

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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Brian Wirts of Millsboro, DE took advantage of Delaware's open flounder season, catching himself a doormat that weighed 11 lbs. 5 oz. The 31.5-inch flounder was caught while drifting a Gulp! artificial bait at the VFW Slough, located in the Indian River Bay. Brian was fishing on the "Producer" and weighed his catch at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

Double Lines

by Dale Timmons



Welcome to another new season of Coastal Fisherman. It is an understatement to say that we had a tough winter, but we have also experienced some early warm weather, and things seem to have quickly returned to normal, at least as far as the fish are concerned. Stripers have provided good early action in the ocean inside the 3-mile limit, around the bridge pilings, the inlet jetties, and in the surf, especially at Assateague Island, where there was a phenomenal bite on Friday, April 23. There have also been several black drum caught from the beaches, and though they haven't appeared in numbers as of this writing, bluefish should invade the surf any time now. Red drum have made a good early showing at the extreme southern end of the peninsula as well, and I have

heard of reds caught as far north as the Cobb Island surf. Flounder fishing has been fair, though 19-inch minimum legal fish (in Maryland) have been hard to come by so far (ridiculous, when you think about it). Fluke fishing has been good on the Eastern Shore of Virginia this spring, where the minimum is 18 1/2 inches. The exception has been when the "brown slur" is bad. This stuff, which is apparently the result of algae dying off and floating to the surface, coats your rigs and baits, making it almost impossible to fish. As the water warms, it may be an exceptionally bad year for the slur, considering all the rain and snow and resulting runoff we had this year. Hope I'm wrong on that count...



Suzanne and I managed to

spend a couple of weeks in the Keys in March, the first time we have been to the Sunshine State in six years. It was cool and windy most of the time, but definitely still better than it was up here. The extreme cold caused massive fish kills in Florida before we got there, and it was disheartening to hear what had taken place. One article I read in a local paper while down there said they estimated over 100,000 snook had been killed, which must be especially frustrating to all the anglers who have been fishing under strict slot sizes and seasons for these delicious fish. It was apparently the worse cold since the 1940s, and it may take many years for some of the fisheries to recover. The same phenomenon occurred in North Carolina, where thousands of speckled trout, including some real trophy fish, were stunned and left floating on the surface of Pamlico Sound by the sudden drop in water temps. Anyway, we didn't do a lot of fishing in Florida. I had planned on

chartering someone for either back country or tarpon, but the wind was so bad I didn't bother. We did fish some of the bridges, and we were very successful with the mangrove snappers. Suzanne also caught a nice cero mackerel and I had a big Spanish mackerel. A couple more Spanish bit us off before we could get them up on the bridge. Thanks to the advice of Sue Foster, we fished a simple jig head and piece of shrimp combo, and it was very effective. Stopped to see Capt. Chuck Miller in New Smyrna Beach on the way down. Chuck is running New Smyrna Outfitters, a very nice high-end tackle shop (the floor alone is worth seeing). Also stopped and chatted with Capt. Scott Walker on Duck Key. Scott is running his Tailwalker Charters, along with being a big TV star on his "Into the Blue" fishing show. It was nice to see old friends, and I'm glad they both seem to be doing well...



Continued on page 6

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The first striper of the year was caught on New Year's Day by Max Thumma (left). Max hooked the 33-incher while jigging just inside the 3-mile line, outside of Little Gull Shoal. Max was fishing on the "Hard Times" with his dad, Benny Thumma of West Ocean City, who landed himself a 43-inch striper, also while jigging.



John Albanese of Millsboro, DE boated this 27.75-inch flounder while drifting a smelt in the Indian River Inlet near the VFW Slough. The big flattie tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 11 oz. on the scales at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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A few anglers were surprised by catches of cod this Winter/Spring. Here, Ben Strahl of Baltimore, MD is pictured with a 33-incher caught back in February on a green crab while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder.



Tim Thorpe was surf fishing off Assateague Island in mid-April when he hooked into this 27-inch weakfish. Tim caught the weakie on a Fishbites bloodworm and clam combination during the outgoing tide. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.



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Double Lines continued:

What's new this season? Well, in the hook category, the folks at Mustad have a new series of circle hooks called the Demon Perfect Circle that should be of particular interest to the offshore crowd or to the surf anglers who target large stripers or red drum. There are several variations and numbers in this series, but the two I see the most promise for are the 39950BLN and the 39951BLN. The first is a 3X strong hook with fairly heavy wire. It is available in 3/0 up to 16/0, but for the surf crowd fishing big head or chunk baits, the 9/0, 10/0, or even 11/0 would probably be the ticket. After tying up a few samples, my preference would be the 10/0. The 39951BLN is described as a "1X extra fine wire" hook, and it comes in sizes up to 10/0. If you like a thinner wire hook, this hook in the 10/0 strikes me as an excellent choice for fishing bunker heads or chunks or even half a peeler crab this time of year for red and black drum. Both of these hooks are

non-offset models, and the 39950BLN is even endorsed by the Billfish Foundation, but if you prefer an offset circle hook, Mustad offers the 39942BLN in sizes up to 10/0. This is also a 3X hook with fairly heavy wire. The 39941BLN is basically the same hook in a 2X strong version with slightly lighter wire, though it only goes up to a 9/0 size. All of the hooks in this new series are chemically sharpened "Ultra Point" models, and they are extremely sharp right out of the package, with an excellent black nickel finish, so expect to pay a premium. As a "hook nut", however, I think they are an excellent addition to the Mustad line. I would just like to see them make one of them, maybe the 39951BLN, with a turned down eye for more convenient snelling.

There are other new products, of course, and I will get into them as the season progresses. Personally, one thing I added this year was a Power Pole® on the stern of my boat. This silent, hydraulically

powered anchoring system is very effective for fishing the shallows for species such as speckled trout, where you drift until you find some fish and then want to stop. The 8-foot Pro model I opted for is supposed to hold a boat up to 26-feet in water to 8 feet with 30 knot winds, though my butt probably won't be out there if it's blowing that hard. When I finally decided to spend the money, the thing that surprised me was that there were no Power Pole dealers on the Shore south of North East, MD, at least as far as their web site was concerned (something local boat dealers might want to think about). Though it was over a two-hour drive, the folks at Anchor Boats in North East were very agreeable and professional and did an excellent installation. I'll let you know how it works out...

As many of you know, the local fishing community once again has lost one of its own with the passing of local mate and commercial diver Jimmy

Jackson, who just turned 40 this spring. Jimmy died while diving in the Bahamas in late April. I have probably known Jimmy for at least half of his short life, and he was always friendly, polite, funny, and easy going in my dealings with him. He was an excellent fisherman who worked on many local charter boats, and for the past year or two he had been doing commercial diving. Jimmy was also a talented waterfowl carver and artist who loved to hunt. I know I join a lot of folks around here who called him a friend, and we pass on our deepest condolences to his mother and father. So here's to you, Jimmy...we'll hoist one to you and hope that the ducks are flying, there's a bait ball under your cast net, and the water is gin clear...



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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



Well, after the horrible, and I mean horrible, winter and early spring we had this year, it feels great heading into another fishing season. This is the 35th year of publication for the Coastal Fisherman, which was started back in 1976 by Dale and Suzanne Timmons.

Like every fishing season, bad memories are forgotten and we start out with tremendous optimism and hope that this is THE YEAR! Will we finally get a good yellowfin bite, after years of disappointment? Will we have another great white marlin bite in the late summer? Who's going to catch the heaviest flounder of the year? The slate is clean and everyone has a chance to fulfill their angling goals and dreams. So let's get at it!

STRIPED BASS

Every year, the spring is highlighted by the angling exploits of those that spend many hours looking to land the "big one" while casting from the beach. This year was no exception, besides the fact that the "blitz" occurred about 2 weeks earlier than last year.

As always, the stripers are migrating north, after spawning in the Chesapeake Bay, following the big schools of bunker and herring.



During the "Great Striper Blitz of 2010", Tom Walker of Leesburg, VA landed this 48-inch, 45 lb. 4 oz. striper while surfcasting off Assateague Island. The big striper was caught on fresh bunker, just south of the Bullpen and weighed at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

The highlight of the run was the April 23rd blitz that occurred off Assateague Island with several bass landed over 45-inches. Marcus Crowley hit the jackpot with a 54-incher that he released after hooking it on fresh bunker. What is remarkable about this catch is that Marcus released the fish even though he had a chance at breaking the current Maryland state record,

held by Gary Smith at 57.2 lbs. Marcus' fish was an inch bigger, but unfortunately he didn't have a scale available to weigh the fish and decided to release it, which won Marcus much praise from fellow surfcasters. Who knows, maybe this big female will spawn a future state or world record fish. Crazier things have happened.

Over the last week, several stripers have been caught north of Assateague Island, along the beach in North Ocean City. We also saw a great night of fishing experienced on Friday by anglers fishing off of the Oceanic Pier. J.J. told me that in his 13 years at the Pier, he had never

seen anything like it. Not only were a lot of fish caught (18), but the fish were big. The two largest measured 48-inches and weighed 35 lbs. Capt. Skip Maguire was fortunate enough to be one of the dozen or so anglers who were on the Pier that night and he said it was like catching trout in a pond. The big fish could be seen swimming in the lights and all you had to do was to flip a Gotcha Plug into the water and the fight was on.

