bluefin tuna in the early morning, quickly catching their limit. With the bluefins still biting, Capt. Willie took anglers Rick & Zach Stryjewski, Mike Wirtenan with Michelle & Melissa Herren on a few more passes for some catch and release fishing before running back inside the 50 fathom line to catch a bunch of sea bass and tilefish. The Sterling Tackle Crazy 8 Chains and the Fish Down Sea Tuna Flares were on fire that morning!

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The flounder keep a comin'! Josh Rosenberger and Faith Biesecker with their dog Luna were fishing on the "Line Dancer" with Lance, Karen and Frankie Biesecker in the Thorofare last week when they tricked these 3 keepers (up to 19") and 7 other throwbacks. They also found a short striper by the Rt. 50 Bridge.



Another one from the 'You Never Know What You're Going to Get' file! Frank Simmonds from Arbutus, MD caught and released this 3 lb. skate fish while he was at the Ocean City Inlet fishing with shrimp on a double bottom rig.



TOURNAMENT SERIES

2021 SCHEDULE

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!

42nd ANNUAL SMALL BOAT TOURNAMENT*

Registration: June 25, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 26 & 27

Weigh-Ins: June 26 & 27 3:00-6:30pm at Sunset Marina

39th ANNUAL CANYON KICK OFF *

Registration: July 1, 6:30-8:00pm
FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 2, 3, 4

Weigh-Ins: July 2-4, 5:00-7:30pm at Sunset Marina

17th ANNUAL KID'S CLASSIC *

To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Registration: July 16, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 17 & 18

Weigh-Ins: July 17, 3:00-6:30pm and July 18, 3:00-6:00pm at Sunset Marina

6th ANNUAL OCMC vs OCLTC SHOOT-OUT

Angler Meeting: August 26, 7:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 27, 28, 29

No Weigh-Ins

63rd ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT *

Registration: September 2, 6:30-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 3, 4, 5

Weigh-Ins: September 3,4,5 6:00-8:00pm at Sunset Marina

13th ANNUAL OCMC LADIES' TOURNAMENT "HEELS & REELS"*

To benefit the Marlin Club Crew of OC Scholarship Fund

Registration: July 29, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 30 & 31

Weigh-Ins: July 30 & 31 5:30-7:30pm at Atlantic Tackle

43rd ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP

Registration: September 16, 6:00-8:00pm

Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 17 & 18

No Weigh-Ins

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Zack Jester was night fishing in the Chesapeake Bay, just east of Island Bay off of the Virginia Peninsula. He was using whole peelers on circle hooks during the flood tide of a full moon looking for red drum and speckled trout when this one hit in 3' of water.



Anglers Michael DePalma and Michael DePalma Jr. slammed the sea bass last week! They headed out with Capt. Eric Mihali and mate Dave Nornes on the "Bet-Sea" to the Jack Spot and were using clams and squid for these knotheads, the largest at 4.05 lbs! Pictured and measured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. JUNE 2 • • 3rd Qtr. Moon • •	High 02:44 am High 03:17 pm	Low 08:50 am Low 08:59 pm
THUR. JUNE 3	High 03:42 am High 04:21 pm	Low 09:41 am Low 10:02 pm
FRI. JUNE 4	High 04:32 am High 05:14 pm	Low 10:29 am Low 11:02 pm
SAT. JUNE 5	High 05:14 am High 05:58 pm	Low 11:13 am Low 11:58 pm
SUN. JUNE 6	High 05:52 am High 06:38 pm	Low 11:55 am Low -----
MON. JUNE 7	High 06:29 am High 07:16 pm	Low 12:47 am Low 12:33 pm
TUE. JUNE 8	High 07:08 am High 07:53 pm	Low 01:32 am Low 01:08 pm
WED. JUNE 9	High 07:49 am High 08:32 pm	Low 02:13 am Low 01:42 pm

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide
 - 21 minutes for low tide
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide

These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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Richard Hoenes from Ocean City, MD kicked off the Memorial Day weekend with a nice striper he caught on tuna bloodline. He was fishing from a private dock and very grateful to the guys who showed up with a net to land it!

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Red "Distress" Button

In 1999, the Federal Communications Commission required that all marine VHF's sold in the USA to be equipped with DSC (Digital Selective Calling). This was the roots to the red distress button found on the face of today's modern marine VHF radios. The overall purpose of this distress button (often under a cover to prevent accidental use) is to automatically contact the USCG and

specific radio operates.

After activating the distress features, your VHF radio will AUTOMATICALLY digitally transmit the exact location of your boat (latitude and longitude) as well personal information and a description of your boat. Until a coast station acknowledges the DSC alert, the vessel's VHF radio will continue to broadcast the alert approximately every four minutes. Once the distress call is



