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# COASTAL FISHERMAN

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It was quite the journey for Capt. Charlie Pereira and the crew of the "Sushi" during the 48th White Marlin Open, having to overcome several obstacles including the weather and a bent prop on Monday! Fortunately, Capt. Charlie's team in North Carolina of Bluewater OBX coupled with Ocean City's Duffie Boatworks and Sunset Marina got the boat back in action in short order. Anglers Butch Wright, Joe Kehoe, Paul Collins, Craig Scheiback and Jesse King with mate James Coane spent the last day of the tournament deep in the Norfolk Canyon. Craig got onto 2 white marlins that were released and they also boated a yellowfin tuna. It was however the white marlin that angler Butch Wright got onto that day that upset the leaderboard! After many boats came through the scales with many changes to the top fish, it was the "Sushi" that came to the scales as almost the last boat. As their white was measured, the weighmasters called out the details. First was the length at 76", impressive, but then was the girth at 14"! Once on the scale the weight was 85 1/2 lbs. sliding the crew into 1st Place in the White Marlin Division and earning the single largest payout in White Marlin Open history of \$3,238,155 in prize money.



Brandon Poffenberger of Smyrna, DE was fishing the Indian River Inlet with friends Josh Girtain of Pennsville, NJ and Mike Williams of Dover, DE. They were drifting live spot on the incoming tide when Brandon hooked this 29" striper.



Paul Rayburn of JPR Custom Rods did some field testing last week. He caught this black drum near the Rt. 90 Bridge in the Ocean City Bay using a Thing a Ma Jig lure.

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The Herndon, VA crew of the "Island Hopper" was the second boat to the scales on Day 2 of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open bringing the first wahoo to the scale during the event! Angler Alex Hoskins was on the rod for 30 minutes getting this 48.5 lb. one to the boat just in time. The hook was almost bent flat and the mono shredded, but the crew of Capt. Colby Campbell, mate Danny Koreski with Taylor Mauldin and Nick Merrill got the fish on board securing 2nd place in the Wahoo Division earning \$1,500 in prize money.



The Ocean City Bay was very productive for flounder over the past week. Courtney Tate fooled this nice 20" fattie using white Gulp near the entrance to Harbor Island while fishing with her dad Chad and Bryan Buck of Greenwood, MD.

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### This Week Last Year

- The 47th Annual White Marlin Open concluded with "Canyon Blues" taking the top prize of \$1,850,000 for their almost record setting 97 lb. white marlin. Other top earners were 2nd Place Tuna winner "Restless Lady II" taking home \$1,414,000 and a big with in the new Heaviest Fish Division and Small Boat Heaviest Category from "Jersey Boy" winning \$375,000 for their 273.5 lb. swordfish.
- On Day 5 of the WMO Matt Wagner from LaPlata, MD caught a 73.5 pound bull dolphin while fishing on the "Backlash". This mahi set a new tournament record breaking the previous record that stood for 34 years.

There is no doubt that last week was an exciting one for offshore fishing! With 444 boats entered and a purse of over \$9M dollars, the 48th Annual White Marlin Open did not fail to deliver on exciting catches and dramatic turnovers of the leader board. The tournament also set new standards in conservation by raising the tournament limits for white marlin to a minimum lower jaw fork length of 70", up from 68" last year, and establishing a minimum weight of 70 lbs. These are much higher than the Federal limits of 66" without an additional weight criteria. Likewise the WMO blue marlin limit of 114" lower jaw fork measurement is also significantly higher than the Federal standard of 99". These changes increase the number of whites and blues released as well as increases the competitiveness of the event as was reflected in this year's species count. 97% of the 515 white marlin caught were released as were 96% of the 69 blues.

As with most White Marlin Opens, the weather plays a part as well as Monday and Friday fishing days. This year's weather played out well for this pattern with a front moving through on Wednesday and Thursday. Given the 'fish 3 of 5' day format of the event, most boats chose to fish Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Day 1 saw quite a bit of action as 421 boats headed out to try their luck. The first boat to the scale was the "Fender

Bender" from Virginia Beach, VA with appropriately a white marlin to weigh! Angler Mike Atkinson absolutely set the bar catching an 82.5 lb. white outside of the Poor Man's Canyon while trolling in 1000 fathoms. Most thought the winner was set as that white would have one 4 of the last 10 opens and the marlin bite had been off for the past few weeks. The next big catch to the scales came from the NE corner of the Wilmington Canyon. Angler Lawrence Morejohn on the "SEVEN" boated a 137 lb. bigeye tuna after an extended fight on a TD30 with a 7/0 hook. Clearly they were not looking for tuna! Not long after that we saw the first of two sharks caught with the "Go Fish" presenting a 132.5 lb. tiger shark they caught in between the Hambone and the Baltimore Canyon wall. Rounding out Day 1 was the "Mama C", also from Virginia Beach, VA. They too were outside the Poor Man's Canyon around the 615/935 mark where they connected with a 116 1/2" and 559.5 lb. blue marlin. This one came up on a teaser and took a pitch bait the crew put out once they got eyes on it! An extraordinary Day 1 concluded with solid fish in all the major levels with only dolphin and wahoo remaining open.

Day 2 saw 'sporty' conditions in the morning, but 420 boats still headed out. A new 1st Place wahoo was set by the "Island Hopper" for the 48.5 lb. fish they found south of the Baltimore Canyon as was a 2nd Place 83 lb. Tuna from the "Reely Chaotic". The big fish of the day was another blue marlin caught by the "Canyon Lady". Angler Scott Zurawski was also outside of the Poor Man's Canyon where he landed a 115 1/2" and 511 lb. blue marlin to move into 2nd Place in that Category.

Most boats stayed in the slips for Wednesday and Thursday as the weather moved through, and no notable changes to the leaderboard occurred, however as Friday came upon us, it was clear it was a new day for the tournament!

In an eventful day that did not end until 10:30PM, almost all the top spots changed on Friday. The

"SEVEN", already leading the Tuna Division brought both a blue and white marlin to the scales! Both were caught in the Wilmington Canyon only 1/2 mile apart, but at much different depths. First caught was a 77 lb. white marlin that they hooked in 800' that briefly held 3rd Place followed by their 775 lb. big blue marlin that popped up on a teaser while they were in the flats in 300'. A quick pitch bait to get hooked with a 4 hour fight to follow put this category winner in



the boat. One of the last boats in was the "Jersey Boy" with a new Maryland State Record swordfish at 318.5 lbs! They were also southeast of the Poor Man's Canyon in 1400 ft. connecting with this one late day and taking 2 hours reel in. Of course the biggest upset came almost at the end. After dozen's of boat came in, it was finally the turn for the "Sushi". Capt. Charlie Pereira had suffered a bent prop earlier in the week, but was able to work with Sunset Marina and Duffie Boatworks to get back in the game so when word reached the scales that they were bringing a white, excitement was high! They had ventured deep to the south in the Norfolk Canyon in 70 fathoms to find this white. With a length of 76" and a girth of 14" it was not a surprise this white became the new leader at 85 1/2 lbs. earning the single largest payout in tournament history of \$3,238,155! A fitting end to one of the most exciting final days in WMO history. There is more coverage

and more detail in our Tournament Section starting on page 66.

No coverage of this year's White Marlin Open would be complete without recognition of and thanks to the crew from the "Fishbone". On Monday last week they heard a distress call from the "Knot Stressin'" who were taking on water and sinking. Realizing they were only about a mile away from them, Capt. Billy Chapman and crew pulled the lines and speed to their rescue. All lives were saved as well as the few belongings that floated.


There were very limited reports from offshore last week as most boats were either in the tournament or in the slip due to weather. Overall the big blues and whites came from outside the Poor Man's Canyon with the winning tuna and many billfish releases north in the Wilmington and Spencer Canyons. Hopefully the front that moved through improved the bite on Friday will stay with us into this week.

### Upcoming Tournaments:

- The 28th Annual Steve Harman Poor Girl's Open is back after a pandemic hiatus last year. This is a ladies only billfish release event benefiting breast cancer research. Held at the Bahia Marina on August 12th thru 14th, the event is always fun filled with a vendor village, colorful outfits from the anglers and great food at Fish Tales. Scales are open from 4 - 7:30 PM each day.
- The 30th Annual Mid-Atlantic Tournament will be held from August 16th thru 20th with weigh ins from 5 - 9PM at both the Canyon Club Marina in Cape May and at Sunset Marina in Ocean City. This is another tournament with a multi-million dollar purse sure to bring big fish to the docks!

Follow our Tournament Schedule in the paper and on-line to keep up to date!

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



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The crew of the "Salty Reel" got some action at the Hotdog in late July. John Tompkins from New Castle, DE caught his first 20 lb. mahi on a widetracker and Gabe Kirk from Dover, DE caught a 60 lb. yellowfin tuna on a daisy chain. They were fishing with Capt. Mike Sisofo and Kyle Sisofo both from Middletown, DE.

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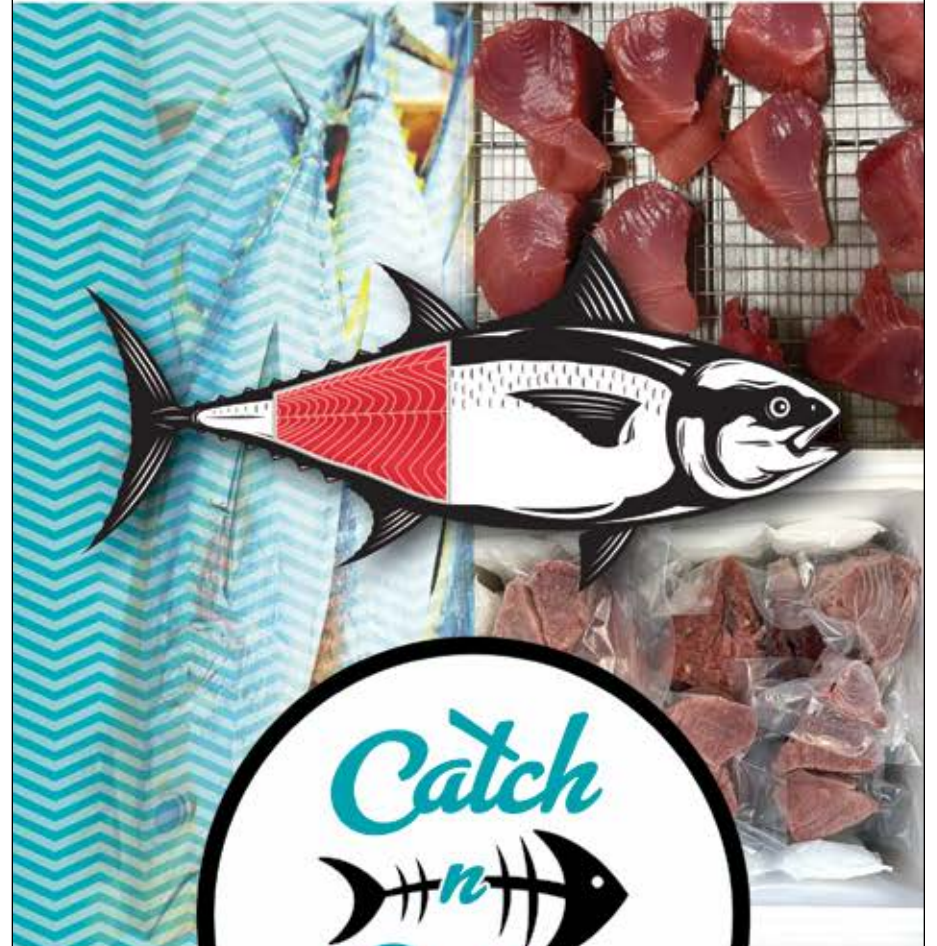
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The mix of fish being caught near shore at the natural and artificial reefs picks up this time of year offering anglers the opportunity for sea bass, flounder and some mahi! Tim Price caught this nice gaffer dolphin while fishing on the headboat "Angler" with Capt. Chris Mizurak and mates Rich and Steve. On this trip they used bucktails at an artificial reef.

