





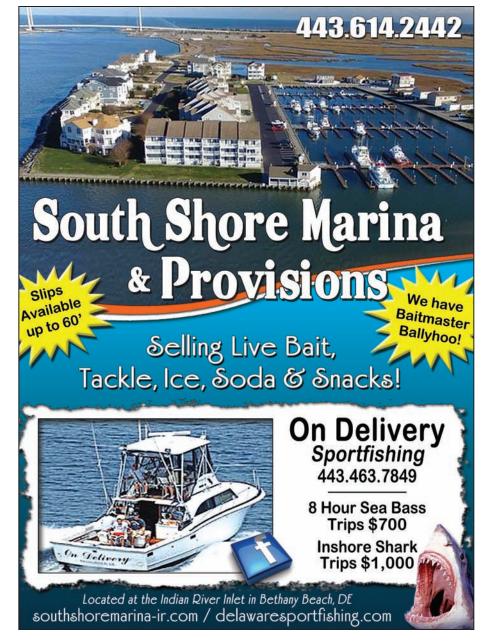






This bluefish is going to be a tough one for Delaware anglers to beat! Taking the early lead for "Heaviest Bluefish of the Year" honors is Alex Neiss who caught a 38-inch, 18 lb. 8 oz. chopper while casting a popper from the beach at Cape Henlopen on April 21st. The big bluefish had a 20-inch girth and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.













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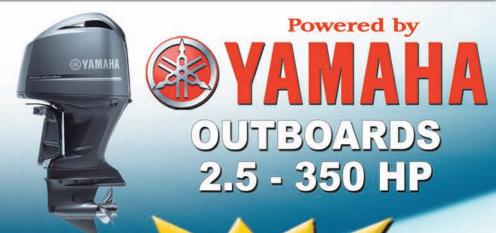
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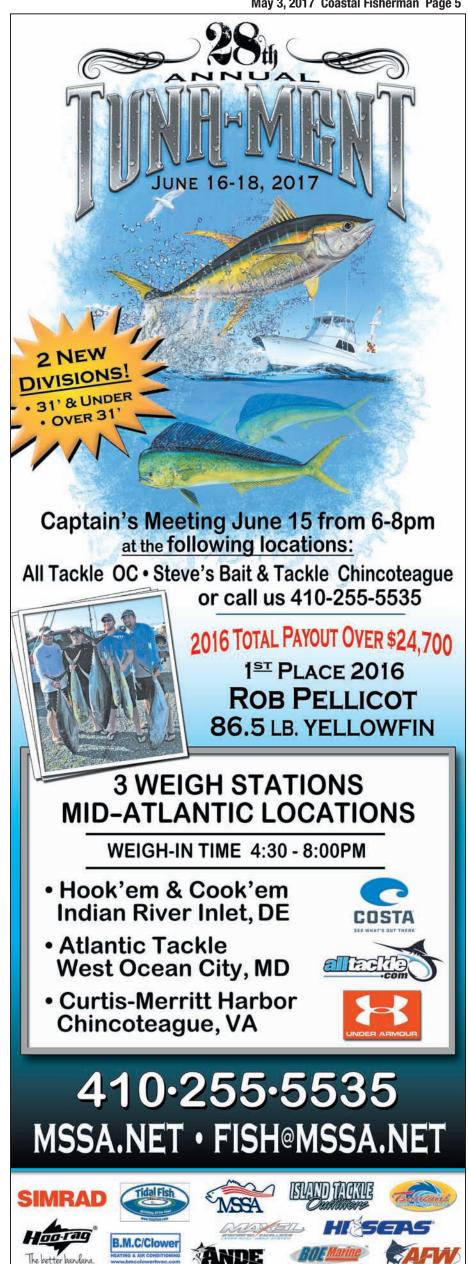






On Sunday, anglers on the "Finatic" took a trip out to 400 fathoms near the Triple 0's where angler Rob Griggs hooked this 249 lb. mako shark on a bluefish. Rob was fishing with Capt. Mark Malamphy and mate Jim Conway. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.









Ocean City Fishing Report by Larry Jock

Welcome back to another season of the Coastal Fisherman. It should be an interesting year with the mild winter we experienced. Water temperatures never got as low as we typically experience and we are already starting to see catches come in weeks earlier than normal.

It will also be interesting to see who catches the first white marlin of the season. This year, it will be rewarded with the richest prize money ever, giving the angler a cool \$15,000 for the catch in addition to some prizes from An Optical Galleria and All Tackle. Historically, the lucky angler receives \$10,000 for the first white marlin of the season, \$5,000 from the Town of Ocean City and \$5,000 from the Ocean City Marlin Club. This year, the Ocean City Town Council voted to stop awarding prize money for the first white marlin, so a group of local businesses calling themselves Fishermen United of Ocean City (Bank of Ocean City, Sunset Marina, Atlantic Tackle, Bahia Marina, Ocean City Fishing Center and the Coastal Fisherman) came up with the \$5,000 to take the place of the Town Council's pullback. After an incredible backlash from the fishing community, the Town Council saw the error of their

way and reinstated their \$5,000 contribution, but the FUOC group decided to maintain their contribution as well, so this years winner will be \$15,000 richer. With the increased prize money and some warmer water within reach, I wouldn't be surprised if the first white marlin is caught in the next couple of weeks, so stay tuned to our daily online Fishing Report on www.coastalfisherman.net. It is updated throughout the day.

After a very mild winter that saw another absolutely atrocious striper bite (on the heels of a horrific bite in the fall/winter of 2015/2016), warmer water temperatures are definitely causing earlier bites that we normally see.

The first make shark of the season was caught last Friday, April 28th. This was 17 days earlier than last year. The 147 lb. mako was caught by angler Smelter Andy on "Nontypical" in 55 fathoms northeast of the Rockpile. Capt. Terry reported beautiful blue water where he found a 16degree temperature break with 68-degree water on the warm side. The anglers battled 12 blue sharks during their trip in addition to losing another make right at the boat that Capt. Terry estimated at 250 lbs.

We also saw some good offshore action on Sunday. Anglers aboard the "Wrecker" had a memorable day, returning from near the Triple 0's with a 147 lb. mako, a 49 lb. bluefin tuna, 3 yellowfins up to 40 lbs. and 3 mahi. All of the action took place where they ran across a 9-degree temperature break with 67-degree water on the warm side. Conditions were different compared to those found a couple of days earlier by the "Nontypical". Capt. Jeremy Blunt reported very green water

loaded with weeds.

Also on Sunday, anglers fishing on the "Tunafowl" returned to Sunset Marina with 3 yellowfins weighing up to 48 lbs. Two of the yellowfins were caught while trolling spreader bars and one hit a trolled ballyhoo, all in 130 fathoms near the Triple 0's where their first bite was at 9:30 in the morning.

We also saw a good size make arrive at the Ocean City Fishing Center when the "Finatic" rolled up with a 249 pounder that Rob Griggs hooked on a bluefish in 400 fathoms outside the Triple 0's. This is the early leader for Heaviest Make Shark of the Year.

Inshore, anglers continue to chase tautog on ocean structure while using green crabs and white crabs for bait. Site 10 has also popped up recently as a hot spot for tog. As you will see in this issue, some real bruisers were caught this past winter, led by the 191/4 pounder caught by Sam Furest while fishing on the "Morning Star" back on February 20th.

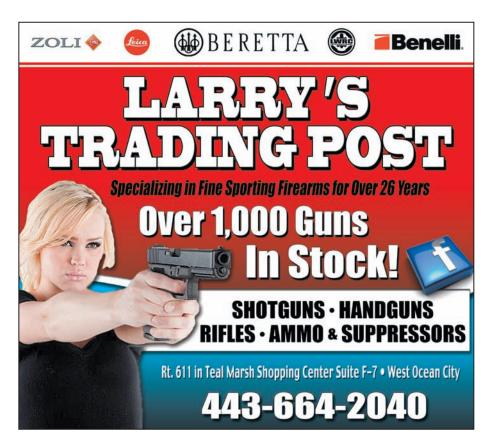
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Black sea bass season doesn't open until May 15th and anglers are allowed to keep 15 fish that are 12 1/2-inches or larger.

In the surf, anglers have been spending most of their time battling big, chopper bluefish. Earlier in April, small striped bass and an occasional black drum keep surfcasters busy with keeper size striped bass being few and far between. It is kind of interesting that surf fisherman are not seeing many large striped bass hit their offerings and commercial fishermen are finding plenty in their nets set not far off the beach. One interesting theory I heard last weekend was that the stripers are feeding on sand fleas and crabs right now and are just not interested in the typical bunker chunks being soaked by surf fishermen. Switching over, at least for a short period of time, to peeler crabs and sand fleas may be the ticket to getting those long poles bending.

In the bay, bluefish are everywhere and I'm not talking about little snappers. Many big bluefish in the 10 lb. range are being caught everywhere from The Ditch in Fenwick Island down to the Assateague Bridge. Late last week, there was a great bite in the bay behind Assateague. The action was so fierce that Capt. Jason Mumford on the charter boat, "Lucky Break" reported having a big bluefish come up and attack a trolled Rat-L-Trap, only to have another 10 pounder come up and hit the same lure, snapping the line in the process. The 2 choppers continued thrashing on the surface, both connected to the same lure. Capt. Jason said it was quite a sight and one that not too many anglers get a chance to see.

Fishing for big bluefish can be some of the most challenging





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and fun times you can have on the water. They will hit anything, but sometimes you have to vary your retrieval to maximize success. For example, Capt. Jason told me that when the bite was on in the bay behind Assateague, retrieving your bait or lure as fast as you could gave you the best shot at hooking a chopper. Anything slower and your chances dropped.

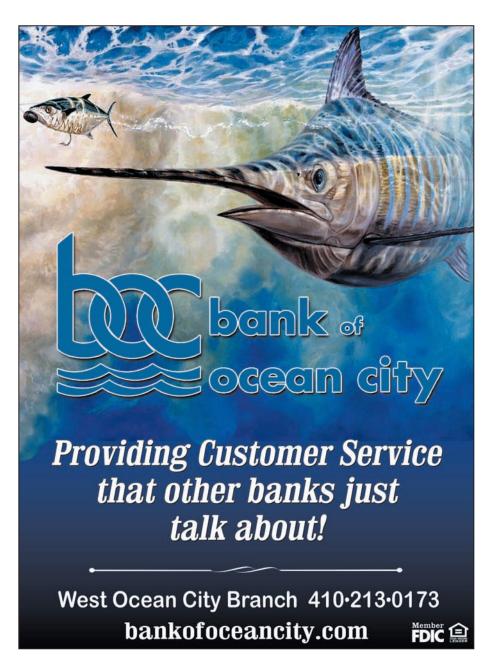
Prior to the bluefish invasion, small stripers were being caught all around the bay and mainly around the bridges, but that bite has died off.

The flounder bite really picked up late last week, especially in the Thorofare. Mike Johnston on the "Hellbent" had good results on Thursday and Friday, ending his days with 3 and 4 keepers. Mike went back out on Sunday with Nate Gregory, Katie Thatcher and Courtney Ritter and the group returned with 7 nice size flounder up to 22 1/4-inches and 3 lbs. 11 oz. Mike said that the best results came while trolling rigs tipped with either Gulp! Swimming Mullets or bellies.

One final note I would like to

make this week is that it would be great for everyone to consider joining the Ocean City Reef Foundation this season. This is a volunteer organization that works incredibly hard to build reefs off our coast. Sure, some of the reefs are further offshore, but there are many that are within site of the coastline and can be fished by many anglers in various size boats. The cost to join the Reef Foundation is only \$50 and for your contribution you receive their detailed Reef Charts giving you coordinates of every piece of structure in their reef system. This is some of the best money you could ever spend and wreckfishing will continue to be the fastest growing segment of local fishing for many years in the future. You can join the Reef Foundation right online by logging onto their website, ocreefs.org. All of their money goes towards the building of reefs, so the more contributions they receive the better fishing we all will have right off our coast.