The following night, another good bite occurred, although it didn't turn on until almost 1 o'clock in the morning when eight fish were caught.

It seemed like the fish that didn't get caught made their way up near the Rt. 90 Bridge where anglers were able to hook into some on Sunday. Other anglers over the weekend caught linesiders while drifting close to the beach off 133rd Street and also around Gudelsky Park on the west side of the bay. The bay is loaded with bunker, so I expect to see many more stripers being caught in the coming weeks.

FLOUNDER

With much anticipation, the state released their 2010 flounder regulations with mixed emotions from anglers. The minimum size this year is 19-inches, up from 18-inches last year. Anglers are still allowed to keep 3 fish per day and the season will run from April 17th to November 22nd. The season was going to close in mid-September again, but local anglers lobbied for an extended season and had to give up an extra 1/2-inch on the minimum size to get it.

The start of the season has not been especially memorable, with most anglers settling for short fish. One angler I know has caught 38 flounder so far this

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Larry Jock, Editor and Publisher
Daina Kazmaier, V.P. Creative Services
Larry Jock, Sr., V.P. Distribution
Maureen Jock, Office Manager
Mary Jock, Vice President

Larry Jock III, Delivery Assistant & Publisher-in-Training

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year, but hasn't landed a keeper. The largest flattie caught out of Ocean City so far this year was David Trout's 26-5 incher that weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz.

The water in the bay has been exceptionally clean. Heading over the Rt. 50 Bridge on some days the water has looked like what you see in the Keys. Water temperatures are hovering between 55 and 60-degrees, ideal for stripers but a little on the cool side for flatties.

Most of the keepers we have seen this year have been caught by anglers on the troll. Bucktails tipped with curly tails or minnows have had the best success. The bay behind Assateague around the duck blinds has been productive, although that water has been very slurry lately. Anglers fishing near the Rt. 90 Bridge have also been able to land some nice fish around the crab pots. I haven't heard much about the East Channel yet, but I have heard about fish caught in the West Channel near Hooper's Restaurant.

It will be a challenging year for catching keeper flounder, but when I looked back at last year's

Coastal Fishermen, I was surprised at how many flounder measuring 19-inches and above were caught, so I'm sure we will still see many nice flounder gracing the pages this year.

TAUTOG

With the sea bass season closed until May 22nd (although that hasn't been finalized yet), tremendous pressure has been placed on tautog this spring. Those anglers who were able to hit the ocean wrecks and reefs this spring returned with some nice catches of tautog. Of course, the headboats also threw some nice tog on the dock, highlighted by Frank Graziano's 19 lb. 10 oz. tog caught on the "Morning Star" in early February.

After years of seeing New York and New Jersey tautog fishermen bringing their own crabs to Ocean City and having great results catching fish, local anglers have caught on and are now finding better results by using brown crabs instead of green crabs for bait. Brown crabs, also known as rock crabs, are indigenous to our area where green crabs are not. This is not to say that green crabs haven't been

effective. I am just saying that the anglers I have spoken with have been very impressed with the results they have gotten by switching to brown crabs.

SEA BASS

Many anglers are wondering about the sea bass situation. As you may know, the 2010 sea bass quota was originally set, only to be doubled because the government scientists determined that doing so wouldn't hurt the stock. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which controls state waters, has set the 2010

May 5, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 9 regulation for black sea bass at a 12.5-inch minimum, 25 fish per person with a season that runs from May 22nd to September 12th. The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (which controls federal waters) proposed the same size and creel limit but a split season that would run from May 22nd to August 8th and September 4th to October 4th.

The two groups will resolve this issue in the next few weeks and it looks like anglers can begin keeping sea bass effective May 22nd.

Stay tuned!

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On April 23rd, Capt. Skip Maguire of Skip's Charters & Guide Service was drifting live bunker near the Rt. 50 Bridge when he hooked into this 29-inch, 8 lb. chopper bluefish.



David Trout of Seaford, DE captured this 7 lb. 1 oz. flounder while drifting a 3-inch Gulp! Alive! swimming mullet in the bay behind Assateague Island. The fish measured 26.5-inches and is the heaviest flounder caught out of Ocean City so far this year.

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Back in early February, Frank Graziano of Wilmington, DE caught this 19 lb. 10 oz. tautog while fishing on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. The blackfish was hooked on a white crab at an ocean wreck. The "Morning Star" is docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



On the evening of April 23rd, now known as the day of the "Great Striper Blitz of 2010", Marcus Crowley caught and released this 54-inch striped bass while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island with his wife, Jes. After losing two nice stripers in the surf, Marcus was headed back to his truck, dejected, when this big linesider hit Marcus' rod, tipped with fresh bunker. After a lengthy fight, the fish was released to live another day. Marcus did not have a scale available, so no weight was taken of the fish. The current Maryland state record was caught by Gary Smith back in May 2006 with a fish that measured 53-inches and weighed an even 57.2 lbs. Kudos to Marcus for not only his catch, but also for his release.

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Larry Katz ventured down from New York to go fishing on the "Morning Star" and was rewarded with this 28.75-inch tautog. The 14.5 lb. tog was released after being hooked while using rock crab for bait at an ocean wreck back in early April. As always, Capt. Monty Hawkins was at the helm and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder were working the deck.



On the evening of April 19th, Sam Kilgore of Berlin, MD caught this 50.25-inch striper while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island. The 42 pounder ate a chunk of bunker and was weighed at Harbor Tackle. Sam is pictured with his son, Samuel.

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Driftin' Easy

by Sue Foster



Every spring, anglers spend a day, or more, organizing their fishing tackle to get ready for another season of fishing. A reader of mine asked me to write an article on what to put in a tackle box. When I think of all the fishing tackle that is lying around, and what to put in a specific tackle box, one angle of the article may be "what NOT to put in the tackle box!" It's like the t-shirt drawer. If you stuff so many shirts in one drawer so it will barely close, you'll never be able to find what you are looking for. Where's my favorite rig I was looking for all day? Hiding all the way on the bottom of the cluttered box!



Rather than use one big tackle box, I like to arrange my fishing tackle into smaller, "fishing specific" tackle boxes. I just use those inexpensive plastic boxes with one fold out tray, and put enough fishing tackle in it for two or three trips. After each fishing trip, I

replace the rigs I lost and re-package the loose rigs into zip lock baggies after washing them off in fresh water and drying them. Sometimes I put them back into the packages they came in. You may have to staple them shut.

Whatever you do, it's important to get those loose rigs with hooks out of the box so you don't accidentally hook yourself! Throw away any old packaging that is empty. Sometimes you think you have a lot of rigs in your box and they're all empty!

"So how many tackle boxes do I need?"

It depends on how many different kinds of fishing you do! I have a flounder box, a surf fishing box, an inlet box, a tautog box, and a party boat box. You do not need a huge amount of tackle in each box, but it's important not to grab items out of one box and forget to replace them! SO, it's critical to have certain important things like snap swivels in every one of your tackle boxes! You don't need 50 in each one, but it is important to have at least a half dozen in each one and replace them as you use them. Having 50 in one box and none in the box you are using can be very frustrating.

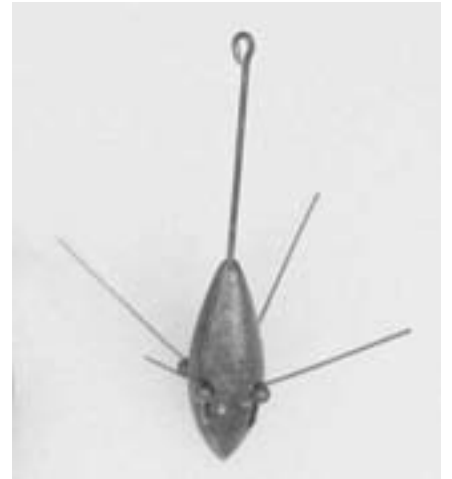
Let's take it one tackle box at a time. First of all, let's fill the Flounder Box! Start with a dozen pre-made flounder rigs.

Buy the packaged ones that are all ready-to-fish, where all you have to do is add the sinker. An array of colors is good. Have white, chartreuse, and in the spring, always have a pink one. (If you buy loose rigs not in packages, take them home and put them into plastic bags. Pint-sized freezer zip lock bags make nice rig bags that you can use over and over again since they are heavier than regular zip lock bags.) Sinkers are very important. Try to have three of each size for each box; Bass cast for drifting in the boat and regular bank sinkers from the shore. One, one and a half, two, and three-ounce are your basic sizes. Again, replace what you lose each trip when you get back. Snap swivels are important to put on the end of your line so you can change your rigs easily and help eliminate line twist. Size 3 is a good universal size. A package of 6 or 12 is all you need. I like to have a few extra barrel swivels in my box to repair any rigs. I like to keep a pack or two of "fake baits" in each of my boxes. For flounder, a pack of Berkley Gulp 3 or 4-inch Swimming Mullet or Minnows is always good. Then, in every box, I like to keep a little bait knife, a small pair of pliers and/or scissors or clippers. You can buy those combo tools that work really well. If you use Spectra Line such as Power Pro or Fire line you really need those scissors or cutters that will cut that kind of line.