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1 per person/day 6/15 - 9/15  
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9" minimum  
25 per person/day



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



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
4 per person/day



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
14" minimum  
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28-35"  
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16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day



**TAUTOG**  
16" minimum  
4 per person/day 1/1 - 5/15  
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Quite a few nice mahi were brought to the scales during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open including this 28 pounder caught by Ralph Schiattarella from West Creek, NJ. He also released a white marlin. Fishing with Ralph were Dan Mrusko, Tony Novelli, Kert Sheimreif and David Southwick.

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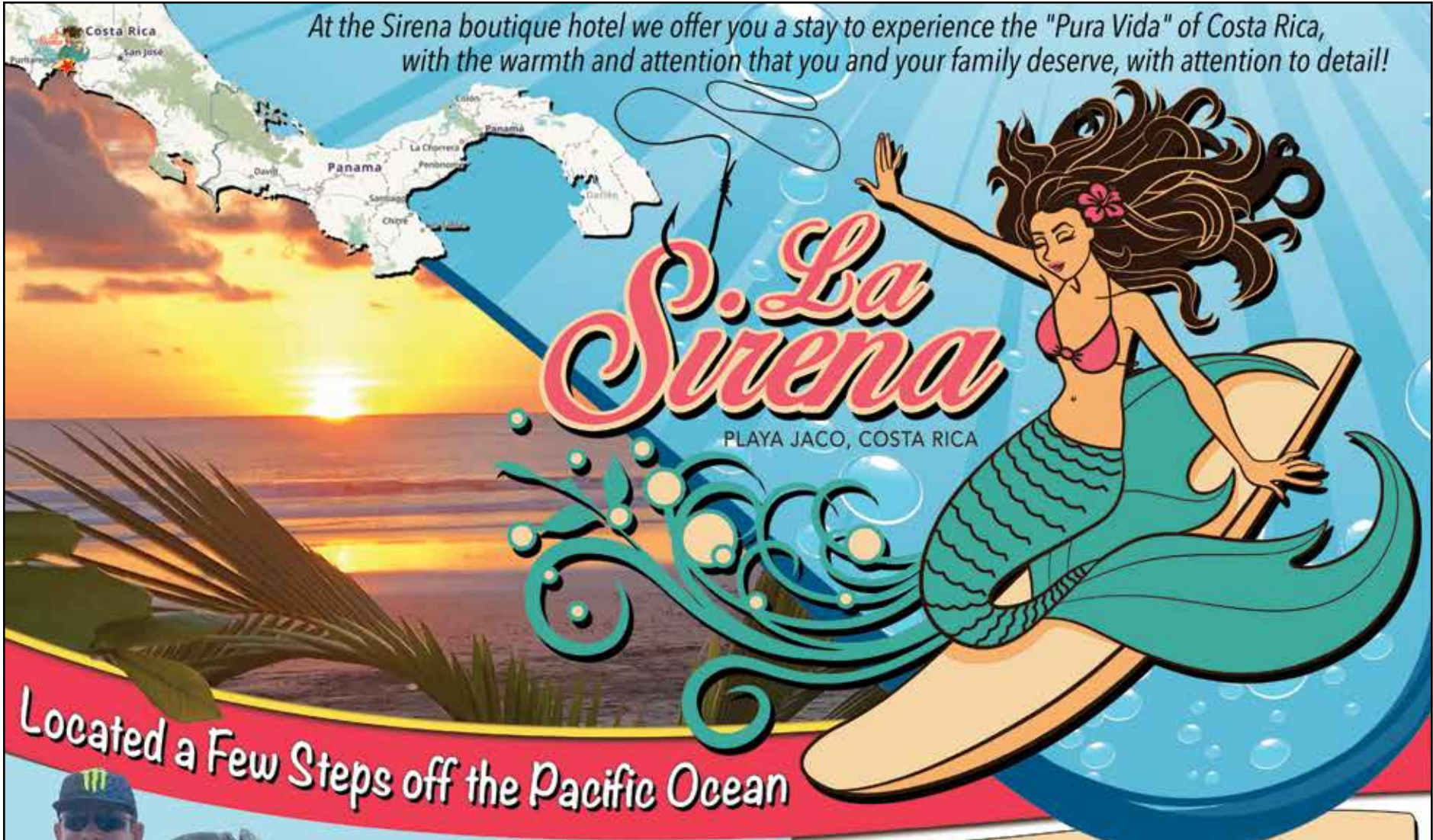
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# OCEAN CITY

## FISHING REPORT by Capt. BJ Pietryak



White marlin week has arrived! The crowds are here for the largest billfish tournament on the east coast. Many of these visitors have brought their boats and are on the water. Our bay fishing and near shore fishing spots have been packed. The cooler temps and calmer winds made it much more bearable in these crowded conditions. Fishing was still pretty good in the back bays as well as the near shore wrecks.

### Flounder & Croaker

The back bays have been pretty good for flounder this past week. Many anglers reported big fish in the deeper water channels when you could find them. The main channel just above and just below the Rt. 50 Bridge were very slow mostly due to the high traffic caused by the White Marlin Open. The

channel by the Rt. 90 Bridge as well as the one south of Harpoon Hanna's were the hot spots this week according to many anglers including Frederick Rath. He reported nice size fish caught at these locations all week. Again these areas are off the path of the bigger boats fishing the Open. The Angler headboat reports great catches of big flounder for their customers all week. They report some nice sea bass also came over the rails this week. Many anglers were rewarded with big knot heads bouncing squid along the bottom of the wrecks. It is very late in the season to see these big sea bass coming in. The African Queen site has produced some nice sea bass as well as some big flounder. Randy Swane reports that he had a group out on his charter boat near the lightship early this week and loaded up

on sea bass up to 17". Randy further reported he did the next day charter at the African Queen site and got limits for all of his clients on big flounder. Randy reports the flounder were up to 6 lbs. He also said there were tons of big triggerfish on the wrecks. He reported that the fish were all on the down current side of the wrecks and slammed the baits coming off the wreck and onto the sandy bottom. The Judith M is also reporting great catches of big flounder and some really impressive sea bass. Capt Eric reports great catches but said that the sea robins were very thick and made it difficult to catch anything else at times. Victor on the Ocean Princess said he is hitting the near shore wrecks daily with some great catches of flounder and some really nice sea bass thrown in, making his anglers very happy. Victor is also targeting croaker on his night trips. Croaker tend to bite the hook much better at night. The Ocean Princess is the only boat running night trips on Tuesday and Thursday. The evening trip is a unique way to spend an evening and a great way to see the lights of Ocean City at night on the ride in. Even many experienced anglers have never ventured through the inlet after dark and seen the beauty of the inlet all lit up from the water. Lucky One charters had a good day Tuesday catching a mix of flounder, blues, and sea bass. The area around the Rt. 50 Bridge has been good for catch and release stripers at night along with some nice slammer blues. Most of these fish have come on cut bait. If you don't want to use cut bait, a bucktail with a bright color rubber worm on the back will also fool these fish. Drop your baits down directly in front of the bridge pilings and allow the bait to bounce the bottom away from the bridge. Always fish the down current side from the bridge as these fish usually hold in the eddy formed by the

break in the current that the piling produces. Croaker in the back bays have really started to turn on with some bigger fish coming in. Early morning or late evening are the most active times for these fish. The area near the Rt. 90 Bridge is a great place to target them as well as the back bay areas near the airport. Small hooks with squid being the best bait with Fishbites and bloodworms being a close second. Croakers are also on many humps just outside the inlet and can be chummed up pretty easy at night.

### Sharks, Cobia, Redfish

Shark fishing has gotten very good as we get into the heat of the summer. Many big sand sharks and sandbar sharks are being caught both off the fishing piers as well as the surf at night. Sand tiger sharks commonly called sandbar sharks are a protected species and may not be taken out of the water. Cutting the leader is the best method for protecting these fish and also the safest way to release these fish without fear of a bite. The shoal areas south of the inlet is a great spot to set up and chum for both sharks and cobia. Cobia fishing has started to turn on lately also. A few reports have come in of nice keeper being caught on live eels. Reports were slow coming in this week as many charters were fishing the White Marlin Open. Virginia near the bay bridge tunnel is still the hot spot for cobia with numerous trophy fish being caught daily. Red drum fishing remains hit or miss on Assateague Island this week. If you find the right spot, several big trophy class redfish can be caught. Cut crab and sand fleas remain the number one bait for these fish. A couple reports of black drum were also received from this area this week. The area near the Virginia line is holding the best fish with the area just south of the bullpen as the second best. A drive on federal permit is required to fish this area and can be purchased at the park office.

Until next week...