Until next week, I'll see you at the scales!









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MICHAEL D

53' John Yank Capt. Paul Difebo 302-218-3761 Michaeldfishing@aol.com



MISS ENE III

37' Stapleton Capt. Ed Wagner 302-335-3869



HIGH HOOK

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Here's something never seen before (as far as I know). A baby swordfish washed up on Assateague Island on Friday, April 28th. Fortunately, after beaching itself, the swordfish swam away after being returned to the water by some benevolent surfcasters.



Arthur Clubb of Ocean City, MD took some time off before the busy season to hit the Chesapeake Bay in mid-April and ended up catching this 47-inch, 38 lb. striped bass while trolling mojos.



In late April, Kim Zimmerman muscled in this 35-inch bluefish while soaking finger mullet in the surf on Assateague Island. Photo courtesy of All Tackle Ocean City.



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Kevin Twilley, mate on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" boated this 16 lb. 14 oz. tautog during a trip back in February. The blackfish ate a white crab in 110 feet of water on a wreck off Ocean City. Putting Kevin and his anglers on the meat was Capt. Kane Bounds. The "Fish Bound" docks at Bahia Marina in Ocean City, MD.

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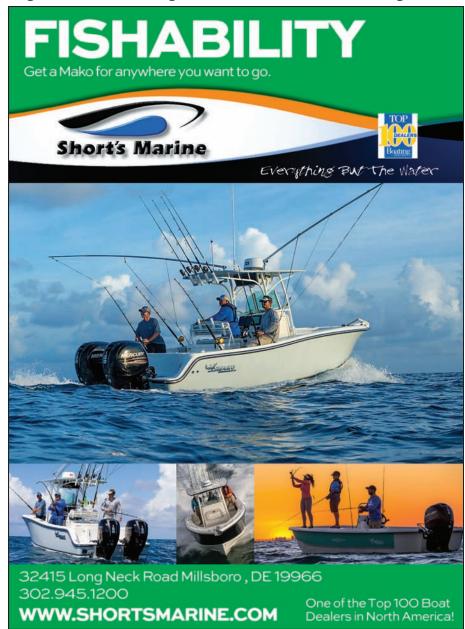
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During a trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo (pictured), angler Courtney Riftompson caught 4 of the nicest Boston mackerel that Capt. Monty has seen since 1994. The run was short-lived but anglers on the "Morning Star" were there to take advantage of it.





































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Today I drove a pickup truck load of fishing rods to the "Last Call". It was actually the last of three pickup truck loads of fishing rods. As much pride as I feel when I look at all of the 50 plus rods neatly racked in my garage, I get a much better feeling when the last of them is hanging in its proper place aboard my boat. Once they are all in their designated spots, I feel like I am that much closer to putting them to good use. After all, what good is a fishing rod when it is racked in my garage? Fishing rods belong on boats, or at least on or near the water!

When I was a younger man I spent my winters traveling to exotic places chasing billfish. One of my favorite t-shirts at the time had the following saying on the back, "There is No Off Season". And back then, for me at least, that was the truth. I was fishing somewhere around 200 to 250 days a year and a majority of the other days were spent working on or traveling on boats. I finally decided it was time to stay home more when one of my favorite bartenders informed me that I had just ordered a beer in Spanish,

which wouldn't have been so bad other than I was sitting at Harborside on a Saturday night in West Ocean City. Yup, it was definitely time to settle down a little bit.

That was close to 20 years ago. In the winters since then I have tried to fish as much as possible. The first few years after I was "done traveling" I still managed to spend close to 2 months in warm places chasing fish with pointy noses. I freeloaded on a boat called the "Ravenous" in Venezuela for all of October and half of November during my very first "off season". And then I went back to it sometime that winter to help take it from Aruba to Cancun. That took two weeks due to bad weather, and some good drinking, in Aruba. The following year, I made a few trips to Venezuela. It might have been 2 or 3 years afterwards that I made my first trip to Costa Rica by boat. I had been to Costa Rica one time when I was a little kid, but that involved multiple flights and a couple of trains and buses. The second time was much more fun. I was helping a couple friends of mine take a 65-foot Viking

called the "Wired" from Cabo San Lucas down to Los Suenos. That trip entailed visiting several ports in Mexico and a quick stop in Guatemala before settling in at Los Suenos for a few days of sailfishing before I had to fly home. But I liked it so much that I flew back a month later and stayed for ten days. I guess I have visited Costa Rica 4 or 5 times since then. Some of my other winter "off season" getaways have included the Galapagos, Australia, Islamorada and Cancun. I also spent 6 "off seasons" giant bluefin fishing in Morehead City, North Carolina. But for the past 3 or 4 years I have only fished a couple days at most in the winter.

This year I did not fish at all. For the first winter since 1991 I did not touch a fishing rod from the time I racked all of the rods in my garage until I started putting them back on the "Last Call". I was supposed to go out with Capt. John Oughton on the "That's Right" in Islamorada back in December but I am a fairweather fisherman and it was quite breezy while I was down there. So even though my Father can be a bit of a nuisance when he starts asking me to bring the rods back to the boat so he can give them their annual start of season service, I did it with a smile. I even smiled when he called me to tell me he had room for one more in the boat racks after I took that last load to the marina today. I went out to the garage and picked up one of our spares and put it in my

truck and made one more trip back to the marina.

By this weekend all of our rods and reels will be freshly cleaned up and lubed. All of our other spring time projects have been done for a while, so now I am counting the minutes until I can get this "Off Season" over with.

I look forward to sharing more Fish Stories with you throughout the summer. I want to thank Larry and the rest of the Jock Family for having me back as a columnist this year. Hopefully along the way we will share some laughs, rehash some good memories and maybe learn a trick or two. I welcome any feedback or questions you have. Hit me up on Facebook or chase me down on the docks and I will be glad to chat with you.

In closing this week I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Fishermen United of Ocean City for their quick response when the town thought about eliminating the \$5,000 prize money for the "First White Marlin of the Year". I would also like to thank the Mayor and the Ocean City Town Council for reconsidering their decision and keeping the prize money in play. Next week, I will talk more about the First White Marlin of the Season. You might find this hard to believe, but I have a story or two about that fish as well!

Capt. Franky Pettolina is Co-Captain of the charter boat, "Last Call" and President of the Ocean City Marlin Club.





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Bobby Zakrzewski of Milton, DE was fishing with his Dad in the Broadkill River when they caught 5 black drum weighing between 12 and 15 lbs. All of the fish were hooked on clams and weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



The bluefish bite in the bay behind Assateague was hot over the weekend and 7-year-old Mugen Nickerson used cut bunker to fool this 34-incher. Photo courtesy of All Tackle Ocean City.





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The first flounder caught out of Ocean City this year was a 20-incher boated by Lukas Layton on April 7th while fishing with artificial baits around the Rt. 90 Bridge. Lukas made the trip after school with Jacob Sturgill.



In mid-April, television star Big Bird Cropper and Dave Hrycyk found some ultra clean, 53-degree water around the South Jetty and caught 7 nice size bluefish (4 pictured) weighing up to 9 lbs. 8 oz. They also hooked 23 short stripers during the trip. All of the fish were fooled with Roy Rigs during the incoming tide.

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47" to less than 73"

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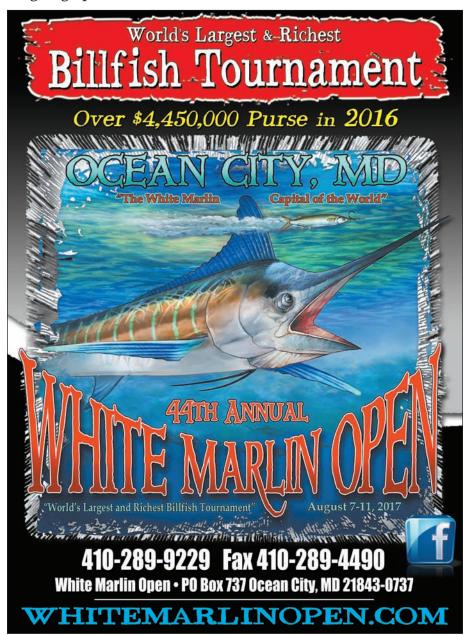


Back in January, Stellios Gatanos ventured down from North Jersey to take a trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" and was rewarded with this 16 lb. 13 oz. tautog hooked on a white crab off a Delaware wreck in 43-degree water. As always, Capt. Kane Bounds was at the wheel and mate Kevin Twilley was in the pit.





At the end of April, Tim Heim of Middle River, MD stopped by the Coastal Fisherman office to have his picture taken with a good batch of bluefish caught on finger mullet early in the morning off the pier on 9th Street in Ocean City. Tim and his buddy caught 12 whoppers during the incoming tide, measuring up to 35-inches and weighing up to 10 lbs. 2 oz.







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They say that timing is everything and that was certainly the case with the largest tautog caught so far this year. The big tog was muscled in by Sam Furest of Philadelphia, PA during a winter trip aboard the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Sam jumped into a spot along the rail just vacated by another angler and hooked the bucktoothed bruiser with a white crab on an ocean wreck. The "Morning Star" docks at the Ocean City Fishing Center in West Ocean City..



Jim Bunting of Ocean City, MD fished the 2016/2017 giant bluefin tuna season out of Wanchese, NC and had a spectacular day, boating studs measuring 93-inches, 99-inches and 100-inches. Jim was fishing on the "Canyon Runner".



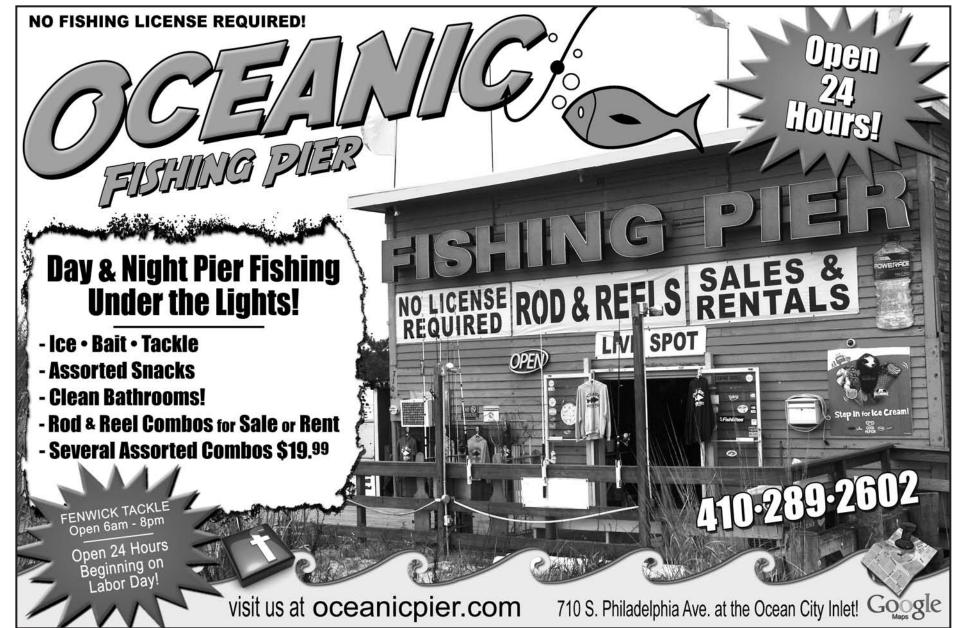
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Pat Scida recorded the first tautog catch out of Ocean City this year when, on January 1st, he ventured out on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. The big blackfish ate a white crab on an artificial reef.



