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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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With shots of warmer water seen in the Wilmington and Spencer Canyons last week, you knew there was a good chance that some anglers were going to venture offshore in search of tuna. On Friday, May 8th, the first bluefin tuna of the season was caught by Austin Ensor on the "Mate Trix II" while trolling a skirted ballyhoo in 600 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon. Austin, along with Josh Ensor and Bob Ewers found a 66 to 68-degree temperature break where they hooked this 32-inch, 22 pounder and subsequently released 5 others during their trip.

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Jack Kaeufer of Ocean Pines, MD landed this early season flounder on Saturday while drifting a jighead tipped with a pink Gulp! Swimming Mullet in the channel off Gudelsky Park. Jack was fishing on the "HMS Lucy" when he hooked the 24-inch, 5 lb. flattie. Pictured at Casa Cropper.

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On Saturday, a group of 6 anglers caught some cod and their limit of tautog, including this 9 lb. 8 oz. blackfish boated by Tim Wittig. The tog were eating green crabs in 60-feet of water at an inshore wreck. The anglers were fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



On May 8th, Jenny Shustrick from Hollsopple, PA caught this 11 lb. black drum while fishing with clams from the beach on Assateague Island.



Jessica Shoemaker of Berlin, MD captured this 24 1/2-inch, 5 lb. 6 oz. flounder while drifting minnows in the bay behind Snug Harbor. Jessica was fishing with her dad, Les Shoemaker from Harbor Marine.

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OCEAN CITY FISHING REPORT

BY LARRY JOCK



Well, it is finally beginning to look like the start of the fishing season. After weeks of cold weather and cold water temperatures, both are now on the rise and we are seeing more anglers on the water and more fish in the coolers. Water temperatures in the bay have finally cracked the 60-degree mark and the improvement was especially noted for those chasing flounder.

I am happy to report that the I.G.F.A. has officially approved the 28.8 lb. tautog caught by Ken Westerfeld back in January that set a new All Tackle World Record. Ken caught the fish during a trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound".

Bluefish

The bluefish run this spring has been nothing short of spectacular. The fish are not only plentiful, but they are big, with fish weighing up to 11 lbs. It hasn't been uncommon to see 8 to 10 pounders hitting fresh bait, rubber shads and metal lures in the surf and around the bridges. The action was particularly fast and furious around the Rt. 50 Bridge over the weekend with a mix of snappers and choppers biting hard as long as the water was moving. The incoming tide seemed to be more productive than the outgoing.

Flounder

As mentioned earlier, with water temperatures on the rise, we saw some much improved flounder fishing last week. I'm not sure if it was an influx of fish or just more folks on the water, but we definitely saw more flatties at the dock.

Scott Peter's led the way with a 7 lb. 4 oz. flounder caught on Sunday morning around the Rt. 90 Bridge. Every spring, this area seems to be one of the best spots for early season flounder fishing. Scott was using the old tried and true



The area around the Rt. 90 Bridge has been one of the better spots for catching flounder this spring and Scott and Ella Peters were there on Sunday morning to hooked this pair of flatties while using live minnows for bait. The anglers were fishing on the "Gretchen Ann" with Scott's fish leading the way at 25 3/4-inches and 7 lbs. 4 oz. Weighed at Bahia Marina.

minnow for bait, but the Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet in pink or white was also an effective bait for flatties.

On Saturday, Jack Kaeufer landed a nice 5 pounder on a pink Swimming Mullet in the West Channel off Gudelsky Park.

We also saw flounder caught in the bay behind Assateague Island where on Sunday, Jessica Shoemaker caught a 5 lb. 6 oz. flattie behind Snug Harbor. Jessica was also using minnows for

bait.

The Thorofare is also heating up for flounder

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fishermen, especially those who are bump trolling across the flats. This is a very effective method for flounder fishing, especially in shallow water since it gives you more control to work the channel edges.

Tautog & Cod

The dense, all day fog over the 3-day weekend prevented a lot of anglers from heading to ocean structure, but early in the week we saw some nice catches. On Wednesday, Capt. Kane on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" had a couple of boat limit days with fish up to 16.4 lbs. Capt. Monty Hawkins on the "Morning Star" had an interesting day on Wednesday when a slow tog day was helped with 15 cod caught on 19 bites.

On Saturday, Capt. Kane stayed inshore and ended the day with 32 tog caught on green crabs in 60-feet of water on an inshore wreck.

Sea Bass

Finally, the black sea bass season opens on May 15th with a minimum size limit of 12.5-inches and 15 fish per person.

In the Surf

Anglers fishing off Assateague Island and up the coast in North Ocean City and Fenwick Island are seeing an excellent black drum run this spring. Surfcasters had a good week, especially on Friday, where several anglers had a double-digit day. Clams and peeler crabs were the baits of choice for those seeking boomers.

Surfcasters are also catching their fair share of chopper bluefish and the striper bite is heating up, but it isn't at the

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level we are used to seeing this time of year. Is the number of bluefish we are seeing right now effecting the striper run? If anyone has a theory, shoot me an email.

Black Drum

With most of the black drum being caught by surfcasters off the beach, we did see a couple come in from around the Rt. 50 Bridge on Sunday. Hugh Cropper and his son, Hugh Thomas Cropper nailed a pair while fishing with peeler crabs. Both of their drum measured 27 1/2-inches with the largest tipping the scale at 12 lbs. 14 oz.

Tuna

The first bluefin tuna of the year in Ocean City was caught on Friday by Austin Ensor during a trip to 600 fathoms in the Wilmington Canyon. Austin, Josh Ensor and Bob Ewers came across a 66 to 68-degree water temperature break and went 6 for 6 on bluefins, keeping a single 22 pounder.

We did see yellowfins arrive at the dock on Saturday up at the Indian River Marina. Anglers on the "Knock on Wood" took an overnight trip to the Spencer Canyon and caught 5 yellowfins while trolling Friday night on the cold side of a 65 to 72-degree temperature break.

Another group of Indian River anglers ventured to the Wilmington Canyon on Saturday and returned with a 7.5 lb mahi and 31 lb. yellowfin caught on the troll in 65-degree water.

Also on Saturday, Mike Babcock on the "Even Keeliegh" out of Delaware caught a 20 lb. dolphin deep in the Wilmington Canyon in 71-degree water.

Sharks

A couple of boats went searching for sharks over the long weekend.

On Friday, the "Restless Lady" fished in 49-degree water inside the Washington Canyon and ended their day after releasing a small mako

shark and over 20 blue sharks. Capt. Todd reported water temperatures hovering around 59-degrees.

On Saturday, anglers on the "Talk n Trash" had 3 mako shark releases and 2 blue shark releases in 500 fathoms in the Poor Man's Canyon.

Also on Saturday, Dan Bartnick and his buddies were trolling plugs at Isle of Wight Shoal in search of bluefish and ended up releasing a short thresher shark.

Upcoming Tournament

The Ocean City Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament is on the schedule for May 23rd and 24th. This year, organizers have made a few changes to the format, adding calcuttas for mako sharks and tuna. With the number of big bluefish we are seeing this year, plus the additional calcuttas, this could be a very interesting tournament. For more information, log on to the Marlin Club website at www.ocmarlinclub.com.

See you at the scales!

May 13, 2015 Coastal Fisherman Page 7



Tom Nelson was fishing from his kayak in the bay off 19th Street when he hooked this 11 lb. bluefish on a bucktail.

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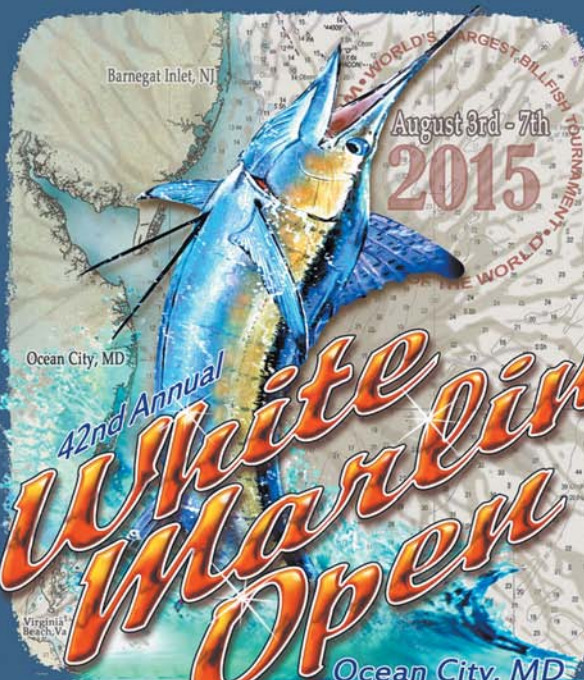
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Numen Bilal from Philadelphia, PA was surf fishing in the fog off Fenwick Island, DE when he caught and released this 31-inch black drum while using sand fleas for bait.



Capitalizing on the best bluefish bite we have seen in many years, Andrew Long caught this pair of 13 pounders while fishing with bucktails tipped with mullet from the bank at Oyster Rocks Road. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Species	2015	2014	Species	2015	2014
 Sea Bass	No Fish Reported	May 19, 2014 Ki Kim "Fish Bound" 2nd Lump	 Mako Shark	March 25, 2015 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" Baltimore Canyon	May 9, 2014 Hayden Christoff "Restless Lady" Poor Man's Canyon
 Tautog	January 2, 2015 Ken Westerfeld "Fish Bound" Ocean Wreck	January 1, 2014 Si Chiarizia "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	 White Marlin	No Fish Reported	June 11, 2014 Jon Henry "No Worries" Baltimore/Poor Man's
 Striped Bass	January 2, 2015 Danny Cox Little Gull	January 2, 2014 Karl Hoelper 130th Street Surf Ocean City	 Blue Marlin	No Fish Reported	June 16, 2014 Crew "Boss Hogg" Baltimore Canyon
 Weakfish	No Fish Reported	April 22, 2014 Tom Burke Broadkill Beach	 Bluefin Tuna NEW	May 8, 2015 Austin Ensor "Matetrix II" Wilmington Canyon	May 19, 2014 Ed Comley "Out-Rea-Geous" Baltimore Canyon
 Flounder	April 17, 2015 Jeff Purdy Lewes Canal	January 3, 2014 Stanley He "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	 Yellowfin Tuna NEW	May 8, 2015 Tony Burr "Knock on Wood" Spencer Canyon	May 18, 2014 Tim McGuire "Nontypical" Balt/Wilm Canyon
 Bluefish	April 18, 2015 Mike Hastings Assateague Surf	May 7, 2014 Big Bird Cropper South Jetty	 Longfin Tuna	No Fish Reported	June 14, 2014 Mike Watts "Second Chance" Poor Man's Canyon
 Black Drum	April 17, 2015 Tom Nelson Assateague Surf	April 9, 2014 Bill Powell Assateague Surf	 Bigeye Tuna	No Fish Reported	May 27, 2014 Jacquelyn Keeney "Seaduction" 461 Lump
 Sheepshead	No Fish Reported	May 26, 2014 Rob Antonucci "OC Guide Service" Assateague Bridge	 Dolphin NEW	May 9, 2015 Drew Holladay Wilmington Canyon	May 26, 2014 Julian Jerry "Lady Luck" 461 Lump
 Thresher Shark	No Fish Reported	May 17, 2014 Joseph Foley "Just Right V" "DB" Buoy	 Wahoo	No Fish Reported	June 9, 2014 Chase Cummings "Moore Bills" Poor Man's Canyon

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200



Beau and Emmy Fibelkorn drummed up these boomers, weighing 20.0 and 36.3 lbs., while baiting with clams in shallow water off Fowler Beach. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Tom Tatum, columnist for the *Coastal Hunter*, was drifting a minnow and Gulp! combination in the Thorofare when he captured this 17-inch flounder in 10-feet of water. Tom was fishing on the "Open Debate" and reported water temperatures hovering around 60-degrees.