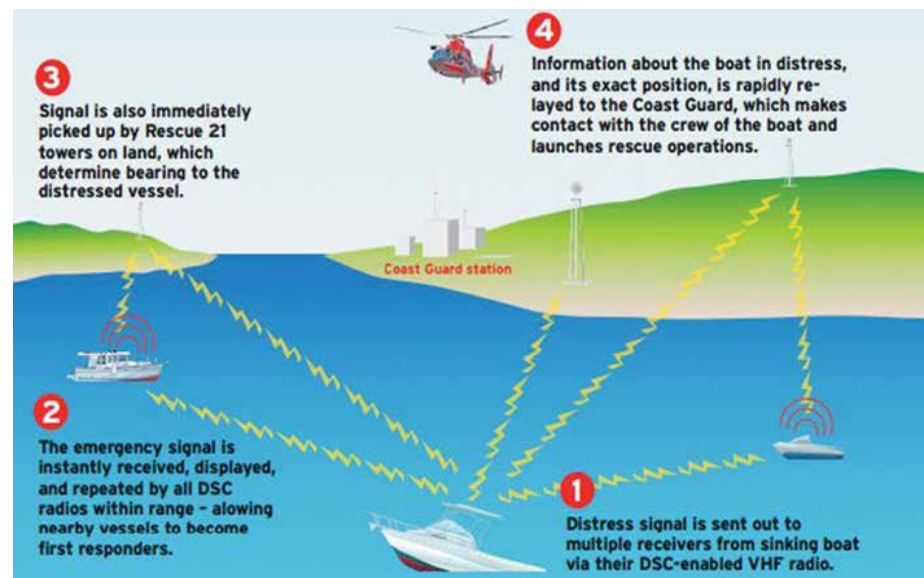
nearby boaters to your emergency. The automatic feature is important, because it can allow an inexperienced person to trigger an emergency USCG call, and it can also allow an experienced skipper to initiate an emergency call while performing other tasks during an emergency.

What happens when you press the distress button?

Many VHF radios require the operator to lift the distress button cover, press and hold the button for 3 seconds and then release the button to initiate the automatic distress feature. Please check your own VHF radios instructions to be sure you know how your

acknowledged by the USCG, the boat's distress alert is automatically stopped and the VHF radio is simultaneously switched to channel 16, all automatically by the USCG. At this point, the boat's radio operator can begin transmitting a standard voice Mayday call and message to start the detailed conversation needed with the search and rescue coast station.

This distress call is also broadcast to nearby DSC equipped VHF radios, so even if the USCG is unable to hear your automated distress call, other nearby boaters may receive the automatic distress call and know your position and may be able to render assistance.



Note: In the event of an accidental false distress alert:

- Turn off the VHF radio
- Turn on the VHF radio and tune to Channel 16
- Make a voice broadcast to "All Stations" giving the ship's name, call sign and DSC number, and cancel the false distress alert.

There are a few key pieces of information in the above procedure that you need to be sure are working properly for the "distress" function to be accurate.

Vessels Position

Your VHF needs to know



where your vessel is located- there are two ways for this to work:

Most common - An on-board GPS receiver used for the vessel's navigation is interconnected to the VHF radio using the NMEA 0183 or NMEA 2000. This interconnection shares the vessels latitude and longitude from the GPS

with the VHF radio.

The second method is becoming more popular is a VHF radio that has a GPS receiver built-in, therefore often eliminating the need to connect the VHF to the ships GPS system. Proper GPS operation requires a good signal strength from orbiting satellites. When installing one of these new GPS VHF radios, you will need to consider the physical location since the VHF needs to receive a strong GPS signal from the orbiting satellites, if not the VHF would need to be interconnected to the ships

GPS navigational system. Most VHF radios will show the latitude and longitude on the VHF display if working properly or an error if no GPS position is received.

The second key piece of information is the MMSI number/personal information. Each boat owner needs to register

www.coastalfisherman.net to obtain a MMSI number from an issuing agency, such as BoatUS, US Power Squadron or other agency. If your boat falls under specific Federal guidelines or is used outside US waters, then the USCG will issue the MMSI number.

The MMSI number is like a phone number for your VHF, and the registration requires personal data about the boat and operator. Once you have acquired your MMSI number, you will need to enter that 9 digit number into your VHF.

When should a distress call be issued?

A distress call to the USCG involves a serious life threatening on-the-water event or potential event, such as: possible loss of life, fire, man overboard, taking on water, capsizing, sinking, or experiencing a serious medical emergency or other incident deemed an emergency.

Reminder from USCG:

“In general, any vessel equipped with a VHF marine radiotelephone (whether voluntarily or required to) must maintain a watch on channel 16 (156.800 MHz) whenever the radiotelephone is not being used to communicate.”

Once your VHF has a good GPS signal and your MMSI number has been entered your system now has the data needed to broadcast in an emergency. Be sure to regularly review the operation of these systems while at the dock so if needed in an emergency you and your crew will know what to do and will be confident that the VHF “distress” system is working properly.

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While it looks like an ad for fresh seafood, it is actually Josh Rosenberg, Faith Biesecker and Frank Biesecker showing off their two flounder (16.5" and 17.5") with blue crabs & clams caught from the Isle of Wight Bay in the Thorofare while fishing on the "Line Dancer". They enjoyed their sea to table dinner that night!

DELAWARE REGULATIONS

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12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day
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BLUEFISH
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3 per day / 5 per day Charter



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



SHEEPSHEAD
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SPECKLED TROUT
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No creel limit



STRIPED BASS
28-35" except 20-25" only from
7/1 - 8/31 in DE Bay
1 per person/day



SUMMER FLOUNDER
16.5" minimum
4 per person/day



TAUTOG
16" minimum
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15
4 per person/day 7/1 - 12/31



WEAKFISH
13" minimum
1 per person/day



Cool name, check, flags with cool name, check, stringer of sea bass, check! Capt. Rich Harpel with Sam Harpel of "Flip N Fins" caught this bunch of sea bass at the Del-Jersey reef in the 2 - 3 lb. range using squid on top and bottom rigs while drifting.