On Sunday, anglers on the "Tunafowl" found a 9-degree temperature break near the Triple 0's and caught 3 yellowfin tuna, including the first of the season, while trolling ballyhoo and spreader bars. The break, with 67-degrees on the warm side, was in 130 fathoms where they caught their first yellowfin at 9:30 AM. Fishing on the "Tunafowl" were Josh Ensor, Corbin Ensor and Jeff Rosenkilde. Pictured at Sunset Marina.





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This 15 lb. 13 oz. tautog was caught and released by Jimmy Lee during a trip in April aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. Jimmy hooked the tog on a white crab in 70 feet of water where he also landed an 11 pounder during the trip.



While fishing in the surf off Cape Henlopen, Chase Holden of Millsboro, DE muscled in this 34-inch, 14 lb. citation bluefish. The big chopper was fooled with a Gulp! artificial bait and weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.







Last weekend, Tony Davidson from Glen Burnie, MD was looking for flounder while fishing off the bulkhead at 3rd Street in Ocean City when he ended up catching this 35-inch bluefish on a squid and shiner combination.



On April 28th, Andy Smelter, David Peterson and Capt. Terry Layton went searching for the first make shark of the year and found the 147 pounder in 55 fathoms, northeast of the Rockpile where Capt. Terry ran across a 16-degree temperature break with 68-degree water on the warm side. Andy muscled in the make after hooking it on a false albacore fillet. The guys also caught 12 blue sharks and lost another make, estimated at 250 lbs. Pictured at Bahia Marina.

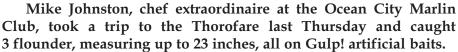


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BAY FISHING CHARTERS

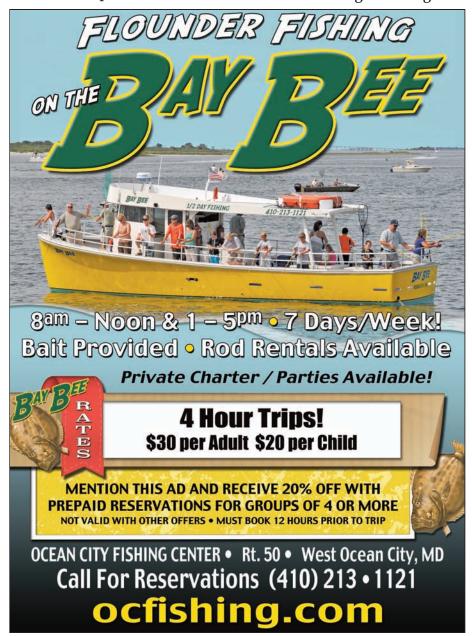






Craig Hocker from Biglerville, PA is all smiles after landing this 34-inch bluefish while fishing with fresh bunker at the North Wall of the Ocean City Inlet. The chopper was hooked on a morning slack tide during an outing with his wife, Karen Hocker.







to run all of the pictures due to space

restrictions and other circumstances

BAY FISHING CHARTERS



Beau Lyons was fishing with Capt. Rob Sparks on the "TerpHeels" when he hooked into this 21 lb. 1 oz. tautog at a wreck off Chincoteague, VA while using blue crab for bait. The current VA state record for tautog stands at 24 lbs. 3 oz.



Mike Johnston, chef at the Ocean City Marlin Club, burned up the flounder last week. After catching 3 flatties the previous day (see page 20), Mike ventured back up to the Thorofare and boxed another 4 fish after hooking them on Gulp! artificial baits and bellies. Mike's largest fish measured 19 1/2-inches.

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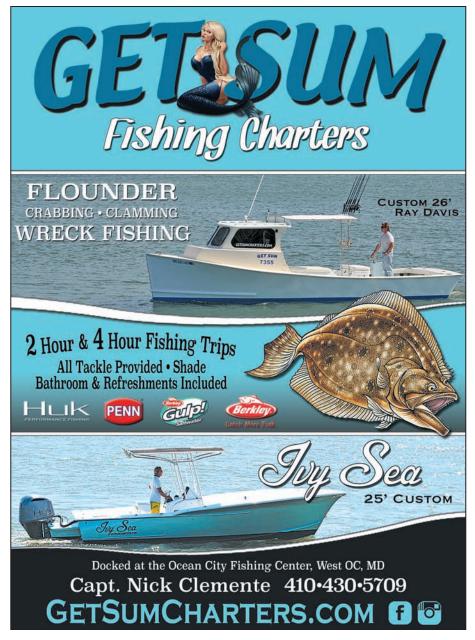
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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Eddy McCrae caught and released this 15 lb. tog during a trip on the headboat, "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Eddy hooked the 28-incher on a green grab over an artificial reef.





After racking up another good tuna fishing year in 2016, the charter boat, "Marli" is starting 2017 with some rockfishing out of Solomon's Island, MD. On opening day, Bradley Baxter from Kingsville, MD caught the first fish of the season when this 30 pounder ate a tandem rig in 60-feet of water in front of Calvert Cliffs. Bradley is pictured with mate, Mark Stephens.









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OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS

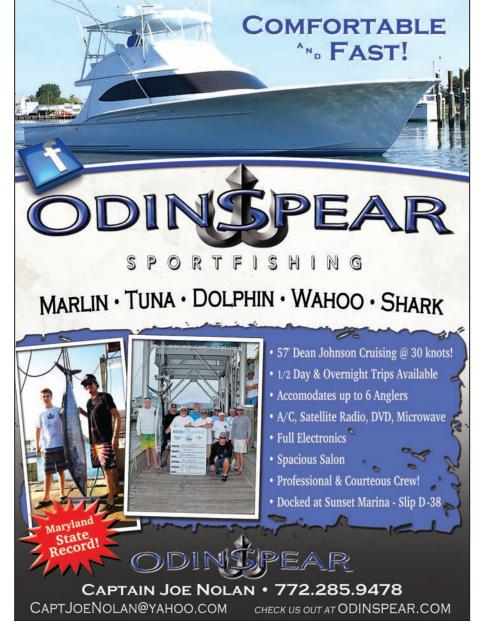


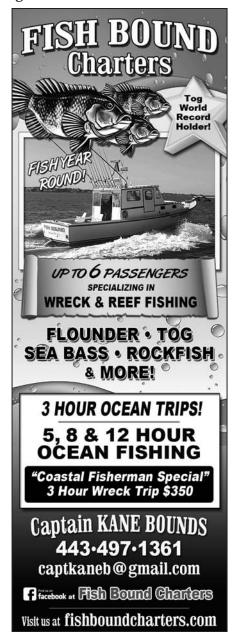
Mike Cenci of Ocean City, MD caught a 34-inch bluefish and Mike Troy from Tunkhannock, PA landed a 31-incher, both while surfcasting with cut bunker from the beach at 88th Street in Ocean City. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office.



Rick Flair wrestled in this 14 lb. 10 oz. tautog during a winter fishing trip on the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The fish was hooked on a green crab at a wreck in 110 feet of water where Capt. Kane found temperatures hovering around 45-degrees.







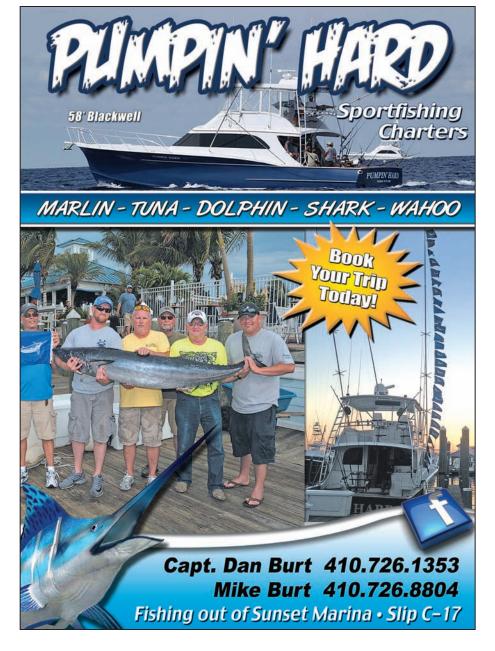


OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS



Mike and David Burt took some time off from getting the "Pumpin' Hard" ready for the 2017 season to do some kayak fishing on the flats off Onancock, VA and were rewarded with a couple of beautiful 45-inch red drum caught on the troll.

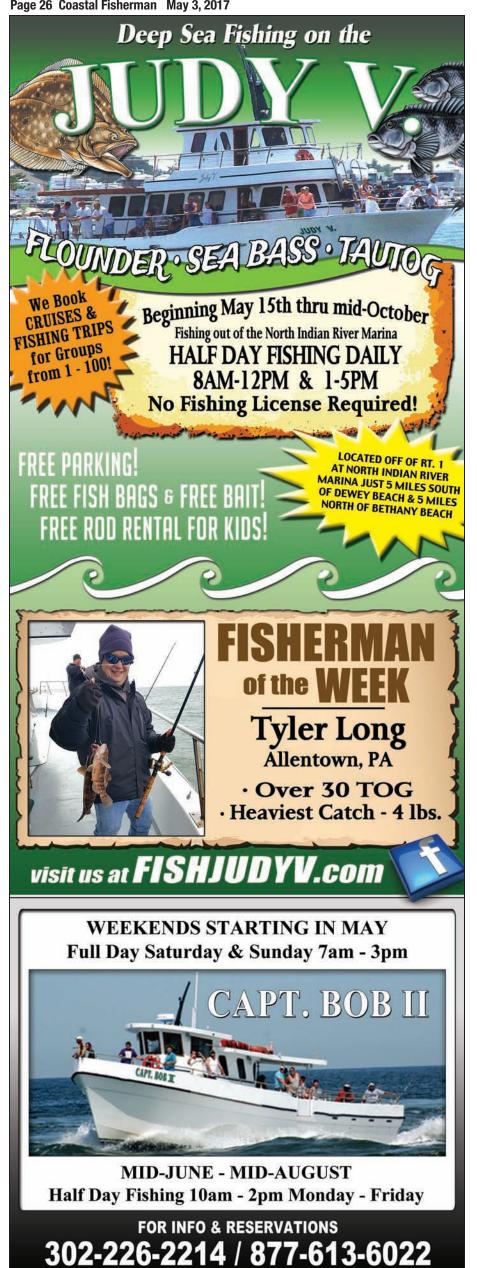






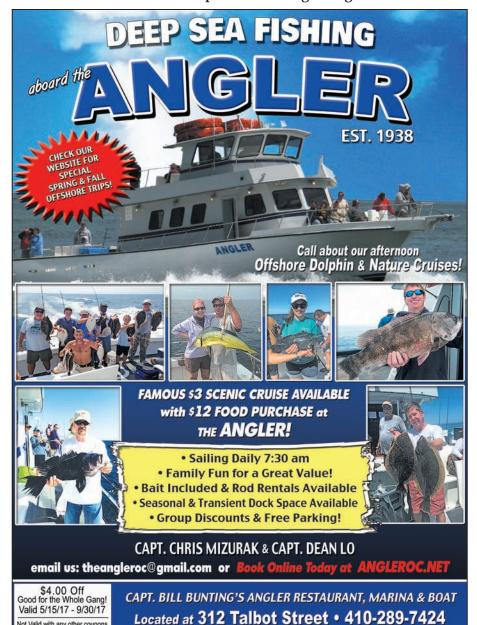


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With the headboat, "Angler" out of the water this past winter, Bob Telford of Pocomoke, MD still wanted to fish with Capt. Chris Mizurak, so he jumped on Chris' charter boat, "Reef Chief" and caught this 7 lb. tautog while fishing with white crabs on an artificial reef. Pictured at Capt. Bill Bunting's Angler Dock.