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Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	36"	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
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Keith Lipton from Millsboro, DE was tossing a Rat-L-Trap lure in the Rehoboth Bay and hooked into this pair of bluefish with the largest weighing 12 lbs. on the scale at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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Mason Newsham muscled in this 15 lb. 13 oz. bluefish while casting jigs inside Cape Henlopen. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Zach Belcher was tossing a Storm shad from the jetty at the Indian River Inlet when he connected with this 30-inch striper. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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CHUM LINES

BY CAPT. MARK SAMPSON



A couple weeks ago there was a lot of hoopla about a great white shark known as "Mary Lee" that was reported to be swimming a few miles off Assateague Island. A lot of folks were wondering if the account was real because they just couldn't comprehend that a white shark like the one in the movie "Jaws," could possibly be swimming around in our very own backyard waters. At 13-feet and roughly 3,500 pounds, Mary Lee is not quite as big as the fictional shark from the movie, but she's still a pretty massive critter - and she's real!

We know that Mary Lee was off Assateague Island that day thanks to a satellite transmitter that researchers from the Osearch team attached to her dorsal fin in September 2012 off Massachusetts. Since then, every time the shark's fin has broken the surface, the satellite SPOT (smart position and temperature) tag broadcasted a signal that was picked up by satellites. Unlike GPS units that "receive" signals from multiple satellites to determine a location, SPOT tags "transmit" a signal that is picked up by multiple satellites which then allows folks on earth to determine the location of the transmission.

In the last two and a half

years, Mary Lee has become somewhat of a superstar among sharks, not only with the researchers, but also with millions of internet viewers around the world following her amazing wanderings around the Atlantic. She has been "SPOTed" anywhere from hundreds of miles offshore to sometimes "uncomfortably" close to the beaches of coastal communities.

Her recent trek past Assateague was not the first time Mary Lee has paddled through the waters off Delmarva.

The Osearch team has tagged numerous great whites, as well as other species of sharks off the U.S. coast and other parts of the world. One of them, a 12-foot, 1,000-pound tiger shark gained a lot of publicity of its own last August when it surfaced long enough for the satellites to locate it in our Assawoman Bay, just below the Rt.90 Bridge. Known as "Septima", the tiger surfaced a couple times that day and was not heard from again until it transmitted off the coast of Delaware a couple of days later. Understandably, more than just a few folks were glad to know that the shark was back out in the ocean!

Providing us with entirely new insights about the natural

movements of sharks throughout their life, the information being generated by the sharks that have been fitted with SPOT transmitting tags is both important and fascinating. Until recently, few would have thought that a large tiger shark might be in our bay or that large great white sharks travel past our coast, 12-months out of the year, but the evidence is there to show that it is happening!

Another fantastic benefit of this research is that the public has been able to watch it first hand by logging on to the Osearch website. After choosing the particular shark they wish to track, viewers will see a map of the earth and be able to follow individual sharks from the time they were first tagged until the present, or at least until they stop transmitting. Every day that the shark surfaces and pings a satellite, their location and date is posted on the map so folks are able to see exactly where the animal has been. Of course, since sharks don't necessarily visit the surface every day, viewers may occasionally note days or even weeks when there is no location information because the shark is staying deep and then one day it pops up in some distant part of the ocean. Like all research, some answers just lead to more questions!

Even though at least a few subjects of their studies have wiggled their way through our waters, the Osearch team has yet to do any actual tagging off Delmarva. There is, however, another shark research group

www.coastalfisherman.net that has been tagging and tracking sharks with the use of satellite SPOT tags for a number of years, and in the last two has used Ocean City as a port to work out of. This tagging project is a collaboration of researchers from the Guy Harvey Research Institute, Nova Southeast University and the University of Rhode Island. While the team travels to other areas to tag oceanic whitetips and tiger sharks, they came to Ocean City in 2013 and 2014 to tag makos and will return again this month with the same goal.

I've been privileged to be a part of this team and to be able to provide my boat, the "Fish Finder" and my shark fishing experience to help guide the researchers to the makos. This year's SPOT tagging project begins on May 15th and will run until the end of the month.

In 2013 we tagged five makos and in 2014 we tagged eight. This year, the researchers hope to tag 20 makos so we've set aside the entire last two weeks of the month to meet that goal.

Of course, before any tagging is done, the first thing we have to do is to "catch the mako" and for that we employ the standard procedures of chumming and fishing baits from sportfishing rods and reels. When we get a bite, the designated angler will fight the shark to the boat as the rest of the team makes final preparation for the tagging procedure. Once the shark is alongside the boat the real work begins.

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are quickly and easily clamped or darted into a fish, SPOT tag transmitters are literally "bolted" on to the dorsal fin of a shark. Therefore, the process requires that the shark be lifted out of the water and immobile for a few minutes so that the fin can be drilled and the tag properly attached. Obviously completing this task with a very much alive mako that might weigh from "one" to a "few hundred" pounds is tricky business! Fortunately, over the years we've developed some special tools and procedures that allow us to carry out the tagging process quickly (usually in 6 to 8 minutes) and most importantly, "safely" for both shark and crew. Just as we don't want anyone to get hurt, we also don't want to put a few thousand dollar SPOT tag on a shark that doesn't survive the encounter!

This year's mako tagging project will run May 15th to May 28th. With 20 tags to deploy we have our work cut out for us and we hope local anglers will lend a hand by joining us aboard the "Fish Finder" as a helper, angler and/or sponsor. For \$350 per person/per day, members of the public (4 each day) can join myself, my 1st mate and two shark researchers to help catch, tag and release mako sharks. This is an incredible opportunity for members of the public to be a part of a very unique research project. More details are available on our BigSharks.com website or by calling me at 410-726-7946.

Anyone who wishes to follow the daily tracks of our makos can find a link to the tracking site on my BigSharks.com website. From the right side of my homepage click on the "Shark Tracking" tab then click "Go to the tracking site >> here" which will take you to the "Choose a Project Page" where you should select option #3 "W. North Atlantic." Then select any of the sharks on the right side of the screen to follow, their sponsor name or number is listed below along with a few details about each shark.

Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and Captain of the charter boat, "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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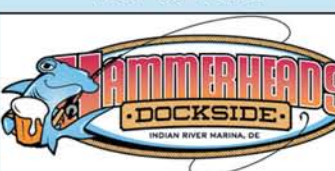
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Michelle Schaffer is all smiles after landing this chunky 19-inch tautog while fishing with green crabs at the Outer Wall with Phil Falgowski. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Bob Hilton of Millsboro, DE was fishing a Storm lure in the Indian River Inlet when he tangled with this 19 lb. 8 oz. bluefish... and won! Bob weighed the bruiser at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



Joe Hosler was fishing from his kayak off Cape Henlopen State Park when he came across a school of bluefish that put his tackle to the test for a good 3 hours. The fish were running as close as 3-feet under Joe's kayak where he hooked them on metal lures. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop.



The flounder bite in the Lewes Canal is definitely on the upswing and Tom Ermak and John Belusko were there to capture 4 flatties up to 22-inches. The flounder were fooled with jigheads tipped with minnows. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Tautog Management Could Change to Regional Approach

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Tautog Management Board has approved the development of an amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The amendment will explore the establishment of new regional stock areas and associated reference points. The amendment will propose two options for regional stock boundaries, each with three regional stock units. The first option will include the following regions: Massachusetts to Rhode Island, Connecticut to New Jersey, and Delaware to North Carolina. The second option will include Massachusetts to Connecticut, New York to New Jersey, and Delaware to North Carolina.

The regional options are based on the findings and recommendations of the 2015 Tautog Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report. Unlike previous assessments, which assessed the stock on a coastwide basis, the 2015 assessment evaluated stock status regionally to reflect differences in life history characteristics and harvest patterns. The three-region approach balances a smaller geographical scale and data integrity, while also reducing the risk of overfishing.

As the first step in the amendment process, staff will begin to draft a Public Information Document for Board consideration at the Commission's Summer Meeting in August. The PID will gather information concerning the tautog fishery and resource and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of this species. The PID will also seek input on the public's preferred regional breakdown.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703-842-0740.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Tony Burr from Newark, DE, Dave Woods from Northeast, MD and Ron Fulton from Oxford, PA took an overnight trip to the Spencer Canyon last weekend aboard the "Knock on Wood" and returned with the first yellowfin tunas of the season. The anglers boated 5 yellowfins with the largest 4 weighing between 35 and 40 lbs. All were caught while trolling ballyhoo on Friday night.



Thomas, Joseph and Tommy Distefano joined up with Dean, Madeleine and Michelle Lawrence for a trip aboard the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens and ended their day with their limit of stripers after fishing below Calvert Cliffs in the Chesapeake Bay. The anglers hooked the 40+ inch stripers on tandem parachute rigs in 60-feet of water.



This is one tired group of anglers after taking a trip on the charter boat, "Marli" with Capt. Mark Hoos and mate Mark Stephens. The guys had over 30 bites and hooked 20 stripers on tandem and umbrella rigs in front of the Gas Docks in the Chesapeake Bay. Their 6 keepers all measured over 40-inches and were caught in 55 to 65-feet of water. Pictured are Justin Riner, John Dimare, Jason Widgeion, Tyler Budd, Denny Johnson and Thomas Hill.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



John French landed this mahi, estimated to weigh around 20 lbs., while fishing on the "Even Keeliegh" with Mike Babcock, Dan Walls, Scott Stapelford and Albert Leitzell. The female mahi was hooked deep in the Wilmington Canyon on a DeSeaver lure in 71-degree water.



On Saturday, Drew Holladay and Brad Cave, both from Dagsboro, DE, arrived at the Indian River Marina with a 7.5 lb. mahi and a 31 lb. yellowfin tuna. Both were caught on trolled ballyhoo in 65-degree water in the Wilmington Canyon. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Henry Kong headed south from New Jersey for some tautog fishing on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" and hooked this 16 lb. 6 oz. beast in 50-feet of water on an inshore wreck. Henry released the fish in 54-degree water during his trip with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley.