*Tight lines and fins up*

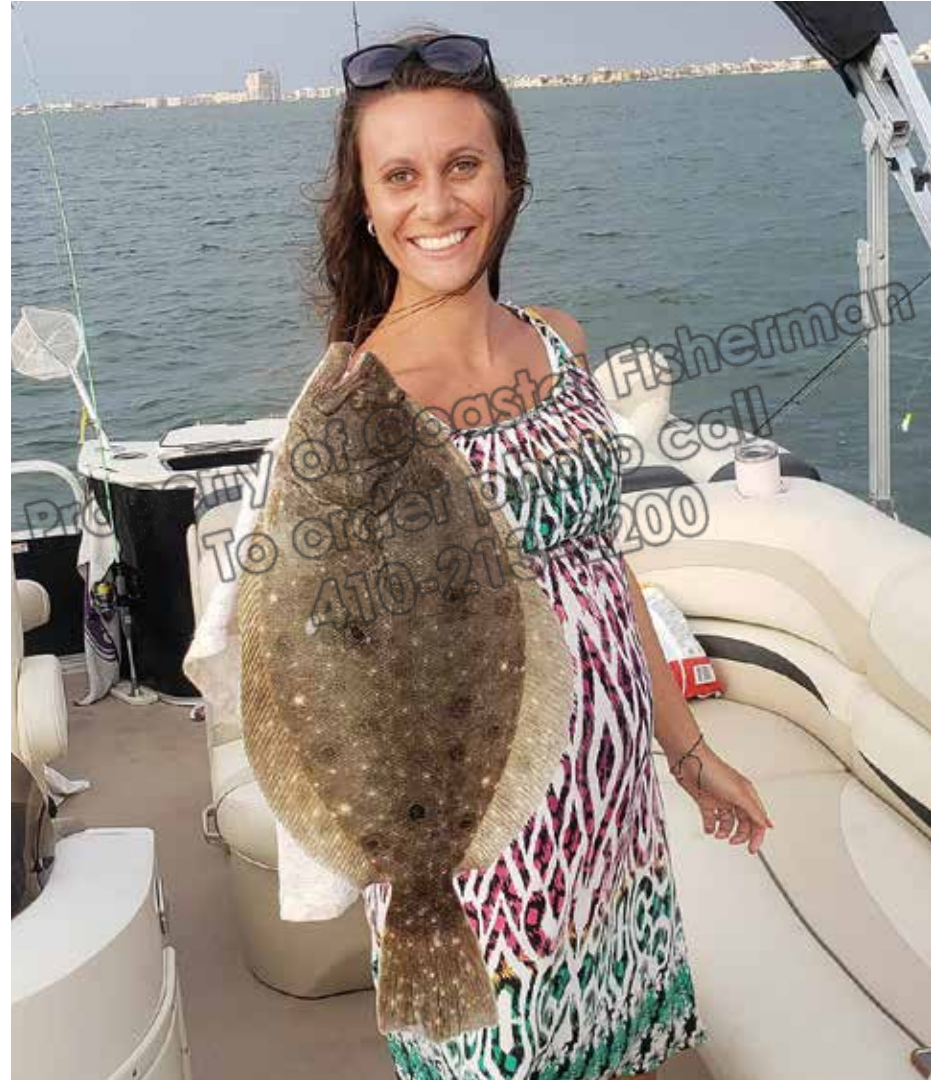


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Steve Rhodes, from Wye Mills, MD was excited to catch his first mahi-mahi (48") last Tuesday using live spot at the Hot Dog. He was fishing on the "milliRem" with Capt Michael Halsey of Chesapeake Medical Systems along with Jason Councill, Brandon Davis and Brendon Barbey.



Vanessa Haldeman from York, PA could certainly win a best dressed angler award while landing this 21" flounder! She was with Capt. Steve Gurrer on the "Just One More" in the Thorofare and used a Gulp and minnow combo to fool this flattie.

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Hunter and Emmett Jackson of Catonsville, MD didn't even take time to drop their life vests before showing off the 21" and 19" flounders they caught in the Indian River Inlet using Gulp and live minnows. They were fishing under the watchful eye of their granddad John Jackson.



The "Click Through" from Gulf Breeze, FL kicked off the final day of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open with Keith English bringing a 74" and 70 lb. qualifying white to the scale at the opening! Normally the crew of Lopaka Robello, Andy Halcombe with Capt. Matt Mauldwin and mates Owen Wrigh, Alex Pinney & Josh Hiller fish for blue marlin so this was a new experience. This white came up on a chain in the Washington Canyon and the crew got it to hit on a pitch bait ballyhoo.

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The crew of the "Rippin Lips" were looking to enter the White Marlin Open last week, but the weather forecast put them off. They did however head out on Monday of last week to Massey's Canyon when this 57 lb. wahoo hit hard on a Nomad DTX, actually destroying it! Angler Nick Pruitt made short order getting the fish to the boat. As it turned out, this wahoo could have been worth \$20K for the daily monies if they had been in the tournament. Rounding out the crew were Capt. Jerry McLaughlin, Jim Howard and Buck Rodgers.



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# FISHING CHARTERS



Todd Tanner from Danville, PA got onto some nice flounder last week. He was fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Ethan Nock on the charter boat "Lucky Break" when he connected with these 16.5" and 23" fatties, the larger weighing 5 lbs. They tricked these at the Rt. 50 Bridge on the incoming tide using minnows.



The "Reel Chaos" had a little chaos during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open. When their boat had mechanical problems they were able to secure the "Griffin" to stay in the game and that paid off. On Day 1 the crew of Ted D' Anna, Dan Harrison, Anthony Matarese Sr. with Mike, Michael and Noah Novak took daily honors for Billfish Release with 455 points. As one of the few boats that went out last Thursday, they managed to boat a 60 lb. longfin tuna in 200 fathoms at the 800 Square to secure the lucrative Daily Tuna Winner Take All. The combined awards came to \$102,600 for the crew!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



A little rain can make for some good fishing and that is what the Bluewater Advisory Crew found on Saturday. Jack Tevis from Westminster, MD, Bluewater founder Mark Debinski of North Ocean City, Jackie Sarbu from West OC, Al Johnson from Timonium and Mayor Ryan Warner of Manchester, MD found these 3 flounder in the Ocean City Bay while on the charter boat "OC Guide Service" with Capt. John Prather and mate Austin Bowden.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Capt. Monica Freese and the crew of the charter boat "A Salt Weapon 3" capped off a busy Day 1 during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open bringing a 54.5 lb. yellowfin tuna to the scales at 9PM. Anglers Andrew Clothier, Josh Howard, Matt Moorefield, Steven Ridgeway, Randy Stroka, Ed Solt and Ron Stroka Jr. with mate Ryan Freese were actually marlin fishing, but ended up boating 9 tuna for the day from deep in the Poor Man's Canyon at 1000 fathoms. While not the heaviest for the day, it did set 1st Place in the Small Boat Heaviest Tuna Division for Day 1.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Dakota, Spencer and Garry Lee from Middleburg, VA had a good day on the charter boat "Lucky Break". Capt. Jason Mumford had them in the Ocean City Inlet on the outgoing tide using green crabs to catch these 2 keeper tautog as well as several more throwbacks. They also caught and released 10 rockfish.

Offshore charter boat "Oppor-Tuna-Ty Too" took to the Ocean City Bay with this group from Ocean Pines for a fun flounder trip. They found these 3 keeper flounders while moving around the Thorofare.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Emily Andrews has a big smile with the sea bass she caught while fishing on a 3/4 day trip on the headboat "Judith M". Capt. Walt Hammond had her and the rest of the anglers at the Jack Spot using clams, squid and shiners.



Capt. Chris Mizurak put his anglers onto some nice flounder last week with several getting their limit of 4. Tim Price landed 3 flatties with the largest weighing in at 3 lbs. They were fishing at an artificial reef using bucktails.

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Team "Blood Money" was first to the scales and all smiles on Day 1 of the 13th Annual OCMC Ladies Tournament "Heels and Reels". Anglers Taylor Geis released her first white marlin and Chelsea Trimper hooked her own blue marlin to earn a total of 250 points for the day. Filling out the team were Lisa Poore, Casey Stinchcomb, Rachel Wisniewski and Pam Taylor with Capt. Anthony Pino, mate Kevin Knotts and support staff of Zak Smith, Donnie Moore, Frank Mattes, Rod Taylor and Travis D'Antoni. Good thing they have a big boat!

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# FISHING CHARTERS



Saturday was a little sloppy, but that did not deter Capt. Walt Hammond of the headboat "Judith M" and his intrepid anglers! They fished the Bass Grounds and caught triggerfish, sea bass and flounder all using a mix of shiners, clams and squid. Photo taken at Bahia Marina.

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**Ping Jockey**

Watching NASCAR and many other races can be monotonous until a crash occurs. Many spectators watch a race for hours in the hopes to see a few seconds of a death-defying crash. You watch the race carefully for hours, scheduling restroom breaks and food breaks in conjunction with commercials, or if watching live- a dash to the concessions and the moment you look away from the action you miss the big crash.

This same scenario takes place every day while sportfishing; long days at the helm or in the cockpit and a lot of open ocean can

easily create a monotonous scenario for even the best crew. The captain has a tedious job at the helm: monitor the other boats in the area and navigate safely, monitor the engines, pumps, and other critical systems, communicate on the radio, text, phone etc., monitor the fishing spread at the stern, operate the teaser reels, scan the water for signs of fish and of course watch the marine electronics- chartplotters depth sounder, weather, water temperature and scanning sonar.

While most skilled tournament captains honed these skills into a second nature, the recent addition

of the live sonar has overloaded many captains' helm tasks. Watching a live sonar screen (like the popular Furuno and Koden sonars) demands attentiveness, just like a NASCAR race, look away for a minute and you might miss the fish swimming

through the fishing day. captain add to their repertoire the monitoring of a live sonar system while at the same time performing all the other duties? Get help! The best help is to have a designated person operate and monitor the sonar



through the sonar beam. A traditional sounder pings the water directly under the boat and records that image on a historical graph on the screen. A modern sonar has no history, the picture you see is a live view of what is around the water beneath your boat. A fast-swimming fish can swim into and out of the sonar beam rather quickly, where only an attentive sonar operator would notice and act.

This allows the captain to maintain his existing duties while working with the sonar operator to hunt the targeted fish. Interesting enough, this crew position was designated an occupational rating by our US Navy years ago, the Sonar technician (or ST). In the Navy, the Sonar technicians' job is to "use the most advanced sonar equipment to quietly track contacts that may be lying beneath the waves. Deploy sonar sounds from surface ships and submarines and gather intel from the depths. Sea surveillance is essential to navigation—you'll be able to track everything from enemy ships to marine life, while directing your ship accordingly" While the Navy's version doesn't include targeting and catching tournament winning fish, the job duties of a sportfish sonar technician are certainly similar. In many of the

Even the direction of the swimming fish can change the screen image, a fish swimming perpendicular to the boat's travel will show a much larger "ping" on the sonar than a fish swimming parallel to the boat. Tournament sportfish's crew will monitor and track most any "pings" on the sonar to investigate if they are the targeted species and then give chase if needed.

So how can a competent

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armed forces, nicknames evolved for many duties, and the sonar technician is often referred to by fellow Navy sailors as a "Ping Jockey" and now that term is popping up in the sportfish world.



Today's Sportfish Ping Jockeys are an integral part of the regular crew or a specialist joining the crew during tournaments and special events. What makes a good Ping Jockey? First, a thorough understanding of the equipment, learning all the features, functions, controls, and adjustments - often this is on-the-job training, but manuals, videos and manufacturer training can complement the on-the-job learning. Once the equipment is mastered, even more skill is required to determine what the screen image represents: is it a whale,

baitball, ray, Thermocline, boat wake or tournament winning pelagic?

Once this skill is learned, generally by experience and hours behind the screen, the next skill is communication. A Ping Jockey must be able to communicate to the captain where the targeted fish are in relation to the boat: range, heading, and depth are all important

information that need to be immediately conveyed to the captain to maintain sonar contact with the fish. The most important skill a sportfish Ping Jockey must have is stamina! Long hours at the helm, staring at the screen throughout the fishing day - a Ping Jockey can't get seasick, take naps, spend the afternoon in the galley or head; they need to watch the screen with

the utmost attentiveness throughout the day.