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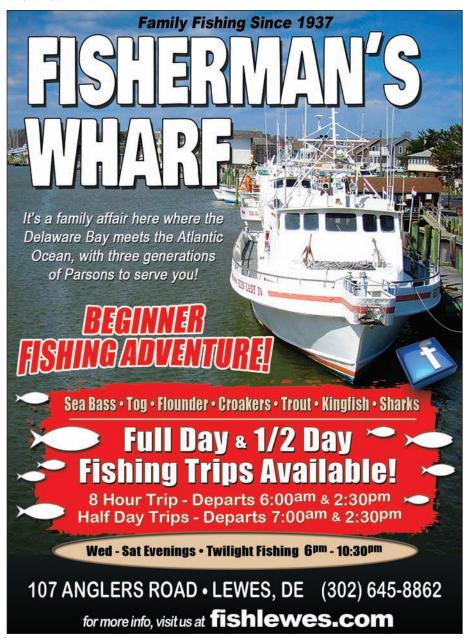
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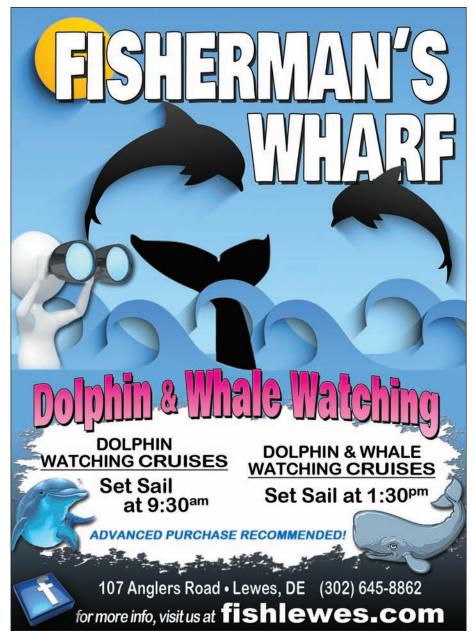


This 15 lb. bluefish was muscled in by Jason Schuster while he was tossing poppers in the Cape Henlopen surf. The fish measured 37-inches and sported an 18-inch girth. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Ray Lukas took a trip down to a barrier island off the Eastern Shore of Virginia with his son, Lukas and the duo ended up catching a pair of black drum measuring 34 and 35-inches. Both black drum, in addition to another 3 that were released, were hooked on clams.









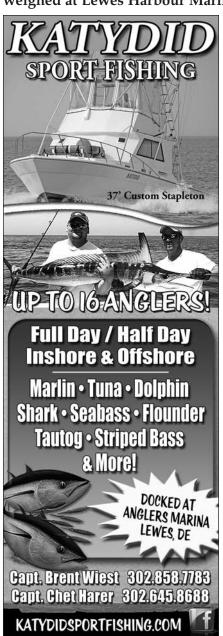
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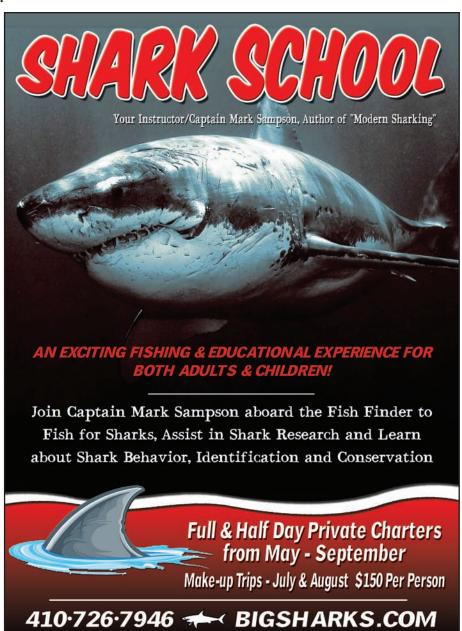
OCEAN FISHING CHARTERS





Julie Stevenson and Chris Vann from Lewes, DE were surfcasting from the beach at Cape Henlopen when they got into some chopper bluefish that were interested in their offerings of bunker. Julie's bluefish weighed 11 lbs. and Chris' tipped the scale at 13 lbs. Both were weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



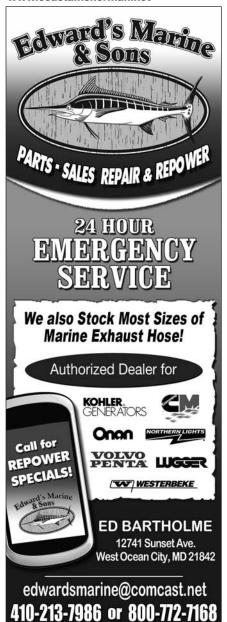






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During a trip this past winter to West Palm Beach, FL, Myra Cropper of Berlin, MD caught and released her first sailfish while fishing on the charter boat, "Rhonda's Osprey" with her parents, Hugh and J.L. Cropper, her brother Hugh Thomas Cropper and Capt. Joe Drosey.

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Delaware Fishing Report by Larry Jock

Welcome back to another season of the Delaware Fishing Report in the Coastal Fisherman. I hope everyone has a great season. With the very mild winter experienced, it should make for interesting unpredictable season. Already, it looks like things may be a couple weeks earlier than normal.

If you are looking to get your picture in the Coastal Fisherman, you can either stop by a local tackle shop to have it taken or you can email it straight to us coastalfisherman@comcast.net. Remember to send it at the largest size possible and include as much information about the catch as possible. We do our best to get as many pictures in the paper as possible.

The last couple of weeks



Bluefish have been the star of the show over the last couple of weeks and this trio of anglers were there to capitalize on it. Jonah Robertson, Tanner Virden and Jackson Ostroski caught these choppers on topwater plugs around the Cape Henlopen Pier. Jonah and Tanner's largest fish weighed 13.5 and 13.6 lbs. respectively, but Jackson led the way with a 15.4 pounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

have been interesting with an incredible run of chopper bluefish up and down the coast and in the bay as well. Striper action has been slow with small fish dominating the action right up until the bluefish moved in and then the striper bite slowed down. I can't blame the small stripers though, since I would have left town also when those big maulers arrived on the scene.

At Hook'em & Cook'em Tackle Shop in the Indian River Marina, Capt. Bert Adams reported bluefish dominating

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the scene in the Delaware surf, the Indian River Inlet and in the back bays. Angler fishing in the suds are having the best luck catching big bluefish (10 lb. +) with finger mullet. Bunker seems to be producing mostly catches of sharks and skates. In the Inlet and back bays, anglers are having a blast tossing topwater poppers to choppers in water as shallow as 2-feet.

Striped bass have been few and far between for lower Delaware anglers. There were a few keeper size fish caught in The Ditch, but small fish have dominated the early season. Bert did say that they have also seen some shad in the Indian River Inlet as well.

Surfcasters fishing off Lower Delaware beaches also caught a few black drum over the last several weeks before the last northeast blow, mainly while using clams and crabs for bait.

Keeper flounder continue to be non-existent for anglers drifting normal hot spots in the Inlet. Bert said that he has only heard of 3 short flatties caught so far this season.

Tautog fisherman have landed some hosses this season and right now most who are fishing out of Indian River are having the best luck around Site 10.

Matt at Fenwick Tackle also reported big bluefish keeping his customers busy while fishing in the surf. He also said that in addition to a few keepers coming from The Ditch, there have also been a couple of legal stripers landed as well.

Most of his customers are reporting small stripers in the





surf and up around the Rt. 90 Bridge, but that action tailed off when the big bluefish started roaming the waters. Surfcasters off Fenwick have been able to nail a few keeper stripers on bucktails and bloodworms.

Surprisingly, Matt said that surfcasters in Lower Delaware have also seen a few kingfish and puffers in the suds.

At Lewes Harbour Marina, Tommy said that a few keeper flounder have finally showed up in the Lewes Canal along with some short stripers. Like everywhere else, big bluefish are the main attraction right now with big fish (10 to 18 lbs.) showing up off all the beaches. Most anglers are fishing with cut bait until the bite heats up

and then switching to topwater plugs or anything shiny. Tommy said that you could probably throw a fork in the water and get a chopper to take it. I think he is right!

Black drum are starting to be caught off Broadkill, Augustine, Slaughter and Cape Henlopen Beaches but they haven't heard of anyone having luck yet at the Coral Beds which is always the normal hot spot for black drum.

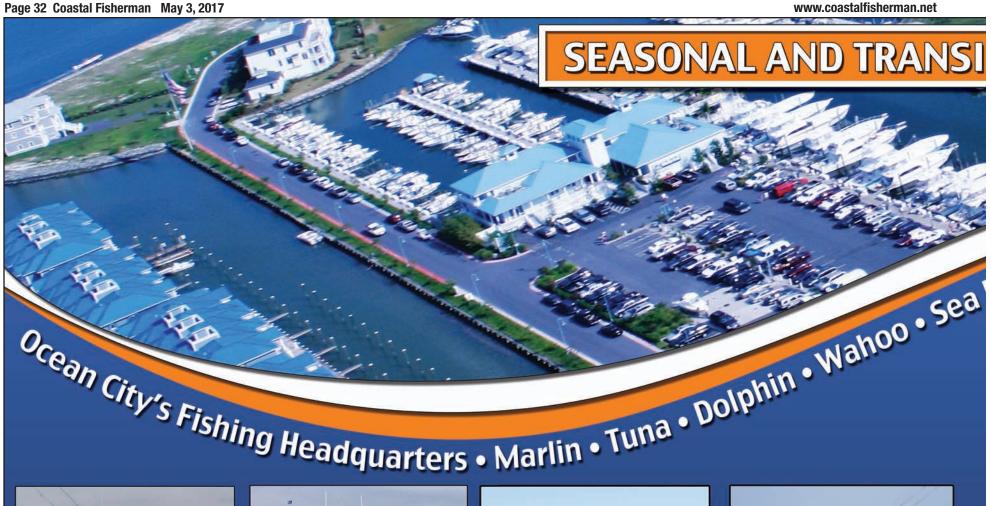
After dealing with small stripers for the early part of the season, larger fish are starting to show up off Broadkill Beach and off Cape Henlopen.

Until next week, keep those lines tight and have fun! That's what it's all about.











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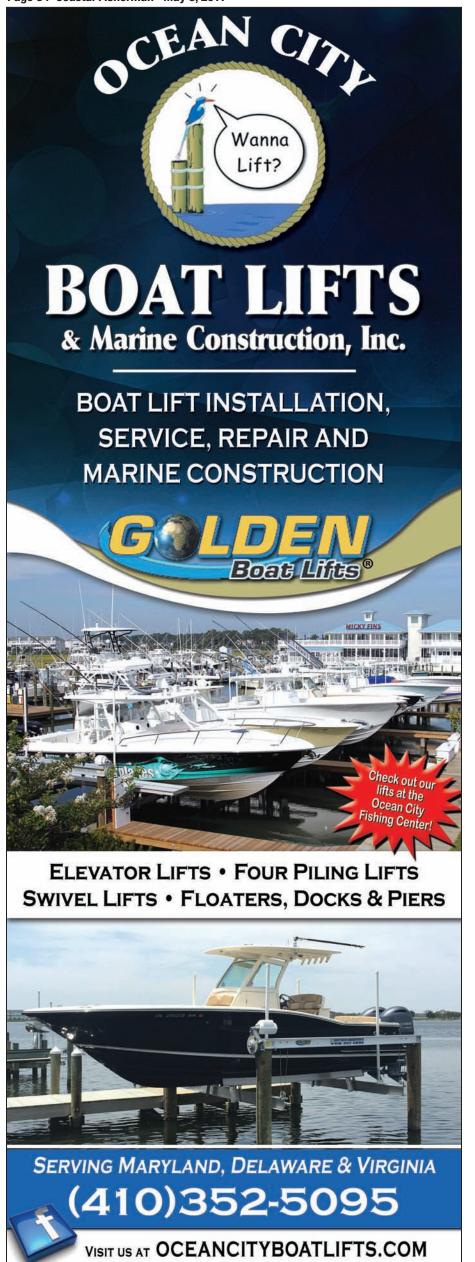
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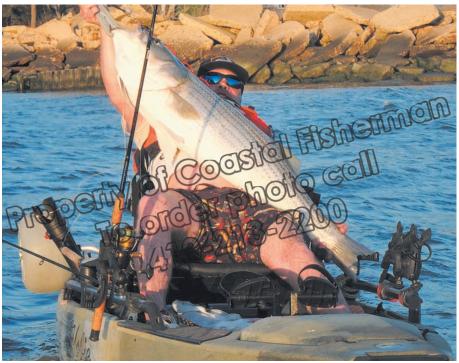
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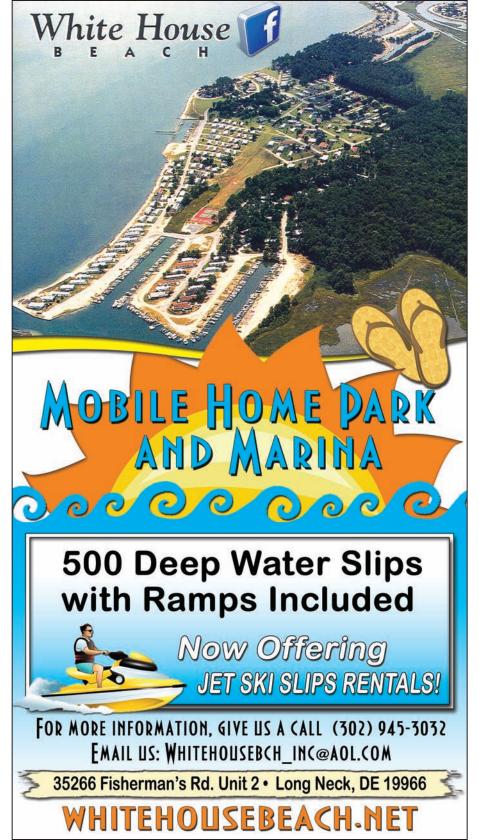