If you use pre-made rigs, that's all you need. If you make up your own rigs, you need to buy top and bottom rigs and packs of leadered hooks instead of the pre-made rigs. I always try to keep extra rig bags or zip lock bags in each tackle box to re-package rigs right away so they are not lying loose in the tackle box. (This is one of those - do as I say not as I do!) Follow the seasons a bit as well. If you know you will be catching spot for bait, always keep a couple spot rigs or Sabiki rigs in your box as well as a pack of bloodworm Fishbites.

Fill the Surf Box in a similar way. A dozen pre-made surf

rigs, including bluefish rigs, striped rigs, and kingfish rigs. Pyramid or Hurricane type sinkers in 2, 3, 4, 5-ounce sizes are a must. I always have a couple sputnik sinkers with the



retractable wires in 2 to 4-ounce range for those "hard to hold" days. Snap swivels and a few fish finder rigs are in my box. A little hook sharpener or stone is good when surf fishing. Always have a pack of Fishbite bloodworms in case the spot, croaker, or kingfish start biting. Pliers are a must for skates, rays and sharks. Carry a knife for cutting bait. Carry extra hooks for your whole mullet rigs. Surf boxes always get sand in them so keep them simple, and go through them often.

In my Inlet Box, I carry bucktails, Berkley Gulp swimming mullet in a couple of colors and some 4 and 6-inch plastic curtail grubs. Leader material in 30 to 40 pound test is what you want to tie your lures on. Carry three or four each inline sinkers in one, one and a half, two, and three-ounce weights. Snap swivels of course! Throw in some of your favorite hard lures such as Gotcha Plugs, Spec Rigs and Spoons. Saltwater dropper fly rigs have become very popular at the inlets. If you take them, you'll want a few larger bass cast sinkers in the 2 to 4-ounce range.

In my Tautog Box I carry at least six loose hooks of each size in Octopus style starting with size #1 and going up to size #3/0. (#2/0 is the most popular.) I have several coils of 40 pound test leader (you can use fluorocarbon leader material or just some plain monofilament line), rubber bands to attach my sinker so if

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the sinker gets hung up I can break it off and not lose a good fish, a pair of scissors to cut the green crabs in half, barrel swivels to make up tautog rigs, and flat, cushion, or inline sinkers in size one, one and a half, two, and three ounce. I keep at least 6 sinkers of each size in my box.

Party boat box! The main thing is sinkers! I carry four each of three, four, five, six, and eight ounce bank style sinkers. A spool of fluorocarbon leader in 30 or 40 pound test is good to make rigs out of. If you don't want to use fluorocarbon, take the same pound test in leader material. A couple packs of loose, kahle hooks in size 4/0 and 3/0. These are the hooks the party boats usually use. Have a pack of smaller hooks if triggerfish are biting. Some anglers like to use jigs. If you like them, have a couple of Spro Bucktails and a couple of metal jigs in the 3 to 6 oz. range.

A pack of three or four-inch curltail grubs in chartreuse color is good to add to your hooks. (Or Berkley Gulp in the same style.) I always carry some bucktail on the brass sleeve with mylar to add flash to my hooks when sea bass or flounder fishing. During flounder season, a couple of your favorite flounder rigs are also nice to carry. Add a couple good snap swivels, barrel swivels, pliers, bait knife, extra zip lock bags for used rigs and

continued on page 17

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With sea bass season closed, we didn't see many caught so far this spring, but George Henning of Ocean City, MD did manage to hook into a 19.25-incher while fishing for tautog aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Rich Silvani and Mike Kinder. The fish ate a green crab on an artificial reef.



On Friday, April 23rd, Jason Fisher caught 2 big striped bass while surfcasting off Assateague Island. The larger fish measured 49.5-inches and weighed 43 lbs. while the "smaller" striper measured 43-inches and tipped the scales at 28 lbs. Both fish were caught on fresh bunker and weighed at Buck's Place.



Ocean City Marlin Club

2010 Tournament Series

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1st Annual Bluefish Tournament Captain's Meeting: May 28 Fishing Days: May 29 & 30 Fish 1 of 2 Days Awards: Sunday, May 30	31st Annual Small Boat Tournament Captain's Meeting: June 25 Fishing Days: June 26 & 27 Fish 1 of 2 Days Awards: Sunday, June 27	28th Annual Canyon Kick Off Captain's Meeting: July 1 Fishing Days: July 2, 3 & 4 Fish 2 of 3 Days Awards: Monday, July 5
6th Annual Kid's Classic Captain's Meeting: July 16 Fishing Days: July 17 & 18 Fish 1 or 2 Days Awards: Sunday, July 18	2nd Annual Ladies Tournament Captain's Meeting: July 29 Fishing Days: July 30 & 31 Fish 1 of 2 Days Awards: Saturday, July 31	52nd Annual Labor Day Tournament Captain's Meeting: September 2 Fishing Days: September 3, 4 & 5 Fish 2 of 3 Days Awards: Sunday, September 5

5th Annual Nautical Flea Market
Saturday, May 8th
Marlin Club Parking Lot
8am - 12 noon
Rods, reels, anchors, lines, lures and more!









line cutter and your tackle box is complete.


It's not absolutely necessary to have a real tackle box if you only do a certain kind of fishing once in a blue moon. I condense my tautog box into one clear trans-box. My surf box is a sturdy old reel box. I grab it and throw it in a 5-gallon bucket when I get a couple hours to hit the beach. The less you have in your box, the easier it is to keep organized. Label the box on the outside. Keep it simple, but replace what you lose every time you go fishing. Don't borrow from one box and forget to replace the contents. If you do this, write yourself a BIG NOTE or you'll find yourself out on the beach with a big skate and no pliers, or out on the flounder boat with no snap swivels!

Good fishing....

Sue Foster is an outdoor writer and co-owner of Oyster Bay Tackle in Ocean City, MD and Fenwick Tackle in Fenwick, DE.



On Friday night, there was an "epic" bite off the Oceanic Pier with 18 stripers caught (10 pictured) between 8pm and midnight. The two largest weighed 35 lbs. and measured 48-inches. Anglers were having luck tossing Gotcha Plugs. Pictured are Rashad Grier of Laurel, MD, Capt. Skip Maguire of Skip's Charter & Guide Service, Brian Strull of Laurel, MD, John Phillips, Jamie Trobeck and Brian Walker. Pictured at the Oceanic Pier at the Ocean City Inlet.



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&
Sign - up
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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Cornmeal Crusted Croaker with Asparagus and Fresh Tomato Sauce

4 large croaker fillets
2 cups flour
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups cornmeal
Canola oil
1 lb. fresh asparagus, trimmed
Olive oil
Salt and pepper

Dust fillets in flour.

Dip in beaten egg and then in cornmeal.

Heat 1/2 inch oil in skillet until hot.

Fry fillets one minute per side until they are golden.

Place on paper towel; keep warm in oven until serving time.

Cook asparagus in 1/2 inch of boiling water until tender.

Drain and reserve 1/4 cup of cooking water to use in sauce.

Toss with olive oil, season with salt and pepper and set aside.

For Fresh Tomato Sauce:

2 tomatoes, stemmed and chopped
4 leaves fresh basil, chopped

2 tsps. butter
1 TBSP. olive oil
2 shallots, chopped
1/4 cup white wine
1/4 cup asparagus cooking water
Salt and pepper

Heat butter in saucepan; add shallots and cook until soft.

Add wine and reduce down to about 1 ounce.

Add tomato and asparagus water to pan and bring to a boil. Simmer for 10 minutes until thick.

Puree with basil.

Season with salt and pepper.

Finish by whisking in olive oil.

To serve, lay cornmeal crusted croaker on asparagus and spoon tomato sauce around asparagus.

Serves 4.

Grilled Bluefish with Corn Salsa

Salt and pepper to taste
2 cups fresh or frozen corn kernels (thaw)
6 sprigs fresh cilantro, roughly chopped
2 tsps. red onion, finely chopped
1 jalapeño, seeded and finely chopped
1 pinch cumin

2 limes, juice removed and saved

4 bluefish fillets

1 tsp. canola oil

Preheat oven to 225 degrees.

Mix first seven ingredients together in a glass or ceramic bowl. Cover for at least one hour.

Brush fillets with oil.

On a medium-hot grill, cook fillets for 2 to 3 minutes on each side.

Remove from grill and place in oven for 3 to 5 minutes.

While fish are in the oven, heat skillet until hot, add salsa and cook 2 minutes or until all ingredients are warm.

Remove from heat.

Arrange bluefish on plates and garnish with salsa.

Serves 4.

Flounder with Rice, Feta and Cucumber

1 cup brown rice

Salt and pepper

2 1/2 tsps. extra-virgin olive oil

1 lb. flounder fillets

3/4 tsp. paprika

1 cup English cucumber, diced small

1/3 cup fresh dill, roughly chopped

1/3 cup feta cheese, crumbled

2 tsps. fresh lemon juice

Cook rice according to package directions.

When cooked, place in a bowl and let cool 5 minutes.

In a large nonstick skillet, heat 1 1/2 tsps. of the oil over medium-high heat.