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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 No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	 Mako Shark ★ May 28 Michael Eid Fingers 187 lbs.	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Black Drum April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	May 7 Adam Clarke Slaughter Beach 77.5 lbs.	 Thresher Shark May 22 Patrick Snell Twin Wrecks 267 lbs.	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Cobia No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Bigeye Tuna No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Flounder May 8 Kevin Mcnelis Thorofare 4.2 lbs.	May 8 Kevin Mcnelis Thorofare 4.2 lbs.	No Weights Reported	 Bluefin Tuna ★ May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Sea Bass No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Longfin Tuna No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Sheepshead No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Yellowfin Tuna No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Striped Bass May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	 Dolphin No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Tautog April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	 Wahoo No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Weakfish No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 White Marlin No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported

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



Angler Bunky McCallister from Eldersburg, MD poses with the estimated 125 lb. tiger shark he caught at the Fingers with Capt. Mark Sampson and mate Connor O'Meally on the "Fish Finder". This was a surprise given the 62° water which is still cool for tigers!



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

JUNE

- 25th Annual Mako Mania
June 4 - 6 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438
- MidAtlantic Tuna Tournament
June 9 - 13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400
- Tuna & Tiaras Ladies Tuna Tournament
June 18 - 19 • Ocean City, MD • 410-212-7159
- 6th Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament
June 26-27 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071
- 42nd Annual Small Boat Tournament
June 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- 3rd Annual Fish N Paddle Saltwater Slam
Kayak Fishing Tournament
June 26 - 27 • Ocean City, MD • 410-868-5488

JULY

- 39th Annual Canyon Kick Off
July 2 - 4 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- MidAtlantic Cup
July 4 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- South Jersey Yacht Sales Offshore Showdown
July 7 - 10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 34th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament
July 9 - 11 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1613
- 17th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic
July 17 - 18 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613
- Paradise Bay Flounder Tournament
TBA • Long Neck, DE • www.BayTournament.com
- The Marlin Invitational
July 22 - 25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-0177
- 7th Annual Big Fish Classic
July 23- 25 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325
- 13th Annual Marlin Club Ladies Tournament
July 30 & 31 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

AUGUST

- 48th Annual White Marlin Open
August 2 - 6 • Harbour Island Marina • 410-289-9229
- 12th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce
Flounder Tournament
August 7 • Ocean Pines Yacht Club • 410-641-5306



Honey Lime-Glazed Grilled Ahi Tuna

Ingredients:

- 2 medium limes, juiced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 clove garlic, crushed and minced
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 4 (6-ounce) Ahi tuna fillets
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup honey

Directions:

In a bowl, whisk together the lime juice, olive oil, rice vinegar, garlic, and ginger.

Lay the tuna fillets on a plate, season with salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste, and spoon over half of the glaze, turning to coat evenly.

Let the tuna fillets marinate for 30

minutes in the refrigerator.

Add the honey to the remaining half of the glaze and mix well.

Heat an outdoor grill on high or make a hot fire in a charcoal grill.



When the grates are hot, lightly oil them and place tuna fillets on the grill. Cook for about 2 minutes and turn them over, brushing the glaze over the cooked side. Grill 2 minutes more for medium-rare to medium.

When the fish is cooked, transfer it to a plate, and using a clean brush, spread the honey-lime glaze over the other side of the fillet.

Serve immediately with any remaining glaze.

Crispy Rockfish Pub Burger with Provolone & Special Sauce

Ingredients:

For the Special Sauce:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup chili sauce
- 1/3 cup sweet pickle relish
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

For the quick-pickled red onions:

- 1/2 medium red onion sliced
- 1/2 cup seasoned rice vinegar (or more to cover the onions)

For the Burgers:

- 1 pound rockfish, cut into 4 pieces (makes sure there are no bones)
- Salt and pepper
- 2-3 tablespoons corn starch
- 2 eggs whisked with 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1/2-1 cup high heat oil for pan-frying (or more if needed)
- 4 slices provolone cheese
- 4 pieces of green leaf or red leaf lettuce
- 4-8 slices of tomato

Sliced pickles

4 pub buns or brioche buns, buttered and toasted if you prefer



Directions:

Special Sauce:

Mix together the mayonnaise, chili sauce, sweet pickle relish, garlic, soy sauce and black pepper. Set aside.

Quick-pickled red onions:

Add the sliced red onions to a 16-ounce jelly jar or a glass bowl and cover with the rice vinegar. Let them hang out for about 15 minutes or so, or while you're preparing the fish. Store the remaining pickled onions in a covered glass jar or container in the refrigerator for up to one week.

Rockfish:

Heat a large skillet over medium or medium low heat and add

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 enough oil to cover the bottom of the skillet. Set up three plates or bowls, one with the corn starch, one with the egg wash and one with the panko.

While the oil is heating, season the fish pieces with salt and pepper. Then dust them in the corn starch. When the oil is hot but not smoking, dip the fish pieces in the egg wash and then the panko breadcrumbs. Place them gently in the skillet and let each piece cook until golden-brown on both sides. You may need to adjust the heat to low if your fish browns too quickly. Depending on the thickness of your fish, it should take about 3-4 minutes cook time on each side to cook the fish through. Typically, fish will cook 8-10 minutes for every inch of thickness. I find that rockfish cooks just a little faster. Also, fish does continue to cook a little when removed from the heat.

Once your fish is done, transfer it to a fish rack over a baking sheet or plate, or a paper towel lined plate. Top with the provolone cheese. This will give the cheese time to melt a bit. I like using a fish or cookie rack as this keeps both sides of the fish nice and crispy.