Who makes a good Ping Jockey? It could be an electronics person who is skilled at that type of hardware, an experienced angler who has a technical inkling, and even a "gamer" in our youthful generation. One tournament fishing boat has a young person who is a skilled gamer and loves fishing - has taken to the Ping Jockey crew position with as much enthusiasm as with the video games - very similar skills though with real world outcomes of success and failure.

Whether hunting enemy submarines or big blue marlin, the job of a Ping Jockey is important on any boat.

Until next time...

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Michelle Klinedinst crushed it on Monday last week! She was fishing with Capt. Cookie on the "Six Pack" when they caught these 7 keeper flounder in the East Channel.

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47" to < 73" curved fork length  
1 per vessel/day or trip  
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3 per Charter/day or trip  
27" to <47" curved fork length  
6 per Headboat/day or trip  
47" to < 73" curved fork length  
2 per Headboat/day or trip



**WHITE MARLIN**  
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**DOLPHIN**  
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Boat Limit 60  
Charter Limit 10 per passenger/day



**SWORDFISH**  
47" Lower Jaw Fork Length  
1 per person / 4 per vessel (Rec)  
1 per person / 6 per vessel (Charter)  
1 per person / 15 per Headboat



**WAHOO**  
No minimum Length  
2 per person/day

### SHARKS AUTHORIZED SPECIES

No Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Sharpnose, Bonnethead  
54" Minimum Fork Length  
Atlantic Blacktip, Bull, Lemon, Nurse,  
Spinner, Tiger, Blue, Common Thresher,  
Oceanic Whitetip, Porbeagle, Finetooth,  
Atlantic Blacknose

71" Minimum Fork Length  
Male Shortfin Mako

78" Minimum Fork Length  
Great Hammerhead, Scalloped  
Hammerhead, Smooth Hammerhead

NOTE: Only 1 shark from the lists above may be retained per vessel per trip. In addition, 1 Atlantic Sharpnose, 1 Bonnethead and 1 Oceanic Whitetip may be retained per person per trip. If a hammerhead shark is retained, no tunas, billfish or swordfish may be retained.

83" Minimum Fork Length  
Female Shortfin Mako

**PROHIBITED SHARKS**  
Atlantic Angel, Basking, Bigeye Sand Tiger,  
Bigeye Sixgill, Bigeye Thresher, Bignose,  
Caribbean Reef, Caribbean Sharpnose, Dusky,  
Galapagos, Longfin Mako, Narrowtooth,  
Night, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, Sevengill, Sixgill,  
Smalltail, Whale, White

Resources: eregulations.com & NOAA.gov



Mike Diffenderffer from Millsboro DE was fishing at Massey's Landing using Fishbites when he hooked this 22.5" in the 'slot' red drum! Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Longneck, DE.

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Chucky Krupka from Hartly, DE caught this 23¼" and 5 lb. flounder in the Indian River Bay using a squid and minnow combo.



Master snakehead hunter Dick Wetzel from Assateague Pointe, Berlin was at it again. This time he took out a 33" and approximately 11 lb. example of the invasive species using 3½" swim baits. He continues to change colors of the baits until they start to hit.

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Capt. Ron Callis



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Capt. Chris Evans



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HEADBOAT



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**Lobster Roll**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 pounds cooked lobster meat approximately 3 1/2 cups, cut into 3/4 inch pieces
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup celery finely chopped, use the tender inner stalks



- 1 tablespoon chives thinly sliced, plus more for garnish if desired
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 4 split top hot dog buns
- 2 tablespoons butter softened

- Directions:

Place the lobster meat, mayonnaise, lemon juice, celery, chives, salt and pepper in a bowl. Stir gently to combine.

Spread the butter onto the outer sides of each bun. Place the buns in a pan or on a griddle over medium heat. Cook for 2-3 minutes per side or until golden brown.

Divide the lobster mixture among the buns. Serve immediately, garnished with additional chives if desired.

**Scalloped Oysters**

**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 25 buttery round crackers, crumbled

- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 pint shucked oysters, drained with liquid reserved
- 1 pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons milk

**Directions:**

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). Butter a shallow baking dish.

Combine bread crumbs and cracker crumbs; stir in the melted butter. Place a thin layer of the crumb mixture in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Layer the oysters over the crumbs and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Pour 2 tablespoons oyster liquid and 1 tablespoon milk over the top. Repeat then cover the top layer with the remaining crumb mixture.

Bake at 450 degrees F (230 degrees C) for 30 minutes.

**Sheet Pan Lemon Herb Tuna Steaks and Potatoes**

**Ingredients:**

- 4 3/4-inch thick tuna fillets
- 6 tablespoons olive oil - divided
- Juice of 1/2 lemon



- 1 teaspoon salt - divided
  - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
  - 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano - divided
  - 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme - divided
  - 1/4 teaspoon dried basil - divided
  - 1 teaspoon garlic powder - divided
  - 1 1/2 pounds baby red potatoes - halved
  - 4 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
  - Additional lemon slices for garnish - optional
- Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Combine 4 tablespoons olive oil, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, 1/4 teaspoon

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oregano, 1/4 teaspoon thyme, 1/4 teaspoon basil, and 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder in a large resealable bag along with the tuna fillets. Seal the bag, massage the fillets to rub in the seasonings and distribute all the ingredients. Chill for 15 minutes while you move on to the next step.

In a large bowl combine potatoes and remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and toss to coat. Stir together remaining salt, pepper, oregano, thyme, basil, and garlic powder, sprinkle over potatoes and stir to combine. Arrange potatoes on half of a greased sheet pan. Bake for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, place tuna fillets on the empty half of the sheet pan (add lemon slices if desired), sprinkle parmesan cheese over the potatoes, and return to the oven for 6 minutes. Flip the tuna fillets, and cook for another 6 minutes. Notes: For added color, broil at the very end for 1-2 minutes. Garnish with fresh herbs.

### Coconut Fish and Tomato Bake

Ingredients:

3/4 cup unsweetened coconut milk  
1 (1-inch) piece fresh ginger,

scrubbed and finely grated  
1 garlic clove, finely grated  
1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric  
1/2 teaspoon red-pepper flakes  
1 tablespoon honey  
Kosher salt  
2 limes  
1/2 cup chopped cilantro  
4 (6-ounce) fish fillets, such as striped bass, fluke or salmon, skin on or off  
2 pints cherry or grape tomatoes  
3 tablespoons olive oil



Directions:

In a large bowl, whisk together the coconut milk, ginger, garlic, turmeric, red-pepper flakes, honey and 1 teaspoon salt.

Zest and juice 1 lime directly into the coconut milk mixture. Stir in

1/4 cup chopped cilantro. Add the fish fillets and turn to coat. Marinate in the refrigerator for 15 to 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, adjust an oven rack to the lower-middle position. Arrange another rack in the position closest to the broiler heat source. Heat oven to 425 degrees.

Place the tomatoes on a large sheet pan. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil, season with salt and toss to coat. Place the marinated fish between the tomatoes and spoon all the marinade from the bowl over the fish. Drizzle 1 tablespoon of oil over the fish. Transfer the pan to the lower-middle rack and roast until the surface of the fish is opaque but the center is not cooked through, 8 to 10 minutes, depending on thickness of the fish. The fish should not flake easily with a fork. Remove the pan from the oven and heat the broiler to high.

Move the pan to the broiler and finish cooking, rotating the pan once, until the fish is tender and the tomatoes are just beginning to brown in spots, 5 to 6 minutes, depending on thickness of the fish. Slice the remaining lime into wedges.

Divide the tomatoes and fish among dishes and tip the pan juices over the fish. Garnish with the remaining 1/4 cup cilantro and serve with lime wedges for squeezing.

### Pan Seared Rockfish

Ingredients:

8 ounce rockfish (2 fillets)  
1 tablespoon flour  
Pinch salt, pepper  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 tablespoons butter, divided  
1 lemon, juiced  
1 tablespoon capers  
Small handful fresh herbs such as fresh rosemary, chives or oregano

Directions:

Pat rockfish fillets dry. Dust with flour, and shake off any excess. Sprinkle them on both sides with salt and pepper.

Prepare a heavy pan with the olive oil and 1 TB butter. Heat on medium-high until butter is melted but not browned, then turn the heat down to medium.

Add fish to the hot pan.

Place the fillets in the pan and cook

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about 3 minutes. Don't touch the fillets until they're ready to flip.

Use a thin metal spatula to test the fish. If you can slide the spatula under the fish without the fish

sticking to the pan, it's ready to flip. If the fillets won't release, give them another 30 seconds. They'll release when they've finished cooking.

After flipping, divide the remaining 1 TB butter over both fillets.

Flip rockfish and top with butter

Cook fish another 2-3 minutes until done. Fish will be golden on both the top and bottom and opaque all the way through when finished cooking.

Transfer the fish to plates, leaving the excess butter in the pan. Cover fish to keep warm, or set fish in a 200°F oven.

Reduce heat to medium. Add the lemon juice and capers, and stir with a wooden spoon. Add half

the herbs and stir again.

Serve fish hot with pan sauce and remaining herbs.

### Sheet Pan Shrimp Boil

Ingredients:

For the roasted potatoes:

1 pound baby red or yellow potatoes, halved (or quartered, if large)

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

2 garlic cloves, minced

Kosher salt and black pepper

For the broiled corn:

4 ears fresh corn, husked, cut into 4 segments

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened

For the broiled shrimp:

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon lemon juice

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 teaspoon seafood seasoning, such as Old Bay, or cajun seasoning

1 teaspoon ground paprika

½ teaspoon ground cayenne, or to taste

½ teaspoon black pepper



2 pounds peeled and deveined tail-on jumbo shrimp, fresh or frozen and thawed, patted dry

1 lemon, cut into 8 wedges

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley leaves (optional)


Directions:

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Place a rack in the center of the oven.

Prepare the potatoes: In a large bowl, toss potatoes with oil and garlic until coated. Season with salt and pepper, then pour onto a large baking sheet and set aside.

Prepare the corn: Spread each piece of corn with some of the butter and set aside.

Prepare the shrimp: In the same big bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, seafood or

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cajun seasoning, paprika, cayenne and pepper. Add the shrimp and stir to coat evenly. Set aside.

Bake the potatoes until golden brown and fork tender, about 20 minutes. Remove the potatoes from the oven, set the rack in the middle of the oven and switch oven to broil. Scatter the corn over the potatoes and broil 3 to 4 minutes, or until kernels begin to brown slightly.

Remove the pan from the oven, and flip the corn. Scatter shrimp all over the pan and broil for 2 minutes, or until the shrimp have curled and turned pink.

Turn the shrimp, scatter the lemon wedges on top and broil 2 more minutes. Squeeze the lemon juice over everything and sprinkle with parsley, if using. Serve immediately, on its own or tossed with pasta.