College buddies, Becky Cerva from Fairfax, VA and Harrison Siegal from Marietta, GA caught their limit of 6 tautog (4 pictured) while fishing on the headboat, "Judy V" with Capt. Roger Meekins and mate Chris Adams. The duo caught the tog with sand fleas and clams on ocean structure where they also caught some keeper size sea bass that they had to throw back since they are not in season. Pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



It's a good thing that Rickie Adkins from Seaford, DE had some strong tackle when he hooked into this 37-inch, 14 lb. 13 oz. chopper bluefish while fishing with mullet in the Broadkill River. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop in Lewes, DE.



On May 3rd, Ryan Townsend was surfcasting with fresh bunker off Assateague Island when he tangled with this 36-inch striped bass during a trip with his dad, Patrick Townsend.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Students in the Berlin Intermediate School's After School Fishing Academy had a great trip fishing on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins, catching, tagging and releasing numerous tautog while dropping on ocean structure. Pictured are Cody Hall, Zack Tronosky, Gavin Shaffer, Bruce Travers, Keegan Stever, Daniel Juarez, Morgan Echols, Francesca Richwalski and Diana Jolley.



Vicki Welsh was tossing a Yo-Zuri plug near the Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal when she hooked into this 33-inch, 13 lb. 2 oz. bluefish.

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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Back in mid-April, James Hajek caught this 17-inch tautog in the Ocean City Inlet while fishing with crab legs left over from last year. James said that the water temperature was 58-degrees.



Ronnie Rodimak from Selbyville, DE caught a pair of nice size stripers last week while surfcasting from the beach at 3R's Road. On Wednesday, Ronnie landed a 44-inch (top) and followed that up on Saturday with a 44 1/2-inch linesider (bottom), with both caught on fresh bunker.

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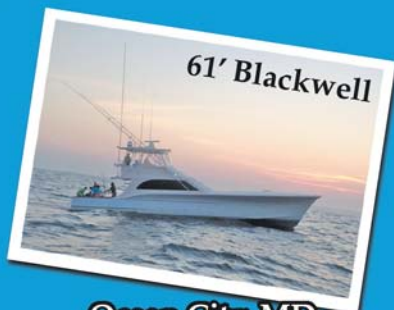
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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



On Friday, Justin Grynovicki of Baltimore, MD boated this 22-inch flounder during a trip aboard the flounder headboat, "Bay Bee" with Capt. Cale Layton and mate Heather Dabroski. Justin hooked the flattie on a bucktail tipped with a Gulp! Swimming Mullet in the bay behind Assateague Island. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Timothy Yoder from Dover, DE (17"), John Welsh from Waynesboro, PA (16.5") and Jason Delgavio from Parkville, MD (16.5") returned to the Ocean City Fishing Center with flounder and bluefish in their coolers after an afternoon on the headboat, "Bay Bee" with Capt. Cale Layton and mate Heather Dabroski. All of the fish were caught in the bay behind Marsh Harbor in 63-degree water.

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BAY FISHING CHARTERS



On Friday, Jeff Garner of Manheim, PA caught this 21 1/2-inch flounder on a white Gulp! Swimming Mullet and minnow combination in the Thorofare. Jeff was fishing on the charter boat, "Get Sum" with Capt. Nick Clemente and mate Brian Behe. The flatie was hooked in 62-degree water during an afternoon trip.



Mike Zak and Cathy Cole from Millsboro, DE caught 3 black drum while fishing from Beach Plum Island (Broadkill Beach) in the Delaware Bay. Their largest fish measured 37 1/2-inches and weighed 33 lbs. 11 oz. Pictured at Bill's Sport Shop.

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Gavin Shaffer of Ocean Pines, MD caught a pair of flounder, measuring 16 and 22-inches, while drifting minnows over the flats, south of the Rt. 90 Bridge. Gavin was fishing with this dad, Jeremy Shaffer.

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A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

BY CAPT. MONTY HAWKINS



Ocean City Reef Foundation (Part II)

Small-scale & low-budget; back in the early days, the Ocean City Reef Foundation was basically looking for scrap, looking for ways government or corporations can save money by reefing material rather than scraping or landfilling.

When we recycle, coral grows. Flip-flops for safety gear and wages that top-out well below fifty cents an hour, foreign ship-breaking (recycling in its most grand scale) has been called "hell on earth." When the world first became aware most ship-breaking was only being made profitable by child & near-slave labor in Bangladesh, there was suddenly greater interest in reefing Uncle Sam's ships rather than scraping them for steel, especially after Congress made it illegal to send U.S. flagged vessels to slave labor yards.

The uptick in ship availability was short lived. Ship breakers on the West Coast put an incredible effort into lobbying for mandatory U.S. based ship-breaking. By posing as "concerned environmentalists", now taxpayers have to pay U.S. wages for something only made profitable by slave-labor. We may not sensibly recycle our ships as reefs because lobbying efforts bore down on EPA regulations to the point where cleaning a ship for a reef project is far too expensive for all but the biggest programs.

Just a glimpse of the horrors of WWII were seen right off our coast when the "San Gill", "Atwater", "Moonstone" and others were sunk by German U-Boats. Those shipwrecks, and more-recent tragedies such as the "Marine Electric" and "Bow Mariner", serve today as unbelievable reef oases' on our near-barren sea floor. Some of these ships were lost so swiftly there was no time for their crews to even abandon ship. Among any of our war relics and accidental ship sinkings, there was never opportunity to spend

multi-multi millions on cleaning.

A program of sensible ship cleaning followed by live-fire target practice for our armed forces could blossom into unbelievable new biological production resulting in new fish production. While the value of recycled steel does offset wages paid for U.S. ship-breaking, it's only a tiny amount. No consideration has truly been given to what increases in marine productivity might offer the states and their waterfront communities compared to money directly lost recycling steel while paying U.S. wages and following U.S. safety regulations.

Every study to date has found enormous bio-economic benefit from reef building. For now, however, reef building with ships is out of the question in the Mid-Atlantic given today's EPA regulations.

Well, if sinking ships as artificial reef is out, what's left?

Concrete & rocks!

We think of shipwrecks as the ultimate in artificial reef because they are what survived the rise of industrial fishing. When natural reef was being lost in square mile sections to stern-towed commercial gears in the 1950's, 60's and 70's, the discovery of more and more shipwrecks in that same period made overall landings of reef fish appear steady.

Incredibly robust and productive, a large shipwreck is capable of the same biological production as a far-larger footprint of sandstone or hardened clay natural reef habitat. This is because natural reef bottoms may only emerge a few inches from the seabed. Since a reef's productivity or value as habitat, would best be assessed in cubic measure (a measure that includes UP and not just flat square footage), the distance a shipwreck juts upward is as important or more important than the flat seabed measure in square yards.

Just as we can mimic a natural reef's production with artificially sited natural rock or

man-made material, so too is the possibility of greatly enhanced reef production from within a small footprint not just found in shipwrecks.

Numerous scientific assessments have shown pre-cast concrete products: pipe, junction boxes, spillways and manholes, to offer an environmentally benign and splendidly productive method of reef construction. North Carolina, in fact, has long had a policy of concrete-only for any man-made reef materials.

Reef substrate is the only part that's "artificial" in artificial reef. All the growth and fish are natural with their colonization and population increase quite nearly unstoppable.

As we demonstrated with the "Iron Lady's" pre-cast concrete reef deployments in April 2015, it is possible to create wreck-like elevated reef by simply using a two-anchor set as is common in some of the recreational reef fisheries and letting the reef building boat settle before unloading substrate. You can believe that sitting 100 tons or more of pre-cast concrete on a single specific point will create elevated reef. As pieces mound-up during deployment, some roll off and broaden a reef's footprint. During the first few major storm events, the height of the mound will lessen as well.

The Ocean City Reef Foundation has had to learn how to build productive reef on a budget. While mounding is a new method that we're excited to try, with the exception of the partially state-sponsored subway car program, we've traditionally built small reefs as funding became available and then tied several reef sets together over time with more and more material to create larger reefs.

For instance, on our very first experimental deployment, with approximately 60 tons of concrete pipe aboard the "Iron Lady", we set several marker buoys around a series of brick kilns donated by Chestertown Brick in the early 2000's. These kiln units, while not terribly

large, were astoundingly robust. Their task, after all, had been to carry brick along a rail track through the company's kilns.

We chose an area with about 25 kilns loosely deployed in piles and added the entirety of the "Iron Lady's" cargo to that existing reef. We call this particular reef-set the George Purnell Family Reef. It should rapidly become far more productive.

Also at Purnell's Reef, we sited two large mounds of pre-cast concrete. Both of these mammoth piles are sure to become tog fishing favorites.

The "Iron Lady" also built fish habitat at Kelly's Reef, just below the Little Gull Shoal buoy. A barge on the south end, part of Mumford Steel and Mid-Atlantic Marine's reefing donations, was targeted with over 40 small and medium concrete pipes. The north end of the Ben Sykes Reef Group was also given a healthy dose of concrete. A new, unnamed reef lies just inshore. Already begun with Parkside High School welding class units and numerous OCRF small barge deployments, the "Iron Lady" dropped 3 pipe bundles in the midst of this budding reef.

Lastly, there was also a double-anchor set mounded reef built at Kelly's Reef.

We anticipate tautog to flourish along with all of our other reef species at these nearshore sites.

Offshore a bit further at the Isle of Wight Reef Site, now renamed "Sue Foster's Reef," we deployed several hundred tons of pre-cast concrete at Lindsey Power's Reef, which we'd begun several years ago, and also at the brand new concrete mound named in Sue's honor. Perhaps we'll call this spot "Drifting Easy" after Sue's long-time *Coastal Fisherman* column; but it wouldn't be advisable to actually drift over this spot, at least not with Granddad's favorite sinkers..

Finally, as of April 26th, the "Iron Lady" had also made 5 fully-loaded runs to the Bass Grounds. Already begun last year, the Brian Sauerzopf Memorial Reef Group is a loose collection of 11 NYCTA subway cars with a concrete core. The concrete core part has grown dramatically.

Then there is the brand new Lucas Alexander Reef. Sited in

www.coastalfisherman.net

just 41 feet of water in the southeast section of the Bass Grounds, the mound almost reaches our 27-foot minimum clearance requirement. Sure to be popular with free divers and beginning scuba enthusiasts, reef fishers may have to wait in line.

And finally in this series of recent reef deployments, we finished Capt. Bob Gowar's Reef. Consisting of three full loads and part of another, Capt. Bob's will remain a signature reef for many decades. In fact, I anticipate one mound in particular, consisting of close to 50 "tog house" units, will become a model for engineering reef habitat to maximize a fish species' production. I'll let readers guess which species.

Surely the best of our reef building lies ahead, but the Ocean City Reef Foundation has made a substantial contribution to Maryland's coastal fish habitat this spring. Consider that from corner to corner, the Bass Grounds Reef is nearly 4 miles long. If we created a reef of boulder and concrete that full length and several hundred yards wide, we'd still have a fantastic amount of reef left over

to build both there and at all our other sites.

We can only continue a process of habitat improvement begun over 50 years ago. I doubt any generation will ever stand back, take their gloves and hardhat off and say, "We're Done."