To assemble the crispy rockfish

pub burger.

I like to toast the buns in the oven or stove top in a pan. I spread a little butter on the inside of each bun and then toast them in the pan or on a baking sheet. Just a little toasted makes them hold up a bit better and the texture is lovely with the fish.

Once the buns are toasted, add special sauce to each side of the bun. Place a provolone topped fish fillet on the bottom bun. Layer with sliced onions, lettuce, tomato, pickles and the top of the bun. Skewer with party picks or toothpick to keep everything together prior to serving, but you'll want to serve these immediately!

The Best Lobster Tail Recipe Ever!

Broiled lobster tails became a favorite back in the early 80's when I was a Crabette server at Phillips Crab House. I got to know the cooks in the kitchen and was privied to a lobster tail slid my way here and there when Shirley and Bryce were not around. Make sure to dip each bite in lots of lemon garlic butter!

Ingredients:

- 4 lobster tails
- Salt and pepper



- 1/4 cup butter melted
- 3 garlic cloves minced
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika

- 1 teaspoon thyme minced
- 1 teaspoon rosemary minced
- 1 teaspoon parsley chopped

Directions:

Preheat the oven to broil or 500 degrees. Start by preparing the lobster. Using kitchen shears butterfly the tail by cutting down the center. Loosen the meat and pull the lobster meat upward. Salt and pepper the meat and set on a baking sheet.

In a small bowl whisk together the melted butter, garlic, paprika, thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Spread evenly on each lobster tail.

Broil the lobster tails for about 8-10 minutes or until the meat is opaque and lightly brown on the top. Serve with melted butter if desired.

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Bacon Crab Deviled Eggs

Ingredients:

- 1/2 dozen large eggs
- 3 - 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- 1/2 cup picked steamed lump crab meat (we use Phillips)
- 1/4 cup chives - diced or left long for a pretty presentation
- 1 teaspoon old bay seasoning
- 4-6 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled or cut into thirds



Directions:

In a heavy large pot with thick base, cover eggs with cold water and bring to a boil.

Remove the pot from the heat, cover, and let sit for exactly 14

minutes.

Plunge the eggs into a bowl of ice water to cool for 10 minutes.

Tap the eggs with the back of a spoon gently.

Eggs can sit in water overnight for incredibly easy to peel eggs.

When you're almost ready to serve, peel eggs.

Cut eggs in half, lengthwise.

Gently use a spoon to scoop out egg yolks. Place in small bowl nearby.

Add yolks and mayonnaise to the bowl.

Whip with a spoon or fork until yolk mixture is smooth and fluffy.

Scoop the yolk mix to a pastry bag fitted with a star tip, or a plastic bag with the corner cut off.

Scoop about a teaspoon crab meat into half of the egg white half.

Set the egg white halves on a serving platter and pipe in the filling.

Strawberry Spinach & Asparagus Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh asparagus cut into 1-inch pieces

2 heaping cups fresh spinach

2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced in half

1 large spring onion, chopped

1/2 cup pea shoots

2 tablespoons sliced almonds

1 ounce goat cheese, crumbled

Juice from 1/2 lemon

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon honey

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste



Directions:

Bring a large pot of water mixed with a teaspoon of salt to a boil over medium heat. Set aside a bowl of iced water. Add the asparagus to the boiling water and cook for 2 or 3 minutes. Drain the asparagus and immediately add it to the ice water.

In a large bowl combine asparagus, spinach, strawberries, onion, pea shoots, almonds and goat cheese. In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice, olive oil, honey, salt and pepper. Pour dressing over salad and toss lightly to coat.

Thai Fish Cakes

Ingredients:

Fish Cakes:

- 1 pound sea bass fillet , cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2.6 ounces red curry paste
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce (or soy sauce if you don't like fish sauce)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup thinly sliced green beans
- Vegetable oil for frying and lime wedges for serving

Dipping sauce:

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1/2 cup Thai sweet chili sauce (store bought)

1 cup seeded cucumber, chopped
2 tablespoons roasted peanuts, chopped

2 tablespoons cilantro, minced

1 teaspoon fish sauce

Directions:

Fish cake:

Combine the fish, curry paste, egg whites, fish sauce, and sugar in a food processor. Pulse a few times, to mix until it forms a smooth, thick, and sticky paste, 2 minutes or so. Once finished, poke the fish paste with a spoon. It should be firm, elastic, and springy. Transfer the fish paste into a big bowl.

Fold the green beans into the paste using a spatula.

Heat 1/2-inch oil in a small deep pot over medium heat until hot

Work on the fish cakes in batches. Use a cookie scoop to transfer a ball of 2 tablespoons of fish paste onto an oiled spatula. Then use the back of another spatula or a large spoon to flatten the ball into a 1/4-inch (1/2-cm) thick disc. Gently slide the fish cake into the pan. Fry until the bottom side turns golden, about 30 to 40 seconds. Flip and cook the other side until golden. The whole process should take about 1 minute. (*Footnote 5) To test for doneness, transfer a fish cake onto a plate and poke it with a toothpick. You should feel the bouncy resistance and the toothpick should come out clean.

Sauce:

Mix all the sauce ingredients in a small bowl right before serving. Serve the hot fish cake with dipping sauce as an appetizer, or serve them on top of rice or noodles as a main. Enjoy!

You can store the cooked fish cakes in the fridge for a couple days, or in the freezer for up to 3 months.

Note: do not refrigerate the uncooked fish paste. Fried fish cakes made from day-old fish paste results in a tough and grainy texture.