Pat fish dry and season with salt and pepper; sprinkle with paprika.

Cook fillets until opaque throughout, about 4 minutes, flipping halfway through.

Stir cucumber, dill, feta, 1 tsp. salt and lemon juice into rice.

Season with salt and pepper.

Top rice with fish.

Serves 4.

Sauteed Tautog with Pecan Sauce

4 fish fillets

Flour seasoned with salt and pepper

2 TBSP. butter

1/4 cup dry white wine

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

1/2 cup chopped pecans

2 scallions, chopped, including tops

Dip fillets in the seasoned flour. Shake off excess flour.

Heat butter in a nonstick skillet.

Saute fish until done, turning once to lightly brown both sides.

Remove and place on platter.

Add wine, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, pecans and scallions to pan.

Bring to a boil; boil 1 minute.

Pour over fish and serve.

Serves 4.

Striper Cakes

2 lbs. fish cut into 1/2 inch square pieces

3 TBSP. mayonnaise

2 TBSP. Dijon mustard

1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning

2 eggs

1 cup chopped onions

1 cup chopped red or green pepper

1 cup chopped celery

2 cups Panko breadcrumbs

2 TBSP. hot red pepper flakes (more or less to taste)

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.

Wet hands with water and form into patties about 1 inch thick.

Add olive oil to a large skillet over medium heat and cook 4 minutes per side until golden brown.

Alternate Method:

Bake in 350 degree oven for 15 minutes; then broil for 5 minutes until nicely browned.

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On April 24th, Hank Beard of Arnold, MD landed this 40.5-inch striper while fishing off the beach on Assateague Island. The fish was caught on fresh bunker and weighed 21 lbs. 4 oz. on the scale at Buck's Place on Rt. 611.

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In mid-April, Kevin McCabe of Berlin, MD was fishing by himself on Russell's Reef when he caught 4 cod, keeping this 20-incher, after hooking them on brown crabs. Kevin also caught a couple of tautog and released some sea bass during the trip aboard the "Double Trouble".



Lucas May was fishing at night aboard the "Jam-Man" when he hooked into this 85 lb. 8 oz. black drum at the Coral Beds while using clams for bait. Lucas was fishing with Capt. Rocky Morgan and Capt. Chris Ragni and weighed his fish at Lewes Harbour Marina.



On April 18th, Steve Hudgins of Crownsville, MD landed this 24-inch, 4 lb. 11 oz. flounder while drifting a minnow and squid combination near the Rt. 90 Bridge. Steve also caught some small bluefish during the trip. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Brian and Kim Hitchens of Selbyville, DE, pictured with their son, Devin, beached these 4 striped bass while fishing off Assateague Island. The fish were caught using clams for bait, with the largest measuring 44-inches and weighing 29 lbs. on the scale at Buck's Place.

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No stranger to the pages of the Coastal Fisherman, Frank Clark of Ocean View, DE captured these two stripers, measuring 41.5 and 40-inches, on pink and white flies in the Indian River Inlet. The fish weighed 21.4 lbs. and 20.5 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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January 1st thru May 15th



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no more than 2 bushels per boat



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April 17th to November 22nd



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Back in March, Capt. Monty Hawkins on the "Morning Star" took some time away from the wheel and landed himself a 30-inch cod. Earlier in the day, Capt. Monty tagged a 19-incher, all while fishing on an artificial reef. Photo courtesy of Allen Sklar.

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Brian Osborne of Columbia, MD boated this 10 lb. 2 oz. tautog while fishing on the "Karen Sue" with Capt. John Nedelka 10 miles east of the Indian River Inlet. The tog was hooked on a green crab and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Seven-year-old Zachary Baker of Ocean City, MD caught this 33-inch striper on cut bunker while fishing from the beach on Assateague Island. Zachary was fishing with his dad, Ed Baker and his grandfather, Tom Baker.

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Species	2010	2009	Species	2010	2009
Sea Bass 	April 18, 2010 George Henning "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 26, 2009 Dean Lo "Arno" Wilmington Canyon	Mako Shark 	NONE REPORTED	May 22, 2009 Jim Hughes "Nontypical" Baltimore Canyon
Tautog 	January 7, 2010 Mike Maney "Morning Star" Offshore Wreck	January 4, 2009 Billy Collins "Ocean Princess" Offshore Wreck	White Marlin 	NONE REPORTED	June 10, 2009 Terry Layton "Nontypical" Poor Man's Canyon
Striped Bass 	January 1, 2010 Max Thumma "Hard Times" Little Gull	January 3, 2009 Baron Daiker "Baron Sea" Little Gull	Blue Marlin 	NONE REPORTED	June 10, 2009 Jake Burger "Marlin Magic" Poor Man's Canyon
Weakfish 	April 16, 2010 Tim Thorpe Assateague Surf	May 13, 2009 Rich Bell Sinepuxent Bay	Bluefin Tuna 	NONE REPORTED	May 23, 2009 Butch Bradshaw "DILLIGAF" Baltimore Canyon
Flounder 	April 5, 2010 Paul Turner Thorofare	April 18, 2009 Bo Smeltzer "Gotta Jones" Verrazano Bridge	Yellowfin Tuna 	NONE REPORTED	June 8, 2009 Kelly Horning "Fish Whistle" Poor Man's Canyon
Bluefish 	April 17, 2010 Dana Zapcic "Get Sum" Sinepuxent Bay	May 13, 2009 Henry Busby Bethany Surf	Longfin Tuna 	NONE REPORTED	August 4, 2009 Don Klein "Gun Dawg" Wilmington Canyon
Black Drum 	May 2, 2010 Lucas May "Jam-Man" Coral Beds	April 25, 2009 Chris Tenbusch Assateague Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	NONE REPORTED	June 19, 2009 Michael Branson "Reel Compromise" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	NONE REPORTED	May 23, 2009 Tassos Argyros Ocean Wreck	Dolphin 	NONE REPORTED	May 21, 2009 Chuck Dammann "Restless Lady" Poor Man's Canyon
Thresher Shark 	NONE REPORTED	May 25, 2009 Ron Sckenk "On Delivery" Lightship	Wahoo 	NONE REPORTED	July 18, 2009 Keith Wolf "Gerri Lynn" Hambone

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




Trevor Gouert from Lewes, DE was fishing off the beach in Lewes when he captured this 16.5 lb. striper. Trevor enticed the fish with fresh cut herring and weighed his fish at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Nine-year-old Jack Niemkiewicz from Chadds Ford, PA caught this 21-inch flounder while drifting a live minnow in the Isle of Wight Bay. Weighed at Bahia Marina.

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Fish Bonz
42' Ocean
Capt. Mark Radcliffe



Ranger
41' Viking
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Capt. Chad Meeks



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Capt. Dale Lisi



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Tackle Shop

by Larry Jock



Over the last couple of years, anglers trolling for stripers in the fall has really taken off. Most will troll either Stretch 30's and/or Mojo rigs, otherwise called Parachute rigs.



Mojo rigs can vary in style. I like to make mine with a 3-foot drop from a 3-way swivel and a 6-foot leader to my trailing lure. At the end of the 3-foot leader is

the heavier of the two lures, sometimes going as heavy as 24 oz. The trailing lure is lighter, usually in the 6-12 oz. range.

Obviously, when you want to get right on the bottom, a 20-oz. bullet head, rigged with a 9-inch rubber shad is the way to go.

Binnacle Custom Tackle, well known for their custom dyed gem hair, has just come out with 20 oz., 6 oz. and 3 oz. Mojo lures. They are not only beautiful, but they are very well made. I used to travel to Crisfield to get my Mojo lures from a gentleman who made really nice lures, but from what I can see, the Binnacle lures are just as nice, and you can get them locally.

The really cool thing about Binnacle's lures is that you can mix and match from 14 different head colors, 11 different hair colors and 6 different eye colors. Binnacle even allows you to mix 2 different hair colors on the same lure.

The lures retail for \$19.99 and are worth every penny. They can be found in local tackle shops or you can purchase them online at www.binnacletackle.com.

There is no denying that the Berkley Company changed the way anglers think about soft baits with the launch of their Gulp! artificial baits a few years ago.

This year, they added a Gulp! Alive! 7-inch belly strip to their line-up. This bait comes packaged in the Gulp! Alive! oval bucket, suspended in their patented Gulp! juice that the company claims is 20% stronger than the original Gulp! sold in packets.



Successful, local anglers will tell you that one of the best baits to use, especially for flounder, is flounder belly cut into strips. Strip baits are also ideal for tipping your bucktail or just a plain hook when fishing for stripers, croaker or practically any other species.

The nice thing about these

Gulp! Alive! artificial baits is that you can recharge them by simply placing them back into the "Magic Gravy".

The new Belly strips come in pink, pearl white and chartreuse (pictured) and retail for \$19.99.

Another innovative product from Berkley is their Bio-Dip paint that will instantly change the color of your Berkley Gulp!



and Gulp! Alive! artificial bait.

All you need to do is pat the bait dry and dip it into Bio-Dip container.

I haven't tried the Bio-Dip yet, but I can see where it would come in handy if the fish are hitting a color that is different than the bait you are using.