If you'd care to help, we could use it.

Capt. Monty Hawkins is Captain of the headboat, "Morning Star" and President of the Ocean City Reef Foundation.

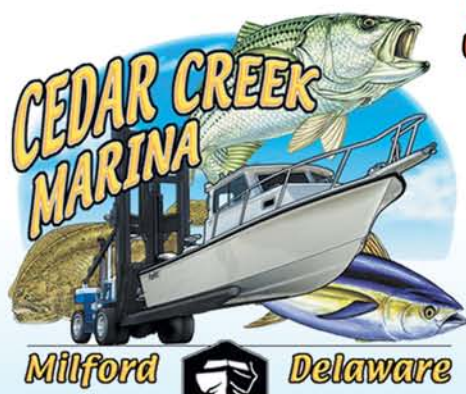
To contribute to the Ocean City Reef Foundation, log on to their website at www.ocreeffoundation.com or stop by the Coastal Fisherman office. For a donation of only \$50 you receive a book containing diagrams and coordinates of all reefs contained in the Ocean City Reef Foundation system. Reefs can also be named in honor of loved ones for as little as \$500

The OCRF will be holding their annual Fundraising Dinner at the Ocean City Marlin Club on Sunday, May 17th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

May 13, 2015 Coastal Fisherman Page 33



Luca Miller had all he could handle when he hooked into this 11 lb. 11 oz. slammer bluefish while fishing with mullet from the Lewes Beach. Luca weighed his catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Hugh Cropper and his son, Hugh Thomas Cropper of West Ocean City, MD spent Mother's Day morning fishing with peeler crabs around the Rt. 50 Bridge where they caught a pair of 27 1/2-inch black drum that weighed 11 lbs. 8 oz. and 12 lbs. 14 oz. They also hooked a 36 1/2-inch striped bass while fishing at the South Jetty.

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- 2015 - 230 LXF Full Tan with F250XA Yamaha 4 Stroke
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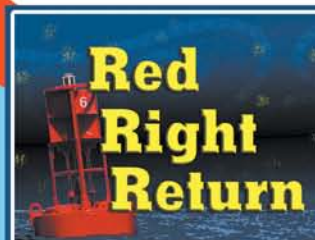
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Kyle Falgowski landed this 8 lb. 6 oz. tautog while using green crabs for bait at the Inner Wall in the Delaware Bay. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Paul Light from Myerstown, PA was drifting minnows in the Thorofare on Saturday and caught this 22-inch flounder.

Register Your Trophy Fish at an official Award Center and be entered into the **2015 Maryland Fishing Challenge** for a chance to win great prizes, like a New Boat and Trailer!



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Delaware's Striped Bass Regulation's Changed on May 11th

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources announced that new recreational striped bass regulations were put into place effective May 11th. The revised regulation brings Delaware into compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan, which now requires a 25-percent reduction in both the recreational and commercial striped bass harvests in 2015. The new regulation reduces recreational harvest through changes in size limits, but maintains Delaware's current seasons and possession limits.

Under the new regulation, a recreational angler is allowed possession of two striped bass per day (in any combination) from 28 to 37 inches or 44 inches or greater, with the season open year-round for all state waters except those covered by the summer slot season or spawning closures. The popular striped bass summer slot season (July 1 to Aug. 31 in the Delaware Bay, Delaware River and their tidal tributaries) remains in place, but with a reduced slot size of 20 to 25 inches. The summer slot season daily possession limit is two fish.

The spawning season closure remains in effect from April 1 through May 31, with no striped bass to be kept from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries north of and including the south jetty of the C&D Canal, or the C&D Canal and its tributaries. Striped bass caught in these areas during spawning season must be immediately released back into the waters.

The commercial striped bass quota for 2015 has automatically been reduced by the required 25 percent in accordance with established regulation procedure.

The notice of an expected regulation change was included in the print version of the 2015 Delaware Fishing Guide, but it did not contain the updated information; the online version of the guide will be updated to include the new size limits at 2015 Delaware Fishing Guide.

May 13, 2015 Coastal Fisherman Page 37

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DELAWARE FISHING REPORT

BY LARRY JOCK



Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said the swarm of slammer bluefish that showed up at the end of April has stuck around, providing area anglers with springtime action like they haven't enjoyed for many years. Bank fishermen continued to hook numerous big blues way up the Broadkill River at Oyster Rocks, and also in the lower River, from Beach Plum Island. Lots were taken on cut bunker and mullet baits, but guys tossing artificials caught more. Twister tails on leadheads, Sassy Shads, bucktails and metal lures all produced. It seemed like the end of flood tide and first of ebb offered up the best bite, but blues were landed during any moving water.

Fish also came from Broadkill Beach, Roosevelt Inlet and Lewes Beach. The hottest action took place inside Cape Henlopen, between the Fishing Pier and the Point. Folks fishing from the sand near the Pier, that has been closed for repairs, got plenty of hookups. Wading anglers did well in the same area. Blues roamed the dropoff edge inside the Inner Wall Lighthouse, and the shallow flats close to shore. Often, boaters found blues in depths of less than 5 feet, very near the beach.

Kayakers had a blast with choppers in skinny water. Blues responded to a variety of offerings as they fed eagerly on bunker in the area. Bucktails tipped with twisters, Storm Shads, Rat-L-Traps and Gator Spoons were popular. The most exciting strikes came for casters working surface plugs, like Chug Bugs, Spooks and Creek Chub Poppers.

Fly rodders found blues more than willing to eat brightly colored streamers.

Some of the citations recorded during the week included Mason Newsham's 15.8 pound alligator, and a 14.4 pounder Scott Jost scored inside the Cape aboard the "Lil' Angler II".

With tog season still open, many boaters chose to make a



This 5 lb. 5 oz. flounder fell at the hands of Howard Bowden while drifting a "Nick's Killer Rig" tipped with shiners in the Lewes Canal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

combo trip out of their day, catching their tautog in the morning, then battling big blues in the afternoon. Captain Carey's Saturday crew on the "Grizzly" captured their limit of chunky tautog from the rockpiles, then moved a short distance to the Cape and added 13 slammer blues to the box, plus a 4 pound flounder that ate an AVA Jig as icing on the cake. Captain Brent did the same for his patrons aboard the "Katydid" on Thursday. They boxed a limit of blackfish then had a ball with blues, keeping nine big choppers for the table. Captain Pete's Wednesday group took home their tog, and 14 slammer blues.

Togging in general was pretty good at the end of Spring season along the Walls and Ice Breakers, as well as on Bay Reefs. Although, strong currents made for tough conditions some days, the bite was limited to a short window around tide

changes. Numerous nice sized tog were pulled from Delaware Bay structure. Tautog season reopens July 17th.

Black drum showed up. Their presence was first reported by commercial netters a couple weeks back, but now they've begun to bite hook and line. Beau and Emmy Fibelkorn anchored between Primehook and Fowler Beaches on Saturday afternoon and boated three boomers weighing up to 36.3 pounds in short order. Mike Zak and Cathy Cole beached three drum up to 34 pounds while fishing clams in the Broadkill surf at the top of flood tide on Friday. Drumfish action should continue to improve through May, peaking before the June 2nd full moon. Joe said the shop will stock surf clams, but suggests calling for bait reservations to ensure you'll have them for your trip.

Striper catches have been

spotty. Barry Price beached a 34-inch that ate a clam in the surf near Herring Point. Kerry Lodish landed a 26.2 pound linesider while tossing a Storm shad from the Indian River Jetty.

Upper Delaware Bay striper fishing was hot, and those fish should start moving down the Bay soon. Wayne DeMarco stopped by early in the week with a brace of bass weighing 21.8 and 19.4 pounds that he hooked by chunking bunker at 6L Buoy.

Flounder were more active in the Lewes Canal after the weather finally warmed up. Young Brayden Coverdale caught his first flounder while fishing the Canal on Tuesday. Brayden and his dad, Larry had three keepers weighing up to 2.9 pounds while drifting shiners on "Nick's Killer Rigs". A pink "Nick's Rig" sweetened with shiners was responsible for the 5.3 pound flattie Howard Bowden boated in front of Lewes Harbour Marina.

Capt. Bert Adams at the Hook'em & Cook'em tackle shop in the Indian River Marina reported bluefish, bluefish and more bluefish in the Indian River Inlet right now. Bert said that they aren't seeing a lot of small blues, but fish up to 15 lbs. are hitting metal lures from anglers casting off the rocks. Big bluefish are so thick that they are even finding them in the bays and in the Broadkill River, giving anglers a chance to catch them from the shoreline.

The other big news out of the Indian River Marina was the 1st yellowfin tunas and mahi of the year showing up on Saturday. The first yellowfins were actually caught on Friday night during an overnight trip by anglers on the "Knock on Wood". The guys ventured up to the Spencer Canyon and returned with 4 nice yellowfins and a football. The 4 larger yellowfins weighed between 35 and 40 lbs. and were caught on the cold side of a 65 to 72-degree temperature break on trolled ballyhoo.

On Saturday, Drew Holladay and Brad Cave caught a 7.5 lb. mahi and a 31 lb. yellowfin tuna while trolling in 65-degree water in the Wilmington Canyon.

Also on Saturday, John French landed a mahi, estimated

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to weigh around 20 lbs., during a trip to the Wilmington Canyon where they found 71-degree water. John was fishing on the "Even Keeliegh" with Mike Babcock, Dan Walls, Scott Stapelford and Albert Leitzell.

Flounder are still scarce in the Indian River Inlet with a few fish caught around Bubble Gum Beach and the VFW Slough. Water temperatures are still in the upper 50's.

Tautog are being caught on ocean structure but the dense, all-day fog last weekend kept many closer to shore.

Surfcasters from Fenwick Island to Indian River were kept busy with good catches of snapper bluefish a some striped bass. Fresh bunker is the bait of choice right now for those fishing in the suds.

Upcoming Tournament

The Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament takes place on Friday May 15th. You can sign up at Lewes Harbour Marina any time before the 7:00am start time that day.

Until next week, tight lines!

HOW OLD IS YOUR STRIPED BASS?