Jacob Marshal and Brian Robinson from Catonsville, MD really didn't need to stretch out to show off these two keeper flounder! The boys were fishing on the "Something Fishy" in the bay behind Assateague Island when these two measuring 19.5" & 18.5" hit on live minnows and Gulp.



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The Delaware Bay has been producing huge drums this spring! Anglers David Long, Andrew Wegner and Elizabeth Wegner went fishing with Capt. Aaron Hurd and mate Logan on "Gale Force Charters". It was a productive day with several heavy catches including David's 50 lb. drum shown above.

FEDERAL SIZE & CREEL LIMITS

3-200 Miles

 <p>BLUE MARLIN 99" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>YELLOWFIN TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length 3 per person/day</p>	 <p>BIGEYE TUNA 27" Curved Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>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</p>
 <p>WHITE MARLIN 66" Lower Jaw Fork Length No Retention Limit</p>	 <p>DOLPHIN No minimum Length Boat Limit 60 Charter Limit 10 per passenger/day</p>	 <p>SWORDFISH 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length 1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec) 1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter) 1 per person / 15 per Headboat</p>	 <p>WAHOO No minimum Length 2 per person/day</p>

<h3 style="margin: 0;">SHARKS</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">AUTHORIZED SPECIES</h2>	<p>No Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead</p> <p>54" Minimum Fork Length Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse, Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher, Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth, Atlantic Blacknose</p>	<p>71" Minimum Fork Length Male Shortfin Mako</p> <p>78" Minimum Fork Length Great Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead</p>
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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.

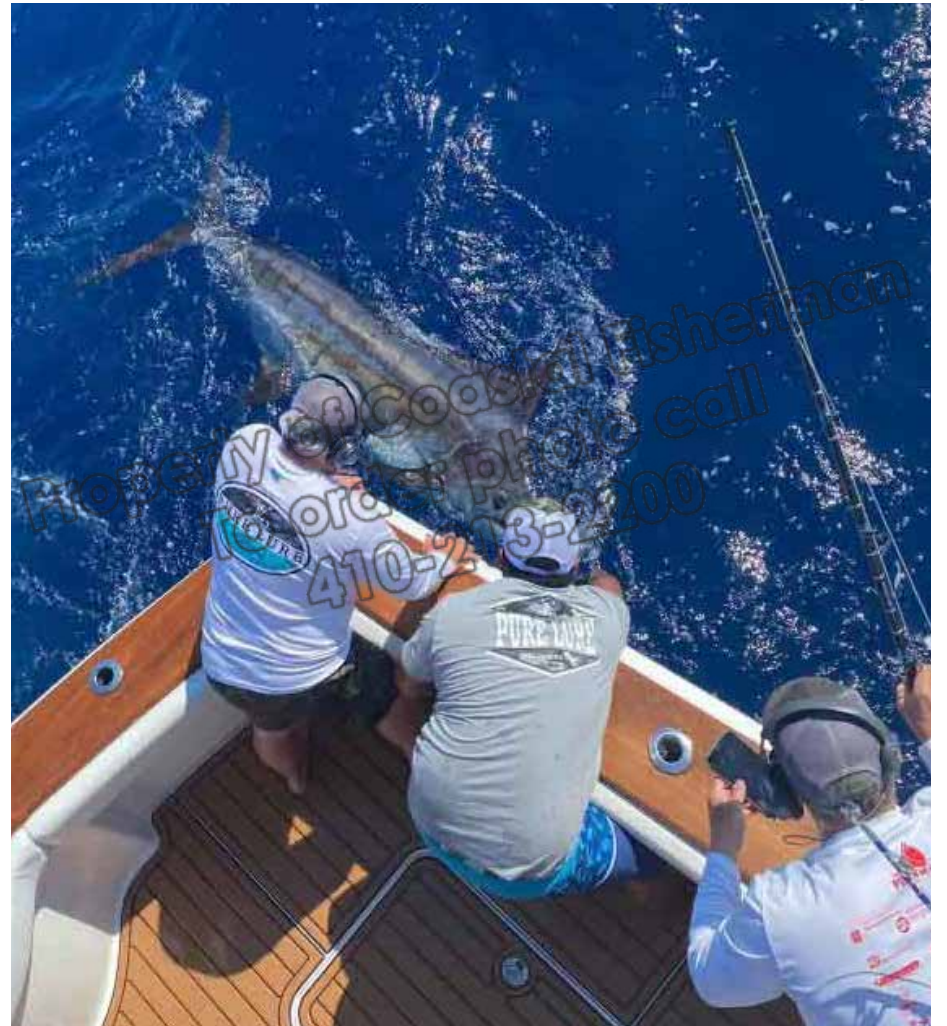
83" Minimum Fork Length
Female Shortfin Mako

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Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



Little does Joseph Brzostowski realize that this 8" striper he caught, first fish ever, will set him on a course of extensive tackle purchases and larger boats! His was fishing on his current boat, and most likely to be upgraded soon, the "Ditch Wizard" in the Indian River Inlet using a 3 oz. jig head.



Local Ocean City Boat "Kilo Charlie" with Capt. Howard Lynch is in Moorehead City, NC prepping for the Big Rock Tournament in June. Fishing over 3 days anglers Chris Kinsley, Pete Pendleton and mate Burro Gonzales used 2 teaser lines with a 6 line spread of 4 Black Bart lures and naked mackerels. They connected with 6 blue marlin overall, catching and releasing 2 on the mackerels and 1 on the Black Bart!