Bio-Dip comes in red, blue, orange and chartreuse. The 4 oz. bottle retails for \$6.95. Call your local tackle shop for availability.

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Michelle Clemente and Rolfe Gudelsky of the Ocean City Fishing Center, Daina Kazmaier and Larry Jock of the Coastal Fisherman, Craig Costantino of Full City Media, Ioana Gudelsky of Ocean City, MD and Capt. Nick Clemente had a great day striper fishing in the Chesapeake Bay aboard the "Playmate" with Capt. Willie Zimmerman and Mate Justin Hart. The group spent the day trolling parachute rigs and umbrella rigs between Hooper's Island, MD and Solomons, MD where they hooked 26 stripers, keeping 9. The largest of the day was caught by Nick Clemente (center) and measured 43.5-inches. Pictured at Rippon's Seafood in Hooper's Island.

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Bluefin ***	60"	75 lbs.
Yellowfin ***	50"	75 lbs.
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs.
Cobia	44"	-
Croaker	18"	3 lbs.
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs.
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs.
Red Drum *	any size	-
Flounder	24"	7 lbs.
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs.
Blue Marlin **	any size	any size
White Marlin **	any size	any size

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb.
Striped Bass	40"	20 lbs.
Sailfish *	any size	-
Seabass	20"	3 lbs.
Shark:		
Blue Shark *	any size	100 lbs.
Hammerhead *	any size	100 lbs.
Mako *	any size	100 lbs.
Thresher *	any size	100 lbs.
Tiger *	any size	100 lbs.
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs.
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs.
Spot	12"	-
Speckled Trout	24"	-
Swordfish *	any size	any size
Tautog	24"	7 lbs.
Wahoo	60"	20 lbs.
Weakfish	24"	9 lbs.

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It's been a good spring striper bite on the Chesapeake Bay and Ed Balcerzak of Ocean City, MD was there to capture this 45-incher on the troll. Ed was part of a group of 12 local anglers that chartered the "Rollin' Stone" and "Karen Ray II" out of Crisfield, MD. Ed's fish was the largest of the day with a 34-incher being the smallest.



Jack Hannum of Germantown, MD celebrated his 7th birthday by landing his first red drum while fishing in Ft. Pierce, FL with his dad, Paul Hannum and Capt. Charlie Connor. Jack's redfish measured 28-inches and was caught on live shrimp. The anglers also hooked 4 other red drum, sheepshead, bluefish, pinfish, jack crevalle, pompano and ladyfish during the trip.



Sam Heimer and Nathan Sheirburn, both from Pittsville, MD went tog fishing with their grandfather, Steve Hoffman of Pittsville, MD and Mike "Did You Hear I Caught a Sailfish" Glyphis of West Ocean City. The group caught 10 tautog and a cod, all on green crabs at an inshore wreck. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Rick Willman



Hi folks! Another fishing season is underway and so far it seems like if the weather cooperates we should be in store for an exciting season. Fishing has been pretty good to this point.

Flounder regulations remained the same for size and creel with a closure from October 13th to December 31st. I know there are lots of people who did not want to see a closure, but the state received less than 100 responses to the options that were available. That is not a very good showing by the fishing community, considering the fact that somewhere in the area of 88,000 licenses were sold. We should not continue to gripe about the regs if we aren't going to give our input when given the chance. So please, do your best in the future to voice your opinion so we get an overall idea of what most people want. I am



Dennis Stetz of Long Neck, DE reeled in this 26.75-inch flounder while drifting a Gulp! artificial bait near the VFW Slough in the Indian River Inlet. The 6 lb. 15 oz. flattie was weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

not saying it has to be what I think, but it should be the voice of the majority.

Another favor I would like to ask of everyone is to say a prayer for Joel Thompson and his family. Joel disappeared from the Indian River Inlet jetty and has not been found. Joel was a jetty and kayak fisherman and was always in search of a monster striper. I knew Joel and his family and always looked forward to talking fishing with him. We wish his wife and son strength in these tough times they are enduring.

Now, let's get to some fishing reports.

At Henlopen Bait & Tackle on Savannah Rd. in Lewes, Denise reports stripers are being caught at Herring Point on bunker. Flounder and bluefish are being hooked at the State Park pier. She also said some stripers are being landed from

Broadkill Beach.

At Rattle & Reel Sports Center on Long Neck Rd., Joe told us that flounder fishing in the back bays has been quite productive.

Bill's Sport Shop on Rt. 1 in Lewes gave us the following report: Spring fishing has started to heat up as water temperatures climb into the 50's. Bud Trainor was fishing the Outer Wall with green crabs and brought a fat 8.55 lb. tautog to the scales. Ryan Falgowski nailed a huge 11.15 lb. tautog while fishing his favorite secret Delaware Bay spot. Scott Reed and Becky Towers fished the VFW Slough and boated 3 flounder up to 22 inches and 3.78 lbs. while using smelt for bait. Ryan Halverson caught a citation striper at 20.6 lbs., measuring 38" at 3R's Road on fresh bunker. Lou also beached several blues measuring up to 22". Dustin Schell hammered 4 blues up to

20" on fresh bunker in the suds. Rich Johnson, was using a bucktail at the Indian River Inlet and caught a 15.15 lb. striper. Scott Aiken Sr. of Lewes caught a 43", 24.85 lb. citation striper on cut herring while fishing off the beach in Fenwick Island.

Bert at Hook'em and Cook'em Bait and Tackle reported great fishing. The back bays are providing plenty of flounder action. The VFW Slough has been a real hot spot for flatties. A few bluefish have also been scattered around. The Indian River Inlet is giving up stripers and tog, along with some bluefish. A few flounder have also been caught in the inlet. From the surf, anglers are scoring on stripers, flounder and blues. And of course there are always plenty of skates and sharks.

Here at Rick's Bait and Tackle, we have seen plenty of flounder action from the back bays. The VFW Slough has been a real dandy spot to bag a doormat flounder. Herring, smelt, minnows, and Gulp! artificial baits are producing the best catches.

Just before I started writing this week's report we had some real excitement. Chris Bledsoe was fishing with Capt. Chuck Cook on "First Light" Charters targeting tog on a fly rod. They almost had the world record tog on a fly. The record is 4 lb. 11 oz. and Chris's fish weighed in at 4 lbs. 2 oz.

Brian Wirts fished the VFW Slough on his boat "Producer" and scored a doormat flounder that weighed in at 11 pounds 5 ounces and measured 31 1/2 inches. They also had a few other nice flatties caught while using Gulp! artificial baits. Denny Stetz just missed a citation with his flattie that weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz. Allen Dubois of Delmar boated an Indian River flounder of 7 lbs. 8 oz. to earn a citation. John Albabese was fishing the VFW Slough when he bagged his 7 lb. 11oz. citation flattie while using smelt for bait.

Striper fishing in the Indian River Inlet continues to improve. The stripers are hitting a variety of baits. Bucktails, herring, bloodworms, GULP!, shad body artificials are all working quite well. Darla Hilton scored a citation with her 23 1/2 lb., 38-inch striper, caught on a bass assassin.

Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said stripers showed in

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the surf this week. Trevor Gouert used cut herring on Lewes Beach to catch a 16.5-pound rockfish. Curt Stephens, Drew Stuchlik and Charles Fouraker found the bass at Cape Henlopen on Saturday May 1st. Curt captured a 19.7 pounder, Drew had a pair of 38-inchers, and Charles landed a 22.1 pound citation linesider while soaking clam and bunker baits. Joel Robinson was casting a Storm lure from the jetty at the Indian River Inlet when he hooked a 22.4-pound striped bass. Other reports of rockfish came from the Indian River and Rehoboth Bay as well. The first big black drum of the season came in to Lewes Harbour Marina Sunday morning.

Lucas May boated an 85 lb. 8 oz. boomer at the Coral Beds, while using clam aboard the "Jam-Man" on Saturday night. Black drum activity will continue to improve through May, and usually peaks around Memorial Day weekend. Joe said the shop will have fresh surf clams during the season, but suggests reserving bait in advance.

Tautog action remained good. The rocks of the Inner and Outer Walls and the Ice Breakers

seemed to be more productive than the Bay reef sites, although those structures did yield decent blackfish. Tossing a jighead tipped with green crab in close to the Walls was a productive and fun way to tempt tog. Captain Chris Ragni caught a 9-pound tautog and Rick Shelton had a 7.26 pounder while togging aboard Jam-Man. David Sipple earned a citation for an 8.8 pounder.

Flounder fishing was fairly good in the Lewes Canal, when the water was clean. Jigs tipped with minnows, shiners or smelt worked well. Anglers on the Cape Henlopen Pier caught flounder too, with some of the better bites at night. A leadhead tipped with a Gulp! Swimming Mullet and a strip of fresh herring or bunker did the trick. Pier casters also had bluefish.

The Annual Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament will take place May 21st. Call 302-645-6227 for details.

Til next week, have fun and be safe!

Rick and his wife Deb are owners of Rick's Bait & Tackle in Long Neck, DE.