Length (inches)	Estimated Age (yrs)	Length (inches)	Estimated Age (yrs)
18.0	3.0	37.0	11.0
19.0	3.0	38.0	12.0
20.0	3.0	39.0	12.0
21.0	4.0	40.0	13.0
22.0	4.0	41.0	13.0
23.0	4.0	42.0	14.0
24.0	5.0	43.0	14.0
25.0	5.0	44.0	15.0
26.0	6.0	45.0	15.0
27.0	6.0	46.0	16.0
28.0	6.0	47.0	16.0
29.0	7.0	48.0	17.0
30.0	7.0	49.0	17.0
31.0	8.0	50.0	18.0
32.0	8.0	51.0	18.0
33.0	9.0	52.0	19.0
34.0	9.0	53.0	19.0
35.0	10.0	54.0	20.0
36.0	10.0	55.0	20.0




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2015 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2015

HEAVIEST FISH OF THE YEAR

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - Ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
 Sea Bass No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Mako Shark <i>100 lb. minimum</i> April 29, 2014 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" 170 lbs.	April 29, 2014 Andy Smelter "Nontypical" 170 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 Tautog January 2, 2015 Ken Westerfeld "Fish Bound" 28.8 lbs.	January 2, 2015 Ken Westerfeld "Fish Bound" 28.8 lbs.	February 7, 2015 Shawn McCulley 15 lbs. 2 oz. Ocean Wreck	 Thresher Shark No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Striped Bass May 3, 2015 Hugh Cropper III 20 lbs. 6 oz. Assateague Surf	May 3, 2015 Hugh Cropper III 20 lbs. 6 oz. Assateague Surf	May 4, 2015 Noulack Mouyniung 43 lbs. 2 oz. Indian River Inlet	 Bluefin Tuna ★ NEW May 8, 2015 Austin Ensor 22 lbs. Wilmington Canyon	May 8, 2015 Austin Ensor 22 lbs. Wilmington Canyon	No Weights Reported
 Weakfish No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Yellowfin Tuna ★ NEW No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	May 8, 2015 Tony Burr 40 lbs. Spencer Canyon
 Speckled Trout No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Longfin Tuna No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Flounder ★ NEW May 10, 2015 Scott Peters 7 lbs. 4 oz. Rt. 90 Bridge	May 10, 2015 Scott Peters 7 lbs. 4 oz. Rt. 90 Bridge	April 30, 2015 Bill Ream 9 lbs. 10 oz. VFW Slough	 Bigeye Tuna No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Bluefish ★ NEW May 9, 2015 Tom Nelson 11 lbs. 19th Street	May 9, 2015 Tom Nelson 11 lbs. 19th Street	 Dolphin ★ NEW May 6, 2015 Bob Hilton 19 lbs. 8 oz. Indian River Inlet	 Dolphin ★ NEW No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	May 9, 2015 Drew Holladay 7.5 lbs. Wilmington Canyon
 Sheepshead No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	 Wahoo No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
 Black Drum ★ NEW April 17, 2015 Tom Nelson 20 lbs. Assateague Surf	April 17, 2015 Tom Nelson 20 lbs. Assateague Surf	May 9, 2015 Emmy Fibelkorn 36 lbs. 3 oz. Fowler Beach	 White Marlin Most Releases in One Day None Reported	Most Releases in One Day None Reported	None Reported

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200



Rich Ressler was drifting live minnows in the Indian River Inlet when he hooked into this 22-inch flounder. Rich is pictured with his catch at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.



Big Bird, Patricia and Tammy Cropper, all from Powellville, MD had a great Mother's Day fishing trip, catching a mess of snapper blues and a pair of choppers. All of the fish were caught on Roy Rigs around the Rt. 50 Bridge. Their largest bluefish weighed in at 9 lbs. 5 oz. and was caught in 60-degree water during the incoming tide.

Ocean City Marlin Club

2015 Tournament Series

www.OCMarlinClub.com 410-213-1613 info@ocmarlinclub.com

<p>6th Annual Memorial Day Tournament To Benefit the Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund</p> <p>Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Terry Layton Registration: May 22, 6:30pm Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 23 & 24 Weigh Ins: May 23 & 24, 4:00-6:30pm Awards Banquet: May 24th 6:30-9:00pm</p> <p>New Format!</p>	<p>36th Annual Small Boat Tournament Chairmen: Bill Regan, Boz Jefferon & Colin Campbell Registration: June 19, 6:30pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 20 & 21 Weigh Ins: June 20 & 21 3:00-6:30pm Eastern Shore Style Crab Feast: June 21, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>33rd Annual Canyon Kick-Off Chairman: Dave Birkett & Franky Pettolina Registration: July 2, 6:30pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Fishing Days: (2 of 3) July 3, 4 & 5 Weigh Ins: July 3, 4 & 5, 5:00-7:30pm Awards Banquet: July 5, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>11th Annual Kid's Classic To benefit the Wish-A-Fish Foundation Chairmen: Dale Withers & Gerard Ott Registration: July 17, 6:30pm Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 18 & 19 Weigh Ins: July 18 3:00-6:30pm, July 19 3:00-6:00pm Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 19, 5:00-8:00pm EVERY ANGLER RECEIVES AN AWARD!</p>
<p>7th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels" To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Amanda Shick Registration: July 30, 6:00pm Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (1 of 2) July 31 & August 1 Weigh Ins: July 31 & August 1, 5:00-7:30pm Awards Banquet: August 1, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>57th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament Chairmen: Franky Pettolina, Steve Poore, Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick Registration: September 3, 6:30pm FREE TO PAID OCMC BOAT MEMBERS Captain's Meeting: 8:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 3) September 4, 5 & 6 Weigh Ins: September 4, 5 & 6, 5:30-7:30pm Awards Banquet: September 6, 6:30-9:00pm</p>	<p>37th Annual Charles Kratz & Scott Smith Challenge Cup Chairmen: Jon C. Duffie & Andy Helms Registration: September 17, 7:00pm Fishing Days: (2 of 2) Sept. 18 & 19, No weigh-ins Italian Night: Sept. 18, 6:30-9:00pm Awards Banquet: Sept. 19, 6:30-9:00pm Invitation Only</p>	<p>3rd Annual OCMC Rockfish Tournament To benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Chairmen: Colin Campbell & Jeremy Blunt Registration: December 4, 6:00pm Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 5-13 Weigh Ins: December 5-13, Time: 3:00-5:00pm Awards Banquet: December 13, Time: 5:00-7:30pm</p>

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Fish Tacos with Creamy Lime Guacamole and Cabbage Slaw

2 avocados-halved, pitted and peeled
 1/4 cup sour cream or Greek yogurt
 1 small jalapeno, seeded, sliced thin
 2 TBSP. minced red onion
 2 TBSP. chopped cilantro
 5 TBSP. fresh lime juice
 Kosher salt and ground pepper, to taste
 1 small head napa cabbage (Chinese cabbage), shredded
 3 TBSP. vegetable oil
 2 lbs. striper fillets with skin, cut crosswise into 10 strips, 2-inches wide

10 flour tortillas
 2 medium tomatoes, sliced thin
 Hot sauce, for serving
 Lime wedges, for serving

Light grill.

In a medium bowl, mash the avocados, sour cream, jalapeno, red onion, cilantro and 3 TBSP. of lime juice.

Season the guacamole with salt and pepper and press a piece of plastic wrap directly on to the surface of the guacamole.

In a large bowl, toss the cabbage with the 2 TBSP. of vegetable oil and the remaining 2 TBSP. of lime juice.

Season with salt and pepper.

Brush the fish with oil; season with salt and pepper.

Grill over moderately high heat until lightly charred and cooked through, about 10 minutes.

Transfer the fish to a platter and pull off the skin.

To assemble each taco, spread a dollop of guacamole on a tortilla; top with fish, a few tomato slices and a large spoonful of the cabbage slaw.

Serve with hot sauce and lime wedges.

Serves 4.

Flounder with Garlic Almond-Caper Sauce

3/4 cup all-purpose flour
 1/2 cup sliced almonds, divided
 3/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper, divided
 1/2 tsp. salt
 2 large egg whites
 2 TBSP. water
 4 flounder fillets
 2 TBSP. canola oil, divided
 1 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup garlic sliced thin

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2 TBSP. capers, rinsed
 3 TBSP. lemon juice
 4 lemon wedges for serving

Preheat oven to 250 degrees.

Pulse flour, 1/4 cup almonds, 1/2 tsp. pepper and salt in a food processor until the almonds are finely chopped.

Transfer to a large plate.

Whisk egg whites and water in a shallow dish.

Dip fish fillets in the egg mixture, then into the flour mixture, coating well on both sides.

Shake off any excess.

Heat 1 TBSP. canola oil in a large nonstick or cast iron skillet over medium heat.

Heat until quite hot.

Add half of the fish to the skillet; cook 2 to 4 minutes each side.

Transfer to a large baking sheet and place in a warm oven.

Heat the remaining 1 TBSP. oil and cook the next

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batch of fish.

Transfer the fillets to the baking sheet.

Add olive oil to the skillet and return to low heat.

Add garlic and remaining 1/4 cup almonds; cook, stirring, 15 seconds.

Remove from heat; stir in capers, lemon juice and remaining pepper.

Top the fish with the sauce and serve with the lemon wedges.

Serves 4.

Tropical Cod

4 cod fillets
2 tsp. low salt fajita seasoning
1 cup Panko breadcrumbs
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup hot chili oil or regular oil
1/3 to 1/2 cup vegetable oil

Sauce:

2 TBSP. butter
1 leek, chopped (discard outer leaves and stem)
2 TBSP. minced fresh garlic
1/2 to 1 cup pineapple juice
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 tsp. salt, to taste
1 cup half and half

Pat the fish dry.

Season with the fajita seasoning and roll the fish fillets in the Panko, then in the egg and again in the panko.

Heat the oil in a large fry pan; add the fish (do not crowd). Cook until browned on both sides.

Cod will take about 5 minutes per side.

Remove to a paper towel-lined plate.

For the sauce; melt the butter in a pan over medium heat.

Add the leek and cook until soft.

Add garlic; cook 1 minute.

Add pineapple juice, coconut and salt; stir.

Reduce heat and add half and half; cook until slightly

reduced.

Pour over fish and serve.
Serves 4.

Blackened Striped Bass with Spinach and Black Beans

2 TBSP. Canola Oil
1 lb. bass fillets, skinless
1 can (12 oz.) Seasoned Black Beans, drained
4 cups fresh spinach, washed and drained
3 TBSP. unsalted butter
Sour Cream, for garnish

Blackening Spice:

5 TBSP. kosher salt
5 TBSP. paprika
1 TBSP. thyme
1 TBSP. black pepper
2 TBSP. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp. white pepper

Combine all of the blackening spice in a small bowl.

Heat oil in a large heavy saute pan over high heat until almost smoking hot.

Coat the bass fillets well on both sides with the blackening spice and place gently in the hot pan.

Sear on the first side 2 minutes and turn fish over.

Add the black beans to 1 corner of the pan and place the spinach and butter right on top of everything; cook for 2 minutes more.

To serve, take the spinach off the top and place it on the bottom of a plate.

Arrange the bass and beans around it.

Garnish with sour cream.

Serves 2.

Striped Bass and Salad with Lemon-Mint Vinaigrette

3 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
4 striped bass fillets
1/2 tsp. kosher salt- divided
1/2 tsp black pepper, divided



The upper Delaware Bay has been producing some good striper action lately, as shown by the 19.4 and 21.8 pounders decked by Wayne DeMarco while soaking cut bunker near 6L Buoy. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Junior angler, Brayden Coverdale caught his first flounder while drifting shiners in the Lewes Canal with his dad, Larry Coverdale, who landed a pair himself. Brayden's flattie tipped the scale at 2 lbs. 15 oz. at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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and sprinkle with nuts.
Serves 4.