An advertisement for GEICO. It features a cartoon green frog wearing an orange life vest on the left. On the right, a fisherman in a yellow shirt and cap is fishing from a boat. The background is a blue ocean with a fish jumping. Text includes "SAVINGS AND SERVICE THAT WILL FLOAT YOUR BOAT" and "GEICO LOCAL OFFICE". Contact information for Anne Scharp is provided.

An advertisement for PY Marine. It features two images of boats: a white Cape Horn boat and a white Solace boat. The text includes "The MID-ATLANTIC'S Choice for CAPE HORN, SOLACE & YELLOWFIN BOATS". It lists services like "Fuel • Slips • Factory Trained Technicians" and "Mobile Service". Logos for Yamaha, Suzuki, and Mercury are shown at the bottom.



Spending a big chunk of my winter working as a backcountry guide down south where all we do is cast, I've had the opportunity to watch thousands of anglers making countless casts under all kinds of conditions and have definitely witnessed the good, the bad, and the downright ugly side of what can be done with a fishing rod. I've also learned that while most anglers are able to cast reasonably well under ideal conditions, it's a different story when someone's trying to pitch a one ounce bucktail into a five square foot patch of water 25-yards away with other boats to the left, trees to the right, and a strong wind in their face!

Although not always the most important factors to consider when casting to fish, achieving good distance and accuracy are certainly two aspects that many fishermen struggle with, and though the actual technique of how someone makes a cast (how they hold the rod, how they push through, where the rod is pointed when the forward push is stopped, and how the line is released) is critical to getting the bait or lure out to where it needs to be, equally and sometimes more important to making a successful cast that will catch a fish is being able to make

adjustments to compensate for the effects of wind and other external variables. With that in mind, here's a few tips anglers might wish to consider when casting conditions are less than ideal.

Wind can be good and bad

I'm guessing that not too many anglers head out to go fishing with the hopes that there will be a good breeze that day. Obviously, windy conditions makes for choppy water which can be problematic enough for anglers, trying to cast on a breezy day can be downright frustrating, particularly for someone who is trying to pitch baits or lures with any kind of distance or accuracy. But as much as wind can be a detriment, it can also be an ally for fishermen who know how to use it to their advantage or should I say, how to "play the wind."

Wind affects casts in many ways, it will hold a cast back going directly into it and it will push it left or right when casting across it. Something large and light will always be the most difficult to cast in the wind, while small and heavy will be the easiest. Imagine trying to cast a wiffleball tied to the end of your line compared to casting a golfball. Regardless

of wind speed or direction, variations in size and weight of baits and lures must always be taken into account, and anglers must realize that sometimes they will not be able to use what they "want" to fish with as much as what they "can" fish with considering the conditions.

I have a 6" solid balsa popper that catches a lot of fish, but under ideal conditions the best I can cast it is maybe 50-yards. I have another popper of the exact same dimensions that has a weighted core and will cast more than twice as far. It's not as effective at catching fish but will really reach out when they're far away. So even though it's not as effective once it hits the water, when the wind is blowing hard into my face and I need to cover some distance I'll go for the heavier plug because at least it will be where the fish are. The difference here has nothing to do with air resistance but how much the weight of the lure loads (flexes) the rod allowing the heavier plug to punch through the wind.

Playing the wind

Just like any sport where objects are thrown, shot, or hurtled through the air, anglers attempting to make accurate casts must be able to "play the wind" if they want their bait or lure to land on target. The longer and higher the cast the more air time it will have and the more the wind will push it off course and, therefore, the further into the wind the angler will need to lead

the cast. Big and very light baits or lures are also affected by the wind more than something that's small and heavy. For instance; a bucktail or a spoon will be affected by the wind much more than a Hopkins lure or diamond jig. Anglers must also remember that the line also creates wind resistance so heavy mono is going to be blown around more than a thinner braided line.

The longer a cast is in the air the more the wind will affect it. So, on breezy days anglers can minimize the effects of wind if they keep their casts as low (horizontal) as possible, particularly when they are trying to punch a cast directly into the wind. However, anyone can look like a distance casting champ when they have a strong wind at their back, and it's the one situation where anglers will want to do a "high-hanging" cast in order to get maximum air time and allow the breeze to have its way with their rig. A tail wind will grab not only what's tied to the end of the line but also the line itself and add more than just a few yards to the cast.

The downside of a high downwind cast is what happens when the large rainbow-like arch of line hits the water and creates a bunch of slack between the angler and their bait or lure which will have to be quickly taken up before the lure can be properly worked. An effective technique to minimize the slack in the water is to "feather the spool" or close the reel's bail before the

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 bait or lure hits the water. By slowing or stopping the outflow of line while it's still in the air, the extra slack will be taken up by the forward momentum of the bait or lure, add a few more feet to the cast, and allow the angler to get their offering moving the moment it hits the water.

Feathering the spool

Particularly when casting close to piers, shorelines, bridges or other objects, it's not uncommon for anglers to overshoot their cast and end up hitting and/or snagging the obstacle. Upon realizing that the trajectory of their cast is too long, anglers will often quickly pull their rod back in a futile attempt to slow or stop the momentum of the cast. The best way to keep a cast from going too far is to "feather" the line going out by applying light pressure (with the index finger) to the rim of the spinning reel's spool. With varying amounts of pressure the line can be slowed a little, a lot, or stopped altogether. Feathering is one technique anglers can use to drop a bait or lure exactly where it needs to be.