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Local angler, Dean Lokey took his kayak over to the Nanticoke River where he caught this 50-inch, 50 lb. striper on a bloodworm and towed Dean for over 50 yards before being boated.





On April 14th, Derk Steele from Jarrettsville, MD landed this 38-inch, 25 lb. 2 oz. striped bass while tossing cut bunker into the suds off South Bethany during the incoming tide. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Ayrton Pryor has really taken to fishing from his kayak and on this day he caught a 13 lb. bluefish while tossing a plug in Roy Creek with his buddy, Jacob Lewis.



Local angler, Gordy Kautz was fishing off Marathon Key over the winter and caught this grouper while fishing on the "Two Conchs" with Bill Rohrer.









Well, I'm back. Thankfully another fishing season is too. Don't get me wrong, fish such as striped bass and tautog can be caught throughout the winter out of Ocean City, but now is when things really start to get interesting.

The first flounder was caught on April 8th up by the Route 90 Bridge, and the back bay is currently loaded with small stripers, shad and bluefish weighing from 2 to 12 lbs. or more. So if you haven't greased up your reels and put fresh mono or braid on them, you'd better get to work. I always liked to have my pontoon boat in the water the first weekend in April, but as I get older it tends to go in more around the 1st of May. Our Sportfisherman is even worse the past couple of years in terms of trying to get everything ready for that first mako or tuna bite. I'm ready this year however. The small boat goes in this week and the big one will splash on May 11th.

While most of us offshore guys are waiting for the 20 to 30 fathom line to hit that magical 64-degree mark for

some mako sharks, or a Gulfstream eddy to spin within reach of the fleet for some tuna and marlin action, your best bet for the next two weeks or so will be inshore and in the bay. I personally caught about a dozen small stripers up to about 22-inches off the North Jetty and saw two bluefish over 33-inches caught. One of those bluefish was given to myself and my nephew while we fished. Most fisherman consider bluefish inedible at best, but I will tell you that if they are handled right they are delicious. The first thing you want to do is have a 5 gallon bucket of water on standby. When you catch a bluefish, either cut through or rip through the gills and make an incision to the backbone just forward of the tail on both sides. After the cuts are made, place the bluefish headfirst into the 5 gallon bucket of saltwater and let the fish bleed out. Change the water a few times until it becomes clear. Fillet the bluefish just as you would a striper and prepare for the tricky part. After skinning each fillet, you

MUST cut out all of the red meat that you see. When I say all of it, I really mean all of it. Now let the clean fillet sections soak in a marinade of Italian dressing and Old Bay for a day. The fish can then either be grilled, broiled, or coated in flour or your favorite crumb seasoning and pan fried (my favorite).

Alright, now that we have the proper technique for preparing bluefish, let us get back to actually catching some fish. The bluefish can be caught in the surf on cut bait such as menhaden, in the Inlet on lures such as Gotcha plugs and bucktails, and about anywhere else on soft plastics with a leadhead. Also, unless you have a small fortune to spend on lures, use a wire leader when you know the blues are around and never stick your fingers in their mouths. There are plenty of old timers still walking around with half a thumb! The small rockfish I caught along the North Jetty weren't out in the middle either. They were right up against the rocks in only a few feet of water. They seemed to overwhelmingly prefer a salt and pepper Zoom type soft plastic with a red leadhead (very similar to the now famous Roy Rig but on a smaller scale) and put up a terrific little battle on 12 lb.

gear. Casting parallel to the

rocks and using a slow retrieve with a few pops of the rod tip seemed to do the trick.

The Oceanic Pier has also seen some very good nights for stripers, blues and shad. This is the lighted pier on the right just past the Coast Guard Station at the very southern end of Coastal Highway before you get to the Inlet Parking Lot. I believe the cost to fish is \$8.00 and they have rod rentals and bait and lures. Never forget the Route 50 Bridge either, especially at night. You will see fisherman fishing the deep water (up to about 30-feet deep) around the actual Drawbridge. You will also see anglers spending their efforts on the western side of the bridge in the shallow water catching fish. More on this next week.

Now if you really want to get into some tasty and hard fighting fish we need to discuss the unattractive, but one of my personal favorite fish to catch, the tautog, or blackfish as they are known to our north. The greatest quality of this particular species is that you can catch it from shore in the bay or inlet, from a boat in the bay or inlet, from the Rt. 50 Bridge or up to 20 miles offshore! Obviously the bigger fish are going to be caught offshore and if you don't have your own boat or



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aren't very good at getting the one you have situated over an offshore wreck, there are plenty of headboat and charter boats that can put you on the fish. As for headboats, the "Morning Star", "Angler" and the "Judith M" are all top notch operations. Just call ahead to make sure they are running trips the day you plan to go and make a reservation. Some of these boats serve food, snacks and even beer so do a little homework on the internet or here in the pages of the Coastal Fisherman before making a decision on which boat is best you. Besides for the headboats, there are also a few charter boats that can put you on excellent offshore togging. The "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds actually owns the world record tautog caught off of his boat in January 2015. Capt. Chris Mizurak who runs the headboat "Angler", also runs charter trips aboard his 28foot Topaz, "Reef Chief" (that

and the 29-foot Topaz being two of my all-time favorite hulls). There are also plenty of bayside charter boats that can put you on tautog. The "Lucky Break", the "Get Sum" and "Ocean City Guide Service" are a few that come to mind. These boats also catch black drum and flounder if you wish to try for them.

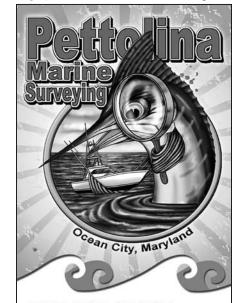
On to the most sought after fish in the Ocean City bays; the flounder. May is my absolute favorite time to connect with a keeper string of flounder. Keep in mind that these fish have just come in from about 65 miles offshore and are looking to warm up so they can feed. So forget the usual deepwater haunts that produce in August and concentrate on shallow, muddy or sandy flats. The shallows around the Route 90 Bridge, the flats north of the Thorofare and in the bay behind Assateague are the areas which you need to focus your efforts upon. I'll never

forget the day that I casted a Gulp Swimming Mullet into a foot of water off a channel in the Thorofare and a 6 lb. flounder immediately pounced on it.

Now that we know what can be caught in the early spring, my next column will concentrate more on the baits locations, and techniques to catch these semi-urban predators. Till then, get out and explore and please don't buy your tackle from the big market stores. Trust me when I tell you that you will pay about the same for what you are looking to purchase and the workers at our local tackle shops are MUCH more educated in what is going on and helping you catch the species you seek.

Capt. Lance Smith is an outdoor writer and Captain of his family's boat, 'Longfin". His column appears every other week in the Coastal Fisherman.

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John Jock ventured down to Crocodile Bay Resort in Costa Rica and caught this beautiful roosterfish during a day of inshore fishing.





It didn't take "5 Guys" to reel in this nice size tautog, only Karen Cathell of Ocean City, MD. Karen caught the 17-incher on a shrimp while fishing off the 3rd Street Bulkhead in mid-April. She didn't waste any time, landing the tog in the first 5 minutes of fishing.





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Classic Shrimp Rolls

submitted by Mary Ann Bradley

1 1/2 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined

1/3 cup mayonnaise

1 stalk celery, finely chopped

2 scallions, thinly sliced

Juice of 1 lemon

2 TBSP chopped dill

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1/2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning

2 TBSP melted butter

6 long potato rolls, split open

1 cup crushed potato chips

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Add shrimp and boil until

pink and cooked through, about 2-3 minutes.

Drain immediately and rinse with cold water to cool the shrimp.

Chop into bite-size pieces.

In a medium bowl, toss shrimp with mayonnaise, celery, scallions, lemon juice and dill.

Mix until thoroughly combined.

Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Brush inside of potato rolls with melted butter.

Distribute shrimp mixture evenly between rolls.

Sprinkle rolls with Old Bay seasoning and top with crushed potato chips.

Garlic Butter Weakfish

5 cloves garlic, minced

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1/4 cup grated Parmesan, plus more for serving Juice of 1 lemon

1 tsp. Italian seasoning

4 TBSP melted butter

Kosher salt

3 zucchini, cut into half moons

2 TBSP extra-virgin olive oil

4 weakfish fillets Freshly ground black pepper

Torn fresh parsley, for garnish

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

In a medium bowl, mix together garlic, Parmesan, Italian seasoning and melted butter. Season with salt.

Make parchment packs by cutting 4 sheets of parchment. Place 1/4 of the zucchini in the middle and drizzle with 1/2 TBSP of olive oil. Add fillet of weakfish.

Brush weakfish with garlic butter marinade and season with pepper.

Bring two sheets together

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and fold down over weakfish, then tightly roll up sides.

Repeat until you have four packs.

Transfer to a baking sheet. Bake weakfish until cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Open packs and garnish with parsley and Parmesan. Serve.

Lemon & Mint Seafood Skewers

submitted by Linda Miller

1 cup uncooked rice

1/4 cup lemon juice

1 TBSP olive oil

1 1/2 tsp. minced garlic

1/4 tsp. each salt and pepper

12 oz. peeled extra-jumbo shrimp

12 oz. large sea scallops

1 cup chopped tomatoes

1 Kirby cucumber

1/4 cup chopped parsley

1/4 cup chopped mint

1/4 cup sliced scallions

Cook rice according to package directions.







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About 15 minutes before rice will be done, combine 2 TBSP lemon juice, 1 tsp. oil, the garlic and 1/8 tsp. each salt and pepper in a ziptop bag.

Add shrimp and scallops to bag and marinate 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, coat outdoor grill rack with nonstick spray; heat grill.

You'll need 8 large metal or wooden skewers.

Thread shrimp and scallops alternately on skewers.

Grill 3 to 4 minutes, turning once until just barely opaque at centers.

Remove to serving plate.

Add remaining 2 TBSP lemon juice, 1 TBSP oil and 1/4 tsp. each of salt and pepper to rice.