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Heaviest Fish of the Year

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

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	Mako Shark 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Tautog 	February 2, 2010 Frank Graziano "Morning Star" 19 lbs. 10 oz.	April 27, 2010 Brian Osborne "Karen Sue" 10 lbs. 2 oz.	Thresher Shark 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Striped Bass 	April 23, 2010 Tom Walker Assateague Surf 45 lbs. 4 oz.	April 28, 2010 Darla Hilton Indian River Inlet 23 lbs. 8 oz.	Cobia 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Weakfish 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	Bluefin Tuna 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Speckled Trout 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	Yellowfin Tuna 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Flounder 	April 24, 2010 David Trout Sinepuxent Bay 7 lbs. 1 oz.	April 15, 2010 Brian Wirts VFW Slough 11 lbs. 5 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Bluefish 	April 23, 2010 Capt. Skip Maguire Rt. 50 Bridge 8 lbs.	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	Bigeye Tuna 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Sheepshead 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	Dolphin 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED
Black Drum 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	May 2, 2010 Lucas May Coral Beds 85 lbs. 8 oz.	Wahoo 	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED	NO WEIGHTS REPORTED

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



(Clockwise from top left) Kelly Wenzel from West Ocean City, MD, Michelle Clemente from the Ocean City Fishing Center, Jessica Pollmeier from Sunset Marina, Chuck Wenzel from West Ocean City, MD and Ben Pollmeier from Ocean City, MD had a great time in Zihuatanejo, Mexico, releasing 8 sailfish in 4 days of fishing. The sailfish were hooked while trolling live bait in the Pacific Ocean aboard the "Huntress" with Capt. Francisco Herrera. Not pictured is Nick Clemente, captain of the "Get Sum".

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Chum Lines

by Mark Sampson



I've always considered May to be the first month of the year when a typical week will have more good weather days for fishing than bad. This prompts a lot of folks to finally decide that "it's time" to go ahead and get their inaugural trip in and their own season officially underway. By the end of the month it seems that everybody's doing it, but right now there's still a lot of "getting ready" going on around the boatyards, backyards, marinas, garages, and all the other places anglers might spend time rigging their boats and tackle for the fun times ahead.

With preparation comes a lot of speculation. How good will the action be this season? Where will we have to go to find the fish? What will be the hot baits or lures this year? Will the weather be good on the weekends? So much to think about, so much to worry about!

Since their final day on the water last year, many anglers have also spent time during the cold, fishless months, setting goals for themselves that they hope to fulfill this season. Some might hope to catch their first white marlin, mako shark, big tautog, or red drum, while others look forward to fishing a successful

overnight trip in the canyons, a chance to cast to breaking rockfish, catch some false albacore on fly-tackle, or make it on the cover of the Coastal Fisherman. From giant blue marlin to eight-pound flounder, Delmarva's waters hold opportunities that can allow an angler to have their dreams come true by achieving such aspirations.

Personal goals are good for fishermen, they keep us focused and provide reason to explore new waters, try new techniques, and to keep fishing when others have given up. After ten years I'm still trying to catch my first permit on a fly. It didn't happen "again" this winter but the quest keeps me returning to Florida each year for another shot at it. There's a lot of other fishermen who pursue goals every bit as lofty as mine, but what's easy to lose track of is that there's an even larger number of folks out there with very simple fishing goals of their own that may seem rather humble to the rest of us but are just as important and every bit as challenging to them.

Maybe they're too young or too old to fish by themselves and have no one to take them, or they might have financial issues that makes even the most modest of fishing trips too much of a luxury for them to afford. Perhaps they have physical complications, or they might simply have no clue about how to get started in fishing because they've never been exposed to it. Those of us who fish all the time might find it hard to comprehend, but there are so many people who are not worried about what they may or may not catch because just to be at the waters edge trying to catch a fish is

enough. Their goal is nothing more than to "go fishing." Just being able to get on a boat for a half day of deep-sea fishing, stand on the Rt. 50 Bridge and fish for flounder, or sit on a quiet dock and catch snapper bluefish and spot would be enough to make their fishing dreams come true.

As anglers, we know that there is something very primal about fishing, it does something for us that goes far beyond providing a fish dinner once in a while, it's in our blood and we can't imagine not having it as part of our lives. Now consider living with that desire but having no opportunity quench the need for it. Living here on Delmarva, just as we are bordered by water, we are also surrounded by folks who have the strong desire, but not the means, to go fishing. From children living with single parents who don't have the ability to take their kids fishing, to elderly men and women who may have spent a lifetime on the water but just can't go fishing on their own anymore. There's a lot of heart-breaking stories about people who could use an assist by those of us who have the ways and the means to make it happen.

The remedy is simple – just take someone fishing! You won't have to look far to find someone who would like to go, they're everywhere. As a fishing guide and charter captain I have the privilege every year to be included in plans to make fishing available to folks who don't usually have a chance to go. The most rewarding part of my job is when I'm able to help a child catch their first fish or an elderly person hook what could be the last fish of their lives, the satisfaction that comes from making this happen is something all fishermen have an opportunity to enjoy for themselves by simply offering to take someone along on some of their fishing

adventures.

Of course anglers should keep in mind that not all fishing trips are appropriate for all people. A 36-hour overnight trip to the canyons might be a once in a lifetime fishing experience, but could also be a bit overwhelming to someone who has never been out on the ocean before. When taking out people with physical limitations, children, or those with little fishing experience it's usually best to keep it simple, at least in the beginning until it's apparent that they can handle more extreme fishing. If you're trying to introduce a child to fishing, the last thing you want to do is run them 40-miles offshore on a choppy day and have them be seasick for ten hours. Remember, many people just yearn for the chance to get out on the water and go fishing, they don't necessarily need a 60-pound tuna or 200-pound shark to make their day. Bay or near shore fishing that provides a little action with modest size fish can be all that's needed to make someone really happy. Then, if all goes well, maybe future trips targeting larger fish farther offshore can be planned, but the first time out the focus should be on keeping the experience comfortable and enjoyable for the special guests.

Every new season provides Delmarva anglers with a lot to look forward to, good reasons to have high expectations, and maybe even the chance to set and pursue some challenging goals. But those fishermen who also take the time and make the effort to share some of their experiences on the water with those who do not have the opportunity to do so on their own are sure to end their season with so much more than just a freezer full of fish.

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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Nicholas and Bill Pino from Tyaskin, MD took a trip to the Galaopagos Islands to fish with Capt. Braden Escobar on the "Blue". Nicholas caught this 35 lb. wahoo while Bill caught and released the striped marlin. In 4 days of fishing, Nicholas, Bill and Alex Bernhart released 18 striped marlin.



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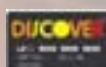
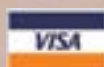


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Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2010

Well, the economy's "in the tank" and the weather is as usual for this time of year — windy and still a little chilly. So where does that put all our boating enthusiasts? Let's look at the positive. The waters of the bay and ocean are free. If you already have a boat, fuel prices are fairly stable right now and fuel economy is up. You might just need to take a different approach to this season's boating.

If you were contemplating a new boat, you might have to put that off for a little while. On the other hand, another would-be boater may have decided to look for something

used and that gives you the perfect opportunity to trade your boat in for a newer one. When it comes to electronics, the same thing applies. If your current equipment serves you well but needs some work, then go ahead and invest in repairs or updates to it. You'll save some money. By the same token, you may be able to sell your old equipment to someone looking for a deal and put that money towards a new unit.

While you're deciding, let's take a look at what is going on in the world of electronics manufacturers. There are a few new models out there this season, but no brand new technology. Just like you, the manufacturers appear to have decided to improve features

and functions on some of their current models. In most cases, they have taken a previous model, added or changed features and packaged it as a new model. This means you may find some really good deals on leftover items and/or close outs. Unfortunately, it is not likely that you can take your own current model and have it updated to the same configuration as the new model. In many cases, however, you can at least update the software for a nominal fee.

The marine electronics field is no different than the rest of the economy when it comes to "hard times". There will likely be more companies merging and some companies that "bite the dust". Two of those that bear close scrutiny are Raymarine and Northstar. The rumor circulating is that both companies are on the verge of going out of the marine electronics business. I have been tracking this very carefully and can only report what has been documented by others so far. Raymarine is the

result of the purchase of Raytheon's Marine division in 2001. It has relied heavily on OEM (original equipment manufacturer) sales and, with the decline of new boat sales, their revenue has declined as well. In June 2009 they reported net assets of GBP (Great British Pound) 25.1 mill and debts of GBP 87.7 mill. On March 18th of this year, Raymarine announced that it had extended the term of its banking facilities to September 30, 2010. However, Raymarine also noted that it is "still unable to comply with the financial covenants under these facilities and that it remains reliant on continuing covenant waivers from its banking syndicate". Most recently, Garmin has announced an offer to buy all Raymarine's shares for 23 cents per share, subject to shareholder acceptance and regulatory approval. It

remains to be seen if this transaction will take place and, if so, what that will mean for the Raymarine product line and for parts to repair current models. In the meantime, Raymarine has introduced new products for this season and has even embarked on a 2010 "mobile showroom" tour through parts of the country. The most comprehensive information on this I have seen in one article can be found on-line

at http://www.sailworld.com/news_printerfriendly.cfm?Nid=68968.