Foil-Wrapped Fish with Creamy Parmesan Sauce

2 TBSP. chopped fresh
mint
2 TBSP. fresh lemon juice
2 tsp. maple syrup
6 cups baby spinach
leaves
2 medium peaches, sliced,
if using canned, drain
1/2 English cucumber,
halved lengthwise and
sliced
1/4 cup sliced toasted
almonds or pecans

Heat a large nonstick
skillet over medium-high
heat.

Add 1 TBSP. oil.

Sprinkle fish evenly with
1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper.

Add fish to pan; cook 3
minutes on each side.

Combine remaining 1/4 tsp.
salt, 1/4 tsp. pepper, 2 TBSP.
oil, mint, juice and syrup in a
large bowl, stirring with a
wisk.

Add spinach, peaches and
cucumber and toss gently to
coat.

Divide spinach mixture
among plates, top with fish

4 flounder fillets
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese,
grated
1/8 tsp. ground red
pepper
2 zucchini, sliced
1/2 red bell pepper, cut
into strips
1 lemon, cut into 4
wedges
4 sheets of heavy duty foil

Heat grill to medium-high
heat.

Spray each sheet of foil
with cooking spray.

Place 1 fish fillet on center
of each sheet and spread with
mayonnaise.

Top with remaining
ingredients; fold to make 4
packets.

Grill 10 to 12 minutes or



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until fish flakes easily with fork.

Serve lemon wedges with fish.

This dish can also be baked in the oven.

Heat to 450 degrees.

Assemble packets and place on a baking sheet.

Bake 18 to 22 minutes.

Serves 4.

Pan Seared Swordfish with Creamy Dijon Sauce

4 swordfish steaks, 3/4-
inch thick

Salt and pepper to taste

2 TBSP. vegetable oil

1 shallot minced

12 oz. cherry tomatoes,
halved

1/2 cup sour cream,
drained of excess
liquid

2 TBSP. Dijon mustard

2 TBSP. capers, rinsed

1 TBSP. chopped fresh
tarragon

Pat fish dry with paper
towels; season with salt and
pepper.

Heat oil in 12-inch
nonstick skillet over medium-
high heat.

Cook fish until golden
brown and registering 140
degrees - about 5 minutes per
side.

Transfer fish to platter and
tent loosely with foil.

Add shallot to now empty
skillet; cook until softened,
about 3 minutes.

Stir in tomatoes, cook until
just softened, about 1 minute.

Stir in sour cream,
mustard and capers; cook
until slightly thickened.

Season with salt and
pepper to taste.

Top fish with sauce,
sprinkle with tarragon and
serve.

Serves 4.

If you would like to share
your favorite recipe with Coastal
Fisherman readers, email it to
maureenjock@comcast.net

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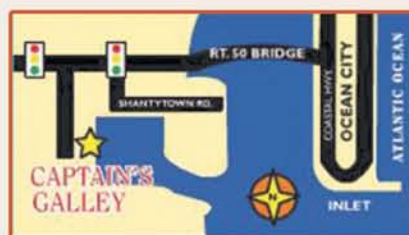
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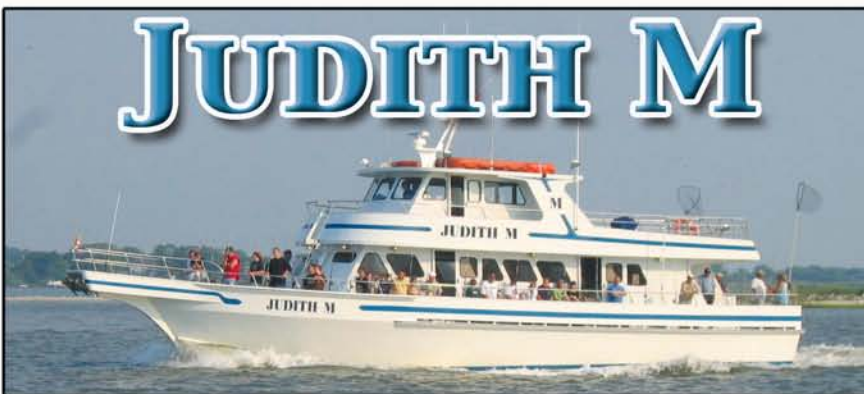
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BUCKTAILS TO BALLYHOO

BY CAPT. LANCE SMITH



Lately, the pages of the *Coastal Fisherman* have been inundated with pictures of chopper bluefish. I can't remember the last time I left the dock to specifically target bluefish, but I can remember all of the times which they saved the day and provided some much needed action, some dinner and some bait.

You will often hear anglers targeting flounder or stripers curse the lowly bluefish as they chomp through expensive baits and leaders. Sometimes though, when the birds are diving in the bay or the surf is boiling with bunker, or all 10 trolling rods go off simultaneously, bluefish can absolutely make your day on the water one to remember.

Mother's Day has typically marked the arrival of bluefish in our local waters. The run this year, especially in Delaware, is reminiscent of decades ago; both in numbers of fish and size. Not many fish in our local waters can put your boat, surf, or shore fishing skills to the test like the bluefish can.

Bluefish are such voracious predators that they have actually been observed to regurgitate their stomach contents so that they can keep feeding. Think about that for a minute...they simply kill for the sake of killing!

Any shark fisherman worth their salt can tell you about the times when they have caught a 12 pound bluefish on a 12 pound bluefish fillet!

Perhaps the greatest aspect of bluefish is that they can be caught from the shore, from boats in the bay, from the surf and while trolling up to 30 miles offshore. They provide incredible sport for those who are prepared, and incredible bait for those who know how to prepare them. Contrary to popular belief, they are also absolutely delicious if they are prepared and cooked properly.

Often times, while traversing the Route 50 Bridge, a savvy eye will pick up on the diving bird activity that usually marks a feeding school of bluefish. As these predators push menhaden, shiners or bay anchovies to the surface, the local terns and gulls take advantage of the frothing frenzy. I always keep a few spinning rods with 12 pound test or so at the ready just for these occasions. When bluefish are in such a feeding mode, they will eat just about anything that you can cast to them.

When it comes to tackle for bluefish in the bay, nothing beats a far casting spinning rod with a 1 or 2 ounce bucktail on the end of the line. Bluefish are also suckers for anything shiny, and

any spoon that you may have laying around in your tackle box can be an absolute bluefish killer.

When approaching a school of bluefish under diving birds, whether it is near the bridge, on the Thorofare flats or out around the Inlet jetties, it is very important to not drive directly over the action. Not only will you push the fish down, you will most likely upset the other boat anglers who have been patiently approaching from a distance and casting into the foray.

Bluefish can pop up just about anywhere in the bay or Inlet on just about any tide. When you see birds diving, often accompanied by fish splashing, it is time to launch some lures into the mêlée. If you don't remember at first, you will soon be tying some sort of steel leader ahead of your lure. Bluefish are armed with a very impressive set of teeth and can make quick work of monofilament leaders and expensive tackle. From the Route 50 Bridge, Oceanic Pier, the bulkhead from 2nd through 4th street and the 9th Street Pier, bluefish can be caught during both the day and night and provide anglers with action when often nothing else is biting. Gotcha Plugs, swim shads, Hopkins spoons, bucktails and spec rigs are some of the most productive bluefish lures.

When casting to a school of feeding bluefish, you cannot retrieve your lure too quickly. In fact, if you slow down or stop your retrieve after a missed bite, bluefish will lose interest and discontinue the chase. Even

when there is no bird activity, blues can be caught by blind casting around the supports of the Route 50 Bridge and at both the North and South Jetty. Try varying the depth of your retrieve as bluefish can be found throughout the water column during various stages of the tide.

In the surf, bluefish are most often caught on cut bait intended for other species such as striped bass. Bluefish are not shy of steel leaders and most tackle shops sell surf rigs with brightly colored floats above the hooks. Not only do these floats serve to attract bluefish, they also keep your bait above the sand and out of the reach of pesky crabs. Chunks of fresh bunker or spot, when they become available, are superb baits. Mullet can also be a terrific bait if they can be found.

Bluefish are notorious for slicing off a baitfish right behind the head and leaving you with nothing to wind in but a fish skull. Mullet rigs, which consist of a double hook on a short piece of steel leader, are meant to be threaded through a bait while leaving the hooks exposed toward the tail where bluefish most often strike.

While bird activity may not be obvious in the surf this time of year, there are stretches of beach that produce more than others. Look for areas where sandbars meet deeper troughs close to the beach and concentrate near the drop offs.

If you have a boat capable of venturing a few miles offshore, trolling for bluefish around areas

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such as the Bass Grounds, and various artificial reef sites, can provide terrific action with bluefish from 2 to 15 pounds. If you troll for stripers in the Chesapeake Bay or off the beach during the winter, you already have the perfect gear for blues. Smaller tuna trolling rods will also work. Popular lures for trolling include various diving plugs such as the Rapala CD series, drone spoons, Stretch 25's and just about any small lure you may troll for tuna. Keep your trolling speed at around 6 knots or less and remember to use wire leader ahead of your lures. Try to use lures that you are not afraid of never using again. After a couple of savage bluefish strikes, a perfectly rigged green machine will look like you ran it through a blender!

Many of the areas offshore charter boats offer trolling trips for bluefish this time of year. Perhaps the most popular offshore trolling location for big bluefish is the Jackspot. This lump, or rise in the seafloor, some 20 miles off the beach attracts hordes of hungry blues. This is a great trip to take

children on to introduce them to the world of offshore sportfishing. The run to the fishing grounds is only a third of that for the typical summer tuna charter and action is almost guaranteed. These fish are also the perfect size for junior anglers who can usually handle them all by themselves on typical trolling gear.

Once offshore water temperatures begin hovering around the 64-degree mark, these bluefish become prey for the high flying and highly prized mako shark. Often times, boats venturing offshore for a day of sharking will make an early morning pit stop at the Jackspot to load up on fresh bluefish to use for bait.

Bay charter boats such as the Get Sum, Lucky Break, and Whatever Guide Services offer full and half-day charters for a multitude of species and will certainly take advantage of a hot bluefish bite. Blues are also commonly caught on baits intended for flounder by patrons aboard the many flounder boats that advertise here in the *Coastal Fisherman*. If you are on one of

these boats and someone else catches a bluefish, try tossing a bucktail or spec rig out to get one for yourself. Fresh strips of bluefish, cut and rigged in the same fashion as squid, make excellent bait for big flounders.

When the flounder bite is slow, or the wind is blowing too hard to run to the wrecks, try some prospecting around the bay and Inlet for some bluefish action. If you are keeping bluefish for the table, it is wise to immediately cut the fish's throat under the gill plates and place the fish headfirst into a five gallon bucket of saltwater. This will allow the fish to "bleed out" and will take away the fishy taste that some folks complain about. Also, remember to allow the fish to calm down before attempting to remove your hook and do not allow children to try unhooking them. There are more than a few old salts around these days with missing fingertips or deep scars from these toothy predators.

Lance Smith is an outdoor writer and Captain of his family's boat, the "Longfin".