### Piccata-Style Fish Fillets with Thin Pasta and Wilted Spinach

Ingredients:

Salt and pepper

½ pound thin egg pasta or angel hair pasta

4 thin tilapia or snapper fillets



Old Bay Seasoning

½ cup flour

¼ cup cornstarch

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

4 tablespoons butter

2 large cloves garlic, grated or finely chopped

½ cup white wine

2 lemons

¼ cup drained capers

Handful of flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

¾ pound fresh spinach, cleaned and trimmed

Freshly grated nutmeg

Directions:

Bring a large pot of water to a boil,

salt it, add the pasta and cook until al dente. Drain, reserving about 1/2 cup of the pasta cooking water.

Meanwhile, pat the fish dry and season with salt, pepper and a little Old Bay. On a plate, mix the flour and cornstarch. Coat the fish in the flour mixture.

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon EVOO, 1 turn of the pan, over medium-high heat. Add 2 tablespoons butter and let it foam up, then add the fish fillets and cook, turning once, until golden-brown and firm, 4 to 6 minutes. Transfer the fillets to a plate and cover with foil to keep warm. Wipe out the pan and return to the heat. Add 1/2 tablespoon EVOO, 1/2 turn of the pan, and the remaining 2 tablespoons butter to melt. Stir in the garlic for 1 minute, then stir in the wine for another minute. Add 1 teaspoon grated lemon peel and the juice of 1 lemon. Thinly slice the remaining lemon and stir the slices into the sauce, along with the capers and parsley. Spoon the sliced lemons and half of the butter sauce over the fish.

Add the reserved pasta water and the pasta to the skillet. Add the remaining butter sauce and season

with salt and pepper; toss. Transfer the pasta to a platter. Add the remaining 1/2 tablespoon EVOO, 1/2 turn of the pan, to the skillet. Add the spinach, season with salt, pepper and the nutmeg and cook to wilt. Serve the fish with a little pasta and spinach alongside.

### Sweet n Spicy Tartar Sauce

Ingredients:

1 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons horseradish

1½ teaspoons cajun seasoning

1½ teaspoons lemon juice

¼ teaspoon paprika

Directions:

Stir together all ingredients in a bowl. Cover and chill 30 minutes to 24 hours.



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We're pretty sure that almost 5 year old John "Emerson" Wik from Davis, WV is officially hooked for life on fishing! He caught this 18½" and 2.5 lb. flounder that is almost as big as he is in the Lewes Canal using Gulp. Picture at Lewes Harbour Marina in Lewes, DE.



Jack Harris found a nice 19" flounder in the Thorofare last week! He found some clear water on the incoming tide while on the family's 241 Sportsman and unleashed a combination of Gulp Nuclear Chicken tipped with squid.

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Anglers Kern Ducote and Mike Quade made quick trip last Wednesday, heading out early for some flounder fishing. Working both the East and West Channels in the Ocean City Bay with Gulp Shrimp bait, they hit their 2 man limit of 8 by 8:30 in the morning. Four were 20" or better with the largest a doormat at 29"!

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- 7-11 - 119th St.
- Wawa - 120th St.
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- Wawa - Rt. 26
- Bethany Auto & Marine - Rt. 26
- Downtown Bethany by Bandstand
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Rich "Delicious" Daiker got another limit of flounder last week. This time from in front of the new Cambria Hotel (aka the old concrete plant) in the Ocean City East channel. Bunker was the bait of choice.

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# DELAWARE

## FISHING REPORT

by Capt. BJ Pietryak



Well we have reached August. The heat and humidity have eased up a bit this week, but the inshore fishing is still going strong. Flounder remains the main catch and are found almost everywhere. Croaker is really heating up both in the inlet as well as near shore humps and structure. With the White Marlin Open underway this week, we have tons of boat traffic on our waters. Even with all this traffic, anglers that put in the time came home with some nice fish

### Flounder, Croaker & Redfish

Flounder this season has been great with the back

bays giving up some big fish. The area of Massey Ditch is a key location during the week. On the weekends the sandbars are really getting crowded and are making fishing near them rather tough. Fishing the main ditch area near the ramp is a great place to target fish. Minnow and live minnows are a great bait for this area however many anglers are reporting good success with Gulp curly tails. Drew Sparks got a couple nice flounder from Indian River Inlet. He was drifting the incoming tide. Otto Evans and Frank Tucker each got a limit of flounder between 17-22"

on Tuesday. 4 3/4 yr old John Emerson Wik from Davis, West Virginia caught a 2.5lb 18 1/2" flounder from Lewes canal. John caught this great catch on Gulp and was weighed in at Lewes Harbour Marina. What a great example of taking a kid fishing. Tom DiCampli was about 15 miles outside of Indian River and ended up with a double limit for his fellow angler as well as himself. Fish were up to 21". Great job Tom. Richard Hanna was near the red #20 buoy got a nice 18.5" and a 20.5" flounder. Zach and Ethan Farmer were at Conquest Beach surf fishing and caught some huge doormat flounder. Pink Gulp accounted for these fine fish. Zach also reports he and his son caught bluefish and kingfish as well. Great job guys. In other fish news Adam Miller was able to put a solid bend on his 10 wt. fly rod with an impressive 22" weakfish. Adam used a bead head pattern fly that he hand tied himself that morning. A great catch on a spinning rod but on a fly rod, what a trophy. Many anglers don't realize Delaware has a big club and following for fly fishermen and those wanting to learn. Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware fly fishing club meets once a week in Rehoboth and is always looking for new members. Fly fishing in the back bays as well as the inlet can be very productive and is a great place for a novice angler to try his hand at this side

of the angling sport. If you are interested, info can be found at sfaod.com. Inshore has also been producing some really nice spanish mackerel as well as small bonitos when trolling small spoons. The end of the incoming tide is reported by Ted Proseus as the best time with Fenwick Shoals as one of the best areas. Ted posts catches of these fish regularly on his Facebook page and seems to be real dialed in to catching them every week.

### Seabass, Triggerfish & Cobia

Sea bass remains daily good but the warm weather has really slowed the keeper ratio. Quite often you have to wade through dozens of small fish to find a keeper. Deeper wrecks in the 100 ft and greater areas are your best chance to bring home a few fish. While sea bass has slowed because of the heat, the triggerfish are on fire. Many wrecks are loaded with these tasty treats and anglers are finding them ready to bite a small hook with some squid. Site 11 is reported as giving up several of these fish from its wrecks this week. Remember to keep one on the hook in the water to see if others follow it to the surface. On these same wrecks many anglers are reporting a few sea trout as well as small peanut mahi. The mahi are reported as very small but eager to bite a hook. Pieces of cut bait or squid on a circle hook freelined out behind the boat is a great way to catch these fish which will come by while you are anchored on the wrecks fishing. The past few years have seen many of

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these pelagic fish coming into the areas of the B buoy and A buoy coral grounds. So keep a rod ready with a circle hook on it and you might get a chance to catch a pelagic fish, almost always caught some 60-100 miles offshore. Many anglers in the past few years have started trolling small squid or chugger lures behind the boat just to target these fish. 4-6 mph is a good speed for this. Cobia is really starting to get productive but we still are not seeing the big fish we saw in the past few years. Live eels remain the bait of choice but bucktails and plastic worm or eel type baits will work if live eels are not available.

**Crabs & Clams**

Clamming is really doing good this year, however the main known areas

are fish out of the smaller clams that many like to eat steamed. The larger clams which are still all over the clamming grounds are still great for soup or making stuffed clams and clam balls. Clam balls are very much like conch fritters or crab balls and made much the same way. Clam balls also freeze very well and are great when the cold of winter rolls in and you're looking for that seafood fix. Crabbing has been hit or miss the past week with most crab pots yielding 10-12 keepers per pot. However if your pots are in shallow water the low oxygen levels seem to be producing more like 5-8 crabs per pot. I have found that 6 ft or more of water is yielding the best and biggest crabs.


Until next week...

*Tight lines and fins up*

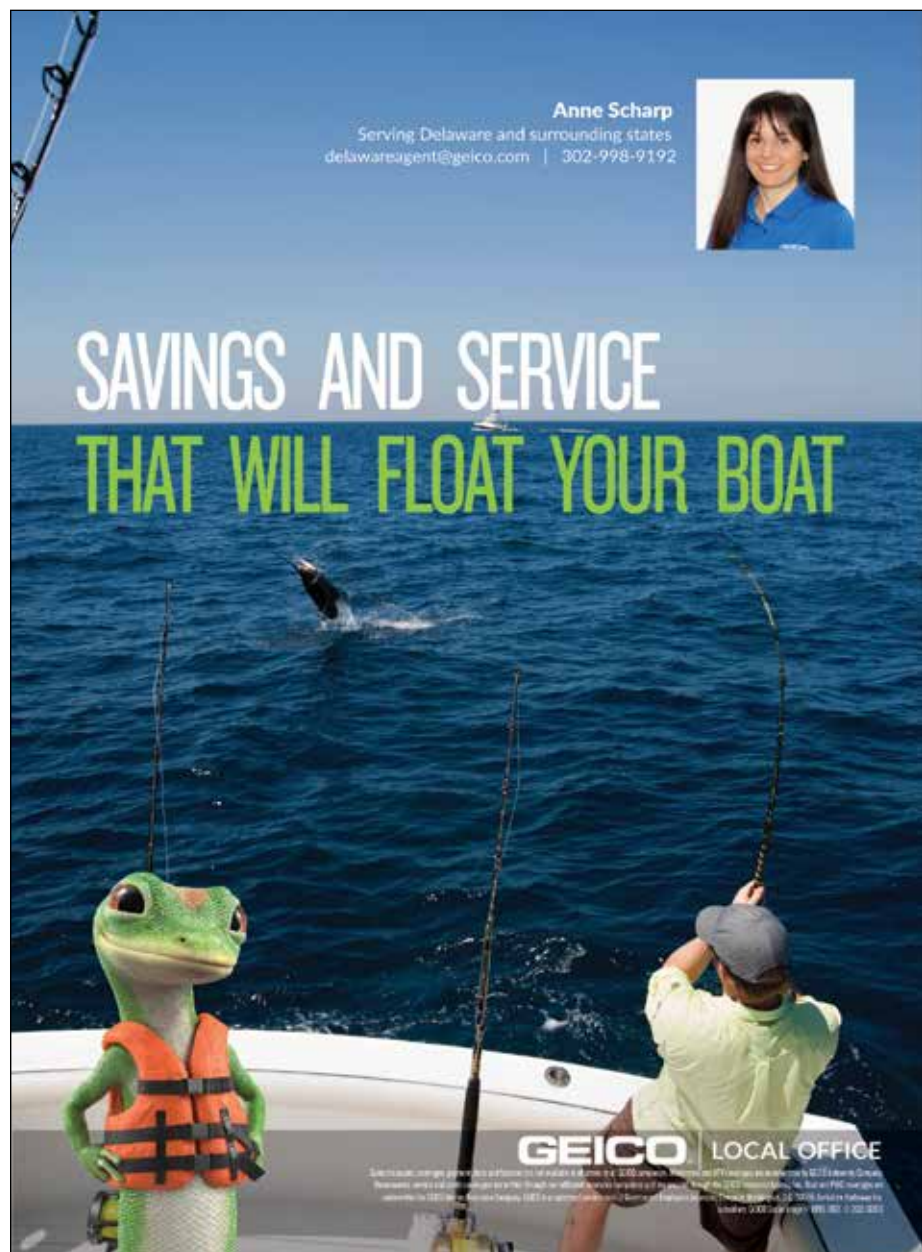


Jules Mister shares her set of bookend triggerfish, her first ever! She was fishing the Outer Wall in the Delaware Bay using sand fleas she bought at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Monday last week was apparently the day to be out inshore and offshore! Gary Schneider was part of the action catching this 23½" flounder while fishing in the Ocean City East Channel. The flat fish fell for a homemade bucktail tipped with a minnow.