The picture with Northstar is not so clear. Once a leader in GPS equipment, they seem to have taken a back seat in recent years, particularly since their purchase by Navico, a company that bought up a total of seven other companies, including Northstar. Northstar's web site shows the introduction of broadband radar in February of 2009 but not much new happening in 2010.

So what does all this mean to you? I guess the real message is to be cautious this season when purchasing new or used equipment. You may find some good buys but, at the same time, you may be buying a product that will present problems when you need it serviced if the company is on shaky financial grounds. The good news is that there are still plenty of other products out there even though there may be some continued mergers or buy outs of manufacturers.

Over the next several months, we'll take a look at some of the new product offerings as well as some items that you may find very useful but don't get the same publicity as others.

Pat Schrawder and her husband Larry are owners of L&L Marine Electronics on Golf Course Road in West Ocean City.

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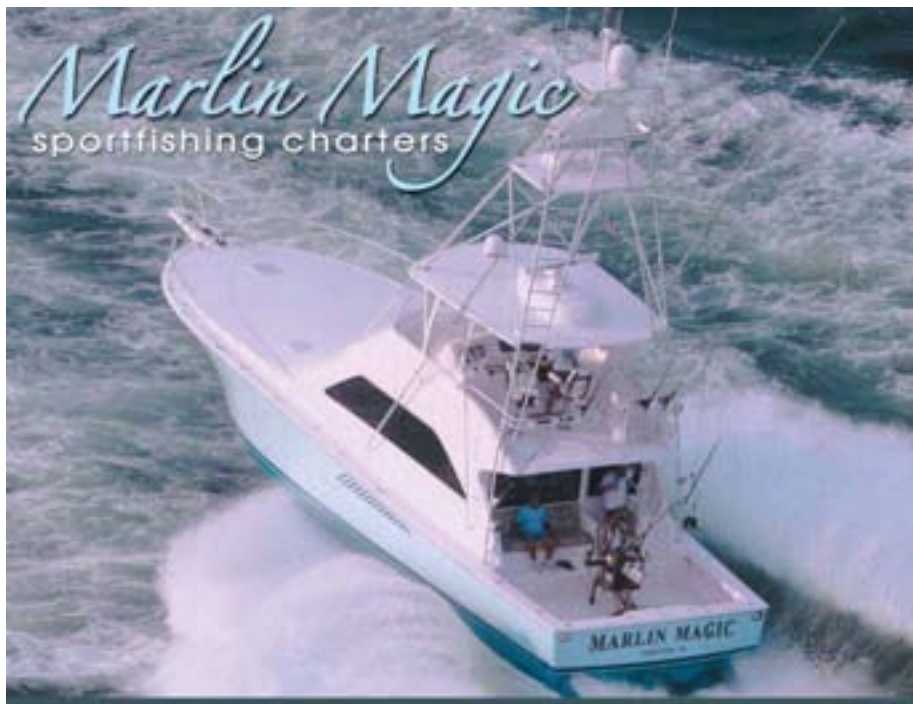
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Jillian Joyce of Ocean City, MD was fishing with her dad, Steve Joyce on their boat "Bertha" when she landed this 21-inch, 3 lb. 4 oz. flounder on a bucktail tipped with a minnow. The fish was caught near the Rt. 90 Bridge. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Sue Foster of Oyster Bay Tackle captured this 21.5-inch flounder while fishing out of Oyster, VA with her husband, Bob Foster. The fish was caught on a minnow/curly tail combination and was one of 4 keepers for the day.

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Dave Rivello of West Ocean City, MD took advantage of a good Chesapeake Bay striper bite, boating this 52.5-inch while trolling parachute rigs aboard "The Other Woman". Dave was fishing with Ken Oland of Salisbury, MD near Buoy 72A in 45-feet of water. The fish weighed an even 50 lbs.

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VA / NC Fishing Report

Virginia Marine Resources Commission
"The Saltwater Review"

Chincoteague

According to Donna at Captain Bob's, eel grass and wind have been a problem this week. Despite the poor conditions, Four Mouths and Queen's Sound have been productive flounder areas, while the Assateague Channel action has quieted down. Jumbo minnows and squid have been successful baits, and a few flounder have also been caught using Gulp

tipped with jumbo minnow. The biggest catch of the week was a 5 lb. 10 oz. flounder.

Onancock

Captain Wil of Onancock, said that high winds have made it difficult for anglers to get out this week. A few legal-sized flounder were caught in the bay right outside of Onancock. Croaker have not really arrived yet in the area, but there have been a few large catch-and-release striped bass reported.

Wachapreague

According to staff at Captain Zed's Bait & Tackle, fishing in Wachapreague was good until the wind slowed things down. Anglers were catching a lot of nice flounder (despite numerous throwbacks). All the usual hot spots were producing, including the Hummocks, Cedar Island Cove, Bradfords Channel, Day Marker 134, and Drawing and Green Channels.

Cape Charles

According to Chris at Chris' Bait and Tackle, anglers started catching black drum out of Oyster two weeks ago. Red drum were available in the surf, and there are rumors of good catches of flounder out of Oyster.

Lower Bay/Bridge Tunnel

Staff at Wallace's Bait and Tackle reported flounder and tautog catches over the past week. The best tautog action was from the 3rd and 4th islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

According to staff at the York River Fishing Center, croaker are numerous in the area. Speckled trout are also around, and last week, a 6 lb.

2 oz. citation speckled trout was weighed in.

Ken Neill of the Peninsula Anglers Club and IGFA representative, contributed the following:

Red drum fishing is red hot. Bull reds are being pulled from the surf line along Fisherman's and Smith Islands. Most of these fish are caught on bait fished on the bottom, but keep a good lookout and have a jig ready to cast. Roaming schools of big reds are providing some sight-casting opportunities. Small- to medium-sized black drum are being caught in the same area and inside some of the seaside inlets. Look for the first citation-sized fish to be caught this week.

Flounder continue to be caught in all of the normal flounder spots. That fishery has not been red hot with a lot of short fish caught. There are enough keepers and a few doormats around to keep anglers interested. This fishery will continue to get better as the waters continue to warm. Some larger flounder have been caught from the Buoy 36A area on up to Buoy 42.

Croaker are biting in the rivers from the James to the Rappahannock, with the occasional fish pushing the 3-pound mark.

The speckled trout fishery in the Mobjack Bay basin has started to turn on.

Tautog are going out with a bang. The tautog season is closed as of May 1.

May 1 also marks the opening of the two-week trophy striped bass season. You are allowed to keep one rockfish, at least 32 inches long, per person, per day.

Small bluefish are roaming throughout the lower bay.

Large bluefish are on the offshore seamounts with the first citation-sized bluefish of the year caught at the Cigar.

Offshore bottom fishing out of Virginia has not been great this year. Blueline tilefish citations are at a fraction of what they were at this time last year. This is due in large part to the black sea bass closure that has kept many boats from heading out there. It is also due to the fact that fishing is just not as good as it has been the past several years. The dog sharks will be leaving and the sea bass fishery will open back up May 22 (unless something else changes). There will be more offshore bottom fishing activity once this happens.

The pelagic fishing season is just heating up out of Virginia. Tuna fishing continues to be good out of Oregon Inlet. This past week, boats from Virginia got in on the action by running to the Triple O's area. They found good numbers of bluefin and yellowfin tuna, plus some mako sharks.

Virginia Beach

Fishing has picked up in the inlet near the Virginia Beach Fishing Center. Anglers are finding plenty of Taylor bluefish, a few speckled trout and puppy drum, and flounder over 20 inches in length.

On the nearby beaches, anglers are reporting a few croaker, and from the Bay, flounder, tautog, and cod were reported.

Offshore, large bluefin tuna (well over 100 pounds) continue to be hooked, and deep dropping has been doing very well with grouper, tilefish, wreckfish, barrelfish, and blackbellied rosefish.

Outer Banks, NC

The bluefin tuna bite has slowed down considerably from Nags Head compared to the previous few weeks. Bonito, dolphin, wahoo,

Continued on page 51

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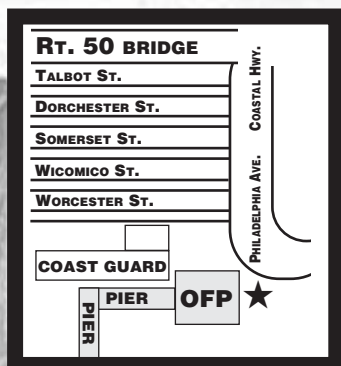
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Randolph Behm from Lancaster, PA took advantage of some good spring striper fishing in the Delaware Bay, landing this 20 lb. 2 oz. linesider. The fish was hooked while using clams for bait near the Fourteen Foot Light aboard the "Black Bart". Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina Bait & Tackle.

VA/ NC Fishing Report continued:
yellowfin, and blackfin tuna were also absent. Bottom fishing in the deeper waters was giving anglers something to brag about with amberjack, tilefish, and snowy grouper.

Closer to shore, striped bass were hanging out around eight miles offshore, and the artificial reefs saw black sea bass, sheepshead, tautog, and triggerfish. Nearshore trolling was producing bluefish with red drum and sea mullet outside the breakers. Good catches of puffers, sea mullet, red drum, and speckled trout were reported off of the piers. Inshore, anglers saw the speckled trout bite improve

May 5, 2010 Coastal Fisherman Page 51
with some sheepshead and black drum in their usual haunts.