Cast beyond target and bring it in

The flip side of trying to shorten a cast is when anglers purposefully cast beyond the target and then crank the bait or lure back in toward it. Casting across and beyond the target is particularly helpful for fishermen who don't necessarily have the casting skills to drop the bait or lure exactly where they want it to be every time. As long as they have a decent left and right aim, they can still get their offering where it needs to be. Often this type of cast is the best bet anyway because it allows that angler to swim the bait or lure to the fish they're trying to catch rather than spooking it by plunking lead and line right down on its head.

No matter what type of fishing they "normally" do, sooner or later every fisherman will find themselves in a situation where they need to cast a bait or lure, and while casting isn't for every fisherman - every fisherman needs to know at least the basics of how to cast.



OC local Forrest Bleinberger from M.R. Ducks was invited by Capt. Donnie White to ride along the "Sea Wolf" out of Wanchese, NC last week. They were fortunate to connect with this 109", 476 lbs. blue marlin on an Ilander and ballyhoo that took over an hour to get to the boat. Unfortunately it did not survive the fight.

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9 year old Levi Layfield of Georgetown DE is almost crushed by this 56" black drum he caught with Bill Hocker of Lewes, DE & Rodney Layfield of Georgetown, DE in the Delaware Bay on hard crab! They also caught and released a 48" drum as well.



Family fishing is the best, especially with young children. Coah and Cade Harrington were even luckier since their uncle is Capt. Jason Mumford of the charter boat "Lucky Break"! They caught their limit of bluefin in the south Ocean City bay on a trip for their 6th birthday.

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The first thresher shark of the season for DE arrived last Wednesday! Wade Sartorial, Jay Fredericks and Josh Forsburg of Williamsport PA fished on the Capt Ike II. Capt. Dave Collins said they caught the 309 lb. thresher at the 20 fathom line using whole bunker and bunker chum. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em at the Indian River Marina.



Capt. Shawn Arters with mate Alex Arters and anglers Vince Arters, Anthony Arters and J. Emmert caught 2 mature black drum in the Delaware Bay off of Broad Kill Beach while fishing on Shawn's Tidewater 23ft CC, "Full Send". This 44" and 54 lb. fish caught by J. Emmert went for chowder clams and was caught in 12' of water.

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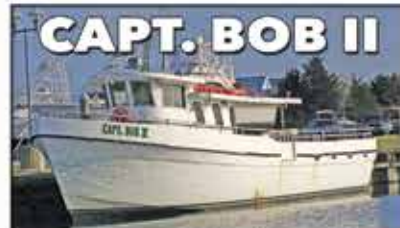
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Angler Sharon Abel from Ocean View, DE was not messing around when she and Brian Broskoskie went fishing in the Indian River Bay! She dominated the action landing this 22" w flounder while drifting with a minnow and squid combo. Extra credit for the Los Sueños hat.



Capt. John Czerwinski and mate Imants Stiebris had a nice surprise while fishing on the "Credence" at the Del Jersey reef site! They were jigging for sea bass when John thought he got snagged, that was until the "snag" started shaking his head! After a nice fight he boated this cod as well as a dozen nice sea bass and releasing another 2 dozen.

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Memorial day Week/Weekend
This is the start of our tourist season and with all of last year's closures, the weekend was expected to be packed. And the weekend was. Unfortunately mother nature had other plans for this weekend. High winds and rain started and ran through the weekend forcing many charter and headboats to cancel the weekend trips. Those that got out early in the week were rewarded with some great fishing both in the surf as well as on the near shore wrecks.

Sea Bass

Sea bass remains strong with lots of limits coming over the rails of both private as well as charter and headboats. The Judy V reports some nice sea bass being caught on their trips. Several reports of 3-5 lb. fish are coming in as water remains cool for this time of year. This week started out warm but a definite chill came at the end of the week. By late Thursday reports of big seas and high winds kept many anglers at the dock. Those that ventured offshore found a fast drift and most elected to anchor on wrecks. The wrecks produced a steady catch of sea bass. Fresh clam is the bait of choice this week with salted clam, squid and sand

fleas being a close second. Lewes Harbour reports sea bass are thick as thieves. When anglers can get out they are rewarded with coolers of fish to take home.

Flounder

Flounder are starting to show up at A Buoy and the nearshore coral areas. Several reports of flounder are coming in with most fish being under size. An occasional keeper is being caught mostly on squid and minnow mix. The area by B Buoy has started to produce some keeper sea bass as well as a few flounder. This is a very positive sign as it seems our water is starting to warm up. Over the next couple of weeks we should see a big increase in flounder over the 16.5" limit. In the Delaware Bay flounder is open and reports from Lewes Marina are that flounder are being caught on the shoals. Big Gulp baits are accounting for most of these fish. Lewes Canal is still the hot place for flounder this week as several big fish have come into the docks mostly on big bull minnows. Lewes Harbour has tons of live ones for sale! They also sell minnow aeration buckets to keep them alive if you don't have a livewell. The northern areas of the canal are the most targeted but also the

most crowded. The area by the marina is also producing some good fish so I would try there before fighting the crowds up north of the inlet. The bridge on the south side has also produced a few rockfish. Most of these fish are undersized but still fun on light tackle or on a fly rod. The Indian River bay area has been picking up in reports of keeper flounder. Most of these fish are coming from the main channel area out front of the VFW.