Little Cael Conner of Lewistown, PA already has the steely gaze of a long time fisherman! On this first trip fishing in Ocean City he caught 17 keeper croakers and released as many throwback flounder while fishing with his parents Jill & Tony at the top of the channel above the Rt. 50 Bridge.

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Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Wahoo	60"	20 lbs. or 50"
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Weakfish	24"	3 lbs. or 20"
Bluefish	34"	12 lbs. or 29"	White Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size
Blue Marlin*	Any Size	Any Size	<b>SHARK:</b>		
Cobia	44"	45 Lbs. or 48"	Blue Shark*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Hammerhead*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Mako*	Any Size	250 lbs. or 83"
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Thresher*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Golden Tilefish	35"	35" or 40"	Tiger*	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 26"	<b>TUNA:</b>		
Red Drum*	36"	45"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lb. or 32"
Sailfish*	Any Size	-	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Sea Bass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Bigeye***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Bluefin***	55"	100 lbs. or 60"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Yellowfin***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Speckled Trout	24"	-			
Striped Bass	40"	34 lbs. or 44"			
Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"			

\* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program  
 \*\* DE - Lengths only apply to Live Release  
 \*\*\* Use curved-fork-length measurements



Adam Miller of Red Lion, PA likes a challenge and has developed a love for fly fishing. On this trip to the north side of the Indian River Inlet with his 13 year old son Talan, he caught this 22" and 3.5 lb. weakfish off the rocks during an outgoing tide using a #2 prawn tungsten bead pattern. This fish represents the 20th fish species he has caught on lures he has tied himself.

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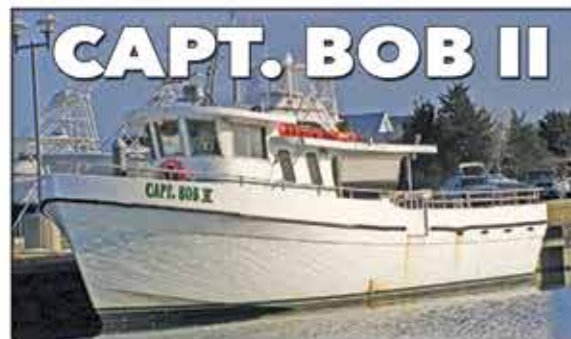
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When Richard Hoenes and his cousin Andy Drips from Charm City teamed up and hit some nice bluefish and rockfish at the tip of the Ocean City Jetty. All fish where caught using live spot and circle hooks.



Chef Charlie Donohue on the "Lucky 1" laid out a nice mixed grill after his trip on Tuesday last week. He and Ben Semiatin hit a natural reef and used Gulp, clam & squid to boat 7 keeper flounder, 3 bluefish and a sea bass. Making fast work of the catch, they were back to the dock by 11:30AM before the rain set in.

# OCEAN CITY INLET TIDES & MOON PHASES

WED. AUG 11	High 10:40 am High 11:02 pm	Low 04:22 am Low 04:28 pm
THUR. AUG 12	High 11:26 am High 11:44 pm	Low 05:04 am Low 05:21 pm
FRI. AUG 13	High ----- High 12:15 pm	Low 05:49 am Low 06:19 pm
SAT. AUG 14	High 12:29 am High 01:09 pm	Low 06:38 am Low 07:20 pm
SUN. AUG 15 <i>1st Quarter Moon</i>	High 01:20 am High 02:11 pm	Low 07:30 am Low 08:25 pm
MON. AUG 16	High 02:19 am High 03:22 pm	Low 08:26 am Low 09:32 pm
TUE. AUG 17	High 03:25 am High 04:34 pm	Low 09:25 am Low 10:40 pm
WED. AUG 18	High 04:32 am High 05:41 pm	Low 10:29 am Low 11:45 pm

source:usharbors.com

Add 1.5 hours for bay tides at the Rt. 50 Bridge.  
 Indian River Inlet - add 25 minutes to high tide  
 Delaware Bay Entrance - subtract 1 hour 25 minutes to high tide  
 - subtract 45 minutes to low tide  
 Wachapreague, VA - add 4 minutes for high tide  
 - 21 minutes for low tide  
 Quinby Inlet, VA - subtract 6 minutes for high tide  
 These tides are only meant to be a guide, as tides can be affected by storms and weather fronts.

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Casey Cook and Levi Wingert from Chambersburg, PA headed to the Wilmington Canyon last week before the weather set in and trolled up this nice pair of yellowfin tuna with ballyhoo, the largest at 46 lbs. Pictured at Rick's Bait & Tackle.

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I'm really not big on paying much attention to the social media feed, but as I like to keep abreast of shark stuff any way I can, I do find myself clicking on shark related posts when they pop up. Seeing the posts and, even more so - reading the comments, often has my head spinning about how much some people really don't know about the sharks they fish for and the rules they're required to follow while doing so.

Unlike so many other fisheries where a novice can get started by simply buying a license, some tackle, a bag of bait, review a few rules and go out and do it - sharking requires special tackle and

equipment as well as a lot of preparation and a thorough study and understanding of a suite of very complex regulations. Oh yea - it also requires that you know at least a little about how to properly identify some of the different shark species.

So with all that in mind, please allow me to highlight a few regulations that every angler who targets sharks needs to know. And please keep in mind that this is not a complete list:

**Circle hooks are required!**

Every angler fishing for sharks (with bait) is required to use non-offset circle hooks. The good news here is that circle hooks are the most effective hook to use for

sharks, so this requirement actually helps to ensure that anglers are fishing with the best chance for success. This regulation is to help ensure that hook sets in the jaw rather than deep in the esophagus or stomach which could lead to the shark's eventual death.

**Sharks must not be taken out of the water!**

Unless a special permit has been issued to the boat that allows then to do so, other than dogfish, little shark, big shark, any shark that is going to be released must not be brought out of the water for any reason. When the shark is brought alongside a boat, pier, or beach, besides being tagged in the water and the leader cut or hook removed with a dehooking tool, sharks may not be roped, gaffed, or anything else besides maybe an in-water photo taken of them prior to release. This is to help enhance the chances of survival of sharks that are released. Still, there's enough photos being posted of folks holding up sharks or sharks on the decks of boats to show that many fishermen are still unaware of the regulation.

**Pelagics only until July 15!**

Prior to July 15 the only big sharks that can be landed are makos, threshers, and blue sharks. Smooth and spiny dogfish and sharpnose may also be landed - but none other. So until the middle of July sharks such as blacktips, spinners, hammerheads, and tigers must be released. This regulation was put in place to protect large coastal sharks from being taken during their pupping seasons.

**Hammerheads and tuna can't mix!**

So if you boat a tuna first you may not boat a hammerhead on the same trip, or, if you boat a hammerhead first you may not boat a tuna on the same

trip. I know this seems like a whacky regulation but there is some reasoning behind it. Fisheries needed to make a reduction in the amount of hammerheads being taken by recreational anglers. The limit was already only one per day so the next step down would be zero. Instead of doing that they concluded that since a number of hammerheads are taken by tuna chunkers, most of whom would prefer to bring home tuna rather than a hammerhead, if they could eliminate this incidental catch, it would effectively reduce the take of hammerheads without impacting anglers who are specifically targeting sharks.

**Anglers may not target prohibited sharks!**

NMFS maintains a "Prohibited Species List" of sharks that may not be retained at any time and any size. Of the sharks typically taken off our coast there are more "no-take" species on the list than "take" species not on the list. A few of the sharks on the prohibited list that Delmarva anglers might encounter include the dusky, sandbar, longfin mako, sand tiger, and great white. It's important for anglers to know that there is no catch-and-release provision in the shark regulations. This means that anglers may not "target" sharks that are on the prohibited list. If they accidentally hook prohibited sharks while they are trying to catch legal sharks that's OK as long as they properly release them. However, pitching a bait to a shark that you see and know is on the list (such as a white shark), even though you intend to release it - is not allowed.

**Don't sit on a shark!**

Yea - I know, that sounds kind of stupid, but navigate

A large advertisement for 'BOATS 4 HEROES'. At the top, silhouettes of four people (one in a wheelchair, one with a cane) stand against a stylized American flag. Above them are five circular logos representing different military branches. Below the silhouettes is the text 'BOATS 4 HEROES'. In the center, two dog tags are shown with the text 'SUPPORT THE TROOPS!' and 'HELP THE CAUSE'. At the bottom, the text reads 'DONATE YOUR BOAT!' in large white letters, followed by 'Helping our Wounded Veterans' in red. At the very bottom, the website 'BOATS4HEROES.ORG' and phone number '240-750-9899' are listed.



you're way through enough social media photos and you will find plenty of stupid people doing stupid things with sharks and that includes "sitting" on them for photos prior to release. If hauling them out of the water wasn't bad enough (and not illegal) sitting on a shark that's out of the water increases the chances for internal injuries that could kill the animal. Apparently DNR takes such stunts serious enough that the ridiculous practice is now addressed in the new regulations.

**Check your shark!**

Maryland has a catch-card system for keeping track of all sharks brought back to the dock. It doesn't matter how large or small, EVERY shark brought in must be registered BEFORE it's taken off the boat or before the boat is pulled out of the water. All local marinas have the cards which when filled out are exchanged for a plastic tag that is affixed to the shark so it can be removed from the boat.