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Mitchell Bunting used a reverse Lewes Harbour Stretch to show off his first bluefish ever, a 30-inch chopper landed on a chartreuse jig at Oyster Rocks Landing. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Delaware Regulations State Waters Only

 BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 9/18 & 10/18 - 12/31	 BLUEFISH No minimum size 10 per person/day No closed season	 BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 3 per person/day (Delaware River & Bay Only) No minimum size or creel elsewhere	 STRIPED BASS 28" - 37" or 44" and greater 2 per person No closed season
 CROAKER 8" minimum No creel limit	 RED DRUM 20" - 27" minimum 5 per person/day	 SHEEPSHEAD No limit	 SPECKLED TROUT 12" minimum No creel limit
 COBIA No limit	 TAUTOG Season closed until 7/17	 SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day No closed season	 WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day



The Delaware Mobile Surf Fisherman Team entered the Ocracoke (NC) Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament and returned with the 1st place trophy. Pictured are Ringo Meade, Keith Schmeirer, Tim Wallace, Steve Merrick, Andy Twardusa and Barry Brittingham. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop.



Anglers on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" have been tearing up the tautog this spring and on May 5th David Rodriguez and his group ended up with 25 keepers in the box including David's 10 lb. 8 oz. beast. All of the fish were caught on green crabs and white crabs inside the Bass Grounds. The tog are spawning so the females were loaded with eggs and all were released by the group. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the helm and mate Kevin Twilley was in the pit.

 <h1>Maryland Regulations</h1> <h2>State Waters Only</h2> 			
			
BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 9/18 & 10/18 - 12/31	BLUEFISH 8" minimum 10 per person/day	BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day or 6 per boat/day	COBIA No limit
			
CROAKER 9" minimum 25 per person/day	RED DRUM 18" - 27" 1 per person/day	SHEEPSHEAD No limit	SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 4 per person/day
			
STRIPED BASS 28" minimum 1 per person/day	TAUTOG 16" minimum 1/1 - 5/15 4 per person/day 5/16-10/31 2 per person/day	SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day	WEAKFISH 13" minimum 1 per person/day

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Winner of this month's "Most Interesting Way to Hold a Fish" award is Jeff Waxman of Bethany Beach, DE. Jeff caught this 35-inch striper in the Chesapeake Bay after hooking it on a chartreuse mojo rig in 50-feet of water while fishing on the "Roland C" out of Oxford, MD. Congratulations, Jeff!

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BY STEVE KATZ

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Radio Check

Even with today's modern communications devices - cell phones, satellite phones, Wi-Fi, SPOT and EPIRB's, the marine VHF radio is still the best way to communicate with others while on the water or on land. Whether you need to find the best fishing spots, get a tow back to shore or need help for a medical emergency, most maritime communication is conducted over the VHF radio.

There are many different varieties of VHF maritime radios, beginning at around \$100 for either a stationary radio (antenna extra cost) or a handheld VHF with a built in antenna. Additional features, such as AIS and remote microphones can bring up the costs to over \$500.

In this column, we will cover two popular VHF topics - performance and use.

A maritime VHF radio transmits at a maximum of 25 watts, for a maximum range of about 25 miles between boats. A VHF radio signal transmits to the receiver radio by line-of-sight, so the taller the antenna at each location, the farther the range. As many of you know, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has very tall VHF

antenna's and operates with much more power and special technology to send and receive communications over greater distances than the average boater's VHF radio and antenna. There are 49 VHF channels authorized by the USCG/FCC and 7 weather channels used by NOAA Weather Radio and each channel is assigned a unique frequency between 156 MHz and 162 MHz.

In order for your VHF to send and receive properly, the radio needs a good source of power and a good antenna system. While a radio may function on a voltage lower than required, the transmitting power output will be reduced and therefore the transmitting range too. As an example, the popular ICOM M504's rated output of 25 watts is at a supply voltage of 13.8 volts.

The type, length and connections of the coax cable connecting the radio to the antenna can adversely affect the performance of your VHF radio. The type and mounting location of your antenna can also affect the performance of your radio.

There are different types of coax available, generally upgraded for longer runs due to the signal loss in the cable. As

an example, the upgraded RG-8X coax has about a 20% loss in signal (dB or decibels) than the common RG-58 coax cable.

As stated earlier, the higher the VHF antenna is mounted on the boat, the longer the range of your transmission and reception. Since marine VHF radio waves travel in a mostly straight line, if your antenna can "see" the other antenna, the radios will be able to send and receive with each other.

Many antennas advertise a "gain" in dB, or effective output power. This is done by focusing the radio waves in a narrow beam, which is great if that narrow beam points to the intended VHF radio, otherwise you may not have much, if any power radiated in other directions.

The terminating connections on the VHF coax wire can dramatically reduce the power getting to your antenna. A single in-line connection in your coax run can reduce your performance by .5dB, so try to avoid having any splices and if needed only one between the radio and the antenna.

While there are a few tests a technician can conduct, the first and easiest test is to use your VHF radio to call and talk to a friend on their VHF radio. They should be a meaningful distance away and you should ask the other party how they hear you. You should listen to see if their signal is heard loud and clear on your radio. This tests both your send and receive functions

along with your microphone and speaker. If you can't get a hold of a friend, you might be able to get a free automated radio check using Sea Tow's radio check service on VHF channel 26 in the Ocean City area. To use this service, tune to channel 26 and conduct a radio check as you usually would. Upon release of the microphone, the system will replay your transmission, letting you hear how you sound. This service does not seem to be continuously available - but it is worth a try.

You can also test your radio's reception by tuning to different NOAA weather channels. If you are able to receive a distant weather transmission clearly, your antenna, receiver and speaker are probably working properly.

If you even think you have a VHF problem, you should contact a professional technician who can test your VHF radio and antenna systems, and at a minimum, determine the output power of your radio in watts and check your antenna system loss by calculating the VSWR.

Once you are sure you have a good working VHF radio, there are a few guidelines, rules and laws that you may need to be aware of.

The USCG states "In general, any vessel equipped with a VHF marine radio (whether voluntarily or required to) must maintain a watch on channel 16 (156.800

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MHz) whenever the radio is not being used to communicate". This is one of the reasons many boaters have two VHF radios. They leave one on Channel 16 and the other they use for recreational broadcasts. For those who have not been kept up-to-date, an FCC ship station radio license is no longer required for "any vessel traveling in U.S. waters which uses a VHF marine radio, radar or EPIRB, and which is not required to carry radio equipment".

While there is more VHF information we will discuss in future articles, the information above is a good way to check and test your VHF radio to be sure it is performing at its best, allowing you to contact your fishing buddies or communicate with rescue authorities whenever needed.

Captain Steve Katz is the owner of Steve's Marine Service and holds NMEA, AMEI and NMEA2000 certificates along with ABYC Master Technician certification and factory training from many manufacturers.



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Jimmy Parker from Cambridge, MD and John Piccolomini from Shepherdstown, WV teamed up to land 4 nice bluefish measuring from 22 to 32 inches. The choppers were caught while tossing bunker from the beach in North Ocean City. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



Barry Price was fishing from the beach near the Naval Jetties when he spied a surf clam that had washed ashore. Shortly after Barry shucked it and casted the clam out, this 34-inch striper made the mistake of inhaling it and wound up being at the end of the Lewes Harbour Stretch.

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Pat Strine was drifting shiners near the Rt. 90 Bridge when he boated this pair of flounder at the start of the outgoing tide. Pat's keepers measured 18 and 21-inches and were caught in water just under 60-degrees during the maiden voyage of their new boat.

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VIRGINIA FISHING REPORT

BY DR. JULIE BALL
I.G.F.A REPRESENTATIVE



The spring saltwater fishery is now in full swing as more species become active in local waters. Most anglers are on the hunt for either drum or flounder.



Anglers are experiencing improving red drum action along the shoals and breakers lining Smith Island and Fisherman's Island. Some of these fish are impressive, with brutes pushing to over 50-inches released last week. The best bait for reds is blue crabs and menhaden fished on the bottom near drop-offs along the shoals. These fish will begin to spread out more onto Nautilus Shoal and the Nine Foot Shoal areas soon.

Nice-sized black drum also showed an upward trend last

week, with big black drum stretching to over 48-inches taking clams and crabs in their usual haunts along the Bayside of the Eastern Shore, especially near Buoys 13 and 16 and 36A.

The emerging flounder scene continues to provide anglers working the Eastern Shore seaside inlets and back waters of Oyster and Wachapreague with limits of respectable flatfish, with several flatties exceeding 5-pounds. Both Rudee and Lynnhaven Inlets also produced some keeper flounder measuring up to 21-inches last week.



Bluefish and puppy drum are hitting inside Rudee Inlet, where anglers are experiencing very good

catches of decent blues weighing up to around five pounds.

Croaker are becoming more active all over the lower Bay, with Buckroe and Ocean View hosting some medium-sized hardheads, especially after dark on squid and bloodworms. Some small spot and sea mullet are also available in these same lower Bay locations.



With tautog out of the picture for now, folks are anticipating the opening of black sea bass season next week on the 15th. Both nearshore and offshore wrecks can provide some good sea bass catches, along with a smattering of cod. Once the season opens, anglers can

keep up to 15 sea bass stretching to at least 12.5-inches.

Rockfish can provide some variety for folks during the Bay's Spring Trophy Striped Bass season, but review the new guidelines carefully and be sure to get your striped bass permit before you go. You can keep one fish per person measuring at least 36-inches until the 15th, then the rules change again.

Although most anglers are becoming interested in other species, the deep drop scene is still luring a few boats to the deep when they can get out. As the dogfish sharks begin to move out, more boats will target tilefish, black bellied rosefish and grouper along the 50-fathom curve and beyond.

Offshore fishing will begin to improve this month as the action off Carolina starts to move northward. The fleets out of Carolina are finding yellowfin tuna, big mahi and now a few billfish in the mix.

Dr. Julie Ball is the I.G.F.A. representative for Virginia Beach, VA. For more information, go to www.drjball.com.



Virginia Regulations



Coastal State Waters Only

			
BLACK SEA BASS 12.5" minimum 15 per person/day 5/15 - 9/21 & 10/22 - 12/31	BLUEFISH No minimum size 10 per person/day	BLACK DRUM 16" minimum 1 per person/day	COBIA 37" minimum 1 per person/day
			
CROAKER No limit	RED DRUM 18" - 26" 3 per person/day	SHEEPSHEAD No minimum size 4 per person/day	SPECKLED TROUT 14" minimum 5 per person Only 1 fish of the 5-fish limit may be 24-inches or greater
			
STRIPED BASS 36", 1 per person 5/1 - 5/15 28", 1 per person 5/16 - 12/31	TAUTOG Season closed 5/1 - 9/19	SUMMER FLOUNDER 16" minimum 4 per person/day	WEAKFISH 12" minimum 1 per person/day



Captain Brent Wiest took matters into his own hands, landing this 7 lb. 4 oz. tautog while running the charter boat, "Katydid". Capt. Brent fooled the blackfish with a chunk of clam on a Delaware Bay artificial reef. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Not only does Eddie Ellerman make great chocolate frosted donuts at Walmart on Rt. 50, but he can also put some flounder in the cooler. On May 3rd, Eddie landed a 21-inch flattie while drifting shiners behind the Ocean City Airport.