Rockfish, Blued & Sharks

This past week saw a few more sharks being caught however most are still very far off shore. Inshore dogfish sharks are starting to show up everywhere. Thresher sharks and dusky sharks should be the next to arrive on the nearshore humps and wrecks. As for rockfish this week was slow, however, a few keeper fish have been reported. Henry Busby caught and released a 37" striper while fishing the cast for a cure surf fishing tournament. A few other reports of stripers in the surf have come in, however, the surge of fish moving north after the spawn seems to be over. The inlet area of Indian River is still producing some bluefish at night but reports of rockfish were very scarce. Bluefish are

www.coastalfisherman.net being caught on cut bait, lures and top water plugs. Casting along the rocks on the south side appears to be the best location. These fish stay close to the rocks in the deeper trough that runs alongside it. Tip of the week... Try drifting one bait mid way down the water column while throwing a top water plug. This actions simulates birds working the top while bait is below. The top water plug simulating injured baitfish or birds is usually the ticket to get stubborn bluefish or stripers to bite.

Surf Fishing

The Cast for A Cure Team Surf Tournament was held this past week with 21 teams participating. A total of 84 kingfish over 11" were scored. This is a great start for the kingfish season. Team Reel Women placed first with 342 points. Spot are also showing up in the surf which should help to bring the bigger fish closer to the beach.

Clams & Crabs

What a difference a week makes. This week my pots showed very few pregnant females and lots of big male keepers. My average this week was about 14 keepers per pot. Deeper water in the 6' range is the best place to target bigger pots of crabs. Clamming has picked up but the clams are not as deep as in past weeks.

Until next time
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The headboat "Judy V" moored at the Indian River Marina is still on the sea bass! On this trip the initial fast drift was not so productive so Capt. Christopher Adams decided to anchor on an ocean structure instead and got into the fish!



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Jordan Badorrek of Westminster MD is all smiles after catching this 17" flounder while drifting with Gulp at the Rt. 90 Bridge while fishing with Eric Badorrek on a beautiful day.



Capt. Rich Watts is pumped up to catch this monster speckled trout in the Tangier Sound using a soft body Bass Assassin shad lure.

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2021 CAST FOR A CURE TEAM SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Benefiting the Tunnell Cancer Center Special Needs Fund



Congratulations to team "Reel Women" for taking first place in the Cast for a Cure 2021 Team Surf Fishing Tournament! The "Reel Women" scored a total of 342 points posting a whopping 28 scoring kingfish. Pictured are Donna Guttridge and Anita Chandler accepting the trophies on behalf of fellow team mates Kelsey Cycyk and Tricia Wolters. Pictured at Just Hooked in Fenwick Island, DE with custom trophies by Brandy Timmons.



Team "OTW Sandsticks" took Second Place in the Cast for a Cure 2021 Team Surf Fishing Tournament! Team "OTW" posted a total of 145 points during the one day event. Pictured is Scott M. Aiken accepting the trophies for teammates Chris Barton (attending by phone!), Guy Miller and Frank Holland. Pictured at Just Hooked in Fenwick Island, DE with custom trophies by Brandy Timmons.



Capt. Shawn Arters with mate Alex Arters and anglers Vince Arters, Anthony Arters and J. Emmert caught 2 mature black drum in the Delaware Bay off of Broad Kill Beach while fishing on Shawn's Tidewater 23 ft. CC, "Full Send". This 46" and 57 lb. fish caught by Alex went for chowder clams and was caught in 12' of water.

Pick Up your Coastal Fisherman at these Locations

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

WEST OCEAN CITY

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

BERLIN

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

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

- Fenwick Tackle
- Mancini's Italian Restaurant
- Fenwick Hardware
- Bayside Liquors
- Food Lion Rt.54
- North Bay Marina
- Royal Farms Rt. 54
- BP Gas Station Rt. 54
- Harris Teeter
- Rt.113 Boat Sales

INDIAN RIVER

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

DEWEY, REHOBOTH & LEWES

- Lewes Harbour Marina
- Lewes Ice House Bait & Tackle
- ACME - Rt. 1
- Fisherman's Wharf

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

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

LONG NECK

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



2021 CAST FOR A CURE TEAM SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT



Team "No Time To Poop!" took Third Place and most unusual team name in the 2021 Cast for a Cure Team Surf Fishing Tournament. Team "No Time to Poop" are Bill Wiechardt, Debbie Wiechardt, Lydia A Schmierer, and Keith Schmierer! Pictured at Just Hooked in Fenwick Island, DE with custom trophies by Brandy Timmons.

Tournament sponsored by: Delaware Fisherwomen and Old Inlet Bait and Tackle

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2019 24' St. James Boatworks - Call Jimmy Fields



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FLORIDIAN - 1990 60 Custom Carolina Call Jimmy Fields



DEDE V - 2003 60' Hatteras Call Erik Anderson



DONA LUCY 2017 41' Ronin Custom Viking - Call Jimmy Fields



APAVA - 1969 56' Rybovich Call Colton Cunningham



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



THE STREAKER - 2005 44' Gillikin Call Ronnie Fields



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



SOUTHBOUND 2019 30' Grady White Call Jimmy Fields



CHUBBY - 1995 42' Liberty Call Jeff James



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



SINDACO - 2008 33' Ocean Master Call Ronnie Fields



2007 33' Buddy Cannady Call Ronnie Fields



2018 25' Custom Blackfin Call Jimmy Fields



DOUBLE TROUBLE - 2004 35' Marlago Call Terry Layton



2007 28' Southport CC Call John Caselli



1982 34' Crusader Call John Caselli

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