So that's just a taste of the regulations shark anglers must adhere to if they are going to stay in compliance and out of trouble. There's a lot more, including different size and creel limits for different types of sharks, special restrictions for sharking from the beach, and of course the complete list of prohibited species. Anyone contemplating going shark fishing should visit the Maryland or Delaware Natural Resources and the NOAA/NMFS HMS websites, or find out from someone who really knows what they're talking about - NOT from some of the ding-dong postings on social media! §



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Annapolis, MD 21401








# HEAVIEST FISH of the YEAR

# 2021 COASTAL FISHERMAN



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

Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE	Species	OCEAN CITY	DELAWARE
 <b>Bluefish</b>	June 9 Shaun Flaherty Rt. 50 Bridge 12 lbs. 3 oz.	May 8 Gavin Murray Gull Island 15.1 lbs.	 <b>Mako Shark</b>	July 1 Vince Cusimano Poor Man's 250 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Black Drum</b>	April 11 Emily Blume Assateague Island 48 lbs.	May 7 Adam Clarke Slaughter Beach 77.5 lbs.	 <b>Thresher Shark</b>	June 7 Roman Brady Fingers 542 lbs.	June 17 Rory Badger Old grounds 458 lbs.
 <b>Cobia</b>	June 17 Shannon Pickens S. of OC Inlet 36 lbs.	No Weights Reported	 <b>Bigeye Tuna</b>	July 28 John Edward Washington Canyon 257 lbs.	July 11 Fiore Celano Poor Man's 171 lbs.
 <b>Flounder</b>	July 4 Richard Rudell Old Grounds 10 lbs.	July 20 Mark Bonk Site 10 8.8 lbs.	 <b>Bluefin Tuna</b>	May 28 James Hammond Poor Man's 150 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Sea Bass</b>	May 27 Michael DePalma Jack Spot 4.05 lbs.	May 28 Denise Eddinger Del Jersey Reef 4.1 lbs.	 <b>Longfin Tuna</b>	July 17 Kayler Michael Baltimore Canyon 61 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Sheepshead</b>	July 14 James Williams OC Inlet 13 lbs.	July 8 Chris Gratton Indian River Inlet 6.1 lbs.	 <b>Yellowfin Tuna</b>	July 24 Shane Surrency Spencer Canyon 111 lbs.	June 26 Julia Dadisman Poor Man's 118 lbs.
 <b>Striped Bass</b>	May 6 Buddy Martin East Channel 17 lb. 8 oz.	No Weights Reported	 <b>Dolphin</b> <span style="color:red">★ New</span>	August 6 Charles Dishman Poor Man's 34 lbs.	July 15 Bill Dickinson Poor Man's 26.6 lbs.
 <b>Tautog</b>	April 27 Kurtis Berry Ocean Structure 22.7 lbs.	April 19 Johnny Justison Ocean Structure 8.9 lbs.	 <b>Wahoo</b>	July 19 Brian Jacobs Hot Dog 90 lbs.	No Weights Reported
 <b>Weakfish</b>	June 23 Doug Stewart OC Inlet 3.9 lbs.	<span style="color:red">★ New</span> May 27 Cole Singer Indian River Bay 8 lbs.	 <b>White Marlin</b> <span style="color:red">★ New</span>	August 6 Butch Wright Norfolk Canyon 85.5 lbs.	No Weights Reported

To report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200 or email to [coastalfisherman@comcast.net](mailto:coastalfisherman@comcast.net)



Ethan Farmer of Pequea, PA hit the jackpot landing this 19" flounder. He was at the beach off of Conquest Road in between Dewey and Bethany Beach, DE. The picture gives away the bait, a 2 oz. bucktail with pink Gulp! Nice job Ethan.

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Camden Dinges of Spring Grove, PA kicked off August with a bang! He caught his first keeper flounder at 16¾" in the Ocean City Bay at 28th Street using white Gulp. He was fishing with his dad Chad and Capt. Brent Leppo aboard the boat "Power On".



David Beach Sr. of Fallston, MD and David Beach II of Ocean City, aka the "Beach Boys", are a fixture down at the Ocean City 3rd Street Bulkhead and successful to boot. They stopped by our office with one of their latest catches, a nice 20" flounder caught with peanut bunker.

# DELAWARE REGULATIONS

## STATE WATERS ONLY



**BLACK SEA BASS**  
12.5" minimum / 15 per person/day  
5/15 - 12/31



**BLUEFISH**  
No minimum size  
3 per day / 5 per day Charter



**BLACK DRUM**  
16" minimum  
3 per person/day



**COBIA**  
TBA



**CROAKER**  
TBD



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



**SHEEPSHEAD**  
No limit



**SPECKLED TROUT**  
12" minimum  
No creel limit



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



**SUMMER FLOUNDER**  
16.5" minimum  
4 per person/day



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



**WEAKFISH**  
13" minimum  
1 per person/day



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# 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OCEAN PINES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FLOUNDER TOURNAMENT



Despite a rainy forecast for the 14th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament, participation in the event was high! 1st Place winner Brandon Miller is shown here with his prize winning 25¼" and 7.1 lb. flounder that he caught at the South Ocean City Jetty on the "Miler Time" using a jig head with Gulp. Also pictured are Patrick Dickinson's 3.45 lb. fish and fellow anglers Brennan Gunther and Cleon Aitkins.



Angler Jason Hanshew took 2nd Place in the 14th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament with this 22 5/8" and 4.31 lb. flounder he caught by the Rt. 50 Bridge. He was fishing with Tom Hanshew on the charter boat "Lucky Break" with Capt. Jason Mumford and mate Cole Jarman. They used peanut bunker and strips of sea robin to fool this fattie and earned a combined prize of \$1,746 that included 2nd Place in the Length and 3rd Place in the Weight Calcuttas.



Over 200 anglers ignored the rainy forecast and signed up for the 14th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament. Primary awards were for flounder length with secondary calcuttas for length and weight. Top angler Brandon Miller is shown here with the leaderboard results. He earned a combined total of \$4,000 for Top Flounder and Top Length and Weight Calcuttas for his 25¼ flat fish.



3rd Place during the 14th Annual Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce Flounder Tournament was awarded to Thomas DeWees on the "Line Dancer" for his 21½" and 4.64 lb. flounder caught at the Rt. 50 Bridge on bunker. Thomas earned \$250 for the 3rd Place position and another \$1,166 for being 2nd in the weight calcutta!



As only 1 of 51 boats that headed out last Thursday on Day 4 of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open, and the first of only a few to come to the scales, the "Boy's Toy" created some excitement! Angler Will Emmert from Lewes, DE was fishing with Fred Wetzstein, Capt. Tommy Gessler Jr. and mate Josh Gessler inside the Poor Man's Canyon when he landed this 25 lb. mahi on the troll that took the Daily Meat Fish Calcutta earning \$18,090. The crew also caught several other peanut mahi as well as a few yellowfin tunas with the largest at 46.5 lbs. Capt. Tommy is no stranger to the WMO having won it in 1993 at the age of 14!



# TOURNAMENT SERIES

## 2021 SCHEDULE

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

**UPCOMING TOURNAMENT!**

**6th ANNUAL OCMC vs. OCLTC SHOOT-OUT**

Angler Meeting: August 26, 7:00pm  
Fishing Days: ( 2 of 3 ) August 27, 28, 29  
No Weigh-Ins



**63rd ANNUAL LABOR DAY WHITE MARLIN TOURNAMENT\***

Registration: September 2, 6:30 - 8:00pm  
Fishing Days: ( 2 of 3 ) September 3,4,5  
Weigh-Ins: September 3,4,5 6:00 - 8:00pm at Sunset Marina  
Banquet: September 5, 6:30-9:00pm at the Club

**43rd ANNUAL CHARLES KRATZ & SCOTT SMITH CHALLENGE CUP**

Registration: September 16, 6:00-8:00pm  
Fishing Days: ( 2 of 2 ) September 17 & 18  
No Weigh-Ins



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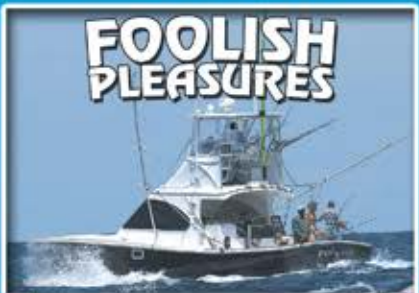


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## 2021 TOURNAMENTS

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Capt. Steve Harman's

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**AUGUST 12-14**

16<sup>th</sup> Annual

**FLOUNDER POUNDER**

**SEPTEMBER 12**



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# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

**Estimated Prize Money \$9,259,150**

## WHITEMARLIN

- 1ST PLACE  
BUTCH WRIGHT  
"SUSHI"  
85.5 LBS. • \$3,238,160
- 2ND PLACE  
MIKE ATKINSON  
"FENDER BENDER"  
82.5 LBS. • \$1,980,910
- 3RD PLACE  
BILLY GERLACH  
"BILLFISHER"  
78.5 LBS. • \$106,216

## BLUEMARLIN

- 1ST PLACE  
DAVID CASH  
"SEVEN"  
775 LBS. • \$1,107,260
- 2ND PLACE  
CHRIS PERRY  
"MAMA C"  
559.5 LBS. • \$249,914
- 3RD PLACE  
SCOTT ZURAWSKI  
"CANYON LADY"  
511 LBS. • \$105,216

## SMALL BOAT RELEASE

- 1ST PLACE  
"HALLPASS"  
245 POINTS  
\$23,400

## SMALL BOAT TUNA

- 1ST PLACE  
JASON DELUCIA  
"A FEW G's"  
66 LBS.  
\$270,900

## TOP ANGLER

- 1ST PLACE  
WILLIAM HAUGLAND  
"LIGHTS OUT"  
700 POINTS
- 2ND PLACE  
CHAD MOSS  
"SAND BOB"  
490 POINTS
- 3RD PLACE  
DAVID CASH  
"SEVEN"  
468 POINTS

## TUNA

- 1ST PLACE  
LAWRENCE MOREJON  
"SEVEN"  
137 LBS. • \$1,251,230
- 2ND PLACE  
ZAK SMITH  
"BLOOD MONEY"  
102 LBS. • \$12,720
- 3RD PLACE  
RON KAWAJA  
"AFISHIONADO"  
96 LBS. • \$1,000

## WAHOO

- 1ST PLACE  
ORMONDE MAHONEY  
EL AZUL"  
84 LBS. • \$2,000
- 2ND PLACE  
ALEX HASKINS  
"ISLAND HOPPER"  
48.5 LBS. • \$1,500
- 3RD PLACE  
TIM RICHARDSON  
"OYSTA GANGSTA"  
46.5 LBS. • \$92,450

## SMALL BOAT BIG FISH

- 1ST PLACE  
JACOB BERTONAZZI  
"JERSEY BOY"  
318.5 LBS.  
\$118,800

## TOP RELEASE BOATS

- 1ST PLACE  
"REELIN FEELIN"  
770 POINTS • \$58,905
- 2ND PLACE  
"BLOOD MONEY"  
770 POINTS • \$32,130
- 3RD PLACE  
"SAND BOB"  
770 POINTS • \$16,065

## DAILY POINTS

- MONDAY 8/2  
"REEL CHAOS 62"  
455 POINTS  
\$16,200
- TUESDAY 8/3  
"LUNATICO"  
385 POINTS  
\$16,200
- THURSDAY 8/5  
"LUNATICO"  
385 POINTS  
\$16,200
- FRIDAY 8/6  
"LUNATICO"  
385 POINTS