Dave Furio of Lewes, DE captured 3 bluefish (1 pictured) while surfcasting off Cape Henlopen State Park. This 27-inch was fooled with a chunk of fresh bunker. Photo courtesy of Bill's Sport Shop.

Isle of Wight Park

HOME FOR SALE

Enjoy Great Sunsets on the Bay!

One of a kind beauty located just two blocks from the beach & boardwalk with private parking, this immaculate home features:

- 4 Boat Slips!**
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Help Wanted • Boats for Sale • Items for Sale • Anglers Wanted

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SELL!

HELP WANTED

Capt. & Mate Wanted

"Reel Attitude" Sportfishing is seeking a mate and freelance Capt. for the 2015 season. Interested parties must have a drug card & are subject to pre employment drug testing. Send resume to reelattitudesportfishing@gmail.com or call 443-856-9253 for information.

HELP WANTED

Job Site Foreman

Marine Construction Company hiring full-time Job Site Foreman with 5 years experience in marine construction. Pay based on experience. Other Marine Construction positions available. Contact cdolbey@murtech.us or call 410-766-5335 x3001

RENTALS

Boat Slip For Rent

46 ft. boat slip available for season at the Whiting Pier. Electric power. Email kd-smith@verizon.net for details.



HELP WANTED



The Ocean City Marlin Club is currently hiring for the following year-round positions (experience required):

- Hostess
- Food Runner
- Servers
- Barback

Bring resume to the bar Wednesday to Sunday 3-9 PM or e-mail to info@ocmarclub.com. No phone calls.

ITEMS FOR SALE



BRAND NEW EXTRA LONG ATV/UTV RAMPS

Save over 29% off the retail price

Tired of feeling like you are being launched to the moon with typical 6-foot ramps? Check out this pair of **brand new 11-foot** ramps for sale. They fold to 73.5" long and have side walls to guide you up the 15" wide ramps. They also have kick stops to keep the ramps stable on your tailgate. They are made of high grade, 6061 aluminum and support 1,600 lbs, plenty for your ATV, UTV or construction equipment.

Ramps retail for \$425 (including shipping)

The pair is for sale for only \$300. Call 410-251-1036.

FOR SALE

Comm. Crabbing License

Active LLC Commercial Crabbing License for sale with no violations.

50 Pots - Only \$2,400

Call 410-208-9810 or 443-480-1971 for more details or email inquiries to kd-smith@verizon.net

SOMETHING TO SELL?

SLIPS FOR RENT?

USE OUR CLASSIFIED SECTION AND TURN YOUR SMALL INVESTMENT INTO MUCHO DINERO!

Pick Up Your Coastal Fisherman At These Locations

OCEAN CITY

Angler Restaurant
Talbot Street Tackle
Talbot Street Pier
Oceanic Fishing Pier
Wockenfuss Candy - 1st St. Boardwalk
Park Place Hotel - 3rd Street
Wockenfuss Candy - 7th St. Boardwalk
Quality Inn - 16th Street
Layton's Restaurant - 16th Street
Holiday Inn - 17th Street
Grand Hotel - 21st Street
Bahia Marina - 22nd Street
Dunes Manor Hotel - 28th Street
28th Street Pit & Pub
Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd Street
Minit Market - 33rd Street
Dough Roller - 41st Street
Advanced Marina - 66th Street
Dough Roller - 69th Street
Exxon Wine Rack - 86th Street
Layton's Restaurant - 92nd Street
Coffee Beanery - 94th Street
Clarion Hotel - 101st Street
Denny's - 112th Street
Oyster Bay Tackle - 116th Street

OCEAN CITY (cont'd)

Wawa - 120th Street
7-Eleven - 120th Street
Holiday Inn Express - 127th Street
Montego Bay Market - 130th Street
Primo Hoagies - 132nd Street
7-Eleven - 139th Street

WEST OCEAN CITY

Ocean City Visitors Center
Wawa - Rt. 50
Superfresh - Rt. 50
Wockenfuss Candy - Rt. 50
All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50
Ocean City Fishing Center
Ocean City Marlin Club
Harborside Bar & Grill
Captain's Galley
Atlantic Tackle (formally Ake Marine)
Sunset Marina
Sunset Provisions
Sunset Grill - Teasers
Harbor Marine
Food Lion - Rt. 611
Larry's Trading Post - Rt. 611
Optical Galleria - Rt. 611

ANNAPOLIS, MD

All Tackle - Somerville Road

BERLIN & PITTSVILLE

Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances)
Berlin Post Office
Buck's Place - Rt. 611
Assateague Market - Rt. 611
7-Eleven - Rt. 589
Crabs To Go - Rt. 50
Local's Beer & Wine - Rt. 50
Pittsville Motors
Coffee Beanery/Coastal Drug - Barrett Bldg.

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE & FRANKFORD

Fenwick Bait & Tackle
Mancini's Italian Restaurant
North Bay Marina
Fenwick Island Marine Service
Uncle Willie's
Rt. 113 Boat Sales
Red, Right, Return Tackle Shop
Harris Teeter
Jim's Bait & Tackle

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

Hook 'em & Cook 'em Outfitters - Rt. 1
G&E Supermarket - Cedar Neck Rd.
G&E Hardware - Cedar Neck Rd.
Hocker's Deli - Rt. 26
Hocker's Supermarket - Rt. 26
Giant - Rt. 26
Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26

INDIAN RIVER

Indian River Marina
Hook 'em & Cook 'em

DEWEY • REHOBOTH • LEWES

Pier Point Marina
Lewes Harbour Marina
Ice House Bait & Tackle
Bill's Sport Shop
Superfresh - Rt. 1

LONG NECK

Short's Marine
Rick's Bait & Tackle

TIDES & MOON PHASES

OCEAN CITY INLET

Wed. May 13	Low 10:13 am Low 10:46 pm	High 04:09 am High 04:48 pm
Thurs. May 14	Low 11:10 am Low 11:50 pm	High 05:10 am High 05:48 pm
Fri. May 15	Low 12:04 am Low -----	High 06:05 am High 06:43 pm
Sat. May 16	Low 12:49 am Low 12:55 pm	High 06:57 am High 07:37 pm
Sun. May 17 New Moon	Low 01:43 am Low 01:42 pm	High 07:49 am High 08:29 pm
Mon. May 18	Low 02:35 am Low 02:30 pm	High 08:40 am High 09:19 pm
Tues. May 19	Low 03:25 am Low 03:16 pm	High 09:29 am High 10:06 pm
Wed. May 20	Low 04:14 am Low 04:02 pm	High 10:15 am High 10:50 pm
Thurs. May 21	Low 05:05 am Low 04:50 pm	High 11:01 am High 11:34 pm
Fri. May 22	Low 05:57 am Low 05:42 pm	High 11:47 am High -----
Sat. May 23	Low 06:50 am Low 06:37 pm	High 12:19 am High 12:37 pm
Sun. May 24	Low 07:42 am Low 07:34 pm	High 01:06 am High 01:31 pm
Mon. May 25 First Quarter	Low 08:30 am Low 08:31 pm	High 01:56 am High 02:28 pm
Tues. May 26	Low 09:16 am Low 09:29 pm	High 02:49 am High 03:28 pm

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.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

... MAY ...

Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament

May 15 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

6th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day

Bluefish Tournament

May 23-24 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

... JUNE ...

19th Annual Mako Mania

June 5-7 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7473

57th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

Ladies Event - June 6 • Tournament - June 8-13

Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

35th Annual South Jersey Shark Tourn.

June 10-13 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

26th Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment

June 19-21 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

36th Annual Marlin Club

Small Boat Tournament

June 20-21 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

... JULY ...

33rd Annual Marlin Club Canyon Kick-Off

July 3-5 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

7th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tourn.

July 3 - Aug 8 • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

28th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 10-12 • OC Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

26th Annual Ocean/Viking Showdown

July 15-19 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

11th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 18-19 • OC Marlin Club • 410-213-1613



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252-216-6913



Charley Pereira
252-216-6291



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PRICE REDUCED

\$2,349,000

CAROL LIBBY - 2013 60' Spencer
Call Jimmy Fields



JUST LISTED

\$3,499,000

MECHANICAL MAN - 2008 68' Weaver
Call Jimmy Fields



PRICE REDUCED

\$4,000,000

RAVAGANZA - 2008 70' Jarrett Bay
Call David Fields



PRICE REDUCED

\$1,650,000

SHIP'S CAFE' - 1987 60' Merritt
Call Alan Fields



\$1,895,000

BLUE DOG - 2006 64' Caison
Call Jimmy Fields



NEW PRICE

\$1,549,000

SUSHI - 2014 57' Island Boatworks
Call Jimmy Fields



PRICE JUST REDUCED

\$699,000

REEL AFFAIR - 2001 55' Ricky
Scarborough - Call Jeff James



NEW TO MARKET

\$699,000

REEL HOOKER - 1998 60' Ricky Scarborough
Custom Carolina - Call Jimmy Fields



NEW PAINT & RECENT UPDATES

\$650,000

1988 58' Monterey
Call Jimmy Fields



\$239,500

8 LURES - 2006 41' Luhrs Convertible
Call Steve Trattner



UNDER CONTRACT

\$499,000

WHY NOT - 1992 45' Ricky Scarborough
Call Jimmy Fields



NEW PAINT, TEAK & UPGRADES

\$335,000

FULL CHOKE - 2002 38' Jarrett Bay
Express Custom Carolina - Call Jeff James



JUST LISTED

\$350,000

TAILWALKER 2 - 1998 50' Viking
Call David Fields



\$220,000

MISTRESS - 2008 33' Albemarle
330 Express - Call Jeff James



NEW PRICE

\$219,900

BLACK WIDOW - 1999 45' Ocean
Call Steve Trattner



OWNER WANTS BOAT SOLD • BRING OFFERS!

\$199,900

PEGASUS - 1998 48' Ocean
Call Gary Stamm



JUST LISTED

\$130,000

WORLD CAT - 2008 32' World Cat 320EC
Call David Fields



\$184,900

NATURAL ABILITY - 2006 32' Carolina
Classic - Call Steve Trattner



PRICE REDUCED

\$94,999

FIRST AND MORE - 2003 28' Carolina
Classic - Call Gary Stamm



\$98,900

SEA NOTE - 2001 32' Luhrs Convertible
Call Steve Trattner



\$69,900

SEA ROBIN - 2000 28' Carolina
Classic - Call Steve Trattner



JUST LISTED

\$53,900

M'mM'm Good - 2000 28' Albemarle
Express - Call Steve Trattner



POLE CAT - 1997 26' Glacier Bay
Repowered 4 Stroke - Call Steve Trattner



JUST LISTED

\$35,000

ISLANDER - 1964 36' Islander
Call Gary Stamm

Ocean City, MD • Palm Beach, FL • Outer Banks, NC