Add remaining ingredients and toss to mix.

Serve with skewers.

Crab Mac & Cheese

1 lb. elbow pasta1/4 cup butter1 shallot, finely diced

3 cloves garlic, minced 1/4 cup all-purpose flour 2 cups milk

Kosher salt Freshly ground black

pepper pepper

1 cup shredded white cheddar cheese

1 cup shredded mozzarella

1 lb. lump crab meat Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Preheat oven to 375-degrees.

In a large pot of boiling water, cook elbows according to package directions until al dente.

Drain and return to pot.

Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter.

Add shallot and garlic and cook until fragrant and softened, 3 minutes.

Add flour and whisk until combined and golden, 1 minute.

Add milk and season with salt and pepper.



While fishing with finger mullet off the Rt. 50 Bridge, Frank Fiori (right) from Bishopville, MD caught a pair of bluefish while fishing with his son, Frank Fiori, Jr during the incoming tide. The largest bluefish measured 36-inches. Pictured at the Coastal Fisherman office on Sunset Avenue in West Ocean City.







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Surfcasters fishing off Assateague Island have hooked into short stripers, big bluefish and the occassional black drum. On this day, Tom Cox was fishing with Tyson Hughes and Danny Cox when he hooked this 28-inch, 14 lb. 10 oz. black drum while using sand fleas for bait.

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Simmer 2 minutes, until sauce is thickened and smooth.

Stir in 1/2 white cheddar and mozzarella until melted, then remove from heat.

Add sauce and crab meat to pot with cooked elbows and stir until completely combined.

Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheddar and parsley and bake until bubbly, 20 minutes.

Serve.

Grilled Scallops with Honeydew-Avocado Salsa

submitted by Patty Drescher

Finely grated lime zest
2 TBSP fresh lime juice
1 TBSP extra-virgin olive
oil
1 1/2 lb. honeydew melon
1 Hass avocado
Salt and freshly ground
black pepper

Heat gas or charcoal grill. In a large bowl, combine the lime zest and juice with the

2 lb. large sea scallops

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1 TBSP of olive oil.

Using a rubber spatula, gently fold in the diced honeydew melon and avocado.

Season the salsa with salt and black pepper.

Drizzle the scallops with olive oil and season with salt and black pepper.

Grill over moderately high heat, turning once, until nicely charred and just cooked through, 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Transfer the scallops to plates, spoon the salsa alongside, and serve.

Skillet Cajun Spiced Flounder with Tomatoes

submitted by Keith Bradley

1 tsp. olive oil

4 flounder fillets

3/4 cup onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

3/4 cup diced green bell pepper

21/2 cups tomatoes, chopped





1 TBSP Cajun spice seasoning

In a deep skillet, cook onion and garlic in olive oil on medium heat for a few minutes until soft.

Add tomatoes, peppers and spices, stir and cook until tomatoes are soft, about 2-3 minutes.

Lay fish fillets in the sauce, cover and cook on mediumlow until fish flakes easily, approx 12 to 15 minutes.

To serve, place fish on plate and spoon sauce on top.

Serve immediately.

Striped Bass with Corn and Green Tomato Relish

submitted by Paul Drescher

4 boneless striped bass fillets

2 TBSP light olive oil

2 tsp. fresh lemon juice

2 tsp. thyme leaves

1/4 tsp. coarse sea salt

1/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

Olive oil for brushing

2 TBSP light olive oil

11/2 cup fresh corn kernels

1/4 cup diced red onion

2 tsp. fresh thyme leaves

1/2 tsp. minced garlic

2 TBSP seasoned rice vinegar

1/4 tsp. coarse sea salt

1/4 tsp. Freshly ground black pepper

1 large green tomato or 1/2 lb. fresh tomatillos

Make a few shallow slashes through the skin of each fillet with a sharp knife, to prevent fillets from curling on the grill.

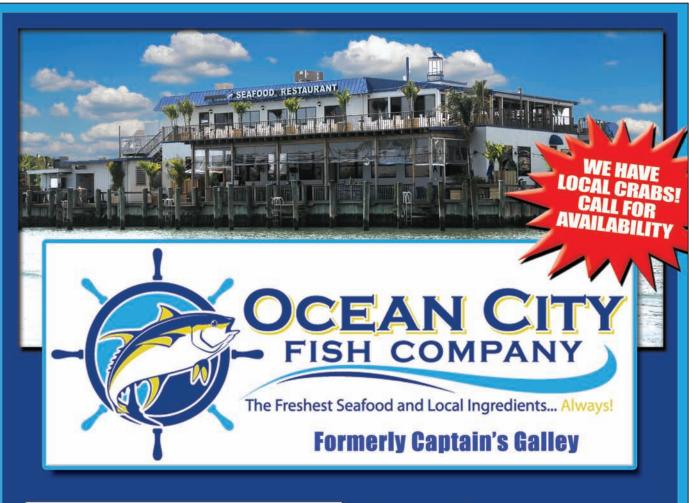
Combine oil, lemon juice, thyme, salt, and pepper.

Place fillets in a shallow baking dish and brush with oil mixture.

Refrigerate while making relish.

Prepare corn relish by heating oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Add corn kernels, red onion, thyme and garlic. Saute for 1 minute.



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Add vinegar and continue to cook 2 to 3 minutes, until corn is crisp-tender.

Remove from heat and stir in remaining relish ingredients.

Heat gas grill, or prepare coals for a charcoal grill for direct grilling over medium heat.

Heat a nonstick grill pan directly on the grill grate until hot, about 10 minutes.

Lightly brush fillets with oil and place flesh side down on grill pan.

Grill fish (keeping the grill lid closed as often as possible) until striped bass is opaque and still moist, 5 to 7 minutes, carefully turning once when fish releases easily from the grill pan.

Serve with the corn relish.

Portuguese-Style Mussels

1 head garlic 1 small onion

1 1/2 tsp. mild smoked paprika

1 tsp. ground coriander 1 tsp. ground fennel seed 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive

1/2 lb. chorizo sausage 1 bunch kale (about 8 oz.) 2 lbs. mussels

3 cups fish stock or clam juice or water

6 TBSP unsalted butter Freshly ground black pepper

In a food processor, blend garlic, onion, paprika, coriander, and fennel.

With motor running, drizzle in a 1/2 cup olive oil.

Blend until a fine paste forms (you may need to add a bit more oil).

Place a large stockpot over medium heat.

Add sausage and cook, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes, or until fragrant.

Stir in spice paste and cook 2 to 3 minutes more, or until color changes slightly and raw onion aroma has dissipated.

Stir in kale until just wilted. Stir in mussels and stock. Increase heat to high and bring mixture to a simmer.

Stir once more and cover tightly.

Cook 4 to 6 minutes, or until all mussels have opened (discard any mussels that haven't).

To serve, divide mussels and kale among 4 large soup bowls, using a slotted spoon (leaving broth behind).

Whisk butter into broth, add black pepper to taste, and ladle into each of the bowls of mussels, dividing evenly.

Drizzle with about 1/2 TBSP olive oil each, and serve with toasted country bread.

Seafood Bake with Crispy Hash Brown Topping

submitted by Ed "Porgy King" Moro

1 cup low-fat sour cream 1 TBSP cornstarch 1 TBSP Dijon mustard 2 tsp. lemon zest Kosher salt Pepper

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1 1/2 lb. mixed seafood 1 package frozen leaf spinach

2 cup frozen shredded hash browns

Heat oven to 425 degrees.

In a large bowl, whisk together the sour cream, cornstarch, mustard, lemon zest and 1/2 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Add the seafood to the sour cream mixture and toss to coat.

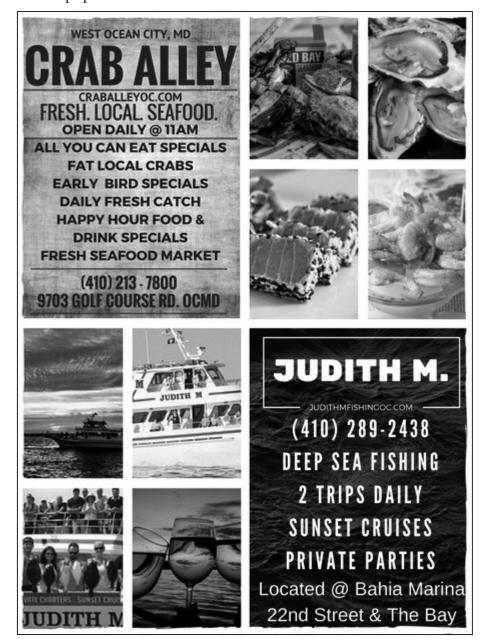
Squeeze the spinach of excess moisture, roughly chop, then fold into the seafood mixture.

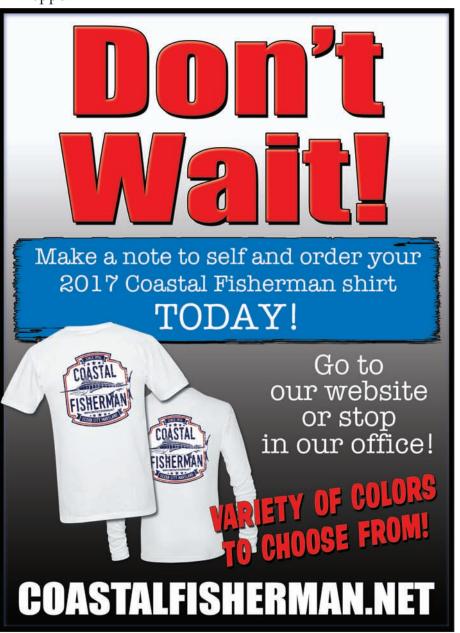
Divide among 4 shallow 1cup baking dishes and place on a rimmed baking sheet.

Sprinkle the hash browns over the top and lightly brush with olive oil or coat with cooking spray.

Bake until bubbling, 20 to 25 minutes. (For an extra golden-brown top, broil for an additional 1 to 2 minutes).

Serve.







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Charles Jenkins from Westover, MD stopped by the Coastal Fisherman office to have his picture taken with a 32-inch bluefish he caught on a flounder rig tipped with a shiner. Charles was fishing off the Rt. 50 Bridge during the outgoing tide.



Amy Lopata took a vacation to the Lower Keys and spent the day fishing with Capt. Mark Sampson on the "Fish' N Fly". On this trip, Amy caught and released this lemon shark in addition to a barracuda. During the summer, Capt. Mark runs the "Fish Finder" out of the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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This 21-inch flounder was caught in the Thorofare by Mike Orchulli of Nazareth, PA while fishing on the "Got Issues" with Jack Arblaster and Bill Hardy. The flattie was hooked on a white Gulp! and minnow combination during the outgoing tide. The anglers also caught 4 short flounder during the trip.



Capt. Monty Hawkins and mate Dan Iacangelo on the headboat, "Morning Star" prepare to launch block #17,000 in the Ocean City Reef Foundation reef system. This particular load was dropped at the Capt. Bob Gowar Memorial Reef on the northwest corner of the Bass Grounds. This is the 5th year the Reef Foundation has been creating reefs with cement blocks and as of presstime, the number dropped had reached 17,400. Capt. Monty and the OC Reef Foundation should be applauded for their efforts to establish reefs that will benefit anglers for many years.













The flounder were snapping last Sunday for this group of anglers fishing on the "Hellbent". Mike Johnston, Courtney Ritter, Katie Thatcher and Nate Gregory teamed up to boat 7 keeper flounder while trolling Gulp! and bellies in the Thorofare. Their largest flounder measured 22 1/4-inches and weighed 3 lbs. 11 oz. Also pictured is good luck charm, Jaxson.