## DOLPHIN

- 1ST PLACE  
CHARLES DISHMAN  
"DROPPED CALL"  
34 LBS. • \$22,090
- 2ND PLACE  
ANDREW KINSLEY  
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"DUE COURSE"  
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## SHARK

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ANTHONY SAPANERO  
"GO FISH"  
132.5 & 131 LBS.  
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## FISHING DAYS

**Monday - 421 Tuesday - 420**  
**Wednesday - 36 Thursday - 51**  
**Friday - 404**

**Boats Registered - 444**





There were many amazing stories during this year's 48th Annual White Marlin Open and that of the "SEVEN" out of Jupiter, FL was among the top! Angler Lawrence Morejohn kicked off their week on the 1st day of the tournament by boating a bigeye in the NE corner of the Wilmington Canyon. They were fishing for marlin, so it took 4 hours to boat this 137 lb. tuna using the TD30 it hit. Similarly they wrapped up the week with a bang on the last day bringing both a white marlin and a blue marlin to the scales a little bit before 9PM. First time WMO participant and veteran angler Paul Vriesema landed the 77 lb. white first in 800 ft. in the Wilmington Canyon. Moving into the more shallow waters of the flats, Capt. Jimmy Hardee saw the water was right. Angler Dave Cash connected with this 775 lb. blue marlin on a pitch bait after it came up on the right teaser in 300 ft. and only a half mile from where they hooked the white. At the time of this weigh in on Day 5, the "SEVEN" was in 1st Place for Tuna, Blue Marlin and Heaviest Fish as well as 3rd Place for White Marlin, a truly unique event to be in the top 3 of four categories. The tournament winning white marlin weighed later that night moving theirs to 4th, however, they held 1st Place for Blue Marlin, Tuna and Heaviest fish earning a combined total of \$2,358,485 in award monies. Rounding out the able crew were owner Gardner Britt and mate Tim Smith.



We could not imagine a better way to have started the 48th Annual White Marlin Open than with the catch from the "Fender Bender" from Virginia Beach, VA. They were the first boat to the scales on Day 1 of the event weighing a 72½" white marlin that tipped the scales at a solid 82½ lbs.! Capt. Colin Oxnard had the boat outside the Poor Man's Canyon at the 615/935 in about 1000 fathoms when they started to get some bites, finally connecting with two white marlins. One was a release, the second was boated by angler Mike Atkinson and was worth over \$4M dollars at the time. Mike and other crew members Bobby Whelan, Clint Evans, Chris Scerri, Mike McNab, Wesley Brown and mate Daniel Whelan held the lead all week until 9:30PM on Friday when they slid into 2nd Place for Heaviest White Marlin taking home \$1,980,914 in prize money!

Just like last year, the crew of the "Jersey Boy" made a plan and worked the plan during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open. Making the bet that it would be hard to find a 114" blue marlin in the Small Boat Big Fish Division, they focused of finding a swordfish, and they did just that. Jacob Bertonazzi, Kyle Gagliardi, Capt. Reese Hudson, Brandon Smith, Justin Wigglesworth and mate Kyle Castellini fished the last day of the tournament south east of the Poor Man's Canyon in 1400 feet. After hooking up with a bigeye tuna that pulled off, they switched to deep dropping with squid and at 3:13PM Jacob connected with this monster, taking 2 hours to get it to the boat. They were the 2nd to last boat to the scales bringing the last of many leaderboard changes for the day, and like last year taking the Small Boat Big Fish Category earning \$118,800 in overall awards. This one also set a new MD state record!

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The Tuna Division of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open showed that strategy was at play for the crew of the "Cookie Monster". Boating a nice 69½ lb. yellowfin tuna on Day 2 of the event put them in the top 3 momentarily but ended the tournament in 4th place. Anglers Jon, Gerry, Ben and Warren 'Cookie' Halle with Mason Melnick and Capt. Brian Denton & mate Garin Engleman however made the right investment in the added levels and earned a combined \$100,350 in prize money.



The aptly named "A Few G's" pulled in more than a few during the 38th Annual White Marlin Open. Bob and Joanna Grizzard agreed that Joanna would pick the calcuttas for this years event, and she did, going heavy on the tuna levels including the Small Boat Tuna Winer Take All. So when angler Jason DeLuca landed this 66½ lb. yellowfin outside of the Washington Canyon on Day 2, the prize money started accumulating, ending up at a combined \$270,900 and the fourth largest payout for the tournament. Rounding out the crew were Shelly Hankins and Phylis Quiellet.

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Another turnover on the last day of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open was in the Dolphin Division. Up until this point the top two mahi were only separated by ½ pound at 31.5 and 31 lbs. Angler Charles Dishman blew that up when he and Chris Williams, Jimmy Fogel, Frank Fioratti, Nichole Goldsmith, Shore Leach and Capt. Bryan Leach brought this 34 lb. bull to the scales that they caught inside the Poor Man's Canyon on the troll. Their fish remained unchallenged for the last few hours of the tournament and took top honors in the Dolphin Division earning \$22,090.

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Another Virginia Beach, VA boat, the "Mama C" rocked the scales on Day 1 of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open bringing in a 116 1/2" and 559 1/2 lb. blue marlin! Anglers Chris Perry, Sean O'Donnell, Joe Dieffenbach, Kenny Jones and Bubba Brizendine were fishing outside the Poor Man's in 1000 fathoms with Capt. Rob Mahoney at the wheel and mates Boyce Campsen & Tommy Forello in the pit. They saw the big blue come up on a teaser and they hooked it with a pitch bait. Angler Chris Perry took only an hour to get it to the boat. The crew also released 3 whites and boated several tunas. Like the top white marlin, this blue held 1st Place until the very last day when it slid into 2nd Place in the Blue Marlin Division, earning a combined \$249,914 in prize money.

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Micheal Jordan's boat, "Catch 23" tested the rough waters last Wednesday during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open as 1 of the 36 that ventured out. They fished outside of the Poor Man's Canyon boating 5 mahi including this 23 1/2 lb. gaffer caught by Trey McMillan that earned the prize for the Daily Meat Fish of \$18,090. Rounding out the crew were anglers Michael Jordan, Jimmy David, Nick Ewald, Patrick Field, Jorge Heru, Anibal Moya, Mark Nitzel, Scotty Runyan and Danny Yound with Capt. Stetson Turney at the helm.



The boat the "SEVEN" made a hard run at the prize money during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open by bringing a qualified fish to the scales in the White Marlin, Blue Marlin and Tuna Categories! On Day 1 they had only two tuna bites for the day and both at the same time. While one got off, angler Lawrence Morejohn managed to land this 137 lb. bigeye tuna in the NE corner of the Wilmington Canyon. This sat at the top of the leaderboard from Day 1 and was never challenged earning the crew of Lawrence with Paul Vriesema, Dave Cash, owner Gardner Britt, Capt. Jimmy Hardee and mate Tim Smith a cool \$1,251,330 and the notoriety of being only the 2nd boat since the 1974 tournament to take 1st Place in two Divisions.



After 2020 where no blue marlins were brought to the scales, the 48th Annual White Marlin Open saw 3 of the big fish weighed with all over 500 lbs.! Two of these were caught on Day 5 of the event, with "Canyon Lady" being first bringing this 115½" and 511 lb. blue caught outside of the Poor Man's Canyon. Angler Scott Zurawski from Avalon, NJ spent 1½ hours on the rod to get this winner to the boat. Other anglers Dan Schifferdecker, Mike Brady and mates Morgan Tolbert & Ryan Keany with Capt. Jamie Diller (who has been fishing the WMO for over 30 years) also released 2 whites and another blue marlin the same day. Finishing in 3rd Place in the Blue Marlin Division earned the crew \$105,216.



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There is much that can be said about the comradery, sportsmanship and support in the world of offshore fishing. This was exemplified by the actions of the crew of the "Fishbone" during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open. On the first day of the event on Monday August 2nd the "Knot Stressin'" started taking on water 60 miles offshore and issued a Mayday call. Capt. Billy Chapman realizing their proximity pulled the lines in a speed to the site about a mile away rescuing all aboard and what personal items they could, foregoing their fishing day. Pictured are Austin Cahil, Maria Brittinham, Max Santangels, Sarah Stafford, Maddie War, Christina Ward, owner Joe Ward and mates Austin Brittingham & Daniel Clinton.



The "Oysta Gansta" had a quite the time on the last day of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open! Anglers Tim Richardson, Gregory Bryan, John Duncan, Robert Lyons and Dan Warrington went to the Washington Canyon with Capt. Jason Bloom and mate Roger Ruby. They were able to get 3 bigeye tunas close to the boat, but all got off! It was however the hit that angler Tim Richardson took that got them in the money when he landed this 46½ lb wahoo to put them in 1st Place for the day. This was Tim's first wahoo catch and his first WMO. While their fish finished the tournament in 3rd Place overall, they placed their bets well as the only one of the top 3 in the Wahoo Calcutta earning to total of \$92,450 in prize money.

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The last day of the 48th Annual White Marlin Open saw the leaderboard turn upside down with all the fish coming to the scales. In the Wahoo Division it was Ormonde Mahoney on the "El Azul" out of Beaufort, NC that blew up the leaderboard bringing in this 84 lb. fish and besting the next in the category by over 35 lbs. Capt. Mike Taylor and mate Dustin Tilley with fellow anglers Mike Freeman, Adam Raynor, Colden Harmon, Jimmy Kirkman, Tom Little and Gray Mahoney were not looking for a wahoo, but they found a real winner in the Norfolk Canyon earning \$2,000 in award money.



Only 2 sharks were weighed during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open, and both were from the same boat! The crew of the "Go Fish" of Capt. Anthony Sapanero, mate Mike Lupacchini and angler Gregory Sicilian bookended the tournament with a 132.5 lb. tiger shark on Day 1 by Anthony and as the very last boat on Day 5 with a 131 lb. mako shark caught by Mike. On the last day they also had an estimated 650 lb. tiger shark on the hook for 1.5 hours, but experienced a reel failure and had to cut the fish loose. The two brought to the scales secured both 1st and 2nd Place in the Shark Division earning \$8,000 in prize money



Local boat builder Capt. Jon Duffie put his new custom 63' Duffie Boatworks "Billfisher" to the test during the 48th Annual White Marlin Open. Apparently she passed with flying colors raising 3 white marlins from below the Washington Canyon on Day 5 of the event including a 78½ lb. white caught by Billy Gerlach. This fish held onto 3rd Place earning the crew of Jeremy, Jonathan, Judith and John Charles Duffie, Danny Gough and mates Noah McVicker & Chris Wyandt \$106,216 in prize money.



It was the richest payout in the 48 year history of the White Marlin Open during the awards ceremony last Saturday at the Clarion Hotel in Ocean City. With over \$9M in prize money overall, these three boats earned over \$7.5M for top white and blue marlins as well as top tuna combined with other levels. This included the single largest prize money payout ever for the tournament at \$3,238,155 to the "Sushi" for their 1st Place 85½ lb. white marlin. As the saying goes, you have to bet big to win big!



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