South of Oregon Inlet, bluefish were biting, especially in the evening with Ramp 43 rumored to be a good spot. A few puppy drum and flounder were found around the Point, and sea mullet and spot were caught on the northern beaches.

Offshore fishing off Hatteras saw limited action due to strong southwest winds; the boats that did go out concentrated on nearshore bottom fishing. Amberjack, black sea bass, and triggerfish could all be found in angler's coolers.

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BLACK SEA BASS
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5/22 to 8/8 and 9/4 to 10/4



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CROAKER
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18" - 26" 3 per person/day



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Back at the end of January, this group of anglers had a good day fishing for tautog aboard the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins and Mates Mike Kinder and Rich Silvani. Dennis Muhlenforth of Hockesen, DE (left) caught a 10 lb. 14 oz. tog on a white crab while Alex Levantovsky of Philadelphia, PA (center) landed himself a couple of tog, with the largest weighing 8 lbs. 13 oz. The largest fish of the day was caught by Greg Williams of Baltimore, MD (right) with a 15 lb. 10 oz. blackfish caught on a green crab. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Noel Cook from Ocean Pines, MD captured two flounder, measuring 19.5 and 19.75-inches, while Richard Lee of Oxon Hill, MD hooked himself a 20.25-incher, both while fishing in the bay behind Assateague Island on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Bob Gowar and Mate George Lenz. Noel's fish were caught on minnow and Gulp! combinations while Richard tricked his flattie into taking a minnow/squid combination. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



Tyrone Handy from Selbyville, DE caught these two stripers on bucktails in the Indian River Inlet. The fish weighed 12 lbs. and 15 lbs. on the scale at Capt. Mac's Bait & Tackle in Fenwick, DE.

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Darla Hilton of Millsboro, DE was tossing a Bass Assassin off the Indian River Jetty when she hooked into this 38-inch, 23.5 lb. striper. Weighed at Rick's Bait & Tackle.



One of the largest flounder we have seen so far this year was caught on April 21st by Steve Flohr of Dover, PA. Steve was fishing on the "Flounder's Nightmare" with his buddy, Roy Yeager, when he hooked into the 25.75-inch, 6.5 lb. flattie near the Rt. 90 Bridge. The flounder ate a bull minnow at low tide.



Bob Foster of West Ocean City, MD was drifting a live minnow in the bay in Oyster, VA when he hooked into this 25-inch, 6 lb. flounder.

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Vince Benedict of Ocean City, MD caught this 40 lb. rooster fish while tossing a top water popper in Costa Rica this past winter.



Wes Lange from Easton, MD released a blue marlin, estimated at 500-600 lbs., while fishing out of Oregon Inlet, NC on the "Happy Ending" with Guy Cianci, Joe Petrillo, Tim Shepf and Scott Buckner. The guys released the fish in 1,000 fathoms, 8 miles east of The Point.



Dean Lokey III of Long Neck, DE is all smiles after catching this 37-inch striper on a bloodworm while fishing in the Nanicoke River.

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Thurs. May 6 Last Quarter	Low 08:54 am Low 08:53 pm	High 02:40 am High 02:57 pm
Fri. May 7	Low 09:39 am Low 09:52 pm	High 03:35 am High 03:58 pm
Sat. May 8	Low 10:22 am Low 10:49 pm	High 04:25 am High 04:52 pm
Sun. May 9	Low 11:03 am Low 11:43 pm	High 05:11 am High 05:40 pm
Mon. May 10	Low 11:43 am Low -----	High 05:54 am High 06:25 pm
Tues. May 11	Low 12:32 am Low 12:33 pm	High 06:36 am High 07:09 pm
Wed. May 12	Low 01:16 am Low 01:03 pm	High 09:19 am High 07:53 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.

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UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

~ MAY ~

1st Annual Bluefish Tournament

May 29-30 • Ocean City Marlin Club
410-213-1613

Lewes Harbour Canal Flounder Tournament

May 21 • Lewes Harbour Marina
302-645-6227

~ JUNE ~

14th Annual Mako Mania

June 4-6 • Bahia Marina
410-289-7473

52nd Annual Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament

Ladies Event - June 11
Tournament: June 14-19
Morehead City, NC • 252-247-3575

30th Annual South Jersey Shark Tournament

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

30th Annual Ocean City Shark Tournament

June 17-19 • OC Fishing Center
410-213-2442 or 410-213-1121

31st Annual Small Boat Tournament

June 26-27 • Ocean City Marlin Club
410-213-1613

21st Annual MSSA Tuna-Ment

June 25-27 • Sunset Marina
410-255-5535



TOURNAMENT

Yacht Sales

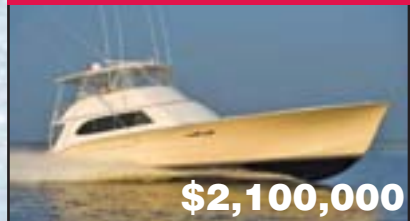
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Playmate ~ 2003 60 Billy Holton. Twin CAT 3406E 800 hp power. Excellent charter boat and business. Maintained by full time crew. Motivated seller. Call Jimmy

VIDEO ON WWW.COASTALFISHERMAN.NET



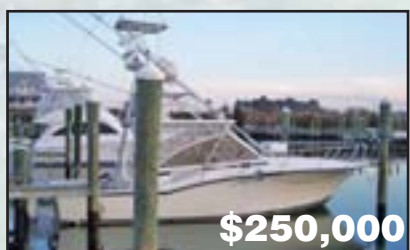
\$2,100,000

Phat Mann ~ 65' Paul Mann 2006. CAT C-32s w/ low hours. 3/2 layout, beautiful interior, many upgrades. Mezzanine, Eskimo Ice, water maker, teak cockpit. Call Jimmy



\$390,000

Chasin Tails ~ 1994 53 Ocean. Twin 820 hp MANs. 3/2, galley up. Light interior, large master forward. Many extras. Professionally maintained. Call Steve



\$250,000

Marilyn Sue ~ 35' 2001 Carolina Classic. 465 hp 3126 CATs. 2/1 layout. Furuno electronics. A fisherman's dream. Call Steve



\$1,795,000

Eye Roller ~ 1995 67 Scarborough. Repowered 12V2000 MTUs 1485 hp (2002). Tower, twin gens. Rupp riggers. Eskimo ice. Good electronics. Call Jimmy



\$1,950,000

Size Matters ~ 64' Spencer 2003. C-30'S. 3/2, center island, sharp cherry interior. Sub Zero wine chiller.. Two gens. Mezz seating, ice & water makers. Call Jimmy



\$450,000

Candys Reel Choice ~ 1995 50' Viking. 820 hp MANs, port w/low hrs. New Onan 15kw gen w/350 hrs. Extensive interior refit in 2008. Super clean! Call Steve



\$125,000

Scalawag ~ 30' 2002 Albemarle 305 Exp. 3126 CATs, 4 kw gen, riggers, livewells, full tower. Good electronics. Well maintained. Call Steve



\$369,000

The Reel Deal ~ 46' Bertram 1995. 8V92TA DDECs. 2/2 layout sleeps 5. Northern Lights 25 kw gen. Very clean, shows in great shape. Call Jimmy



\$529,000

Why Not ~ 45' Scarborough Express 1992. Cummins QSM11 625 hp engines. New tower, riggers, interior, fresh paint and more in 2006. Call Jimmy



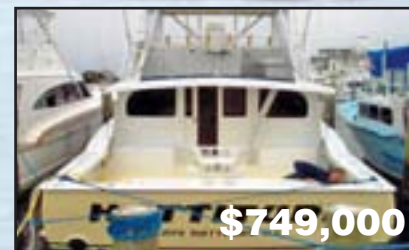
\$159,900

Four Play ~ 36' 1991 Ricky Scarborough. Detroit Diesel 6V92s. 2001 Heritage tower, full electronics. Many recent updates. Call Steve



\$110,000

Miss Claire ~ 24' Bimini Express 2007. Twin 125 hp Yanmar diesels w/200 hrs, very fuel efficient. Pompanette chairs, Load-Rite trailer. Call Steve



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Hattitude ~ 55' Custom Carolina. Twin C-12 2007 CATs, 26 kts @ 1900 rpm, 12kw gen. Mezz style seating, spacious cockpit. Rigged to fish, well maintained. Call Jimmy



\$364,500

Endeavor ~ 40' 2004 Luhrs. Twin Yanmar 465 hp engines. Two SR, full head. Good electronics, fish box. Very clean. Call Jimmy



\$95,000

Candy's Choice ~ 38' 1989 Topaz Sport-fish. DD 671's, 20 hrs SMOH. New gen 2000, new Strataglass '02. New interior 2001, many other updates. Call Steve



\$17,900

Sarana ~ 2004 17' Boston Whaler. 2005 90 HP Mercury 4 Stroke. Bimini top, swim step, many options. Fresh bottom paint '09. Trailer included. Call Steve

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58' Dean Johnson. Call Jimmy \$1,050,000

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35' Cabo 2006 Call Jimmy \$379,000

31' Mako OB Call Coconut \$145,000