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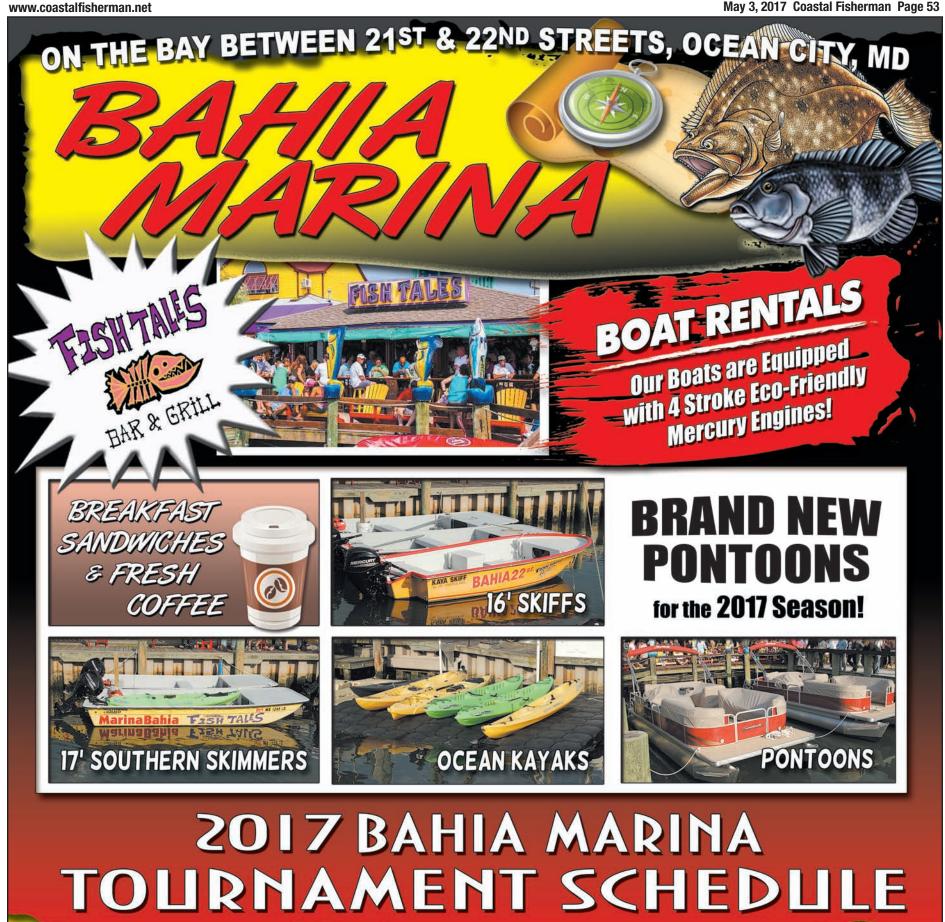












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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



I'll soon be returning to Delmarva after my annual three month stint of working as a flats fishing guide down in the Florida Keys, a place I know and love as one of the best places on the planet for a huge variety of fishing opportunities. Whether your passion is big fish, little fish, offshore or inshore fishing its all happening in the Keys.

One reason I enjoy "flats" fishing so much is that it's so very different from any type of fishing we have here on Delmarva. It's sort of a combination of hunting and fishing (what could be better?). Using an electric motor or pushpole, flats fishermen prowl their way across the 1 to 4 foot shallows looking for fish. Notice I said, "looking for fish" not "fishing for fish." This is known as "sight fishing" in that the angler must often first spot the fish before they cast their bait or

lure to it. In the clean, clear waters of the Florida Keys, as long as the sun is out, the boat is quiet and the wind is not blowing too hard, it's not too difficult to see fish hovering around the edges of mangrove islands, hanging-out near coral growths or rooting about the grass beds.

What often strikes me down there is the inconsistency of encountering fish in the same place twice. One day we might work a flat that's loaded with fish and the next day return under what seem to be identical water clarity, wind and tide conditions and yet the area might seem almost totally devoid of life, leaving us to ponder "where'd they all go?"

No matter where you fish, we all know that there are always going to be days when no matter how much you try, the fish just don't respond.

Sometimes they bite, sometimes they don't - that's fishing and a simple but important lesson to remember anytime and any place someone is fishing when the action just isn't what they expect.

So often fishermen have good luck one day and then return 24 hours later expecting a repeat performance but are surprised and disappointed when they experience little or no action. Such circumstances will likely prompt anglers to "fish harder" by switching baits or lures, changing techniques and trying anything they can think of to get the fish that were so hungry yesterday to bite their line today. When such efforts fail anglers may conclude that the fish just aren't hungry, too much fishing pressure has turned them off, something's wrong with today's bait, the tide is different, the moon is fuller, the fish are suffering from lockjaw or any of a multitude of reasons why they left the fish snapping yesterday returned today and can't get a bite. The fact is, for whatever reason, the fish may have just

simply moved out of the area, and no matter how much effort someone puts into it they aren't going to be able to catch nonexistent fish.

The dilemma so often arises because almost anyone who has a great day somewhere is only naturally going to return to the same place the next day. After all, it only makes sense for fishermen to assume that the fish are still there. The important thing for anglers to remember is that where they left the fish yesterday should only be considered a "starting point" for today. If the fish aren't encountered within a reasonable time, then anglers had better start thinking about searching for them in a new place. Putting a full day's effort into the same location may be akin to "beating a dead horse" in that it's just a lot of wasted time and energy if the fish have moved out.

A few years ago, I slipped down to the Ocean City Inlet one morning and experienced a few hours of the best inshore fishing I've ever had. It was early May and I was hoping to find some rockfish feeding on



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the incoming tide. As it was the were more than cooperative. I was working the tip of the South Jetty and literally had fish on every cast. In fact, the bite was so good that if I pulled the hook on one fish another would be right behind it and snatch up the lure before I could get it in for another cast! It was all so easy that after a while I actually got tired of catching stripers and ran to the Rt. 50 Bridge to look for bluefish. Again, I wasn't disappointed. Bluefish were chasing bait all over the sandbars and, like before, every cast produced a fish! Unless the fish actually started jumping in the boat the action could not possibly have been any better. After 4 hours of the mayhem I was tired and just had to quit. The fish were still feeding in my wake as I left for home.

Of course the next day I was back. Same place, same tide, same weather conditions, everything that I could tell was identical, so I expected yesterday's results – NOT! In two hours of fishing I never had a bite. It was as if every fish in

the area skipped town without notice! A few days later I started picking away at some fish again, but to this day I don't know what could have shut those fish down so dramatically from one day to the next, unless, like what we experienced last month in the Keys, the fish just evacuated the area.

Anyone who fishes a lot should know that just because they catch fish one day never guarantees that they'll have the same, or even any, luck the next. There are just too many variables involved that govern when and where fish will be and whether or not they will respond to our angling efforts. Trying to figure out where the fish are today and where they'll be tomorrow is just another of the many great mysteries and challenges that keeps so many of us totally captivated by the sport of fishing.

Looking ahead to this new season we should all be cheerfully optimistic that this will be our best one ever. But in the same breath, we also need to be realistic about the fact that between our first and last trip of the year all of us will have days when things simply don't go our way, and for one reason or the other we won't find or catch any fish. It makes no difference how "good" of a fisherman we are; there will be days when things just won't click, and even though we're making what we think are all the right moves, we'll never end up seeing good results on the end of our line. But "that's fishing", which is something we all know going in.

I guess if we knew all the answers and caught fish all the time fishing would become too routine, too easy and certainly lose a lot of it's appeal in the translation. As much as some folks might wish they could, no angler can honestly guarantee that from one day to the next that they'll catch fish. Only the "Man Upstairs" can do that, and as best as I can figure, He's not in the business of guaranteeing fish either!

Capt. 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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TOURNAMENT SERIES

2017 Schedule

★ You do NOT have to be a Member to Participate in this Tournament

8th Annual Memorial Day Tournament*

To benefit Catherine & Charles Kratz Memorial Foundation and Scholarship Fund

Registration: May 26, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 27 & 28 Awards Banquet:

Awards Banquet: May 28, 6:30 PM

9th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament "Heels & Reels''*

To benefit the OCMC Auxiliary Scholarship Fund Registration: August 3, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (1 of 2)

> August 4 & 5 Awards Banquet: August 5, 6:30 PM

38th Annual Small Boat Tournament*

Registration: June 16, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 17 & 18

Awards Banquet: June 18, 6:30 PM

59th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament* FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Registration:
August 31, 6:30 PM
Fishing Days: (2 of 3)
September 1,2 & 3
Awards Banquet:

September 3, 6:30 PM

35th Annual Canyon Kickoff*

FREE TO ALL OCMC BOAT MEMBERS

Registration: June 29, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 30 July 1 & 2

> Awards Banquet: July 2, 6:30 PM

39th Annual Scott Smith & Charles Kratz Challenge Cup

Registration:
September 13, 7:00 PM
Fishing Days: (2 of 3)
September 14,15 & 16
Italian Night:
September 15, 6:30 pm
Awards Banquet:
September 16, 6:30pm

13th Annual Kid's Classic*

To benefit Wish-A-Fish Foundation

Registration: July 21, 6:30 PM

Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 22 & 23

Sunday Carnival & Awards: July 23, 5:00 PM

> 5th Annual OCMC Rockfish

Tournament*
To benefit the Jimmy Fund

Registration: December 8, 6:00 PM Fishing Days: (5 of 9) December 9-17

Awards Banquet: December 17, 5:00 PM

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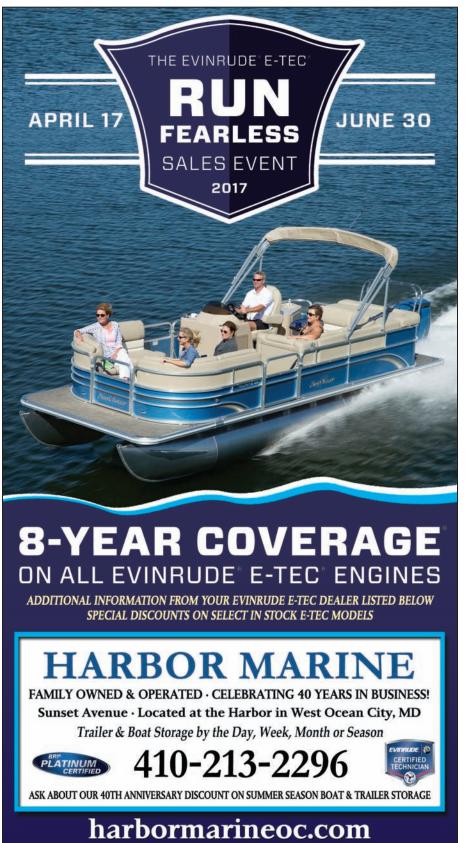
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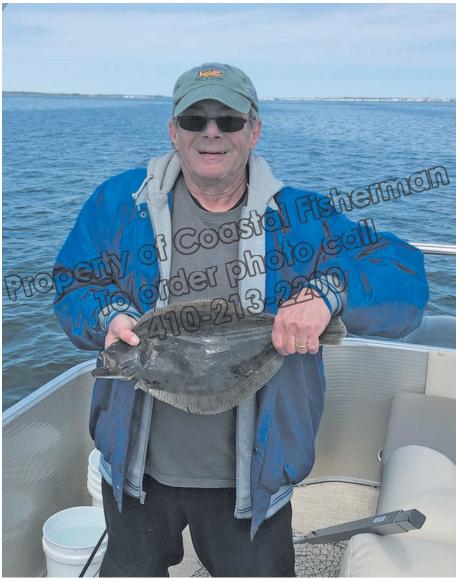


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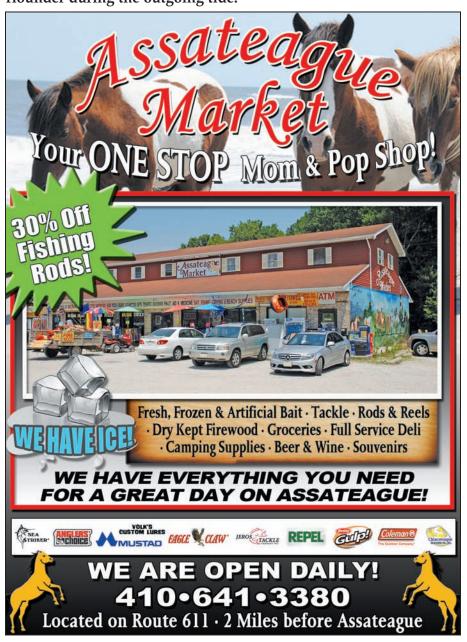


Chuck Custer from Frederick, MD was fishing with fresh mullet in the surf at Fenwick State Park when he caught this big bluefish on 15 lb. test line.





On April 15th, George Nicoletos was drifting a white Gulp! and shiner combination near the Rt. 90 Bridge and caught this 18-inch flounder during the outgoing tide.

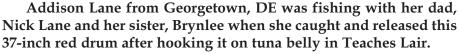


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Donald Bredice was surf fishing off Assateague Island with cut bunker and finger mullet when he caught this pair of chopper bluefish measuring 34 and 36-inches. Photo courtesy of All Tackle Ocean City.

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Rick Tubman ventured over to the Chesapeake Bay where he caught this 43-inch striper after hooking it on a white tandem rig in the False Channel, south of the mouth of the Choptank River.





Mark "Fish Killer" Levinrad caught this 9 lb. 13 oz. tautog during a January trip aboard the charter boat, "Fish Bound" with Capt. Kane Bounds and mate Kevin Twilley. The tog was fooled with a white crab in 60 feet of water on a wreck near Ocean City. The "Fish Bound" is docked at Bahia Marina









Sean Fox caught this 32-inch black drum on April 13th while surf fishing off Chincoteague, VA.





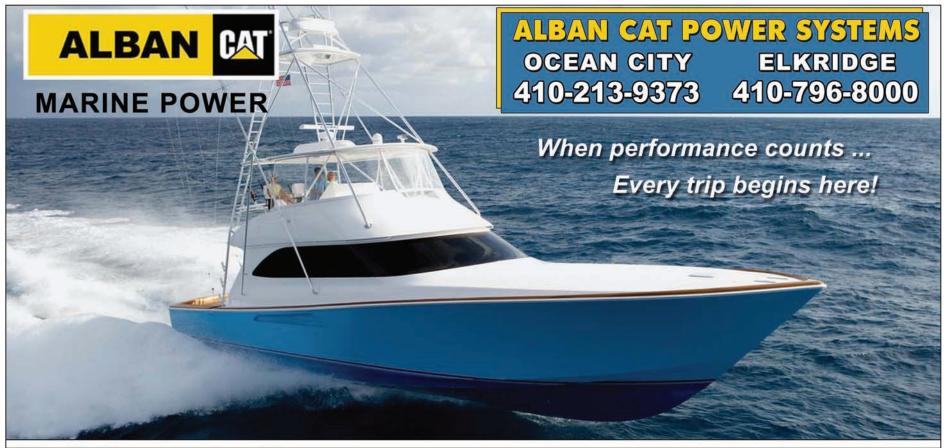
During a winter vacation to Quepos, Costa Rica, Niki Pino from An Optical Galleria caught and released her first sailfish during a trip aboard the "Tranquilo" with her husband, Bob Pino.







Fishing fanatic, Monika Bullette muscled in her very first sailfish during a trip to the Los Suenos Resort and Marina in Costa Rica. Monika caught and released the sailfish while fishing on the "Tuna Bite" with Phil Young, Capt. Howard Lynch and mate Maikol Cedno (pictured). Phil and Monika ended up with 3 sailfish releases during their trip in early March.



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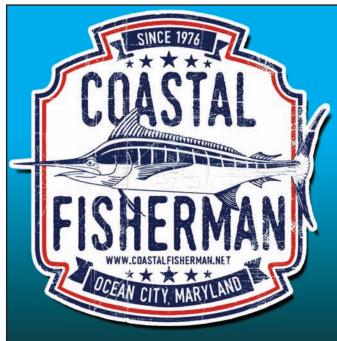
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OCEAN CITY Angler Restaurant Talbot Street Pier Oceanic Fishing Pier Wockenfuss Candy - 1st & 7th St. **Boardwalk** Layton's Restaurant - 16th St. Reel Inn - 17th St. Bahia Marina - 22nd St. Anthony's Beer, Wine & Deli - 33rd St. Minit Market - 33rd St. Dough Roller - 41st St. Seacrets - 49th St. Advanced Marina - 66th St. Mione's Pizza - 67th St. Dough Koller - 69th St. Exxon Wine Rack - 86th St. Layton's on 92nd St. Liquid Assets - 94th St. Clarion Hotel - 101st St. Wawa - 120th St. 7-Eleven - 120th St.

Montego Bay Market - 130th St.

7-Eleven - 139th St.

WEST OCEAN CITY **Ocean City Visitors Center** Wawa - Rt. 50 Mione's Pizza - Outlets Wockenfuss Candy - Outlets **Bank of Ocean City** West-O Bottle Shop & Bar - Rt. 50 All Tackle Ocean City - Rt. 50 Starbucks - Rt. 50 Ocean City Fishing Center **Ocean City Marlin Club** Harborside Bar & Grill Ocean City Fish Company **Atlantic Tackle Sunset Marina Sunset Provisions Harbor Marine** Food Lion - Rt. 611 Larry's Trading Post - Rt. 611

Optical Galleria - Rt. 611

Southside Deli

ANNAPOLIS, MD

All Tackle - Somerville Road

BERLIN & PITTSVILLE

Walmart - Rt. 50 (both entrances) **Berlin Post Office** Buck's Place - Rt. 611 Frontier Town - Check-In Frontier Town - Country Store Assateague Market - Rt. 611 7-Eleven - Rt. 589 **Ocean Pines Marina** Crabs To Go - Rt 50 Pittsville Ford Coastal Drug - Ocean Pines

FENWICK/SELBYVILLE

Fenwick Tackle **Mancini's Italian Restaurant North Bay Marina Uncle Willie's** Rt.113 Boat Sales **Harris Teeter** Yellowfins Bar & Grill

BETHANY, OCEAN VIEW & MILLVILLE

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

INDIAN RIVER

Indian River Marina Hook 'em & Cook 'em Tackle Shop South Shore Marina

DEWEY. REHOBOTH & LEWES

Pier Point Marina Fisherman's Wharf **Lewes Harbour Marina**

LONG NECK

Short's Marine Rick's Bait & Tackle





Tides & Moon Phases CEAN CITY INLET Low 08:55 am High 02:53 am Wed. May 3 Low 08:58 pm High 03:17 pm Low 09:54 am High 04:06 am Thurs. May 4 Low 10:04 pm High 04:29 pm Low 10:50 am High 05:06 am Fri. May 5 Low 11:08 pm High 05:28 pm Low 11:41 am High 05:57 am Sat. May 6 Low -----High 06:19 pm Low 12:06 am High 06:39 am Sun. May 7 Low 12:27 pm High 07:02 pm Low 12:56 am High 07:15 am Mon. May 8 Low 01:08 pm High 07:41 pm Low 01:42 am High 07:48 am Tues. May 9 Low 01:45 pm High 08:16 pm Low 02:23 am High 08:21 am Wed. May 10 High 08:51 pm Low 02:19 pm **Full Moon** High 08:57 am Low 03:03 am Thurs. May 11 Low 02:51 pm High 09:24 pm Low 03:41 am High 09:35 am Fri. May 12 Low 03:23 pm High 10:03 pm Low 04:19 am High 10:14 am Sat. May 13 Low 03:57 pm High 10:40 pm Low 04:59 am High 10:55 am Sun. May 14 Low 04:34 pm High 11:20 pm Low 05:41 am High 11:37 am Mon. May 15 Low 05:17 pm High -----High 12:01 am Low 06:25 am Tues. May 16 High 12:22 pm Low 06:05 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



.... MAY

4th Annual MSSA Spring Rockfish Tournament

May 5-7 • M.S.S.A. • 410-255-5535

Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament

May 19 • Lewes Harbour Marina • 302-645-6227

8th Annual Marlin Club Memorial Day Tournament

May 27-28 • *Ocean City Marlin Club* • 410-213-1613

.... JUNE

21st Annual Mako Mania

June 2 - 4 • Bahia Marina • 410-289-7438

37th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament

June 7-10 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

59th Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Torunament

Ladies Tournament June 10 • Tournament June 11-17 Morehead, NC • 252-247-3575

28th Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment

June 16-18 • Sunset Marina • 410-255-5535

38th Annual Marlin Club Small Boat Tournament

June 17-18 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

Canyon Club Overnight Tuna Tournament

June 23-25 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

9th Annual Pier Point Marina Flounder Tournament

June 23 - July 29 • Dewey Beach, DE • 302-227-2808

3rd Annual Indian River Kids Catch-All Tournament

June 24-25 • Indian River Marina • 302-227-3071

35th Annual Marlin Club Canyone Kick-Off

June 30-July 2 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

.... JULY

Canyon Club Junior Angler Offshore Challenge

July 5-8 • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2400

30th Annual Ocean City Tuna Tournament

July 14-16 • Ocean City Fishing Center • 410-213-1121

13th Annual Marlin Club Kid's Classic

July 22-23 • Ocean City Marlin Club • 410-213-1613

4th Annual Big Fish Classic

July 28-30 • Talbot Street Pier • 410-213-0325



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TOURNAMENTYACHTSALES.COM 866-NEW-YACHT (866.639.9224)

Every day is a tournament; let us compete for you!





Jimmy Fields 561-801-5720



Steve Trattner Gary Stamm 410-251-1817 443-783-2765



Jeff James 252-216-6913



Charley Pereira 252-216-6291



David Fields 561-779-0759



Ronnie Fields 561-762-0096



Alan Fields 561-346-4605



Rick Carney Brian Speedy 443-235-3134 561-685-2055



Steve Hedrick 717-586-9841



Dave Shockley 561-262-6726



REEL PUSHY- 2008 70' Spencer Yacht Call Jimmy Fields



CHASIN TAIL - 2008 67' Bayliss Call Jimmy Fields



COOKIE MONSTER - 2007 74' Viking Call Rick Carney



MECHANICAL MAN - 2008 68' Weaver Custom Sportfish - Call Jimmy Fields



PUSHY - 2001 102' Destiny Motor Yacht Call Jimmy Fields



SUSHI - 2014 57' Island Boatworks Call Jimmy Fields



2008 61' Blackwell Custom Carolina Call Jeff James



ARGUS - 2009 58' Middleton Call Jimmy Fields



TROPHY BOX - 1986 57' Island Boat Works Call Jimmy Fields



MISS HEATHER - 2000 74' Hatteras Cockpit Motor Yacht - Call Dave Shockley



1988 58' Monterey Call Jimmy Fields





GRASSHOPPER - 2009 35' Cabo Call Steve Trattner



KILLER WHALER- 2008 34' Boston Whaler - Call Steve Trattner



GANNETT-1977 46' Graves Sportfish Call Jeff James



2014 25' Grady White 257 Call Steve Trattner



HOOK UP - 1989 41' Viking Call Steve Trattner



OUTCAST - 2002 34' Luhrs Call Steve Trattner



Convertible - Call Steve Trattner



Call Steve Trattner



PERSISTENCE - 1994 35' Luhrs Call Steve Trattner



RAMSI - 2004 268 Albemarle Express **Call Steve Trattner**



JACKED UP - 2002 30' Pursuit 2008 4-Stroke Yamahas - Call Steve Trattner



JIMBO - 2000 26' Albemarle Call Steve Trattner



2001 Boston Whaler 260 Outrage Twin 200 **Call Steve Trattner**





